

George South

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Award-winning producer of television news, documentaries, podcasts, radio and VR, with years of experience producing, editing and series-producing the BBC's flagship news and current affairs programmes, and as CNBC's planning producer for Asia. Currently developing VR projects in Unity.

CNBC Planning Producer, Asia 2018-2020

- Led planning and field production for CNBC Asia Pacific, in a hybrid role that included responsibilities as assignment editor, lead planner and senior field producer.
- Responsible for planning field and studio coverage of stories and events across the Asia-Pacific region, from the Singapore Summit to terror attacks in Sri Lanka.
- Field-produced extensively, especially on more complex and high-risk assignments. Highlights include multiple trips to Hong Kong during the 2019 protests, covering the 1MDB corruption story (and doorstepping Najib Razak at his trial in Kuala Lumpur) and producing on-the-ground coverage of the Sri Lanka Easter bombings in 2019 that won Best Single News Story/Report (Singapore) at the Asian Academy Creative Awards.
- Booked, produced and edited numerous episodes of "The CNBC Conversation", comprising in-depth, half-hour sit-down interviews with newsmaking guests such as Mahathir Mohamad and Ren Zhengfei.
- Led the weekly Asia planning meeting and News and Ops meeting, setting the editorial and logistical strategy for upcoming outside broadcasts, events and news stories with the Asia newsroom and operations staff.
- Worked closely with counterparts in the Europe and US newsrooms to coordinate planning and sharing of resources, clips and information.
- Line-managed the Singapore camera crew and was responsible for deploying camera operators, reporters and producers across the Asia-Pacific region, for OBs, interviews and packages. Dealt with logistics, including visas, travel, accommodation, accreditation, risk assessments, LiveU deployment, call sheets, filming permits and AV clearance rights.
- Devised and rolled out an overhauled planning and diary system across CNBC Asia-Pacific, introducing a Trello-based system that unified news diaries, future planning calendars, logistics, camera crew rotas and field assignments. I subsequently helped to roll out the system across all of CNBC International, training colleagues in the EMEA and US bureaus.
- Occasional output-editing of live programmes (Street Signs).
- Wrote, produced and published hundreds of CNBC's morning briefs for Alexa and Google Home, rounding up the key daily market-moving stories for listeners in the UK and Europe.
- Wrote, commissioned, sub-edited, approved and published CNBC International digital stories and video clips, and guided junior producers in creating and publishing online content.

Work Eligibility in Singapore

✔ Singapore ICA-issued LTVP+ Pre-approved Letter of Consent. No foreign worker levy or quota required.

Editorial

Launched, series-produced and edited new podcasts and programmes at the BBC.

Experience leading and coordinating both editorial and technical teams, in the field, the studio and the newsroom.

Extensive knowledge of financial markets & business news.

Deep understanding of technology and science stories, with a background in physics, machine learning and virtual reality.

Field Production

Experienced field producer who has produced documentaries, packages and news coverage from dozens of countries, for radio, TV and podcasts.

Hostile environment (HEFAT) trained, latest refresher in 2019 valid through mid-2022.

Education and Training

University College, Oxford

Physics & Philosophy (2:1 Hons.)
1st Year Politics, Philosophy and Economics (Distinction)
1997-2002

Completed BBC Academy training, including legal, editorial and hostile environment training.

Qualified First Aider.

Intermediate Mandarin.

BBC Newsnight Producer 2017 and 2012-2013

Newsnight is the BBC's flagship daily news and current affairs programme, specialising in analysis, film reports and robust interviews. I returned there at the start of 2017 (having produced the programme in 2012-13) until I moved to Singapore at the end of the year.

- Produced sequences, setups, packages, films and interviews, on topics from the Higgs boson to the British budget. My website has examples of some typical 5-minute “on-the-day” films that I conceived, planned and produced, also conducting interviews for clips and managing the shoots and edit. These can be challenging to make, as ideas and treatments pitched in the editorial meeting at 10:30am are broadcast the same evening. They require confident planning and execution, with the ability to quickly revise structure and script to reflect developments of the day and to deftly manage the reporters, crew, graphics, edit, booking and archive teams.
- Produced interviews in the studio and filmed on location with guests ranging from the CEO of Microsoft to the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- Regularly output-edited Newsnight's World edition (which broadcasts globally on BBC World News) and managed social media on the programme's Twitter, Facebook and YouTube accounts.
- Worked extensively on the programme's coverage of the Grenfell Tower fire disaster, which won the 2017 Royal Television Society Award for Best News Coverage (Home).
- Often worked as deputy to the output editor, producing opening sequences and end-playouts while managing producers on the desk and ensuring smooth live operation in the gallery..
- Newsnight was named the 2012 Royal Television Society News Programme of the Year.

BBC Radio 4, What the Papers Say Series Producer 2010-2016

- On the launch team for What the Papers Say, a reboot of the second longest-running programme on British television as a weekly BBC Radio 4 programme and podcast.
- I went on to edit more than 100 episodes, and returned as the joint series producer in 2013, alongside producing other Radio 4 programmes (see below). The role involved working with leading print journalists (columnists from publications such as The Guardian, Daily Mail, Financial Times and Economist) to humorously dissect the week's best journalism and commentary.
- Booked and mentored new presenters, wrote and developed scripts, then recorded and edited the programme, directing an ensemble of actors from the BBC Radio Drama Company.

BBC Radio 4 News Programmes Producer/Editor 2006-12, 2013-16

- Produced, edited and deputy-edited on thousands of episodes of BBC Radio 4's The World at One, The World this Weekend, PM, iPM, Broadcasting House and numerous one-off documentaries. Also produced The Today Programme and Newshour (on the World Service). Combined weekly audience of over 8 million listeners.

Technical

Expertise in most areas of audio and video production, including lighting, camera operation, LiveU and LUCI LIVE IP streaming, live gallery production, audio recording and editing, video editing, motion graphics, VFX and grading, as well as 360 and 6DOF VR production.

Software Skills

Adobe Premiere Pro, After Effects, Audition, Photoshop, InDesign, Avid Pro Tools, Avid Media Composer, Reaper, Jupiter, ENPS, Avid iNEWS / MediaCentral, OBS Studio, DaVinci Resolve, Zbrush, Blender, Unreal Engine, Unity. Familiar with C#, Python, Lua and Java.

Awards

PM won the Sony Radio Academy Gold Award for Best Interactive Programme when I was in charge of its social media and blog.

BBC Newsnight's Grenfell Tower fire coverage, which I worked on extensively, won the Royal Television Society Best News Coverage Award (Home) in 2017.

The Sri Lanka Easter bombings coverage that I field produced at CNBC was national winner at the 2019 Asian Academy Creative Awards for Best Single News Story/Report.

The programmes I worked on have also won numerous awards including the Royal Television Society News Programme of the Year and Sony Radio Academy Golds for Best Breaking News and Best News and Current Affairs Programme.

Financial Times/Clifford Chance Young Business Writer of the Year Award 1996.

- As duty editor I determined the programme content while managing a team of up to a dozen producers, reporters, researchers, studio directors and presenters. I also regularly produced, studio-directed and deputy-edited these programmes.
- The programmes I worked on won multiple awards including Best News and Current Affairs Programme Gold at the Sony Radio Academy Awards.
- Field-produced around the UK and the world with many different presenters and reporters, from Evan Davis to Emily Maitlis to Eddie Mair.
- Produced long-form documentaries for Radio 4 and the World Service, and many highly-produced podcasts and radio packages from around the world and the UK. I'm skilled at constructing smart and engaging sequences, with a well-scripted flow of packages, reports, clips and interviews.
- Responsible for popular slots on the PM programme including the PM Privacy Commission and 'Upshares Downshares', a regular series charting the financial crisis.
- 'Blog Tsar' for PM, managing social media and a blog for the show, which won the Sony Radio Academy Gold Award for Best Interactive Programme.
- I was one of the small team who devised and launched iPM, an interactive Radio 4 programme and podcast presented by Eddie Mair that I regularly produced and output-edited, also blogging as an online face of the show.

Various Projects 2016-current

- I've taken on a variety of freelance projects before and after working at CNBC. I've filmed and edited half-hour narrative films, documentaries and art performances. I've worked on investigative stories with outlets such as The Intercept, and filmed a half-hour documentary in a Berlin old-persons home.
- VR developer for VOID, a game by artist Debbie Ding that was exhibited Sept-Nov 2021 in the Radical Gaming exhibition at Haus der elektronischen Künste Basel and at Gillman Barracks for Singapore Art Week. I also helped to install a VR exhibition at the Singapore ArtScience Museum and have worked on a number of personal VR/AR projects. I've helped to set up Place Portal, a Singapore-based VR start-up, focusing on projects that combine narrative and documentary elements in VRChat and other social metaverses. I'm keen to explore ways that journalists can engage with the medium, as affordable consumer headsets like Quest 2 gain popularity.
- Interested in deep learning/AI, and in the potential for new forms of data-journalism, telling unexpected stories with novel tools, models and datasets. I've completed a number of online MOOCs including Stanford University's Machine Learning course.

Older Roles 2003-2006

- Prior to journalism I worked at Central and North West London Mental Health Trust in a number of positions, from administrative roles in psychiatric acute wards and with the Community Mental Health Crisis Team to Acting Mental Health Act Coordinator for the entire Trust.
- During this time I also wrote for a number of outlets and publishers including openDemocracy and Black Dog Press (contributing writer, LA Artland), helped establish the China environment website chinadialogue.net, and co-founded and co-founded a small publishing house (Typocrat Press) putting out European art-comics in translation.
- Co-organised a Creative Commons UK film competition in 2007 in association with Google UK, the Arts Council England, Shooting People, OpenBusiness, the British Film Institute and the Telegraph. I also helped organise regular BarCamp-style events for OpenBusiness, and interviewed key players in the FOSS and start-up community for a tie-in podcast.