

## Series Producer Testimonies:

'Rare to get a training course so in tune with our needs in this industry or so currently relevant' Nickie Lister SP trainee ITV

'Loved it. I think everyone stepping into an edit should have access to this course and now I can't wait to put everything into practice.' Skillset funded SP trainee. Tara Jang

'Amazing. Changed my way of working, V V V Good.' Ed Arriens ITV

Hi Sarah

Many thanks for the feedback and I'm delighted it was such a success.  
It's really exciting to provide a new training course that is so constructive.  
I hope we'll be able to run the course again.  
Thanks for all your work pulling it together.  
Jo

Josephine Cocking | Unit Manager | Granada Factuals | **ITV plc**  
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I genuinely found the Series Producer course a career-changing moment! Since then I have gained my first two Series Producer credits and have found the course valuable in all sorts of ways. As you mentioned, the Sue Aherne sessions were particularly valuable I think and also Robert Thirkhill's session.  
I would definitely recommend it to anyone.  
thanks

Stuart Ramsay | Series Producer | Shiver - Leeds | **Shiver**  
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'Engaging, relevant and well presented.' Lesley Duncanson.

'Whole day VERY USEFUL and illuminating.' Richard Weller

'Fresh and engaging. Very insightful. A real pro teacher, she was organized and structured, as well as entertaining.' Mike Ratcliffe

'Stunning. Sue's fabulous. This has stuck in my mind more than anything else.' Lorraine O'Keeffe

'Robert Thirkell- every element was about my job at the moment. Superb prepared with video clips and scripts. Amazing.' Mike Ratcliffe

'Totally relevant, honest and clear presentation.' Lorraine O'Keeffe

'Terrific – a fantastic lesson in story telling.' Basi Akpabio

'Refreshingly- common sense' Basi Akpabio

'Robert was brilliant and for me relevance was right on the money. I'm really disappointed I couldn't clear my diary for the Sunday.' Mike Ratcliffe.

'Highly motivational! Made me want to get back to my desk!' Chris Thornton ITV

I wanted to drop you a quick email to say how successful Mike and I found the SP course. It's such a big leap to move from PD to SP, and most people do it with little or no help. In many ways it's surprising more don't fail. I'd hoped this course would help Mike bridge the two, and it certainly seems to have done so.

In Mike's words, "It's been a very positive experience. Most importantly it has helped to define the broad range of jobs a series producer does. From logistics, budget management and scheduling right through to editorially shaping series and giving a series an identity. It was very well organised giving each module of the course clear topic areas. Every teacher seemed to be very well chosen for their specific topic area."

As you know, Talkback had another two up and coming stars we were keen to send on the course. Hopefully they'll get the chance next time.

Charlie Bunce  
Editor Factual Programmes  
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Since we first heard about the DV Talent SP course, we've been very excited about its potential – not only to benefit our trainee, Lisa, but also in terms of how it might benefit the rest of us and we haven't been disappointed. The course has offered a winning combination of access to key commissioners across a range of broadcasters, analysis of programme-making, backed up with strong editorial and practical help in areas such as compliance. Lisa has been able to put the skills she's learnt straight into development and programme-making, and it's raised not only her game but ours too.

Some of our current projects, especially those in development, have really benefitted from Lisa's focus and her newly acquired perspective, and I think we can attribute two projects currently in development to the course.

I will have no hesitation in offering Lisa the next Series Producer job that comes up at Lambent, with the confidence that she will lead her team with the expertise she's gained over the past year. And we already have a waiting-list of fantastic producers who would like to go on the scheme next year. There is nothing like this course in the industry; it's invaluable and I hope will run for many years.

Very best wishes

Emma  
EMMA WAKEFIELD  
LAMBENTPRODUCTIONS

Given the tightening budgets and deadlines, young series producers are increasingly locked in editing suites, often unable to stand back and look at some of the strategic issues involved in their series. They are too busy plugging holes to think about why they are there in the first place.

It is vital that they are given some space to stand back and reflect, to share concerns, and to listen to some of the best and most experienced execs in the business.

The fast track series producer course gave one of our younger SPs precisely those opportunities, and the course was invaluable.

After the inevitable attrition involved in getting programmes to air there she was able to look at the wider issues, the relationship with an exec and a commissioning editor, and between different members of the team, when and where to intervene, when to encourage, when to put the pressure on, when to relax. She was able to think more about the ideal composition of production teams, the relationship with production managers and presenters. In other words to be proactive as well as reactive, and to anticipate difficulties rather than just responding to them.

Our SP came out with a much wider perspective, and a wry grin.

We at Flame unhesitatingly support the course and hope it can be made more widely available."

Roger Bolton, Chairman Flame television.

The Series Producer scheme has been a fantastic asset for betty this year. There is a shortage of Series Producers in the industry and it is a very difficult to train on the job, we work predominantly in prime time programming and opportunities to grow our own talent are few and far between. It is invaluable asset to be able to prepare potential SP's on a year course before we launch them into the job, equally it's great to run the course for those already making the break. The further you get up the tv chain the bigger the responsibility and pressure, you're not only responsible for yourself but more importantly you're responsible for the safety of big teams, however up until now there has been no training. This year we have mentored Neil Smith who has been here all year Series Directing a new C4 prime time series Country House Rescue. If this series is commissioned we will be looking for a new SP and Neil's training this year could well put him in pole position for such a big break. He has particularly benefited from the experience of fantastic teachers on the course, well respected industry figures who have imparted extremely valuable knowledge and experience.

Scheduling and budgeting is another vital part of the process that SP's have huge control and it has cataclysmic repercussions for the independent production company, training is so important in this area where going over budget can literally bring down a company. exposure to commissioning and broadcasters will also greatly help Neil in his career. Currently and historically new SP's have just had to sink or swim on the job, this course can only grow in regard and should become recognised as standard industry training in the rudiments of series producing,

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Dear Sarah

We have been very impressed by the benefits of the DV Talent Series Producer course and its something we have – and I personally – have been happy to invest our time in supporting.

Series producers find themselves in a lonely place and the course has introduced Andrea Clare to her peer group shown her how other people in her position go about solving problems and finding solutions.

This sounds obvious but as a confidence building exercise it has been invaluable. We have seen Andie blossom.

The course has provided the panoptic 360 degree perspective on the position of series producer and provided a forum to exchange information on the many disciplines the successful SP needs to have at their disposal – from budgets to editorial to IT and the multi platform potential we now need to explore.

Andie has been required to stand up and give presentations – and this she has found empowering. She has been asked to deconstruct shows and ideas to understand their strengths and weaknesses. Andie has pitched ideas to senior figures – such as programme director at Five Ben Gail – again invaluable to build editorial confidence – and most of all she has been able to work with other series producers and exchange experiences and methods to mutual and unique benefit.

We have been delighted to contribute to the programme and wish you and DV Talent success on building on the ground work you have clearly put in to make it possible.

Best wishes

Harry

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So much of our industry's attention is on the circumstances in which young people enter the business for the first time that we often overlook our future generation of showrunners, the series producers of tomorrow. Making the step from producer-director to series producer is probably more misunderstood and feared than getting into telly in the first place and yet as an industry we have done so little to help programme-makers do it. There has been lots of focus on training on the basics of TV such as health & safety and release forms but again, not nearly enough on how to get things right when you're leading an entire production team and are responsible for whether a show tops the ratings or goes down in flames. That's why Diverse were so keen to assist in this scheme, and would readily support another year. I've noticed definite benefits and new-found wisdom in our trainee, Lorraine O'Keefe, and feel that she is surely now qualified for that crucial first SP gig.

**Matt Paice**

**Executive producer**

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