

Windsor Debates

Film, Television and Audio Visual: Thames Valley – the UK's Creative Heart
Friday 18th March 2022



Darren Smith
Managing Director
MBS Equipment Company

With a career spanning over twenty years, Darren Smith has a wealth of experience in the provision of professional equipment, facilities and support services to the global film, television and media production industry.

Occupying senior, board level positions, with some of the world's largest rental houses, supplying lighting and ancillary facilities both in the United Kingdom and internationally, Darren has supported some of the most important and influential productions of the past two decades. Having also played an integral part in the management and creation, both through start up and acquisition, of a number of the UK's premier studio complexes, Darren has amassed an 'end to end' understanding, covering all aspects of the production process.

An accomplished team leader with proven skills in the effective management of people, systems, assets, sales and branded communications, as Managing Director, Darren is responsible for the operation and strategic development of the UK and European business of the MBS Group - operators of the largest film and television studio platform in the world.

Recent milestone achievements have included: working closely with council leaders and local government to successfully deliver London's largest production centre, the MBS Group managed Eastbrook Studios; creation of Symmetry Park Studios to the North of London; launch of The Wharf Studios London; acquisition of Ireland's two most iconic production centres, Ardmore and Troy Studios; acquisition of Wardpark, Scotlands premier Studios.



www.mbseco.uk

#WindsorDebates

Windsor Debates

*Creative Industries and Audio-Visual Sector:
Thames Valley – the UK's creative heart*
Friday 18th March 2022



In addition to playing a senior role in the delivery of this major production infrastructure, Darren has been instrumental in securing long term studio occupancy contracts with a number of the world's leading content creators.

In his role as MD of MBS Equipment Co UK and Europe, Darren is responsible for the management, development and further growth of the company in one of the worlds' most important production destinations. Globally recognised as the leading provider of lighting equipment and ancillary facilities, in the UK alone MBSE annually supports over 150 productions, including the exclusive supply of services to Pinewood and Shepperton Studios.

Since the launch of the UK operation in 2016, the company has seen significant fiscal and physical growth. Despite the impact of the recent pandemic, careful management and meticulous planning has protected the well-being and job security of the entire UK based MBS Group workforce. With over 200 employees at the West London headquarters, plus numerous satellite operations, MBSE is now the UK's leading specialist equipment provider within this highly competitive market.

Passionate about supporting the production industry, Darren is proud to have helped film makers and crews achieve their creative goals on productions of all size and genre, from international blockbuster movies to independent and student films. Recent credits include: Indiana Jones 5, Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania and The Little Mermaid; Award winning television, Taskmaster, Not Going Out and The Ranganation; plus hit streaming shows including Ted Lasso, The Witcher, Star Wars: Andor and Citadel.

Through his work with the MBSE specialist technical innovations division, MBSi, Darren has also worked as part of the pioneering teams behind some of the production community's most creative equipment solutions. The MBSE equipment inventory is one of the most advanced production resources available anywhere in the world. The company is home to an unrivalled collection of cutting-edge production solutions that embraces both the conventional and the very latest energy efficient, LED lighting and control technologies. Having committed to introducing sustainability throughout all areas of its business, MBSE is proudly recognised by the BAFTA led albert initiative as a supplier committed to supporting sustainability in production.

Industry bodies which Darren actively supports include: the British Society of Cinematographers, BAFTA, the Production Guild of Great Britain, ASPEC, MAMA Youth Project and illuminatrix.



www.mbseco.uk

#WindsorDebates