

CHRIS LEONARD CV

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Personal Statement

I've always been a storyteller, compelled to write scripts in my spare time when not engaged in a 'proper job' that pays the mortgage in Internal Communications, Journalism or Copywriting.

What these jobs have in common is how they enable me to meet people from diverse backgrounds and life stages, that inspire and feed into my screenwriting - whether it's in my current role in social housing, or working for organisations in Government, healthcare, transport and construction sectors.

Since graduating with Distinction from UAL's Screenwriting MA, I've continued writing scripts that resonate with me as I seek the one opportunity I need to open the door to a screenwriting career, while meeting and supporting other early-career writers as I continue to refine my craft.

Writing Career History (Screenwriting and Script Editing)

- **Paid for script reading/ editing:** Clients from networking and Scribe Lounge website (one client's project was finalist in Studio21 Drama Series Script Competition 2023)
- **Storylining/ scriptwriting/ editing:** On MA, as-real script development process to outline and write spec *Emmerdale* episode, with core writer Samantha Doland-de Vaux ('A' grade)
- **Competition Script reader:** For Voices of the Future screenwriting competition
- **MA Screenwriting (UAL):** Gave and received written and verbal feedback in workshops, made contacts
- **Mentor to young scriptwriters:** Through 'You Make It' scheme (Writer got onto BBC Comedy Writers Room 2020-21); and MA Animation student at UAL
- **'London Screenwriters' Meetup.com group:** Ran group between 2005-2008

Scriptwriting Awards and Achievements

- ***Buffer Generation (TV series pilot 45 mins)***
Shortlisted: Studio21 Scene-by-Scene Script Competition 2024
- ***Signal Passed At Danger (TV series pilot 60mins)***
Semi-finalist: ScreenCraft Screenwriting Fellowship (2023)
- ***A Good Death (TV series pilot 60mins)***
Finalist: Page Turner Awards (2022)
Quarter-finalist: ScreenCraft TV Pilot Script Competition (2023)
- ***In Country (Crime-adjacent drama TV pilot 60mins)***
Finalist: Page Turner Awards (2022)
Quarter-finalist: WeScreenplay TV Pilot competition (2021)

Contd:

- **Visitor (Filmed monologue)**

Asked to write last-minute entry for NGPM agency competition (placed 5th/ 21 entries).

- **Ripples in Romania (British dramedy feature written for MA)**

Quarter-finalist: Stage 32 Feature Drama Contest (2021)

- **Remembrance (Short written on MA)**

Official Selection: HollyShorts Film Festival (2020)

Semi-finalist: Filmmatic Short Screenplay Awards (2020)

- **New Eden (Spec sci-fi feature)**

Quarter-finalist: Final Draft Big Break (2018)

Quarter-Finalist: ScreenCraft Sci-Fi & Fantasy Contest (2018)

Credits

- **Writer:** short film *Paradise Lost* (2021)
- **Script Editor:** short film *Lauren Hayes* (2020)
- **Writer-Producer:** short film *Obsolete* (2010)
- **Script and Continuity:** web series *When Evil Calls* (2006)

Education

- **MA (Distinction):** Screenwriting (University of the Arts London)
- **BA (Hons):** Film Studies (Solent University)

Relevant Professional and Corporate Experience

Internal Communications, The Guinness Partnership (2024-)

- Business partner for certain Directorates, providing internal communications support
- Sourcing and writing residents' stories for internal use - inspiring and informing Guinness employees

Internal Communications, BAM UK & Ireland (2021-23)

- Script editor for corporate videos
- Provided support to comms team writing intranet feature articles and staff newsletter

Internal Communications Manager, National Audit Office (2018-19)

- Internal comms lead on new NAO strategy (including scripting and producing internal videos)

Head of Internal Comms, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (2018-19)

- Produced scripted short films on business plan and vision
- Scripted/produced quarterly CEO updates/ internal 'Question Time' panel events (filmed)

Internal Communications Manager, Great Western Railway (2013-17)

- Produced internal re-branding/ strategy videos for railway and new uniform launches
- Developed GWR internal brand/writing style guidelines, leading training workshops