

Westminster Media Forum Keynote Seminar:

UK television production: commercial opportunities, market dynamics and skills

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 12th March 2015

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET

Agenda subject to change



WESTMINSTER
MEDIA FORUM

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Best, Chair, House of Lords Communications Committee
- 9.05 - 9.20 **The UK television market - an overview**
An analysis of the current television production landscape in the UK, in the context of consolidation, investment and distribution.
Claire Enders, Founder, Enders Analysis
- 9.20 - 10.00 **Changing market dynamics and the future of independent production**
Sara Geater, Executive Chair, Emerald Films and Chair, Pact Council
James Heath, Director of Policy and Charter, BBC
Questions and comments from the floor with **Claire Enders**, Founder, Enders Analysis
- 10.00 - 10.35 **Market growth, consolidation and independent quotas**
How well-positioned is the UK television production sector to compete with well-financed potential rivals from international online services such as Google, Facebook and Amazon? How has the popularity of online video services offering access to US blockbuster series affected the consumption of live and UK-produced content? In light of the rapid pace of consolidation and international acquisitions in the UK production sector, what will be the long-term implications for key stakeholders - particularly for PSBs and small indie producers, as well as on the quality, choice and cost of content for viewers? How will increased foreign-ownership of production assets impact investment in original UK content? With US studios now owning a larger proportion of content creation and IP rights, what will be the implications for growth and re-investment in the UK production sector? How would the proposed removal of the BBC's Window of Creative Competition impact the market; does it bring the prospect of a more level playing field for the UK home-grown sector or will this give more power to foreign-owned producers?
Tabitha Elwes, Partner, Prospero
Victoria Gaskell, Partner, Olswang
Dan Brooke, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Channel 4
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 - 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lord Best, Chair, House of Lords Communications Committee
- 10.40 - 11.05 Coffee
- 11.05 - 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Bonham-Carter of Yarnbury, Secretary, Royal Television Society All-Party Parliamentary Group
- 11.10 - 11.20 **Investment by multi-channel broadcasters in the UK production sector**
Adam Minns, Executive Director, Commercial Broadcasters Association (COBA)
- 11.20 - 12.10 **Inward investment, export potential and Government support**
In light of the expected Government consultation on the UK broadcasting framework, examining the fee-based relationship between platforms and broadcasters including EPG prominence, how would the proposed changes impact competition, investment in production and viewers? Following regulatory issues in the US, what might the development of cloud-based online TV services mean for a new framework? With the US's import of British television at an all-time high and with Netflix commissioning its first British television series, what further opportunities are there for UK content owners to seize opportunities for new export revenue streams? What is the potential for this success be extended to under-invested areas of programming such as children's TV? How might Government further support smaller production companies to compete in the international content market? What should be the priorities for Government and others going forward to encourage private investment by UK companies in the production sector, and the development of the industry outside of London?
Paul Herbert, Partner, Goodman Derrick
Hugo Heppell, Head of Investments, Screen Yorkshire
Magnus Brooke, Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs, ITV
David Wheeldon, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, Sky
Questions and comments from the floor with **Adam Minns**, Executive Director, Commercial Broadcasters Association (COBA)
- 12.10 - 12.55 **Priorities for workforce and infrastructure - facilities, skills and diversity**
How can Government, local authorities and industry work more effectively together going forward to compete globally and attract high-end, long-running returning series to the UK? What are the priorities for education institutions and industry-accredited schemes to supply the increased demand for a highly-skilled production workforce? How can the sector better support the large freelance production workforce and their career progression? Are current efforts to support diversity within the workforce adequate - particularly BME representation in production, commissioning and on screen - and what more can be done going forward?
Dinah Caine, Chief Executive Officer, Creative Skillset
Spencer MacDonald, Assistant General Secretary, London Production and Regional Production Divisions, BECTU
Andrew Chowns, Chief Executive Officer, Directors UK
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Media Forum closing remarks**
Baroness Bonham-Carter of Yarnbury, Secretary, Royal Television Society All-Party Parliamentary Group
Amy Cutter, Associate Producer, Westminster Media Forum