Syd Heather

Award-Winning Director and Screenwriter | Storytelling for Brands, Film & Documentary | Directors UK & BAFTA Connect Member | Directing Reel

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Professional Summary

Multi-award-winning director with a decade of experience crafting distinctive narratives, balancing humour, heart, and visual experimentation. Fast thinking and decisive with a kind and empathetic spirit, I thrive on working with talented teams to bring compelling ideas to life-whether on small, intimate projects or ambitious, dynamic productions. With a production background for projects with *BBC, ITV and Channel 4*, I understand the complexities of production schedules that uniquely informs my natural eye for visuals and fluid directing style.

Key Skills

Storytelling Adaptability: Versatile across genres including romantic comedy, supernatural thrillers, and documentaries, with expertise in tailoring scripts to specific audiences. Calm under pressure and adept at delivering high-quality work within tight deadlines.

Production Expertise: Extensive experience in conceptualising and executing pre-production tasks, including storyboarding, location scouting, and casting. Skilled at negotiation and aligning creative ambitions with logistical and budgetary demands to ensure smooth delivery.

Pitching & Presenting: Strong communicator with proven ability to pitch and present creative ideas. Experienced in managing client relationships and delivering results across departments.

Visual Innovation: Focused on pushing the boundaries of camera placement, perspective, and composition to create visually distinctive work. Skilled in blending technical precision with bold, creative experimentation to enhance narrative impact.

Relationship Building: Adept at cultivating trust and maintaining relationships with contributors, high-profile talent, and diverse freelance teams. Skilled at building long-term partnerships with both emerging and established writers and producers. Experienced in managing sensitive and dynamic environments with diplomacy and professionalism.

Team Leadership & Collaboration: Highly effective at anticipating problems and providing solutions, leading and motivating cast and crew, fostering collaboration, and managing productions from concept to final delivery, including editorial and post production workflow.

Technical Proficiency: Experienced in camera operation (Canon, Panasonic), with proficiency in creative tools such as Canva, social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook), and Google Drive.

Education & Training

London Actor Director Training Lab
Judith Weston x Mandi Riggi (April 2024)

BA (Hons) Film, Radio and Television - First Class with Honours
Canterbury Christ Church University (2009 - 2012)

Selected Directing Experience

Feature Documentaries

- ***Micropubs: The New Local*** (*Director/Producer, 2020*)
  Award-winning obs-doc exploring the UK's craft beer movement through interviews and archival footage. Distributed by *Cinema For All*, broadcast on *London Live* and streaming on *Amazon Prime, YouTube, Tubi, and GuideDoc*.

- ***Only in Cinemas*** (*Director/Producer – Post-Production, 2025*)
  Upcoming feature celebrating Kent's historic cinemas and their cultural importance as communities strive to preserve their local venues from social and economic pressures.

Short Films

- ***On Air*** (*Director, Producer, 2021*)
  Supernatural thriller starring Mandip Gill (*Doctor Who, Curfew*) exploring the female glass ceiling in the film industry, screening at *FrightFest, Nevermore and LSFF*.

- ***Sodabikes*** (*Director/Writer, Producer, 2020*)
  Adventure-comedy about competitive siblings settling family disputes through a chaotic motorbike race. Funded by *Peabody* and distributed by *Shorts International*.

- ***Textual Relationship*** (*Director/Writer, Producer, 2015*)
  Fourth-wall-breaking, bittersweet rom-com about modern online dating. Premiered at the *BFI Future Film Festival* and won *Film of the Night* at the *Limelight Film Awards*.

Branded Content

- ***Nim's Crisps x Amazon Launchpad*** (*Director/Producer, 2023*)
  Directed cinematic product videos for an emerging brand, combining glossy visuals with practical product demonstrations to maximise audience engagement.

- ***Growing Green x NIAB*** (*Director/Producer, 2023*)
  Directed a 10-part digital series promoting small-business sustainability and net-zero goals in agriculture, featuring factory and rural on-location shoots across Kent.

- ***A Brighter Future x Folkestone & Hythe District Council*** (Co-*Director/Producer, 2023)*
  Co-directed a community regeneration promo featuring CGI renders, commercial footage, and drone visuals, which secured a £19.8M Levelling Up Government Grant.

- ***Various x Canterbury Christ Church University*** (*Director/Producer, 2016-present*)
  Long-term video supplier for marketing and training content, including projects on student onboarding, mental health awareness, and staff training, working collaboratively with faculty to align with educational objectives.

Mini Series

- ***The Recovery Rooms*** (*Director/Producer, 2024*)
  Multi-camera docudrama pilot series featuring real world contributors discussing their experiences with addiction as they navigate a 10-step recovery program.

References available on request.
I give consent for my CV to be used and shared for recruitment purposes.