

NELLA GOCAL-MCCONKEY

RESEARCHER



PORTFOLIO

CONTACT

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PROFILE

Dynamic Researcher & Camera assistant/DIT with extensive experience working on location, both domestically and internationally, as well as in studio. Having worked on a diverse range of programming, I am confident collaborating with experts, casting, clearing archive and fact checking. My eclectic experience across-departments makes me an irreplaceable asset on location. The proudest moment of my career so far was remotely casting and directing Indian transgender people in Mumbai. This proved my ability to find and build strong relationships with a variety of first time contributors. My work as part of a production management team also allowed me to gain experience of setting up & coordinating complex wildlife VTs and supporting the logistics behind live TV locations.

SKILLS

LANGUAGES

- Bilingual (English & Polish)
- Italian (Basic)

EDITORIAL

- Master IV Logging (TimeCode)
- Investigative research
- Monitoring & logging continuity
- Negotiating & securing access to locations & contributors
- Forward Planning
- Directing & chaperoning high profile talent/presenters
- Casting research
- Archive sourcing & clearance
- Research/Reference management
- Fact checking
- Cutting casting tapes
- Background checks (Lexis Nexis).

TECHNICAL

- Shooting & assisting (Sony FX9, FS7, FX6, FX3, A7S, Arri Amira & Alexa Mini, Canon C500mk2)
- Rigging Go Pro's
- Rigging wireless monitor systems (Vaxis/Teradek)
- Drone Operating (DJI Mini 3 Pro)
- Rigging/balancing Gimbals
- Data Wrangling (ShotPutPro & Hedge)
- Editing (Premiere Pro, Photoshop)
- Stills & BTS Photography

PRODUCTION

- Handling & reconciling floats
- Budget Forecasting & Management
- Writing call sheets & itineraries.
- Scheduling & organising complex logistics.

OTHER

- Creative - Painting, drawing, set dressing, simple motion graphics.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Shooting Researcher - *Secrets of a Murder Detective* - CBS Reality

Format: True Crime | Phoenix TV 09/23 - 09/23

- Single-handedly produced, researched and cast an episode of the series.
- Built relationships & trust with members of the victims family. So much so that the brother of the victim independently gave his blessing for several experts to take part in the interviews.
- Successfully sourced, reached out to & prepared experts & retired members of the force for interviews and conducted research chats.
- Devised sets of questions for shooting PD's on location, to ensure the required story beats were covered.
- Assisted the Executive Producer with writing the beat sheets and episode script.
- Researched murder cases using news websites, local papers & expert interviews.
- Wrote & fact checked research briefs & story documents, ensuring footnotes were detailed and clear.
- Working with complex compliance issues.
- Wrangled cards across 4 cameras, shot B-Roll, Gv's, B-Cam for interviews and press stills.

2nd Camera/Assistant - *Andi Oliver's Big Bash (w/t)* - BBC 2

Format: Fact Ent | South Shore 06/23 - 06/23

- Shooting 2nd camera (Sony FX9 & Black Magic) on location - handheld & on sticks.
- Operating DJI Mini 3 Pro drone - shooting GV's & establishing shots.

Development Researcher

Format: Food Comedy Pilot | Rumpus Media 05/23 - 05/23

- Sourcing & negotiating access to locations & restaurants for a short turn around pilot shoot.
- Assisting/rigging kit/mini-cams & Shooting 3rd Camera (FX3) on location.

Casting Researcher - *Late Night Lycett* - Channel 4

Format: Live Studio Ent | Rumpus Media 01/23 - 05/23

- Forward planning: Sourced locations, contributors and created/maintained databases of topical stories.
- Acted as Joe Lycett's personal runner during live studio shows; briefing his PA on his movements/schedule and organising his lunch & dinners order on time.
- Cut casting tapes on Premiere Pro & designed casting call outs on Photoshop.
- Pitched compelling characters & stories to the Casting, Series and Executive Producers.
- Strong awareness and sensitivity to welfare, successfully flagged contributors for Psych Evaluations.
- Completed fast turn-around background checks (Lexis Nexis); Adhered to legal, GDPR and compliance protocols.
- Outreach & targeted research via social media, local businesses and organisations in Birmingham.
- Conducted successful research chats/zooms & workshops with complex & vulnerable contributors.

Location Researcher/DIT - *Remarkable Places to Eat* - Channel 4

Format: Food Travelogue | Outline Productions 03/23 - 03/23

- Worked closely with Senior Editorial team to wrangle chef's & ensure contributor/location release forms were signed by restaurant guests.
- Attended to & chaperoned talent (Fred Sirieix, Dermot O'Leary and Giorgio Locatelli),
- Assisted DoP & Cam Op with kit on location, and wrangled rushes from 7 cameras.
- Monitored continuity to ensure the accuracy of pack shots & 2nd takes.
- Responsible for float and organising meals, water & snacks for crew, talent and execs in Italy.
- Stewarded in bustling cities across Italy, stopping traffic to aid filming.

Runner/DIT - *The Apprentice* - BBC 1

Format: Reality/Game | Naked TV 02/23 - 02/23

Camera Assistant - *Alternative Christmas Message* - Channel 4

Format: Christmas Special | Rumpus Media 12/22 - 12/22

Studio Runner - *Joe Lycett vs Beckham: Got Your Back at Xmas* - Channel 4

Format: BAFTA-winning Comedy Consumer Affairs | Rumpus Media 12/22 - 12/22

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WRITTEN WORK

'In correcting my pronouns, am I risking my job?' - Blog Article, Gritty Talent.

March 31, 2022

'Propagating a Trans-Ecological Cinema: Trans-Consciousness, Third Cinema and Liberation' - Dissertation (6.5k Words), awarded 83%.

Sept 2020 to Feb 2022

'Being Non-Binary - 'Gender' Voices, Volume Seven

November 30, 2018

QUALIFICATIONS

Screenskills 10/22

- Coronavirus basic awareness on production training

BBC Studios Training 03/22

- **Courses:** Archive Clearance, Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults, Editorial policy, Impartiality, Budgeting, Setting Up International Shoots, SAP.

Adobe 03/20

- Adobe Certified Associate in Digital Video Editing using Adobe Premiere Pro

EDUCATION

BA(Hons) Film - 1st (85%)

Falmouth University

2018-2021

- Specialism: Documentary direction, production & theory.
- Extracurricular: Secretary on the Pride Society committee - hosted queer film screenings and craft nights.

A Levels & GCSE's

Waldorf Steiner School, UK

2012-2017

Camera Assistant - *The Piano* - Channel 4

Format: Talent Show Competition | Love Productions

11/22 - 11/22

- Stepped up & Shot GV's in crowded public settings when SP had to attend to an editorial emergency.
- Assisted the SP, PD & 2 cam ops backstage at the Royal Festival Hall, London.
- Lead a small team of PSC runners, instructing them on changing batteries & carrying kit.

Continuity Researcher - *Mary Berry's Ultimate Christmas* - BBC 1

Format: Christmas Food Special | Rumpus Media

10/22 - 10/22

- Monitored continuity & worked closely with the executive producer & series director - advising on continuity issues that may show up in the edit.
- Directed Mary Berry & Rylan in 2nd passes, taking the lead with reference to my continuity sketches, photographs, & detailed logs of the scenes' sequences.
- Collaborated with home economist team to pick gorgeous and suitable tableware & serving utensils.
- Supported the art department on-location with dressing the set, organising & making props.
- Helped with general studio/set upkeep (watering flowers, changing fairy light batteries).

Logger/Camera Trainee/DIT - *EkinSu & Davide: Homecomings* - ITV

Format: Reality Travelogue | Lifted Entertainment

09/22 - 09/22

Alongside my responsibilities as a DIT/Logger, I also:

- Assisted B-Cam with lens & battery changes and directed non-english speaking contributors throughout Italy & Turkey, including the fast-paced spice markets of Istanbul.
- Worked closely with the JPM, Producers & Fixers in Turkey & Italy to ensure release forms were completed by members of the public.

3rd AC - *Queen of the Universe S2* - Paramount+

Format: Studio Competition/Reality | World of Wonder

08/22 - 09/22

Alongside my responsibilities as a 3rd AC, I also shot portraits of the contestants for use in studio & filmed social media interviews & promos for TikTok.

Production Management Assistant - *Springwatch* - BBC 2

Format: Live Natural History | BBC Studios

03/22 - 07/22

- Organised catering, accommodation, travel, hire cars and booked kit for a 3 week live OB shoot for a crew of 11 people in remote areas (eg. Isle of Mull, Scotland) whilst simultaneously coordinating the OB base of 35 people.
- Scheduled & organised complex wildlife VT shoots, created call sheets, travel itineraries & maintained budgets.
- Liaised with a mixture of organisations/experts (eg. National Trust Scotland, Hotels, Tour Boat companies) to secure locations and licences.
- Cleared archive footage & stills, maintained footage logs, and liaised with various departments to access internal BBC archive.

Shooting Researcher/DIT - *God Shave the Queens S2* - BBC 3

Format: BTS Documentary | World of Wonder

02/22 - 03/22

- Nurtured trust & built relationships with 2 key contributors - enabled SP to secure interviews.
- Assisted cameras, shot C-Cam on Ronin DJI RS3 and wrangled cards whilst on tour around the UK.

Logger, Camera Trainee & Chaperone - *Queen of the Universe* - Paramount+

Format: Studio Competition/Reality | World of Wonder

09/21 - 10/21

- Assisted up to 8 cameras during PSC filming.
- Logged interviews & actuality with the edit in mind.
- Provided comfort and affirmations to talent during moments of stress.
- Chaperoned Drag Queens & helped manage their schedules, whilst ensuring the identity of each queen remained secret.

Producer/Director - *Astitva* - Graduate Documentary Project

Format: Documentary | Falmouth University

10/19 - 07/21

- Successfully cast, secured access & built trust remotely over 6 months - directing 3 contributors to self-shoot, resulting in beautiful and vulnerable footage of Indian trans folk in their safe spaces.
- Designed, scripted & presented pitch & sales decks and was awarded 86% - one of the highest marks in my year.
- Curated & held an instagram showcase of Indian trans & non-binary activists & artists, gaining prior consent from all practitioners.

HOBBIES & SPECIALIST KNOWLEDGE

In my spare time, I am a photographer and writer for magazines & TV agencies to increase awareness of trans experiences. I also attend archive & found footage conferences & workshops.