

DIRECTORS UK

Training



Multi-Camera Directing Skills for TV



This year Directors UK launched a unique new training initiative designed to provide six young directors with the creative, editorial and technical knowledge they need to become the next generation of multi-camera directors.

This training not only aims to raise the bar of excellence among the industry's rising talent, but with 50% of the selected candidates from BAME backgrounds and with 50% women, it's also helping to create a truly diverse and inclusive workforce for the future.

Developed by some of the UK's top multi-camera practitioners, in conjunction with Creative Skillset, and in creative partnership with Pinewood Studios, The London Studios and Cloudbass, graduation from this course will be seen as the ultimate affirmation of the skills and talent required to become one of the best in the field.



MEET THE TRAINEES

Abigail Dankwa



Abigail started off as one of the stage managers of the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics opening and closing ceremonies. Abigail then moved from Floor Managing the UEFA Champions League Finals (Lisbon 2014 & Berlin 2015) London Live's *Live Launch Show*, and a range of breakfast entertainment, news & current affairs shows, to fixed-rig multi-camera entertainment directing on *Big Brother* and *Celebrity Big Brother* (2015). Prior to graduating from The National Film and Television School with an MA in Producing and Directing Television Entertainment in 2012, Abigail worked in Acquisitions at Community Channel where she was promoted to Managing Editor.

"The experience and wisdom we've received has been outstanding and to top that off, we've directed our very own magazine and panel game shows. At Pinewood we've shot music tracks and recorded a live event OB. To be able to learn and make mistakes in a supportive environment has been invaluable."

Stuart Earl



Until December last year, Stuart was working full-time as a director at the BBC. He started his career at CBBC presentation – directing the bits between the programmes – before progressing to BBC News. There, he directed a variety of shows including *BBC Breakfast*, *Newsnight* and *The Andrew Marr Show*. Now a freelancer, Stuart is excited to widen his directing experience across a range of other genres.

"I was so chuffed to be able to join the course in time for the scripted music masterclass. I've scripted and directed some music before on *The Andrew Marr Show* (all self-taught) – so was excited to learn how the pros did it. And with Geoff Posner and Steve Smith we couldn't have been in better hands."

Jan Genesis



Jan has worked with some of the UK's top production companies including ITV Studios and Sky, across news, sport, reality and observational documentaries. Jan started as a Technical Operator for Bloomberg, gaining experience in vision mixing, sound and cameras. He completed a short BBC Multi-Camera Directing course and developed as a Studio Director with Bloomberg and Sky Sports News as well as reality directing on *Celebrity Big Brother*, *Love Island* and *24 Hours in Police Custody*.

"The chance to get one-to-one feedback on a day-to-day basis from two highly regarded individuals in the industry has been invaluable. Not only has it enabled me to identify my strengths, but more importantly has helped me identify which areas I need to focus on and develop further."

Kelly Sparks



Kelly has been working as a producer and director for 14 years. In that time she has directed numerous multi-camera shoots including live OBs for shows like *Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway*, *Surprise Surprise* and numerous single-camera and multi-camera PSC shoots.

As a trusted and experienced director, Kelly has often been brought in to set the style on new series and to work with high profile talent. She has worked across genres and for various channels including BBC1, BBC2, ITV1, ITV2 and Channel 4. Kelly recently directed a chat show series called *Gossip Match* for Trace TV, a 3-camera set up with two presenters and various guests.

"The course is amazing! All the directing I have done so far is self-taught and to be trained by the best directors is such a fabulous opportunity. By day three I had already learnt so much."





Training in TV Three at Pinewood Studios and The London Studios.

Dionne Weston



Dionne's interest in multi-camera directing was sparked by an intensive summer course she took at New York University whilst on sabbatical from her corporate career. She returned to Europe, quit her job and applied for a place at the National Film and Television School.

After graduating from the two-year Producing and Directing Television Entertainment MA course in 2015, Dionne spent the last year working for TBN UK and Nine Lives Media.

"You're in the studio every day so you will make a mistake and you'll pick it up, and the next day you'll do it and you'll have learnt lessons and you'll do it differently. Throughout you can see a complete and utter improvement. And it's been so great learning from industry professionals – people really at the top of their game."

Lewis Wright



After graduating from the University of Westminster, Lewis started working as an edit assistant, working on case studies, branded content and live-streams. He went on to work for London Live. Starting as a technical runner, he worked his way up into engineering, but was soon directing live programmes. Since then, he has been directing live news, including live coverage of the Notting Hill Carnival, *Live from London* and most recently, *Jimmy Bullard Kicks Off*.

"The course has been absolutely amazing and I feel I've learnt so much already. The opportunities so far have been incredible, from workshops with industry professionals including Nikki Parsons and Angela Jain, to directing chat shows, panel shows and even busking music. I've always wanted to learn how to script live music."

To find out more please visit us at
www.directors.uk.com/about/training



WHAT DID THEY DO?

The six trainees underwent two weeks of intensive training at The London Studios and the world-renowned Pinewood Studios, where they learnt a combination of theory (in classroom) and practical (in studio) aspects of multi-camera directing. After every exercise their shows were reviewed, and each individual received one-to-one feedback from the trainers.

This included directing interviews, directing a panel show, directing a chat show, directing a magazine show (an as-live multi-item programme featuring interviews, cookery and music performances with ad-breaks and complex live menu sequences), learning how to bar count and direct live music performances – both scripted and busked (as directed).

The course gave the directors experience of working with presenters and auto-script using both open and switched talkback. It also gave them training in staging a range of studio items including working with performers and bands.

Between studio exercises the trainees participated in a number of focused workshops: Multi-Camera OBs (Peter Taylor, Senior Engineer at BBC); Studio lighting (Chris Rigby, award-winning Lighting Director); Directing dancers on TV (Nikki Parsons, Director, *Strictly Come Dancing*); Working with Commissioning Editors (Angela Jain, Director of Digital Channels and Acquisitions, ITV); Studio set design (Jonathan Paul Green, Production Designer, *Mock The Week*); Studio cameras (with legendary Camera Supervisor Nigel Saunders); Working with vision mixers (Naomi Neufeld & BAFTA award-winning Vision Mixer, Hilary Briegel); and working on OB events (Glenn Barton Producer & Director *Crufts*).

The final exercise was to allow trainees a unique opportunity to direct their own live music event at the end of the course – with top outside broadcast and events director Ian Russell. This included working in both an OB truck and a studio gallery with red carpet "VIP" guests and an awards ceremony. The final event was designed to give the trainees the best possible experience of directing large entertainment events. The training also created the opportunity for staff and trainees at The London Studio and BBC Academy to step up in a variety of studio roles.

READY TO WORK

Having completed the course we are delighted to introduce our fully trained multi-camera directors. We encourage you all to take advantage of this opportunity to meet and develop working relationships with this new wave of talent.



WHO WE ARE



Directors UK is the single voice of British screen directors representing the creative, economic and contractual interests of over 6,000 members – the overwhelming majority of working film and television directors in the UK. Directors UK campaigns for the rights, working conditions and status of directors in the industry and works closely with fellow organisations in the UK, Europe and around the world to represent directors' rights and concerns. It also promotes excellence in the craft of direction both nationally and internationally.

MEET THE TRAINERS

Steve Smith – Directors UK Vice-Chair and Chair of the Entertainment and Multi-Camera Committee



Steve is a BAFTA award-winning multi-camera director with 30 years industry experience who has directed some of the UK's most popular TV shows. Recent credits include *The Graham Norton Show* and *The John Bishop Show*.

"Directors UK is working hard on helping to deliver the skills directors need to progress in their careers. Multi-camera directing is particularly difficult to break into as the perceived risks of allowing a new director to take control of a large expensive studio, working to a tight budget and schedule are so great. Our six trainees are now work ready and waiting for an opportunity to direct their first shows. We have also used this opportunity to promote diversity in multi-camera by including talented women and BAME directors."

Jane Elsdon Dew



Jane is not only an experienced multi-camera director in her own right, but also a leading trainer of directors having run numerous multi-camera training courses for the BBC Academy in recent years. Jane's credits include *The Wright Stuff*, *Something For The Weekend* and *Ready Steady Cook*.

Tony Gregory



Tony Gregory is one of Europe's leading entertainment, event and music television directors. He regularly consults on formats and programme development, and trains internationally multi-camera and live directors. TV credits include major shows, concerts and entertainment spectacles for MTV, PBS, SKY, RTE, BBC, ITV, Channel 4.

Geoff Posner



Geoff is an award-winning British television producer and director, and has worked on some of Britain's most successful comedy shows, including *Two Pints of Lager* and *a Packet of Crisps*, *The Young Ones*, *Blackadder*, *Harry Enfield's Television Programme*, *French & Saunders*, *Dinner Ladies*, *Little Britain* and many more.

Ian Russell



Ian is the award-winning producer and director behind *Sparkly Light*. He has been responsible for some of the most memorable television broadcasts of the last two decades, including royal weddings and funerals as well as Commonwealth Games Opening and Closing ceremonies and the live coverage of British astronaut, Tim Peake's rocket trip to the International Space Station.

To find out more

Please visit www.directors.uk.com/about/training or contact us at training@directors.uk.com



DirectorsUK



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WITH THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Creative Skillset



Creative Skillset empowers the Creative Industries to develop skills and talent; we do this by influencing and shaping policy, ensuring quality and by securing the vital investment for individuals to become the best in their field and for businesses to grow.

This project has been partly supported by HM Government with Employer Ownership funding.

The London Studios



ITV is proud to be supporting Directors UK and Creative Skillset by giving studio space and facilities in The London Studios for this excellent training course. We thoroughly believe in, and support the aims of the course in providing opportunities for the next generation of diverse and exciting multi-camera directing talent.

Pinewood Studios



The Pinewood Studios Group is a leading provider of studio and related services to the global film and television industry; synonymous with world class British and international productions and home to some of the most successful feature films and TV shows ever made. We are proud to support Directors UK in this truly unique training initiative supporting young, diverse talent, and look forward to welcoming these graduates back to our TV Studios soon.

Cloudbass Limited



Cloudbass was born out of academia and as such has always had an intrinsic interest in education and training. The chance to link up with industry production professionals to help deliver essential and focused training was an opportunity too good to miss. Cloudbass is excited to be providing the facilities to ensure that the training takes place in a realistic environment in order to provide a training experience that truly reflects current practice within the industry.