

**Merle Nygate**  
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Merle Nygate is a writer, script editor and screenwriting lecturer

She recently script edited Blast Films', **The Queen** for **Channel 4** and **Sky TV's** adaptation of **Terry Pratchett's** third novel in the series: Going Postal. Previously she assessed, sitcom, comedy drama series and full-length features for **BBC Comedy Commissioning** for six years.

During that time, she script edited, BAFTA winner **A Very British Sex Scandal** for Blast; **Blackbeard**, a major factual drama for **Dangerous Films** transmitted on **BBC-1**, wrote another two-hour factual drama about **William the Marshal**, a medieval knight for **Pro-Sieben** and a further factual drama for the Smithsonian Channel. In addition, she lectured at University of Surrey, London Film Academy and trained film development executives.

She has previous commissions for writing original sitcoms from **Carlton, Yorkshire, Channel 4** and **Granada (Dark Ages)** as well being a writer/producer on BAFTA nominated interactive movie, **Running Time**. Most recently, she is writing her first novel.

#### **Script Editor**

Script Editor: The Queen eps 3 and 4  
Blast Films for Channel 4 Tx 2009 2008-09

Script Editor: Going Postal (Terry Pratchett adaptation)  
The Mob for Sky Tx 2010 May Bank Holiday 2007-09

Script Editor: A Very British Sex Scandal  
Blast for Channel 4 2007

Reader and Script Editor 2001-2006  
BBC Entertainment Commissioning  
Mainstream projects: sitcom, comedy drama, broken comedy,  
Feature length projects

Script Editor: Redeemer drama series 2006  
Dangerous Films for BBC-3

Script Editor: Blackbeard factual drama 2005  
Dangerous Films for BBC-1

Reader and Script Editor 2001-2007  
BBC Entertainment Commissioning  
Mainstream projects: sitcom, comedy drama, broken comedy,  
Feature length projects

#### **Writer on Producer Initiated Series**

DOUBLE-HEADED EAGLE Smithsonian Channel 2007  
Writer on factual drama  
About 1930s gold fraud

THE GREATEST KNIGHT Story House for Pro-Sieben 2006  
Co-writer with director  
on historical docu-drama  
about William the Marshal

RUNNING TIME INTERACTA LAUNCH MAY 2000  
Part of writer/producer team on

BAFTA nominated interactive  
Movie

The Beach  
New project development  
Helion Films  
24 minute pre-teen comedy drama  
July 2001

Raceway  
New project development  
Helion Films  
24 minute pre teen show  
Team writer  
March 1999

Pony Tales  
New project development  
Helion Films for Paramount  
Comedy Channel  
24 minute pre teen show  
Team writer  
April 1999

St Bears Dolls Hospital  
10x15 minute episode  
Winchester Film & TV  
4-6 years children's  
April 1998  
pre sales worldwide

### Original Work

KITCHEN COVEN  
Option  
The Producers  
50' comedy drama co-written  
with writing partner: Isabelle Grey  
December 2004

THE DARK AGES  
Pilot commissioned  
Transmitted week 51 1999  
GRANADA  
30 minute pre-watershed sitcom  
November 1996  
Rights reassigned March 1999

THE DENTONS  
Series developed  
3x30 minute episodes  
8 storylines  
CHANNEL 4 via ASSEMBLY  
30 minute sitcom  
January 1997

NICE GIRLS DO  
YORKSHIRE TV  
30 minute post-watershed sitcom  
Optioned February 1995  
Commissioned December 1995

TRIPPING THE NET  
KUDOS  
50 minute drama  
Optioned March 1995

THE TOWER  
Pilot  
CARLTON TV  
30 minute sitcom  
Commissioned August 1995

### Lecturer and Trainer

Course Tutor MA Screenwriting **London Film School**  
2012-13

Mentor **London Film School** MA Screenwriting  
2011-2012

Guest Speaker **Birbeck**, MA Screenwriting  
2011

Guest Lecturer: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students  
Subjects: TV Industry, audience and theme;  
the commissioning process; developing story outlines;  
fundamentals of motivation  
**University of Lincoln**  
2006-2012

Tutor: **London Film Academy**  
Short film scripts – from idea to shooting script. Theory  
2006

creativity and craft.

Tutor: Screenwriting modules for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students  
BA Film and Television Studies;  
**University of Surrey** at Roehampton 2005

**Draft Zero Ltd** 2001-2003  
Trainer on Introduction to Development Course  
Subject: Working with writers, motivation and inspiration

Guest lecturer and tutor at **University of the Arts**, London  
(formerly London Institute) on both 1998-2004  
**MA Screenwriting Course** and **DALI adult education** short courses

Subjects: Stereotypes and archetypes in characterisation  
The commissioning process as it relates to sitcom  
Feature film development with 2<sup>nd</sup> year of MA  
Writing for existing sitcom series with 1<sup>st</sup> year of MA  
Introduction to Screenwriting, short courses

**Tutor BA Film & Video**, London Institute 1999-2000  
Short film script development 3<sup>rd</sup> year students  
Supervising tutor on final feature film projects

#### **Courses, Associations, Conferences**

MA Screenwriting and Research, London Institute Completed December 1997

SPEAKER Guest speaker at Siena Film Festival November 2000  
Conference on Internet and Interactivity

SPEAKER Guest speaker at Isle of Wight Writers' Conference October 2002 and October 2005  
Subject: Structure in fiction

JUDGE International Emmy Awards July 2003

MEMBER Writers' Guild of Great Britain