

# How insight into working with actors strengthened William's ability to get a high quality performance.

## BEFORE

After building a successful career in visual effects, William sought the opportunity to have more creative control and pursue a new role in directing. Although William had vast experience within production, this was naturally grounded in VFX. He had less direct experience of working with actors.

To enhance his skills and open up more directing opportunities centred around performance, Framestore Pictures commissioned Jacquetta to deliver training for William. Having previously sought out acting instruction for its American directors with a similar background, Framestore Pictures knew this support would prove valuable and sought a solution in the UK.

## DURING

Drawing from a diverse portfolio as an actor, scriptwriter and theatre director, Jacquetta created two bespoke 90-minute training sessions centred around William's role and experience. The sessions introduced William to basic performance technique and script analysis.

Jacquetta also provided an inside perspective to help William get the best from actors, exploring how a director can communicate effectively to inspire, enliven, reassure and motivate. "Jacquetta's experience as an actor definitely helped me to understand what puts actors on edge and makes it harder for them to do their job", says William.

For William to directly experience some of an actor's craft, Jacquetta used a workshop approach exploring the use of body and voice in performance, and reading and recording from extant film scripts. They deconstructed scenes together to explore character motivation, emotional arcs, dialogue and subtext, giving William an overview of both an actor's and director's approach to text. They looked at rhythm and pace, explored how good listening is at the core of good acting, and covered casting, acting for different mediums, and the actor's experience on set.

## THE CLIENT

William Bartlett is a BAFTA award-winning Director for Framestore Pictures.

Framestore Pictures is part of Framestore, a Bafta and Oscar-award winning creative studio that brings extraordinary ideas to life in any space or screen through craft, imagination and technology. Known for its heritage in visual effects, the company has created pixel-perfect images for Hollywood and advertisers alike.

"It was great because Jacquetta had specific activities planned, but we could easily branch off around these as questions came to me, so we covered a lot of ground," says William.

"For example, Jacquetta got me to read lines straight away, and then we went through some exercises to warm up before we reread them. It was interesting to get a sense of how your body and mindset change, and how that can help you deliver something that's more engaging."

## AFTER

Since the training, William has greater confidence in approaching new projects with a performance aspect. This ranges from casting through to getting the best from actors on set.

William said "The training with Jacquetta was illuminating. I'll definitely be more thorough in casting to make sure I've got a good rapport with the actors, and I'll approach the acting performance with more consideration and thought as I have a much better, more thorough understanding of an actor's point of view and how to get more from them. For example, how I try and motivate actors and prepare them for what I want."



"From my perspective, as someone who's seen a lot of shoots and productions, the training with Jacquetta was very insightful, and I'm sure it'll benefit my ability to direct performance in the future."

## ABOUT JACQUETTA

Jacquetta May is an actor, scriptwriter, theatre director and producer based in the UK. Alongside these roles, Jacquetta teaches and leads workshops in the UK and US across different industries and settings, ranging from community-based workshops to bespoke training for industry professionals.

Jacquetta's diverse portfolio offers a broad range, depth and quality of instruction, enabling an approach designed around your specific learning objectives.

**To understand how Jacquetta can support you or your team with performance skills and how to get the best work from actors, contact Jacquetta now for a free consultation on +447812 586 320.**

