

Nicola Lees**Development Consultant and Founder of TVMole.com, UK**

Nicola Lees has worked in the television industry – in London and New York - for thirteen years. She has production credits on a range of programmes including Shut Up! It's Stacy London, Animal Hospital, The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures and Meet the Ancestors, and additional editor credits on feature documentary Strange Powers: Stepin Merritt and The Magnetic Fields and feature film Dog Sweat, but her biggest passion is programme development.

Nicola has developed documentaries, docudramas, multiplatform and reality programmes for network and cable channels, including the BBC1, BBC2, BBC3, BBC4, in the UK and Discovery Channel, Travel Channel, National Geographic and TLC in the USA.

She has written more than 400 factual television programme proposals, attended countless pitch meetings and has been directly involved in researching, writing or pitching more than 80 commissioned programmes, many of which have won industry awards.

Commissioned programmes include:

How Not to Be Shark Bait (Discovery, USA) 2008

Earth: The Power of the Planet (BBC2/National Geographic, USA) BAFTA nominated 2008

Fight for Life (BBC1) 2007

Fashionably Late with Stacy London (TLC, USA) 2007

Pageant Rewind (TLC, USA) 2006

Battle of the Geeks (BBC2/Discovery, USA) 2006

Frugal But Fabulous (Travel Channel, USA) 2006

Moms on the Road: Africa (Travel Channel, USA) 2006

Guinea Pig Club (BBC2/4) Royal Television Society History Award 2004

Desperate Midwives (BBC3) 2006

Surviving Disaster (BBC1) 2006

Death Detective (BBC3) 2006

Seven Wonders of the Industrial World (BBC2) 2003 Royal Television Society Science and Natural History Award nominee and short-listed for six BAFTAs.

Nicola now develops programmes on a consultancy basis and has worked with clients in the UK, Austria and the USA. She regularly leads seminars at the Documentary Filmmakers Group and has spoken at a wide range of industry events such as the Kendal Mountain Film Festival, BECTU Freelancers Fair and the Broadcast Production Show. She is currently producing all the panel sessions for the Televisual Intelligent Factual Festival, London.

Since leaving the BBC in 1998, Nicola has been busy writing Greenlit: Developing Your Factual/Reality TV Ideas From Concept to Pitch, which is due for publication in August 2010. Combining her insights from more than ten years development



experience and interviews with fifty top international producers and commissioners the book reveals the insider development tips and pitching secrets no one ever tells you. Each chapter is stuffed with case studies –The Apprentice, Survivor, Supernanny, Robot Wars, Meet the Natives to name a few – along with useful resource lists, sample proposals and practical exercises.

TV Mole.com

Nicola is the founder and editor of tvmole.com a website aimed at inspiring, informing and improving factual TV development. TV Mole curates a range of information that is vital for anyone trying to sell their ideas:

the latest factual commissions on dozens of UK and USA channels,

upcoming conferences, development training and funding opportunities

commissioner and development executive job moves

articles on how to write a proposal and pitch ideas

hundreds of cultural trends, news stories and multiplatform content designed to inspire new TV programming ideas

The site's unique focus – factual development in the UK and USA (and beyond) - attracts an global readership of top industry insiders and aspiring content developers at all levels.

TV Mole also provides a forum for viewers to talk about their favourite programmes, which gives a fascinating insight into the programmes that excite the audience.
