

SUPPORTERS

# ALAN WHICKER

BY VALERIE KLEEMAN



I was fortunate enough to share my life with Alan Whicker, who, before the digital age, was a household name, part of a small group who wrote the grammar of modern television reporting.

Travelling the world, we filmed whatever he found interesting or current: bloodthirsty despots, gay marriage, civil rights, frivolous socialites, all were part of Whicker's World. In a career spanning more than fifty years he left a visual account of many turning points of the last century.

His sharp suits concealed an even sharper mind, he was an inspired writer with a journalist's nose for a good story. Always curious and a good listener, he teased out revelations by stealth. He remains an inspiration to generations of aspiring filmmakers.

One of his final projects was Whicker's War where he recounted his part in the allied advance through Sicily to Rome. The programmes were hugely successful, but the surprise was in the public reaction - letters, emails, messages, all similar: my grandfather/father/brother never talked about the War; we never knew what happened.....it was an illustration of the importance of keeping memories alive.

After Alan's death in 2013 we created the Whicker's World Foundation to help fund the next generation of documentary makers but also to perpetuate ideas close to his heart. He would have been proud to support Holocaust Learning UK.

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