

The Presenter Network Conference 2023



The Presenter Network was set up in 2014 by the Royal Observatory Greenwich as a way for presenters to share best practice as well as watch others in action to develop their presenting style. Since then we've run regular meet-ups in collaboration with other organisations and established hubs covering every aspect of presenting you could ever imagine: using comedy effectively, working with challenging audience members, how to look after your voice and everything in between.

The response to the conferences over the past few years had been overwhelmingly positive and so back by popular demand the seventh annual Presenter Network Conference was organised.

This special one-day event was held online on **Friday 8th September 2023** and was run by the Royal Observatory Greenwich in London. The day was jam-packed with sessions facilitated by members of the network with plenty of time to share best practice too.

Frequently asked questions:

- Who was this event for? This network is created by presenters, for presenters so whether you are just starting out or want to freshen up your skills there will always be plenty to suit. If you are not actively involved in presenting, then I am afraid this is not the network for you.
- How much did it cost? This event was FREE - yes you read that right - FREE!
- What was the capacity? This year we ran a hybrid conference on site and online and so it was open to 430 people - far more than we have previously be able to open it up to.
- Where and when was this event? The event was held online and was run by the Royal Observatory Greenwich in London on Friday 8th September 2021.
- Was it all about science? No, we had people from across the public communication sector, however because the network is run by the team here at the Royal Observatory Greenwich our networks naturally included lots of science related places and people.

2023 Conference Programme

You can find more information about all our speakers in the appendix.

10:00am – Welcome and sign-in

10:30am – Keynote speaker -Paul Canoville

11am – Short break

11:15am - Sarah Cosgriff

11:45am - Grace Buckle

12:15pm – Tom Rocks Maths

12:45pm – Lunch break

1:45pm – Presenter surgery

3:15pm - Workshop - Jamie Gallagher

4pm - Short break

4:15pm - Closing remarks & group photo

4:30pm - Planetarium show

5:30pm – Social

There is always so much to talk about after Presenter Network meet ups. We headed for a drink and an informal chat after the conference and were glad to see lots of presenters come along.

For more information about the Presenter Network [click here](#).

Appendix

Keynote Speaker Paul Canoville

Paul Canoville made his debut as Chelsea's first black first-team player in 1982 and was shocked and terrified to receive vile racist abuse from crowds, both supporters of his own and opposing teams. This continued throughout his time at Chelsea until he left to play for Reading in 1986, where his career was cut short a year later due to injury.

Paul's successful 2008 autobiography "Black and Blue" was turned into a documentary by the same name in 2015 and captures this experience and the downward spiral that ensued, including drug addiction, family tragedy, two bouts of cancer and homelessness. Paul was able to overcome these extreme obstacles and become a positive source of inspiration for future generations of young people facing difficult times themselves. By creating the Paul Canoville Foundation, Paul has raised enough funds to establish programmes and resources for thousands of young people:

- eligible for "free school meals" who may lack access to sport or development opportunities that other children have.
- impacted by crime, gang affiliation, poor school attendance or challenges with behaviour.
- facing discrimination or harassment due to a Protected Characteristic or because they are part of an under-represented group or marginalised community.
- needing support with a change in their life path; such as sportspeople released from academies, unsigned musicians, those leaving higher education before completing studies or changing career paths.

As part of the Foundation offer, he personally visits school pupils to deliver motivational talks and workshops based on his lived experiences including; anti-racism, fulfilling ambition, overcoming adversity, social mobility, making it in football, homelessness and so much more. The impact of the Foundation has assisted young people with the next steps in life, by driving up school attendance, having an increased awareness of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, reducing bad behaviour and seeing an increased uptake of other aspirational programmes.

Twitter: @Kingcanners @_PCFoundation

Facebook: @PaulCanovilleFoundation

www.paulcanovillefoundation.co.uk/

Plenary Speakers

Sarah Cosgriff

Be Queer, Do Science

In this session, Sarah shared how she weaves queer narratives into her science shows and TikTok content. They also shared their personal experiences as a queer science presenter and how you can be more inclusive of LGBTQ+ audiences and presenters.

Grace Buckle

Working as a BSL interpreter in the Deaf community

This session talked about Grace's journey as an interpreter, how she got started to where she is now. She spoke about accessibility and representation within the deaf community, what deafness is and British Sign Language.

Tom Rocks Maths

Finding your voice on social media

In this session, Tom talked about his journey with Tom Rocks Maths over the past 5 years. How, what began as an extension of his journalistic work with the Naked Scientists, evolved into a behind-the-scenes look at the life of a Maths Lecturer at Oxford. The changes were significant, and the lessons learned even more so!

Workshop Leaders

Jamie Gallagher

Lasting Impressions

Making talks as engaging, accessible and inclusive as possible starts before you even enter the room. In this short session Jamie shared his introvert's guide to creating shows, talks and events that welcome as many people as possible. He talked about how being the world's worst and most awkward audience member has led Jamie to create spaces that anyone can feel comfortable in. He also shared tips on minimising nerves and dealing with hostile questions.

Twitter: @jamiebgall

Cassandra Wye

Fly Me to the Moon - Building Access and Inclusion Through Science Storytelling

Cassandra presented this workshop online which focussed on practical demonstration of how science storytelling can promote inclusion by

- Delivering an inclusive sensory science storytelling experience - for children with Additional Needs - including children with SEND and EAL children
- Developing children's science communication skills

- Providing an affordable and accessible science provision - by linking stories to science activities
- Celebrating the diverse cultural heritages within our communities

During this session Cassandra shared stories and science resources from her Science Storytelling resource: wesharethesamemoon.org