

## LAURA AVILES TAKES UP THE REINS AT THE BOTTLE YARD STUDIOS AND BRISTOL FILM OFFICE

*The Bottle Yard Studios is recognised by the Royal Television Society West of England with 2020 Sir Ambrose Fleming Memorial Award*

BRISTOL, 10 September 2020: Laura Aviles has been appointed Senior Film Manager by Bristol City Council, responsible for the management of The Bottle Yard Studios and Bristol Film Office.



A production specialist with more than 25 years industry experience, Laura will oversee delivery of Bristol City Council's filming strategy, promoting Bristol as an outstanding filming location and ensuring the city can deliver a single, complete and consistent offer that encompasses studio filming at The Bottle Yard and Bristol Film Office's logistical support for productions on location.

**Laura Aviles, Senior Film Manager** says: "Having built my production career in Bristol producing content for many different commissioners and channels, I've worked with and witnessed the skills and professionalism of Bristol crew and facilities companies first-hand. I've watched the city's reputation for filming rise, due in no small part to the hard work of the small teams at The Bottle Yard Studios and Bristol Film Office. I'm delighted to take on this new role and work with Natalie and Janine to bring the Film Office and Studios closer together. With production gearing up across the UK, my focus is firmly on ensuring that as a unified film team we can continue to build on past successes, to benefit Bristol's crews, supply chains and partner businesses."

**Cllr Craig Cheney, Deputy Mayor for Finance, Governance, Performance and Culture**, said: "I welcome Laura to the team and look forward to working with her to build on the successes of The Bottle Yard Studios. The film and TV sector is one of Bristol's fastest growing business areas and the studios play a vital role in this growth. As we drive the economic recovery of the city both the studio and the industry will be crucial to securing jobs and investment in Bristol."

The Royal Television Society of the West of England last week named The Bottle Yard Studios as the 2020 recipient of its prestigious **Sir Ambrose Fleming Memorial Award**, which recognises exceptional contribution to television in the West of England region.

Presenting the award at the online ceremony on Thursday (3 September), **Mayor of Bristol Marvin Rees** said: "Huge congratulations to The Bottle Yard Studios for winning the Ambrose Fleming Award. Over the past ten years it has become globally recognised as a studio complex for all forms of production and an important part of the flourishing creative sector within Bristol. For the City Council it has been an incredible opportunity to evidence the scale of commitment we have to the creative sector. This commitment has paid off in so many ways and huge thanks needs to go to the team for all the work they have done."

Laura Aviles began her career at ITV working in film and television production and operations management, before moving to Tigress Productions and then BBC Bristol, where as Production Manager she delivered TV content for a range of major commissioners and

channels. In 2011 she joined BBC Earth Productions, a subsidiary of BBC Worldwide, as Senior Production Manager before becoming Head of Production in 2015, overseeing all operational, financial, talent, production and post production management aspects of the business, including traditional platforms of TV, feature film, giant screen and digital as well as emerging technologies such as VR, AR and live events. Whilst in this role Laura delivered the first film produced under the new UK/China co-production treaty, the 90' feature film *Earth: One Amazing Day* for global theatrical release, working with Shanghai Media Group. In 2018 she moved to Bristol-based Mustang Films where as Head of Production, her credits included the *China's Greatest Treasures* series presented by art critic Alistair Sooke, a ground-breaking co-production commission with China's primary state broadcaster, CCTV.

More recently Laura has provided freelance production consultancy to new independent production companies, helping them establish robust systems and practices and converting new creative content ideas into achievable budgets for potential commissioners such as Netflix, Disney, National Geographic, BBC and Channel 4.

The Bottle Yard Studios reopened for production in mid-June after publishing 'Covid-19 Site Operating Procedures', drafted in line with government policies and industry guidance. CBeebies' *Andy's Aquatic Adventures* and ITV gameshow *Tipping Point* were the first shows to resume production on site. Earlier this month the Studios' first Netflix booking was confirmed; 10-part children's sci-fi series *The Last Bus* produced by Bristol company Wildseed Studios will move into production in the Autumn. Also in line to film at the Studios is Emily Mortimer's BBC One adaptation of Nancy Mitford's celebrated novel *The Pursuit Of Love* starring Lily James, Dominic West, Emily Beecham and Andrew Scott, which has begun filming in the Bristol and Bath area.

#### **– ENDS –**

For more information about The Bottle Yard Studios and Bristol Film Office, contact Tara Milne [taracmilne@gmail.com](mailto:taracmilne@gmail.com) / 07532134020.

For more information about RTS West of England's Sir Ambrose Fleming Memorial Award, visit <https://rts.org.uk/article/sir-ambrose-fleming-award>

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

##### **The Bottle Yard Studios**

The Bottle Yard Studios is a Bristol City Council initiative. The site, which operated for more than 50 years as a former winery and bottling plant, is now an established base for film and television production in the West of England, attracting UK and overseas productions of all sizes. Eight stages are available at competitive rates, just 15 minutes from Bristol city centre, plus giant green screen, extensive back lot, workshop areas, production offices, costume and make-up rooms, dressing-rooms, storage, private roadways and parking. More than 20 business tenants deliver a host of services on site including creative, digital, technical and audio/visual expertise, grips, transport, structural, fire and safety assistance.

Past productions include: The Salisbury Poisonings (BBC One), The Trial of Christine Keeler (BBC One), The Pale Horse (BBC One), The Spanish Princess (STARZ), Tipping Point (ITV), The 'Andy's Adventures' series (CBeebies), McDonald & Dodds (ITV), Sanditon (ITV), Fortitude (Sky Atlantic), The Crystal Maze (Channel 4), Poldark (BBC One), Eric, Ernie & Me (BBC Four), Ill Behaviour (BBC Two), The Festival (Entertainment Film), Hellboy (Lionsgate), Three Girls (BBC One), The White Princess (STARZ), Broadchurch (ITV), Trollied (Sky1), Crazyhead (E4/Netflix), Sherlock: The Abominable Bride (BBC One), The Living and the Dead (BBC One), Galavant (Disney/ABC Studios), Wolf Hall (BBC Two), The Lost Honour of Christopher Jefferies (ITV).

The Bottle Yard Studios is committed to improving pathways into the production industry for young people from all backgrounds. Its onsite classrooms are home to more than 60 16-19 year olds studying Film & TV Production and Stage & Screen Production Arts Diplomas taught in a working studio environment, delivered by further education provider Boomsatsuma.  
[www.thebottleyard.com](http://www.thebottleyard.com)

**Bristol Film Office**

Bristol Film Office, a division of Bristol City Council, is dedicated to making film, TV or commercial photography shoots run as smoothly as possible when on location in Bristol. It is the one-stop-shop for all filming enquiries, providing assistance at all stages of production, from initial location and crewing advice to recces and logistical support. Bristol Film Office recorded more than £16 million inward investment generated by TV and film productions using The Bottle Yard Studios and/or Bristol locations 2018/19.

Working with partners across the city, Bristol Film Office is leading the UNESCO City of Film programme of activity delivered under the internationally respected status awarded to Bristol in 2017.  
[www.filmbristol.co.uk](http://www.filmbristol.co.uk)

