

Chancellor,

Georgia Brown is a BU graduate who has gone on to develop and launch some of the best-known shows on television, to audiences around the world.

Georgia graduated with a degree in television production in 2002, despite feeling by her second year that she'd made the wrong choice of course and career. Struggling to see herself in a role behind the camera, a 6-week placement at the BBC proved to be a defining moment. While working as a runner on Top of the Pops, Georgia was asked to take a tape up to the team at BBC Worldwide. It was here that she discovered the commercial realities of television production, including how the sales of shows to overseas markets enabled programmes to be made at home.

This ability to combine the creative and commercial sides of the industry appealed to Georgia – who describes herself as a left and right brainer – and became a driver for her career. She spent the six months after graduation working in recruitment while applying for every entry-level role going, until the BBC finally offered her a job in sales. It was the foot in the door she needed, and Georgia quickly progressed through roles in rights and acquisitions and pre-production investment for shows including Sherlock, Death in Paradise, Call the Midwife and Top Gear.

Georgia left the BBC for production and distribution group, Shine International, and then became an Executive Vice President at Fremantle Media, which is behind shows including X Factor and The Apprentice. Her ability to identify talent and content that resonated with audiences around the world led to her being appointed as Amazon's first Head of Studios in Europe and she went on to build its commissioning strategy across the continent, developing and launching hits like Clarkson's Farm.

Having left Amazon in 2022, Georgia is currently tackling the industry's skills needs as Chair of the Screen Sectors Skills Task Force. Bringing together senior representatives from major broadcasters, studios and trade bodies, the group is lobbying to build a sustainable, inclusive and diverse workforce required for the future.

Chancellor, I have the honour to present Georgia Brown and I ask you to confer upon her an Honorary Doctorate of Business Administration.