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DIRECTORS, PRODUCERS AND WRITERS SIGN NEW REVENUE SHARING DEAL

Directors, producers and writers of feature films supported with Lottery funding through the BFI Film Fund are each set to reap the rewards of the film's success, thanks to a new deal struck by Directors UK, Pact and The Writers' Guild of Great Britain.

Up to a 37.5% share of BFI's recouped income from supported film productions is put into a 'locked box', where it is held by the BFI and available to be drawn down for developing and producing future film projects – ensuring revenue from successful BFI-backed films is invested directly back into the British film industry, and enabling those responsible for the film's success to create more film projects.

Working together as The Filmmakers' Alliance, Directors UK, Pact and The Writers' Guild have agreed that the recouped income from BFI Lottery-backed productions that is held in the locked box will be split three ways, with directors, writers and producers each guaranteed a minimum share of 12.5%.

Locked Box revenue shares must be used for reinvestment in film development and production. Writers, directors and producers are free to reinvest their guaranteed share collectively or independently of each other.

The agreement takes immediate effect and will be reviewed in 2017.

The deal delivers on a pledge made by the BFI in its Film Forever five year plan and one of the recommendations of the Film Policy Review led by Lord Chris Smith in 2013.

BFI CEO Amanda Nevill said: "Rewarding success and giving talented writers, directors and producers the creative and financial autonomy to develop and produce future projects is absolutely key to many of the plans we set out in Film Forever. I'm so pleased to see this agreement come into force and I'm looking forward to seeing exciting new projects which have been borne of success."

Directors UK CEO Andrew Chowns welcomed the agreement, saying: "This deal is important because it brings together the three key creative film makers on every BFI Film Fund supported film production. It aligns their interests in making their film as successful as possible and ensures the success of one film can be transferred into their development and production of new works."



John McVay, Chief Executive of Pact, said: “This is a very beneficial way to ensure that all the key creative partners in the creation and production of British films can share in the success and reinvest the funds into new film projects or activities”.

Olivia Hetreed, President, Writers’ Guild of Great Britain, said: “The Writers’ Guild of Great Britain is delighted to be a partner in this initiative with Directors UK and Pact. The ability to use creative success to create more funding possibilities for development, the most hard-to-fund area of film-making, is a critical step in turning a dependent film culture into a genuinely diverse and independent one. We applaud the BFI in taking up the Film Policy Review recommendation and trust that other publicly funded institutions will follow suit.”

- Ends -

Notes to Editors:

About the BFI

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI is a Government arm’s-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Greg Dyke.



About Directors UK

DIRECTORS UK is the single voice of British screen directors representing the creative, economic and contractual interests of over 5,500 members – the overwhelming majority of working film and television directors in the UK.

DIRECTORS UK campaigns for the rights, working conditions and status of directors in the industry and works closely with fellow organisations in the UK, Europe and around the world to represent directors' rights and concerns. It also promotes excellence in the craft of direction both nationally and internationally.

About Pact

Pact is the trade association representing the commercial interests of UK independent television, film, digital, children's and animation media companies.

About The Writers' Guild of Great Britain

The Writers' Guild of Great Britain is a trade union representing writers for theatre, TV, film, radio, books, poetry, animation and videogames. It negotiates agreements with major industry bodies, including the Royal National Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company and Royal Court Theatre; BBC, ITV and Pact. It lobbies and campaigns on issues that affect writers and offers a range of benefits to its members.

Website: www.writersguild.org.uk

Twitter: @TheWritersGuild

Facebook: www.facebook.com/thewritersguild

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