

## **Bradford gets new film school for teenagers**

Bradford is one of only a handful of cities in the UK to gain a prestigious new film school for teenagers this autumn.

The BFI Film Academy Bradford has been created under the latest round of funding from the Department of Education, and teenagers in the area with a passion for film are being offered the chance to sign up for the school from the British Film Institute, the UK's leading organisation for film.

It will be delivered by Yorkshire cultural consultancy and film specialists Reel Solutions with key local partners the National Media Museum, Bradford City of Film and the University of Bradford. The course includes sessions with top industry names and gives participants the unique opportunity to gain an NCFE qualification in Preparing to Work in the Film Industry.

The Academy, which runs throughout October and November 2015, aims to train and inspire the next

generation of British filmmakers, supporting talented and committed young people to develop the commercial and cultural knowledge and skills to help make a film career a reality. Participants will work alongside industry professionals to make a short film which will then have a world premier at the National Media Museum and also be screened on Big Screen, the large public screen in City Park, Bradford.

Film and TV professionals who will be holding masterclasses and workshops include Connal Orton, Executive Producer for CBBC's in-house drama team, whose work includes the BAFTA-Award-winning *4 O'Clock Club* and *All At Sea*; visual effects producer Dan Barrow, who worked on the *Harry Potter* movies, Tim Burton's *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* and Guy Ritchie's *Sherlock Holmes*; storyboard illustrator Richard Smith; director and writer Clio Barnard who directed the experimental documentary *The Arbor*, about Bradford playwright Andrea Dunbar, and *The Selfish Giant*, also filmed in Bradford; and casting director Nicci Topping, who also delivers workshops for The Actors' Guild and cast Nike's *This Girl Can* commercial. Further names will be confirmed soon.

BFI Film Academy Bradford is one of 40 film academies for 16-to-19-year-olds nationwide.

Research company BOP, which has been evaluating the success of the Academy programme, has found that its promoter score (ie, recommending the product to others) comes second only to the Apple iPhone with a 95% satisfaction rate.

Key film organisations such as BAFTA also give participants one-to-one mentoring opportunities with experienced film professionals and locally participants will get access to internship opportunities in film and TV, career surgeries and film festivals such as the Leeds Film Festival and Bradford's Widescreen Weekend.

Zoe Naylor from Reel Solutions says: 'We're thrilled to be delivering a BFI Film Academy in Bradford for the first time after establishing and delivering one in Leeds for the last three years. Reel Solutions has special ties to Bradford – many of our team have worked at the National Media Museum in the

past and were also instrumental in the initial bid to achieve Bradford's UNESCO status as City of Film.

"Bradford deserves a superb film academy and that's what we're offering. The BFI courses really are the gold standard in film training for this age group. It's a great opportunity for young people in this area. There are already great existing film networks in the city – we're adding access to experienced film professionals and opportunities that will inspire and support young people in their future careers within the film industry."

Nikki Christie, BFI Head of Education and Skills, says: "At the BFI we believe that while talent is everywhere, opportunity isn't – the BFI Film Academy is designed to address that. Every 16-to-19-year-old across the UK who can show talent and enthusiasm for film is eligible to apply for the BFI Film Academy programme."

David Wilson from Bradford City of Film says: "We're delighted to be working in partnership with Reel Solutions to help delivery of the BFI Film Academy in Bradford. The academies are crucial in helping to develop the next generation of creative film making talent. I think there will be a lot of

demand from 16-to-19-year-olds from right across the Bradford district, many of whom are already very proud to come from this film-loving city."

The cost of participating in the Academy is £25; however if participants think they will struggle to pay the course fee, it can be waived. Bursaries will also be made available for assistance with travel, childcare or other costs.

Short films made by previous participants can be seen here:

[www.reelsolutions.co.uk/index.php/filmacademy/howreels/](http://www.reelsolutions.co.uk/index.php/filmacademy/howreels/)

Applications open on 7 September and close on 28 September 2015. Apply at [www.reelsolutions.co.uk](http://www.reelsolutions.co.uk)

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Notes to editors

**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-to-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.

[www.bfi.org.uk/filmacademy](http://www.bfi.org.uk/filmacademy)

**Reel Solutions** is a cultural consultancy agency, predominantly working in film and providing guidance and support to a range of local, national and international cultural businesses, film agencies and festivals in the UK and Europe.

It offers a range of education services including resource packs for teachers and cinemas and CPD training. Other services include evaluation, bid writing, project management services, strategic consultancies and supporting the set-up of local independent cinemas, film festivals and pop-up cinema events. Clients include the BFI, Into Film, the Independent Cinema Office, the National Media Museum and Cambridge Film Festival.

Reel Solutions has run its own projects such as the annual Fantastique film festival in Derby, and Screenwaves, a rural cinema pilot on the Yorkshire coast, along with specialised cinema programmes at the Cinegalleria at Dean Clough, Halifax and Cinémathèque Bradford at the Kala Sangam Arts Centre.

It is currently leading on the joint delivery and management of a three-year national BFI

Programme Development Fund project, *Britain on Film*, which celebrates, and tells the stories of the people and places of Britain from 1895 to the present through archive film.