



BBC
NORTH

FROM THE HEAD OF YOUTH & ENTERTAINMENT FEATURES

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To Whom It May Concern

Kimia Zabihyan first came to my attention in 1995 when she was put in touch with me at the suggestion of the Controller of BBC2. I was then the head of Youth & Entertainment Features. She approached me with some ideas for youth and multicultural programming. This was a wholly new area of programming for her as her reputation in the industry was for hard edged Investigative journalism. However I was greatly impressed by the range and freshness of the ideas she presented to me and we successfully developed a number of those ideas.

I have since come across Kimia in a number of other forums for example we were speakers on a panel addressing a large crowd of independent producers on multicultural programming. The panel comprised of senior commissioning editors from all of Britain's terrestrial channels. Kimia was the sole producer on this panel and showed a unique combination of cogent argument and informed passion. At the time there was a vacancy at the BBC and I encouraged her to apply for the post. She performed exceptionally well on the board, was articulate and well prepared and deeply impressed the controllers.

Kimia always presented us with unique and fresh energy and strong ideas. She is one of a handful of producers who you really feel will produce programming which both gets noticed and will make a difference. This is very impressive for someone so young and with such a varied background. Kimia developed Observer Films into a successful production company regularly supplying British Television networks with programmes of quality. I have no hesitation in recommending Kimia Zabihyan, a talented producer of exceptional ability and an asset to any organisation.

John Whiston
HEAD OF ENTERTAINMENT FEATURES