

Our Speakers

Managing Change: No dramas - 15 July 2022



Lucy Gannon, Screenwriter/Author



Lucy Gannon is the daughter of a British soldier. Her mother died when she was seven and by the age of eleven she had attended nine schools.

Classed as 'educationally subnormal', she left school as soon as she could and moved around the world for a few years.

When she was nearly 40 — twice married, broke and working in a care home — she heard about a playwriting competition, the Richard Burton Drama Award, funded by his widow, Sally.

With no hope of winning it, but daydreaming about the £2,000 prize money, she started her first script, a theatre play, *Keeping Tom Nice*. She won first prize and went on to become one of Britain's most prolific and successful scriptwriters (*Soldier, Soldier*, *Peak Practice*, *Bramwell* and many other mini-series, films, theatre plays and radio dramas).

She has won numerous awards across theatre, radio and television, including the Prix Europa for her first TV film *A Small Dance*, a Bafta Cymru for *Dad* and an RTS writers' award for *The Best of Men*.

In 1997 she was awarded an MBE for services to television drama. She now lives and writes in West Wales.

Jess Edwards, Theatre Director & Producer



Jess Edwards is an award-winning director, writer and creative for theatre, TV and digital media. She is represented by international creative agency Curtis Brown.

As a theatre director, her work has appeared at the Soho Theatre, Almeida, Arcola, HighTide, Theatre503, and many productions at the Edinburgh Festival.

As a writer, she is currently being supported by the Arts Council to develop her first play.

She has also partnered with tech startup, Sarsen, to help create *Light*, an app that supports wellbeing and personal development.