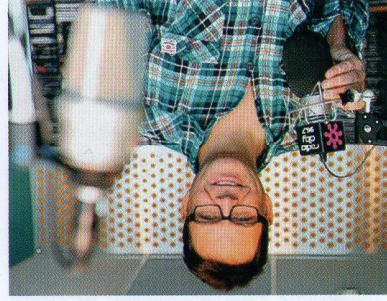


This week as thing or slowing down a little and presenters across the UK or too busy to do much more than try and get back up to speed after the summer holidays. I thought I would take a look at an area of presenting most of us who or looking to get into the world of the radio jock want to know about, THE BIG BREAK! So here are some of the great ways guys and galls have broken there way on to the air waves!

So you lot, how did it all start then?

Rossie (breakfast show – Radio City)

it was your first – I have taken that piece of advice with me ever since.



My first radio show was in Radio Topshop London, then called the fashion network. I was so nervous, but I have to say nevertheless well prepared - so it all went well. I always get a little rush before I start every show – it's just the natural buzz you get doing live radio. My first full time show in IRL was the evening show at Rock FM in Preston. Again, I so nervous I could have walked out the building five minutes before I started, but, stood my ground, did my thing and spent six very happy years at the "Rocking Church", St Paul's Square Preston. After my first week, John Myers took me aside and told me to be a tad less

Benji! (midweek late show - Radio One)

My first break in Radio was producing Gilles Peterson's Sunday night live show on Kiss Fm. I was 16 years old, it was an amazing time for music back

then, and Kiss FM was still good in those days – they had all the best London specialist DJs in the mid 90's. Learning about the environment to be in and learn about the difference between DJ-ing and broadcasting. I have been in a live radio studio every week of my life since then. Jez Nelson gave me my first job in radio, producing when I was 18 years old at a company called

Something' Else. Back then it was a basement in Hoxton Square and only 6 people worked for the company. I learnt so much about pre and post production in my

variety of programming across different networks, both

commercial and BBC, I have also been DJing since I was 15 years old, around the UK and all over the world. I was very happy in 2002 when that was recognized by BBC Radio 1 Xtra, who offered me a show on the new net work, my first day on air – well... I didn't even speak!

The Bobster (Sunday nights – Island FM)

I was approached by the programme controller 4 years ago who met me in town whilst I was telling a few gags to some friends, he suggested popping into Island FM for an audition. Bingo! Within a week I was standing in for a weeks worth of evening shows. I was doing some compare work for local event dinners and I think it fitted the profile well

Mandy Morrow (Saturday night owls show – Radiowey.co.uk)

My first taste of Radio came 13 years ago when I recorded a play on a commercial London radio station for a friend. My friend asked me only as a last resort as he was pretty stuck for someone to read one of the parts. During that recording the big producer of the station dropped in and asked who I was, then proceeded to tell

professionally. That was my first introduction to radio. I joined Radio Wey in 2006 after a hair raising week in hospital. I have loved the voluntary side of Radio Wey – talking to patients and being at big country fairs in the summer months is so much fun. It really has been the best thing I have ever done.

Dave Phillips (Sunday morning – Chester's Dee 106.3)

London.

Growing up in the sixties in North West England meant I spent my adolescent years listening to Radio Caroline North broadcasting off the coast of the Isle of Man. From that moment on, all I wanted to do was to work in radio. Unfortunately, there were few opportunities for radio presenting after the demise of the pirate stations, so I had to pursue my second choice of career – teaching. I trained as a secondary school Maths teacher and took up my first post in my home town of Wallasey. However, I hadn't lost the broadcasting bug so I joined Hospital Radio Clatterbridge on the Wirral and presented a regular Saturday morning show for over twenty years! One of my colleagues at the station was Phil Rodgers (now PC at Silk FM) and he managed to secure some work for himself at Radio City in Liverpool. He tipped me to tell

Emma Scott (Weekdays - Heart FM Devon)

Sound in Sussex.

I started in radio back in 1988 at Chitern Radio in Bedford. I managed to get my foot in the

Ingrid Hagemann (Weekends - BBC Radio Newcastle)

began!

weekend overnights and so my professional career eventually

Lee Jay (Presenter – Heart FM Spain)

I began my career on air thanks to Giles Squire and Metro Radio who were looking for female presenters and gave me my big break. Since then I've worked in Miami, Chicago and Capital FM in

I was born at a very early age and right from then had a real passion for music. First through, playing in bands then DJing both on the road and in clubs. Having survived the soul and Motown filled 60s years then the 70's with all of the Northern Soul and glam the 80's started a change and a return to the radio waves having initially presented the odd (very) show on BRMB in Birmingham, got involved with Severn Sound in Gloucester, then to Southern

Heart FM Devon)

managed to get my foot in the

presenters background and there

first brake into radio and 8 out of 10 times they all have stories like

your have just read, not many tell

about training or doing this

course or that course, so I like to

think that it is still down to being

in the right place at the right time,

which still gives me a little hope

for myself and others like me.

Back to normal next week, so

see you there, remember you

can put yourself forward to be in

the hot seat by contacting me

through The Radio Magazine or

my website.

every since!

And finally the King on the night

time spot Alan Robson (Night

Owls – Metro Radio)

I was a singer in a number of

bands then briefly did some stand

up comedy, then applied to Metro

as cover for a rock presenter, he

had a one hour show, within

three months I was in and it had

grown to a 4 hour show, and so it

began, since then I have been

offered tons of national &

network gigs on TV and radio, but

I am happy doing a little of

everything.

In most of the interviews I have

done I always ask about the

Training Scheme. I did 4 and a half

years of admen, washing up, vox

pops, bulk erasing tape reclaiming

and writing out "what's on".

During that time I taught myself

how to work the studio and used

to stay after work most nights. I

made up many cassettes of

"presenting shows" and gave

them to my bosses. They

eventually got boarded of this and

gave me some air shifts – reading

travel news. I did that for a few

weeks, and was then offered an

overnight show on The Hot FM. I

did this for a few months and

then got offered Saturday

afternoon sports show at their

sister station, Galaxy Radio in

Bristol. I've been moving around