



FILM, TV & GAMES CONFERENCE 2017

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

DAVID ABRAHAM CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CHANNEL 4

David Abraham became Channel 4's sixth Chief Executive in May 2010.

His focus on Channel 4's unique remit and on its market leading commercial and digital innovation has steered the corporation into long-term financial sustainability with revenues above £900m since 2011 enabling record content investment since 2012. This has supported a major creative overhaul attracting over 15m registered viewers and a record number of major industry awards.



In 2014 David gave the prestigious MacTaggart Lecture at the Edinburgh TV Festival on the importance of Public Service Broadcasting to British Creativity.

Previously David was CEO at UKTV between 2007-2010 where he masterminded the launch of Dave laying the foundation for repositioning the entire 10 channel network; at Discovery Networks USA between 2005-2007 he led the revival of cable channel TLC as its President and General Manager; and before heading to the US, David led Discovery Networks UK as General Manager during a four-year period of rapid growth from 2001.

David was a founding partner of the influential independent advertising agency St Luke's.

He is a member of the Creative Skillset Board and of BAFTA.

AMMA ASANTE

Amma Asante is a multi-award winning writer and director who won a BAFTA for her first film, *A Way of Life* (2004), which she wrote and directed. The film saw Amma collect 17 international awards including the newcomer award at the BFI London Film Festival and the prestigious South Bank Show Awards' The Times Breakthrough Artist of the Year. Her next film, *Belle* (2014), starred Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Tom Wilkinson, Penelope Wilton, Miranda Richardson and Emily Watson, drew widespread critical acclaim, going on to become one of the highest grossing independent films of the year. Amma won a NAACP Award and was named as one of CNN's Leading Women of 2014.



In 2016 *A United Kingdom*, helmed by Amma, was released starring David Oyelowo, Rosamund Pike, Jack Davenport and Laura Carmichael. The film had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival and opened the BFI London Film Festival 2016, seeing Amma become the first woman of colour to have a film open the festival, and went on to receive rave reviews. In the same year, Amma was made a member of The Academy Awards.

Amma is currently in post-production on her next film, *Where Hands Touch*, which she has written and directed, starring Amandla Stenberg, George MacKay, Abbie Cornish and Christopher Eccleston. The film is set in 1940s Germany and is expected to be released in early 2018.

JOSH BERGER CBE PRESIDENT & MANAGING DIRECTOR, WARNER BROS. UK, IRELAND AND SPAIN PRESIDENT OF HARRY POTTER GLOBAL FRANCHISE DEVELOPMENT

Josh Berger is President & Managing Director, Warner Bros. UK, Ireland and Spain, overseeing Warner Bros.' business activities in the three territories, and the President of Harry Potter Global Franchise Development, leading Warner Bros.' expanded creative partnership with J.K. Rowling. A 27-year veteran of the Studio, he has lived and worked in the UK for 20 years and has been a British citizen since July 2011.



Josh is the Chairman of the British Film Institute (BFI), having been a BFI Governor since 2011. He is also a Member of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA), the Creative Industries Council, and the British Screen Advisory Council; a Council Member of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA); a Director of the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences; and the Chair of Chickenshed Theatre Trust.

Josh was appointed a CBE in the Queen's 2012 Birthday Honours List for services to the UK's creative industries.

WILLIAM BUSH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PREMIER LEAGUE

The Premier League has organised the top-flight football competition in England since 1992. In that period attendances have grown by 60%, media rights are now sold to almost every territory in the world, generating nearly £3 billion per year and the Premier League has become the world's most-watched regular domestic sporting competition

William's responsibilities at the Premier League includes, Intellectual Property, public policy, relations with government and EU, relations with fans and consumers, communications and the community programme.

Before joining the Premier League, William worked as a Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister (1999-2001) and to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (2001-2005), and was Head of Research for BBC News until 1999.



NICK BUTTON-BROWN

Nick has worked in senior positions across the games industry for 20 years. He serves as chair of the games committee and on the board of trustees at bafta. He is coo at sensible object, a connected toys & games company, chair at new licensed game publisher outright games and an advisor at London-based tech startup improbable, supported by VC firm Andreessen Horowitz. Before that, he worked for 5 years at Crytek in Germany, including managing development of games such as 'Crysis 3', 'Ryse', and 'Homefront 2'. He also spent 9 years at electronic arts, working on games such as 'Battlefield', 'Black & White 2', 'Crysis', 'Timesplitters 3', and 'Freedom Fighters'.



ISABEL DAVIS
HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL, BFI

Isabel is the BFI's Head of International, which encompasses key aspects of international film cooperation. She has negotiated a number of film and AV co-production treaties including with Brazil and China, and has been pivotal in strengthening the UK's film relationships and market insight in such territories.

Overseeing the BFI's international strategy, Isabel also works with the UK's film export community to increase international sales, and profile, of UK films and talent.

On the editorial front, Isabel has backed the development and production of film projects including Yorgos Lanthimos's *The Lobster*, and upcoming films from Victor Kossakovsky and Haifaa Al-Mansour.



STEPHEN GARRETT
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, CHARACTER 7

Stephen Garrett was the founder and executive chairman of Kudos, the UK's leading independent producer of TV drama. He has recently launched Character 7, a new production entity for high-end scripted work based out of both Los Angeles and London. Kudos' first major drama success, with Garrett as executive producer, was the International Emmy® Award-winning drama series *The Magician's House*. After bringing in Jane Featherstone as a partner in the business to invigorate Kudos' TV drama arm, the company galvanized British television with the popular, acclaimed BAFTA-winning *Spooks* (based on Garrett's original idea and the first series of which he executive produced), *Hustle*, *Life on Mars*, *The Hour* and, more recently, the hits *Utopia* and *Broadchurch*.



At the end of 2006, Garrett and Featherstone sold Kudos to Elisabeth Murdoch's Shine Group.

Garrett also led, first in partnership with Paul Webster and more recently with Ollie Madden, Kudos' (then Shine's) stand-alone filmmaking entity. He was executive producer for a number of movies including the Simon Beaufoy-penned *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*, David Cronenberg's *Eastern Promises* and Bharat Nalluri's *Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day* (once more with a Beaufoy screenplay, and this time with Garrett as producer).

Garrett and Character 7's first venture was the Golden Globe and Emmy-award winning *The Night Manager*, mini-series starring Tom Hiddleston and Hugh Laurie, directed by Academy Award winning Susanne Bier, produced in association with The Ink Factory for AMC and the BBC. Based on John le Carré's novel, the series premiered in the UK to slot-winning ratings and stellar reviews. Character 7 is currently in development on a number of high end drama series, among them *The Rook*, a supernatural spy series, in partnership with Lionsgate and *Twilight's* Stephenie Meyer.

Outside of production, Garrett is Deputy Chairman of the British Screen Advisory Council. He has written about film and television for a range of publications including *The Financial Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Independent*. In 2010, he was the News International Visiting Professor of Broadcast Media at Oxford University, giving a series of lectures about creativity, creative businesses and the future of storytelling.

Garrett studied Jurisprudence at Oxford University, where he also edited the university magazine *Isis*. He counts as his first media break his role as a 6-year-old extra in a Milkybar Kid commercial.

JON GISBY
CHAIR, BSAC

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 and 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 became the largest non-US MCN, and was EVP Business Development at Magine TV, the OTT TV service based in Stockholm. He now runs the European operations of Vevo, one of the largest distributors of premium online video. He is a Trustee of Artichoke, a leading UK live events producer, and was appointed Chair of BSAC in 2016.



ANNA GODAS
CEO DOGWOOF

Anna is Dogwoof's CEO, and co-founder; she has an MBA, and MAs in film production and screenwriting. Anna has steered the company from a small indie film distributor to a leading global brand in the field of documentary. Anna was directly responsible for the creation of Dogwoof's international sales arm, and is now focusing on growing Dogwoof's production investments, having recently set up a fund. Anna was born in Barcelona, Spain.



WENDY IDE

Wendy Ide is a film critic and commentator who writes for The Observer, Screen International and Sight & Sound, among others. Previously, she served as a film critic for The Times and the The Sunday Herald. She programmed the short film strand for the London Film Festival for four years and has served on the juries of numerous film festivals around the world.



MILES JACOBSON OBE
STUDIO DIRECTOR, SPORTS INTERACTIVE

Miles Jacobson (OBE) is Studio Director of Sports Interactive (SI), the studio behind the best-selling *Football Manager* series. Miles has been involved with SI for more than 20 years and has been running the studio since 1999. Under Miles' management, SI has grown from a fledgling start-up to one of the best-known names in UK game development, with a staff of more than 100 and a network of more than 1,300 scouts across the globe. SI has ongoing relationships with some of the biggest names in professional football, including Stats (formerly Prozone), the League Managers Association, The EFL and many other leagues and national associations. SI became a wholly owned subsidiary of SEGA in 2006.



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.



BEN KEEN

Ben is an independent analyst and board-level advisor to companies in the Technology, Media & Telecommunications (TMT) space. He has 30 years of experience helping companies and investors make better-informed decisions based on data-driven understanding of the future.



Ben serves as expert advisor to the high-level government-industry liaison organisation British Screen Advisory Council. Until February 2017, Ben was Chief Analyst & Vice President for TMT at IHS Markit. Responsible for directing all research on consumer technology, media, telecommunications and displays, he led a team of over 100 expert analysts around the world.

Prior to joining IHS, Ben was instrumental in building Screen Digest into one of the world's premiere research firms, pioneering empirical analysis and robust forecasting of global media and technology markets. In late 2010, Screen Digest was acquired by IHS, along with leading technology analyst firm iSuppli. Ben subsequently helped IHS acquire and integrate another five research and analysis firms (IMS Research, Displaybank, DisplaySearch, Infonetics, and Rootmetrics).

Renowned for his insight and vision, Ben is one of the most sought-after speakers on the international conference circuit. He has delivered over 1,000 presentations and lectures, including keynote addresses at many international conventions and guest lectures at leading University business schools. Additionally, he has contributed articles to more than 20 different books, magazines and newspapers

OLIVER LEWIS VP CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS, IMPROBABLE

Oliver Lewis is an innovation adviser and executive with interests in near future technologies, institutional and corporate culture, diplomacy and national security. Oliver built a public sector business for Improbable and now manages strategic projects and thought leadership. Prior to joining Improbable, Oliver was a civil servant in the Ministry of Defence and Foreign & Commonwealth Office at home and



abroad, often working alongside the military in conflict zones. He remains a senior research associate at the University of Oxford, an associate fellow of the British Army's Centre for Historical Analysis and Conflict Research and a visiting programme director at Wilton Park, an executive agency of the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

**DAWN MCCARTHY-SIMPSON
DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT &
GLOBAL AMBASSADOR FOR THE UK TV INDUSTRY,
PACT**

Dawn is an international development expert with over 20 years of experience in the broadcast industry (television and radio); This includes Managing Director, Commercial Director and Broadcast Development Director roles at local, national and international television channels. She is also thought leader and expert speaker on the broadcast industry.



Dawn has had a varied media career which spans over 25 years, which started with five years working for one of the UK's largest radio groups before launching her career in TV. She has produced and directed 100's of hours of live entertainment shows, including brand integrated programmes and 100's of hours of factual and documentaries.

As a pioneer of local TV, she launched one of the first local terrestrial TV channel in the UK, where she remained for a further two years as Managing Director. Dawn then went on to be involved with the launch of a second channel, which was the UK's first short film channel which aired on the Sky platform. In her final year, she successfully launched the channel into a further seven European countries.

Not satisfied with having experienced both in TV & Radio, Dawn also ventured into the literary world when she became a published author with her best-selling non-fiction book in June 2006.

**BEN MCOWEN WILSON
DIRECTOR, YOUTUBE, EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST AND
AFRICA**

Ben is the Director of Partnerships for YouTube where he leads the development of content and business strategy across Northern Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa. His remit includes working with some of YouTube's largest global News, sports and traditional media partners as well as many of the platform's most-recognised endemic creators - our YouTubers. Ben has led YouTube's growth in various roles in EMEA for 6 years.



Prior to starting with YouTube, Ben was a Management Board Director at ITV Plc - the UK's largest commercial broadcaster - for six years, where he oversaw the launch and growth of ITV's digital and new media businesses. During his tenure, he co-created, launched and was Chairman of Project Kangaroo - the proposed VoD joint venture between BBC, Channel 4 and ITV.

Previously a Partner in a strategy consulting firm, Ben has over twenty years' experience in the field of media, entertainment, telecommunications and the internet. He has lived and worked on five continents. Ben is married with two children.

ALEX MOYET
FOUNDER & DIRECTOR, AMCADE GAMES

Alex began her career in video game marketing working on the advertising account for Xbox at McCann Erickson, where she was responsible for launching the award-winning mobile app campaign for the launch of *Kinect Star Wars*. She then joined Sony Computer Entertainment as a product manager working on some of PlayStation's biggest franchises including *Killzone*, *SingStar*, *Uncharted* and *The Last of Us* before moving to work in-house at Media Molecule on their forthcoming PS4 game *Dreams* as a Commercial Strategist. She founded Amcade, a specialist PR & Marketing consultancy for the video game industry in 2016 and is continuing to work with Media Molecule alongside industry charity Special Effect and a collection of indie studios. Alex is a BAFTA member, Video Games Ambassador and has given talks at conferences including GDC and Pocket Gamer Connects. She was also awarded the MCV 30 Under 30 2016 and has been nominated for the 2017 Rising Star Women in Games Award.



SACHIN PREMNATH
PARTNER, REED SMITH

Sachin is a Partner in the Entertainment and Media Industry Group at Reed Smith. He focuses on advising clients on legal and regulatory matters in the digital media industry.

In particular, Sachin advises on the creation, acquisition, licensing and distribution of digital content, copyright issues, software licensing, data protection, and related matters regarding the protection and exploitation of intellectual property rights on digital media networks and platforms. He has a great deal of experience advising on the law pertaining to disruptive technologies in the audio-visual sector, including AI, Blockchain, and Virtual Reality.

Sachin's clients include digital music services, subscription and transactional digital video services, broadcasters, device manufacturers, technology companies, app developers and talent. He also takes an interest in advising early and mid-stage start-ups, and has guided a number of digital companies from inception to profitability.



DR CATHERINE RAINES
DIRECTOR GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Dr Catherine Raines is Director General of International Trade and Investment, the government's global organisation that delivers advice, support, advocacy and promotion to facilitate UK trade and investment worldwide. She was appointed to her role (which was previously known as Chief Executive of UK Trade and Investment (UKTI)) on 7 September 2015.



Catherine was previously Minister and Director-General, UKTI China, a position she held since April 2013, after a 25 year career in both the public and private sectors. In this role she led an organisational transformation that saw UK Business outcomes grow 10-fold (from c. £300 million pa to almost £4 billion pa) in 2 years.

Catherine has FTSE 10 experience spanning more than 20 years, including previous periods spent living and working in the UK, USA, Sweden and China. Her early experience was in international production and programme management; later moving into global, corporate leadership roles.

She has variously held roles as Global Head of Supply (Respiratory), Global Head of Corporate Audit and Vice President Corporate Development (China) for AstraZeneca. In the latter role, based in Shanghai, she chaired the cross-functional group that oversaw the move of AstraZeneca's global functions into China and led investment into Shanghai real estate of over \$200 million.

Prior to joining UKTI, Catherine was Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Place at Staffordshire County Council, where she successfully undertook the transformation of an organisation of over 5,000 people, in the process propelling the county to the top of the 2011/12 UK leader board for jobs created through inward investment. This included a £355 million inward investment in the UK from Tata, India, creating over 3000 jobs for Jaguar Land Rover. During this period, Catherine worked closely with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and HM Treasury (HMT) on the local growth agenda.

In the UK Catherine has held non-executive Board positions at Pinewood Group plc, HM Land Registry and the Criminal Records Bureau. She was a non-executive trustee on the Board of the Whitehall Industry Group and sat on the national steering group for Association of Directors of Economy, Environment, Planning and Transport (ADEPT).

In 2016 Catherine was named by the Sunday Times as one of the top 500 Most Influential People in the UK.

FRANK SPOTNITZ
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
BIG LIGHT PRODUCTIONS

Award-winning American Executive Producer and writer, Frank Spotnitz is Chief Executive of Big Light Productions and began his 20+-year career with *The X-Files*.



Most recently, he co-created and executive produced *Ransom* for CBS in the US, Corus's Global in Canada, TF1 in France and RTL in Germany; *Medici: Masters of Florence* starring Richard Madden and Dustin Hoffman for RAI in Italy, SFR Play in France and Netflix in the UK, US and Canada; and the comedy-drama series *The Indian Detective* starring international comedian Russell Peters for Bell Media.

Spotnitz created, executive produced and wrote several episodes of the acclaimed Amazon drama *The Man in the High Castle*, based on the classic Philip K. Dick novel. Launched in the UK, US, Germany and Austria in 2015, the show quickly became Amazon's most viewed drama series ever and is now in its second series.

Spotnitz's other credits include *Crossing Lines* Series 3, starring Goran Visjnic and Donald Sutherland; *Transporter* Series 2 (TNT); *Hunted*, which he created for BBC1 and HBO Cinemax; *Strike Back: Project Dawn*; *Night Stalker*; Michael Mann's *Robbery Homicide Division*; *The Lone Gunmen*; *Harsh Realm*; and *Millennium*.

Spotnitz shared three Golden Globes for Best Dramatic Series and a Peabody Award for his work on *The X-Files*. He was also nominated for an Emmy Award for writing and three times for Outstanding Drama Series.

Big Light Productions Limited is a London- and Paris-based production company specialising in international television series, including drama, comedy and documentaries.

WILLIAM TUNSTALL-PEDOE

William Tunstall-Pedoe is an entrepreneur and investor with a particular focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI). He most notably founded the British start-up Evi (formerly True Knowledge) which developed deep technology around understanding natural language and automatically answering questions on any subject. After seven years as a venture capital backed start-up, the company was acquired by Amazon in 2012. Following acquisition the technology and team became an integral part of Amazon's Alexa and William held a senior product role in the team that defined, built and launched Amazon Echo. Amazon Echo has become one of the most successful new technology products in the last few years and demonstrated that voice interfaces can now be mainstream with massive adoption and daily use.



Since making the difficult decision to leave Amazon in February 2016, he has been actively helping other start-ups, with a particular focus on AI. A Cambridge University computer scientist, previous products include a commercial chess-playing program, the first and only software which can solve and explain cryptic crossword clues and the AI software which was used by Dan Brown to create the anagrams that appeared in *The Da Vinci Code* book and movie. His name appears in the credits of all 80 million copies sold.

DR JO TWIST OBE CEO, UKIE

Jo is CEO of Ukie, the trade body for UK games and interactive entertainment, making the UK the best place in the world to make games. Previously, Jo was Channel 4 Commissioning Editor, Education, where she commissioned Digital Emmy-winning Battlefront II, free to play browser and iOS games and social media projects. Jo was Multiplatform Commissioner for BBC Entertainment & Switch, BBC Three Multiplatform Channel Editor, and technology reporter for BBC News. She is Deputy Chair of the British Screen Advisory Council, London Tech Ambassador, Bafta Games Committee member, and sits on a number of boards and advisory groups. In 2016 she was awarded an OBE for services to the creative industries and won the MCV 30 Women in Games award for Outstanding Contribution. She is on the MCV 100 Brit list in the games industry and is a BIMA Hot 100 in digital. She is a Vice President for games and accessibility charity, SpecialEffect and the government's Sector Champion for Disabilities.

