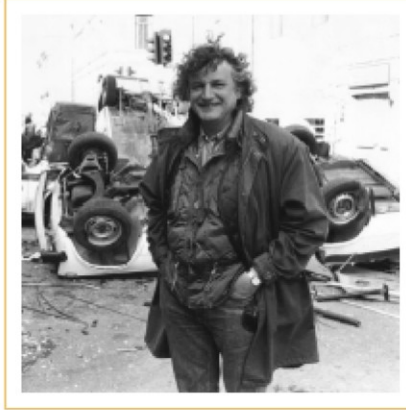


# IAN SHARP



## BIOGRAPHY

Born 13th November 1946 in a music-hall joke called Clitheroe, in Lancashire.

In 1968 Sharp left Durham University with a degree in Psychology and joined the BBC, where he “served his apprenticeship” until 1979 making documentaries first for the General Features Department, and then for Music and Arts, notably *Arena* and *Omnibus*.

“In 1978 the BBC gave me 3 months sabbatical to make a little movie called “*The Music Machine*”, and it was this experience that fired my ambition to turn to Film Drama.”

In 1980, after a year trying to persuade people to let him loose with *Actors*, he got his first break on the comedy TV Series “*Minder*” and then immediately on to the all-action series “*The Professionals*” and for the next 12 months he hopped between the two shows, making a total of 6 films.

In 1981 after just twelve months of going freelance, he was given a big movie to direct – ‘*Who Dares Wins*’ for MGM/UA (see filmography for credits).

“Over the next two years I was offered a shower of heavy-duty action movies,” says Sharp, “but when the inspirational Paul Knight at Goldcrest asked me to direct the pilot for the first ‘*Robin of Sherwood*’ series, a brilliant script by Kip Carpenter, I jumped at the chance. One by one, they kept pushing the other scripts in front of my nose and they were so good I gladly agreed to do all six of them.”

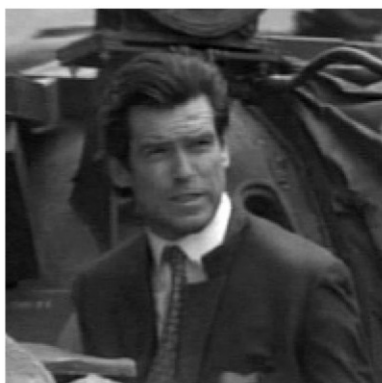
He continued to work mainly for Television until 1988 when he received a phone call out of the blue from Robert Zemeckis asking if he’d be interested in directing the Second Unit on ‘*Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*’ Apparently Zemeckis and producer Robert Watts had both been big fans of the *Robin of Sherwood* series. Ian shot for 5 months on that picture at Elstree Studios and on location.

More TV films followed, during which time Sharp became better known for the films he turned down – ‘*Widows*’, ‘*G.B.H.*’ and ‘*A Perfect Spy*’, to name just three. In 1994 he was back on a big movie when Martin Campbell asked him to direct the action scenes for the James Bond film ‘*Goldeneye*’ (see clips for his legendary tank chase scene).

It got terrific reviews, and offers piled in from the US to do 2nd unit action for major movies like ‘*Dante’s Peak*’ and ‘*Earthquake*’ and interest from directors such as Jan de Bont. Anxious not to be typecast as a director who only made ‘action’ pictures, he turned them down. Then, “I was thrilled to bits,” says Sharp, “when Sally Head and Sarah Wilson gave me the heaven-sent opportunity to direct Ted Whitehead’s wonderful adaptation of the Thomas Hardy novel ‘*Tess of the D’Urbervilles*’ for Granada. The experience was just like directing *Robin Hood* – I was whistling to work.”

Sharp’s most recent contribution to the Big Screen was with Pauline Collins directing ‘*Mrs Caldicot’s Cabbage War*’. Between movies he has continued to make commercials and short films all over the world.

# IAN SHARP



## FILMOGRAPHY

### **“Mrs Caldicot’s Cabbage War”**

Evolution Films – Andy Birmingham  
Comedy  
(Pauline Collins, John Alderton, Paul Freeman,  
Isla Blair, Martin Jarvis)

### **“Tess of the D’Urbervilles”**

LWT/Granada  
Drama  
(Justine Waddell, Jason Fleming, Oliver Milburn)

### **“Goldeneye” James Bond**

2nd Unit Director  
Action/ Adventure  
(Pierce Brosnan, Dame Judi Dench, Sean Bean,  
Robbie Coltrane)

### **“Pleasure”**

Channel 4 / Alan Bleasdale  
Comedy  
(Adrian Dunbar, Jennifer Ehle)

### **“Secret Weapon”**

Turner Cable/TVS/ABC Australia  
Real Life Drama  
(Karen Allen, Griffin Dunne, Jeroen Krabbe)

### **“Frederick Forsyth Presents”**

Drama  
(Brian Dennehy, Alan Howard, Lisa Eichhorn)

### **“Pursuit”**

NBC Columbia  
Drama  
(Veronica Hammel, Ben Cross, Sir Ian Richardson)

### **“Codename Kyril”**

HTV / Showtime Cable  
Drama  
(Ian Charleson, Denholm Eliot, Joss Ackland,  
Richard E Grant, Edward Woodward)

### **“Who Framed Roger Rabbit”**

Touchstone / Disney  
2nd Unit Director  
Action/Animation Comedy

### **“Yesterday’s Dreams”**

Central TV  
Drama  
(Paul Freeman, Judy Loe)

### **“The Corsican Brothers”**

CBS  
Drama  
(Trevor Eve, Olivia Hussey, Donald Pleasance, Simon Ward)

### **“Robin of Sherwood”**

Goldcrest  
Action Drama 6 Episodes  
(Michael Praed, Ray Winstone, Nickolas Grace, Judy Trott)

### **“Who Dares Wins”**

Rank / MGM / UA  
Action Drama  
(Richard Widmark, Judy Davies, Lewis Collins)

### **“The Professionals”**

ITV1  
Action Drama  
(Lewis Collins, Gordon Jackson, Martin Shaw)

### **“Minder”**

ITV1  
Comedy Series  
(George Cole, Denis Waterman)

Contact me at: [info@iansharp.net](mailto:info@iansharp.net)

Lambs Croft, Back Lane, Sibford Ferris, Nr Banbury, OX15 5RE  
01295 780 790 07789 953222