

STEPHEN PARTRIDGE

Curriculum Vitae

Born: Leicester 19.3.53

Secondary Education: Blackpool Grammar School 1964-71
(nine 'O' levels, 3 'A' Levels.

Art and Design Education: Blackpool Technical College (Foundation Course) 1971-2
Maidstone College of Art (BA Hons Time-Based Media) 1972-5
Royal College of Art 1975-76

Employment: Part-time Lecturer in Charge of Video, Centre for Media Studies, Coventry Polytechnic, 1976-1983
Part-time Lecturer, School of Film & TV, London College of Printing, 1977-1983.
Visiting Lecturer at following colleges 1976-88:
Newcastle Polytechnic; Sheffield Polytechnic; Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Canada; Ontario College of Art & Design, Toronto; Reitveldt Academie, Amsterdam; Enschede Academie; Brighton Polytechnic. (selected list)
Lecturer and Production Director, Department of Video, Centre for Video and Computing, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee. 1984 to present.

Freelance Commercial Work, Fields and Frames, London 1976-to date.

Clients include:

AMP Productions, Annalogue Ltd, Wembley Conference Centre, Olympia, Royal Festival Halls, Online Ltd, British Telecom, British Leyland, Bass Charington, Royal Geographical Society, Zandra Rhodes, Dundee Tourist Board, Scottish Development Agency, Scotrail, Scottish Television, Grampian Television, Scottish Arts Council, Film Workshop Trust, Strathclyde University, Jordanhill FE College, Scottish Film Council, Heirographics, North-West Training Centre, SSK Productions, BBC Scotland.

Exhibitions: See attached list.

Over the past twelve years I have worked consistently in both the commercial and educational sector. Increasingly the emphasis within my educational field has been tied to the industry and its practice. In 1984 I accepted the challenge of setting up an entirely new department devoted to television, electronic graphics and video- from the ground up. My model for the new department was the lively facilities industry which I had become familiar with in London from the late seventies. This was to be no mere adjunct to existing specialisms in an art or design department, but a free-standing major department and facility with its own modus operandi relevant to the industry first and foremost. The staff both technical and academic would all be new and hand picked. The resources would be second to none in the UK. The working practices would be flexible and creative. All these criteria are now achieved, with seven edit suites from off-line to three-machine computer-controlled high band, three-dimensional computer graphic workstations plus the Quantel Paintbox - we are a facility company in Scotland as well as a training and teaching department. An investment of some £600,000 has been made, which I have had to plan and justify to the educational authorities and even Government Ministers. We have a full-time professional course in electronic imaging at post-graduate level which has already achieved a 90% employment rate within the industry.

Much of the work undertaken by the department is for outside clients and undertaken by freelance staff and the post-graduate students. I act as executive producer and production director. This involves me in meeting the clients, writing briefs, budgeting, selecting the personnel and crew, liaising with external facility companies, and supervising production and post-production. I am also responsible for running the facilities and designing the systems. System design is problematic with so many different types of users, but an effort is made to simulate the devising and design of a system that copes with production of presentation 'slides' on a daily basis with speed and accessibility as a high priority.

As an electronic graphics producer I believe that it is necessary to have some operational skills first hand and a detailed overview of what is available, how new technology will change working methods and practices; and what equipment or facility is appropriate for each job. I am a skilled editor with experience of the state of the art editing environment including the new digital systems. I have been using the Quantel Paintbox for the past four years both as an operator and designer. This 'hands on' experience allows me to assess quickly what is the most appropriate means to achieve the production values, and my administrative/production skills bring the production off in time and on budget.

Present work includes designing and producing 4-5 second animation 'stings' for BBC Scotland's new pop programme 'FSD' which features new UK bands. This is a thirteen week series which will consume a considerable amount of linking material which has to be fresh and innovative. Paintbox, computer graphics and traditional animation techniques will all be employed to this end.

Production and Facilities company SSK in Glasgow recently approached us to design and produce all the graphics for a programme aimed at school-leavers. The graphics form the backbone of the programme and are mainly produced on Paintbox.

Both Grampian and Scottish Television have approached us to train their graphics personnel in new technology. With Scottish I have teamed up with Dean Stockton at Heirographics to plan a production-led training programme rather than simple hands-on experience.

One of the interesting things about Channel 4 is that it could be described as design-led. By this I mean that its Idents, seasonal trailers, and presentation graphics are of crucial importance to an organisation whose production is undertaken by outside independents. There can be no sense of company loyalty or corporate image or philosophy imposed from within. The image of the network and its product will be linked very tightly to its overall style. It is obvious that this has been perceived by Channel 4 since the outset, as it has established an international reputation for trailblazing in this area since that first '4' imploded onto our screens. Looking back it is impressive how often its promotional trailers and graphics have changed, new techniques and old employed, and yet it has established and then retained a special identity for the channel.

After being in Scotland for the past four years, and with the department largely established and successful courses underway, it seems appropriate to look for the next step in my career. I still consider London as my home, and am looking for a new challenge outside the world of education.