

ME

Natalie Methu, Selling Assistant

She may be on regional TV, but Natalie is host to an entirely different audience (aka her customers) in Knight & Lee. She used to work in Waitrose East Sheen and little Waitrose Wimbledon before she moved south to be closer to Portsmouth University, where she's studying English Language.

Solent talent

Presenting Natalie Methu – who does a bit of presenting herself on the small screen for a local TV channel. Dalia Dawood talks to her about the terrors and triumphs of live television

The 'on air' light is glowing and Natalie Methu is talking live on camera to an audience of potentially thousands. The producer's voice in her ear tells her to stall while behind-the-scenes they frantically fix the technical issues preventing them cutting to adverts. She's making it up as she goes along.

"I just had to stay calm and go with the flow," she says, recalling the more nerve-wracking elements of her role as a presenter on 'That's

Music', a programme on local TV channel 'That's Solent'.

She landed the role – which she juggles with university and working part time at Knight & Lee, John Lewis's department store in Southsea – after meeting the channel's producer at a workshop.

But it's not her first taste of life on camera. "I've presented shows for university broadcasts," she says. However, 'That's Music' has a bigger reach around the Solent and Southampton Water.

Is it daunting? "I was terrified at first," Natalie admits, but thanks to acting at school ('Improvisation was the main thing I learned'), including four years at a theatre school in London, she found her voice. "I always wanted to be in entertainment and this is a great starting point: I like the adrenaline of being on a live show."

What do her fellow Partners make of it? "Some have spotted me on TV – I've become a minor celebrity in the branch!" she beams. ☺