

# MAX DUNCAN

DIRECTOR | CINEMATOGRAPHER

Madrid, Spain / London, UK  
www.maxduncan.com  
max@maxduncan.com  
T: +34 674719836

Reel: [vimeo.com/637180609](https://vimeo.com/637180609)

Site: [www.maxduncan.com](http://www.maxduncan.com)

Mail: [max@maxduncan.com](mailto:max@maxduncan.com)

*I'm an award-winning self-shooting PD, DoP and journalist making short- and long-form documentaries, current affairs and factual programming for a wide range of broadcast and online media. After a decade in China, I work internationally between London and Madrid, using experience in complex and hostile environments to tell stories that are urgent but intimate. My first feature film as director releases in 2024.*

## SKILLS

- Direct and shoot documentary and reportage across Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia.
- Highly experienced self-shooter on major Canon, Sony and Arri cameras, prime and zoom lenses, gimbals, rigs and drones, as well as with lighting and audio systems.
- Experienced as lighting DoP, building teams for high-quality programming and commercial/corporate shoots.
- Own Canon C300 MkII, Sony A7III, DJI Mavic Pro 2 drone, lighting and audio kits (full list on request).
- Experienced working with on-camera correspondents and talent for news and factual programming.
- Covered humanitarian crises, civil unrest and worked in politically oppressive countries like North Korea.
- Hostile environments training (2018).
- Speak, read and write fluent Mandarin Chinese and Spanish, as well as rusty French.
- Licensed drone pilot for flight in EU, UK and Scandinavia.
- Fluent in editing softwares Final Cut Pro, Premiere Pro and Avid Media Composer.
- Experienced producing, writing treatments and scripting long- and short-form documentary.
- UK passport; Spanish residency; clean EU driving license.

## SELECTED EXPERIENCE

- 2019- Director/Producer/DoP/Drone Pilot/Co-editor - Made in Ethiopia feature film (91'')**
- 2024** Directing, producing and DoP'ing an observational feature doc on Chinese investment in Africa. The film is represented and co-produced by Dogwoof, funded by orgs including Ford Foundation and IDA. It will premiere at a major US festival in 2024 and show on international broadcasters.
- 2022 - Director of Photography - Untitled Kirby Dick documentary, in production (90'')**
- 2023** Filming a feature-length documentary in production with award winner director Kirby Dick.
- 2019 Self-shooting PD/Series director/Editor - Divided Cities Series (5 x 10-18'')** **The Guardian**  
Directed and lead a five-part series exploring global division. Heavily involved in preproduction, I filmed, directed and edited three episodes on Cuba, Cyprus and Spain, and oversaw two remotely.
- 2019 Self-shooting PD - Al Jazeera Earthrise series (25' / 13' / 8'')**  
Directed and shot a half-hour Earthrise special exploring how farmland is being returned to nature in Patagonia, and two episodes in China on renewable energy and conservation. I used fluent Mandarin and Spanish in the field and to support edits.
- 2018 Director/DoP/Editor/Drone pilot - Down from the Mountains (24'')** **PBS / The Atlantic**  
Devised, accessed, directed, filmed, produced and edited a film that follows children left behind in the mountains of China by parents seeking work in the big cities. Supported by Pulitzer, it won a World Press Photo Award and showed on multiple platforms.

- 2017 Self-shooting PD/Editor/Drone pilot - Frozen Out (12'') The Guardian**  
Directed, filmed, produced and edited a short documentary on two former interpreters for the US military in Afghanistan who fled to Europe but got stuck in Serbia in freezing conditions. The film sparked an EU parliamentary hearing on the rights of interpreters in war zones.
- 2017 Second Camera / Chinese interpreter - The Spirit of Painting (90'') Prado Museum**  
Filmed and interpreted in Chinese for a feature documentary on artist Cai Guoqiang's residency in Madrid's Prado Museum, directed by renowned Catalan director Isabel Coixet
- 2016 Director of Photography - Olympic Flame Catchers (27'') The Olympic Channel**  
Profiled top Chinese Olympic athletes with rare access to Chinese state sports schools.
- 2016 Director of Photography - Bloomberg's Brilliant Ideas series (6 x 30'') Bloomberg TV**  
Filmed six half-hour profiles of contemporary artists in China and Japan, lighting interviews.
- 2015 Self-shooting PD - The Artist and Their City: Ai Weiwei on Beijing (7'') The Guardian / Tate**  
Produced, directed and filmed a profile of Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei hosted by the Guardian and displayed as a multi-screen installation at London's Tate Modern.
- 2015 Director of Photography - part of Her Story: The Female Revolution (50'') BBC World**  
Profiled renowned sexologist Li Yinhe for the China segment of an hour-long program about women in leadership.
- 2008-2014 Video journalist - Reuters News Agency, Beijing Bureau**  
Researched, produced, filmed, edited and scripting countless news packages for a major agency. I covered political, social, environmental, and other news in China, navigating politically sensitive situations and filming in hostile environments. I travelled Asia to cover news, natural disasters and features, including four trips to North Korea, and major international events such as the Olympics.

## AWARDS / GRANTS / EXHIBITS

- 2022** Fellow of Yaddo and Logan Non-fiction residencies
- 2019-22** *Made in Ethiopia* feature documentary in production - awarded grants from Ford Foundation, IDA, SFFILM, Danish Film Institute, Inmate Foundation, Firelight Media, Hot Docs and EIDF/EBS
- 2021** *Made in Ethiopia* documentary in production - Among 5 finalist for Whicker Awards
- 2020-22** *Made in Ethiopia* documentary in Sheffield DocFest, Hotdocs, IDFA, Gotham and EIDF forums
- 2020** *Why do Havana's taxi drivers earn more than doctors?* (Guardian) - Better Cities Festival award
- 2019** *Surviving the Sun* (Standing Voice) - finalist for a Charity Film Award
- 2018** *Down from the Mountains* (ChinaFile/PBS) - 1st Prize World Press Photo Long Form Award
- 2016** *Mekong: A River Rising* (Guardian) - Webby Award for best use of video
- 2016** *Mekong: A River Rising* (Guardian) - One World Media Digital Media Award
- 2016** Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting grantee
- 2016** *The Artist and Their City: Ai Weiwei on Beijing* video - long-term installation at Tate Modern
- 2015** *The Artist and Their City: Ai Weiwei on Beijing* (Guardian) - Vimeo Staff Pick