

Agent: Peter MacFarlane

**SHARON WALIA**

**Journalist and Consultant**

**Original Scripts in Development:**

**Iraqi Mime:** Aida, a former rebel fighter from Syria seeks asylum in England. Will she or won't she get refugee status? Living in limbo she earns money miming in the streets, her only saviour - until she meets a charismatic Psychiatrist and a feisty human-rights Lawyer.

**Petals of Flesh:** Play or screen script depicting the brutal reality of FGM and back street cutting ceremonies that occur in the U.K.

**Notts TV April 2014-Present**

*Video Journalist*

- Producing creative daily TV news reports on local stories across Nottinghamshire
- Writing engaging and savvy copy for the Notts TV website and social media platforms
- Editing reports with Avid Newscutter and Adobe Premiere to a strict deadlines
- Liaising with organisations like Domestic & General, Boots to cover business achievements
- Conducted interviews with Carl Froch, Esther Rantzen, Bill Roache and more recently George Osborne, Theresa May, Ed Miliband, Andy Burnham and Ed Balls during the general election.
- Covered various aspects of the EU referendum and the aftermath of the vote

**BBC Rome** September 2013- March 2014

*Broadcast Assistant (Part time)*

- Making imaginative reports on cultural, political and arts events in Rome
- Assisting Vatican correspondent David Willey OBE with filming of official state visits
- Writing concise and sharp tweets to drive people to new stories
- Covering international visits to the Vatican (Obama and the Queen in 2013)

**The Foreign Press Office Rome**

*News desk assistant and copy writer (part time)*

- Writing long and short copy for English publications read by British expats
- Proof reading copy and articles for the Italian Insider website
- Interviewing British government officials and visiting artists (e.g Roger Waters)

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**BBC Radio Derby** February 2013-September 2013

*Reporter (Freelance – evenings and weekends)*

- Producing reports for the morning and drive-time shows
- Writing short and long copy for the BBC Derby website and Twitter page
- Updating the social media pages with breaking news stories as soon as possible
- Establishing and maintaining contacts in order to book relevant guests

**Refugee Futures – A project of Tuntum Housing Assoc.** September 2008-September 2013

*Refugee Caseworker*

- Assisting homeless refugees by providing housing, immigration and welfare advice
- Undertaking country research (Syria, Eritrea, and Iraq) and sending data to the Home Office
- Liaising with MPs, Home Office, Social Services and DWP to campaign for refugee rights
- Promoting Refugee Futures to stakeholders and funding bodies
- Writing articles on Tuntum's staff and housing achievements for the newsletter
- Drafting inventive press releases to send to local media
- Contributing to the internal communication outlets e.g highlighting staff achievements
- Coordinating the Refugee Week event festival in Nottingham for five years running
- Completed a placement in an Orphanage in North Africa

**The Independent Newspaper** – October 2012-November 2012

*News Desk Assistant (Internship)*

**Nottingham Refugee Forum** May 2004-September 2008

*Voluntary Asylum and Refugee Adviser (OISC Level 1)*

- Assisting with travel documents, life in the UK and citizenship applications
- Writing reports for clients wanting to submit a fresh asylum claim to immigration solicitors
- Undertaking country research on Afghanistan, Iraq, Eritrea and Somalia
- Condensing hard to understand topics into short easy to read statements for caseworkers

**Education:**

**Nottingham Trent University** October 2011-November 2012

MA Broadcast Journalism, BJTC accredited (Distinction)

**University of Nottingham** September 2004-July 2007

BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations (2:1)