



Will the selection people recognise the value to them of the MA or be blinded by the chat of Hollywood? Would they pay more for a well qualified person? I don't know, but I expect they may well be impressed by the 'I worked with film stars' chat.

In my experience there have been many cases where directors turn up for OB's and have little or no understanding of how the system works and seem to think that just shouting at people will make things start; sports directors seem to be the worse! I expect the only training they had was by watching and learning from other directors who also shouted! With proper training they would understand that there is more to directing than just cutting between cameras and EVS. Good programme making involves team work and understanding other people's roles and problems which

ultimately will be a great benefit to the crew, the audience and the channel.

I was once working in a studio as a lighting director and we did a pre-record. On play back the pictures looked too dark. I went to the VT record person and asked if there had been a 'line-up'? The reply 'What's line-up?'

I expect that the Production Manager who had employed the VT Op did not realise that there is more to operating a VT machine than just pushing play and record buttons. Did the Production Manager realise the value of employing a trained person? Maybe, but I expect this VT Op was cheaper and the Production Manager did not think there was any need to pay for a trained person. The value of training was not recognised and the results were visible on screen again at a cost to the programme, the audience and the channel.

There are of course many similar examples, you may know of some yourself!

There is the Indie Training Fund which is a training charity, it gets its funding from money paid in from its sponsoring companies and Skillset. They run courses normally one day in length for mainly production personal. It would even be better if more production companies paid into the fund then there could be more training. This money may even be taxed deductible!

The future is not all bleak, there seems to be a small glow of hope as companies come to realise that they can no longer hope that there will be skilled and well qualified staff in the future. Investments will have to be made now to satisfy these future skill needs



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Graham worked for the BBC for 21 years, first as a Camera Assistant, then as a Cameraman, before leaving as a Senior Cameraman to work as a Freelance Lighting Cameraman.

Graham worked on every type of TV programme, both in studios and on location, single camera and multi-camera with a very wide range of camera equipment.

As a Lighting Director he works both in studios and location lighting both small and large events.

As well as being a Sessional Lecturer at Ravensbourne College, he runs training workshops on camera work and lighting for training companies.

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