

#MonthlyMotivation: Mandy Temple (class of 1972)



Since falling in love with the world of TV and Film Production, Mandy's career has been forged by her creativity and passion to make a difference to others.

Initially, what did you do after leaving Putney?

Initially I did a year's secretarial and business studies course, followed by a stint at BP Chemicals. I then decided to jump ship and I joined the BBC as a Junior Secretary; I immediately fell in love with TV Production.

What did you go on to do?

After being made redundant by the BBC a number of years ago, I decided to go 'freelance' and eventually set up my own Film Company ([Mandy Temple Films](#)) which makes films for charities, schools, and corporate clients. I also have a very successful Network Marketing Business and manage a team of around 500 distributors.

What are some of your TV and Film career highlights?

After deciding to make a career in TV and Film, I feel I have broken through the glass ceiling to prove that you don't need to have a First-class honours degree to be a successful film maker! I confounded the doubters by getting a [BAFTA Nomination](#), and by being a runner up to the great Steven Spielberg at the International Emmy's in New York. Another highlight was winning the Premios Ondas for best European film. I've travelled the world and had many adventures – good and bad!

Did you always know you wanted to go into film?

I always knew I wanted to do something creative and people based, and when I landed at the BBC, I knew I had found my 'home'. I've never done a media course or had any official training – I simply learned on the job; found people who would support and encourage me.

What does a working day look like for you?

There is no such thing as a typical working day for me, particularly as I work from home. If I'm producing a film project I could be liaising with contributors and film crews, writing proposals and schedules, compiling a budget, editing scripts, juggling dates, or wading through my emails.

If I'm on location, I'll leave home at the crack of dawn ready to travel. Recently I've come back from an amazing trip to the Townships in South Africa, where I made a 25-minute film following the journey of an authoress and executive coach as she delivered books and 'Dreams Workshops' to children.

What type of film are you most interested in?

I've worked with many celebrities but prefer to make films which make a difference to people's lives - i.e. documentaries about the aftermath of Chernobyl, adoption, children with physical and mental challenges, alternative medicine, Crimewatch, Watchdog, Holiday Programmes, Cookery Programmes and children's programmes.

What challenges have you faced over your career?

There have been so many, but the biggest I suppose was when I was made redundant by the BBC which was a real shock; totally unexpected. However, in hindsight, like a lot of things that seem bad at the time, this ended up being a blessing. I was indeed thrown out of the nest, but I had to fly! I don't think anything prepares you for redundancy, but I am a fighter and I gained strength through it.

How do you think Putney has helped you in your career?

Although I was never a 'star' pupil, and must have caused many of my teachers to consider quitting altogether, my over-riding memories of Putney is of a school that encouraged and supported.

I most definitely have my wonderful English teachers to thank for never giving up on me and finding a key to unlock my creativity and my passion for 'making a difference' to others.

What are you currently working on?

I'm currently writing a book about my life in Television (provisionally entitled 'Confessions of a Woz Kid') which charts my journey; the highs and lows, the many adventures I've had, and the lessons I have learnt along the way.

Do you have any snippets about those adventures?

I could go on for pages and pages about the different films I've made, the people I've met; for example, whilst researching for a film about an up and coming boy band who didn't have a recording contract, I chose a group called Take That!

What advice would you give to current pupils or alumnae looking at a career in the world of TV and Film?

Like many industries, filming and television has changed significantly over the years. My advice is to identify where your heart is; what makes you jump out of bed with excitement on a freezing cold morning?

Identify the production companies/broadcasters that you would like to be a part of and then beg, steal or borrow a way in – even if it is as an unpaid runner. It is a "who you know" world, and my biggest breaks have come from relationships I've built, not from sending out CVs. My last bit of advice is to stand out from the crowd, don't be afraid to be different, and if the door is shut, find a way to knock it down!