

## **VLV AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2024**

**Thursday 28 November 2024**

### **BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS**

#### **JONATHAN MUNRO, BBC News Global Director and Director of BBC World Service**



Jonathan Munro became BBC News Global Director in September 2024. In this role, spanning international services, he is Director of the BBC World Service and oversees BBC Monitoring and is Deputy CEO of BBC News and Current Affairs.

Jonathan joined the BBC in 2014 and has led BBC News coverage through every major story over the last decade, from Brexit to UK general elections and recent political upheaval, the Israel/Gaza and Ukraine conflicts and the death of HM The Queen.

He recently led the complex transformation of the BBC's business in India, putting in place a new structure and operating model. For most of 2022, Jonathan acted as Interim Director of BBC News and sat on the BBC Board and the Director-General's Executive Committee.

Jonathan is a Trustee of BBC Children in Need and led a flagship project focusing on mental health support for children and young people across the UK.

He was previously at ITN for 26 years. He covered the Balkans war, both Gulf wars and the Beijing and London Olympics, worked extensively in the United States, Russia and Africa, was Europe Correspondent for three years and Political News Editor for two. Jonathan received an RTS Judges' Award for negotiating the UK's first televised Prime Ministerial debates in 2010.

#### **FRAN UNSWORTH, Former Director, News and Current Affairs, BBC**



Fran became Director, News and Current Affairs in January 2018. She was previously Director, BBC World Service Group from December 2014. In this role she led the BBC's global news services – BBC World Service, BBC World News and BBC.com – as well as BBC Monitoring. She chaired the BBC's international development charity, BBC Media Action and was deputy to the Director of News and Current Affairs.

Fran began her journalistic career in 1980 in BBC Local Radio, later joining Radio 1's *Newsbeat*. She spent time as a network radio producer in Washington DC and later joined Radio 4's *The World at One* and *PM*. Fran was appointed the BBC's Home News Editor and then, in 2001, Head of Political Programmes. In 2005 she became Head of Newsgathering, running one of the world's largest newsgathering operations with bureaux across the world. Fran left the BBC in March 2022.

Fran is currently the Chair of the International News Safety Institute and of the BBC's international development charity, BBC Media Action.

**SARAH ROSE, President of Channel 5 and UK Regional Lead, Paramount**



Sarah Rose is President of Channel 5 and UK Regional Lead. Based in London, she reports to Pam Kaufmann, President & CEO, International Markets, at Paramount. Rose oversees the Channel 5 and My5 platforms in the UK, as well as maintaining commercial oversight of Paramount's Pay TV brands – MTV, comedy Central and Nickelodeon. Since joining Paramount in 2020, Rose has been a driving force behind the commercial success of the Channel 5 portfolio and My5 and helped to launch Paramount's streaming services in Canada.

In her most recent role of Chief Operating & Commercial Officer for Broadcast UK & International Studios, Rose played a key role in devising and implementing strategy across Paramount's free-to-air, BVOD and pay TV brands. For Paramount's International Studio business, Rose led all commercial and operational activity across its network of creative hubs. Rose joined Paramount from Channel 4, where she was Chief Consumer and Strategy Officer on the Executive Team, responsible for Corporate Strategy, Consumer Insight and Data Science. She originally joined to lead the launch of Channel 4's VOD service (All4) before moving to lead Commercial and Business Development. Rose started her career as a graduate on ITV's fast-track management scheme, eventually assuming the role of General Manager of ITV's Digital Channels. She holds an MA in English and French from the University of Oxford and completed INSEAD's Executive Management Course.

**HELEN JAY, Policy and Communications Consultant**



Helen Jay is a doctoral researcher in the Media and Communications department at the University of Westminster. Alongside her academic work, Helen acts as an external consultant, lecturer and adviser on media and communications policy, with specialism in public service media. Prior to this she worked in the media industry for 15 years including as Head of Policy and Corporate Affairs at Channel 4, where she was responsible for all public policy development and managing relationships with government, parliament and Ofcom.

**RITULA SHAH, Journalist and broadcaster**



Ritulah Shah is the presenter of *Calm Classics* every weekday evening on ClassicFM. Ritula left the BBC in April 2023 after a career spanning almost 35 years. For more than a decade she was the main presenter of *The World Tonight*, Radio 4's evening news programme, which has a focus on international affairs and domestic politics. She was also the lead presenter of *The Real Story*, a weekly current affairs discussion programme on the BBC World Service and a regular chair of *Any Questions?*

Ritula hosts events for businesses, universities and think tanks on everything from current affairs to philosophy. She is on the advisory panel of RUSI, the defence think tank and is an ambassador for the British Asian Trust.

### **MOHIT BAKAYA, Director of Speech and Controller of BBC Radio 4 and Radio 4 Extra**



Mohit Bakaya was appointed Controller of BBC Radio 4 and Radio 4 Extra in July 2019. Alongside that role, he became Director, BBC Speech Audio in May 2022 with responsibility for the overall plans and strategy for the BBC's speech audio content.

Mohit joined BBC Radio in 1993 as a trainee producer. He edited live, daily, arts and ideas programmes on Radio 3. He joined Radio 4's commissioning team in 2008 as Commissioning Editor, Factual, taking the editorial and strategic lead on the network's history, current affairs, religion, natural history and science output.

He was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2023. BBC Radio 4 was named Station of the Year at the Audio and Radio Industry Awards (ARIAs) in 2023.

### **TIM LEVELL, Programme Director, Times Radio**



Tim helped set up Times Radio, the 24-hour news and debate radio station from *The Times* and *Sunday Times*, in June 2020. Featuring presenters such as John Pienaar, Kate McCann, Hugo Rifkind, Jane Garvey and Fi Glover, there are now over 550,000 listeners a week. Their listening time has nearly doubled in the past two years. Before that, Tim was a senior Editor at BBC Radio 5 Live, working with Emma Barnett, and prior to that was Editor of both *Blue Peter* (from 2007-13) and *Newsround* (2006-7), which he also worked on as a reporter and producer.

### **KATE TAYLOR, Founder, Feast Collective**



Kate is the founder of the Feast Collective Freelance Production Network and an award-winning senior producer and exec. She started making docs for the BBC, and branched out into working with *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, Spotify, Audible and so on. Currently she execs *The Chromologist* podcast for cult paint brand Farrow & Ball and produces the Legacy podcast for audio brand Goalhanger Productions. And she spends a lot of time supporting, developing, training and sympathising with audio makers trying to keep afloat in the stormy seas of the industry.

**PROFESSOR CATHERINE JOHNSON, Professor of Media and Communication, Leeds University**



Catherine is also the author/editor of six books and many articles. Her research has informed industry and policy, including at the BBC and Ofcom. She leads the PSM-AP project (Public Service Media in the Age of Platforms), funded by a €1.5m CHANSE grant, that examines the impact of global streaming platforms on public service media in six countries. She is a member of the DCMS College of Experts and has advised the DCMS Select Committee on the future of public service media and pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Media Bill. She is currently chairing the Audiences working group for the DCMS's Future

of TV Distribution Stakeholder Forum.

**HELEN BURROWS, Controller Digital Transition, BBC**



Helen recently joined the BBC as Controller, Distribution to lead their digital transition, networks and spectrum and investigations teams. She led the content and services policy team at BT Group for five years, covering issues including digital inclusion and consumer fairness, content delivery and media policy, online safety and data. Through the pandemic she led BT's efforts to work with the UK Government to support vulnerable customers and citizens.

Prior to BT she worked as a strategic advisor for business leaders, and as a policy expert for government and in Westminster. She has published several research papers with the think tank Demos. She started her career in the creative industries working for Nicole Farhi and Ministry of Sound, then as an award-winning photographer and writer.

**MAGNUS BROOKE, Director of Strategy, Policy and Regulation, ITV**



Magnus has responsibility for ITV's strategy, policy and regulatory teams, which includes overseeing ITV's corporate strategy development and leading on interaction with UK and European regulators, government and parliamentary committees. He sits on the ITV plc Management Board. Magnus is a non-executive director of a number of ITV subsidiaries and JVs and from 2019 - 22 was a non-Executive director of ITN, the news and TV programme producer. From 2014 -19 Magnus was Chairman of the Board of the Brussels based Association of Commercial Television in Europe which represents Europe's commercial broadcasters to the EU institutions. Prior to joining ITV he was Head of the BBC Director-General's Office for both Greg Dyke and Mark Thompson. He began his career as a lawyer specialising in regulatory and competition law at City of London law firm Ashursts, where he also trained.

**ED LEIGHTON, Director of Strategy and Policy, Ofcom**



At Ofcom Ed leads strategic work looking at emerging questions across the sectors which Ofcom regulates. He is leading work on the future of TV distribution, media literacy and digital inclusion, following previous roles in Ofcom's Public Policy team and leading implementation of Ofcom's fibre broadband strategy.

**LAURIE PATTEN, Director of Strategy and Regulation, Arqiva**



Laurie leads the strategy and regulatory team at Arqiva where he has worked since 2012. His role spans the media and utilities sectors where Arqiva is a leading player providing core services such as TV and radio broadcasting, global media connectivity, smart metering and wider monitoring and communications services. At Arqiva he has been Chair of Freeview and held board positions across Digital UK, Freeview and Youview. He started work in the media sector in 2000 at consultants Spectrum Strategy working for broadcasters, regulators, pay TV operators, rights holders and investors on a global basis before moving on to work at ITN in 2009. Laurie started his career as a government economist.