



BIG

Film
& TV

AUTUMN GATHERING

Saturday 10 October 2026

Ravensbourne University, Greenwich

BECTU MEMBERS: FREE

NON-MEMBERS: £15

**SPECIAL
EVENT
OFFER!**

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A BIG WELCOME!

We're delighted to welcome you to the fifth annual Big Autumn Gathering – in a new venue! The surroundings may be different, but we've got the same packed programme of seminars, workshops and one-to-one sessions, plus the opportunity to chat with a range of industry contacts in the reception hall, and our now-traditional evening social at the end of the day.

And don't forget: If you're not already a Bectu member, remember to sign up today for free admission, plus three months' free Bectu membership.

We hope you have a great day!

EXHIBITORS

Exhibitors can be found in the Reception Hall on the ground floor.



FOCUS
meet the makers



**The Talent
Manager™**



**The Kit
Room**

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CIISA



**ACTION FOR
FREELANCERS**



EUROSCRIPT



Bloom with G
CV AND CAREER GUIDANCE



**HISTORY
PROJECT** FILM
TELEVISION
THEATRE
RADIO

PROGRAMME

A full schedule of events can be found on [page 10](#).

Please note:

Multiple sessions run in the same time slot, and attendance is on a first come, first served basis.

G Walker Lecture Theatre
Ground floor

1 Yellow room
Level 1

1 Blue room
Level 1

2 Pink room
Level 2

2 Purple room
Level 2

2 Pods
Level 2

4 Orange room
Level 4

Seminars

Freelance champions: The art of advocating for freelancers

11.00–12.00 • Walker Lecture Theatre



Bectu and industry advocacy organisations discuss the key priorities they want to put forward to the government Freelance Champion and employers on behalf of freelancers in the industry. Join us to explore the methods for change, the challenges ahead and the collective efforts being made by those championing the freelance agenda to improve the world of work on a large scale.

Speakers:

- **Philippa Childs**
Head of Bectu
- **James Taylor-Tovey**
Project director, Action for Freelancers
- **Laverne Thomas**
COO, Film & TV Charity
- **Niyi Akeju**
Director of Stakeholder Engagement, CIISA

AD panel discussion: AD ratecard, diversity and industry challenges

11.00–12.00 • Pink room



ADG in association with Bectu AD Branch will be hosting a live panel discussion (which will also be filmed for ADG's podcast). It will cover relevant and compelling AD specific talking points from the ratecard, rise of AI, diversity and equality and general industry challenges.

Speakers:

- **Elle Lotherington**
1st AD
- **Jay Arther**
1st AD
- **Paul Murphy**
1st AD
- **Alex Kalyminos**
Director
- **Celeste Harper**
Secretary of Bectu AD branch

London Production Division Annual Forum: Industrial updates

13.50–15.00 • Walker Lecture Theatre



Senior union officials, including Prospect General Secretary **Mike Clancy**, head of Bectu **Philippa Childs**, and **Spencer MacDonald**, National Secretary for production, will deliver the latest industrial updates, including progress on national campaigns, lobbying, consultations and collective negotiations. This will be a great opportunity to hear directly from and ask questions of those advocating on freelancers' behalf and to learn how members can get involved in shaping campaigns for stronger protections.

Get it in writing: Contracts

12.10–13.10 • Walker Lecture Theatre



Last year, Bectu launched Get It In Writing – a booking confirmation guide and template – because of an increase in members being hired without written terms and conditions, making members vulnerable. Join organiser **Suzie Shepherd** for a session on the updated guide, plus contract and deal memo advice.

Choosing a pension provider

12.10–13.10 • Pink room



Have you built up several pension pots with different providers after working on a range of contracts? Should you combine these into a single pot? Join your union's pension officer, **Neil Walsh**, to learn the factors to take into account when choosing a pension provider.

Prospect Heritage sector freelancers meeting

13.50–15.00 • Pink room



Freelancing in heritage can be fantastic – varied work, meaningful and interesting projects, connecting people, stories, objects and buildings. But it is also precarious and often stressful. Join Prospect National Secretary **Paula Lamont** to talk about the issues facing you at work, and network with your fellow heritage freelancers.

Protecting your work in the age of AI: Your questions answered

15.10–16.10 • Walker Lecture Theatre



AI is already changing the screen industries, but what does that mean for freelancers in practice? Join Kelsey Farish, media and AI lawyer, for a short discussion on rights, contracts and workplace realities, followed by an extended Q&A. Bring your questions, concerns and experiences for an open, practical conversation.

Speaker:

- **Kelsey Farish**
Media and AI lawyer

The TV Drama Production Race Action Plan: Building a more diverse industry

15.10–16.10 • Yellow room



The TV Drama Production Race Action Plan, developed by Bectu, provides practical guidance to achieve more racially diverse crews on TV drama productions. It has won the support of nearly 50 industry organisations including the unions, the guilds, the broadcasters and many other key players in the industry. Come along to learn how you can use this on your next production.

Speakers:

- **Janice Turner**
Bectu diversity officer and journal editor
- **Sami Khan**
Chair, Bectu Black Members' Committee
- **Ngozi Ugochukwu**
Vice Chair, Bectu Black Members' Committee

Financial literacy with FT FLIC

15.10–16.10 • Pink room



Led by the Financial Times' charity, FT FLIC, this session cuts through the jargon to explain how self-assessment works, the ways you can potentially lower your tax bill by claiming allowable expenses, and how to sidestep the surprise costs that catch people off guard. FLIC will then give an overview of their free learning resources, which cover everything from budgeting, credit options and investment, and show you how to make the most of this support.

Speaker:

- **Chantelle Clarke**
Head of Content, FT FLIC

How to work with intimacy coordinators

15.10–16.10 • Purple room



Join intimacy coordinator Kate Lush to explore planning and organising intimacy for a production including scheduling considerations, OTD approaches for efficiency, and support requirements across all departments. Learn how to work collaboratively alongside IC's within intimate content, from pre-production through to post, with time for a Q&A.

Speaker:

- **Kate Lush**
Intimacy coordinator

Factual TV editors: Managing unrealistic workloads

15.10–16.10 • Orange room

4

As budgets tighten, so too can deadlines but late nights are not inevitable. They can often be avoided through better workflow and communication. The Rough Assembly is working on a guide for negotiating workloads, and will be discussing how to push back. We also invite you to share your stories and advice for leaving the suite on time.

Speakers:

- **Chris Travis**
Editor
- **David Thompson**
Editor

Union power: How to negotiate collective terms in a freelance world

16.20–17.20 • Walker Lecture Theatre

G

Join Bectu negotiators, Unscripted Branch reps, Scripted colleagues, and industry experts as we focus on the need for a negotiated collective agreement for Unscripted TV. We ask: What is a collective agreement? Why do we need one? What are our next steps to getting one? What can members do to help?

- **Dudley Cruse**
Unscripted TV branch co-Chair
- **Rosanna Armenante**
Unscripted TV branch committee
- **Jude Winstanley**
Unscripted TV branch committee
- **Charlotte Sewell**
Costume & Wardrobe branch co-Chair
- **Spencer MacDonald**
Bectu National Secretary

Planning for retirement

16.20–17.20 • Pink room

2

Join your union's pension officer, **Neil Walsh**, to learn the basics of the pension system – such as how to get a full state pension, and how to make sure contractors honour their pension obligations – and learn to plan for retirement.

Intimacy and gaming guidance launch

16.20–17.20 • Purple room

2

Join intimacy coordinator Rosanna Normanton for the launch of the Bectu Guidance for Shooting and Recording Intimacy in Games, supported by games industry leaders. Pick up a copy of the guidance and come along for a whistle-stop tour about how intimacy coordination is supporting the games industry!

Speaker:

- **Rosanna Normanton**
Intimacy coordinator

Factual assistant editor pathways

16.20–17.20 • Orange room

4

A session for factual assistant editors trying to progress into editing. Editors Chris Travis and David Thompson talk with Kevin Thomson, who went from assisting on Gold Rush, to editing on Race Across the World and Drive to Survive. They'll discuss the challenges facing assistants, and offer advice for making the leap.

- **Chris Travis**
Editor
- **David Thompson**
Editor
- **Kevin Thomson**
Editor

Workshops

Giving and receiving feedback without fear

11.00–12.00 • Yellow room

1

An interactive workshop on managing constructive criticism and emotional regulation.

Rachel Bennett from Prospect's Education & Skills team, shows participants how to foster a growth mindset and view feedback as a valuable tool for creative personal improvement – not as a threat!

Seamless handovers: The costume job share revolution

12.10–13.10 • Yellow room

1

Love working in costume but cannot work a 55hour+ week? There is a way that you don't have to choose between continuing your career and having a life. Join the costume branch and Michelle Reynolds for a look at costume job sharing – where two heads can work just as well as one.

Speakers:

- **Michelle Reynolds**
CEO, Share My Telly Job/Reel Time Media
- **Costume crew** who have successfully job shared

Childcare



WonderWorks childcare

All day • Room 107

1

2

Innovative studio- and location-based childcare for the film and television industries. Capacity is limited and must be pre-booked in advance via the [Big Autumn Gathering Eventbrite page](#).

A breastfeeding area is also available in **Pod 3** on Level 2.

Social

Big Autumn Gathering evening social

17.30–18.30 • Walker Lecture Theatre

G

After a packed day of sessions, all attendees are welcome to relax and network over complimentary drinks. See you there!

One-to-ones

Pod 1: The Booth of Truth

12.00–12.30 • 13.30–14.00 • 15.00–15.30

2

TV Workers! Share your tales of the good, the bad, and the totally mad from working in our industry (either yourself or anonymously) and tell us the one thing that would make your working life better. Or you can bravely enter the Booth of Truth to read out an anonymous horror story on camera for Bectu social media! Enter if you dare!

Pod 2: Financial advice with Quilter

All day

2

Bring your questions and get accountancy advice from Quilter financial advisor **Edward Biondini**. Arrive early to sign up for a time slot on the day, or visit through the day to see when spare spots are available. Please arrive five minutes before your time slot.

Pod 4: CV Clinic with Bloom with G

All day

2

Book a session with **Gráinne McPhillips**, Founder and CEO of Bloom with G, a CV and career coaching consultancy for professionals in the media industry. With a background as a TV casting producer and Talent Exec, Gráinne has helped hundreds of people with their CV, whether they want to stay in the industry or pivot into something new.

Headshots with Mark Thomas

All day • Blue room

1

Book your slot with professional photographer **Mark Thomas** via the photoshoot registration link available on Eventbrite. Attendees may get one headshot and one long shot. Each session will take no more than five minutes, so please arrive ready.

Branch meetings

11.00–12.00
Purple room

2

Camera branch AGM

12.10–13.10
Purple room

2

FAA member meeting

11.00–12.00
Orange room

4

Scripted production and accounts branch AGM

12.10–13.10
Orange room

4

Intimacy coordinators branch AGM

16.20–17.20
Yellow room

1

Photographic technicians branch meeting

WALKER LECTURE THEATRE				Ground floor
11.00–12.00	12.10–13.10	13.50–15.00	15.10–16.10	16.20–17.20
Freelance champions: The art of advocating for freelancers	Get it in writing: Negotiating contracts with confidence	LPD Forum	Protecting your work in the age of AI	Union Power: How to negotiate collective terms in a freelance world

BLUE ROOM	Room 101 • Level 1
11.00–12.10	13.10–17.20
Headshots with Mark Thomas	Headshots with Mark Thomas

YELLOW ROOM		Room 103 • Level 1	
11.00–12.00	12.10–13.10	15.10–16.10	16.20–17.20
Giving and receiving feedback without fear	Seamless handovers: The costume job share revolution	TV Drama race action plan	BRANCH MEETING Photographic technicians branch meeting

PINK ROOM			Room 209/210 • Level 2	
11.00–12.00	12.10–13.10	13.50–15.00	15.10–16.10	16.20–17.20
AD panel discussion	Choosing a pension provider	Prospect Heritage sector freelancers meeting	Financial literacy with FT FLIC	Planning for retirement

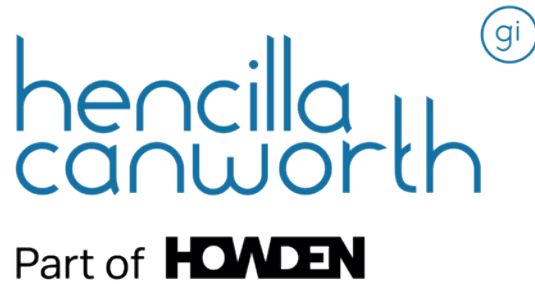
PURPLE ROOM		Room 211 • Level 2	
11.00–12.00	12.10–13.10	15.10–16.10	16.20–17.20
BRANCH MEETING Camera branch AGM	BRANCH MEETING FAA member meeting	How to work with intimacy coordinators	IC gaming guidance launch

ORANGE ROOM		Classroom • Level 4	
11.00–12.00	12.10–13.10	15.10–16.10	16.20–17.20
BRANCH MEETING Scripted production and accounts AGM	BRANCH MEETING Intimacy coordinators AGM	Factual TV editor workloads	Factual assistant editor pathways (post)

PODS			Level 2
12.00	13.30	15.00	
Pod 1: The Booth of Truth	Pod 1: The Booth of Truth	Pod 1: The Booth of Truth	
11.00–13.10	13.50–17.20		
Pod 2: Financial advice with Quilter Pod 4: CV Clinic with Bloom with G	Pod 2: Financial advice with Quilter Pod 4: CV Clinic with Bloom with G		

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Bectu is the union for creative ambition. We represent nearly 40,000 staff, contract and freelance workers in the media and entertainment industries.

Our members work in non-performance roles in live events, broadcasting, film and cinema, digital media, independent production, leisure, theatre and the arts.

bectu.org.uk