

I am deeply committed to public service broadcasting, but public service broadcasting that is entertaining as well as informative. I spent 25 years attempting to make a subject often considered dreary, business, entertaining within the BBC, with BAFTA winning series like Troubleshooter and Blood on the Carpet and Back to the Floor.

Over the past three year I have done much work for Channel 4 helping to make and sort out programmes for them. I have been thrilled by the lean and nimble organisation that truly holds my sort of popular public service values at its heart. The first programme I helped for the Channel, The Boy Whose Skin Fell Off, was the sort of brave commission I admire, when there is no knowledge of where the film will go or whether it will work. It was typical of the channel in giving trust to a young and relatively inexperienced film maker. It is the place now where young talent is given a break, which is hugely important to British creativity.

The first series I made for the Channel, from start to finish, was a revelation. In Jamie's School Dinners I was allowed and trusted to make a series exactly as I had always wanted. The channel had a huge belief and support for television that might help social change. It rekindled my belief and enthusiasm for television that can be entertaining and have meaning.

As such the channel which is small, nimble, brave and trusting has a very important place in modern British culture.

**from: Robert Thirkell**