



Tom
Film Producer
& Director



How I got here

At school I took geography A Level alongside English and history. I went on to study geography at university and focused quite a bit on development studies, particularly in Africa. I wasn't really sure until my final year at university what was going to be next, but I thought about television and documentary film-making as a way of getting to some interesting places! I was lucky enough to be selected to join the BBC's graduate trainee scheme based in Cardiff, and after doing that for a year I went freelancing and have worked for different independent production companies ever since.

What my job entails

I produce documentaries for the BBC, Channel Four, National Geographic and the Discovery Channel. Travel is a big draw and I get to some unusual places. The research side allows you to talk to some pretty interesting people and find out about subjects that you'd never find out about otherwise. The creative process of making the film is something I really enjoy.

My most recent trip was to the Congo and I spent some time with the Baka Pygmies deep in the Swamp Forest. This was for a Channel Four series about traditional medicine and health in remote parts of the world.

It's not an easy field to get into, because a lot of people want to do it, but the most standard method is to approach a production company or the BBC and to do some fairly basic jobs to start with learn the ropes. Another route would be to go to a production company in a field in which you are very experienced or knowledgeable and try to start immediately as a researcher.

How I use my geographical skills

Because of the breadth of the subject, geography gives you a huge range of skills. Understanding the real world - how it works and how different elements of the world relate to each other is all highly relevant in my work.

What I love about geography

It's all about the real world!



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