

SONIA CASTELO BRANCO

A professional audio describer with more than 10 years of writing, proofreading, script-editing and voice-over experience.

<https://talking-pics.com> | soniacastelobranco@gmail.com

I've produced audio description for 200+ feature films as well as for an on-going gaming research project, independent short films, online festivals, architectural design bids and social media posts. You can find my work in cinemas nationwide, on DVD, Netflix, Amazon Prime, YouTube and Instagram.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS:

Harrogate College

Level 2 Web Design

Bucks New University

2:1 - BA (Hons) Media Studies with Creative Writing & Drama Production

SKILLS:

- Ability to write for an audience
- Adaptable
- Basic audio editing
- Collaborative
- Eagle-eyed
- Giving & receiving feedback
- Meeting tight deadlines
- Multitasking
- Not scared of technology
- Proofreading
- Quick to pick up new software
- Research
- Resourceful
- Script editing
- Supportive
- Writing for different genres

EXPERIENCE:

Audio Describer – Scriptwriting, Voice-Over, Proofreading and Script-editing (Freelance)

Motion Picture Solutions, West Kensington

April 2013 – May 2021

I was invited to MPS as an audio description consultant and established their AD department where I continued as a freelancer, producing audio descriptions for clients such as Universal, Sony, Lionsgate, Dogwoof, STX and Entertainment One. I have trained staff members in scriptwriting for a blind and visually impaired audience, voice-over techniques, the use of the AD software and how to self-record. I've recorded myself, directed in recording sessions and proofed and edited other describers' work, collaborating with them to make sure we're giving our audience the best experience possible.

Audio Describer – Script Writing and Voice Over (Freelance)

ITFC (now Deluxe), Acton

February 2013 – November 2013

I wrote and recorded visual commentaries for television programmes on ITV, Five, Discovery Channel and Hallmark, describing the action, characters, locations, costumes, body language and facial expressions for a blind and visually impaired audience. Programmes worked on included: *Emmerdale*, *Coronation Street*, *The Vampire Diaries*, *Murder She Wrote*, *Neighbours* and *Home & Away*.

Audio Visual Technician (Freelance)

Jacobs Massey, Various Locations

November 2012 – December 2013

I set up, operated and maintained the audiovisual equipment for client and staff meetings at various companies around London including Deutsche Bank and the Discovery Channel, working with Polycom, Cisco and Lifesize VC equipment. The role included being on call to troubleshoot and fix problems during meetings and preventative testing of meeting room equipment to ensure the smooth running of the business.

Webvision Assistant (Freelance)

EMAP – Retail Week, Mornington

Crescent. November 2012

I used Webvision CMS to build and edit webpages for a list of retailers.

The role required altering HTML code, company profile research, writing copy and sifting through the picture library for appropriate company photographs.

Operations Support (Temp)

Standard Life (through Brook Street),

The Gherkin, St Mary Axe

May 2012 – October 2012

In charge of setting up and maintaining all audiovisual equipment for client and staff meetings which included videoconferences, presentations and events. I acted as the eyes, ears and hands for the AV team in Scotland and fixed any issues in London with their guidance over the phone. First point of contact for any IT issues including broken printers and unresponsive phones/PCs. Covered reception and used the room booking system to assist staff with their meeting requirements.

PERSONAL INTERESTS:

When I'm not obsessing about AD you'll find me on a yoga mat or dance floor, wearing out my Cineworld Unlimited pass and making my own deodorant, which somehow works better than the stuff you can buy in the shops! I've been known to write the odd comedy sketch and have even performed stand-up as a NSFW character act: a Northern stripper named Portia.