

Clive Myrie, Hon DSc

Wednesday 23 July 2025

Orator: Kulbir Shergill, Director of Social Inclusion

Vice-Chancellor,

In the last few turbulent years, many of us have switched on the BBC *News at Ten* with a feeling of trepidation – only to be reassured by the calm, steady presence of this afternoon’s honorary graduand. I am delighted to introduce the award-winning BBC journalist and news presenter: CLIVE MYRIE.

Clive joined the BBC in 1987, after graduating in law from Sussex University. He has gone on to become one of the BBC’s most experienced foreign correspondents with postings that have included Washington, Johannesburg, Singapore and Paris, and became a presenter on the BBC News Channel in 2009. Clive has reported from more than 80 countries, covering some of the most dramatic and important events of our time, including the wars in Croatia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq, Ukraine and, most recently, Gaza. He has covered five US Presidential elections, the funeral of Nelson Mandela, the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of King Charles III.

His work has taken him into dangerous territory: in 2002, during the Iraq war, he was ‘embedded’ with 40 Commando Royal Marines, joining them in live operations; twenty years later, he reported from a rooftop in Kyiv as the Russian armies advanced on the city. But his career has also had its lighter side: it includes travelogues for the BBC exploring Italy and the Caribbean. And since 2021, he has hosted the popular quiz show, ‘*Mastermind*’.

In his recent autobiography, Clive has explained how, at the start of his career, he described himself not as ‘a black reporter’ but ‘a reporter who just happens to be black’: he didn’t want to be put in a box, only covering ‘black’ stories (although as his career progressed he found himself drawn to such stories as the person most able to convey the necessary mindset). Clive has been a strong advocate for the professional advancement of graduates from Black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds. He has lobbied the BBC to improve diversity in the newsroom and in senior positions, urging them to widen their field when looking for staff. This he describes as ‘an ongoing project’ for, although the situation has improved immensely over the past 30 years, there are still too few senior BBC producers and managers who are Black or Asian.

Clive’s work has been celebrated in several important awards: the David Bloom Award for Broadcast Journalism in America; the Bayeux-Calvados Award for war correspondents for his reports of ethnic violence in Borneo; Television Journalist of the Year and Network Presenter of the Year in the RTS Television Journalism Awards, 2021. He holds honorary degrees from six UK universities.

He is Pro-Chancellor of Bolton University and Chancellor of the University of the Arts London. Clive is a journalist whom we instinctively trust: he reports objectively on what he sees and hears and the views of those he interviews, all the while keeping a clear human perspective – an invaluable asset in this age of fake news and spin. It is a great pleasure to welcome him to Warwick today.

Vice-Chancellor: in the name of the Senate, I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, CLIVE MYRIE.