



Bobby Pathak

Investigative Journalist/Undercover Reporter, (PG 2004)

Lorna on Bobby: The great thing about journalism is that, unlike most careers, there is no precise, set way. There are many roads to your dream destination. Bobby understood that you have to be proactive in getting to your destination, and that you just never know where an opportunity might come from. So when a neighbour of Bobby's asked him what he was up to, he enthused about the journalism course, discovered the neighbour worked for SoapLife magazine...and got himself some sub-editing shifts. He'd never watched a soap opera. I still laugh when I think of him bursting through the door for a tutorial announcing he was doing a crash course that week on soaps.

Some students get upset when told how it is in the real world and what they are up against. Bobby was the opposite. He wanted to know. Aware that his age and the drastic career change he was undertaking weren't ideal in a competitive market, he set about proving he was serious. This is a guy who can fit in absolutely anywhere, and make everyone around him smile, and he used these skills to get ahead. He gained a phenomenal amount of experience while on the intensive full time diploma course by pushing himself to get published. There was absolutely no doubt that he would get to his destination and further.

How Bobby got from journalism college to documentaries: While still studying for my postgraduate diploma, I managed to get a major story in my local London newspaper exposing an influx of aggressive vagrants into the area immediately surrounding the college. I also secured regular shifts sub-editing IPC Media's SoapLife Magazine. This work continued after graduation and led to further sub-editing work on a number of other IPC Media titles. Alongside this I continued to freelance for local newspapers. After two weeks unpaid job film and music reviews for the Daily Mirror's weekly The Ticket supplement, the newspaper's editor offered me paid daily shifts. Stunned that I was even talking to the editor, I told him I'd be happy with any work he gave me but I'd be happier working as part of the news desk. He agreed and told me to come back in six weeks. Knowing I couldn't turn up without a story, I set about working on an investigation of my own volition. That story hit the front page.

After regular shifts on the Daily Mirror I went freelance fulltime, contributing to the Daily Telegraph's Diary section, reporting for the Daily Mirror, writing for middle market tabloids and Sunday broadsheets, as well as business-to-business magazines and specialist publications.

In January 2007 I reported on a Dispatches documentary which was aired on Channel 4. This was a yearlong investigation and was nominated for a Royal Television Society Award for Best Current Affairs programme of 2007. Since then, I have researched and reported for Sky News, researched for Channel 4 News, and I am working on major investigations.

Bobby on Lorna: The importance of a work ethic is probably one of the most important ideas I shared with Lorna V. By the time I met Lorna I was already in my thirties with a successful career as an interior designer for international banks and offices behind me, so the need to roll my sleeves up and get working was an attitude I already firmly agreed with

before I quit interior design to study journalism. Lorna and I clicked from the moment I sat in her tutorial group. Her keen sense of working to deadline in a pressured environment matched my own.

But I learnt a lot more than that from Lorna. She taught me how to focus my writing in order to produce clear, persuasive and accessible copy in a variety of styles to suit a range of target audiences. She also honed my skills within what was a new and alien world of journalism, which has allowed me to maintain constructive relationships while balancing competing demands. Most importantly, she developed my eye for a story, and that has led me to delight in new, creative and innovative ways of getting the message across with precision and accuracy. This all left me in good stead for a new and somewhat daunting career change and has allowed me to continue to flourish.