



# The International Film & TV Business

## SPEAKER BIOS

### John Giwa-Amu

Producer/CEO, Good Gate Media

John Giwa-Amu runs Good Gate Media, a gaming company, and sister company, Red & Black Films.

John's first's feature film, *Little White Lies*, won two BAFTA Cymru Awards and was nominated for a BIFA. His follow-up feature, *The Machine*, became a sci-fi cult hit, premiering in Tribeca and winning three BAFTA Cymru Awards, including Best Picture, a BIFA and the Screen Award for UK distribution. *The Silent Storm*, starring Damien Lewis and Andrea Riseborough was released by Sony in 2016 and was Co-Produced with Barbara Broccoli. Additionally, John has collaborated twice with director, Sally Potter, on *The Party*, starring Cillian Murphy and Timothy Spall, and on *The Roads Not Taken*, starring Javier Bardem, Salma Hayek, Laura Linney, and Elle Fanning. *Don't Knock Twice* was sold internationally by Kew Media and was released in 2017 with Lucy Boynton and Katee Sackhoff. Its' success spawned a video game adaptation which was released on PlayStation, Xbox, and Nintendo.

Good Gate Media was launched in 2019. The company's debut, *The Complex*, was written by screenwriter of *The Handmaid's Tale* and was released in 2020 on PlayStation, Xbox, Nintendo, and Steam. It was the most successful week one launch of an interactive title from publishing partner, Wales Interactive. John's company went on to produce another seven interactive titles during and since lockdown including *Five Dates*, *Deathtrap Dungeon: The Golden Room*, *Night Book*, *Bloodshore* and *Five Dates 2*.



### Phil Hunt

Managing Director, Head Gear

An Innovator, Founder and cultural agitator: film, tv, video games, real estate, countercultural diversity LGBTQ+ brand Bohemia Club, with venue, events, charity and management arms.

Phil's main business interest in film is Head Gear a film, TV and video games investment company; Bohemia Media, film distribution of under represented (LGBTQ, cultural diversity, disability, female voices); (Yet) Another Distribution Company, which does what it says on the tin; Bankside Films, an international film sales and production company; as well as a number of other corporate investments in the sector.

Prior to the film business, in a pre digital universe a very long time ago....he was an advertising and music photographer and worked with such bands as Big Audio Dynamite. He sporadically dusts off his Hasselblad.





### Helen Simmons

Writer/Producer, Erebus Pictures

Helen is a BIFA longlisted producer, writer and Screen Star of Tomorrow. She began her career producing shorts for directors such as Kate Herron and Chloe Wicks, before producing the BIFA nominated feature CHUBBY FUNNY, starring Asim Chaudhry and Augustus Prew, followed by SAY YOUR PRAYERS, starring Harry Melling and Derek Jacobi. She now runs Erebus Pictures alongside Stephanie Aspin, and the company received a BFI Vision Award #in 2020. Erebus has produced three features since then: KLOKKENLUIDER, starring Tom Burke and Jenna Coleman; HOARD starring Hayley Squires and Joseph Quinn; and BONUS TRACK, starring Jack Davenport, Susan Wokoma and Alison Sudol. As a writer, Helen's debut short F\*CK starred Emmy award-winning actor Brett Goldstein, and she recently wrote four episodes of Audible Original show DARK HARBOUR. She has film and TV projects in development with companies including World Productions, NBCUniversal, Kinetic Content, The Development Partnership, Caviar, and Netflix, and is one of the British Screen Forum's Future Leaders.



### Stephanie Aspin

Writer/Producer, Erebus Pictures

Stephanie started as an intern at TWC in the acquisitions department working on projects Burnt and Carol. She then worked on major studio movies, becoming the assistant to director David Yates on Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them, seeing the project through from script development to post and premiere. Having produced several short films with Erebus Pictures, Stephanie recently produced the feature KLOKKENLUIDER, directed by Neil Maskell and starring Jenna Coleman and Tom Burke, which is set to have its world premiere at LFF. She recently wrapped on Erebus's third feature, BONUS TRACK, for Sky starring Jack Davenport, Susan Wokoma and Alison Sudol.



Stephanie is an experienced writer, leading shows in both the US and UK. She is the lead writer and executive producer for a major new TV thriller, picked up by Hulu and Disney after a 5-way bidding war. Her adaptation of bestselling author Kate Atkinson's 'Transcription' is in commission with the BBC, and she is working with showrunner Harriet Warner (Tell Me Your Secrets, Call the Midwife) on Season 2 of Dangerous Liaisons for Starz. Stephanie is also creating Sugar for Brillstein Grey in the US, starring Emmy and Tony Award winning actress Judith Light and executive produced by Pulitzer Prize winner Ayad Akhtar (Junk) and leading First for MGM to be directed by Karen Maine (Rosaline; Star Struck; Yes God, Yes).



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### Clare Binns

Managing Director, Picturehouse Cinemas

Clare Binns is Managing Director of Picturehouse and is involved in all aspects of growing and running the most innovative and successful neighbourhood cinema group in the UK. Part of her role is running Picturehouse Entertainment.



Winner of the 2009 WFTV Award for Contribution to the Medium, Clare has also been presented with career achievement awards from Screen and BIFA. Variety named her one of the 25 people driving the London entertainment scene and she is number 70 on The Guardian Film Power 100 list.

### Stephen Saltzman

Head of Int'l Entertainment Group  
Partner - Fieldfisher

I have extensive experience in domestic and international transactions in the entertainment and media industries. I focus on innovative and complex international distribution, co-production, and co-financing transactions as well as cross-border transactions involving the creation, production, financing, and/or exploitation of content, and brand building.



I recently advised Chinese studio Huayi Brothers International, which co-bankrolled the largest indie film to complete production in 2020, Roland Emmerich's \$140million Moonfall. In addition, I also recently advised esports team TSM (Team SoloMid) in one of the largest sponsorship deals in the industry with the crypto currency exchange, FTX. I advise a broad range of clients across the media and entertainment spectrum, including US, European and Asia-based producers, production companies, studios, theme park operators, distribution companies, broadcasters, digital content companies (including esports teams), banks, film funds, directors, talent, and authors.

I regularly appear on The Hollywood Reporter's "Power Lawyers Top 100" list and on Variety's "Dealmakers Impact Report", and frequently participate as a featured speaker and panellist in seminars and symposiums in the United States, Europe, and Asia. In addition to my US and Asia experience, I utilise my language capability to develop my German-speaking practice, which is often profiled in various German publications.