



## GEMMA HIRST ASSOCIATES

Literary Media, Film & TV Agency

### **MELLIE BUSE**

Mellie is a children's/family TV writer, producer, script editor and consultant. She is highly experienced as a Head Writer and Development Consultant and is used to liaising with Producers and Broadcasters and running teams of writers.

Together with her partner, Jan Page, they set up Adastra Creative, an independent production company, which has written and produced five series of top rated BAFTA winning CBeebies show GRANDPA IN MY POCKET. In addition she co-created, wrote and produced HA HA HAIRIES, another mixed content show launched on Cartoon Network EMEA and has had three Bafta nominations.

Mellie script edited Tiger Aspect's award-winning animation adaptation of Lauren Child's CHARLIE & LOLA books for the BBC and Disney channel. She was Co-Creator, Head Writer and Creative Producer on Jim Henson's BAFTA winning pre-school series THE HOOPS, and has written extensively over the years for all the leading kid's entertainment companies including HiT, Jim Henson, Entertainment Rights, and Granada. She is currently head writer on WISSPER Series 2 for Absolutely Cuckoo/Milkshake.

Mellie has recently set up two new companies with Producer/Director Martin Franks. The first, Adastra Development Ltd, is developing IP for traditional TV platforms as well as offering creative consultancy and writing services for clients. Recent development work includes "The Trouble with Mum" for Spider Eye animation, "Mick the Mini Chef" for Studio Redfrog and Myro for Myro Adventures Ltd. ([www.adastradevelopment.com](http://www.adastradevelopment.com)) She has also established Magic2Media Ltd to create and produce content for digital platforms including a stop frame/live action show, Bitziboos. ([www.magic2.media](http://www.magic2.media)) Mellie is a regular speaker at the London Screenwriters' Festival and The Children's Media Conference and runs writing workshops and training courses.



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### **SCRIPTWRITING & PRODUCTION**

#### **WISSPER Series 2 (Absolutely Cuckoo/Milkshake)**

Head writer on 52 x 7' preschool series

#### **GRANDPA IN MY POCKET (Adastra Creative/CBeebies)**

Original mixed content pre-school comedy. Mellie Buse and Jan Page wrote and produced the series through their own production company, Adastra Creative [www.adastracreative.com](http://www.adastracreative.com). Five series have now been produced and aired making 118 episodes all told. The show has sold to 104 countries worldwide and was the highest rating show in the UK and Australia for its target demographic.

\*Nominated for Best Pre-school Live Action programme at the 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2014 Children's BAFTA Awards

\*Nominated for Best Non-Animated or Mixed Series in the Pre-school category at the 2010 inaugural KidScreen Awards

\*Winner of Welsh BAFTA 2009 – Best Children's Programme

**GRANDPA IN MY POCKET STAGE SHOW** – “Teamwork!” - Nottingham Playhouse 13<sup>th</sup> July–11<sup>th</sup> August 2012. Mellie Buse and Jan Page co-wrote the stage production of “Grandpa in my Pocket” which premiered at Nottingham in the Summer of 2012 and toured the UK in 2013.

#### **THE HA HA HAIRIES**

New flagship pre-school commission from Turner Europe. Created, written and Produced by Mellie Buse and Jan Page, the series began airing across Europe, Middle East and Africa from May 2012. It is Turner Broadcasting's first EMEA pre-school commission and after only a month on air it is rating at number 1 in Italy, 2 in Sweden and 4 in the UK on Cartoon Network channels.

\*Nominated for 2012 and 2013 BAFTA in the Pre-School Live Action category.

#### **CHARLIE AND LOLA (BBC/Playhouse Disney/Tiger Aspect)**

Script editor/Head Writer and pre-school consultant on 78 x 12 minute episodes of this multi award-winning series.



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### **THE HOOBS (Jim Henson for C4)**

Head writer and series producer on 250 x 30 minute pre-school series. 12 scripts and lyrics for over 400 songs.

\*Winner of the 2002 BAFTA for Best Pre-School Live Action.

### **ANGELINA BALLERINA (HiT Entertainment)**

Scripts and an hour-long Christmas special for this animated series adapted from the best-selling books for BBC.

\*Nominated for 2002 BAFTA Best Animated Programme

\*The Christmas Special – Winner of British Animation Award 2004

### **ROYAL OPERA HOUSE**

Scripts and Production for two factual series for The Royal Ballet and Royal Opera for kids aged 8 – 11 Schools' Outreach Project.

### **TAP ON THE ROOF**

Creator and writer of development bible and pilot script for new comedy series for CBBC.

### **MICK THE MINI CHEF**

Development of mixed content Kids Cooking brand and pilot scripts for France Television/Studio Redfrog.

### **MYRO**

Development and head writing of pilot eps of new pre-school brand for Ch5.

### **THE TROUBLE WITH MUM**

Development and pilot script from this well known Babette Cole picture book for Spider Eye Animation.

### **HAPPY GO HOPSCOTCH**

Development and Consultation on new pre-school animated show.

### **BITZIBOOS**



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Development, scripts and production of mixed content stop frame/live action pre-school brand for digital platforms.

### **MY MAGIC THEATRE**

Creator, writer, producer of digital puppetry brand for digital platforms.

### **SHLOPPY TV**

Co Creator, writer and producer of new digital edutainment puppet brand for kids aged 7 -11.

### **BLOB IN A BOX**

Co-Creator, writer and producer of new pre-school brand with character designs by Tom McLaughlin.

### **ZIT AND ROCKET**

Development and Scripts for new digital animation series for 7 – 11 yr olds.

### **WEIRD**

Development and Script Editor for short form digital drama series for 8 – 12 yr olds.

### **CHESTER TUFFNUT**

Digital re-imagining of Gomito Productions Stage Show for pre-schoolers. Writer, producer.

### **THE ENORMOUS CROCODILE – ROALD DAHL**

Development for television for the Roald Dahl Estate.

### **FIVE MINUTES MORE**

Children's special television project. An original pre-school puppet show for ABC Australia - developed, scripted and consulted on all 65 episodes.

### **BAMBALOO (Jim Henson)**

Development of 65 x 30 minute live action series for Channel 7 Australia. Storylines and Head Writer for all 65 episodes and Co-executive producer for the series.



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### **MOPATOP'S SHOP (Jim Henson)**

Series 1 & 2 - 40 x 10 minute scripts for the pre-school puppet show broadcast on CITV.

\*Series nominated for a Children's BAFTA

### **ENTERTAINMENT RIGHTS – GUESS WITH JESS (CBeebies)**

Series Development and Head writing - 52 episodes.

### **THE MAGIC ROUNDABOUT**

Scripts for the recent remake of this series.

### **FIREMAN SAM (HiT Entertainment)**

Scripted on the new CGI series.

### **WHAT'S YOUR NEWS (TT Animation)**

Scripted on new Nick Jnr series.

### **COOLABI – POPPYCAT (Nick Jnr)**

Development for an animated series now airing on Nick Jnr.

### **TOBY'S TRAVELLING CIRCUS (Komixx Entertainment)**

Development of pre-school series aired on Milkshake.

### **LIVE ACTION SERIES (Chapman Entertainment)**

Creative consultancy and development of new pre-school live action series from the creator of BOB THE BUILDER.

### **THE (NOT SO SCARY) MONSTERS (The Monster Factory)**

Origination of pre-school animated magazine show.

### **TALES OF THE RIVERBANK (Celador International)**

Developed scripted and produced new pre-school puppet series loosely based on the original show.

### **SAM SAM (Baynard Jeunesse)**



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CGI pre-school French animation series. Casting/voice direction and consultancy.

### **WHERE'S MY DINNER? (Arthur Cox)**

Script development for comedy adventure series for 6-10 year olds.

### **PEPPER'S PATROL (Coolabi)**

Development producer for this stop-frame animated series for 4-6 year olds.

### **NEW ANIMATED PRE-SCHOOL SHOW**

Developed and scripted for HiT and Lupus Films.

### **INITIAL KIDS**

Originated and developed pre-school live action entertainment series.

### **JESS THE BORDER COLLIE (IWC/BBC Scotland)**

Storyliner, scriptwriter, and script consultant. Involved in the development of the project.

### **PLANET COOK (Platinum Films)**

Head writer/script producer on 104 x 20 minute episodes of this light entertainment 'Cooking Adventure' for the BBC.

### **LITTLE ROBOTS (Create TV)**

Scripts for this animated pre-school series.

### **BORN AND BRED (BBC Drama)**

Story line commission.

### **WATCH BARNABY BEAR (BBC Education)**

Scripts for live action Key Stage One Geography programmes.

### **FLIPPITT (HiT Entertainment)**

Development work including bible and several scripts for this science based animation series.



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### **THE 3RD DABBLER (BBC Radio Wales)**

BBC Radio play.

### **THE MAGIC KEY (BBC/HiT Entertainment)**

6 x 13 minute scripts for animated series based on The Oxford Reading Tree Scheme.

### **DON'T EAT THE NEIGHBOURS (Granada)**

Storyline and 22 minute script for puppet show series.

### **WATCH: FAITH STORIES (BBC Education)**

4 x 7 minute scripts.

### **THE NEW ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN PUGWASH (Britt Allcroft Ltd for ITV)**

One of only two writers on Series one and two of the newly animated series.

### **OFF THE RAILS & NOT IN MY BACK YARD**

Development of scripts with James Bolam for this situation comedy and comedy drama series.

### **PLAYAWAY & THE SQUARE TOMATO SHOW (BBC)**

Scripts and sketches.

### **FURTHER WORK**

**Halo Films** - Development/consultancy for pre-school science series.

**John Cary Films** - Developing adult animation comedy series - bible and sample script.

**Pearson Education** - Two 30 minute drama programmes for English Language Teaching.

**Zenith** - Development work and bible for pre-school live action music show.

**Red Gecko** - Development work for animations series currently in development.

**Nelvanan/Silver Lining** - Commissioned to write a pilot script for animated adaptation of Babette Cole's **PRINCESS SMARTYPANTS** books.

**Granada Animation** - Development work (including pilot script and treatments) written for several children's TV projects for a variety of ages.



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### AUDIO ADAPTATION

#### **ROALD DAHL**

Adaptation for the Penguin Audio Books - Dramatisations of the following titles for cassette/CD launched in August 1998 (also full studio production and post production):

**FANTASTIC MR FOX, JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH, MATILDA, DANNY THE CHAMPION OF THE WORLD, GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE, THE WITCHES, CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY, CHARLIE AND THE GREAT GLASS ELEVATOR, THE BFG.**

Audio adaptations for **Penguin Audio** books and full studio production of the following titles:

**NURSERY RHYMES AND TALES** (\*Winner of best pre-school title at Talkies Awards), **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS, PETER PAN, ALICE IN WONDERLAND, ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS.**

### STAGE

#### **COME IN NUMBER THREE**

Winning entry of short plays staged at the Hawth Theatre, Crawley and subsequent tour.

### JOURNALISM

Regular humorous feature writer for *Baby* magazine, contributor to *Mother and Baby, Money* and *Country Living* magazines.

### AUDIO PRODUCTION

Audio production and direction for numerous audio books, dramatisations, music programmes and children's programmes.

\*Winner of six **Talkies** awards in various categories





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**MISCELLANEOUS**

**EUREKA: FUN AND FIRECRACKERS (Eos Films for Channel 4 Schools)**

Script editing and consultancy work for a 4-part programme.

**COME FOLLOW ME (Save the Children Fund)**

Wrote lyrics and music for a Christmas Pop Opera for young voices. World Premier - November 1998 at Apollo Theatre, Oxford. Also lyrics and Music for An Easter Cantata in the same style.

Dramatised documentaries, corporate training programmes, satirical verse, travel programmes.