

SUE CHESTER
www.sue-chester.com
UK Cell. +44 7851 296737
UK Cell-2. +44 7724 087060
Skype In. +44 208 133 0722
susanchester@btinternet.com
suechesterjournalist@gmail.com
Skype. suechester

CURRENTLY FREELANCE - November 2000 – Present

- **Freelance feature writing** –, Financial Times (House & Home, FT Magazine, FT How To Spend It), International New York Times, New York Times Great Homes & Destinations, Daily Telegraph, Observer, Sunday Times, Saturday Telegraph Magazine, Telegraph, Elle, GQ, Business Traveller, The Times, BBC Get Writing, She, Red, UKTV (commercial section of the BBC site), Evening Standard, Independent, Harper's Bazaar, House & Garden, Michelin Travel, British Airways Hi Life, Style in Progress, FOUR magazine, Royal Jordanian Airways Magazine, Facilities Manager magazine.
- **Reporter** Fed Cup website - April 2013 - Germany v. Slovakia: news features, blogs, audio interviews with players.
- **Presenter** – April – September 2007 - We Show TV.
- **Photos published in** - Daily Telegraph, Observer, Elle and Financial Times
- **Ad-hoc** researcher for the BBC Good Food website – October – November 2006
- **Ad-hoc Producer BBC Radio 4 Today Programme** - website production including writing copy in tandem with the live radio programme to trail items coming up, keeping the website up to date as well adding interactive elements to it.
- **Ad-hoc Producer Live Chats BBC Online.** This involves setting up the chat software (MIRC), co-ordinating the guests, interviewer, host and typist – overseeing the chat technically and editorially. Guests interviewed include: Cher, Westlife, Victoria Beckham, Geri Halliwell, Paul Oakenfold, Benedict Allen, Douglas Adams, Sir David Attenborough, Iain Banks, Samantha Mumba, Mike Figgis, Louis Theroux, Jamie Oliver, London Mayor Ken Livingston, Michael Palin, Maya Angelou, Tony Benn, Super Furry Animals, JG Ballard, Meg Cabot, JK Rowling, Kazuo Ishiguro, Rose Tremain, Vinnie Jones, Mis-teeq, Sugababes, Barbara Windsor, BBC Chairman Gavyn Davies OBE, BBC D.G. Greg Dyke, Michael Portillo and experts such as Simon Schama, Dr Michio Kaku, Sir Martin Rees, Professor Tom Kirkwood...
- **Ad-hoc Producer BBC Radio 1 (BBC music station - Chart, Dance, Alternative and Urban) Communities** - Livechats, Chatrooms and Message Boards
- **Ad-hoc Communities Message Boards**, moderating and team leader
- **Ad-hoc Communities CBBC Message Boards**, moderating and hosting
- **Ad-hoc BBC DNA 'Get Writing'**, moderating and hosting for new creative writing website

Cont.

CAREER HISTORY

Network of the World (NOW!): June 2000 – November 2000

Assistant Producer - **Earth** category. I found, researched and wrote scripts for daily reports for live television web-broadcast plus related web pages for daily online publication. This also involved finding images and video footage, guests and contributors for interviews (including briefing presenters about the respective interview content).

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION: February 1998 – June 2000

BBC Education – Digital Media: Assistant Producer for the **BBC Languages** website. Also Acting Producer for a six week period, during which time I co-ordinated the launch of a new interactive area of the website.

BBC Knowledge: Acting Producer **The Kit** website – I put together the website for launch (design, navigation, site map, editorial content). I also updated the site in advance of the related TV programme's live transmissions - 22 websites of completely new editorial content. I researched and wrote the majority of the content.

BBC Online: Surfing the Internet to find the best web-sites for the genres Arts & Culture and Entertainment, for a BBC service; **Webguide**.

BBC Radio 4 Arts:

- Broadcast Assistant for Arts programme **Front Row** - this included research, finding contributors, music, archive, attending the editorial meetings and pitching story ideas, as well as the relevant paper work.
- **World Books Day** Researched and interviewed celebrity contributors - Juliet Stevenson, Mike Mansfield QC, Helena Kennedy QC, Deborah Moggach, John Harvey
- Interviews for features - David Bintley, Sharman MacDonald, Dave Hepworth.
- Recorded play extracts including David Hare's 'Plenty' starring Cate Blanchett.
- **Dept.S-** Assisted Mohit Bakaya - Researched and contributed programme ideas and content. Also recorded various material, and voiced the *Dept S* series introduction.

BBC - Documentary Attachment to Matthew Bannister: "FOR - thoughts on the future of Radio"

Assisted Piers Plowright for a 30 min. programme for Matthew Bannister's (Head of BBC Radio at the time) presentation at **The Radio Academy** in Birmingham July 15th 1998.

The documentary was then broadcast on **BBC Radio 4** January 21st 1999 in the Experimental Features slot. I researched, found and interviewed the contributors (Sir Peter Hall, Douglas Adams, Fiona Shaw, Jo Whiley, Lee Hall, Dr Susan Greenfield, Theodor Zeldin, Space, Gillian Wearing, Steve Jackson, Tim Westwood, Matthew Bannister, Frank Delaney, Maureen Lipman, Tessa Sanderson, Alan Freeman and Wendy Douglas and assisted in the documentary's final mix.

SOUNDBITE PRODUCTIONS LTD: June 1997 to December 1997

Writing, researching and budgeting *own documentary programme proposals for Radio 5 Live and Radio 2*. Included:

- Setting up permission to travel on a QE2 cruise, whilst recording the life of the celebrity artists on board- Paul Daniels, Cannon & Ball and Coronation Street stars.
- Securing celebrity presenters for respective programme proposals - Angela Rippon, Lionel Blair, Les Dennis, Jim Dale, Johnnie Walker and Little and Large.
- Assisting other Soundbite staff in their programme proposals - researching, focusing the ideas, finding the angle of the story, and it's unique selling point.
- Running the Soundbites office for two months - liaising with the Company Manager in her absence as well as the other production assistants.

MELODY FM: April 1997 to August 1997

News - Found and wrote news stories and compiled hourly news bulletins, using Baysis.

Cont.

BBC THAMES VALLEY FM: August 1996 to November 1996

Helpline Researcher/Production Assistant- creating campaign packages - coming up with the ideas for the campaigns, researching, finding contributors and content of the individual packages, including a series of 5-7 min features based on social topics which were broadcast on the *Sue McGarry* morning show.

- I used Analogue equipment to record, edit and mix the packages

STAR FM Slough: January 1996 to August 1996

News - wrote news copy, found and chased news stories, set up and conducted interviews I then edited using RCS Master-Control.

Own weekly 7-10 min feature - *Health Matters* - I came up with content ideas, research, and contributors, wrote the links then mixed the features on their digital system - RCS Master-Control.

Arts & Film features broadcast on Dave Spencer show.

1981 - 1997

Dance - TV, Theatre, Film, Choreography

Fashion Modelling - Print, Catwalk, Commercials also Styling, Choreography

Acting - Film, TV, Theatre. Voice-Over - Industrial, Film, Radio

Overview

- Languages - Intermediate German. Basic Portuguese, French, Italian. Pigeon Spanish.
- Good presentation skills
- Good interpersonal skills gained and refined through working with a wide variety of people at all levels, from the fashion world to current affairs
- Good time management skills learnt while being self employed

EDUCATION

University of London Goldsmiths College Laban Centre - **BA Dance**

S.Helens & S.Katherines School, Abingdon, Oxon - **8 O Levels 3 A Levels**

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2016 August - Write that Book and Get It Published, FEU Training (Federation of Entertainment Unions)

2015 November - Investigative Journalism - Guardian Masterclasses: How to hold the powerful to account

2015 July - Serial Writing – Fiction - Woman's Weekly

BBC Training – Research, Researching on the Internet, Technically Operating a Radio Studio, Homesite and basic Html, Photoshop - images and basic graphics, Adobe Premiere 5, Basic TV for Journalists course – DV Camera, sound, lighting and directing.

National Union of Journalists – Copyright, Getting Started As A Freelancer, Advanced Feature Writing, Writing For the Web

Lambeth College - **Scotvec HNC Radio Broadcasting- Merit**. Course work included:

- Broadcast Law, News, Broadcast Development, Analogue and Digital (DAVE) editing and mixing, 7 min Features
- 1 hr Magazine Programmes - Producing, Technically Operating and Presenting,
- 45 min Music Based programme - Presenting whilst driving the desk.
- 40 min Documentary - Producing and Mixing.

City Lit - **Freelance Journalism, Feature Writing**

Cont.

London Chambers of Commerce & Industry - **Intermediate German Cont.**

Languages: Intermediate German. Basic Portuguese, French, Spanish and Italian

VOICE OVER

1995 Voice over animated film. Dir. Jeanette Bell: London College of Printing

1996 BMW/Rolls Royce Aero Engines - company video

1996 Disability Resource Team: stories, letters, magazines, council letters etc, on cassette for the blind

1998-2003 Off the Page: stories, letters, magazines, council letters etc, on cassette for the blind

1996 Star FM: bedtime stories for the Dave Spencer show and features

1997 BBC Oxford, community features

1999 Department S: BBC Radio 4 Produced by Mohit Bakaya

2007 Discovador, Rio: Focus, Brasil Telecom for UK Visa Section North & South America

ENGLISH TEACHING

2012 VHS Herrenberg – English Conversation for adults

2012 to Present - Individual conversation classes for adults