



# UNEXPLAINED ISLAND

2024 / RUNNING TIME 94 MINS / ENGLISH

DOCUMENTARY: GENRE / SUPERNATURAL, MYSTERY

For high res images go to [www.9ofcups.co.uk/unexplained-island](http://www.9ofcups.co.uk/unexplained-island)

FILMED ON LOCATION IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT, UK

**NARRATED BY:** PAUL MCGANN

**STARRING:** COLIN CARMICHAEL

**INVESTIGATORS:** ANDY MCLEOD  
ROWENA AMOS  
HANNA NIXON  
ANGELINA GRIMSHAW

**DIRECTOR:** RICHARD TOPPING

**WRITERS:** ROWENA AMOS & RICHARD TOPPING

**DOP:** KEVIN EARLY

**CREATOR & PRODUCER:** ROWENA AMOS

**CO PRODUCERS:** KEVIN EARLY, TIM WHITTARD, RICHARD TOPPING

**MUSIC COMPOSED BY:** MICHAEL BARKER, JC GRIMSHAW & NICO MAXIMILLIAN

**SOUND RECORDIST:** ADAM GUTCH

**WARDROBE:** ANGELINA GRIMSHAW

**PRODUCTION ASSISTANT:** HANNA NIXON

**CAMERA:** SAM LAPHAM, TRAVIS SHEILDS

**FIXER:** DAVE RUSSELL

**STILLS:** GIANPAOLO GIANCOVICH

**EDITOR:** RICHARD TOPPING

**COLOURING:** KEVIN EARLY

**SOUND DESIGN:** DAVID VELTMAN

**SOUND MIX:** CHU LI SHEWRING



# UNEXPLAINED ISLAND

## LOG LINE

Five eccentric investigators have just forty-eight hours to prove if the Isle of Wight is as claimed... 'THE WORLD'S MOST HAUNTED ISLAND.'

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

Colin's a born and bred islander, and back on the Isle of Wight with 'Jane'...his Austin A35. He's just forty-eight hours to find out if it really is as claimed, 'THE WORLD'S MOST HAUNTED ISLAND.' Together with his four eccentric friends, he sets out to investigate the strange tales, ghostly sightings and reported beasts from this mysterious island.

## LONG SYNOPSIS

Colin's a born and bred islander and back on the Isle of Wight with 'Jane'...his Austin A35. She's big on character but small on space. He's just forty-eight hours to find out if his home is really as claimed... 'THE WORLD'S MOST HAUNTED ISLAND.'

Re-uniting with his four eccentric friends at the old bank, they agree on the best intriguing stories to investigate: the photo of a ghostly figure captured at St Catherine's Lighthouse, strange reports of big cat sightings, Queen Victoria's holiday home at the derelict Norris Castle and the story of Dickens and the real Miss Havisham.

On their journey round the island, our investigators meet witnesses and TV experts to help decipher the evidence. Uncovering more stories, of smuggling ghosts on the west wight shore, a mystery skeleton in a box at 'The Spyglass Inn' and the sad story of Olivia Parkes, a reclusive woman who lived in an old beach shack for forty years.

The weekend culminates with a visit to Norris Castle, a building packed full of Royal history and tales. A lone security guard tells them of the time a little girl's ghostly voice came through on the radio...when the castle was empty. Reluctantly the team decide to be brave and undertake a night investigation. After nightfall, the castle begins to come alive with activity, strange noises, motion detectors activated...and could they even have captured the same little girl's voice on the radio?



#### **RICHARD TOPPING – DIRECTOR**

Richard has over twenty-five years industry experience working as an editor and director for broadcasters such as the BBC, CNN, the FT and National Geographic.

After graduating from Portsmouth University, he began as a runner on films such as 'The Importance of Being Earnest' and '28 Days Later'.

Over his career he has edited and directed numerous documentary programmes including food shows with Michael Roux and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and nature subjects with Sir David Attenborough and Steve Backshall.



#### **ROWENA AMOS – WRITER & PRODUCER**

Rowena is a writer, producer and entrepreneur. She has written multiple short films including 'The Day of the Sun Dog' with Paul McGann and produced 'Weightless' starring Toyah Willcox written by Papatango prize winner Louise Monaghan.

A 2.1 graduate of Portsmouth University she worked at Virgin Media in Product & Project Management before running several successful businesses of her own. She also runs several lettings and property developments.

Over the last four years she has worked with Director's Cut Theatre, with plays on at Southwark Theatre. Forming '9 of Cups Productions' in 2021 she is currently writing a couple of historical documentaries. Rowena also writes stand up, runs a children's film workshop and is a judge at 'The Fortean Film Festival' and 'The Isle of Wight Film Society'.



#### **KEVIN EARLY – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Kevin graduated from Film Studies at Portsmouth University and has now worked in the TV and commercial industry for over twenty-five years.

Primarily a lighting cameraman, he also directs, edits and produces.

He has worked on hundreds of projects for broadcasters such as the BBC (The One Show, River Cottage), Channel 5 (DOP on The Jewel of the South), CNBC and commercial clients such as the FT, KMPG and Boots. He's worked with talent such as Hugh Grant, Angelina Jolie, Matt Damon, Davina McCall, Will.i.am and Roger Federer.



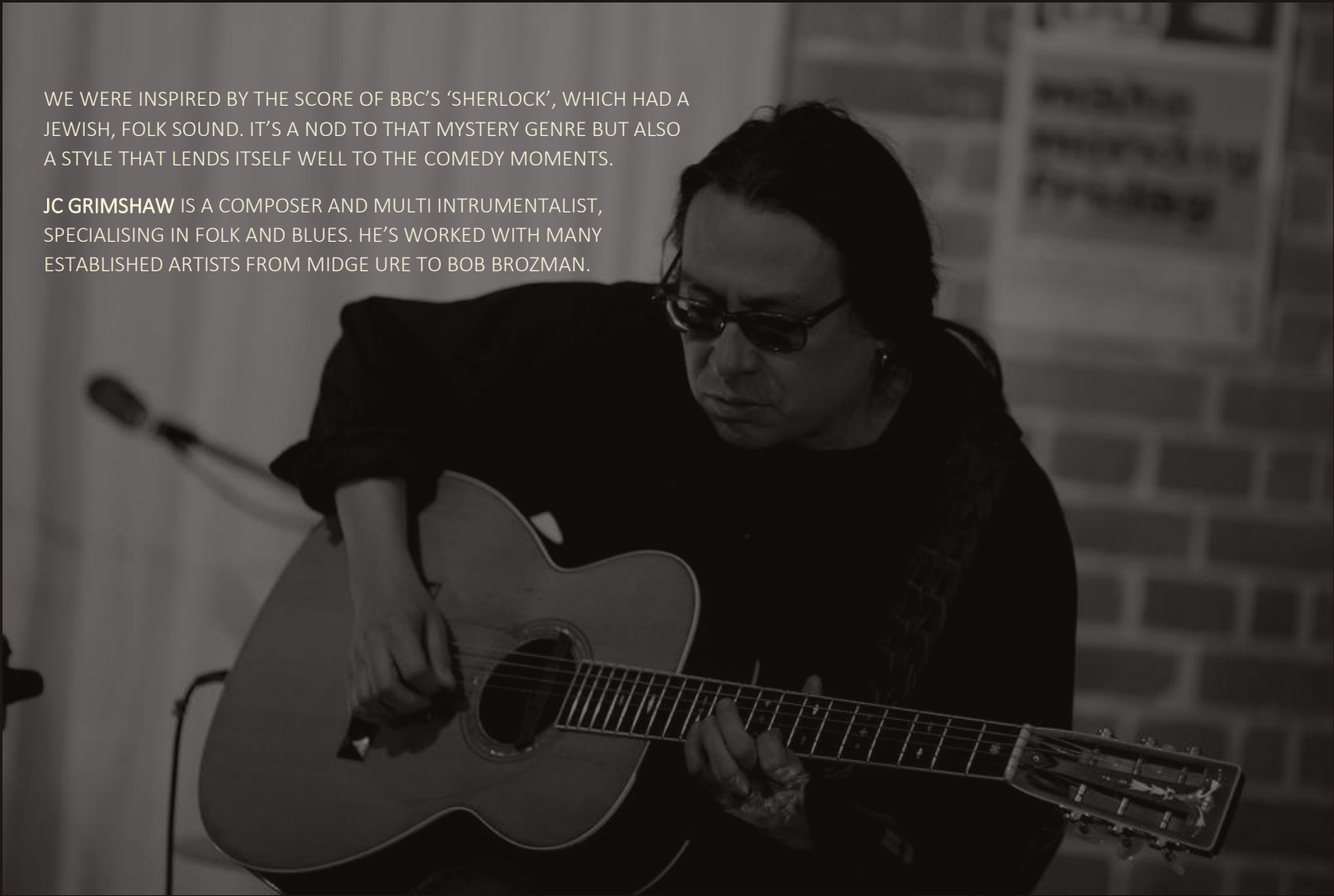
NARRATOR **PAUL MCGANN**, IS ONE OF THE FAMOUS MCGANN BROTHERS AND HAS ENJOYED A CELEBRATED ACTING CAREER. BEST KNOWN AS THE STAR OF CULT CLASSIC 'WITHNAIL AND I', TV SERIES 'THE MONOCLED MUTINEER' AND OF COURSE FOR PLAYING THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DOCTOR IN 'DOCTOR WHO.'



ACTOR **COLIN CARMICHAEL** IS FROM THE ISLE OF WIGHT. HE IS BEST KNOWN FOR HIS COMEDY ROLES AS THE ORIGINAL 118 GUY, IN 'DETECTORISTS', 'WORZEL GUMMIDGE' AND 'SECRET DIARY OF A CALL GIRL'.

WE WERE INSPIRED BY THE SCORE OF BBC'S 'SHERLOCK', WHICH HAD A JEWISH, FOLK SOUND. IT'S A NOD TO THAT MYSTERY GENRE BUT ALSO A STYLE THAT LENDS ITSELF WELL TO THE COMEDY MOMENTS.

**JC GRIMSHAW** IS A COMPOSER AND MULTI INSTRUMENTALIST, SPECIALISING IN FOLK AND BLUES. HE'S WORKED WITH MANY ESTABLISHED ARTISTS FROM MIDGE URE TO BOB BROZMAN.



AWARD WINNING COMPOSER AND SELF CONFESSED CINEPHILE, **MICHAEL BARKER** BRINGS A CONTEMPORARY EDGE TO OUR SCORE. HE TOOK THE INITIAL GUITAR COMPOSITIONS BY JC, WORKING HIS MAGIC TO EVOLVE TRACKS TO A FULL ORCHESTRA SOUND.







### **QUESTIONS TO THE DIRECTOR; RICHARD TOPPING**

#### **DID FILMING THIS DOCUMENTARY PRESENT ANY PARTICULAR CHALLENGES?**

The filming ran really smoothly. I guess the main challenges were at Norris Castle as the condition of the building was quite dangerous. There were bits of glass and debris everywhere and was of course pitch black. The edit was far more challenging, what to leave out.

#### **WHAT DO YOU WANT THE AUDIENCE TO TAKE AWAY FROM UNEXPLAINED ISLAND?**

We had a really fun time on this shoot. Everyone had a smile on their faces and a glint in their eyes. I'd love it if the audience walked away with the same.

#### **HOW DID YOU FIND WORKING WITH COLIN CARMICHAEL?**

Absolutely brilliant. He brought loads to the table, I think with a background in comedy he has a natural instinct for pace and timing, plus he's very at ease in front of the camera. Genuinely, a pleasure to work with.

#### **WHO IS YOUR BIGGEST INFLUENCE?**

Bob Dylan and Martin Scorsese.





## **QUESTIONS TO THE WRITER & PRODUCER; ROWENA AMOS**

### **WHERE DID YOU GET THE IDEA FOR UNEXPLAINED ISLAND?**

I have to admit, this one is a real passion project. Since I moved over here fifteen years ago, I've been collecting strange and supernatural stories. I'm bit of an expert on the paranormal and this island always claims it's the 'most haunted island in the world'. I'd always had an idea for a show with this format, I love anything on History or Discovery. I like big characters, it's what hooks you into the show and keeps you glued, well after you know nothing is going to be found! I wanted to create a team with great chemistry, that the audience would want to engage in. I also did it as I thought it would be fun!

### **WAS THIS SCRIPTED?**

We had an outline of the arc of the story, but not scripted. The dialogue was our natural reactions to events. I wrote Paul's narration after, having a narrator is always a really useful tool to fill in any gaps!

### **WHAT WAS IT LIKE WORKING WITH COLIN CARMICHAEL?**

Great fun. We were all friends, so hopefully that comes across on screen. Colin went to school with Kev so they go back a LONG way! Colin is one of those people who is naturally funny, he's very physical and animated so I spent most of the time trying to keep a straight face.

### **HOW WAS IT WORKING WITH PAUL MCGANN ON THE NARRATION?**

I'd worked with Paul previously on a short film, and we got on really well. He absolutely loves anything strange or historical, he's a real history buff. I'd shared our Dickens/Miss Havisham story with him and he was fascinated by that. As before, it was a complete honour to work with him. He decided to test me out on my history prowess throughout the entire recording, throwing me various questions to trip me up. Thankfully I got most of them right, and didn't look *too* much like an idiot!



## CONTACT INFO

**EMAIL:** [Hello@9ofcups.co.uk](mailto:Hello@9ofcups.co.uk)  
**CHAT:** 07967 389931 (Rowena Amos)  
**WEBSITE:** [www.9ofcups.co.uk/unexplained-island](http://www.9ofcups.co.uk/unexplained-island)  
**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/unexplainedislanddoc>