



Mentee: Emma Bigg, Octavius RE – Owner and AV Designer

What made you get involved with WAVE UK, and how long have you been part of the WAVE Group?

It was an opportunity to network with other women working in the same industry, attend some very interesting talks and socialise with my peers. I have been attending WAVE events for the last two years and they just keep getting better and better. It is so encouraging to see the range of talented women in our industry and be able to meet and learn from them.

What is the most important thing to you about what WAVE UK strives to achieve?

Bringing women together; we all have our contact network but WAVE brings together women from all sides of the industry and encourages us to learn from and support each other, so we can pave the way for younger generations of women to have a wide-ranging and successful career in the audiovisual industry.

What do you feel you have / can contribute to the WAVE Group?

Support through attendance of the events and making others aware of the group and encouraging them to join.

Can you outline your mentor / mentee programme?

Essentially it's a scheme where you apply to be come a mentee outlining your reasons and what you hope to achieve from the scheme. Having set up my own audiovisual consultancy almost three years ago I was at a crossroads on how to develop personally, outline the direction for my business for the next three years and create a sustainable business. I really felt that some outside experience to help me navigate my path would be extremely beneficial. I was very lucky to be matched with a very experienced audiovisual

designer and consultant ,and even in the first few meetings I have learnt some invaluable things.

What are you hoping to learn from the programme?

How to develop my offering to increase the value of projects I win and achieve a steady stream of work plus improve the day to day management of my business.

What does International Women's Day mean to you and do you do anything specific to mark it?

I do keep an eye out for interesting events to attend and there are so many now, which is fantastic. I personally try to actively support younger women in my network through encouragement, and making them aware of opportunities to learn, network and develop their careers within the industry, and IWD helps me focus on seeing what more I can do to further that. I also reach out to female friends and colleagues outside the industry, so we can remind ourselves of what we have achieved.

Outside of WAVE UK, who inspires you?

My mum is a constant inspiration, her family are from Gujarat in India but she grew up in Uganda, she left home at 18 to enrol on a Nursing Course in the UK; this being her first time ever in the UK it was a eye opening experience. Having travelled the world, she then raised a family of three extremely energetic kids ,whilst supporting my Dad in setting up his business and helping him to grow that into a very successful firm. Then after they divorced 13 years ago she changed jobs, moved home and created a new life for herself, totally different to what she had done before. She is an incredibly intelligent, brave and resilient woman and one of the most generous people I know.

WAVE Mentors

- Caroline Britt – RGB Networks
- Birgit Jackson – Sharp Electronics Europe
- Angela Townsend – SMART
- Hilary Harris - Organisation Development and Talent Management Consultant
- Adam Harvey – University of Hertfordshire
- Naina Taylor – Midwich
- Toni Moss – CDEC
- Amy Cronshaw – macom GmbH UK
- Sid Stanley – Calrec Audio Ltd
- Denise O’Keeffe – Woopjobs
- Ann Pickard – Visavvi of Saville Group
- Sadie Groom – Bubble Agency
- Nicki Fisher – Clear Com
- Lesley Da Costa – InfiLED EM International
- Martine Dodwell Bennett – Lutron Electronics
- Caroline Carter – Imperial College London
- Daniel Lee – Hewshott International

WAVE Mentees

- Becky Pasifull – CDEC
- Jemma Zlydneva – Biamp
- Barbora – Kocurekova – ISE
- Anne Howard – CSL Integration
- Sally Castro – Engage Works
- Sammi Bews – Pacific
- Cristina Zamora Tellez – LUTRON Electronics
- Faye Patterson – Kaleidovision
- Natalie Barnett – CDEC
- Liz Barnes – Promethean
- Honey Tavakoli – LG Electronics
- Hannah Davies – Inspire Audio Visual
- Emma Bigg – Octavius RE
- Beth Glennister – Pacific
- Cassie Stuckey – Solutions Audio Visual Ltd
- Esther Grove – BrightSys
- Stephanie Bagbila – Sharp Electronics Europe
- Stephanie Gott – Damson Global