

**NATION'S MOST PROMISING YOUNG FILM TALENT  
GRADUATE FROM BFI FILM ACADEMY**

***54 stars of the future premiere their short films at BFI Southbank***

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2013** Today 54 of the most promising young film talent from all over England gathered at BFI Southbank to graduate from the first ever BFI Film Academy residential programme with the National Film and Television School (NFTS) aimed at hothousing the filmmaking stars of the future. At the event, in front of their parents and film industry heavyweights, including *Les Miserables* producer Eric Fellner and James Bond Producer Barbara Broccoli, the 6 short films the students wrote, produced, directed, and edited during the 2 week course were premiered (*see notes to editors for film synopsis's*).

For the past 2 weeks the students, aged 16-19, have had an intense and unique experience learning from the best in the industry with unparalleled access to tutors and film experts including Cinematographer Brian Tufano (*Trainspotting, Billy Elliot*), Director Edgar Wright (*Hot Fuzz, Shaun of the Dead*), Producer Rebecca O'Brien (*The Angel's Share, The Wind That Shakes The Barley*), Director Brian Gilbert (*Wilde, Tom & Viv*) and Producer Michelle Eastwood (*In Our Name*).

**BFI Chair Greg Dyke**, who hosted the event and presented each student with their graduation certificate said: *'We knew there was extraordinary young film talent in the UK but even we have been staggered by the standard of filmmaking at the BFI Film Academy. The great thing about the Academy is that we've got students from all backgrounds, from all over the UK, taking part. The BFI Film Academy is exactly what we need to find the Danny Boyle of the future. Supporting the talent of tomorrow is fundamental to the future success and growth of the UK Film Industry.'*

**Nik Powell, NFTS Director** said: *'It's inspiring to see the hunger for knowledge among these young film-makers. We hope that the skills we've given them at the NFTS will provide the launch pad and confidence they need to fulfil their ambitions.'*

The BFI Film Academy is the result of a unique partnership with the Department for Education in England, which has provided £3m funding for the programme over 3 years, and forms a key part of the BFI's ambitious plans to revolutionise film education for 5-19 year olds across the UK over the next five years.

Providing opportunities for talented and committed young people to develop new skills and build a career in the film industry, no matter where they live or what their background, is a core aim of the BFI's *Film Forever* five year plan to support the future success of UK film and forms the central tenet of the BFI Film Academy programme. Alongside the NFTS, the BFI has worked with 24 regional delivery partners across England for the BFI's Film Academy Network and with support from BAFTA, Pinewood Studios and Creative Skillset.

Participants in the residential programme chose a specialism, such as Directing, Producing, Editing, Cinematography or Sound Recording, and formed teams to be tutored by film industry experts to make short films using the NFTS's film studios and world-class teaching facilities. The students enjoyed Masterclasses from some of the country's leading film-makers, tailored industry support from BAFTA and visits to the BFI National Archives and Pinewood Studios.

Following the residential programme, support will be given to the participants in obtaining further training, work placements or jobs in the industry.

The residential course was based at the NFTS and the Lane End Conference Centre, in Buckinghamshire, during the Easter holidays (April 2-12) with an introductory weekend on March 9-10<sup>th</sup>. Every 16-19 year old across England who can show talent and enthusiasm for film is eligible to apply for the BFI Film Academy in 2014 including the BFI Film Academy Regional Network programme. **Details about this will be announced in due course.**

The residential programme is free but participants covered the cost of travel to and from the residential locations and a £75 administration fee is payable on being awarded a place. However, Bursaries are available to cover these costs in order to make this incredible opportunity available to people from all backgrounds. For full details go to <http://www.bfi.org.uk/education-research/5-19-film-education-scheme-2013-2017/bfi-film-academy> and <http://nfts.co.uk/bfi-film-academy-talent-campus>

The 6 short films from the BFI Film Academy films are

### **CHA, CHA, CHA**

When a world-weary wife decides to disappear on a spiritual retreat in India, her whole relationship with her husband is called into question, with comic and tragic results.

### **BEEN A RIOT**

Locked in a basement during the summer riots of 2012, a WPC and the young tearaway she's arrested have to learn trust each other and find a common bond.

### **THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL**

An irritated homeowner, frustrated by the grieving mother whose son was killed in a car accident right outside his house, manages to find the sympathy and fellow feeling which helps her to move on.

### **TEACH ME**

A city banker turned social worker has to starkly face his own anger, frustration and feelings of violence when he's provoked by an aggressive and manipulative teenager.

### **MAN OF THE HOUSE**

After a traumatic burglary, a mother and grown-up daughter find reconciliation and understanding through shared memories of the now departed 'man of the house'.

## **VOICES IN THE ATTIC**

A grieving mother is helped to come to terms with the tragic death of her child by a mysterious stranger.

The NFTS was founded 40 years ago with the help of its President Lord Attenborough and runs Post Graduate MA and diploma courses but this is the first time it has opened its doors to younger students.

The School has a reputation for producing some of the most talented film-makers in the world. Its student films have won 5 Oscars, 8 BAFTAs and graduates include 2013 Oscar nominees Roger Deakins and Stuart Wilson (Skyfall) and Dario Marianelli (Anna Karenina) and students Timothy Eckhart and Fodhla Cronin O'Reilly whose graduation film *Head Over Heels* is in the short animated film section. [www.nfts.co.uk](http://www.nfts.co.uk)

The BFI's aim is to ensure everyone, particularly young people, wherever they live, can learn about and enjoy the widest range of film. In 2013 the BFI Film Academy network is operating across every region of England giving a diverse group of young people from all backgrounds the opportunity to get involved.

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

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#### **More information about the BFI Film Academy:**

The BFI Film Academy programme is supported by the Department for Education in England who have committed £1m pa funding from April 2012 and 31 March 2015. The BFI Film Academy follows recommendations from both Lord Chris Smith's Film Policy Review and The Henley Report, Darren Henley's Cultural Education Review around arts and film education. The BFI Film Academy Network and residential programme also forms part of the BFI's overall 5-19 Education Scheme. This ambitious strategy aims to support the development of 5-19 film education across

the UK, working alongside partners in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. For more information please click here: <http://www.bfi.org.uk/education-research/5-19-film-education-scheme-2013-2017>

### **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
- 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 National Film and Television School**

- The National Film and Television School (NFTS) is the UK's centre of excellence for post-graduate film and television education.
- The NFTS has a reputation for producing some of the most talented film-makers in the world, its student films have won 5 Oscars, 8 BAFTAs and have also received three Oscar nomination in the past 7 years. Graduates include 2013 Oscar nominees Roger Deakins and Stuart Wilson (Skyfall) and Dario Marianelli (Anna Karenina).
- The NFTS is the only UK school with its own film and television stages, studios and post-production facilities rivalling those of many professional companies.
- Its Director is Nik Powell (co-founder of Virgin and Palace Pictures) and the teaching staff include leading industry professionals such as Stephen Frears (The Queen), Brian Tufano (Trainspotting), David G. Croft (Shooting Stars, Live Aid, Crystal Maze), Lynda Myles (The Commitments).
- The school's Board of Governors includes, Lord Attenborough, as President, and ITV's former Director of Television, Simon Shaps, as Chairman.
- Visit [www.nfts.co.uk](http://www.nfts.co.uk)



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