

RTS Story Conference



ROYAL TELEVISION SOCIETY
NORTH WEST

Liverpool
2023

**Culture
Liverpool**

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& PLAYHOUSE

In association with



**WOWFEST:
CLASS
OF '23**

Schedule

TIME	SESSION	PANELLISTS
10:30am	Welcome	Cameron Roach
10:45am	Writing for Continuing Drama	Chair: Lucy Allan Sally Abbott Neil Jones Jayshree Patel Jonathan Larkin
11:30am	Keeping Ahead of the Curve with Channel 4	Chair: Kristian Smith Caroline Hollick
12:15pm	Write Across the World	Chair: Mike Morris Ellis Howard Saphena Aziz Sam Fray
1pm	LUNCH	
1:45pm	Demystifying the Commissioning Process	Chair: Hannah Rodger Liam Keelan Jon Mountague
2:30pm	The Writers Room – How It Really Works	Chair: Nasreen Ahmed Chloe Moss Helen Black Jamie Carragher
3:15pm	BREAK	
3:30pm	Local Heart, Global Brand; Working with the BBC	Chair: Yasmin Ali Jo McClellan Alice Ramsey
4:15pm	Write Across Liverpool	Chair: Lindsay Williams Beth Westbrook Colin McKeown Chantelle Lunt Luke Frost
5pm	The Responder: A celebration of Liverpool	Chair: Chantelle Lunt Tony Schumacher Toby Bruce
5:45pm	Closing Remarks	Cameron Roach

Meet your Speakers

CAMERON ROACH

RTS North West Chair. Cameron Roach is Founder and Executive Producer at Rope Ladder Fiction, a Manchester based Independent Production Company. Rope Ladder Fiction co-produce Waterloo Road for BBC1. The company is in funded development with a number of broadcasters, and is one of PACTs Future30 indies. Cameron worked for Sky Drama from 2013 through to 2021, where he was latterly Director of Drama, delivering a series of commercial and critical hits. Key titles for Sky include Tin Star, Britannia, Riviera, A Discovery of Witches, Wolfe, I Hate Suzie, The Five, The Third Day, Jamestown, Gangs of London, Save Me and Catherine the Great. Prior to working for Sky, Cameron served as Series Producer and Executive Producer on a number of popular and critically acclaimed shows for a variety of channels and networks. Key titles include Life on Mars, Silk, Young James Herriot, Waterloo Road, Bad Girls, Footballers Wives, Moses Jones and Casualty.

Meet your Speakers

SALLY ABBOTT

Sally Abbott created the award-winning original BBC drama *The Coroner* which ran for two series on BBC1 and is shown all over the world. Sally has recently written her fourth episode of *Vera* for Silverprint Pictures/ITV and her first episode of *Call The Midwife* (Neal Street/BBC1). In 2020, her play, *I Think We Are Alone*, was co-directed by Kathy Burke and Scott Graham for Frantic Assembly as their 25th Anniversary. It was mid-way through a sold-out run at Theatre Royal Stratford East and about to go on a national tour when it was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Sally's TV credits include *Vera*, *Call The Midwife*, *Death in Paradise*, *Holby City*, *Eastenders*, *Doctors* and *Casualty*, where one of her episodes was nominated for a Radio Times/CDN Award.

Sally grew up in the West Country and worked in theatre for 17 years including as producer, director, dramaturg and amateur for Manchester Contact Theatre, English Touring Theatre, National Association of Youth Theatres and Liverpool's Everyman Theatre. She trained on the prestigious BBC Drama Writers Academy.

NASREEN AHMED

Drama Development Producer. Naz has a wealth of editorial experience gained in multiple long running soap and continuing drama roles. She has worked across script and story on *Doctors*, *Eastenders*, *Coronation Street* and *Hollyoaks* as well as producing/directing BBC radio drama for a number of years. Naz also created and script edited several issue-led specials around the subjects of Homelessness and Mental Health Awareness for *Doctors* during her tenure on the show, as well as stepping up as Producer of the 'Bollywood Marriage proposal' that won 'Scene of the Year' at the British Soap Awards in 2018. Naz also fought off fierce competition to win the 'Services to Media Award' at the British Muslim Awards, in recognition of her vast work around diversity in storytelling and script editing for the BBC. Naz is currently Drama Development Producer at Lime Pictures and is building and managing an exciting, diverse scripted slate across all genres.

Meet your Speakers

LUCY ALLAN

Head of Continuing Drama & Executive Producer (Hollyoaks), Lucy Allan joined Lime Pictures in January 2021 as Head of Continuing Drama and Executive Producer of Hollyoaks. Lucy has overall responsibility for running the 5 night a week, multi award winning, show as well as developing her own slate of spins offs and long running drama ideas. This is not Lucy's first time at Lime or indeed working on Hollyoaks having fulfilled multiple roles on the show between 2002 and 2010. Lucy has a wealth of producing knowledge within Lime and in the broader industry.

She Produced BBC 1's Waterloo Road and helped navigate its move from the NW to Scotland before taking on Leonardo out in South Africa. She then returned to Lime where she Produced House of Anubis and Rocket's Island as well as developing as part of the scripted team. Most recently Lucy has spent 6 years at the BBC, firstly as an Executive Producer on shows such as The Dumping Ground and Wolfblood. She also rebooted The Worst Witch which has racked up an enviable awards cupboard for the BBC, ZDF and Netflix. She has worked across a diverse slate as Genre Lead for Drama Productions where she managed all of the CBBC in house commissions as well as most recently Executive Producing the most successful co-production teen drama for the company, Get Even (BBC, Boat Rocker & Netflix).

Lucy is also proud of the multiplatform work that she has spear headed across all of her brands ensuring that wherever the audience is so are her shows, most recently The Worst Witch won the Broadcast Award for its achievements across all platforms. Lucy is dedicated to diversity and inclusion, mandating their importance in all areas of production, on and off screen and she is determined to ensure that Hollyoaks delivers on all fronts.

Meet your Speakers

YASMIN ALI

Yasmin Ali is a Development Editor at Rope Ladder Fiction. Starting her career through the Channel 4 Production Training Scheme, Yasmin has gone on to work on productions and development projects across genres including documentaries, factual entertainment, children's and drama. Titles include Waterloo Road (BBC One), Tan France: Beauty & The Bleach (BBC Two), CBBC HQ and Say Yes To The Dress Lancashire (TLC).

Yasmin is passionate about improving diversity on and off screen and nurturing new entrants through mentoring. She is a mentor on Screen Yorkshire's 'Beyond Brontes' programme and A New Direction's 'Learning the Ropes' programme with Dermot O'Leary's Tuskar Trust & Thames.

Away from television, Yasmin is an artist and writer often using her work to platform stories from underrepresented and marginalised groups.

SAPHENA AZIZ

Saphena Aziz is an alumnus of the Liverpool Everyman Theatre's Playwright Programme and the BBC Writers Room 'Write Across Liverpool' initiative. She has recently performed her one woman show at the Unity Theatre and is developing it for a national tour in 2024. Currently she is writing a new play for Box of Tricks Theatre Company. Her writing, creativity and consultancy skills have been used by BBC Television and Radio, Victoria and Albert Museum, Southbank Royal Festival Hall, British Council, Tate Liverpool, Tamasha and Eclipse Theatre Company. Her day job is Director of Inclusion for arts in education charity Curious Minds challenging the barriers to participation that prevent children and young people in the North accessing great arts and culture in and out of school.

Meet your Speakers

HELEN BLACK

Helen was born and raised in Pontefract West Yorkshire. She ignored everyone's advice, studied law at Hull university and practised as a solicitor for ten years. She quickly built a loyal following of teens in care who drove her crackers, made her laugh and nicked all the biscuits. In 2003 she wrote a novel for a bit of fun. *Damaged Goods* was published in 2005 and Helen has now written eleven crime novels, the latest, *Hard as Nails*, was published in December 2020. When Helen first turned her hand to screenwriting she won the Kudos North Award for her original television pilot *Galaxy*. She hit the ground running, writing an episode for LA Productions series *Clink* and an episode for series 10 of *Death in Paradise* (Red Planet/BBC). Helen now has original projects in development with Gaumont, Left Bank Pictures, Cosmopolitan Pictures, and has adapted her own novels *Taking Liberties* into a series for *Snowed-In – Liberty*. She has written pilot scripts, *The Farm*, and *At Risk* for Rollem's BBC New Talent Initiative and *Bandit Cornwall* respectively. Helen's single film, *Life and Death in the Warehouse* was nominated in the Television Drama Category in the BAFTA Cymru Awards 2022 and Broadcast Awards 2023, written for BBC Studios tx March 2022. She has also co-written episode one of *Gimme Shelter*, a three part drama for Endor, and *Beach Boy*, a treatment for BBC Studios, both with Courttia Newland.

TOBY BRUCE

Since joining *Dancing Ledge* in 2016, Toby has worked across the slate as Development Executive and Head of Development, helping to develop *Delhi Crime* for Netflix, script-editing *Porters* for Dave and *The Salisbury Poisonings* for the BBC. Most recently he has story produced *The Responder*, for the BBC. As Executive Producer, Toby works across a variety of projects, including *Wedding Season* for Disney+, and the second series of *The Responder*. Before coming to *Dancing Ledge*, Toby spent a decade in entertainment and children's TV, working with a range of talent across a variety of formats, culminating in 2 years as a Producer at CBBC.

JAMIE CARRAGHER

Jamie writes for TV and theatre and he is currently story editor on season 4 of *Succession*. He started off as the writers' assistant on HBO's *Succession* season 2 and *RUN*, working closely with showrunners Jesse Armstrong and Vicky Jones. He has also worked as writers' assistant on Riz Ahmed's *Englistan*, Peter Moffat's *61st Street* (AMC) and Kirstie Swain's *Sweetpea* (Sky). His original script *Hot Take* was awarded a Distinction in the All3Media New Voices Award in 2018. He is currently developing an original project with Brock Media.

For stage, he is a graduate of the Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse Young Writers' Programme and the Soho Theatre Writers' Lab. His play *Golden Shoulder* debuted at the Clapham Fringe Festival in 2018.

Meet your Speakers

SAM FRAY

Sam spent six years at a major broadcaster, working across several departments while actively championing the diversity agenda across the business, spending her spare time volunteering to run workshops for staff and youth talent schemes. Sam is particularly passionate about creating change in the Nations and Regions, with a focus on developing pathways and programmes that help diverse talent enter and progress within TV.

LUKE FROST

Luke Frost is a Script Editor and writer at BBC Studios Kids and Family. Luke works across live action development and production, his most recent credits include *Phoenix Rise* (BBC Three) and *Biff & Chip* (CBeebies).

CAROLINE HOLLICK

Caroline is Head of Drama at Channel 4, and is based in the Leeds HQ. Successes include ground-breaking series *It's a Sin* by Russell T Davies, *Help* by Jack Thorne and BAFTA-winning *I Am Ruth*, created by Kate Winslet and Dominic Savage. Other shows include returning series *Screw* by Rob Williams, *The Undeclared War* by Peter Kosminsky, *Chivalry* by Sarah Solemani & Steve Coogan, and critically acclaimed *Somewhere Boy* by Pete Jackson, alongside continuing drama *Hollyoaks*. Previously, she was Creative Director at Studio-Canal owned Red Production Company. Before that she was Head of Development at Red and she began her career as a production trainee at Yorkshire Television

ELLIS HOWARD

Ellis Howard is an actor and screenwriter. Currently playing the role of Dill in 'To Kill A Mockingbird' at the Gielgud Theatre London, Ellis can also be seen as one of the lead characters in BBC/Netflix's *Red Rose*. As a writer, Ellis is mentored by James Graham and repped by Casarotto Ramsay. He has original projects in development with Sid Gentle, Eleven Films, Mammoth Screen, Federation Stories, Bad Wolf and Moonage Pictures.

Meet your Speakers

NEIL JONES

Neil's extensive credits for adult and kids programmes include the award winning CBBC/Netflix show *The Worst Witch* (lead writer), for which he has also received a 2019 WGGGB nomination for Best Children's TV Episode. He has written on *Get Even* (CBBC/iPlayer), the Emmy Award-winning *Free Rein* (Netflix), *Wolfblood* (CBBC), 2 seasons of the award-winning *House of Anubis* (Nickelodeon) *The Evermoor Chronicles* and *The Lodge* (both Disney) as well as the classic series *Grange Hill* for CBBC, writing the last ever episode. For adults, Neil co-created supernatural drama *Bedlam* for Sky and has written on a wide range of series and soaps, across many channels, including *Waterloo Road* (BBC) and *Hollyoaks* (C4) for which he has written over 80 episodes.

Neil currently has multiple original projects in commissioned development including *Scales*, a fantasy kids series in development with Lime Pictures Ltd and a prominent streamer, as well as writing three episodes of *Waterloo Road*

Meet your Speakers

LIAM KEELAN

Liam Keelan has been the Senior Vice President for Original Productions in EMEA since early 2020. He is responsible for commissioning original content across all genres for Disney + and Star. To date, more than a dozen titles have launched on the platform across the region.

Prior to joining Disney, Liam was the Director of Scripted at BBC Worldwide from 2014. He led the team responsible for securing and developing drama, comedy and children's content from BBC Television, UK and overseas indies.

Previous to this, Liam was Controller, BBC Daytime and Early Peak from February 2008. Under Liam's tenure, the schedule was revamped, with an emphasis on drama, consumer/current affairs and event-led programming. His commissions included the Jimmy McGovern drama Moving On, quiz show Pointless, and Father Brown.

Before this, Liam held positions as Controller for Daytime at ITV, Head of Scheduling and Planning for BBC One and Two and Channel Editor at UKTV. He has also acted as a media consultant for Amazon Studios and a number of independent production companies

Meet your Speakers

JONATHAN LARKIN

Jonathan Larkin has been writing Channel 4's flagship soap 'Hollyoaks' since 2008. His career started with his first play 'Paradise Bound' in 2006. He returned to theatre in 2021 with 'Cherry Jezebel' and rehearsed readings led to a full production in 2022. Jonathan's writing combines a distinctive working-class voice born in theatre with economic precision in storytelling developed over a 15-year career writing TV drama.

CHANTELLE LUNT

Chantelle Lunt is a writer, educator and activist. She has written for local and national publications and campaigns, writing about black history, feminism and the contemporary black civil rights movement. Chantelle writes and performs spoken word poetry and was one of the writers behind the 'My White Best Friend North' production, performed at The Everyman Theatre in Liverpool. She has completed a BBC Writers Room, writer development programme and is currently developing screen dramas, inspired by her lived experience as a foster child, police officer and activist.

JO MCCLELLAN

Since joining BBC Drama in 2018, Jo has worked on I May Destroy You by Michaela Coel, US by David Nichols, The North Water by Andrew Haigh and Silent Witness. Jo joined BBC Drama from Seven Stories TV where she was Creative Director and Executive Producer on Selection Day (for Netflix, writer Marston Bloom, director Udayan Prasad). Prior to that she was Executive Producer at Sky, where she oversaw many projects, such as The Tunnel series 1 and 2 (Kudos/Canal+, show creator Ben Richards, starring Stephen Dillane & Clemence Posey), The Last Panthers (Warp/Haut et Court/Canal+, writer Jack Thorne, director Johan Renck, starring John Hurt, Samantha Morton & Tahar Rahim), both for Sky Atlantic. She also Executive Produced many projects for Sky Arts including Birthday (Slam/Free Range, writer Joe Penhall, director Roger Michell, starring Stephen Mangan & Anna Maxwell Martin) and The Nightmare Worlds of HG Wells (Clerkenwell Films, directed by Adrian Shergold starring Michael Gambon, Luke Treadway, Rupert Graves). Before Sky, Jo spent ten years at Film4 in Development on films such as 'Submarine' by Richard Ayoade and 'Attack The Block' by Joe Cornish and as an Executive Producer for short films such as BAFTA-winners 'Pitch Black Heist' (starring Michael Fassbender, writer/director John Maclean) and 'Dog Altogether' (starring Peter Mullan, writer/director Paddy Considine).

Meet your Speakers

COLIN MCKEOWN

Colin is primarily known as a drama and film producer but has also produced factual, comedy, documentaries, and light entertainment programmes. With over 50 years of experience in the industry, he's worked pretty much everywhere, on everything.

He helped set up Channel 4's flagship soap 'Brookside' and enjoyed continued success with the series 'Liverpool 1', 'Thief Takers', the feature film 'Liam' (Ian Hart, dir. Stephen Frears), TV mini-series 'Faith' (Michael Gambon) and the biopic 'In His Life: The John Lennon Story'. More recently, he has overseen 12 series of award-winning BBC1 drama 'Moving On', plus controversial feature-length dramas 'Common' and the TV film 'Reg' starring Tim Roth and the drama series, 'Broken', starring Sean Bean, Care starring Sheridan Smith and most recently the BBC film Anthony.

Colin's company LA Productions is developing drama across all of the broadcast channels, alongside his feature film commitments. In 2013 Colin was awarded an Honorary Doctorate award by Edge Hill University and in 2015 was awarded the MBE both for his services as recognition of his commitment to drama production and community charity work and training facilities which he has set up in Kirkdale in Liverpool.

Meet your Speakers

MIKE MORRIS

Co-Director, Writing on the Wall

Mike is a founder member of Writing on the Wall. He works alongside WoW Co-Director Madeline Heneghan, curating and delivering Writing on the Wall's annual festival and programme of projects, and delivering WoW's long-term strategic aims and development. He has a background in community activity, education - working as a Learning Mentor in Anfield CC School, and filmmaking as a writer on Dockers (Channel 4, 1999), and as co-director and producer of a ground-breaking documentary, Liverpool's Cunard Yanks (Granada, 2008). He studied Literature & American Studies at Liverpool John Moores University and has an MA in Creative Writing. He is a playwright, with his first play Waiting for Brando, which he wrote and produced, appearing at Liverpool's Unity Theatre in 2012 and 2013, followed by a short tour of UK theatres. His second play, Subterranean Theatre: The Maurie, based on a short story by George Garrett, was produced as a site-specific piece in Liverpool's Cunard Building during the city's Three Queens celebrations in 2015. Mike created WoW's acclaimed Pulp Idol novel writing competition, and The George Garrett Archive Project as part of WoW's Creative Heritage Programme.

Meet your Speakers

CHLOE MOSS

Chloë Moss is an accomplished playwright and screenwriter. Her celebrated play **THIS WIDE NIGHT** (Clean Break, Soho, 2008) won the prestigious Susan Smith Blackburn prize, has been produced numerous times in the UK to great critical success and was subsequently produced off Broadway. Chloë has written numerous other plays including **CORRINA, CORRINA** (Headlong and Liverpool Everyman) 2022, **RUN SISTER RUN** (Crucible Theatre Sheffield and Soho 2020) **THE GATEKEEPER** (Royal Exchange Theatre, 2012), **FATAL LIGHT** (Soho Theatre, 2010 & 2011) and **HOW LOVE IS SPELT** (Bush Theatre, 2004, & New York's Summer Play Festival, 2005).

She has written the book for the musical **ROCK FOLLIES** (Fiction House, Longshot Films and Elpis Theatre Productions Ltd) based on the 1976/77 TV series by Howard Schuman which is premiering at Chichester Festival Theatre in July 2023.

Chloë has also written extensively for television including **MARIE ANTOINETTE** (Canal + and BBC) **SIX WIVES** for BBC One and **DICKENSIAN** for Red Planet Pictures and as well as **HOLLYOAKS** and episodes for BBC One's **NEW TRICKS**, **THE SMOKE** for Kudos, **PRISONER'S WIVES** with Tiger Aspect.

She has also written **CARE**, a single drama for Warp Films and Sky Arts, and an original series **SWITCH**, co-written with Tim Price, for Touchpaper / ITV2.

She is currently developing original TV projects and is writing on the next series of **CALL THE MIDWIFE**.

Meet your Speakers

JON MOUNTAGUE

Jon is Director of Comedy for Sky Studios where he heads up Commissioning and Studios for scripted comedy. Here he has been responsible for the multi-award winning Brassic (Joe Gilgun and Michelle Keegan), Dreamland (Lily Allen and Freema Agyman), Funny Woman (Gemma Arterton), Breeders (Martin Freeman and Daisy Haggard), The Trip (Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon), HBO co-pro Sally4Ever (Julia Davies) and Christmas Carole (Suranne Jones).

Jon's team supports emerging writing with a range of initiatives including the Sky Comedy Rep scheme (in association with the Birmingham Repertory Theatre) as well as Sky Shorts.

Prior to Sky Jon was Head of Comedy at BBC Comedy North out of Manchester and has worked as a producer & development exec for a number of indies.

JAYSHREE PATEL

Jayshree's writing career began in 2016, when she won Channel Four's Northern Writers of the Year Award. Prior to this Jayshree worked as a high school teacher. She has maintained links with education and is still passionate about working for and with young people. She is currently writing for Waterloo Road and Hollyoaks. Her recent episode, The Long Walk Home was shortlisted for an RTS award. Her storyline – Misbah's historical rape won a Broadcast Award in 2022. She was heavily involved in the direction of the ground-breaking Far Right Radicalisation storyline. Her trio of special episodes were submitted for a BAFTA. The same episodes earned Hollyoaks the title of Best Soap at the 2020 Broadcast Awards. She has a number of shows in development with Lime Productions including a university based crime drama entitled Death on Campus and a children's fantasy drama, Karlie Divine.

Meet your Speakers

ALICE RAMSEY

Alice currently works as a Commissioning Executive in BBC Drama working across both Drama Commissioning and the BBC Writersroom to identify and develop writing talent and supporting the development and production of the drama slate with a specific focus on the North of England.

Prior to this, Alice was a Development Producer at BBC Writersroom in Salford managing Script Room, Writers' Access Group and working closely with CBBC, Drama Commissioning, Continuing Drama, BBC Studios, Radio Drama, Comedy and Indies on a number of talent initiatives.

Alice began her career at the film financier Bankside Films, identifying new scripts and completed films for international sales representation. She worked on films by Amma Asante, Michael Winterbottom and David Mackenzie.

She then moved into a more talent-focused role at BFI NETWORK and Creative England where she developed a slate of feature scripts with exciting new filmmaking talent across England, as well as executive producing short films. Alice executive produced REAL GODS REQUIRE BLOOD by Moin Hussain, selected for Cannes Critics' Week in 2017 and THE BIG DAY by Dawn Shadforth, which won best short film at the BIFAs in 2018. Alice also worked on a writer-led initiative called iWrite, in partnership with some of the UK's leading theatres and new writing organisations, introducing playwrights and novelists to screenwriting.

BBC Writers Room

Weblink: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/>

Annual

Report: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/documents/bbc-writersroom-annual-report-21-22.pdf>



Meet your Speakers

HANNAH RODGER

Hannah Rodger is Development Executive in Scripted Development at BBC Studios. Prior to this Hannah worked as Head of Development at Disney for Europe, Middle East and Africa and has previously worked at BBC Writersroom, Nickelodeon and Virgin Media. She is also a writer who has been supported by Soho Theatre, Paines Plough, The Old Vic, The Royal Exchange and The Octagon. She has an MA in Creative Writing from City University and is represented by Julie Press at Kitson Press.

TONY SCHUMACHER

Tony Schumacher had one dream when he was a kid, and that was to be a writer. Instead of becoming a writer he bombed out of school aged 16 with no qualifications and a sigh of relief. He worked his way around the world as a roofer, a jeweller, a bouncer, a barman, a binman, and on-board cruise ships selling underpants, before eventually returning to Liverpool to become a response policeman dealing with 999 jobs morning, noon and nights. Eleven years later, after a breakdown and a period of homelessness, he found himself driving a taxi around the night-time streets of Liverpool. That was when he remembered his dream and finally started to write. His first three novels have been published by HarperCollins in the USA, and since then he has been mentored by Jimmy McGovern as part of the ScreenSkills High End TV Writers Bursary Scheme (2018) and been invited to join the BBC Writersroom Northern Voices Scheme. Credits include The Responder and The Responder 2 (Dancing Ledge / BBC), The Cage (Castlefield / BBC - In development). Fare (BBC Radio 4). Clink (LA Productions / 5Satr)

KRISTIAN SMITH

Kristian is Executive Producer and MD of Leopard Pictures, based in Liverpool making comedy and drama for UK and International broadcasters and streamers. He has always had a focus on out-of-London production. Kristian began his career as a script editor in both drama and comedy, working on the likes of Teachers, Silent Witness and Eastenders. As a producer he took Emmerdale through to its first RTS victory and peak viewing figures before moving over to BBC comedy to develop and produce new titles like The Old Guys and Life of Riley. He then became commissioning editor for BBC Comedy, commissioning series and singles based across the UK, which included the likes of: Detectorists, The Trip, Man Like Mobeen, Hebburn and The Royle Family.

Meet your Speakers

BETH WESTBROOK

Beth Westbrook (she/her) is a neurodivergent (Autistic, ADHD, Dyspraxic) actor/writer with chronic pain based on The Wirral. Beth is passionate about improving the representation of Neurodivergence and Disability onscreen and off. Beth was featured in The Stage with the Neurodivergent Creatives Network, an online support network she co-founded.

She's been longlisted for a Funny Women Writing Award 2019, was a finalist for Hope Mill's Through the Mill Prize 2021, was shortlisted for the 2021 Women's Prize for Playwriting, was in the top 35 scripts for the Bruntwood Prize 2022, and won a Cheshire Prize for Literature in 2022.

Beth has been involved with The Writing Squad, the Royal Court Introduction to Playwriting, the Young Everyman Playhouse Writers, Royal Court Liverpool Stage Write, Arts Emergency, Writing on the Wall, Theatre 503's Advanced Playwriting, Box of Trick's Pen Pals programme, The Space's Script Space, and DANC's HETV Training with Ralph and Katie. She is currently part of Wild Child's Write Wild, and Traverse Theatre's Breakthrough Writers schemes. Last Summer, she was selected to be part of BBC Writersroom's Write Across Liverpool program (and she loved it!)

Her twitter is @bethbwestbrook, and she is currently represented by Maddie O'Dwyer at Berlin Associates.

LINDSAY WILLIAMS

Lindsay is currently series producing WATERLOO ROAD for BBC. Prior to that she produced the series seven of JAMIE JOHNSON for Short Form Films and CBBC. She also story produced CORONATION STREET where she has worked on many award winning storylines for over a thousand episodes. She has overseen stories including Yasmeen's Coercive control storyline, the recent hate crime storyline, David's attack and Aidan's suicide. Under Lindsay's four year tenure as story producer, CORONATION STREET has won several NTA's and RTS awards.

Prior to this, Lindsay was a writer and story consultant. She has written over 80 hours of prime time television, including EASTENDERS, HOLBY CITY, and EMMERDALE. She has also written extensively for theatre and her latest play CLASSIC is currently in development with Hope Mill Theatre in Manchester. Lindsay has worked as a story consultant both in the UK and abroad.

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**Upcoming
Events**