

ALLAN KING

BROADCASTER AND JOURNALIST



Sole Representation:

Knight Ayton Management
114 St. Martin's Lane
London WC2N 4AZ
Phone: 0207 836 5333
Fax: 0207 836 8333
E-mail: info@knightayton.co.uk
allan@king.co.uk

Allan King has an established reputation as a television and radio presenter, newsreader and interviewer.

He has been a main Presenter, or Anchor, with Sky News for the past ten years. Sky News has an audience of up to 80 million people in over 80 countries.

Allan is Managing Director of Group K Broadcasting Ltd, a media consultancy and provider of news services to radio and television.

His experience includes LBC Radio, Independent Radio News, ITN, Channel 4 and radio and television work in Germany and Vienna. Allan is also currently seen on “five” (formerly Channel 5) which transmits the Sky News Sunrise show on weekdays from 06:00 to 06:30.

His interviewing background ranges from diplomats to pop stars. Examples of Allan’s work can be seen online at www.allanking.com/demo and his page on the Sky News website is located at www.allanking.com/sky.

1993-present

SKY NEWS

Programme Presenter

1991

MELODY FM

Music and News Presenter/Head of News

1990

BSB NEWS

Presenter/Duty Editor/Chief Sub Editor/Trainer

1988

CHANNEL 4 DAILY

Weather and travel Presenter

1987

BFBS RADIO

News Presenter/Sub Editor

1982

**SSVC TELEVISION - LONDON AND
RHEINDHALEN**

In-vision Presenter/Reporter and Producer

1979

BLUE DANUBE RADIO - VIENNA

Music and News Presenter/Interviewer

1979

LONDON WEEKEND TELEVISION

Continuity Presenter

1978-1990

**LONDON BROADCASTING CO (LBC)
INDEPENDENT RADIO NEWS (IRN)**

News Presenter/Producer/Reporter

1974-1978

UBN PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Radio Programme Controller

1973

SPOT RADIO PRODUCTIONS LIMITED

Radio Commercial Producer/Director

1970-1978

UBN (Cable Radio Station)

Music and News Presenter

1993-present

SKY NEWS

In April 1993 Allan joined Sky News as a programme presenter.

The Sky format varies from solo presentation to double-headed and includes sport, travel, weather and business news.

Apart from straight reading from Autocue, the programmes involve live interviews on a range of topics from showbusiness to serious political and international stories, plus telephone and down-the-line interviews.

On 10 February 1996 Allan had the first television interview after the IRA Docklands bomb with Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams. This was widely quoted in the Sunday press the following day.

Sky News prides itself on being first with breaking stories and following the latest developments as they happen. This frequently requires subbing and ad-libbing live on air from the incoming wires as they appear on the iNEWS terminal in the studio.

All Sky News programmes demand the ability to remain totally calm and "panic-free" whilst appearing authoritative, friendly and in total control on-air.

1991

MELODY FM

In February 1991 Allan was invited to join the presentation team of Melody FM, the easy listening Independent Local Radio station serving Greater London and the Home Counties. On-air work includes MOR and classical music presentation, news reading and presenting complex financial bulletins.

In May 1991 his company - Group K Broadcasting Ltd -was awarded the contract to provide Melody FM's news service.

The Newsdesk, based at Melody FM in Knightsbridge, is staffed by Group K Broadcasting with journalists writing from PA, Reuters and AP wires and the AA travel service. The company also provides a specialist financial team. Allan has editorial responsibility for the news and finance output.

During his period with LBC and IRN, Allan was frequently involved in the compilation and presentation of the financial news.

The brief for Melody FM news includes six financial bulletins a day, at 0630, 0730, 0830, 1730, 1830 and 1930.

The morning bulletins are of 1 to 2 minutes duration, those in the evening run 5 minutes. They include coverage of the UK, US and European markets.

As Melody FM is owned by Hanson plc, the quality of the financial news reflects directly on the parent company. Therefore, it has to be comprehensive, up to date and totally accurate.

The target audience consists of business people requiring a morning look ahead, and an evening round up of company news, including share movements, results, bids etc; the state of the major world stock markets, including Wall Street, Nikkei, Hang Seng, All Ordinaries, DAX, CAC and SPI; currency markets, particularly Sterling, Deutschmark, and US Dollar.

Information is compiled from PA, Reuters, Datastream and Topic.

Naturally, familiarity with business events behind the news, and the personalities, which make it, are vital to the successful production of these bulletins.

Allan has an excellent knowledge of the business world and financial markets, and a strong interest in reporting on them.

1990

BSB NEWS

In February 1990 Allan joined BSB News, the news division of British Satellite Broadcasting, as a television journalist writing and presenting bulletins in-vision on the five BSB channels, and hosting the morning show "The Day Today."

In addition he was in charge of newsreading style, often having to coax acceptable performances from new and very inexperienced broadcasters.

His work at BSB also involved frequent acting-up into the positions of Chief Sub Editor and Senior Duty Editor, when he would be in charge of the entire news operation with sole responsibility for output of all bulletins, of which there would be forty in an average day.

1988**CHANNEL 4 DAILY**

During 1988 he worked on a regular freelance basis as presenter of the weather/travel bulletins on ITN's early morning news show for Channel 4, The Channel 4 Daily. This also involved writing and voicing short (8 -15 second), live links between modules in the programme.

1987**BFBS RADIO**

During 1987 Allan freelanced for BFBS Radio in London as a news reader. BFBS decided they wanted to update their news presentation and move from a Radio 4 style to one similar to IRN. Allan spearheaded this change. The "news reading" at BFBS also meant news editing and acting as audio intake engineer as well as on-air engineer as the entire operation was a very efficient and cost-effective self-op unit.

1982**SSVC TELEVISION - LONDON AND RHEINDHALEN**

Allan was one of the regular team of in-vision programme presenters working from the Wembley (LWT) studios of SSVC (formerly BFBS). The operation later transferred to SSVC's own studio complex in Gerrards Cross, Bucks.

At SSVC he was responsible for a number of programmes as a presenter and interviewer. The work involved frequent trips to Rheindahlen in Germany as a reporter/presenter and producer on the locally produced news programme. Amongst other things this involved writing and voicing scripts to VT.

The duties also included continuity announcing. In this role he wrote his own scripts and operated as transmission controller. This involves driving a Grass Valley mixer to put programmes to air; on news junctions selecting clock in vision, talking over clock while listening to Wembley talkback and countdown on split headphones and switching UK feed to air on the second.

Manual dexterity was also an essential requirement of another programme Allan presented called Birthday Time. This was co-hosted with a female presenter and a robot. Although the lady needed no help, Allan worked the robot's head, eyes, voice etc. with hidden controls while presenting the show.

Other programmes presented included magazine programming where a lighter, friendlier style was required, very much daytime magazine show format, linking into recorded highlights of BBC & ITV programmes.

1979

BLUE DANUBE RADIO - VIENNA

In 1979 Allan took up a contract as a presenter with Blue Danube Radio, a state-run, English language radio station in Vienna.

At Blue Danube he was responsible for both music and news presentation, including a live, twenty-minute interview every evening with figures of local, national or international importance - from Eric Burdon to Kurt Waldheim. He also presented a daily music and feature magazine programme with a style very similar to Radio 2.

1979

LONDON WEEKEND TELEVISION

During this period he also worked as a continuity presenter for LWT and recorded a large number of promotional voice-overs for the station and the ITV network.

1978-1990

**LONDON BROADCASTING CO (LBC)
INDEPENDENT RADIO NEWS (IRN)**

Allan joined LBC as a presenter and newsreader in 1978, and shortly after was appointed to produce and present the nightly news and current affairs magazine "Night Extra". This involved live interviewing, research, scripting, tape-editing and all areas of radio journalism. In addition he was given responsibility for training LBC's newsreaders.

Throughout his association with LBC Allan has presented and produced a broad spectrum of programme output. The following is a selection:

"AM" - weekday current affairs and news magazine.

"After Eight" - light show with music and news and an emphasis on the arts.

"Artsweek" - a weekly review of theatre, cinema, music etc.

"LBC Reports" - current affairs and news.

"Weekend AM" - current affairs and news.

"LBC Reports Midnight" - a review of the main news stories of the day.

His production work with LBC and IRN involved researching stories; finding new angles to the day's news; live and recorded studio, telephone & down the line interviews; writing scripts, stories, bulletins; studio producing programmes.

As a regular presenter of LBC Reports, an afternoon news programme, Allan handled many live interviews including political items.

He was a reporter for LBC during various election broadcasts - getting interviews with winning (and losing!) candidates, feeding back to the studio and reporting live into programmes.

In October 1989 LBC split into two stations - LBC Crown FM (later to become LBC Newstalk 97.3) and London Talkback Radio. The Crown FM service was a direct challenge to BBC Radio 4 in the London area. Through his company Allan was subcontracted to provide a newsreading service for all the shifts which were not covered by a staff presenter. This totalled over 50% of the station's news bulletin output.

He was also given responsibility for overseeing the presentation and reading style on IRN, and training Crown FM presenters.

1970-1978**UBN**

In 1970 Allan started his broadcasting career with UBN, a cable radio station broadcasting twenty-four hours a day to twenty thousand people working in industrial locations throughout the United Kingdom.

1973**SPOT RADIO PRODUCTIONS LIMITED**

In 1973 he left the station for a year learn more about the commercial and advertising aspects of the fledgling UK commercial radio industry. At Spot Radio, a commercial production house owned by Associated Newspapers, his responsibilities included technical and creative production and direction, as well as the production of commercials and programmes including directing actors and voice-over artists.

1974-1978**PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, UBN**

In 1974 Allan rejoined UBN as Programme Director. This senior post gave him overall responsibility for all aspects of the station's management and operation, including the establishment of annual budgets, appointing presenters and administrative staff and determining salaries, in addition to his responsibility for the programming of the station's output twenty-four hours a day. Furthermore he established and ran a training course for UBN's presenters.

Throughout his long association with UBN, Allan displayed a real ability to translate the mundane aspects of industrial broadcasting into interesting and highly popular radio.

Here he gained valuable experience in a wide variety of disciplines including subbing, editing and reading news bulletins, music presentation and all aspects of production.

As is widely known, the standards of UBN were such that more than thirty of their presenters are now established names in the ILR network.

Technical: Allan is qualified to Superuser and System Manager level on Basys, having established a Basys system for Melody FM, and to Superuser level on Newstar.

Other activities: He runs training courses for those likely to have to face the media. Allan spent two intensive days in radio and television studios with Sir David Hannay when he was appointed Britain's Ambassador to the United Nations and President of the UN Security Council.

A licensed radio "ham" and a collector of 1930's wireless sets, gramophones and telephones, Allan is also an experienced pilot having achieved his Private Pilot's Licence over twenty years ago.

Nationality: British