



Dan Storey

Freelance Producer / Journalist (LSJ PG Diploma 2004)

Lorna on Dan: There are 45-minute (one to one) tutorials that feel like 145 minutes because the student is sulky, arrogant, difficult, bored. And then there are the students I wish I had 145 minutes with. I used to look forward to Dan coming in. Some people have a divine connection to a subject and being around them really is a privilege. That's Dan and film.

But what Dan didn't realise at the time is that he could have chosen any type of journalism or media work if he wanted to. He didn't know that the combination of his down-to-earth nature, his jokes, his willingness to work hard, and the fact that he lapped up all feedback, is exactly what's needed for a job in journalism.

You can have the perfect technical skills but they're pretty useless if you can't get on with people, and that's where most wannabe journalists go wrong. Your tutor is a potential 3-for-1 deal: your first reader, your first boss, and above all, your first mentor. If you write to impress your tutor, and respond professionally to feedback, as if that tutor is your boss, then you'll have a terrific mentor.

I admired the fact that Dan wanted an all-round journalism qualification even though much of the course took him away from film. That showed a true commitment to his long-term dream.

I looked forward to reading his reviews because I knew energy, knowledge and passion would be bursting out of every word, and that each time there would be something to surprise me. Every time I saw him I'd throw a random film name at him and then sit back and listen to him analyse the actor or director's body of work. I wasn't surprised that he was reviewing for film magazines before the course was over, and working at MTV soon after.

If I had to pick just one single moment alone as the highlight of teaching journalism for ten years it would be walking through Soho and hearing my name boom across Beak Street, and then seeing a happy face telling me: 'I'm living my dream.' It was [Dan Storey](#).

Dan on Lorna: I can't begin to describe how much Lorna's words of encouragement and positive feedback helped push me on. As much as I enjoyed the LSJ, there were times when I felt like the one trick pony. Every time I was thinking of throwing in the towel I would come in for a tutorial and Lorna would instantly make me feel better. It meant an awful lot to me. I was really depressed one particular time because I got a C- for an assignment from another tutor, but with no explanation. Lorna went through the assignment with me. She didn't have to do that.

I was made to feel very aware on the course that I stood out like a sore thumb in comparison to the other students. There was my obsession with movies. At the time I was the DVD supervisor at Virgin in Croydon, hence my South Laaaaaaaaandon twang that amused the posse of students so much. Let's just say I wasn't quite as eloquent as the rest of the folks on the course. I felt like a strange animal in a zoo several times when we had to address the class. But these experiences make us who we are. And in a way it probably helped toughen

me up for the big bad world I was about to immerse myself in. We live, we learn. Or at least that's what Alanis Morissette always taught me. Sure, we all experience snobbery in our lives, but oddly enough it's never really been an issue for me in the real working world. Heck, I got told by [Rachel McAdams](#) that she could sit and listen to my cockney twang all day long on a shoot a while back, so that suits me just fine!

I'm currently freelance but spend a vast majority of my time at Sky Movies. I've been blessed over the years and had the privilege to do so many dream-type jobs. The highlight has to be being a part of the BAFTA Jury a few years back which was an awful lot like experiencing a real life Charlie and the Chocolate Factory scenario.

I even had George Clooney as a boss for a week when I worked as EPK (electronic press kit) producer on his movie *The American* over in the beautiful Italian countryside. It was a surreal yet absolutely scintillating experience. I was also the EPK producer for the upcoming Tim Burton/Johnny Depp movie *Dark Shadows* and just recently Jonathan Glazer's (*Sexy Beast* director) new film with Scarlett Johansson, *Under The Skin*.

None of this, not a single thing, could have been achieved without Lorna's help.

Dan's advice: Keep a level head. Learn to walk before you can run. Start off at the bottom. Understand that nothing will be handed to you and that you will have to work hard. Most of all, keep your mouth shut when the chances are you might want to scream! At the same time don't be taken advantage of. Sure, do the work experience and work for free...but only up to a point! Don't give people an inch so they can take the extra mile!