

WORK

JACK IT ALL IN TO BE A... LOCATION SCOUT



Steve Mortimore has flown all over the world looking for the perfect locations to be used in films such as *World War Z*,

Kingsman: The Secret Service and the upcoming *Wonder Woman*. He's come a long way since the days of PJ & Duncan music videos...

CONTINUING THE CYCLE

In 1995, I was flicking through a copy of *FHM* magazine in Bristol and there was a similar article to this one, called 'I can do that' with a film location scout. I thought, "that's what I want to do." Cut to 21 years later and I've travelled the world doing it!

PJ AND DUNCAN

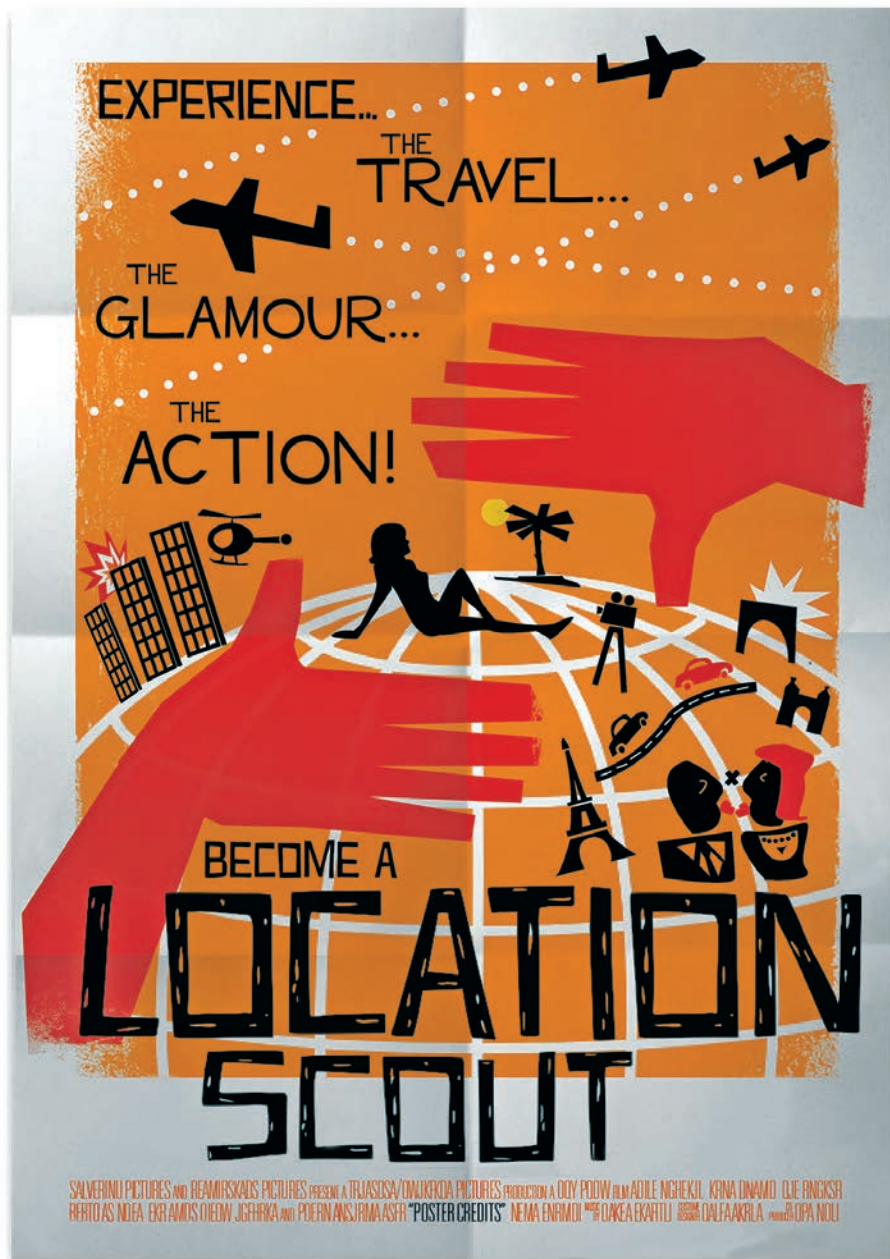
One of my first jobs was on a PJ & Duncan music video for a song called *Perfect*. It was shot at this old stately home called Mentmore Towers, near Leighton Buzzard. I got there at 4am and worked a 23-hour day but loved it, loved the craziness of it all and seeing behind the scenes. That was it – I had the bug.

BRAIN WORKOUT

I worked on a film recently called *The Infiltrator*, set mainly in Florida and South America. Apart from a couple of days of exterior shots, it was all filmed in London. It's great for the brain; I love trying to figure that stuff out. It was all set in the '80s, so I'm researching pics of 1980s Florida, sticking them on the wall and then you realise "Bloody hell, that looks a bit like Hornsey Town Hall."

FLORIDA IN WATFORD

In *The Infiltrator*, Bryan Cranston's character Robert Mazur lives in a house in Florida. We filmed that in Watford. I just drove around and found this bungalow with a circular swimming pool. The owner had lived there all her life, and her son was a massive *Breaking Bad* fan, so he loved the idea that Bryan Cranston was going to be in the house. We just added some palm trees and changed the furniture. You park a couple of American



cars in the driveway, and it's amazing what you can do.

NO SEX IN THE CITY

The script for *Sex And The City 2* was written for filming in Abu Dhabi, but the

authorities there took one look at the script and refused permission. Then I get a panicked phone call asking if I can be in Morocco tomorrow, and find Abu Dhabi-type locations to film. But it worked quite well in the end. **22**

JOB SPEC

Hours

The hours can be long, but every film is different. It's not for someone who wants to work nine to five.

Salary

Entry-level location marshals can earn £110 a day. That's an industry standard for people who want to work in locations. With time and experience, your day-rate will go up.

Location

Anywhere in the world. The UK is a popular location for film crews at the moment because of tax breaks.

Benefits

Your work immortalised on camera, lots of travel that someone else pays for, and hanging out with famous actors and directors.

Responsibilities

Researching locations,

photographing them, negotiating with owners of properties, then managing locations during filming.

Skills

Must be able to take great photos that sell a location, and think creatively to turn a Watford into a Florida.

Qualifications

Photography, geography and maths will all come in very handy.