

## South West Talent Module 2015 Participants Guide

### Who's Who



**Miriam Battye | Writer | Bristol**

Miriam Battye is a scriptwriter from Manchester, now living in Bristol. She graduated Bristol University with a degree in English and Drama in 2013. She was shortlisted for the Bruntwood Prize for Playwriting in 2011 for her first play, *I STARTED A FIRE*. In 2015 her play, *ELECTRICITY* was performed at the Arcola Theatre, commissioned by National Youth Theatre, and last year her play *BALANCE* was produced at the Royal Exchange. She has also had plays performed at Latitude Festival and Rich Mix. She attended the Royal Court Young Writers Programme in 2013 and is currently a writer on attachment at Bristol Old Vic. She is currently under commission for Theatre West. Miriam is also co-founder of children's theatre company Tap Tap Theatre.

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**Helen Bolter | Writer/Producer | Somerset**

Helen Bolter has independently produced four short films - three fiction and one documentary - all of which have been selected for festivals, such as London Short Film Festival and Fort Myers. She has also produced theatre, including an Off West End play. Helen has worked on the production teams for several TV programmes, both in the UK and internationally, and has work-shadowed Oscar-winner Guillermo Narvarro on *MOCKINGBIRD LANE* (NBC).

Helen took a circuitous route into film, graduating as a Veterinary Surgeon in 2008 and completing a course in Contemporary Theatre at RADA the following year. She worked as the Production Vet on Amit Gupta's *RESISTANCE* in 2010 and went on to produce her first short thereafter, shooting on the edge of a 100-foot-high viaduct, with actors on rope-harnesses and with spectacular aerial shots.

Last year, Helen was delighted to be selected as one of ten producers to attend Creative Skill-set and London Film School's Fast Forward Producing Programme and she currently has two feature films in development.

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**Past work:** SCARED <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogKBdgTgzmk>



**Dan Clifton | Writer/Director | Berkshire**

Dan Clifton is an award-winning writer, director and producer working across documentaries and film.

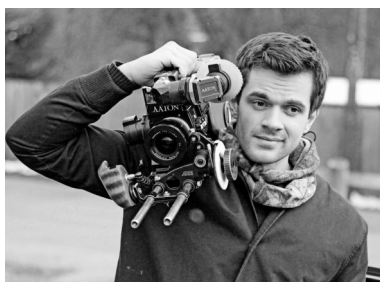
Dan started out as a Producer on Channel Four News, before moving into documentaries. His films range on subjects from the secret Russian moon programme, to the causes of the Hindenburg Disaster, to Black Holes. Our doomed dreams of controlling the world around us through science and technology has been an enduring fascination.

Dan has written and directed two award-winning shorts: mathematical thriller THE CALCULUS OF LOVE, starring Keith Allen; and PATIENT 39, adapted from a William Boyd short story. He is currently developing sci-fi horror SIGNIFICANCE, and is attached to direct his award-winning feature screenplay REVELSTOKE.

From 2010 to 2015, Dan was an elected Board Member of Directors UK, and was recently elected Chair of FERA, the Federation of European Film Directors, representing directors from 30 countries across Europe. He shares his passion for filmmaking at [danclifton.tumblr.com](http://danclifton.tumblr.com).

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**Sam Dawe | Director | Bristol**

Sam Dawe is writer and short film director based in Bristol. He has been writing on spec for around four years and graduated from University of South Wales' Film & Video course in 2013.

Since then, he has written and directed seven short films of varying budgets and genre. Sam has also been working in television as a runner and researcher for much of that time.

Feature writing is his real passion though and he approaches short films as training for the main event of feature filmmaking. Film and TV have been Sam's main interests from a very young age and storytelling has been my only career goal for as long as he can remember.

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**Sica Denerley-Weiss | Producer | Bristol**

Sica has been freelancing in the independent film industry since graduating from Television Production at Bournemouth University in 2009. Having produced over fifteen short films, Sica set up Reel People Films, a collaborative production company which offers a platform for short film-makers to step into the feature film industry. She is now managing the post-production of their debut feature film ONE (working title), which is primarily shot in and around Bristol. ONE, a portmanteau, features ten story lines each written and directed by different, local freelancers and links together through characters, locations and narrative.

As well as producing, Sica is a self-shooting director and has a wedding videography business, First Lady Films. She also works for an events company and has various event and film projects lined up for 2015.

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**Adam Etheridge | Director | Bristol**

Adam started filmmaking at the age of 12 when he created a regular 10 minute weekly news programme at school, covering sport, news and music. After successfully being accepted into the National Youth Theatre at 16, he went on to act on stage and screen, including the role of Hamlet at the age of 18. He then went to Bristol University to study Drama: Theatre, Film and Television.

On leaving university he set up his own production business in Bristol: Aspect Film and Video. Aspect grew organically as a leading video marketing agency with global clients. It now employs 35 full-time people in Bristol. Within Aspect, Adam has directed commercials and online projects for brands such as Samsung, Coca-Cola, North Face, Nationwide. Always with an ability to deliver high production value within modest budgets. He marries a rare blend of storytelling and drama, with commercial aptitude.

Adam's passion is for combining powerful and authentic performances, with visual storytelling and a bold cinematic aesthetic. Adam's ambitions have always been to return to Drama and true storytelling. Having grown the business to a size that its become self-sufficient, Adam is now shifting his focus over to short films and his first feature.

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**Dan Gitsham | Writer/Director | Bristol**

Dan is a UK Based filmmaker who began film making at university where he studied media production. Since completing his studies he has written & directed 5 short films that have screened at over 100 film festivals worldwide.

His 2009 self-funded short The Sack won the Midnight Movie Award at the 7th London Short Film Festival in 2010. That year he was also selected as one of Screen International's Stars of Tomorrow. He also completed the UK Film Council funded ELLA, a disturbing short starring Anthony Head (Buffy, Merlin) & Lisa Backwell (Skins). Premiering at the World-wide Short Film Festival 2011 who described it as 'A perfect mix of blood and pathos, the destruction of the nuclear family has never been more perfectly illustrated than in ELLA', the film has won 5 awards on the festival circuit, screened at over 50 film festivals and events worldwide and is available to buy through Itunes. He is currently developing ELLA into a feature film with producer Sophie Mair and Creative England.

In 2013 he conceived and directed a promo for the 20th Anniversary of the Dead By Dawn Horror Festival. In 2014 he was shortlisted for Ifeatures3 with the horror project KEEPER.

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**Past work:** HOW TO PICK UP GIRLS <https://vimeo.com/sketchbookpictures/howtopickupgirls>



**Ben Grace | Writer/Director | Southampton**

Ben Grace is an award-winning director, filmmaker and editor based in Southampton, England. Previously working in the extreme-sports industry, in November 2013 Ben decided to focus solely on independent filmmaking and photography. Since then he has written and directed over a dozen short films as well as assisting other crews as a DOP and editor.

Ben is currently filming the sci-fi noir FALCON, acting as the DOP and editor. He is also in pre-production of a comedy short The (Not-So Best Man) and a thriller (The Heel) aiming to direct both this year. He is focused on working towards writing and directing his first feature film, an aim he hopes to accomplish next year.

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**Past work:** SPANNER IN THE WORKS <http://bengraces.co.uk/short-films/spanner-in-the-works/>



### **Alan Graves | Producer | North Somerset**

Alan is a Production Guild member with over 22 years service in production as a Producer/ LP/PM/1<sup>st</sup>AD and location manager working across Features, Shorts, Virals Commercials, and Corporate working with budgets up to \$7.5m.

His most recent film as Line Producer was NORTHERN SOUL NME 2015 - Film of the year (BAFTA NOMINEE 2015 – Outstanding Debut)

He was Line Producer on Scott Mann's feature debut, THE TOURNAMENT (2008) Short films include SCARY MOVIES (1997) - Best short film at the black film festival in Berlin & also Aix En Provence Festival in France and SEASONS ALTER (2002) - Kiera Knightly, Lloyd Owen, Cheri Lunghi that enjoyed A BAFTA premier hosted by Lord Puttnam.

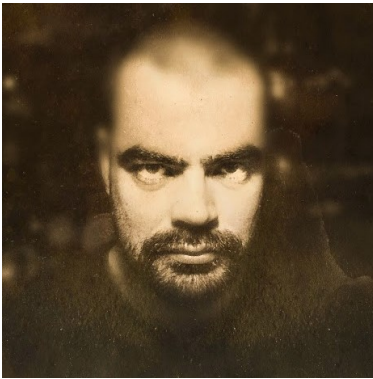
Alan has further produced sales promos for DROUGHT. This was for Lawrence Gough (winner of the 2009 trailblazer award at the Edinburgh film festival for emerging talent) and MARA for first timer Clive Tongue.

He is currently in late stage development with Dan Kokotajlo's intended second Feature film THE PREFECT, Co-Producer for Oscar & Bafta nominated director Mark Gill with his debut film STEVEN (announced) and in development with Bristol based director Adam Etheridge on his short film GREAT WHITE written by David Watson.

Alan lectures and provides innovative production modules at various University's and media courses across the UK.

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### **Matty Groves | Writer/Director | Somerset**

Matty is a writer and director based in Bristol. He enjoys working in a range of formats such as music videos, documentaries and shorts films in different genres from black comedies to horrors. He has received a Royal Television Society Award, and has been selected for Sheffield's Doc/Fest Videotheque strand.

Matty studied Creative Media and Filmmaking at UWE and after graduating moved to London and worked for various television production companies such as Lion Television, RDF, and Atlantic Productions. He was also selected for an internship at Storyville, the BBC's leading documentary strand.

He has recently completed two films: JEWELS is black comedy about a racist thief's failed attempt to rob a convenience store, and THE SNIFF a comedy which is about a man's weekly visit to his local gym to fulfil his most repulsive fetish.

For this talent module Matty has applied with his first feature length script, OKAY TO PLAY, a social realistic drama which follows the lives of Kurt and Diego. Two young boys from culturally different backgrounds who find common ground in each other. As their brothers feud over escalating racial tensions, the boys go in search for Kurt's father who deserted his family ten years ago.

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**Past Work:** SCHNAUSER, GREY OR BLUE <http://www.mattygroves.co.uk/Schnauser-Grey-or-Blue>





**Lotus Hannon | Writer/Director | Hampshire**

After graduating from East 15 Acting School with a 3 year diploma Lotus wrote, directed and co-produced her first short film MAN OF ME DREAMS which was selected and screened by: The British Council, The Cinema Programme, The Short Film Festival, Leeds and Vicolo Corto Rassegna internazionale di Cortometraggi (International Touring Festival) by Arci Nuova, Italy.

Lotus went on to be employed as an Inserts Director, Assistant Director and Researcher primarily in TV comedy and light entertainment, working for Jonathan Ross, Mark Lamarr, Jack Dee and Peter Kay. Whilst working in production, Lotus continued to write her own screenplays.

In 2008 Lotus was the winner of The Script Factory Development Scheme with her first original feature screenplay, RENDER. She intends for her second feature, ENTRY, a psychological thriller, to be her directorial feature debut. Lotus was selected for the Women In Film & TV Mentoring Scheme 2014 and has just completed THE EXPIRATION a love story short, which is now awaiting it's World Festival Premiere.

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**Emma Hanson | Producer | Bristol**

After graduating with a First Class Honours degree from the University of the West of England in Media Practice, Emma has been committed to building a successful career in the film industry. Having specialised in editing in her final year and after having edited several award winning short films, Emma gained an internship as an editor for a busy corporate events company. Shortly after, she was hired to work on the iFeatures project FLYING BLIND as a Crowd Coordinator and enjoyed the thrill of the shoot so much that she's been working in the production department ever since, working her way up through the ranks at Aardman Animations on various SHAUN THE SHEEP projects to her current position as 3rd AD. Emma hopes to one day follow in the beautifully crafted heels of female media greats; Kathleen Kennedy, Kathryn Bigelow, Elizabeth Banks and Gale Anne Hurd.

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**Riyadh Haque | Writer/Director | Portsmouth**

Riyadh's first love was studying the English Language which led him to Law. However, he soon discovered that film was his future. From knowing very little about filmmaking, Riyadh has become a strong all-rounder. He has won, been nominated and screened at festivals across the world including LSFF and Raindance.

Primarily working as a DP, he is making the transition to direction and writing. His influences range from Andrea Arnold to Mike Leigh and is inspired by the stylings of DPs such as Seamus McGarvey, Robbie Ryan and Matthew Libatique. Familial and romantic entanglements engage him as a filmmaker, gearing for more candid, naturally lit scenes with a move towards socially-conscious filmmaking by incorporating gender, sex, identity, race and religion into his current work.

Originally from Portsmouth, England, he spends his time in London, too, working as a freelancer and developing his debut feature film and several shorts

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**Past work:** SHOWREEL <https://vimeo.com/95248325>

**Matt Harris—Freeth | Writer/Director | Bristol**

Matt Harris-Freeth is a Welsh, award-winning director based in Bristol, UK.

With over a decade of experience directing and editing music videos for some of the most well known artists in the world, Matt is now continuing his passion of directing narrative fiction.

From divorce and spaceships to violent relationships and monsters, Matt creates visually striking genre films that explore modern society.

Produced via the UK Film Council's Digital Shorts scheme, Matt's first award winning short, LUKE & THE VOID premiered at Encounters and went onto be screened at festivals around the world.

In 2012, Matt was selected from a huge number of applicants to participate in FilmWorks, a talent development scheme run by BFI and Creative England.

His recent entries into Sci Fi London 48hr film challenge were long-listed and selected at festivals around the world including London Short Film Festival and Bath Film Festival.

Most recently, Matt completed a new short film, CROCODILE in collaboration with xFilm, which is in the process of being entered into festivals.

Matt is currently developing a number of genre feature projects.

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#### **Nick Havergal | Writer | Bristol**

Nick is a Bristol-based writer and academic with a predominant background in theatre. He is currently on attachment at Bristol Old Vic as part of the Open Sessions (2014) where he is developing two full-length stage plays, and has been invited as part of a pool of writers by Theatre West to contribute to a new writing project in Autumn 2015.

He studied Drama at the University of Exeter, graduating with a distinction at Masters level in 2014, and has a primary research interest in the interplay between contemporary British plays and constructions of gender and sexuality.

He is looking forward to gaining skills and expertise in writing for screen and digital media and contributing to the fascinating conversation between the theatre and these other modes of storytelling.

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#### **Paul Holbrook | Writer/Producer | Bristol**

Paul Holbrook is Bristolian through and through, growing up on the rough, poverty stricken council estates of Hartcliffe, Bristol. Paul spent his difficult youth engrossed in any and all movies he could get his beady eyes on and had a burning passion for film from a very young age but didn't pursue a career in the industry until hitting his late 20s.

Paul is first and foremost a screenwriter, writing feature-length projects in the competitive world of the 'spec script' and working on small TV and script editing commissions. Paul concentrates on real-world drama, often based in violent arenas with colourful characters and locations.

Having written features for the best part of four years, Paul decided to also venture into self-production at the start of 2013, so put his mind to writing shorter projects that he could produce on a small budget. To date Paul has written and produced six short films for his fledgling production company 'Shunk Films' which is a collaborative venture with his cousin and long-term writing partner, Sam Dawe.

Paul has found most encouraging success producing comedy shorts, and has been awarded several accolades for both writing and producing, but whilst committed to riding that particular wave he also has grander plans to push forward with darker, bolder and more adventurous projects with the burning ambition to eventually write and produce his first feature film.

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**Past Work:** PORPHYROPHOBIA <https://vimeo.com/93670556>





**Luke Jeffery | Writer/Director | Devon**

Luke Jeffery studied film at Falmouth University and since graduating has been involved in a number of film and theatre projects across the South West. Luke has previously written several plays, including *BREATHE WITH ME* (Hall for Cornwall, 2011) and *SANCTUARY* (Theatre Royal Plymouth, 2013), and in 2011 his original screenplay *KEEP CALM* was shortlisted for the Nick Darke award.

Last year he wrote and directed *SEEING RED*, a short film set in the 1960s, which won the audience award at the Two Short Nights film festival. He is currently creating a family show, *GRANNY EYEBALL* for the Bike Shed Theatre in Exeter and developing the script for his first feature - a psychological thriller with Morris dancers.

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**Marietta Kirkbride | Writer | Bristol**

Marietta Kirkbride is a Bristol-based Writer and Dramaturge, collaborating regularly with Bucket Club, of which she is a co-founder, and the Berlin theatre collective Theater Am Tisch. Her work as Dramaturge includes: *LORRAINE & ALAN* with Bucket Club which has just finished a UK tour; *GETAWAY* with Theater Am Tisch (BE Festival 2014); and *I CAN GET ALONG WITHOUT SHOES ON MY FEET* with Director Fiona Mackinnon, (part of *On the Verge*, The Arches, June 2015).

As an independent writer, Marietta's play *THE LONG TRICK* was a winner of Bristol Old Vic's Open Sessions in 2014. Her first play, *Sitting with Thistle*, was produced by Theatre West in Bristol, 2011, and then by Odd Flock in London, 2013. *TANZ TANZ* was produced by Theater Am Tisch as part of the site-specific theatre piece, *ALTBAU*, and has been performed in apartments across Berlin. *HOLE* is published by Mardibooks with Ideas Tap as part of *I Clean for England: 18 One Act Plays of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Marietta has also had rehearsed readings of her work at Nightingale Theatre, Bristol Old Vic, and Lincoln performing Arts Centre. Although quite new to film, Marietta has two short screenplays in development: one with an independent Bristol filmmaker, another with artists from Theater Am Tisch.

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**Keith Kopp | Writer/Director | Somerset**

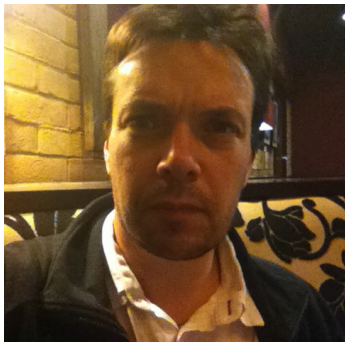
Keith Wilhelm Kopp is a Writer Director from the Pacific Northwest of America (UK & USA citizen), he is interested in the themes relating to physical and psychological trauma and how characters are either compelled to overcome or be destroyed by these experiences.

Keith spent four years in the army with a combat deployment to Iraq, He joined at seventeen when he could not afford the tuition fees for film school. This experience helped forge his ambition and also exposed him to different people and cultures he would not otherwise have had the opportunity to meet.

He is a graduate of the London Film School. His most recent short film Gage has screened in festivals across Europe, North America and Asia. He is currently in development of his first feature film that is partly based on his experience of returning home from the war.

He has also worked in the industry in various roles from production assistant to assistant director on film, TV, and commercials.

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**Jesse Lawrence | Writer/Director | Banes**

Jesse read Modern History at Oxford University before training as a fiction director at the National Film & TV School under Stephen Frears. His graduation film RUNT won Best Film at Bologna and Brest, Special Jury Prize at Taipei, Special Mentions at Ludwigsburg and Aix-en-Provence, and competed in the Cannes Cinéfondation.

Jesse is based in Bath where he writes and works as a self-shooting director. Recent commissions include PRETTY VACANT—short documenting an art project for Somerset Council; MUSIC FOR ALL—series of documentaries about a project providing musical instruments to schools in Zimbabwe; twenty short dramas for the Ministry of Justice to aid in the rehabilitation of offenders; and ISAAC—digital fiction short for SW Screen / UK Film Council, which screened at festivals in Europe, India and Australia.

Jesse also has over a decade's experience as an editor - working recently on LAST WORDS - feature length documentary about the Battle of Arnhem, which screened at the Little Theatre, Bath; and BLOOD MAKES NOISE - feature length documentary about patients on dialysis made with My Pockets. He also works for Unchosen in their film department—a charity campaigning against modern slavery.

Jesse is currently working on SARGASSO DREAMS - feature length screenplay short listed in Euroscript Story Competition 2013; IF YOU CAN HEAR ME - fiction short, filming this autumn; THE HUMAN HARP - feature length documentary about artist Di Mainstone; and A SPECIAL PLACE - series of short documentaries profiling artists and the places that inspire them, which have screened at Hollow Earth, Liverpool Lift---Off, Edindocs, St Albans, American Online Film Awards, ING Bank, Purbeck and Victoria Gallery Bath.

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### **Nikki Lloyd | Writer | Frome**

Nikki is originally from Leicestershire and studied a BA Performing Arts degree before going on to form a dance/physical theatre company with a fellow student. After moving to London she got a job in a photo library and then a music publishers, and spent the next twelve years as a picture editor before leaving to have her first child.

After a personal piece about her parents appeared in *The Guardian's* family section Nikki decided it was time to stop thinking that writing was something that other people did. She wrote a series of monologues under the title *Housewife On Fire* and recorded them for Soundart Radio in Devon.

Nikki received a bursary from Skillset, which was used to attend several courses with Raindance and Esther Freud. She wrote four ten minute short films one of which, BRUSH UP YOUR SHAKESPEARE, was sent to Simon Callow who agreed to star. It was picked up by Gina Carter at Sprout, along with a TV pilot script, THE STORY OF MY LIFE. Nikki also wrote for actor's collective, Bubble n' Squeak who performed regular showcases in London pubs.

In August 2013 Nikki moved, with her husband and two kids, to Frome in Somerset and met Bargas Films. They have since shot three of her shorts - Nikki was assistant director on each - the first of which, THE TENTH MUSE, won Salisbury Arts Centre's 48 Hour Shoot Out competition. Nikki is a member of Frome Scriptwriters and had a monologue, TISSUE PAPER THIN in the 2014 Frome Festival. Her short story A COMPASSIONATE HEART was long-listed for the Frome Short Story competition and she was invited to join Frome Writers Bootcamp. She is currently writing a feature for Bargas Films, and her first novel.

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**Past work:** THE TENTH MUSE - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=182PCuAnk58>



### **Sophie Mair | Writer/Producer | Bristol**

Sophie graduated in 2007 with a degree in Fine Art Painting. Whilst at University she set up Sketchbook Pictures with her long-term creative partner Dan Gitsham. She is an exhibited artist and writer/producer who has also worked in development and short film exhibition. With over 100 film festival screenings, a number of awards, broadcast screenings and most recently iTunes and Amazon distribution.

Her film credits include ELLA, starring Anthony Head, which premiered at the 2011 World-wide Short Film Festival in Toronto, won 5 awards on the festival circuit and screened at over 50 film festivals and events worldwide. THE SACK (2009) premiered at the Times BFI Film Festival 2009 and won the Midnight Movie Award at the 8th London Short Film Festival 2010. She also produced HOW TO PICK UP GIRLS (2007), which screened at over 35 film festivals worldwide and most recently collaborated on a trailer and web viral for the Dead by Dawn Horror Festival.

Since 2012 Sophie has been developing ELLA into a feature screenplay with Screen International Star of Tomorrow Director Dan Gitsham and Creative England. In 2014 she was shortlisted for Ifeatures3 initial development with the horror project KEEPER.

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**Patrick Makin | Director/Producer | Bristol**

Although his first love has always been film, most of Patrick's paid work comes as a writer and script-editor for kids' TV. Writing credits include CREATURE COMFORTS, SHAUN THE SHEEP, PLANET SKETCH, SAM & MARK'S GUIDE TO DODGING DISASTERS, ANDY'S WILD ADVENTURES, ANDY'S DINOSAUR ADVENTURES etc. As he lives in Bristol, where most of the BBC's natural history films are made, Patrick also does a lot of work writing and script-editing for wildlife series such as HIDDEN KINGDOMS, HUMAN PLANET, OCEAN GIANTS etc.

In the meantime, Patrick has written a number of screenplays, some of which have been commissioned and some optioned. He has also been represented by top agents. But since none of the scripts were ever actually made (such is the way of the industry), he has decided to take the bull by the horns and make his own film, despite having never even made a short film before. As a result, Patrick wrote, co-produced, and directed a £300,000 feature film called BREAKING FREE.

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**Past Work:** BREAKING FREE [www.jellyfishfilms.co.uk](http://www.jellyfishfilms.co.uk)



**Tom Maxted | Writer | Bristol**

Tom has been a Bristol resident since 2002 when he came to read English Literature and Film Studies at UWE, and a wannabe writer for even longer.

His main interest is film, and he has written numerous feature film screenplays and shorts – but he has also tried my hand at radio, theatre, TV and fiction. As yet unproduced, Tom is persevering for now.

As well as watching films and writing them, Tom enjoys (in no particular order): Aston Villa FC; drinking ale; Stewart Lee; being a dad to his daughter; and, finding increasingly ingenious ways to procrastinate from writing.

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**James Morgan | Writer/Director | Hampshire**

James Morgan is an award-winning film director and photojournalist. His in-depth photographic features have appeared in National Geographic, The Guardian, BBC, Sunday Times and many others. His images regularly lead campaigns for the World Wildlife Fund and USAID and are published and exhibited around the world.

James' film work spans features, documentaries, commercials and music videos with clients ranging from Sony and Adidas to Vice and Mercedes Benz. Having worked in over 60 countries, James is comfortable in any environment and can speak English, Spanish, Indonesian and Icelandic.

James is represented by both Panos Pictures and Getty Images in London and is a Fellow of the International League of Conservation Photographers.

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**Past work:** SOCOTRA <http://www.jamesmorgan.co.uk/films/socotra/>



**John Panton | Director/Producer | Devon**

John Panton is a short film director and founder of Meat Bingo Films. As a full-time teacher without an industry background, John has managed to use social media to support the production and publicity of his films.

He frequently collaborates with the writer David Quantick, including APPEARANCE with Charlie Higson, LOT 13 with Simon Evans and the recent VALENTINA'S DREAM starring Rebecca Front.

He is currently working on a music video for Polydor/Universal alongside a short film in post-production. Usually quite tired.

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**Past work:** LINE SIGNAL <https://vimeo.com/122031335>





### **Dean Puckett | Writer/Director | Devon**

Dean Puckett is a documentary filmmaker, cameraman and editor.

He has created three documentary feature films to date. THE CRISIS OF CIVILISATION was exhibited at film festivals around the world including Leeds International Film Festival where it was selected as festival favourite. GRASP THE NETTLE was premiered at Open City Docs, followed by Dok Leipzig and Leeds International, One World International and Crossing Europe and was released by Doc Alliance. HONEY AT THE TOP, his latest world premiered in June at Open City docs and was nominated for best UK film.

Dean is currently in pre production for his first short fiction film through Creative England's iShorts scheme.

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**Past work:** GRASP THE NETTLE <http://www.graspthenettlefilm.com/#!grasp-the-nettle-/c1xqu>



### **Andy Robinson | Writer/Director | Devon**

Andy is an Exeter-based Writer/Director. Originally from East London, he gained a degree in Graphic Design from the University of Plymouth - specialising in Photography. After graduation, Andy's storytelling developed from stills to the moving image. He assisted on low-budget productions, as well as making his own—including an unreleased micro-budget feature called THE FOREWARNING.

More recently, while developing longer projects, Andy has focussed on short films: SEASONS OF WAR - a Doctor Who-inspired film to promote a charity anthology of stories - which has gained positive feedback from fans of the TV series.

NEIL, a sci-fi drama, was recently awarded 'Best South West Film' at The Plymouth Film Festival.

Andy is also actively involved in Devon's vibrant filmmaking scene, regularly assisting on other filmmaker's productions.

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**Past work:** SEASONS OF WAR <https://youtu.be/LO7Yi8bd95U>



**Rebecca Russel | Writer | Branscombe**

Rebecca worked as a pharmacist and medical writer for a number of years. An award-winning and published playwright and poet, she has recently turned to writing for radio, TV and film and is represented by The Collective Talent Company.

She has had a short film, THE VOW, produced by the University of Creative Arts and has a number of TV and film projects underway. Rebecca is also an actor and has performed many of her own stage roles in Hertfordshire, London and Edinburgh.

She is mother to three children and lives in Branscombe, Devon with her husband, two of her three children, two dogs, a cat and three chickens.

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**Tia Salisbury | Writer/Director | Bristol**

Tia is a Bristol based director and award winning filmmaker. Currently working in live-action, she has over 15 years broadcast experience as a CGI animator. Previous clients include the BBC, Disney and Aardman Animations.

Tia's films have been showcased on the international festival circuit, winning several awards: PropellorTV Best Film, Platinum award at Promax+BDA Los Angeles and a nomination at Imagina.

Following a career break to start a family, Tia has recently become involved in producing live-action work. In particular, she specializes in narrative music promos, company branding and fashion films. In February 2014, Tia directed the music promo ON STONEY GROUND for DOLMAN. The film has featured in competition at Encounters Film Festival, Sprockets Music Video Festival and The London Independent Film Festival.

In early 2015, Tia's first live action script CHONDITE was long listed for the Creative England iShorts scheme. Currently, she is producing a short documentary, THE KNITIVITY and scripting a narrative short film, SLEEPING BEAUTIES, a dark study of the Internet and social shaming, set on the Heathrow Express.

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### **James Sampson | Director | Avon**

James Sampson is a writer, director and editor with a passion for intriguing characters and compelling stories.

Having studied Film & Theatre at the University of Reading, he gained valuable experience working within the film and television industry as a Floor Runner and a 3<sup>rd</sup> Assistant Director for the likes of the BBC and Sky. In addition to this he continued to produce his own independent projects.

His short BEST MAN was screened at the Encounters Short Film Festival (2010) and received an Audience Award at the Edinburgh Cinefringe Festival (2010). In 2012 James was selected to partake in the Filmworks talent scheme where he developed my short film CONVERSATIONS WITH STRANGERS . This was funded through Indiegogo and the film is currently on the festival circuit. To date it has been selected by the Worcestershire Film Festival (2014) and London Short Film Festival (2015). James has also directed several well-received music videos for BBC 6 Music up-and-coming artists such as Sea Stacks, Jilk and Haiku Salut. He is currently developing a feature film that will further explore characters and themes from CONVERSATIONS

James is currently employed as a Director/Editor by Skylark Media Group, where he has produced various promos and television adverts.

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### **Callum Sampson | Director/Producer | Cornwall**

Callum began working in film and television sets and props for London based company Stockyard, on everything from infomercials to full feature films for the likes of Kudos, Channel 4, Tiger Aspect and NFTS.

He relocated to Cornwall 5 years ago to study photography. The short film, THE KELSEY'S, developed in collaboration with the National Trust gave him a sense of freedom and ignited his passion to translate a visual idea into a working narrative that led to him switching to film for his final year. The steep learning curve of AWKWARD AGE shot with professional actors, (from Q Talent) is about youth and self reflection and the importance of not losing sight of one's childhood dreams and fascination with adventure, gave him a sense of freedom in a medium where he feels anything is possible.

Callum is currently working for specialist aerial drone company, Light Colour Sound as a camera operator as well as freelance work for Chrome Productions and FFP New Media, whilst developing his own productions.

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**Past work:** AWKWARD AGE <https://vimeo.com/127580775>



**Gurchetan Singh | Writer/Director | Wiltshire**

Gurch began his career as a drama director in 2003 with the award winning NED WARKING which won Best Script at the Portobello Film Festival. He then went on to make the 16mm twisted noir short MAN OUT OF TIME and the horror fantasy ROAD (2005) which starred Shivani Ghai (House of Saddam, Bride & Prejudice). He then went on to complete, the South West Screen funded SANCTUARY which was part of the TOR scheme where young aspiring filmmakers were able to shadow and work alongside him to create the film.

In 2009 and 2010 Gurch was awarded funding by B3 Media and UKFC to write and direct the short drama OUR TIME ALONE (Runner up, Buffalo Sans FF) and Sci fi short FREQUENCY. In 2011 Gurch with B3 media went into development of a feature length version of FREQUENCY with Film4. Since this time Gurch has been developing a number of feature scripts and treatments. He is currently flourishing as a Self Shooter/ Director and is in postproduction of his first online advert for a London based charity that works with victims of child sexual abuse.

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**Past work:** <https://vimeo.com/75524278>



**Jo Southwell | Writer/Director | Berkshire**

As a film director / writer Jo made her debut with HOLDING ON in 2012. A moving short about a man's struggle to hold on to the present as Alzheimer's takes hold. The lead actor was Gordon Kennedy. This short film has had international recognition in festivals. HOLDING ON is distributed by Shorts International and currently in the TOP 10 Films to watch in Europe.

COVER ME was released in 2014 and has been screened at The Cannes Short Film Corner ; Buxton Film Festival as the Highly Commended Film and winning the reviewers choice award; Isle of Wight Film festival; Los Angeles where it has been nominated for Best Actress and Best Soundtrack. COVER ME travelled to The Mumbai Womens International Film Festival which seeks to increase awareness for women in the industry and global causes for women.

Reviews include : "the dramatic Shakespearean tone of the staging and the powerful delivery of the monologue by the actress elevates the story-telling quality to the tragic level of Macbeth or Hamlet only this is a woman's tragedy. As noted above, the staging matches the tone of the great tragedies. The monologue kept my attention and stirred my compassion throughout, and the actress's performance exceptional." (Washington DC Shorts.)

Jo is currently in pre-production for her feature film, DEIDRE OF THE SORROWS. Following the production of the short "EIRDRE to be released in 2015. "A dark love story. One girl silenced by fear, pain and faith. A daughter that would grow up to be very beautiful. Kings and lords would go to war over her. Much blood would be shed over her." A gritty, modern, powerful and engaging tale inspired by Irish Folklore.

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**Paul Tully | Producer | Devon**

Paul Tully is an award winning Commercials Producer recently relocated from Ireland to the South West. Experienced in large scale, big brand spots for terrestrial TV, Cinema and online working with highly skilled crews and talent. He has shot in many diverse locations and situations and enjoys the challenge that the higher end of the business brings.

Paul now plans to focus on Feature Drama and Doc development / production and is keen to find new talent to collaborate with.

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**Past work:** CAUSE AND EFFECT <http://www.fueltv.ie/concern-cause-effect/>



**Dominique Unsworth | Producer | Berkshire**

Dom has worked in the Media since the age of 12, carrying out a range of roles for companies including; BBC, Nickelodeon, The Children's Channel, Trouble, 4Talent and Teddington Studios. After studying Classics at Royal Holloway College, she went on to work in Museums, where she set up a video oral history group, which evolved into a social enterprise production company in 2000.

As founder and Managing Director of Resource Productions Ltd, Dominique Unsworth (nee Oliver) has been producing videos & short films and delivering talent development and media training programmes for 15 years. In that time she has won a BBC Skillset Millennium Award, been listed in the Guardian's Top 100 Apprentice employers, been awarded a British Empire Medal for services to the Arts, completed an Arts Council Clore Fellowship, been selected by the Arts and Humanities Research Council to write a paper on Cultural Leadership in Digital Distribution and completed an MBA with a focus on the UK Film Industry.

Through Resource's in-house talent development programme, contracts with UK Film Council, Arts Council England, Into Film, B3 Media and Screen South; Dom has Executive produced over 10 award winning shorts and has directly produced over 100 films and videos.

Dom is an accredited post-16 tutor and part-time lecturer, she has raised finance for, co-developed and delivered small and large-scale media training programmes ranging from the European Social Fund's 'Last Mile' programme (securing development finance for a UK-Latvia feature) to the Pinewood and Shepperton BFI Film Academy (identifying and supporting 40 new entrants to make their first short film each year).

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**Ellen Waddell | Writer/Director | Somerset**

Ellen Waddell is a writer, director, performance artist and musician. She was the bass guitarist for the indie pop band Los Campesinos! from its formation in 2005 until 2012. She has directed many short films, skits and music videos, and her video for Future Of The Left's, I AM THE LEAST OF YOUR PROBLEMS, was premiered by Rolling Stone. She is co-writing her first feature THE PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY RECALLS THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE with Tom Betts, based on her short of the same title, for Western Edge Pictures. It is being supported by The Wellcome Trust Development Awards.

She has been featured on BBC Radio Bristol's "Speech Bubble" program – an introducing show for up and coming comedians in Bristol. Ellen has written comedy and opinion pieces for McSweeney's, MTV, Nerve, Theatre Bristol, Bust magazine, The 405 and Forces Of Geek, and is a recipient of the iShorts2 funding award from Creative England, supported by the BFI network, for her soon to be made short film script STAGES. Ellen is making her Edinburgh Fringe debut this year with her first one-person show, JEAN-LUC PICARD AND ME, a PowerPoint led autobiographical re-telling of a Star Trek obsession that left her trapped in a delicious fantasy world. It originally premiered in Bristol at The Wardrobe Theatre, where it sold out.

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**David Watson | Writer | Devon**

At Bristol University David studied Drama where a highlight was an adaptation/writing module called 'Screening The Text'. He enjoyed the process of adaptation – but developing his own original ideas has always been David's real goal.

For the past 9 years, David has been Creative Director at Aspect, creating video marketing content for brands (The North Face, NSPCC, Samsung, Microsoft, Coca Cola etc.). He has also written TV commercials, sketch comedy, radio and cinema ads. He became Creative Director at Rebel Virals – an award winning viral marketing agency – where he conceived and wrote online video content that connected with large audiences. David's work achieved well over 10 million shared views.

David understand the broader film making process, which he believes makes him a rounded storyteller and empathetic collaborator.

For David, the last 3 years have been an investment in narrative craft – balancing instincts with understanding, an open imagination with structure and form.

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### **Ilana Winterstein | Writer | Bristol**

Ilana is Bristol-based writer, experienced in writing for theatre, with a background in performance and devised theatre, as well as an accomplished storyteller, poet and non-fiction writer. She is currently on attachment with the Bristol Old Vic and is one of their Open Sessions writers.

She has been commissioned by companies including National Youth Theatre and Coney, and her work has been performed in venues nationwide including The Pleasance, BAC, Tobacco Factory, Tristan Bates Theatre, The Lowry, Buxton Opera House, Old Red Lion, Albany, Tara Arts, The Broadway, and Rich Mix, among others. Ilana has won various competitions for her writing including Frome Festival Short Story competition, King Author Short Story competition, Story Slam, and was a finalist in Old Red Lion's RedFest.

Ilana's non-fiction writing has been published by Huffington Post, New Internationalist, International Business Times, EcouTerre, and The Bristol Cable, among others.

Ilana is a member of the Bristol Writers Forum, a former member of the National Youth Theatre and Shine Drama emerging writers programme, Write To Shine, where she was mentored by Johnny Capps, and was previously a member of the Soho Theatre Young Writers Group. She is also co-founder of multi-disciplinary theatre company, Handheld Arts.

Ilana is mother to a wonderful yet non-sleeping one year old, and when not writing or running after a toddler she works as a human rights campaigner and director of outreach and communications for anti-sweatshop NGO, Labour Behind the Label.

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**Past work:** UPON A BIRD'S <http://ilanawinterstein.com/2015/06/22/upon-a-birds-wings-script-extract/>