

MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE

ROMILLY PARADINE

by Katarina Fallon,

I CAN'T EMPHASISE
ENOUGH THE IMPACT
ROMILLY PARADINE
HAS HAD ON MY LIFE.

It's a big statement to make but when I began the City & Guilds Diploma in Media Techniques run by CSV in January 2006 I hadn't been working for almost two years having had a baby in March 2004. Prior to that I had worked in a number of different low grade jobs over the years and done many different courses but had nothing much to show for any of it.

Romilly structured and taught the course in a way that not only gave me professional journalism skills but also discipline, confidence in my own ability and very importantly it fostered an inner strength to go further than I ever thought myself capable of.



ROMILLY TEACHING PRINT JOURNALISM

After the course I started doing 2 days work experience at BBC Radio Kent and then got work with a radio production company called Whistledown Productions. I'm currently putting together a programme for the Radio 4 series, The Reunion and have a three part series currently shortlisted by them which will almost definitely go ahead.

Thanks to Romilly my career is going in a direction I never thought possible. CSV are a great organisation but in the end it's the teacher that makes or breaks a course and she is, in my opinion, one of the best.

by Natasha Braybrook



I was one of Romilly Paradine's students and felt privileged to be taught and mentored by such a fantastic teacher.

Romilly is a kind and intelligent woman, but also has a formidable journalistic sense. She has encouraged me to pursue my chosen career in Radio and has given me the confidence and the skills to ensure that I am always prepared, always on time and always ahead of the game.

by Colette Barlow

ROMILLY IS A DREAM TUTOR. ENTHUSIASTIC, FOCUSED AND TOTALLY COMMITTED TO THE SUBJECT.

She has a natural ability to engage with her students as individuals and also as a group. She has a wonderful smile and a knack of putting people at ease. She has bags of energy but remains calm under pressure and is unfailingly patient and supportive.

Because she has worked as a journalist and broadcaster for many years she is eloquent, entertaining and full of stories about the famous stars she has interviewed over the years

I have seen students' confidence levels soar as a result of working with Romilly, she makes you believe that no obstacle is too great to overcome and that you are capable

of achieving success if you work hard and refuse to give up.

I studied radio production with Romilly at the Islington Media Clubhouse. I had no experience of broadcast radio at all but during the course I learnt how to record stories and interviews, present the news, edit material with Cool Edit Pro, and reached a point where I felt totally at ease in the recording studio.

At the time I was temporarily unemployed and had lost confidence in myself and my abilities. I left with a CD of recorded material of which I'm very proud. I have already sent it to prospective employers as part of a media portfolio and it has been very well received.

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by Patrick O'Callaghan



The course was insightful and dynamic and was delivered by a real professional who practices what she preaches having worked on the frontline of the industry for many years. It really gave me relevant experience that has helped me to produce and present my own radio show on a local radio station.

INSPIRATIONAL, SUPPORTIVE, CHARISMATIC - THESE ARE ONLY A FEW WORDS THAT DESCRIBE ROMILLY. AND DID I MENTION INTUITIVE?

by Lena Lau



But these are clichés that barely touch the surface. She deserves the Medal for Excellence not because she can teach her subject fluidly – this is a given – but because she’s on the frontline everyday.

She goes to battle for her students, she fights for them and believes in their

ability – this makes them believe in themselves. Romilly has held our hand in taking the first steps on our journey. She has helped each of us forge a career path that is our own whether it’s PR, marketing, TV, radio, print or film.

AND NOW THAT WE ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO STAND ON OUR OWN TWO FEET SHE IS STILL THERE TO ADVISE AND CONFIDE IN.

It is the mark of a unique individual who can be both fierce and pleasant; firm but charming; indirect yet probing; and still draw the best from us her students to defeat personal demons and provide opportunity.

An entertaining teacher, a social champion, a kind woman with a knowing eye; Romilly is no push-over. We learnt from one of the greatest. So, Romilly we salute you.

BEAUTIFUL, MISCHIEVOUS, CHINA-BLUE EYES.

A PROFILE OF ROMILLY PARADINE by Talaat Qureshi

Reminiscent of a famous aviator you can imagine Romilly Paradine arriving by air from Southend-on-Sea to a heliport in London.

A petite, elegant English woman would step out of the helicopter and greet you with a warm open smile. Beautiful, mischievous China blue eyes would then await fresh, new recruits, ready to impart knowledge and

journalistic skills to the ever-increasing “family” at CSV Media Clubhouse in Islington.

Romilly Paradine has worked at the Clubhouse for around six and a half years. Surprisingly she predates even Matt Bray, the manager here.

I asked members of staff, colleagues and students about Romilly and how they felt about

her. Here is a list of adjectives and phrases they used:

Utterly professional, dedicated, charming, compassionate, amusing, a good counsellor, tough but goes the extra mile, a natural communicator, calm, gentle, engaging, **brings the best out in people**, has a sense of mischief, has a velvet-silky voice.

I then asked what they knew about her. The following is a list of some of the responses:

Keeps a tortoise called Speedy, a passionate gardener, makes apple juice, loves ginger cake, made marmalade in February, loves words, was an actress and so was her mother, father worked as an editor at the Daily Mail, loved Fleet street, is a GRFW Secretary (Guild of Regional Film Writers), has a website about a villa in Spain, self-confessed TV channel shopaholic especially for costume jewellery, loves long walks, and the banter between traders and customers at Chapel Street market, hates bus rides, worked for Radio Essex, would go on a helicopter giving traffic reports, has lived in France and Africa and speaks French and Spanish, loves tea and a stickler for punctuality.. The list goes on.

A journalist and actress Romilly teaches Radio and Print journalism at the Islington media Clubhouse. Her career has included working for Radio Essex and Classic FM.

WHAT A LOVELY WOMAN I THOUGHT. SHE DIDN'T KNOW ME AND YET SHE MADE ME FEEL AS IF I'D KNOWN HER FOREVER.

While working as a presenter she gave herself many "radio names" including Aunt Romilly because she says her name is not easy to remember. It is best to have an easy name for using on the radio.

Previous students will come and tell her about their progress, new students will await advice and yet others will ask her to look

over a piece they have written for a magazine or a paper or for the radio. Always with mischief in her remarks Romilly makes light of any situation and puts you at your ease.

Romilly always highlights a persons positive points. On a more personal level, she is also my teacher. I have been under her tutelage for several projects. While working on the Olympics 2012 project she appointed me to the role of a Researcher. Needless to say I was a little embarrassed, nay, flattered and honoured when she said "Talaat is the best researcher I have ever seen."

IF ROMILLY WAS A PAINTING SHE WOULD BE A MONET. A BRIGHT RICH VIVID PALATE OF COLOURS.

When I first met Romilly she gave me a long elegant red rose. What a lovely woman I thought. She didn't know me and yet she made me feel as if I'd known her forever. That is the nature of the person, warm, open and friendly. Her classes are conducted in the same manner. She welcomes all her students into the fold and picks out their best qualities. The overwhelming response I got from the other students was how much they loved and respected her. A highly skilled teacher, she encourages her students at all times, directing them to get the best story.

Razor sharp and willing to take

your ideas, converting them to good copy is second nature to Romilly. For her Radio program she teaches each student about the practicalities of the studio. She allows you to touch the controls and work through the process of recording. Sometimes she throws you in the deep-end but always keeps your head above water. Romilly Paradine is adept at assessing any situation and putting it into a phrase, so succinctly that it leaves you being astonished and astounded.

If Romilly was a painting she would be a Monet. A bright, rich vivid palate of colours. If she was a piece of music then a Beethoven symphony. If she was a poem then it must be Shakespeare's Summer Sonnet.

But if you ask me who Romilly Paradine is, I would say she is a new variety of an English garden tea rose; exquisite, hardy and fragrant.

Romilly Paradine deserves this award of excellence as she is treasured by all at CSV and those who know her.



ROMILLY PARADINE DESERVES THIS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE AS SHE IS TREASURED BY ALL AT CSV AND THOSE WHO KNOW HER.

by Matt Bray, Centre Manager and Nominator

AS THE MANAGER OF THE MEDIA CLUBHOUSE I AM LUCKY TO BE SURROUNDED BY A DEDICATED TEAM OF MEDIA PROFESSIONALS, TRAINERS, CO-ORDINATORS AND VOLUNTEERS.

Working as a harmonious team, they combine to make the clubhouse a vibrant and professional learning environment where students learn media skills from well-versed industry professionals.

Amongst the many 'gems' in the clubhouse is Romilly Paradine, otherwise known as "The Early Bird", given her penchant for rising at the crack of dawn. Just as well given that the clubhouse is based in North London, Romilly lives in Southend on Sea, and her classes start at ten in the morning. After years of getting up to work early mornings in radio, getting up at six to be with us is no problem. In fact I suspect it's a bit of a lie in! Oh - and she's never late!

Well, apart from mentioning that Romilly is a joy to work with, that it's a pleasure to see her walk through the door in the morning, and that she makes me a cup of tea every now and then (!), her students have said it all already, pure and simple..she deserves this award.

by Felicity Ford, Regional Broadcast Manager

In the five years I've known her Romilly has only ever put the students first. Whether it is problems with the course or the stresses of their lives she has always been there for them, listening, giving advice, pointing them in the right direction. But as a colleague she has also always been the consummate professional, adhering to deadlines, responding efficiently to changes in course requirements, and keeping abreast of the industry. Oh, and she always smiles!

by Glory Hall, Co-trainer on the City and Guilds 7501

Whilst Romilly teaches the print and radio options on the City and Guilds course, I teach options in web design, page-layout and photo-journalism. Working with Romilly is a pleasure, and she is the most delightful colleague. Not only does she have a thorough knowledge of her subject, but she has an intuitive feeling of how best to support each and every one of her students.

Moreover, the welfare and betterment of students are at the core of her teaching methods, they are her *raison d'être*. For this, other teachers admire her and hold her up as a beacon of good practice and selfless guidance."

by Bashir Annour, Centre Administrator

I've only known Romilly for few months, she is a **wonderful lady**, professional, helpful, supportive, and focused, with a very strong personality, she has a great sense of humour, always trying to help and make the most difficult task simpler, she is inspiring, what a **remarkable lady**.