

Meet Sam Travelling a new path

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Sam Arnold attended Mary Hare School from 2001 to 2007. He studied Art & Photography, Biology and Chemistry in 6th Form, and went onto UWE Bristol to study (BSC) Creative Product Design. Sam has done many things since leaving University - furniture design, travelling, volunteering and more recently working freelance for a TV production company and a full-time office furniture designer. Sam now tells us a bit more about the career he is settling into.

Where did your travels take you after University and how did this develop you as an individual?

Since I left University in 2010, I have travelled to many countries around Europe, Asia and my most recent trip was ten months in South America which was the best thing I have ever done.

Everyone has their specific ways of travelling and reason to travel. Everyone develops differently during their travels. My experience and motivation to travel will be different from yours. My motivation to travel was to create a new chapter in my life and face new challenges to push my boundaries physically and mentally and to see how far I could go to learn more about myself. I've encountered many challenges such as a multi-days' hiking through different environments as well as climbing up 6000m summits to witness the Mother Nature.

I have another purpose of travelling which is to meet new people, and oh boy, my confidence has grown incredibly ever since. Travel gave me a different way of seeing and dealing with things. For example, I learned my unique way of comforting people without them freaking out when I tell them I am deaf, by making jokes and ending up having good conversations.

I no longer care what other people think of me and my deafness. I am incredibly proud to be deaf and feel lucky as it gives me a unique deaf identity I continue to cherish.



Travelling has developed me to become fearless and not afraid to push my boundaries. Don't be scared to step out of your limitations, you will find a way to adapt and end up becoming limitless to learning new things.

What influence did your time at Mary Hare school have on your career choice?

To be honest with you, I never knew what I wanted to do in the future when I was at Mary Hare. It can be scary for you to decide to often feel pressurised by others surrounding you to decide. But it is not the end of the world if you step in the wrong direction. Just follow your gut feelings, and you eventually will find a way to follow your dreams.

I went on to University and studied Product Design with no interest in design or experience. Still lucky I fell in love with it and had a good career out of it before I went travelling. Now, I am currently juggling two different career roles, an experienced office furniture designer and a novice filmmaker. I never stop believing in myself and keep following my dreams.



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Mary Hare helped me to believe I can have the career I want to have. Let your passion drive you, and don't pick the profession because of money or let someone tell you what your job should be, or you can't take it because you are not 'talented' or 'academic' enough. You have to follow your dreams, you need to work hard to get there, but your passion will make it easier to reach your goal.

You are currently working as a Trainee Assistant Producer for Mutt and Jeff Pictures. How did you get into this role?

I struggled to get a design job since I returned from South America just before the lockdown happened. I had always wanted to be a filmmaker and saw an advert to join a workshop to learn the basic principles of filmmaking. I showed my enthusiasm and passion for learning in filmmaking, and afterwards, I emailed the trainer to consider me for future roles and got the job a few months later.

What is the best part of your job so far?

Meeting people and share their fascinating stories before sharing them with the audience. Helping them share the stories that deserve to be shared.

Have you hit any barriers in this role being deaf?

You have to accept that you will be facing barriers if you are deaf. You have to find a way to deal with things, to adapt to them, and it is going to be challenging, but you will build a thick skin to become a stronger person. Don't be afraid to step up and ask for help, and don't let it disturb your dreams because of the barriers you face. I faced many barriers in my life that knocked my confidence down. I did not give up and picked myself up, eventually to prove people wrong. For example, during many brainstorming sessions I had with colleagues. I was always the quiet one with



the fewest ideas to share because I focused on what everyone was saying. This can be tiring, but I found a way to show my ideas by showing them later or having one to one sessions to share my thoughts.

You can also apply Access To Work to give you the support you need through your career, which I regretted not using in the past, so don't make the same mistake as I did.

Is there any advice you would like to give to other young deaf people wanting to break into the film industry?

It is all about networking and meeting people to find the right person to give you the opportunity you dream of. Use your passion to motivate you to become a filmmaker to break into the industry.

I am still very new to the film industry and yet to discover many more, but I desire to believe myself to become a successful filmmaker and am willing to challenge myself and not be afraid to make mistakes to learn new things.

The last and best bits, watch as many TV series, films and documentaries to create your style and make sure you have original ideas!



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