

PRESS RELEASE

ROYAL TELEVISION SOCIETY MIDLANDS SECURES JED MERCURIO AS CAREERS FAIR HEADLINER

Line of Duty creator to participate in Q&A session for aspiring writers

London, 7 October 2020 – The Royal Television Society (RTS), Britain’s leading forum for television and related media, has announced the full line-up of industry heavyweights for its annual RTS Midlands TV Careers Fair, sponsored by the prestigious National Film and Television School. The four-day virtual event taking place from Monday 12th to Thursday 15th October will include over six hours of live-streamed sessions, master classes and practical workshops on each day.

Jed Mercurio (*Line of Duty*, *The Bodyguard*), writer, producer, director and novelist talks to William Gallagher for an in-depth conversation on how he writes, produces and directs, providing his insights on how best to enter the industry, and share his tips and tricks on writing a hit drama with aspiring students.

Additional expert speakers include **Barbara Slater**, OBE, Director BBC Sport; **Fiona Campbell**, Controller, BBC Three; **Isa Guha**, BBC cricket presenter and commentator; **Chris Stark**, The Peter Crouch Podcast; **Poppy Jay** and **Rubina Pabani**, Brown Girls Do It Too podcast; **Jacqui Oatley**, sports broadcaster, journalist and presenter; **Mark Cole**, MD, Whisper TV; **Martin Dougan**, Newsround; and **Louis Cryer**, Comedy Central. There is also a visit to the set of BBC One’s *Doctors* for a tour and a Q&A with cast and crew.

Caren Davies, Chair of RTS Midlands, said: “Moving the Careers Fair online hasn’t curbed our ambition for the event and we have 24 hours of brilliant sessions covering the world of broadcasting – from podcasts to animation, working in TV with a disability to news, and digital effects to sport. We have it all, and it’s free. I urge anyone who has an interest in TV to sign up.”

For further information and the full session programme, please visit:

<https://rts.org.uk/event/rts-midlands-careers-fair-0>

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About The Royal Television Society:

From glamorous award ceremonies to lively debates, the RTS embraces all aspects of television, and is open to anyone with an interest in the medium.

As an educational charity, we encourage and celebrate work in television and its related fields, from finding out how the nation's favourite shows are made in our Anatomy of a Hit series, to celebrating burgeoning talent at our annual Student Awards.

The industry's most talented individuals give us an insight into the work that goes into making cutting edge contemporary TV. From Government ministers and CEOs to workshops with great runners, our events look at every part of the business.

Our annual Television Journalism, Programme, Craft and Design, and Student Awards celebrate achievements across the broadcasting industry.

Each year, we offer Television Production and Technology bursaries to help those from less affluent backgrounds get a foothold in the industry, and Masterclass sessions bring together students, academics and industry heads.

Global television leaders gather to discuss what the future holds for television at our London Conference or the RTS Cambridge Convention.

Alongside our engaged community of over 5,000 full members, the Society is supported by Britain and the world's biggest broadcasters, producers and consultants, including Principal Patrons BBC, Channel 4, ITV and Sky.

Originally founded as the Television Society in 1927, the Society was granted its Royal title in 1966 and HRH The Prince of Wales became Patron of the RTS in 1997.

Today, 15 regional and national groups curate lively events and awards around the UK and Ireland, from Glasgow to Galway.

RTS Futures, which is aimed at those in their first two years of employment, organises an exciting roster of discussion, training and social occasions. Recent events have included workshops on learning how to format shows and how to survive as a freelancer, and expert panels explaining how to be the best researcher and how to make it on-screen.