

BROADCAST

Sandpaper sets out series ambitions

By [Hannah Bowler](#) | 27 November 2020

Henry Singer firm lands debut multi-part order as Susannah Price handed equal equity



9/11: The Falling Man director Henry Singer is steering his indie in a new direction after handing equity to a former Lightbox exec, with a series commission from Channel 4 in the works.

Feature doc specialist Sandpaper Films has secured what will be its debut multi-part series after hiring Susannah Price as joint managing director earlier this year.

The pair are jointly exec producing a presenter-led series about race and identity in Britain for C4.

“I brought Susannah on as an equal partner to expand the serious, single documentaries that Sandpaper has been known for,” said Singer.

Price spent five years as head of development at Jonathan and Simon Chinn’s Lightbox, leaving in 2017. This summer she was joined at Sandpaper by Lightbox vice president of development Kate Griffiths, who has been appointed director of development.

Meanwhile freelance documentary filmmaker Ismar Badžić has been hired as development producer.

Price – whose development credits include Netflix series Murder Mountain, Captive and Diagnosis – said Sandpaper is developing ideas in the true crime, history and medical spaces.

“Our sweet spot is those big, tabloid-like stories which people know the headlines of but don’t know the full picture,” she said.

Alongside the push into series, Sandpaper will continue to produce singles including C4’s forthcoming feature-length doc Surviving Covid, the first project to be jointly exec produced by Singer and Price.

Directed by Bafta-winner Nick Holt, the feature was filmed at King’s College Hospital and follows four Covid-19 patients and is set to air on December 2.

“We want to be seen as a filmmaker’s company and Surviving Covid represents that ambition,” Singer said. “It’s an incredibly beautifully-crafted, important piece of work.”

Sandpaper is also developing a C4 feature on the recent Beirut explosion with Under the Wire director Chris Martin attached, while it has received a development grant from the BBC’s Small Indie Fund.

It will remain based in London, with US buyers and streamers a core part of its growth strategy. Singer and Price have roots in the US market - Singer being American-born and Price through her time spent in LA with Maverick Television from 2018.

Indie consultancy Matisse has a minority stake in the company in exchange for support and advice.