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KEN RUSSELL

Once called the 15th most influential man in England, Ken Russell spent most of his childhood in the cinema watching Hollywood musicals. He spent his teens at Nautical College, Pangbourne, where he was regularly beaten for breaking bounds to watch Hollywood musicals.

After making 3 amateur films himself, he landed a plum job on *Monitor*, the famous BBC-TV Arts programme, where he made prize-winning drama-documentaries like *Elgar* and *Song of Summer*, about Delius. Later he turned to the big screen, making a number of spectacular films including *Tommy*, *Women in Love*, *The Boy Friend*, *Altered States*, *Music Lovers*, *Mahler*, *Savage Messiah*, *Lisztomania*, *Valentino*, *Lair of the White Worm*, *Crimes of Passion*, *Salome's Last Dance*, *The Devils* and *Fall of the Louse of Usher*. In the British Film Institute's Best 100 films and Best 100 television programmes, Ken Russell appears in both categories. All in all he has directed over 80 films for screen and TV. He has also directed a number of innovative opera productions, from *Madam Butterfly* to Stravinsky's *Rake's Progress*.

He has also directed pop videos (Elton John's *Nikita*), commercials, and published 6 books, including *Directing: From Pitch to Premiere*, *Mike and Gaby's Space Gospel*, *Brahms Gets Laid* and the upcoming *Violation*. His earliest still photo-essays were recently rediscovered (*Teddy Girls*).