



Lorraine Heggessey

Multi-award winning CEO, high-flying media executive, and trailblazer! As the first female controller of BBC ONE, Lorraine led volatile creatives through the re-branding and shake-up of the channel. Now at talkbackTHAMES – ITV’s biggest independent supplier of entertainment programmes, she is responsible for a raft of award-winning programmes.

Strong Beliefs

Leading from the front

Leadership is about being visible and accessible

Positive reinforcement is a powerful management tool

**If people are your most important asset
then treat them as such!**

Themes

Succeeding in business as a woman

Change management

How to revitalise & reinvent businesses

How to create a culture of innovation

Talent management

How to lead volatile creatives!

Lorraine Heggessey became CEO of talkbackTHAMES in May 2005. Producing over 800 hours of programming over the last 12 months, for all major channels and across all genres and platforms, talkbackTHAMES is responsible for a raft of brand leaders and award-winning output including Britain’s Got Talent, The X Factor, The Apprentice, Grand Designs, Stephen Poliakoff’s Emmy award-winning dramas, The Bill, Green Wing, IT Crowd, QI and Never Mind the Buzzcocks to name but a few. Under Lorraine’s leadership, entertainment output alone has more than doubled and talkbackTHAMES is ITV’s biggest independent supplier of entertainment programmes.

Prior to joining the company, Lorraine was the first female Controller of BBC ONE. She oversaw the channel’s re-branding and a comprehensive shake-up of its schedule, including the move of the news from 9 – 10, with particular emphasis on new drama and revitalising Saturday night. Lorraine was responsible for many successful launches including Dr Who, Strictly Come Dancing, Spooks and Bleak House. She also brought a new impetus in factual programming, putting specialist factual such as Natural History of Britain and Planet Earth at the heart of the schedule alongside more popular titles including Big Cat Diary and Rogue Traders. During Lorraine's controllership, BBC ONE became the biggest investor in comedy. Innovation was always at the heart of her strategy with cutting edge technology at the heart of programmes such as Pompeii: The Last Day and Super Volcano.

Lorraine originally joined the BBC in October 1997 as Head of BBC Children’s, where she revitalised the department and portfolio, launching seventeen new shows. Two years later, she was appointed BBC Production’s Director of Programmes and Deputy Chief Executive before taking over as Controller just a year later.

In 2006 Lorraine was awarded the Media Award at the CBI Real Business First Woman Awards and in 2005, Woman of the Year at the Women in Film and Television Awards.