

HELEN JAMES

TV Presenter/Producer/Director

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A multi-skilled, talented, commercially adept promotional filmmaker who formed Helen James Productions Ltd - a highly creative and innovative video production company - after 20 years working in radio and television (BBC/ITV). An exceptional communicator who is self-motivated, full of ideas, accustomed to working to tight deadlines under pressure and a fantastic problem-solver, whose 'can do' attitude and capacity for sheer hard work means she always delivers a top quality product on time and within budget.

SKILLS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Highly regarded TV presenter (live from studio and location): "Helen James is a presenter with a relaxed style, clarity of purpose and a warm regard for her audience" – RTS citation.
- Accomplished producer and experienced director with substantial technical skills, including editing (AVID/Final Cut Pro).
- First class senior news reporter, who spent 14 years also presenting ITV's award-winning live news magazine programmes, Meridian Tonight, Thames Valley Tonight and Calendar.
- Knowledgeable and skilled interviewer with a warm friendly manner, who is as confident with senior politicians as Hollywood celebrities.
- Carved own niche as arts and entertainment specialist with excellent contacts in the film industry and world of theatre.
- Presenter, producer and director of high gloss entertainment features, regularly bringing engaging interviews with some of the world's finest actors to ITV regional news shows throughout the UK (Meryl Streep, Sir Michael Caine, Kate Winslet and Daniel Craig).
- Forged unprecedented links between ITV's news and drama departments, successfully promoting programmes such as Lewis, Marple, Midsomer Murders and Primeval.
- Produced and directed half hour factual programmes for ITV.
- Exceptionally multi-skilled: ITV trained journalist (attachment to ITN) and studio director, vision mixer and sound mixer – one of the first television "journos-techs".
- Achievements recognised by the Royal Television Society, BT and ITV news awards.

Managing Director – Helen James Productions Ltd

www.helenjamesproductions.co.uk

(April 2009 – to date)

Highly creative and innovative independent video production company producing top quality content for TV broadcasters and a wide range of small, medium and multi-national corporate clients throughout the UK and abroad. Also delivers punchy, engaging and highly targeted web videos and podcasts with minimum fuss and maximum impact.

Experts in promoting films, TV dramas and theatre through adverts, broadcast reports, DVD Bonus Features, Electronic Press Kits and videos for all platforms, including social networking sites. The company works closely with UK Film Council screen agencies, boosting movie tourism and supporting young filmmakers.

Presenter, Entertainment Correspondent, Senior Reporter - ITV Meridian Tonight and Thames Valley Tonight

(July 1997 — March 2009)

- Fantastic live performer, presenting and reporting for ITV's award-winning news magazine shows, Meridian Tonight (west, south and south east editions) and Thames Valley Tonight.
- Warm, sensitive, empathetic and a good listener – vital skills when reporting on tragic situations (Paddington and Ufton Nerve train crashes and serious crime stories).
- Constantly using initiative, adaptable and organised. Covered a wide range of stories (Newbury bypass protests, military training and conflicts, royal visits, riots, court reporting, health stories) - equally at home reporting a crime story or the lighter "and finally".
- Generated own stories, thoroughly researching, presenting, producing, directing and editing features too. Sourced archive and negotiated costs.
- Specialist in arts and entertainment: brought top celebrities to regional news programmes throughout the UK and delivered fascinating features from the world of film, TV drama and theatre.
- Continually produced and edited extended interviews and special features for ITV websites (itvlocal.com and itv.com).
- ITV ambassador – meeting viewers during many public appearances.
- Mentor to young journalists.
- Produced and directed half hour factual programmes (Walk Over History and People and their Passions). Managed the production teams, sourced all the archive and kept to budgets.

GMTV and Lunchtime News Presenter – ITV Yorkshire

(January 1995 — July 1997)

- Presented GMTV bulletins and the lunchtime news for the Yorkshire Television region.
- Assisted the bulletin producer, writing scripts and creating reports for the lunchtime news.
- Presented and produced radio bulletins for Minster FM (independent York radio station).
- Occasionally presented the main evening news programme, Calendar.
- Researched stories and also reported for Calendar news.
- Public appearances (opening fetes, agricultural shows and working for charities).

Bulletin Controller and "Journo-tech" – ITV Yorkshire

(June 1992 — January 1995)

- Bulletin Controller – directing, vision mixing and sound mixing the news and sports bulletins.
- Vision mixed and sound mixed ITV Yorkshire's flagship evening show, Calendar.
- Researched stories for senior reporters and dealt with copyright (stills), reception work and copy taking.
- YTV devised a training scheme in journalism, which included an attachment to ITN's Northern Bureau - became one of the first "journo-techs"(combining my journalistic and technical skills).

Researcher and weekly contributor – BBC Radio Leeds and Radio York

(January 1989 — June 1992)

- Presented a weekly feature on the Rory Morrison show on BBC Radio Leeds reviewing women's magazines, whilst studying a joint honours degree at Leeds University. The popular feature was also taken on at BBC Radio York.
- Radio researcher (information for West Yorkshire Rewind) and receptionist.

Station Assistant and Studio Camera Operator - BBC Look North

(January 1989 — June 1992)

- Focused, determined, reliable and committed from a young age: Following three weeks work experience at BBC Look North when 15 years old, worked at the TV news station during University holidays helping the Station Assistants (floor managing, Aston and slide file) and studio camera operators. Also provided creative input on PSC shoots (news and features).

Qualifications and Training

- Podcasting seminar (Sequence Training, Pinewood Studios – August 2009)
- Final Cut Pro Editing Course (Sequence Training, Pinewood Studios - July 2009)
- How to make a documentary (Sequence Training, Pinewood Studios – July 2009)
- ITV law refresher and compliance course (July 2009)
- ITV camera skills course (Sony Z1 June 2009)
- Business Link courses (April 2009)
- ITV Health and Safety course (2008)
- ITV Avid editing training (2005)
- NCTJ pre-entry certificate in journalism and shorthand – Stradbroke College, Sheffield (1995)
- YTV news trainee, including attachments to ITN Northern Bureau (1995).
- ITV training in studio directing, vision mixing and sound (1992).

Education

- BA Joint Honours Degree in History and History of Art (2:1) – Leeds University (1989-1992)
- 4 A levels, 9 O levels

Interests

- Music, painting, theatre, fell walking and travel.