

Tell me about the work you do at the BBC.

I am a Script Editor on daytime drama 'Doctors'. I've been working for the BBC for around 13 years, and I basically commission writers to write episodes and then give them guidance on story structure, characters and on going serial journeys at every stage of the scripting process. They usually produce a scene-by-scene breakdown followed by four or five drafts of scripts. At every stage they are also provided with medical/police research and input from Producers. I am usually working on somewhere between 6 or 12 scripts at varying stages at any one time. The final stage is to prepare the script for filming and hand it over to a Director so they can bring the whole thing to life.

What inspired you to go into the media?

I love characters and storylines. I've always had a vivid imagination too so that kind of helps in the job I do. I love creating things from scratch and then executing the ideas whilst overcoming any challenges along the way – and I definitely love a challenge.

What challenges did you face and how did you overcome them?

The biggest challenge is how best to 'sell yourself' in a highly competitive industry. You have to be driven, ambitious and determined to get your foot through the door. Overcoming the challenges requires a lot of patience – you have to do more than just present an impressive CV. You have to be able to network efficiently and not be afraid to put yourself out there and talk to people – sometimes a lot of people!

What are the 3 most important things you've learnt throughout your career?

I've learned that nothing happens well without solid team effort. If the team is weak, the productivity is affected and that isn't good for anyone – we are all the same side and ultimately our end goal should be the same. I have also learned that attention to detail is everything – check everything twice and then check it again. Finally, flexibility is paramount – sometimes things don't work and you are racking your brains on how to fix it. Be open to other people's suggestions and choose your battles wisely.

Who has been your biggest inspiration/role model to date?

My mother is the biggest inspiration (and support) in my life. She has always encouraged me to pursue my dreams and ambitions and is a voice of positivity when it is needed most. Professionally, I have a great deal of respect for Kate Oates who is currently the Series Producer on Coronation Street. We worked together many years ago in radio drama and I have always admired her resilience and natural talent for story-telling.

We hear a lot about lack of diversity in the media, in your view what more can be done to bridge the gap between people from diverse communities and media organisations?

We have to work harder on this collectively. Things are improving but still at a slower pace than it should be. People should talk to each other more and look for the opportunities for collaboration that will bring diverse people together more. I am

proud of the work we do here at BBC Doctors in terms of reflecting diversity in the workforce and in our drama output – I personally feel we get better at this every year. We make good progress in increasing awareness and are definitely headed in the right direction.

What advice would you give to anyone considering a career in the media?

Firstly, you have to really want it. It's a tough industry and it takes a lot of patience when it comes to getting the right opportunities. Watch and read everything and learn from what other people are already doing. Networking is also important – it might not be your thing but it really is the best way to meet people who might be able to help you. And even if it seems like an unreachable goal at times – keep going and you will get your break. This industry is working harder than ever on diversity and employing ethnic minorities – if you have the talent and the will, it can happen for you!