

Alexander Willcox

Studio Operations Manager | Live Production and Broadcast Technology

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PROFILE

I bring broadcast standards to organisations that aren't broadcasters. My first decade was live news, sport and graphics at Al Jazeera English, Bloomberg News, deltatree and Premier League Productions, on staff and freelance, operating Viz Trio and Viz Mosart graphics synchronised with QMaster and ENPS; the last seven years have been spent building that same discipline into a global asset manager. I direct and produce the CEO and Global Operating Committee, specified and commissioned six studio and event spaces, and deliver award-winning podcast and video under financial services compliance, backed by the CFA Institute Investment Foundations Certificate.

EXPERIENCE

Studio Operations Manager | Fidelity International, London | Mar 2021 - present

Studio Multi-Skilled Operator, Mar 2019 - Mar 2021

- Direct and vision-mix 30+ live company events and all-staff broadcasts a year to audiences in the tens of thousands, alongside hundreds of pre-recorded productions, across four studios - one an international site directed remotely from London - and two event venues.
- Brief, direct and produce the CEO, Global Operating Committee members and heads of department on camera for all-staff broadcasts and leadership events.
- Set the creative direction - format, visual treatment and narrative - across live, video and award-winning podcast output.
- Run Master Control Room operations end to end: technical planning, signal routing between studios and remote contributors, gallery and studio configuration, live delivery and incident response.
- Specified and commissioned the six-figure studio and event space build with external broadcast and AV integrators, delivering entirely new facilities for pre-recorded, live and audio content.
- Direct a crew of producers, editors and multi-skilled operators on every production: allocate work, run a freelance pool, and own resource planning, governance and production quality standards across all six spaces.
- Own studio production platform contracts: renewals, onboarding, support escalation and feature requests.
- Designed the shared-storage and transfer workflow (SNS EVO, Dropbox, Slingshot) that moves proxies, camera masters and finished deliverables between the London and Hong Kong facilities.
- Administer the department's Adobe Workfront instance including Fusion automations, having built the request, approval and resourcing workflows the wider creative team works through, and produce Power BI reporting across studio operations and podcast output: booking volumes, resourcing and time through each workflow stage, and podcast performance from Omny and Apple Podcasts Connect.
- Remotely operate and direct the Kronberg studio from London, running live virtual events over Zoom and RTMP feeds via OBS, distributing media through Qumu, and running productions on rundown software including Octopus and Cuez.
- Hold first aid training and own health and safety certification across the studio team, including Covid-19 protocols, working at heights training for camera and lighting work, and manual handling training for studio sets and kit.
- Evaluate and recommend production and brand technology across our Microsoft 365 and Adobe Creative Cloud tools, auditing capability already owned before recommending new spend, and authored an enterprise brand governance operating model connecting the brand guidelines platform, digital asset management and template systems.
- Studio output has been recognised with a Gold Lovie Award (2019) and a Silver at the British Podcast Awards (2020), produced within the compliance, brand and risk constraints of regulated financial services communications.

Senior Studio Operator | Al Jazeera English, London | Jun 2011 - Mar 2019

- Operated studio equipment for the live 24-hour news channel: Viz Content Pilot graphics, multi-camera operation and racking, studio lighting, Autoscript and floor management.
- Provided live audio feeds to and from the London bureau and managed studio guests on air under live conditions.

Senior Studio Operator | Dreamtek, London | Jun 2016 - Mar 2019

- Studio setup, vision mixing, camera operation, lighting direction and sound mixing on webcast presentations for Google and Burberry to international audiences.

Graphics Operator, Premier League Productions | deltatree / IMG, London | Sep 2017 - Dec 2018

- Live Viz graphics creation and operation across Premier League Productions live and pre-recorded output, including world maps and live callers.

Studio Graphics Operator | ARISE TV Network, London | Jul 2013 - Sep 2016

- Prepared, built and operated the graphics system for the channel's live output, working to programme deadlines alongside gallery and production teams.

Technical Writer | Future plc and Stagedoor.fm | Aug 2013 - Sep 2016

- Mobile technology reviews for TechRadar and Stagedoor.fm.

Graphics Operation and Design | Mammoth Graphics, London | Nov 2010 - May 2012

- Designed, created and operated live animated graphics on the Viz system for clients including The One Show (BBC), the Universiade, Sky Sports News and Manchester City FC.
- Ran in-stadium matchday operations for Manchester City FC, operating the big screens on Vizrt as part of the operational team and updating live scores and card information in real time.

Graphics Operation | Bloomberg News, London | Oct 2009 - Nov 2010

- Prepared and operated the Viz graphics system for live output, synchronised with QMaster and ENPS, with daily reporting.

Multi-Skilled Operator | Ostrich Media, London | Oct 2008 - May 2009

- Covered every gallery position across a shift: directing and vision mixing, sound, lighting, cameras and graphics.

SKILLS

Live production: live direction, vision mixing, Master Control Room operations, gallery and studio configuration, signal routing, live streaming (Zoom), multi-camera operation, big-screen and scoreboard operation, lighting, audio, floor management.

Broadcast systems: Blackmagic ATEM 4 M/E vision mixers, Ross Ultrix FR5 router, Blackmagic URSA Broadcast G2 cameras, Radamec robotics, Panasonic PTZ, Yamaha QL1 consoles, NTP DAD AX32, RTS ODIN and AP1800 intercom, Sennheiser G4 radio mics, HyperDeck, Softtron, AutoScript, Vizrt suite (Viz Trio, Viz Mosart, Viz Content Pilot, Viz RT), BirdDog NDI, Teranex, Genelec, GPS-locked reference and timecode, Cerebrum control.

Storage and workflow: SNS EVO shared storage, Dropbox and Slingshot transfer workflows, Adobe Workfront (administrator, Fusion automations), Frame.io, Adobe Experience Manager, Frontify, Templafy, Microsoft 365.

Post-production: Adobe Premiere Pro, After Effects, Audition, Media Encoder; iZotope RX.

Data analysis and reporting: Power BI dashboards covering studio booking, resourcing and workflow-stage data, and podcast platform analytics (Omny, Apple Podcasts Connect).

Cloud and remote production: remote studio operation (Kronberg from London), live virtual events (Zoom, OBS/RTMP), Qumu media distribution, rundown software (Octopus, Cuez).

Leadership: budget and vendor management, stakeholder management, resource planning, project delivery, production standards, governance in a regulated environment. First aid trained; health and safety certification oversight (Covid-19, working at heights, manual handling).

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION

CFA Institute - Investment Foundations Certificate, June 2024 (Credential ID 107162060)

Ravensbourne University London - BA (Hons) Broadcast Operations and Production, 2006 - 2009

West Herts College - Media Production, Communications and Media Studies, 2003 - 2005

AWARDS

Lovie Awards, Gold - Rich Pickings: Fidelity's Asset Allocation Podcast, Interview/Talk Show, November 2019

British Podcast Awards, Silver - The Investor's Guide to China, Bullseye Award, July 2020