



William Hughes

Experienced Production and Strategy Leader - Luxury Goods & Jewellery

📍 London, UK

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Languages

English (Fluent)

French (Basic)

About

A confident and clear understanding of leadership, building from a single role to a best-in-class multi-discipline team of 45 - incorporating Workshop, Casting, Production, Logistics and Supply Chain - over 3 years with the lowest attrition rate in the business. Experienced in business development, leading the scale-up of capacity, capability, quality and product to serve business growth. Track record in achieving medium to long-term strategic and commercial ambitions of the business and department through partnerships, direct integration and team development.

BRANDS WORKED WITH

Estella Barlett

Vashi

Experience

● Head of Production

Vashi | Oct 2018 - Apr 2023

- Led in the tendering and implementation of production management systems - delivering business-wide visibility on individual job status, costs and departmental performance.
- Instrumental in the acquisition and integration of FutureCast LTD into the Vashi business. Part of a wider vertical integration strategy geared to improve product ownership, reduce SLA and improve margin.
- The lead for the development of the experiential production concept across 8 store launches, culminating in the new Covent Garden flagship. The UK's first retail space housing casting and manufacture, each allowing full customer interaction.
- Led the overhaul of the QC function in the business. Combining the hiring of dedicated QC talents with process review and product development - resulting in the pass rate rising 2x to 96% and improved diagnostic accuracy.
- Developing the bespoke and customisation offering of the business. Creating the roadmap for an area of high potential growth and the manufacturing capabilities required to deliver high-quality products and transparency.
- The manufacturing lead on the development of the Innovation Centre - the mission statement was to create the UK's No.1 manufacturing facility through the development of internal talent and industry tie-ups.
- Led the business through the RJC accreditation process, achieving a 3 year COP certification.

● Production Manager

Vashi | Oct 2017 - Sep 2018

- Led a supply chain review, which resulted in a return to solely UK manufacturing - improving product ownership and delivery times whilst facilitating our own product development and reducing excessive stock holding.
- Further to the above, lead on the transition from external to internal manufacture - pivoting the business's supply to facilitate a reduced SLA (24hrs) and transparency at every step of the customer journey.
- Improving commercial agreements across the supply chain and negotiating with material and machinery suppliers to improve credit, terms and delivery. Crucially improving business cash flow and supply base at a key point in the business's growth.

● Production Coordinator

Vashi | Nov 2016 - Sep 2017

- Coordinating across numerous external vendors, creating BOMs and reporting on costs to line managers and building monthly reports on profitability and margin.
- Cross-team collaboration on day-to-day tasks, contributing to the smooth running of the department.

- **Production Assistant**

Estella Barlett | Aug 2016 - Nov 2016

- Assisting across the design and production teams - data administration and creation of specification sheets.
- Introduction to an international supply chain, liaising on product development and delivery.

Education & Training

2014 - 2016 ● **Hereford College of Arts**

Contemporary Crafts (MA),

2011 - 2014 ● **Hereford College of Arts**

Jewellery Design and Silversmithing (BA Hons),