

“It’s dangerous to go alone. Take this!”

Legend of Zelda is Stuart Ritchie’s favourite video game series, and it’s easy to see why. Like Link, Stuart likes adventure; he is tirelessly enthusiastic and optimistic; he is generous and always ready to lend a helping hand to those in need. We have been lucky enough to have Stuart with us in GUST for the past four years, and we believe that he deserves recognition for his hard work in keeping the station productive and creative when times got tough this past year.

Stuart has always been a massive part of GUST. Many of us first remember him from our Freshers’ Week, welcoming us into the fold with incredible kindness and warmth, even though he was just a second year himself. Nowadays, he’s the one leading the NaSTA chants, the one cheering us up on long, hard shoots, and the one making sure that no one is left out, not only in the first few hectic weeks, but throughout the year.

This last year, Stuart has proved tireless in his devotion and loyalty to the station. Elected as Head of Creative in July last year, he supported his producers across the two semesters with training sessions and one-on-one meetings to facilitate their creativity. His enthusiasm and technical support encouraged producers to make some truly amazing programmes, from the GUSTxLSTV *The Collaboration* to *Charity Shop Challenge* to *Surround Sound Live*. That being said, he also understood that quality was key - he made sure to provide detailed notes on every programme he reviewed, both good points and bad. He was more than willing to come in between lectures to teach you how to fix audio, or tweak a transition, or change a script. When he was on shoots, Stuart was a diplomat; he could deal with surly events managers and difficult interviewees, and never let anyone talk down to any of his team. A cheerleader and a sounding-board, he listened to everyone’s ideas and did what he could to make their visions come to life.

However, Stuart’s commitment really shone through during NaSTA submissions week. GUST had an incredibly difficult submissions process, having suffered serious technical issues that resulted in missed deadlines. When everyone else was ready to throw in the towel, Stuart never gave up. He spent hours appealing the decision to disqualify our entities, petitioning the NaSTA exec and spearheading changes to the constitution in order to make the appeals process fairer for the future.

In conclusion, Stuart Ritchie is everything you could want in a station leader. Stuart, like Link, is adventurous, kind, and enthusiastic. But Stuart, while he was a part of GUST, was so much more than that. He was both the hero and the mentor - saving princesses and handing out swords, working tirelessly to secure us a place at NaSTA 2018 and making sure that no one - producer or not - was ever alone on their adventure.