

The Honorary Graduate: Kalpna Woolf

The Orator: Jane Harrington

Kalpna Woolf is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Business Administration

Kalpna completed her early education in London culminating in a BA Hons in Russian from University of London, Queen Mary College. Since she came to Bristol 20 years ago, Kalpna has been a major influencer for change in our region – both at senior board and grassroots level. After an award-winning career in the BBC, where she was Head of Production overseeing a £100m global business including the BBC’s world-renowned Natural History Unit (including ‘Planet Earth, Antiques Roadshow, Rick Stein, Countryfile and many other factual shows), Kalpna now works extensively with the creative sector in both an advisory and consultancy capacity and is currently Head of Production at HungryGap TV Productions. Alongside this, she has established an impressive portfolio career underpinned by her business track record and her passion for social justice and equality. She has held positions on business and charity boards including Chair of Trustees for Frank Water, trustee for Knowle West Media Centre and business advisor and Chair of the Skills Group to the West of England LEP Board. She devised a Masters programme in Production Management in the Media for UWE and was awarded Visiting Professorship for the Faculty of Business and Law.

She has written a best-selling food book – “Spice Yourself Slim” and in 2015 she founded 91 Ways to Build A Global City – an innovative charity which reaches out to all the 91 language communities in Bristol, sharing different food cultures to bring greater understanding, break down barriers and build a more cohesive city. Three years on, the charity has run Peace Cafes, regular supper clubs and community events, connecting more than 10,000 people at over 100 events, launched templates for similar projects to be rolled out in other cities in the UK and won 4 national awards including the BBC’s Food and Farming Hero Award, the Guild of Food Writers Inspiration Award and MTM Woman of the Year award.

The Honorary Degree is awarded in recognition of Kalpna Woolf’s contribution and commitment to economic and social equality and diversity initiatives in Bristol