



Zoe Coupland, a second year Drama and Theatre Arts student, spent a week with Cactus TV in London.

Before applying I had a big interest in pursuing a career in TV after graduating so I wanted to gain an understanding on the various roles in the industry to see if it was for me.

It was interesting and exciting to be in such a fast paced environment with so much going on, especially on filming days where there was a lot to learn.

On non-filming days I worked with the runners dressing the set and preparing dressing rooms for celebrity guests. I also went on errands and worked on creating transcripts of a children's cooking show.

On filming days I looked after celebrity guests as well as attending to the needs of the floor staff and people working in the gallery. It was great to be able to watch episodes of a show be filmed. I also spent time learning from post production to fully understand the entire process.

I particularly enjoyed filming days as so much was going on and I was able to gain a deeper understanding of the requirements of different roles required to create a show.

I developed communication and organisational skills through my placement as well as a good understanding of what takes place on-set and the duties required of entry level roles.

This opportunity has given me an insight into what working within the television industry would be like and has encouraged me to pursue it further. It has improved my CV whilst providing invaluable knowledge about the industry.

My advice to other students is to definitely try to get all the experience you can. Tailor your CV to the specific requirements of the job being offered.

Cactus TV is an independent TV and production company based in London.

Cactus pride themselves on being dynamic and creative and their current portfolio includes Saturday Kitchen, The Roux Scholarship, The TV Book Club and The Crime Thriller Awards.

This summer, **Cactus** offered two University of Birmingham students the opportunity to spend a week with them, gaining hands-on experience within this competitive sector.

For more information, please visit

www.cactustv.co.uk

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