



The Media Studies Conference 2006

The Insiders: Speakers' biographies

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1. **Inside TV Sales**

Andy Barnes

Sales Director, Channel 4, London

On completing his Business Studies Degree, Andy Barnes travelled all round Australia and took his first appointment in a sales and marketing environment as a clerk at the Amev Life Insurance Company in Sydney, a job he describes as the most boring in the world!

On returning to the UK in 1979 he took up a position at Southern Television as sales trainee. Over the course of the next seven years he progressed to Deputy Sales Director of TVS, who had by then taken over the franchise from Southern Television. On the formation of Laser Sales first incarnation in 1989 he also took up the position of a Director of that company, a position he retained until leaving at the end of 1991 to join Channel 4 as Head of Advertising Sales. In July 1997 he was appointed to the board of Channel 4 as Sales Director. Andy also sits on the board of BARB (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board Ltd), is Chairman of the BACC (Broadcasting Advertising Clearance Centre) and is a member of the Advertising Association's Council. Andy has recently been appointed Chairman of Thinkbox, the new marketing body set up to act on behalf of the commercial television companies.

2. **Inside Film Funding**

Sally Caplan

Head of the Premiere Fund, UK Film Council, London

Sally Caplan worked as an entertainment lawyer for EMI Records where she was part of a team producing and exploiting music videos and programming, before being headhunted by PolyGram and hired as the Director of Business Affairs for their newly-created video division where she worked for three years.

When PolyGram moved its worldwide entertainment divisions into fully integrated feature film distribution, Sally was appointed as Director of Business Affairs and Acquisitions for PolyGram Filmed Entertainment in the UK ("PFE UK"). Regarded as PolyGram's flagship distribution company, over the course of five years, Sally was responsible for or involved in the acquisition of some of the high profile projects such as *Malice*, *Shallow Grave*, *Trainspotting*, *Priest*, *Usual Suspects* and *Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*.

With the closure of the PFE distribution companies in 1998, Sally remained and was promoted to Senior Vice President of Worldwide Acquisitions for Universal. In 2000, Momentum Pictures, a fledging UK distribution company appointed her as Senior Vice President of Acquisitions and Business Affairs where she acquired films such as *The Magdalene Sisters*, *Amelie*, *Get Over It*, *Crossroads* (Britney Spears), *No Mans' Land*, *Lost In Translation* and *Eternal Sunshine Of A Spotless Mind* and Momentum's turnover increased from £2.5m to over £35m.

Sally joined Icon Film Distribution as President in April 2004 where she oversaw all the activities of the UK distribution company, including acquisitions. In April 2006 was appointed Head of the Premiere Fund at the UK Film Council, the government-funded agency for film in the UK.

3. Inside Film Production

Jeremy Thomas*

Producer

Jeremy Thomas comes from a film-making family and as soon as he left school he went to work in various positions, ending up in the cutting rooms working on films such as *The Harder They Come*, *Family Life* and *The Golden Voyage of Sinbad*, and worked through the ranks to become a film editor for Ken Loach on *A Misfortune*.

After editing Philippe Mora's *Brother Can You Spare a Dime*, he produced his first film *Mad Dog Morgan* in 1974 in Australia. He then returned to England to produce Jerzy Skolimowski's *The Shout*, which won the Grand Prix de Jury at the Cannes Film Festival. His extensive output of over forty films includes three films directed by Nicolas Roeg, *Bad Timing*, *Eureka* and *Insignificance*, Julien Temple's *The Great Rock 'n' Roll Swindle*, Nagisa Oshima's *Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence*, and *The Hit*, directed by Stephen Frears.

In 1986 he produced Bernardo Bertolucci's epic, *The Last Emperor*, an independently financed project that was three years in the making. A commercial and critical triumph, the film swept the board at the 1987 Academy Awards, garnering an outstanding nine Oscars including 'Best Picture'.

Since *The Last Emperor*, Thomas has completed many films including Karel Reisz's film of Arthur Miller's screenplay *Everybody Wins*, Bertolucci's film of Paul Bowles' *The Sheltering Sky*, *Little Buddha* and *Stealing Beauty*, David Cronenberg's films of William S. Burroughs' *Naked Lunch* and J.G. Ballard's *Crash*. In 1997 he directed *All The Little Animals*, starring John Hurt and Christian Bale, which was in the official selection at the Cannes Film Festival. Other recent credits include Jonathan Glazer's *Sexy Beast*, Takeshi Kitano's *Brother*, Khyentse Norbu's *The Cup*, Phillip Noyce's *Rabbit-Proof Fence*,

David Mackenzie's film of Alexander Trocchi's *Young Adam*, Bernardo Bertolucci's *The Dreamers*, Terry Gilliam's *Tideland*, Wim Wenders' *Don't Come Knocking* and he is currently working on Richard Linklater's *Fast Food Nation*.

He was Chairman of the British Film Institute from August 1992 until December 1997 and has been the recipient of many awards throughout the world, including the Michael Balcon British Academy Achievement Award. He has been President of the jury at Tokyo, San Sebastian, Berlin Film Festival and Cannes (Un Certain Regard) and has also served on the main jury at Cannes. He was made a Life Fellow of the British Film Institute in 2000.

4. **Inside Film and Television Editing**

Mark Day

Editor, Leavesden Studios, Herts.

Mark Day has been an editor for over seventeen years and has worked with numerous directors including John Schlesinger (*Cold Comfort Farm*, *Question of Attribution* and *Sweeney Todd*), Jack Clayton (*Memento Mori*, BAFTA nomination) Richard Eyre (*Suddenly Last Summer*) and David Yates (*The Way We Live Now*, BAFTA nomination, *State of Play*, BAFTA Award 2004, *Sex Traffic*, BAFTA award 2005 and RTS television award 2005) and is currently working again with David Yates on *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, due for release in 2007.

Mark started and trained at the BBC where he worked for 20 years before embarking on a freelance career. He won his first BAFTA award for sound editing in 1986 for his work on the Alan Bennett play *The Insurance Man* directed by Richard Eyre.

5. **Inside Television Drama**

Jane Featherstone

Joint Managing Director, Kudos Film and TV, London

Jane has established herself over the last 10 years as one of the country's leading drama producers, responsible for a raft of critical and ratings successes. Jane left Leeds University (History and German) in 1991 and immediately started work as PA to the footballer Paul Gascoigne. During this time she was a script reader for the West Yorkshire Playhouse and ran a small theatre company called Brouhaha. When Paul went to play in Italy 18 months later, Jane pursued her long-held aim of a career in television.

Joining Hat Trick Productions she worked on many hit series, such as *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, *Have I Got News for You* and *Drop The Dead Donkey*. Jane was heavily involved in Hat Trick's first drama commissions, the RTS Award-winning *A Very Open Prison* for Screen 2 and *Eleven Men Against Eleven* for Channel 4. Tony Garnett at World Productions then offered her the chance to produce a new pilot drama in 1995. From there Jane produced the first two series of the award-winning and BAFTA-nominated ITV series *Touching Evil* (written by Paul Abbott and starring Robson Green), followed by the highly successful BAFTA-nominated single film for BBC2, *Sex 'n' Death* (written and directed by Guy Jenkin for Hat Trick Productions and starring Martin Clunes). Jane also produced the highly-acclaimed BBC 1 series, *Glasgow Kiss* (written by Stephen Greenhorn and starring Iain Glen and Sharon Small) for Wall to Wall Television.

Jane joined Kudos in September 2000 as Head of Drama and was Series Producer of the first series of *Spooks* (Winner of BAFTA, RTS and Broadcast awards), Kudos' major new drama which finished its 6-week run on BBC 1 in June 2002, to tremendous ratings success and widespread critical acclaim. Jane has executive produced the second (winner of RTS award), third and fourth series of *Spooks* (10 episodes) and is continuing in this role for the fifth series, which is currently in production. Lifting the lid on the world of MI5 - Britain's domestic security service, *Spooks'* current stars include Rupert Penry-Jones, Peter Firth, Hermione Norris, Raza Jaffrey, Nicola Walker. In 2003 Jane was also Executive Producer on another major new series for BBC 1, *Hustle* starring Adrian Lester, Robert Vaughn and Marc Warren and written and created by Tony Jordan. The show was a great success and was immediately re-commissioned. The second series of *Hustle* was transmitted at the beginning of 2005, and the third in 2006. The fourth series is currently in pre-production. Jane also executive produced two pioneering TV films, both for Channel 4. *Pleasureland* (winner of RTS Best Newcomer Award for Katie Lyon) was a major critical and ratings hit, and was lauded for its bravery and authenticity. *Comfortably Numb* (Winner of Directors Guild Award) was a collaboration with director Leo Regan, which resulted in one of the year's most original and daring television programmes. Jane and Stephen Garrett, her partner at Kudos, executive produced the feature film *Pure*, which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival. Of Jane's most recent productions, *Child of Mine*, written by Caleb Ranson and starring Joanne Whalley, aired on ITV at the end of last year, and *Life on Mars* (winner of the Banff Best Drama Series), an 8 part primetime series for BBC 1, created by Matthew Graham, Tony Jordan and Ashley Pharoah, starring John Simm, has recently aired to extremely high ratings and great critical acclaim. Series two is currently in production. Jane has also recently executive produced *Scars*, by writer/director Leo Regan, starring Jason Isaacs. Jane is currently executive producing some new and exciting dramas for Kudos including *The Amazing Mrs Pritchard* a six part series by Sally Wainwright, starring Jane Horrocks, a two part mini-series for the BBC, *Tsunami* by Abi Morgan, starring Tim Roth, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Toni Collette, Sophie Okonedo, Gina McKee and Hugh Boneville and a single drama, *The Wide Sargasso Sea* which brings to screen Jean Rhys's passionate story of the first Mrs Rochester.

These projects complement a slate of TV projects that the team are currently developing for different broadcasters.

Jane is joint Managing Director of Kudos, and runs the company with Stephen Garrett (Joint Managing Director) and Simon Crawford Collins (Director of Drama).

6. Inside an Independent Production Company

Alex Graham

Chief Executive, Wall to Wall Television, London

Born in Glasgow, Wall to Wall Chief Executive Alex Graham has built the company into one of the UK's leading independent producers. With a reputation for quality and innovation, Wall to Wall has won almost every award on both sides of the Atlantic including several BAFTAs, Emmys, Royal Television Society and Peabody awards. Alex has been Executive Producer of several of Wall to Wall's recent successes including *New Tricks*, the Emmy-winning *George Orwell – A Life in Pictures*, and *Who Do You Think You Are?* Alex has been elected chair of PACT Council for 2006. He also sits on the boards of the Independent Production Training Fund and the Sheffield

International Documentary Festival. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a visiting fellow of the University of Bournemouth's Media School.

7. Inside BBC Film Acquisitions

Steve Jenkins

Head of Films, BBC Programme Acquisitions, London

Steve Jenkins is Head of Films for the BBC's Programme Acquisitions department, responsible for acquiring and scheduling films across the BBC's four television channels. Previously he was a producer/director for ITV's *The South Bank Show*, where he made films on Robert Altman, Terence Davies, Robert Zemeckis and others. Steve worked at the British Film Institute from 1973 to 1984, eventually as Associate Editor of the *Monthly Film Bulletin*.

8. Inside Interactive Media

Anthony Lilley

Chief Executive, Magic Lantern Productions Ltd, London

Anthony Lilley is Chief Executive of Magic Lantern Productions, an award-winning interactive media production company specialising in content for broadband and multi-platform media. Established in 1996, the company's clients include Channel 4, BBC, BT, Tiscali, Nigella Lawson's Pabulum Productions, UKTV, Telewest, Discovery, C21 Media, the UK Film Council, NESTA, the DTI, the DfES, Skillset, The Tate Modern and PACT. He is Executive Producer and co-creator of Channel 4's Four Docs (www.channel4.com/fourdocs). Anthony has experience of television and corporate video production and previously worked in theatre production as a lighting designer, producer and director having taken a degree in law. Vice-Chairman of PACT and Chair of its Interactive Media Policy Group, he is also a member of the Executive and Advisory Council of the Broadband Stakeholders' Group and a Working Group Chairman of the DCMS/DTI Creative Industries IP Forum as well as a member of the Advisory Boards of NESTA Future lab, the IPPR Intellectual Property Project and the Board of Directors of iCommons (<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/5700>). In 2002-3 he was Chair of the UK Digital Content Forum. He advises the DTI on broadband content and innovation, the DfES on the future of public service broadcasting, and has previously advised the DCMS and the Cabinet Office and assisted OFCOM in its reviews of Public Service Broadcasting and Television Production.

9. Inside Television Commissioning

Gideon Joseph*

News and Current Affairs Editor, Channel 4

Gideon Joseph joined Channel 4 in February. His primary responsibilities include contributing towards the Channel's flagship current affairs strand *Dispatches* and the development of the department's new media and radio portfolio. Gideon joins Channel 4 from Sky News where he was executive producer for their flagship daily news programme, *The Sky Report*. Prior to that, Joseph worked at Granada TV as a producer on *Tonight* with Trevor McDonald and as a production executive at LWT. He started his career as a researcher then producer on *Newsnight*.

10. Inside Film Distribution

Neil Marshall

Director of Sales, Pathé Distribution Ltd, London

Neil has run the UK and Eire theatrical sales department of Pathé Distribution for the past five years, working on an average of twenty titles per year, he has overseen the sales strategy for a diverse slate of films including *Crash*, *Mrs Henderson Presents*, *House of Flying Daggers*, *Motorcycle Diaries*, *Bride and Prejudice*, *The Magic Roundabout*, *The Descent* and *Bad Education*.

Prior to joining Pathé he was European Sales manager for Sony Pictures where alongside the local territory managers he formulated release strategies for Scandinavia, Benelux and Portugal. Before joining the European office he was UK Sales Manager working on a broad range of titles including *As Good As It Gets*, *Men in Black*, *Godzilla*, *Jerry Maguire*, *Jumanji* and *Sense and Sensibility*.

* indicates change of speaker