

Chris Curley

COMMISSIONING EDITOR and EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

My depth and breadth of experience in production and commissioning brings creative strategy skills, leadership, knowledge and expertise with an extensive network of contacts.

Established industry figure with a successful track record in commissioning and production:

- Developed and championed a creative strategy as Comedy Central Commissioning Editor for Entertainment which led to winning Broadcast Digital Channel of the Year.
- Developed and commissioned 'Gods of the Game' which was the highest rated new show of 2020 for Comedy Central and was nominated for Best New Comedy Format at the International Format Awards 2021.
- Series Editor of ITV's 'Off Their Rockers' described by the Daily Mirror 'Contains more warmth, hope and humour than anything else on TV right now. It's still the funniest show on TV.'
- Opened the 2019 Edinburgh TV Festival producing a live version of our hit reboot of the quiz 'Blockbusters'

Experienced entertainment producer with a wide ranging knowledge of the genre:

- Extensive development and production experience working with key suppliers of all the major broadcasters. Produced established talent such as David Walliams, Paul Merton and Greg Davies. Developed and nurtured new talent including Tom Allen, Katherine Ryan and Jamali Maddix.
- Panel show and hidden camera development and production experience such as BBC's 'Room 101', 'Ask Rhod Gilbert' and ITV's 'Off Their Rockers.'
- Developed and produced quiz shows - over 300 hours of quiz show experience such as 'Topranko' for Channel 5 and commissioned the successful comedy reboot of Dara O'Brian's 'Blockbusters' which was the higher rating original show in 2019 for Comedy Central in the 16-54s all adults demographic.
- Reality production experience of Channel 4's 'Big Brother 7', E4's dating show 'My Little Princess', MTV's 'Geordie Shore' and ITV2's 'Blue Go Mad in Ibiza.'
- Lead production of multi strand shiny floor variety entertainment shows, for example, BBC1's 'The Friday Show' and 'Channel 4's 'Celebrity Ding Dong.'
- Topical production experience on ITV's 'Funny Old Year', Sky's 'David Walliams' Wall of Fame' and Channel 4's 'Richard and Judy.' Live production experience of TLC's 'Royal Wedding of William and Kate.'

Proven commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion on screen and in production:

- This was particularly the case at Comedy Central in terms of casting, writing, performing and production pathways on our shows. We also developed VisABLE and LGBTQ+ talent in our digital platforms with great success for Rosie Jones and Jordan Gray.
- As a freelance producer, I established my own internship schemes at the Universities of Salford and Sheffield for students from under represented backgrounds. Candidates have developed successful careers producing shows like 'The Mash Report' and 'Question Time.'
- I was responsible for the recruitment, selection and management of the annual Viacom internship and as a result the successful applicants have become development producers in independent production companies and social content agencies.

Highly creative and innovative development exec:

- Devised and chaired a new commissioning process to oversee and manage relationships between Comedy Central and the production community. This brought together teams like digital, marketing and scheduling to review ideas much earlier in the process meaning we could move into funded development and production more quickly. The result (given we were dealing with over 750 proposals from 150 companies) was greatly improved relationships with producers and most significantly, this new approach resulted in our highest rating shows for Comedy Central in 2019 and 2020.

- Established entertainment executive who has benefitted from exploring the digital environment to provide content, develop talent and to identify key trends such as casting Tez Ilyas and Jamali Maddix for their first panel show experiences on 'Safeword' and commissioning 'Gods of the Game' supported by research of digital hits where members of the public challenged sporting legends.
- Developed a scouting network via the new internal process and a social media plan of action to develop new ideas to support our existing content whilst at Comedy Central for shows like 'Roast Battle', 'Amusical' and 'Gods of the Game.'
- Lead the talent development strategy at CCUK regularly liaising with talent agencies, management and talent to directly develop fitting new ideas and areas of programming with a critical eye to our diversity drive.
- Generated new ideas by scrutinising and imaginatively examining other commercial content areas which lead to the negotiation, development and production of a new entertainment format with the creators of the worldwide hit board game, 'Cards Against Humanity.'
- Part of the development team for ITV's 'Ninja Warrior' and ITV2's spoof reality show 'Blue Go Mad In Ibiza.'
- Ran development for and took shows into series production of ITV2's panel show 'Safeword', Channel 4's product inventor format 'Buy It Now', BBC1's panel show 'Ask Rhod Gilbert', BBC2 music quiz 'Gareth Malone Marvellous Music Quiz' and E4's dating format 'My Little Princess.'

Demonstrable seniority in areas of strategic thinking, editorial policy and compliance:

- In my role at Comedy Central as Executive Producer, I oversaw all aspects of production and my broad extensive experience as a freelancer, meant I had the knowledge to solve new problems and pre-empt others with creative solutions, analyse budgets, resolve business affairs, risk assessments, examine legal and compliance issues, and duty of care policies; focused on editorial concerns during production and post-productions; with a great understanding of a variety of production schedules and budget management signing off commissioning specs for approval.
- My strong, traditional entertainment background is matched with a sharp focus on the changing nature of broadcasting. I am a strategic thinker who uses current techniques to continually evolve, adapt and change my creative thinking. The use of data, analytics and social media platforms, whilst also closely monitoring the changing audience habits informs my creative decision making process to produce new, original and most importantly entertaining television shows.
- Represented the channel at industry events such as CC Live - an ambitious comedy festival which was a big part of our commercial strategy to provide additional value; and I was a frequent speaker at industry events such as 'Mama Youth' and 'Comedy 50:50.'