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**FROM DERRY TO DUNDEE,
HEREFORD TO NORWICH, TRURO TO TYNESIDE:
BFI FILM ACADEMY PRESENTS OUTSTANDING YOUNG FILMMAKERS
FROM ACROSS THE UK TO
LEADERS FROM THE BRITISH FILM INDUSTRY**

- **66 young filmmakers aged 16-19 unveil the six films they have created as part of the BFI Film Academy course at the National Film and Television School at a special premiere at BFI Southbank**
- **British film industry figures including producers Alison Owen (*Suffragette*, *Saving Mr. Banks*), Faye Ward (*Suffragette*, *Dancing on the Edge*) and Duncan Kenworthy (*The Pass*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Love Actually*) gather at the BFI Southbank to celebrate the success of 2016's BFI Film Academy graduates**
- **Now in its fourth year, the BFI Film Academy has a track record in developing graduates ready to pursue a successful career in the UK film industry; Department for Education announces £1 million funding to BFI Film Academy 2016/17**

LONDON – Friday 8 April 2016: The BFI Film Academy today presents a new generation of filmmakers to the UK film industry, as 66 talented filmmakers from across the UK premiere their films to an exclusive audience of outstanding UK film industry leaders at BFI Southbank. In addition, the Department for Education (DFE) has announced that it is investing £1 million of funding towards supporting the BFI Film Academy in 2016-2017, in addition to the £4 million it has invested in the Academy's residential and regional programmes since 2012.

The BFI Film Academy's screening and graduation ceremony is hosted by the BBC's Film 2016 critic and journalist **Danny Leigh** with producers **Faye Ward** (*Suffragette*, *Jane Eyre*), **Alison Owen** (*Suffragette*, *Saving Mr Banks*), **Duncan Kenworthy** (*The Pass*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Love Actually*) championing and presenting the young filmmakers with their graduation certificates.

Amanda Nevill, Chief Executive of the BFI says: "Talent is everywhere but opportunity is not, and the BFI Film Academy is designed to change that. If UK film is to stay relevant and move and inspire audiences around the world, then the stories it tells and the people who tell them need to represent and reflect the richness of life in the UK. My warmest congratulations to all today's graduates – this is why the BFI is here, to do all that we can to find and support the UK's filmmakers of the future."

Nik Powell, Director of the National Film and Television School says: "The BFI Film Academy's residential course at the National Film and Television School is a brilliant environment for the diverse group of young talent drawn from across the UK. Their energy, innovation and ability to learn during the course of ten days never ceases to impress us and all of the industry professionals who have been involved the Academy."

Now in its fourth year and open to young people from anywhere in the UK, the BFI Film Academy offers a real chance for talented 16-19 year olds to develop the specialist filmmaking skills they need to be part of the future of the UK film industry – no matter where they're from or what their background. The BFI Film Academy offers bursaries to help those in need with costs, ensuring it is open to as diverse a range of young people as possible. Based in 54 locations throughout the UK the Academy has created more than 3,471 places for young people on courses run across the UK since 2012.

Today's premiere at BFI Southbank marks the end of an intensive two-week residency students of the BFI Film Academy's Craft Skills course run by the world-leading National Film and Television School (NFTS). The residency at NFTS is the pinnacle of the BFI Film Academy, featuring talented students selected from regional BFI Film Academy courses that have been running across the UK since September 2015.

At the NFTS, the young filmmakers have been working with leading British film talent including actor and directors **Dexter Fletcher** (*Eddie the Eagle*, *Sunshine on Leith*), **Alex Garland** (*Ex Machina*), **Destiny Ekaragha** (*Gone Too Far!*, *Hot Pepper*) and **Sean McAllister** (*A Syrian Love Story*, *The*

Reluctant Revolutionary), cinematographer **Stuart Harris** (*Wetherby*), film editor **Ewa Lind** (*The Warrior*), art department designer **Max Berman** (*Game of Thrones*) and sound recordist **Simon Clark** (*Wolf Hall*) in honing their skills and expertise, culminating in the production of the six short films seen for the first time today.

Previous BFI Film Academy students who have gone on to further develop their skills and move into the industry include Molly McGregor who is now working as a Producer's Assistant on *Dark River*, the new film from celebrated British director, Clio Barnard; Elliot Wills who has gone on to work on ITV's *Jekyll and Hyde*; Leigh Reid, a post-production apprentice at Pinewood Studios; Ellidh Gow, now working as assistant editor at Create Studios; Byshe Harkavy who has worked on events and programming at Manchester's HOME film and arts centre; Sam Jones and Pip Watkins who are making a film for Channel 4's *Random Acts*; Mdhamiri á Nkem who is now on an editing Masters at the NFTS; Daniella Rice, the youngest person ever to be accepted on a production management Masters at the NFTS; and Sam Hadden who has gone on to set up the Southend Short Film Festival.

Between September 2015 and February 2016 young filmmakers selected through an open application process have taken part in courses across the UK. During the BFI Film Academy Craft Skills two-week residential course at the NFTS, the exceptional young filmmakers get to learn from experienced industry professionals about every area of filmmaking, from scriptwriting and directing through to pre-visualisation, production design, location management, shooting, sound recording and mixing, editing and cinematography.

The films premiering at the BFI Southbank today are:

- **AA503** - Lucy hasn't been the same since suffering a personal crisis, but will a malfunctioning robot help her regain her sense of what it is to be human?
- **Arcadia** - waking in the mysterious forest, amnesiac Samantha undertakes a journey accompanied by the witty yet puzzling Sebastian, exploring a world concealing both wonders and a terrifying secret...
- **The Fall** - when misfit Poppy arrives home covered in blood, how far will her stepfather go to protect her and himself?

- **Fighting Irish** - Aideen, a young teenager, takes on the brutal sport of boxing to prove to herself, an intense coach and everyone around her that she can be the next Fighting Irish.
- **Paralysis** - after her partner is taken by a hateful mother, a young woman struggles to cope with the traumas of her life, which take form as shadows in her vivid dreams.
- **Silver** - An adopted orphan has a second chance at a happy life, but can he let go of his past in order to enjoy his future?

BFI Film Academy graduating film teams 2016:

AA503

Director - Elle Hutchens (Bristol)

Writer - Jessica Kelsey (Oxford)

Producers - Jay Heaton (Barrow), Charlotte Smith (Cambridge)

Cinematographers - Patrycja Cygan (Eastside), Liam Russell

Sound Recordists - Kim Bradfield (Maidenhead), Conor Toner (Armagh)

Production Designer - Conor Powell (Hackney, London)

Editors - James Lau (Manchester), Tayyib Mahmood (Birmingham)

Lead tutor - David Winstone

Arcadia

Director - Alex Howat (Lambeth, London)

Writer - Aaron Rozanski (Beaconsfield)

Producers - Kirsty Dexter (Falmouth), Brodie Rake (Norwich)

Cinematographers - Caolan Caddell (Belfast), Jess Wood (Hackney, London)

Sound Recordists - Samuel Heavens (Cambridge), Julia Stravinska (Manchester)

Production Designer - Aisha Sanyang-Meek (Bristol)

Editors - Sam McGovern (Dundee), Ella Wood (Brighton)

Lead tutor - Lesley Manning

The Fall

Director - Brendon Hargreaves (London)

Writer - Fisayo Lacey (Tipton)

Producers - Maddie Phillips (Colchester), Abbie Collingwood (Buckinghamshire)
Cinematographers - Theo Spearman (Hereford), Katie-Jo Watson (Newcastle)
Sound Recordists - Holly Eysselinck (Barking), Jamie Robinson (Belfast)
Production Designer - Joshua Brooks (London)
Editors - Elliot Blakemore (Wembley), Sinead McCausland (Barry)
Lead tutor - Michelle Eastwood

Fighting Irish

Director - Alex Shipman (London)
Writer - Brendan Duggan (Oxford)
Producers - Tosin Lepe (Tower Hamlets, London), Carl Mason (Milton Keynes)
Cinematographers - George Cooper (Newcastle), Louis Kerr (Londonderry)
Sound Recordists - Jordan Feemster (Colchester), Amelia Hawkes (Wem, Shropshire)
Production Designer - Zoe Wild (Brighton)
Editors - Will Bower (Birmingham), Hana Kesedzic (Bradford)
Lead tutor - Brian Ward

Paralysis

Director - Luke Prentice (Newport)
Writer - Jenn Platt (Manchester)
Producers - Amy Gillies (Bristol), Christian Haywood (Shenfield)
Cinematographers - Isabel Phillips-Burton (Barking), George Tate (Bournemouth)
Sound Recordists - Innes Goodall (Edinburgh), Matthew Hill (Cambridge)
Production Designer - Charlotte Brookes (Darlington)
Editors - Sebastian Buxton-Maung (Nottingham), Coral Dalitz (Oxford)
Lead tutor - Eva Riley

Silver

Director - Maisie Buck (Norwich)
Writer - Deaglan Brennan (Glasgow)
Producers - Paul Cochrane (Glasgow), Alice Featherstone (Nottingham)
Cinematographers - Joseph Herridge-Nowell (London), Imogen McPherson (Cambridge)
Sound Recordists - Michael Fearon (Birmingham), Lizzie Welbourne (Bristol)
Production Designer - Tia Phillips (London)

Editors - Graham Roberts (Wem, Shropshire), Meltem Yalcin Evren (Manchester)

Lead tutor - Robbie McKillop

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Notes to Editors

About the BFI Film Academy

The BFI Film Academy aims to help train and inspire the next generation of British filmmakers, supporting talented and committed young people aged 16-19 to develop the commercial and cultural knowledge and skills to help make a career in film a reality.

The BFI Film Academy offers training for every film industry role, from writing and directing through to production, sound design, editing and camera, and provides learning around film history and cinematic storytelling to inspire an appreciation of film culture in the round.

The BFI Film Academy forms a key part of the BFI's ambitious plans to revolutionise film education for 5-19 year olds, a core aim of the BFI's *Film Forever* five year plan to support the future success of UK film. Film Academy funding partners include the Department for Education in England, the National Lottery, Creative Scotland and Northern Ireland. Strategic partners include BAFTA, Pinewood Studios and Creative Skillset, helping to ensure the Academy is a gold standard film industry-focused educational programme.

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