



# >> Snapshot



## Jane Champion Hoye Writer and Story Teller WGGB & Equity

opportunities to do what I am passionate about, giving something back and of course, earning a living.

### What is the biggest challenge of learning the skills that you need?

Location and funding are the biggest obstacles. There are a lot of courses but most of them are in London and expensive, so apart from having to pay for the courses, I also have travel and accommodation to consider. Because FEU Training workshops are free and run at a variety of locations, including Birmingham, they provide a valuable resource of accessible training – the benefits of which make it worth the membership fees to both unions.

Through the Room 204 development programme, I have also benefited from access to lots of development opportunities for which I am very grateful.

### What FEU Training courses have you attended?

I've attended Build Your Own Website, Make Impact, Building your Brand, Negotiation for Freelancers and Write That Book and Get It published.

### What are the most important things that you've learned?

Attending these workshops has given me the confidence to create a platform for my work. The Build your Website workshop was tough and I thought too technical for me, but I worked through it all and was amazed how much I managed to do myself. Now I have a website I am proud of and which I can edit myself, every day if I want, without having to pay someone to do it for me.

As a direct result of these workshops, I have created a recognisable brand and a website. They gave me the confidence to self-publicise and stick up for myself. In a nutshell, they helped me to do the tough stuff.

There is little other support out there as a freelance. Every opportunity you approach you are starting from

scratch and it can feel lonely and cut off. FEU Training events provide support, encouragement and confidence. They take the fear factor out of many of the topics covered.

### What has encouraged you to attend FEU Training sessions?

The FEU Training workshops always have content that is of great value. They deliver what they say they do on the tin! They provide a welcome opportunity to mix with other creatives from all the artistic disciplines. It is brilliant to be working amongst such a broad range of people crossing all the different media. Events have an exciting buzz. Everyone there is professional and hungry to learn and the trainers are all excellent. I think the key thing FEU Training workshops do is give attendees the confidence to tackle the difficult aspects of creative freelancing.

### Do you know any organisation that offers business courses to creatives?

In terms of the diversity of people reached and the variety of what FEU offers, I'd say there is nothing else quite like it.

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