



Josephine Fairley

An entrepreneur and activist who co-founded the pioneering organic chocolate company Green & Black's. An inspiring, engaging and passionate speaker whose story is as fascinating to entrepreneurs as it is to wider business or educational audiences both in the UK and internationally.

KEY TOPICS

- Sustainable Business
- Women in Business
- Change Management
- Entrepreneurialism

BIOGRAPHY

In 1991, Jo Fairley co-founded the pioneering organic chocolate company Green & Black's (with her husband Craig Sams), which has now gone on to be 'bigger than Marmite' (in sales terms) and 'cooler than Prada' (according to two Coolbrands surveys). In 2005, the brand was sold to Cadbury's for around £20 million, but Jo remains in an ambassadorial role, travelling the world as the brand grows internationally in countries including the US and Australia. In 2008 Jo and her husband Craig Sams collaborated on Sweet Dreams: The Story of Green & Black's (Random House).

Jo now runs Judges Bakery – an organic one-stop shop – and The Wellington Centre, an 11-room 'boutique' wellbeing centre, in her hometown of Hastings. She continues to juggle this with her writing career. Although she left school at 16 (with six 'O' levels), by the age of 23 Jo was the youngest-ever magazine editor in the UK, editing first Look Now and then Honey Magazine. She is a Contributing Editor to the Mail on Sunday's YOU Magazine, as well as to a very wide range of publications, including the forthcoming National Geographic Green. She is the co-author (with Sarah Stacey) of the bestselling Beauty Bible series of books, the world's bestselling beauty books, including The Beauty Bible, Feel Fab Forever: The Anti-Ageing Health & Beauty Bible, The 21st Century Beauty Bible, The Handbag Beauty Bible and most recently The Green Beauty Bible, which combines her 'green' expertise with her insights into the beauty world. She is also the author of The Ultimate Natural Beauty Book (all these books are published by Kyle Cathie). Jo and Sarah's website, www.beautybible.com, is among the most successful beauty websites in the UK, with 55,000 subscribers. For eight years Jo chaired the Soil Association's Health Products Standards Committee, helping to set the standards for organic and natural body bodycare in the UK. She is a 'matron' of the Women's Environmental Network, runs makeover workshops for young women at Centrepoint and sits on the Human Rights Watch Film Festival committee.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY

"We thoroughly enjoyed working with Jo. She was so engaged with the event and really took time to understand the themes, audience and what other speakers were bringing to the event. We really appreciated the time Jo put in to mingle with the guests and how approachable and open she was. The evening was a fantastic success and we'd love to use Jo for future events."

— RBC Wealth Management

"Jo – you did a fantastic job of hosting the Best Places to Work in Property Awards 2018; your speech was inspirational, and I genuinely have never seen so many people in an audience listening to every word. Well done!"

— Property Week

"We really appreciated Jo's efforts to integrate additional elements into her story to help emphasise our key message. We had someone come up afterwards saying they 'could've listened to Jo all day!' As a result of Jo's speech, our Head of Marketing emphasised 'entrepreneurial spirit' as one of his five key points that he felt summarised the day."

— Visa Europe