

Claire Lees Ingham

Executive Producer / Development Executive / Writer

I am an experienced drama professional with a passion for finding and nurturing great stories and talent. Seasoned in managing productions from first idea through development, production and post, I've developed my skills in roles at several independent production companies, and as an in-house executive producer for BBC Independent Drama, England.

In addition, I write and publish fiction and press articles in the UK and in Greece and am an active mentor for new and developing crew in the TV industry.

Red Room Films: Executive Producer. Jan 2018 – Present

I presently work as a freelance executive producer and writer, whilst developing a small slate of projects with larger co-producers, including *Spy Princess*, with actress/executive producer Freida Pinto, writer, Olivia Hetreed, director, Anand Tucker, and producer, Andy Paterson.

BBC Studios, Silent Witness: Executive Producer. October 2023 – April 2024

Working with BBC Studios and the Silent Witness team to plan and develop Series 28 of the classic pathology/forensic crime drama - including finding new writers, setting up a trial shadow writing scheme and developing existing members of staff.

Synchronicity Films, Scotland: Head of Development. June 2022 – May 2023

I headed up Synchronicity Films' busy development slate, covering maternity leave, while CEO Claire Mundell was in production with *Mayflies* and *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*. This meant working across the existing development slate with established writers, as well as initiating projects and finding new ideas in Scotland and beyond. I also worked closely with agents and commissioners, created and managed schedules and timelines, and dealt with business affairs, recruitment and mentoring existing staff on C4 and PACT schemes. Writers on the slate include Andrea Gibb, Kieran Hurley, Sukey Fisher, Olivia Hetreed, Suzie Miller, Ben Tagoe, Lisa Holdsworth, Louise Fox and Robert Murphy.

Kindle Entertainment/Lionsgate: Executive Producer. Dec 2017 - May '22

I was charged with setting up, developing and pitching the international fantasy adventure series *Spirit Walker* with showrunner, Patrick Harbinson, and Kindle MD, Anne Brogan. After a competitive pitching round in the US, we were commissioned by Apple+. My work then also included: editorial oversight of bibles and scripts, location and animal handling research, budgeting and scheduling, and VFX/Virtual Production research and testing.

Company Pictures, London: Executive Producer. Aug 2011- Dec 2017

I originated and developed a large slate of drama projects, working with UK/US broadcasters and co-producers. My slate included projects with writers Stephen Butchard, Peter Flannery, Sarah Phelps, Robert Murphy, Emilia di Girolamo, Sukey Fisher and Olivia Hetreed.

I also executive produced:

***Inspector George Gently*: Company/BBC1: 2012-2017**

10 Period detective drama films over 3 series. Creator/Writer, Peter Flannery.

Awards: RTS NE 'Best Drama' Winner 2015 and 2018 – and 2018 RTS NE Award for 'Outstanding Contribution to the Industry'.

***Moonfleet*: Company/Sky: Christmas 2013- Action-adventure with Ray Winstone and Aneurin Barnard. Creator/Writer, Ashley Pharoah.**

***Wild At Heart*: Company/ITVI: Christmas Special 2012. Creator/Writer, Ashley Pharoah**

Shameless: *Company/C4: 2011-2012* - Series 9. Creator/Writer, Paul Abbott.

BBC Independent Drama, England: Executive Producer. Feb – July 2011

Working on Polly Hill's team, covering maternity leave, I executive produced:

Inspector George Gently: Series 4 - 2011

Waterloo Road: Series - 7 2011

New Tricks: Series 8 - 2011

Red Room Films: Development Producer. Dec 2008 – Mar 2011

I developed a slate of TV projects in collaboration with independent companies *Fifty Fathoms* and *TXTV*, introducing them to new writers and ideas - and raised finance to develop independent feature film projects under my own label, including:

Stratford Road (UK Film Council) Writer, Helen Cross,

The Island of Lost Souls (Screen West Midlands) Writer/director Sean Spencer,

Firebird (EMmedia) Writer/director Christine Parker.

Impossible Pictures, London: Head of Development. Jan 2005 – Nov 2008

I was responsible for developing and growing the company's drama slate, working with writers including Emilia di Girolamo, Chris Lang, Adrian Hodges, Michael Chaplin, Joe Ahearne, Jed Mercurio, Martyn Hesford, Matthew Arlidge, and Ben Court and Caroline Ip. I was also responsible for winning European *MEDIA* slate funding to further the development ambitions of the company and managing the scripted development/production relationship with German broadcaster *Proseiben*. Credited work includes:

Frankenstein: *Impossible Pictures/ITV/Proseiben: 2007* with Helen McCrory.
Creator/Writer and Director, Jed Mercurio. (Associate Producer/Script Executive)

Pickles: The Dog Who Won the World Cup: 2006 - Family comedy drama,
Creator/Writer Michael Chaplin. (Script Executive)

To increase my physical producing experience whilst at Impossible, I also raised finance to develop and produce independent short films, including:

Romance: (UK Film Council 'Digital Extreme'/RRF), Birmingham: 2007
Writer/Director, Sean Spencer. With Maimie McCoy and Steve John Shepherd

Amnesia (Birmingham School of Acting/ Screen West Midlands), Birmingham: 2006
Director, Sunandan Walia. Writer/Producer, Claire Ingham

Freelance: Development Editor, Researcher, and Reader: 2000 – 2005

During this period, I worked with producers Linda James and Joanna Anderson as a freelance reader/assistant on their slate at *Red Rooster Film and Television* – and then as a development editor/researcher on their slate at *Alibi Entertainment*. When Joanna and Linda moved on again, I continued to work with both at separate ventures: With Joanna Anderson and Matthew Arlidge as a script reader/researcher at *Ecosse Films*, and as a reader/development editor with Linda James at *Sly Fox Films*. At the same time, I was also developing/producing independent short films, including:

Hearing Things with Oscar nominee, Felicity Jones and Glenna Scacchi- Morrison.
Writer/Director Claire Ingham. Producers, Claire Ingham/Satvinder Johal
Awards: *Jerwood Award* for short screenplay. 'Best Short Film' Moondance International Film Festival, Colorado USA 2005. 'The Audience Award', Stratford-on-Avon International Film Festival 2005.

Previous Relevant Production Experience:

I began my career as a radio journalist, working part-time for *Radio Forth* (Edinburgh) and *Central FM* (Stirling) whilst studying at university. After graduating in 1992, I moved directly into TV as a scriptwriter/director of trailers and commercials at *Granada Television*, mentored by drama producer Gareth Morgan. I moved on in 1994 to work as a freelance creative commercial producer/director for *Central TV*, *Fox Kids*, *Hallmark International*, *UKTV* and *Carlton TV*, then was promoted to become Carlton's youngest ever head of department in 1996, heading up CITV's award-winning Promotions team.

I began working in drama as a script reader and screenwriter in 1998. Commissioned writing work included the feature film *Mister Lowry* for producer Ken Trodd and Director Pat O Connor (funded by the *UK Film Council* and *Screen West Midlands*), and Carlton's 'teatime' reboot of *Crossroads*.

Education

I have an MA in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia, and a First Class Honours Degree in English & Film from the University of Stirling, with a minor in French. I spent a scholarship year at UCSB, California, where I won the Sherrill Corwin award for screenwriting and was shortlisted for the Paramount/Chesterfield Writer's project.

I speak/read French (Good working knowledge) and Greek (Intermediate B1 level).

Other Interests and relevant experience

I am a writer of articles and stories and have published in national/international magazines and newspapers and on websites, with interests in travel (particularly Greece and Crete), history, art, walking, storytelling and script and screenwriting – and have awards for creative fiction writing. (Links upon request)

I am a member of PACT, BAFTA and the RTS, regularly attending events and serving on judging panels for BAFTA and the International Emmys. I'm also a mentor for Screenskills and for many years was a mentor for Villiers Park Educational Trust, which encourages students from less-advantaged backgrounds to go to university and supports them through their studies into employment. I was a Villiers Park Scholar 1987-1988.

In 2024, I organised a successful independent residents' campaign to save our local recreation ground from developers, which led to becoming a member of a South Derbyshire political campaign team at the 2024 General Election. Volunteer work included writing PR material, digital/social media and MP candidate website copy, canvassing and acting as a telling agent.