

## MARTIN BASHIR

### Professional Biography

Jan 2007

Martin Bashir is an awarding-winning journalist who co-anchors *Nightline* from ABC News and is also a correspondent on *20/20*. He is best known for conducting a series of exclusive interviews and making ground-breaking, landmark documentaries which have been broadcast around the world. His now historic conversation with the late Diana, Princess of Wales remains the only interview ever conducted with her.

In 2003 his documentary *Living with Michael Jackson* featured exclusive and extraordinary access to one of the biggest stars of the modern musical world and was broadcast in over 60 international territories. The film was nominated for a BAFTA award (the UK equivalent of an Oscar). This programme was followed by *Who Wants to be a Millionaire: A Major Fraud*; a film about Major Charles Ingram and his wife Diana who were found guilty of cheating their way to the top prize on the British version of this international quiz show. It achieved the biggest audience for any factual programme in the UK since 1997 and was, again, broadcast around the world.

Since joining ABC News in September 2004, he has made a number of critically acclaimed documentaries. His first, which featured evidence of steroid abuse by Olympic athletes and included an exclusive interview with BALCO President Victor Conte, provoked the Senate to investigate the use of performance enhancing substances by baseball players and other American sportsmen and women. The BALCO film won an award at this year's Chicago TV and Film Festival.

In August 2006, in a two hour primetime special, he told the story of *The American Imposter*, a bail jumper from Florida who lived for more than 16 years as a fake Lord in the United Kingdom. The film contained the only interview with Buckingham who confessed to being Charles Stopford and explained how he managed to create a web of lives that deceived a wife, two children and the British authorities.

His contributions to *Nightline* include: the confessions of a soldier in Iraq (exclusively interviewed from his prison cell) who has since been sentenced to life imprisonment for the pre-meditated murder of Iraqi civilians - the most authoritative account of the Queens shooting in New York (including exclusive interviews with a victim and a witness) when police fired 50 shots at three unarmed men, killing Sean Bell who was due to be married the following day.

Prior to joining ABC News, and whilst working for the BBC, he conducted the only interview with Louise Woodward who was found guilty of murder – later reduced to involuntary manslaughter - whilst working as an au pair in Boston. His film made about the five youths suspected of murdering the black teenager Stephen Lawrence produced new evidence and sponsored a further police investigation into the exact circumstances of the black youth's death.

In 2002 he reported and produced a special documentary featuring the parents of conjoined twins Jodie and Mary Attard and a follow-up with Jodie herself as she recovered and returned to Malta. This film featured the ethical dilemma of allowing one twin to die so that one could live and included interviews with the medical team which carried out the complex surgery. This documentary was also shown around the world.

He accompanied British backpacker Joanne Lees on her return to Australia for an ITV documentary, which focussed on the abduction and disappearance of Miss Lees' boyfriend Peter Falconio and was broadcast in March 2002. The Australian authorities charged the prime suspect with Falconio's murder and he was found guilty in November 2006.

In the wake of terrorist attacks in the US on 9/11, Martin Bashir reported and presented an ITV special entitled 'A Day in September' which comprised a detailed account of the 11<sup>th</sup> September. The film was given special commendation by the Independent Television Commission which regulates ITV and nominated for a Royal Television Society Award.

In 1999 he made a series of special documentary films about the serial killer Dr Harold Shipman, a programme about the Soho bomber David Copeland, an interview with former Loyalist terrorist Johnny Adair and a major investigation into Tony Martin, the Norfolk farmer who was found guilty of murdering a teenage burglar. Last year, he secured the only broadcast interview with Tony Martin upon release from prison.

In June 2001 he presented a special three-part ITV documentary series on the subject of Xeno-Transplantation entitled 'The Organ Farm'. The series revealed how generations of genetically modified pigs have been bred in secrecy and how experiments are ongoing to see if it might be possible to transplant animal organs into human bodies. The series won two awards at the New York Film and Television Festival.

In addition, he has won a number of other awards for his work including three BAFTA nominations, five Royal Television Society Awards and two Broadcasting Press Guild awards and has collected a BAFTA award for his interview with the late Princess Diana. He was the Royal Television Society's Journalist of the Year in 1996. In 1998 he was voted Journalist of the Year by the BBC's International Awards. In 1999 he was honoured twice at the Houston Film and Television Awards for current affairs documentaries. In April 2000 his interviews with the five youths suspected of murdering Stephen Lawrence was given the Royal Television Society's most prestigious accolade – it won Programme of the Year. The same programme also received a BAFTA nomination. His series on Xeno-Transplantation has won a range of awards this year including a Silver World Medal at the New York TV Programming and Promotion Festival and two of the three programmes collected awards at the 49<sup>th</sup> Columbus International Film and Video Festival in Ohio. In 2003 his work

contributed to ITV's Tonight programme winning Programme of the Year for the second time at the Royal Television Society's Awards ceremony in London. He has now won the RTS' Programme of the Year Award an unprecedented three times in four years. And this year, as previously mentioned, his first documentary for ABC, about the BALCO steroids scandal, was honoured at the Chicago TV and Film Festival.

His distinguished career has involved work on a wide range of television and radio programmes including *Panorama*, *Public Eye*, *The Midnight Hour*, the education series *Just One Chance*, *Sunday* and *Pick of the Week*. He has written for a variety of publications including *The Financial Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Standard*, *The Sunday Express*, *The Tatler* and a sports column in *The Observer* newspaper.

Outside of his work as a factual programmes reporter, he featured as himself in a British movie called '*Mike Bassett – England Manager*' released in September 2001. A comedy about the trials and tribulations of a newly appointed England soccer manager, starring Ricky Tomlinson and Amanda Redman, was presented and reported as single documentary in the style of '*Spinal Tap*'.

Born in 1963, he completed a first degree in English and Post-graduate research at Kings College in London before starting work as a journalist in 1986. He is married with three children, has been a keen sportsman and plays the electric bass. He serves a number of charitable institutions, on a voluntary basis, which seek to support children with physical disabilities (he had a brother who died of Muscular Dystrophy) and those with mental illness. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society in London.

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