

Chair of the Board, AGM Report – July 2025

The UK production industry in the last 12 months have been on a rebound since the prior year's contraction, which were largely impacted from the strikes and corresponding low production levels. The recovery may be described as less buoyant than many expected, but also filled with promise and much to be thankful for. Whilst homegrown production levels are lower than we have known in recent years, the UK has continued to attract a huge amount of inward investment, very much seen as the 'go to' territory for major US Studio production. Our government has reflected a positive assessment of the industry by way of their investments. This has included a £40 million allocation for film, TV, music and video games as part of the 'Creative Industries' Fund announced in January – and more recently a £75 million Screen Growth Package announced in June. This is intended to create new jobs and growth, and reflects a confidence in the long-term economic benefit of investment in Film and HETV.

It is brilliant that the tax incentives enhancements are now fully active, Audio-Visual Expenditure Credit (AVEC), the additional uplift for VFX, the Independent Film Tax Credit (IFTTC) and Business Rates relief – all supporting growth and opportunity.

For us at PGGB, it has been an active time and a time of change. With our new CEO, Kaye Elliott, commencing her role with us this month, we are looking ahead to an exciting new chapter. We will all benefit from the expertise, vision and deep understanding of the scripted production landscape she brings to the role. We have also been so fortunate to have a truly steadfast, committed and brilliant team running the ship since January under the helm of Michael Beavan, delivering all of our membership offerings so seamlessly, always striving to deliver the best for all.

1. Board and Board Elections

- Our **Executive Committee** and **Board Members** contributions this year are hugely appreciated. As Chair to the Board, I would like to acknowledge the time and care they so consistently offer.
- The Executive Committee has been made up of **myself**, the Chair, along with **Debbie Vertue** and **John Graydon** as Vice Chairs; and **Lara Sargent** as Treasurer.
- As we have been required to recruit and hire a new CEO in this last year, the support from the **Executive Committee** has been vital, and I have felt extremely grateful for their wisdom and availability through this time. A special thanks to **John** and **Debbie** for their close collaboration on this process, they made the challenge always feel collaborative and exciting. Our **Financial Controller Alex Burke** deserves special mention, whose support in this process was essential and appreciated.

- This year board member **Brian Donovan** comes to the end of his four year term and deserves many thanks for devoted contributions and the clarity of his voice which will surely be long remembered!
- **Former Chair Alex Boden** has served the maximum two consecutive terms with eight years on the board, four of which were as Chair. His support, wisdom, insight have been of such a huge value to all – myself, board members, staff and members. His contributions will remain embedded in the Guild for years to come. Thank you Alex.
- Many thanks to **Callum McDougal, Gisela Evert, Kelly Phillips, Matt Spooner, Nick O'Hagan** and **Sarah Lazarides**, who were all co-opted on to the board last year. Their points of view, time and commitment have been hugely appreciated.

2. Membership & Committees

- Thanks to the **Membership Committee**, who are so key to the operations of the Guild. **Jo Evans and Carol Roger** as Co-Chairs, deserve special mention for their collaboration and commitment which is so greatly appreciated.
- Our brilliant **Nations and Regions Committees** have been doing great work. We are very much committed to their continued growth. Thank you to everyone who is contributing as Committee Members, your insight is so important to the evolution of these vital hubs. Special thanks to the Chairs (**Amanda Black, Brian Donovan, Edward Rastelli Lewis, Lynn Roberts, Mia Martell** and **Paul Munn**) for their passion and dedication. A note of thank to **Liza Bolton** for her role as Chair for the Yorkshire Committee before Lynn's appointment.
- Thank you for the new **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee**, who formed in 2024 comprising **Andy Noble, Ben Hughes, Benjamin Greenacre, Cyrus Patel, Georgette Turner, Laura Burrows, Samuel Ampah** and Chair **Valeria Bullo**. A most notable contribution from the committee has been our Emerging Talent Event partnered with Universal International Studios, which was hugely inspiring and successful.
- We held our third **Talent Showcase** event, featuring the **HRH Duke of Edinburgh Inclusion Award**, celebrating organisations and individuals who support inclusivity and have been nominated for their outstanding contributions. Congratulations to finalists **Futures in Films CIC, Katie Player, Mouth That Roars, Natalie Edward-Yesufu** and Winner **Sara Putt Associates Trainee Scheme and Foundation**. We shall be highlighting their work moving forward and encourage engagement with these individuals and organisations that are inspiring champions of inclusion. Thank you to all the jury members and those of you that submitted nominations. Special thanks to our **Royal Patron HRH Duke of Edinburgh** for being so fully engaged with our activities and sincerely interested to spotlight inclusive initiatives.

- With thanks to our **Sustainability Committee** who have succeeded in holding two Sustainability Behind The Lens events this year in London and Wales. These have both been so highly regarded, proving to be a priority event for all of us to maintain a forward-looking perspective on sustainability practices and innovation in our industry. Thank you to **Amelia Price** (Chair), **Lorraine Edwards**, **Louise Marie Smith**, **Karl Leigis**, **Matt Spooner**, **Charlotte Ashby**, **Caitlin McGivern**, **Ella Neville** for being a solid team advocating so brilliantly.

3. Services

- **Events and seminars:** 22 Online Seminars and Masterclasses have been delivered this year. Offering relevant, bespoke and up-to-date industry information for members, and are really so important to ensure this information is readily available to members. It is worth reminding that these are generally recorded and available to view at leisure in a growing library of industry resources. Our in-person events, including those in Nations and Regions, are always so well attended, offering much needed opportunities to connect. Some new events of note included our mixer with British Film Designer Guild and a collaboration with Spotlight, to bring Casting Directors and our members together, broadening our connections and community.
- Our bi-annual **Production Guild of Great Britain Awards** took place in September 2024 and proved to be a highlight for attendees and winners. The reception was warmly received and celebrations were memorable for our extraordinary winners this year. Thanks once more to our sponsors for making the event possible and being great partners to PGGB.
- **Business Partners and Affiliates:** We have been fortunate to retain and attract new partners and affiliates who help to support all of our activities and enable us to offer discounts and opportunities to collaborate. We appreciate the value they place in partnering with us, which greatly enhances our ability to support our members' benefits and offerings.
- We are delighted to have seven **Education Partners**, now including London Film School. We aim to have a mix of HEIs across the UK that can work with our N&R committees and provide talent pipelines and industry relations that support their students. In September 2024 we launched the Student PGGB Login, which offers a limited access to PGGB resource for a final year student at each institution.
- PGGB's **Mentoring Programme** launched in July 2024 and completed in February 2025, with 15 pairings was a great success. The importance of Mentoring within the PGGB framework is certain, given the positive feedback and scope for career-changing impact. We are delighted to be planning the new programme for the year ahead.

4. Training

- We have continued into the second year of the **Talent Development Fund**, and moved into our third year, a £500k fund supported by Entertainment Partners and Netflix Global, supporting the development and progression of Film and HETV production talent across the UK. Training has been delivered to 70+ in the last year, which is a tremendous investment. This has included via:
 - First Assistant Production Accountant Training (Leavesden)
 - Step Up To Production Manager Training (London and Glasgow)
 - Step Up To Production Accountant Training (Scotland and Manchester)
 - TDF Alumni offerings included online masterclasses and complimentary VP Training Day
 - TDF Alumni now have a 6 month trial PGGB membership offering certain PGGB resources and discounts for further training
- **PGGB Short Course Programme** has continued a robust programme at at approx. 17 delivered 2024/25. We introduced a 40% PGGB Member discount for our short courses and have been developing free short courses to be included in our offerings. For those members who accessed our bursaries, two complimentary short course spaces also offered to help support accessible career development.
- The above is just some of training that we have provided in the last year. 61 members and 28 non-members booked short courses over the year.

5. Industrial relations and Work Permits

- PGGB has been active in the negotiation of the MMP Agreement Lighting Technicians Rate Card 2025/2026, which was completed and back dated to commence 1st April 2025 and is active for a two-year period.
- It remains part of PGGB's role in the UK industry to review local UK availability when visa requests are submitted to bring in talent from overseas. Helping to ensure local talent is used when the skillset is available, we have successfully recommended UK professionals to be selected as part of this process.

6. Finances

- Our finances have been strong in recent years and with healthy reserves. Noted in last year's AGM we were able to offer bursaries for those in need to assist with membership fees during an industry downturn, which continued into the earlier part of the last year. We also had the capacity to offer wellbeing support sessions
- Thank you to the Finance Committee for their expert steering and, comprising **Lara Sargent** (Treasurer), **Andrew Noakes**, **John Graydon** and **Michael Kilpatrick**. And to Financial Controller **Alex Burke** for her keen eye, detailed reporting and mathematical prowess.

7. Thank yous

- THANK YOU to all members: you are why we are here. We will always welcome your feedback, your inspiration, your engagement,
- THANK YOU to our affiliates, supporters, business partners and platinum partners – this industry requires collaboration and support and your commitment through your partnership with PGGB allows us to offer so much to membership and helps retain a well rounded community, reflective of our reliance on each other as an ecosystem.
- THANK YOU to staff who have completed their contributions with us this year, but for which we are very grateful and we wish them well with their next endeavours, including Amelia Calkin, Ben Murphy, Johnny Shelton, Matthew Parker. Noting in particular Production Consultant **Anna Skrein**'s supportive leadership role has been second to none and really vital support for Acting CEO Michael Beavan and the team.
- A SPECIAL THANK YOU to our former CEO **Lyndsay Duthie**, whose work with PGGB will forever be felt, with many achievements we can all be grateful for. The establishment of our Nations and Regions Hubs, EDI and Sustainability Committee and securing our Talent Development Fund and Royal Patron, all achieved under her tenure. We wish you well on your next adventure.
- THANK YOU to PGGB's staff who have so brilliantly worked this last year, through a leadership transition with unending enthusiasm and commitment to delivering the best for our members. Warmly welcoming the newer members of the team, who have taken on their responsibilities so cheerfully and productively. Thanking each of you:

Aidan Hawkins, PGGB Coordinator

Alex Burke Financial Controller

Amy Deegan, Head of Membership

Becky Maynard Head of Talent Development

Hannah Matthews Head of Operations

Jazmin Parker Business Development & Events Coordinator

Keighley Taylor Membership Coordinator

Michael Beavan, Acting/Deputy CEO

Michael Hunter Head of Marketing & Communications

Pippy Oliver Business Development & Events Executive

Stina Buechl Digital Communications Executive

Susanna Hargreaves Talent Executive

- A special note of GRATITUDE to **Michael Beavan** for taking on the role of Acting CEO during our leadership transition this year. These duties were taken on with full conscientiousness and care, always mature and devoted to serving PGGB's best interests. The delivery from all the PGGB Team under your leadership has been seamless and superb, thank you.
- Final Thank You to **CEO Kaye Elliott**. We are honoured to welcome you into this role, with so many well-wishers and every confidence that you are the most brilliant leader

to lead us in to the next phase for the Production Guild. We are all excited to get to know you better and support you however we can to do your best work with us.

ENDS.