



CELEBRATING AND ENCOURAGING THE SUCCESS OF WOMEN IN THE AUDIOVISUAL INDUSTRIES

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

Friday, 3 February 2017

Ali Bailey
Head of Campaigns, Directors UK

Ali Bailey joined the Directors UK in 2014, having lead strategy, public relations and campaigns for a range of organisations spanning the private, public and charity sectors. Ali is responsible Directors UK's campaigning strategy and external relations as well as commissioning and authoring industry research.

Vanessa Bakewell
Entertainment Team Lead, Facebook

I have worked in London for 16 years after graduating from LIPA (Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts) with a First Class Degree in Arts and Entertainment Management.

After a work placement at M&C Saatchi I started work at EMAP (now Bauer Media) working across Men's and Lifestyle Magazines where I worked for 6 years across Smash Hits, The Face, FHM, Q, Mojo, Kerrang and Empire, looking after Film and Music clients in a Business Development Role. From there I joined Google who after a year acquired YouTube, where I set up the Entertainment Team looking after Film, Gaming and Music, both in London and Internationally. After 5 years, I moved to Facebook, where I now work as a Client Partner in a Global Role, looking after Film and Music clients to partner with them to build their marketing strategies and successful launch across Facebook and Instagram. Outside of this I run a group called The Wed Network, where over 500 women from the film and musical industries who work in the digital space support each other and come together at events that I host. I plan to turn into the WED network into a charity later in 2017.

Karen Blackett OBE
Chairwoman, Mediacom

Karen has been in media for 22 years and is currently Chairwoman of MediaCom, the largest media agency in the UK with billings over £1 billion. Prior to this Karen was CEO for 5 years.

Karen has been instrumental not only in the success of MediaCom, but in championing diversity throughout the advertising and media industry. In 2012, Karen launched the first ever Government backed Apprentice Scheme for the sector, where the apprentices qualify for an NVQ in Marketing and Communications.

In June 2014, Karen received an OBE in the Queen's Birthday honours and in 2015, Karen was the first business woman to be named Britain's Most Influential Black person in the Power List.

In 2015, Karen was appointed as one of four external advisors to help diversify the Civil Service, and as a DIT (Department for International Trade) Business Ambassador for No. 10. Karen is also a Non-Exec for Creative England, whose focus is to support new and emerging talent in the Creative Industry helping grow the UK Economy, and a Council member of the Creative Industries Federation. In March 2016, Karen became the President of NABS, the advertising industry charity which focuses on health and wellbeing in the workplace and presenting the business case for Diversity.

Phil Clapp
Chief Executive, UK Cinema Association
BSAC Member since 2007

Phil Clapp was appointed CEO of the (then) Cinema Exhibitors' Association in October 2007. During his time at the Association, Phil has spearheaded the establishment of the Digital Funding Partnership, which ensured the survival of small and medium-sized UK cinema operators in a new technological era, as well as more recently leading on the establishment of the ground-breaking *Meerkat Movies* promotion, the largest cinema promotion ever seen in the UK. Since May 2013, Phil has served as President of the International Union of Cinemas (UNIC), the European grouping of cinema trade associations and key operators now representing 36 European territories.

Before joining the Association, Phil worked at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, leading on policy for the creative industries – including film, music and computer games – having joined the civil service in 1994 from a background in scientific research.

Sara Geater
COO, All3Media
BSAC Member since 2014

Sara Geater was appointed Chief Operating Officer of All3Media in 2015, joining the senior executive team created after the acquisition of the business by Discovery and Liberty Global. Sara works closely with the businesses in the Group to drive growth, both organically and through acquisition. She brings her expertise as an industry leader in television production, talent management, rights and deal-making to support and build the growth of the business in the UK and overseas.

Sara's career to date has spanned TV, film and digital, in both business and creative roles and covering all genres. As CEO of Fremantle Media UK, she led a major restructure of the company, devising and implementing its "label" strategy,

Prior to this, Sara held the post of Head of Commercial Affairs at Channel 4 and Director of Rights & Business Affairs at the BBC. Sara has also held roles including Head of Film & TV at Avalon, Head of Production at Miramax Films and Channel 4 Drama's Co-Production Executive; her television career began at LWT as a production accountant.

Sara is Chair of the Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television (PACT) and sits on the BAFTA Board of Trustees as Chair of the Commercial Committee. She is a barrister and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Jon Gisby
Chair, BSAC
BSAC Member since 2012
BSAC Chair since 2016

Jon Gisby is a digital media executive who has spent twenty years building, leading and transforming companies that create and deliver premium content, particularly TV and online video. He has worked for broadcasters, rights holders, brands and platforms to identify and build new audiences and revenue, both in their existing businesses and in new digital propositions. He was one of the many architects of the BBC's digital strategy, ran the content and services at Freeserve and was MD of Yahoo! UK, where he ran their media business across Europe. He was appointed to the board of Channel 4 and led the teams that built 4oD into the UK's leading commercial VOD service. In 2013, he was commissioned by Ofcom to assess the future of ad-funded content on TV and online, gathering perspectives from across the industry on the rapid development of online video and brand-funded content. He helped launch Rightster, which has since become the largest non US MCN, and was EVP Business Development at Magine TV, the OTT TV service that is now live in Sweden, Germany and the UK. He has recently returned from New York where he advised the CEO and executive team at Vevo, one of the largest distributors of premium online video.

He has been a Member of BSAC since 2012 and Chair since 2016.

Anna Higgs
Creative Director, Nowness
BSAC Member since 2016

Anna Higgs is an award-winning producer and creative executive who leads ground-breaking work at the intersection of film and digital storytelling. Anna has recently taken up the position of Creative Director at NOWNESS, a global video channel bringing together the best in culture, with the best of emerging and established filmmaking voices. A partnership between Dazed Media and the LVMH group, NOWNESS is a movement for creative excellence in storytelling celebrating the extraordinary of every day.

Launched in 2010, NOWNESS' unique programming strategy has established it as the go to source of inspiration and influence across art, design, fashion, beauty, music, food, and travel. Their curatorial expertise and award-winning approach to storytelling is unparalleled. NOWNESS works with exceptional talent who connect their audience to emotional and sensorial stories designed to provoke inspiration and debate.

Prior to joining NOWNESS, Anna was Head of Digital at Film4, spearheading innovation for the Oscar-winning film fund with projects including Ben Wheatley's *A Field in England*, Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard's *20,000 Days on Earth*, Ken Loach's *The Spirit of '45* and Lenny Abrahamson's *Frank*. Other credits include the upcoming *High-Rise*, starring Tom Hiddleston, Sundance-winner *Dark Horse* and Peter Strickland's *The Duke of Burgundy*.

She was named as one of Time Out's inaugural 'Culture 100', described as "the innovators, visionaries and pioneers behind what's now and what's next", alongside Danny Boyle and Steve McQueen.

Kathryn Jacob OBE
Chief Executive, Pearl and Dean

Kathryn is CEO of Pearl & Dean and in her pre-cinema life she worked in national newspapers, magazines and radio. After the sale of Virgin Radio, she worked in a cross-platform role at Scottish Media Group, which encompassed television, posters, radio and cinema. Obviously wanting to spend her life eating popcorn and watching films she joined Pearl & Dean as CEO. Since then, Pearl & Dean has started selling ads on ships and partnering up with pop-up cinemas to bring an upmarket and discerning audience to brands outside of the cinema walls. If that wasn't enough, new initiatives include film partnerships and product placement. Outside of work Kathryn sits on the board of Women's Aid, the Development Board at RADA, the board of the Association of Colleges and the Council and Board of the Advertising Association. She's on the Government Expert Group on Body Confidence. She has two children, a lovely husband and not enough hours in the day.

Tracy Jean**International producer – Development & Acquisitions, Sony Pictures Entertainment**

Tracy-Jean is currently working for Sony Pictures Television as an International Producer straddling new IP development, global acquisitions and supporting current formats. This means her days consist of coming up with ideas to pitch, hearing pitches from external companies and constantly pitching new elements for long-running series like *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* and *Dragon's Den*. She has spent more than ten years working on a wide variety of projects, including a factual TV show that saved a girl's life and a livestream of corgi puppies – both of which she is equally proud of.

Pete Johnson**Chief Executive, BSAC**

Pete Johnson joined BSAC as Chief Executive in September 2016. He was previously Chief Executive of The Authority for Television On Demand (ATVOD) since its Designation by Ofcom in March 2010 as the co-regulatory authority with responsibility for editorial content in On-Demand Programme Services. In this role, he was responsible for ensuring that UK video on demand services complied with the requirements of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive as they apply to editorial content, and worked closely with the regulated industry through the ATVOD Industry Forum. He was previously Head of Policy and Business Development at the British Board of Film Classification, where he was responsible for all aspects of regulatory policy and research, and for the development of new classification services for both packaged media and video on demand providers.

Sophie Jones**Head of Corporate Relations, Channel 4*****BSAC Member since 2011***

Sophie Jones is Head of Corporate Relations at Channel 4, where she has worked since 2008.

In this role, Sophie oversees public policy, regulatory affairs, public affairs and stakeholder relations, events and internal communications for the organisation. This entails taking a lead on external relationships with a wide range of stakeholders and on reporting of Channel 4's public service remit performance to Parliament and Ofcom. The role sits within Channel 4's Marketing and Communications Directorate. Prior to Channel 4, Sophie held senior public and corporate affairs positions at ITV and ITN.

Sophie is a member of BSAC Council. She sits on Channel 4's Diversity Task Force and previously held a Board position at ATVOD.

She is a graduate in French from King's College, London and has a master's degree in Media Management from Stirling University.

Deborah Lincoln
SVP, Corporate Communications & Public Affairs, International,
Warner Bros. Entertainment

Deborah Lincoln is Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications & Public Affairs, International for Warner Bros. Entertainment, responsible for corporate communications strategy, internal and external communications, and management of corporate media relations across all of Warner Bros.' international businesses.

Before joining Warner Bros. in May 2007, she was Head of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs for Pearson PLC, responsible for corporate and financial media relations and government relations. Between 2001 and 2004, Deborah was Special Advisor to Patricia Hewitt, Secretary of State for Trade & Industry and before that, spent a number years in the charitable sector, including Friends of the Earth, Prince's Trust and Macmillan Cancer Relief.

Deborah is the Chair of the Watford Palace Theatre, assuming the role in February 2015.

Deborah holds a master's degree in European Politics from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She speaks German fluently and has a working knowledge of both French and Spanish.

Deborah is married and lives in London.

Natasha Mitchell
Independent Consultant

Natasha is a media executive with 15+years' experience across a range of roles including corporate strategy, M&A, and business development. She served as Head of Strategy and Business Development at FremantleMedia from 2007-2013. In 2013 she moved to NBC Universal, taking up the post of VP Strategy and Operations for its international TV production division. More recently, she joined the senior management team at Zodiak Media, where she was instrumental in leading the turnaround of Zodiak and its eventual merger with the Banijay Group. Natasha is currently acting as an independent advisor, providing strategic consulting services to clients in the media sector. Natasha has an honours B.A. in English Literature from McGill University and an MBA from INSEAD.

Roz Morris
Managing Director, TV News London

Roz has many years' experience as a broadcaster and media trainer. She co-founded TV News London more than 20 years ago and was an accredited trainer for the Independent Television Association. She works with major organisations on global media issues.

She has been a news reporter, newsreader and programme presenter for BBC TV and radio, ITN, Thames TV, and Tyne Tees TV, where she was the first woman in the North East of England to be the regular presenter of the weekly political and business programme. She also worked as a staff correspondent for BBC Scotland, based in Edinburgh, and for RTE (Irish national radio and TV) as a London Correspondent. She has been a reporter and presenter for LBC/IRN and BBC Radio News, a feature writer for the Evening Standard and a staff reporter and feature writer for The Observer and The Guardian, where she was the youngest reporter on both papers. She is currently a blogger for TV News London and the Huffington Post UK on media matters. She has interviewed thousands of people both as a reporter and a media trainer, including major political and social issues. However the one story that won't go away is the Enfield Poltergeist. Roz reported on this strange case in a BBC Radio 4 documentary and has also commented since in other broadcasts including a Channel Four Documentary.

Roz is a former Vice President of City Women's Network and is on the Nominating Council of the Women of the Year Lunch. She is also a Liveryman of the Marketors Company, the city livery company for senior marketing professionals, and has the Freedom of the City of London.

Rebecca O'Brien
Producer, Sixteen Films
BSAC Member since 2013

Rebecca O'Brien has been an independent film producer for thirty years. She has produced seventeen feature films directed by Ken Loach, including *Land And Freedom*, *Sweet Sixteen*, *Looking For Eric* and *The Angels' Share*. Both the *The Wind That Shakes The Barley* (2006) and *I, Daniel Blake* (2016) won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival Her other producing credits include *Bean*, directed by Mel Smith, *Princesa* directed by Henrique Goldman and *City Of Tiny Lights*, directed by Pete Travis.

O'Brien is currently on the boards of the European Film Academy and PACT and is a member of the British Screen Advisory Council. She runs the production company Sixteen Films with Ken Loach and screenwriter Paul Laverty.

Kate Ogborn
Producer, Fly Films

Kate has recently produced Randall Wright's documentary *Hockney*. Previously Kate produced, with Lisa Marie Russo, Pia Borg and Edward Lawrenson's *Abandoned Goods*, which won the Golden Leopard for Best International Short at Locarno; Ken Loach's documentary *The Spirit of '45*, with Lisa Marie Russo and Rebecca O'Brien of Sixteen Films; and Terence Davies' adaptation of *The Deep Blue Sea*, by Terence Rattigan, with Sean O'Connor of Camberwell Films. The film stars Rachel Weisz, Simon Russell Beale and Tom Hiddleston. Kate was also an executive producer on *Self Made* and *Swandown*.

Prior to setting up Fly, Kate was Head of Television at Revolution Films. She co-produced Tony Grisoni's adaptation of David Peace's crime novels, *The Red Riding Trilogy*, and Samantha Morton's directorial debut, *The Unloved*, which won a BAFTA for Best Single Drama in 2010.

Kate's other producer and executive producer credits include the multi award winning *Under the Skin* (starring Samantha Morton), *This is England*, *Bronson*, *A Cock and Bull Story*, *Brothers of the Head*, *This is Not A Love Song* and *One for the Road*. Kate was the executive producer for the Cinema Extreme short film scheme for the UK Film Council and Film4, and ran the BFI's New Director's short film scheme, executive producing over 60 short films.

Nick Toon
VP UK Public Policy, Time Warner
BSAC Member since 2005

Nick Toon heads Time Warner's UK Public Policy Office based in London. He handles policy issues across Time Warner's divisions in the UK – Warner Bros., HBO and Turner Broadcasting – liaising with them on strategic policy development and representing the companies' positions externally with policymakers.

Mr. Toon joined Time Warner in August 2011 from Channel 4 Television in the UK, where he was Director of Corporate Relations. Mr. Toon was responsible for overseeing the organization's policy engagement with UK Government and regulators, including on the 2010 Digital Economy Act.

Before joining Channel 4 in 2004, Mr. Toon was Controller of Public Affairs at ITV where he led the company's engagement on the 2003 Communications Act.

Previously, Mr. Toon worked in political consultancy and monitoring and between 1995 and 1997 he worked in the BBC's Political Research Unit, editing the BBC's internal guide to the 1997 General Election. He began his career working as a researcher in the Houses of Parliament, Westminster.

He is also a member of BAFTA and a Board member of the Commercial Broadcasters Association (COBA).

Brigitte Trafford
Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Virgin Media

Brigitte joined Virgin Media in February 2014 as Chief Corporate Affairs Officer. She sits on the Company's Executive Committee and is responsible for public policy, regulatory and government affairs, communications, charity and sustainability. Before this she had run the corporate communications departments of three of the UK's biggest public companies – ICAP plc, Lloyds Banking Group and ITV plc. Previously she was global head of communications and chief spokesperson for Dow Jones, publishers of The Wall Street Journal, based in London and then New York.

Dimitra Tsingou
COO, Protagonist Pictures
BSAC Member since 2015

Dimitra has served as COO of Protagonist Pictures since 2015. She's amassed a wealth of experience over 12 years in Business Affairs and Film Finance, with completed transactions on close to 70 films and aggregated budgets of around \$750 million. Whilst at Protagonist, Dimitra has overseen the day-to-day operations across the company's entire slate (which includes *Love & Friendship*, *American Honey* and *Hunt For The Wilderpeople*), executive produced forthcoming Protagonist financed feature *The Discovery* and expanded the company's development and finance initiatives. Prior to Protagonist, Dimitra was a Senior Legal and Business Affairs Executive at Film4, working on titles such as *Suffragette* and *The Lobster*. She also served as Head of Production and Business Affairs at Swarovski Entertainment, structuring its film production activities. Dimitra previously worked for Aramid Capital Partners, Future Films and is a qualified Solicitor.

Mimi Turner
SVP Strategy, VICE Media

Mimi Turner is Senior Vice President of Strategy at VICE Media responsible for driving innovation and growth across the UK businesses. Mimi joined VICE Media in November 2016 after two years as Marketing Director of The Lad Bible Group, where she helped establish the male-skewed business as a significant force in social entertainment. Prior to The Lad Bible, Mimi was Director of Sales and Marketing at The Health Lottery and Group Director of Communications and Public Affairs at Northern & Shell, working for Richard Desmond across Channel 5, The Health Lottery, Express Newspapers and OK! magazine. She began her career as a science writer for the Sunday Times and was European Television Editor of The Hollywood Reporter for a decade.