

## Kam Odedra

- What were you doing before you successfully gained a place on the Media Foundation Placement Scheme?

In July 2008 I had just returned from a 7 month trip around India and South East Asia and found myself back in Liverpool where I graduated, with the intention of gaining employment in the TV industry. I knew that I would have to be patient in order to get my foot, in so in the meantime I got a temp job. The job wasn't ideal but I made the most of it by doing things like arranging local press to cover stories the managers wanted to promote which meant I could meet potential media contacts at the same time!

I utilised my time temping by calling old contacts in my lunch break, approaching new media professionals and most importantly I caught up with the TV I had missed whilst out of the country!! A couple of months went by and I began doing dailies for LIME Pictures and ITV and then worked for the MTV Europe Music Awards 2008 and kept my eye out on the North West Vision & Media Website for the MFPS Application to go live. It's strange thinking that this was only last year.

My time with the scheme and post scheme has been incredibly busy and I'm so proud of everything I've achieved.

- What did you hope to achieve from your placement?

As I have worked in the industry before, I wanted to cement myself within an organisation and engross myself within drama. It is much easier to keep up to date with who's making what when you are working in the genre yourself so I constantly sought people to converse with, with the intention of learning and expanding my knowledge.

I also wanted to achieve a new pool of contacts as I know how important it is to maintain good relations with professionals in the industry. This would ultimately be my responsibility to make a good impression. I feel I achieved this well by leaving the scheme having made some very good friends along the way, both fellow trainee friends as well as the professionals I worked with day to day.

- Was the training you received as you expected?

## MFPS Case Study

I was looking forward to more hands on training. Apart from a few exceptions, this wasn't the case. The Development sessions were a great opportunity to see our fellow trainees and share experiences of work. I felt this was a great outlet to talk about our placements and it also gave us a social circle which was great as we effectively have each other as contacts in the future.

### ➤ What have you taken away from your training?

I have put my Z1 Training into practise which was really effective when I was freelancing. A camera was needed for a read-through and I had previously mentioned I have had training on a Z1 so was given the responsibility to set it up and operate for the duration of the read-through. I really enjoyed it and was pleased I had the training to put into practise.

### ➤ Where are you at now and what are your plans for the future?

I am currently working as a Freelance Production Assistant for MTV Europe Music Awards 2009 Berlin. I have been London based for this job, so have moved out of the North West temporarily. It's a freelance job so I plan to move back up North when I can and return to Drama.

### ➤ What advice would you give to others thinking about applying for the scheme?

To others who are considering applying for the MFPS Scheme, I would suggest they take every opportunity to meet as many people as possible. During my time on the scheme, I undertook roles which were not necessarily in my profile description but by developing trust with colleagues, I demonstrated my abilities and was asked to step up when necessary. It is not a case of feeling you have a right to go above your station- even if you know you're capable. A valuable lesson is realising you need to earn someone's trust which can only happen with time, but it's time well spent as you will reap the benefits of this afterwards so just be patient.

Word of Mouth is the best reference in the industry and its how I have achieved and secured my 2 freelance jobs since leaving the scheme.