



Emmy for film maker fascinated by science

Nic Stacey was a student at Fortismere School in Muswell Hill from 1993 to 1999 and has gone on to become a renowned documentary maker. Now his latest film for Netflix has won an Emmy. Here he talks to Jessica Holt about his path to the prize.



International hit: Film director Nic Stacey with his spectacular Emmy Award

Nic Stacey's documentary *Buy Now! The Shopping Conspiracy* is about something dear to his heart, the world of corporations who drive up the over-consumption of goods for their own profit and how their actions are damaging our world and people's health.

It sounds like something you might want to avoid watching but it isn't, and you would be missing a magnificent piece of Emmy Award-winning

entertainment as well as an important message.

Science stories

Nic's Emmy win is well deserved recognition ten years on from his first nomination for his work on the series *How We Got to Now*, which told the stories behind human innovations. I asked him to explain his fascination with the field of science. Nic says:

"There were lots of people making science films from science backgrounds, but I studied drama at Bristol University, and I felt I could explore scientific ideas in a different way. Science is all around us and I feel people should and would be able to understand it more if ideas were presented in a creative, accessible way."

This approach led Nick to work with actor Jeff Goldblum travelling America looking at the weird stories behind everyday objects like ice cream and bicycles for the Disney+ series *The World According to Jeff Goldblum*.

With Cambridge science professor Simon Schaffer, he investigated an 18th century robot who could write with a calligraphy pen, and Nic has also worked extensively with Brian Cox, professor of physics at Manchester University, on the BBC series *Solar System*.

Black Friday

Buy Now! The Shopping Conspiracy came about, Nic says, because he'd always suspected that large corporations don't have our best interests at heart. "When Black Friday emerged and became a part of our culture it coincided with a company approaching me about the subject of waste. I wrote a script for them, and we took it to Netflix."

If you haven't seen the documentary, it is a wonderful and clever integration of graphics, logos, and interviews with real



Eye-catching: Nic's documentary is available to watch on Netflix

ex-corporate leaders ranging from online shopping businesses to high-end designers. Nic says: "We looked around the streets of New York filming different scenes and then asked ourselves what all the waste we saw would look like if it was in one place. We took the film to the graphics department." The result is etched into my memory: a stunning waterfall of waste cascading down the skyscrapers of New York.

Mind changing

Perhaps the most poignant moments in the film are scenes of second-hand clothes ending up polluting the beaches of Ghana and the women and children who have to dismantle our discarded mobile phones and laptops, a dirty and dangerous job.

"There have been lots of environmental documentaries and people know it's bad, but they don't engage," says Nic, "so my pitch was, why don't we

try and see if we can do something visually that makes people see it in a way that they haven't before and actually recognise western countries are responsible.

"Having people who worked for these massive corporations, close to the top who knew the CEOs telling me personally they had changed their views because of what they saw was going on. You can't argue with that."

Future films

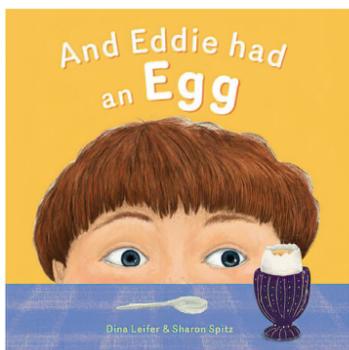
Nic has since reunited with Brian Cox to create films for his live tours. And the future? I want to keep on doing what I'm doing, there's a lot of freedom in the documentary world to really create something different. I want to keep pursuing unusual ideas about hidden weird things."

And, as his Emmy win proves, he is rather good at what he does!

Last chance for book awards

By David Melsome

Writers are being invited to enter their work for the Jewish Children's Book Awards, which are returning this autumn for their fifth and final year.



Favourite reads: A former winner of a Jewish Children's Book award

The prize, which celebrates new work by Jewish writers and illustrators working in the UK and Europe, has already uncovered and rewarded a host of talent over four successful years.

The final year of the awards

will be exclusively a writing prize. Entrants must submit their own original, unpublished story which should be inspired by Jewish history, values or traditions and be suitable for children aged between four and eight.

The winner of the best story will receive a £1,000 prize and all entries will be considered for publication by specialist children's book publishers Green Bean Books.

"It's been fantastic to see the awards flourish over the past few years," says judge Michael Leventhal. "We've been so impressed by the past entries and are optimistic that this final year will be the best yet. We really want to find exciting, innovative stories and discover how Jewish themes are

explored in fresh, new ways."

Full submission criteria can be found at greenbeanbooks.com/JCBA2026. The closing date for entries is Wednesday 5 November 2025.

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