

# CREATIVE SPARKS

## Television

From the stars of *The Inbetweeners* to the creator of *Peaky Blinders* and *Broadchurch*, UK universities are behind some of the country's best-loved television.

### University of Central Lancashire

Staff and students recreated a lost episode of *Doctor Who*, which premiered on the official *Doctor Who* YouTube channel.

### University of Kent

After graduating with a degree in English and American literature, Gavin Esler went on to become an award-winning television and radio broadcaster, novelist and journalist.

### University College London

English graduate Steven Knight CBE, the writer and creator of BBC's *Peaky Blinders*.

### University of South Wales

More than 40 students and graduates worked on the BBC adaptation of Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*.

### Brunel University London

English and drama graduate Greg Davies, the stand-up comedian and actor who is best known for his role as Mr Gilbert in *The Inbetweeners*.

### Regent's University London

Isabelle Sieb, the BAFTA-nominated director, studied screenwriting and producing at the university.

### The University of Cumbria

Two BA Wildlife Media students worked on BBC 4's *Life of a Mountain* series while studying.

### University of Sheffield

Chris Chibnall, a television writer and producer best known as the creator of the award-winning ITV mystery-crime drama *Broadchurch* and showrunner for *Doctor Who*, gained an MA in Theatre and Film from the university.

### Queen's University Belfast

Drama graduate Lisa McGee, a scriptwriter who shot to fame with her television hit *Derry Girls*.

### Leeds Trinity University

The Reverend Kate Bottley found fame as one of the stars of Channel 4's *Gogglebox*, and since has presented BBC documentaries, and appeared on *Songs of Praise* and BBC Radio 2.

### University of Northampton

TV presenter, scientist and author Dallas Campbell credits his university experience with helping him launch a successful career.

### University of the West of England, Bristol

Filmmaker Lindsey Parretti won a BAFTA for *Blood Island*, a film about chimpanzees made while she studied MA Wildlife Filmmaking.

### Open University

The university has partnered with the BFI to offer short-courses in film to flexible learners worldwide.

## Design

Environmentally-friendly snow developed for the Hollywood film industry and an interactive soft toy which improves the mental wellbeing of people with dementia.

### University of Aberdeen

A collaboration between Spectra's Cameron Gleave and Dr Monica Germana has led to a major light installation at Aberdeen's light festival.

### Aston University

3D printer technology using recycled plastic bottles to create prosthetic hands and microscopes for the developing world.

### University of Bristol

Environmentally-friendly snow developed for the Hollywood film industry by Bristol graduate Lizzie Mould.

### Glasgow School of Art

A project to train dogs to help people suffering with early-stage dementia was started by students in their final year.

### Teesside University

BA (Hons) Industrial Design graduate Marek Reichman designed the Aston Martin DBS featured in *Casino Royale*.

### Cardiff Metropolitan University

HUG, an interactive device which improves the mental wellbeing of people with advanced dementia was designed by a team at Cardiff Metropolitan University.

### Imperial College London

The tech startup Humanising Autonomy makes automated vehicles safer by helping machines understand human behaviour. It was set up by three graduates from Imperial's Dyson School of Design Engineering.

### Northumbria University

Sir Jonathan Ive, best known as the designer of the iMac, iPod and iPhone, graduated with a first class degree in Design for Industry in 1989.

## Music

Pink Floyd, Snow Patrol and Rudimental are just some of the acts to have their origins at UK universities.

### Wrexham Glyndwr University (WGU)

Focus Wales, an international festival featuring emerging talent alongside big-name acts, was started by two WGU graduates.

### The University of the Highlands and Islands

Award-winning album *The Musicians' Nest*, the music of students and alumni.

### University of Surrey

Conor Manning co-wrote *Piece of Your Heart* by Meduza (featuring Goodboys) while in his final year at university. The song has since been nominated for a Grammy award.

### Birmingham City University

Laura Mvula, the acclaimed British singer-songwriter and MOBO-prize winning artist. She described her time in the university's practice rooms as part of her "foundations" as an artist.

### University of Exeter

Promoter Rod MacSweeney brought acts like The Who and T-Rex to Exeter while a student, and now has a stable of rock's biggest acts.

### Leeds Beckett University

One half of drum and bass act Rudimental honed their talents in the university's music department.

### Nottingham Trent University

BBC Radio 1 DJ Jack Saunders began his career while working at the university's student radio station.

### University of Stirling

Hamish Hamilton, the award-winning director, made his name directing major live music events such as the MTV and BRIT award shows, and concert tour performances by the likes of U2, Madonna and Robbie Williams. He studied accountancy at university but honed his skills working for the student radio station.

### University of Westminster

Pink Floyd's Roger Waters, Nick Mason and Nick Mason formed the iconic rock band while studying architecture at university.

### University of Hull

Musicians Tracey Thorn and Ben Watt formed their acoustic band Everything But The Girl after meeting at university.

### University of Huddersfield

John Warhurst, one of the film industry's most accomplished sound editors, won a BAFTA and Oscar for his work on *Bohemian Rhapsody*. He graduated with a degree in orchestral composition and arrangement.

### University of Dundee

Gary Lightbody formed the band Snow Patrol while he was a student at the university.

### University of Sunderland

Malcolm Gerrie, the creator of *The Tube*, Channel 4's irreverent music show. An honorary graduate, he has worked on some of the biggest music events from the past 30 years, including Band Aid, Live 8 and The BRIT Awards.

## Literature

The first MA in Children's Book Illustration, and children's authors Michael Rosen and Cressida Cowell are just some of the UK's Creative Sparks from the world of literature.

### Oxford Brookes University

Award-winning author Anne Youngson studied creative writing at the university after retiring from the motoring industry.

### Anglia Ruskin University

The MA in Children's Book Illustration was the first of its kind in the UK, and has produced hundreds of award-winning illustrators.

### Newcastle University

Home to multi-award winning poets including Sinéad Morrissey, Jacob Polley, Tara Bergin, and Sean O'Brien.

### University of Brighton

Cressida Cowell, the author of the best-selling *How to Train Your Dragon* series and current UK Children's Laureate, wrote her first children's book while studying illustration at the University of Brighton.

### University of Chester

Actor, playwright and stage manager Ruth Estevez, whose credits include *Emmerdale* and *Bob the Builder*.

### Royal Holloway, University of London

Creative writing graduate Anna Whitwham's first novel, *Boxer Handsome*, was shaped by her PhD at the university.

### University of Birmingham

Award-winning actor and director Adrian Lester is the active patron of a University of Birmingham project (Everything to Everybody) that is making Shakespeare's collections accessible to communities across the city. He is an honorary graduate from the university.

### St George's University of London

Roopa Farooki is a multi-cultural writer whose books have been translated into several languages and published around the world.

### University of Liverpool

Pavilion Poetry, a standalone poetry imprint, which has published 14 collections to critical acclaim.

### University of Oxford

Author Jasmine Richards' experience at university led to her setting up STORYMIX, a children's fiction production company with a focus on inclusive representation.

### University of Reading

Michael Rosen, the children's author and poet best known for books such as *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, received an MA in Children's Literature in 1993.

### Keele University

Tony Elliot created *Time Out* magazine in 1968, after editing *Unit*, the student magazine, while studying economics, French and history.

## Animation

The creator of *Bob the Builder* and *PAW Patrol*, Keith Chapman, is one of many talented animators who trained at a UK university.

### Bournemouth University

Helping to make the UK a centre of excellence for special effects and animation.

### Ulster University

Visual communications graduate Oliver Jefers is an artist, illustrator and writer who has also directed videos for U2.

### City, University of London

Kugali, an entertainment platform where African writers tell African stories, was co-founded by City graduate Ziki Nelson, and has recently partnered with Disney.

### University of Strathclyde

Bringing animated characters such as *Nemo* and *Lightning McQueen* to life.

### University of East London

Fashion students collaborated with Covet Fashion, designing outfits for their market leading fashion gaming app and its 2.5 million monthly active users.

### Norwich University of the Arts

Keith Chapman, the creator of popular television programmes such as *Bob the Builder* and *PAW Patrol*. He studied illustration and graphics.

## Drama

From the lighting designer for Stormzy's *Glastonbury* set to the comedian Nish Kumar, UK universities have produced some of the most influential names in film, drama and theatre.

### Swansea University

English and drama graduate Annabelle Apsion, the actress best known for playing Monica Gallagher in the hit television series *Shameless*.

### SOAS, University of London

Research conducted at SOAS has informed key works of fiction by popular writers including Zadie Smith, leading to truthful representations of cultures.

### The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama

Senior lecturer Vanessa Way developed a ground-breaking approach to the way physical intimacy is portrayed by actors, leading to improved practice in the film, television, and stage industries.

### Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama

Technical theatre graduate Tim Routledge was the lighting designer for the iconic Stormzy set at Glastonbury 2019 and the London 2012 Olympics opening ceremony.

### University of Manchester

Inspired by meeting prisoners on the university's Theatre in Prisons and Probation module, student Cara Looj founded the (In)sane arts initiative to engage local people in creative conversations about mental health.

### University of Worcester

Graduate Casey Bailey is a poet, spoken word performer and rapper whose work has featured on BBC radio, TV, and on the international stage.

### University of Glasgow

Africa in Motion, a film festival dedicated to bringing African cinema to British audiences.

### University of Nottingham

Ruth Wilson, the actress who won a Golden Globe for her performance in the American TV drama series *The Affair*. She developed her craft while studying history.

### Durham University

Nish Kumar, the comedian and presenter of BBC Two's *The Mash Report*, started his comedy career in The Durham Revue, the student theatre.

### University of Wales Trinity St David

Theatre students are working with the charity Oasis to run workshops for refugees and asylum seekers who have settled in Cardiff.

### University of West London

Singer Leiyah worked with Grammy-nominated producers on her debut single which premiered on BBC 1Xtra while she was studying for a Masters in Music Industry Management.

## Film

Creative Sparks from film include the co-writer of the Oscar-winning film *1917*, and *Bait*, the BAFTA-winning film that was written, produced and directed by university staff and students.

### University of Hertfordshire

Film director Mart Bira's award-winning documentary *Nomadic Doctor* was developed as part of her studies at the university. It follows the life of a Mongolian doctor providing healthcare to the country's nomadic people.

### Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Krysty Wilson-Cairns, the co-writer of the BAFTA-winning film *1917*. She studied digital film and television.

### Canterbury Christ Church University

Kate Blewett, a documentary maker who has won more than 100 awards, including 5 Emmys, a BAFTA and a Prix Italia, for her hard-hitting documentaries. She studied radio, film and television.

### University of Essex

Stephen Daldry, the director of *Billy Elliot*, has received eight BAFTA nominations, three Oscar nominations and two Golden Globe nominations. He studied acting at the university.

### University of the West of Scotland

Digital animation graduate Clare Hernon helped to make Channel 4's animated version of Judith Kerr's classic tale *The Tiger Who Came To Tea*.

### Salford University

James Knowles, Daniel Bott, Elliot Kramer and Luke Calvey are still studying for their Film Production degrees but have already launched their own film production company, Entity Pictures, producing content for clients making a short film, *In a Field of Mud and Bone*.

### University of Gloucestershire

Lecturer Lindsey Dryden is an award-winning film director and producer whose credits include produce *Unrest*, which won a Sundance Special Jury Award.

### Queen Margaret University

Michael Grant and Agata Jagodzinska met at the University and went on to develop a filming film production company called Raw Film Productions. They have recently been working with the Scottish Government, creating videos with guidance around the COVID-19 pandemic.

### De Montfort University

Ben Frost honed his skills at De Montfort University while studying multimedia design. He has gone on to win three Oscars for his work on *Frozen*, *Big Hero 6* and *Zootopia*.

### Bangor University

Osian Williams, an award-winning film maker, credits his success to the support he received while studying. A bursary from the university enabled him to buy his first camera.

### Falmouth University

The BAFTA-winning film *Bait* was made in collaboration with Falmouth University. The university invested in the film, which was directed by a lecturer, while a mix of current students and graduates worked on the crew and post-production.

### Royal College of Art

The Academy Award winning director of feature documentaries *Amy* and *Senna*, Asif Kapadia, won his first Cannes Film Festival award with his graduation film, *The Sheep Thief*, from his Royal College of Art MA in Film & TV Direction.

## Fashion

Take a look at the Creative Sparks from fashion:

### University of the Arts London

A guide encouraging film and TV stars to be more sustainable with their outfits on the red carpet.

### London Metropolitan University

Alex Monroe runs his own critically acclaimed jewellery business. He has collaborated with many major brands including Nike, Anthropologie and the National Trust.

### University of Sussex

English graduate Natalie Lennard, an award-winning photographer better known as Miss Aniela. She is a pioneer of the surreal fashion genre with exhibitions in the Houses of Parliament and Saatchi Gallery.

## Art, Dance and Photography

The first black artist to be permanently exhibited in the House of Commons and a field of ceramic poppies at the Tower of London feature as Creative Sparks from the art world.

### Middlesex University

Kelvin Okafor, the first black artist to be permanently exhibited in the House of Commons, started working with charcoal while studying fine art at the university.

### University of Bedfordshire

Students are bringing Luton's hat-making heritage to life through art to entertain the local community during the Covid-19 lockdown.

### University of Suffolk

Fine art graduate Anika Hobson won the 2018 Young Artist Award as part of the prestigious BP Portrait Awards at the National Portrait Gallery.

### University of Derby

Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red, the Tower of London exhibition featuring 888,246 ceramic poppies, was created by Derby arts graduate Paul Cummins to mark the centenary of the start of the First World War.

### Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance

Sir Matthew Bourne, Emma Gladstone and David Mathering founded a dance company called Adventures in Motion Pictures, which has since evolved into the award-winning company New Adventures.

### University Portsmouth

Alecsandra Dragoi is a photographer known for producing superior, high-quality imagery and has been recognised with numerous awards.

## Gaming, Advertising and Digital

The creators of the award-winning *My Dad Wrote A Porno* podcast and *Grand Theft Auto* are among the Creative Sparks from the gaming, advertising and digital industries.

### Abertay University

Dave Jones, the creator of *Grand Theft Auto*, went to Abertay University and is now an advocate of Dundee's computer gaming industry.

### Sheffield Hallam University

Ivan Phelan is a games developer and research associate whose virtual reality applications have won him a host of prestigious awards.

### University of Leeds

The creators of the award-winning *My Dad Wrote a Porno* podcast met at the university. It has been downloaded more than 150 million times.

### University of Plymouth

Formed by four graduates, Elixel is an award-winning digital agency specialising in designing and building digital products and services.

### University of Lincoln

Some of the UK's most successful YouTube stars studied at the University of Lincoln, including Thomas Ridgewell and vloggers Jack Howard and Dean Dobbs.

### Cardiff University

Creative Cardiff is an award-winning network for the creative industries.

### Buckinghamshire New University

Award-winning duo Freya Harrison and Gina Ramsden completed a degree in creative advertising. Together they have produced memorable adverts for global brands.

### Kingston University

Kingston School of Art has launched a creative agency to give students from a variety of disciplines the opportunity to work together on live creative briefs.

### University of York

The university is home to the team that is bringing the UK's creative businesses, researchers and technologists together to create the next generation of highly immersive esports experiences.

## Get in touch

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