



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport



news release

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Landmark deal secures future of British film in China

Culture Secretary Sajid Javid today announced the ratification of a landmark film co-production treaty between the UK and China at the GREAT Festival of Creativity.

The deal, which was negotiated for the UK by the British Film Institute (BFI) and China's Film Bureau and China Film Co-production Corporation, with support from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and UK Trade & Investment in Beijing, was co-signed by Mr. Tong Gang, Vice Minister of SARFT. It will allow qualifying co-productions to access national benefits including sources of finance and an easier distribution route to audiences.

In the UK this includes the Film Tax Relief and the BFI Film Fund, which is the UK's largest public film fund.

In addition, the treaty will mean that all eligible co-productions will be able to be shown in China. Currently China permits only 34 revenue sharing non-domestic titles to be shown in Chinese cinemas each year. As such, many more UK films will be shown to Chinese audiences than current restrictions allow.

Addressing more than 200 business men and women attending the launch event, Javid explained the benefits of the UK and China forging closer links in the creative industries.

Culture Secretary Sajid Javid said:

"The UK and China are home to two of the biggest and best film industries in the world.

"Together Britain's creative industries are worth almost £80 billion to our economy, almost three-quarters of a trillion yuan, or about five per cent of the UK's GDP.

“China has a similar success story to tell. After a period of unprecedented growth, the creative sector here now contributes 3.6 per cent of GDP.

“This treaty is a breakthrough for UK and Chinese production companies.

“It will pave the way for UK producers and their Chinese counterparts to share their creative expertise and make incredible films that will be enjoyed around the world.”

Mr Miao Xiaotian, President of the China Film Co-production Corporation, said:

“The British and Chinese film industries have reason to celebrate the signing of the Sino-UK Film Co-Production Treaty, which is now effective, by the two countries’ governments.

The signing of the Sino-UK Film Co-Production Treaty heralds the start of a new era in collaborative film production between the UK and China. I have reason to believe that it will open the way for broader cooperation between our respective film industries. We can look forward to a future of integrated development and win-win cooperation.”

Amanda Nevill, BFI CEO, said:

“This film Co-Production Treaty represents a hugely significant moment for UK film and opens the door to a relationship with the largest growing film industry in the world, allowing our filmmakers to collaborate with and contribute to this success story. I’m very excited by the opportunities for growth and shared success, both creatively and commercially, that this treaty presents for the UK and China.”

This announcement, made on the second day of the GREAT Festival of Creativity, at the Long Museum, West Bund, Shanghai, China, coincides with the launch of the UK China Year of Cultural Exchange, which seeks to stimulate creative collaboration between the two countries.

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Notes to editors

Further information:

- The treaty will foster greater film collaborations between the UK and China for the benefit of both countries. Qualifying co-productions will be able to access national benefits including sources of finance and an easier distribution route to audiences. In the UK, currently experiencing record levels of film production and its talent in demand across the globe, this includes accessing the Film Tax Relief and the BFI Film Fund, the UK's largest public film fund with £26 million a year of Lottery funding to invest in film.
- In addition, the treaty will mean that all eligible co-productions will be able to be shown in China. With the Chinese box office now the world's second largest and forecast to outstrip the US within five years or less, 10 new cinemas opening a week and film the fastest growing media in China (24.6% revenue growth from 2009-14), this opens up opportunities for the UK film industry to reach a vast new audience. Currently China permits only 34 revenue sharing non-domestic titles to be shown in Chinese cinemas each year.

BFI

The BFI is the lead organisation 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
- 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 The GREAT Festival of Creativity

The GREAT Festival is being delivered in partnership with private sector organisations including HSBC, BBC Worldwide, Jaguar Land Rover, PWC, IHG, British Airways and De Montfort University. It will run in the Long Museum, Shanghai from 2-4 March 2015.

The GREAT Britain campaign is the Government's most ambitious international marketing campaign ever and showcases the very best of what Britain has to offer in order to encourage the world to visit, study and do business with the UK.

The GREAT Britain campaign has delivered a direct return to the economy of over £1bn since its launch and is now active in 144 countries. Unifying the international growth promotion efforts of UK Trade & Investment, VisitBritain, British Council, FCO and a number of other departments, GREAT aims to deliver significant and long-term increases in trade, tourism, education and inward investment in support of HMG's prosperity and growth agenda.

Twitter: @GREATFestivals #GREATFestivals

For more information on The GREAT Festival of Creativity visit:

www.greatfestivalofcreativity.co.uk

For more information on the GREAT Britain Campaign visit:

www.greatbritaincampaign.com

UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is the Government Department that helps UK-based companies succeed in the global economy. We also help overseas companies bring their high quality investment to the UK's economy – acknowledged as Europe's best place from which to succeed in global business. UKTI offers expertise and contacts through its extensive network of specialists in the UK, and in British embassies and other diplomatic offices around the world. We provide companies with the tools they require to be competitive on the world stage. For more information on UKTI, visit

<http://www.gov.uk>www.gov.uk/ukti.