

FEBRUARY 2011

WESTMINSTER FILM  
SCHOOL



The Miserables Best Fiction Winner

## FILM & TV PRODUCTION BA STUDENTS SCOOP ROYAL TELEVISION SOCIETY FACTUAL AND FICTION AWARDS

**Westminster students won both the fiction and the factual awards at the recent Royal Television Society Regional Awards. This is the third time in four years that Film & TV Production students have won the drama award, and the second time in four years for documentary.**

*The Miserables*, starring Ian Hogg (best known for *Rockliffes Babies*) and Maggie Steed (Eileen Pike in *Jam and Jerusalem*) secured 'Best Drama' for a team led by Alex Lipman (Producer), Ben Wheatley (Director) and Cenay Said (Director of Photography).

The judges felt that this story of a man who finds an unusual way of rediscovering his relationship with his wife "was outstanding - a very good emotional script which had been creatively executed with sensitivity, flair, restraint and imagination."

Producer and writer Alex Lipman said "I am so happy that the film manages to generate real emotion. We are thrilled by the response it has received".

Both the other shortlisted dramas were also from Westminster - *Pigeon*, produced by Siobhan Finnon, written by Harry Sloan and directed by Thom Godsill, and *All Fried Up*, produced by Jonny Burns, written by Jonah Mayfield and directed by Tom Marshall.



Pigeon Best Fiction Nominee

In the factual category, director James Page secured two of the three nominations, with his documentaries *Chosun*, filmed in North Korea, and *Streetcar*, exploring themes of identity and loss in New Orleans. The winner was *Streetcar* (camera Peter Palos, sound and production Fabiano D'Amato) - commended by the jury as "a lovely documentary, beautifully shot, about the trams in New Orleans, which held the attention straight away. It was beautifully structured with good audience appeal". The award took the

director by surprise: "I really thought that my North Korean film had a better chance".



Course director Peter Hort was delighted: "The frequency with which our films win awards is a real testament not only to the creativity and skill of our students, but to the dedication and support of the teaching and technical staff, the industry professionals who advise on the films, and the equipment and facility companies that support our student productions."



All Fried Up Best Fiction Nominee

# BEIJING AWARD FOR 'THE MISERABLES'

After two screenings in a packed 1000 seat cinema in Beijing, *The Miserables* picked up the audience award at 9th International Film and Video Festival of Beijing. The organisers commented that “The film *The Miserables* from the United Kingdom deeply moved the audience by telling the story of a terminally ill woman and her husband finding an unusual way to recall their memory.”



Ian Hogg and Maggie Steed  
In *The Miserables*

Ben Wheatley, the film’s director, was invited both to Beijing and to Moscow, where the film was also in competition at the VGIK International Film Festival. Reflecting on his experience, Ben said “It was so exciting to be taking the film overseas. The response was amazing. I remember in Beijing the audience were deadly silent for the final scene, followed by rapturous applause as the credits rolled. It was a great feeling to know that the film was generating emotion with a non-British audience.”



Ben Wheatley, at 9th International  
Film and Video Festival of Beijing



Ben Wheatley, VGIK,  
International Student Festival,  
Moscow

“At VGIK, the Russian state film school in Moscow, *The Miserables* received a live Russian translation, by a lady standing on the stage. It was strange and funny to hear her take on all five of the film’s roles, in another language.”

‘The Miserables’ was shot on a set built in Studio 2 at the Harrow Campus by a production design team led by Romy Alford Sancto, and on location around London. Super 16 equipment was provided by Panavision and the film was mastered to HDCAM following a scan and grade at The Mill.

## ‘HITCHHIKER’ STARS TAKE ON MAGICAL ROLES

Sandra Dickinson and David Dixon, who starred as Trillian and Ford Prefect in the famous television series *The Hitchhiker’s Guide To The Galaxy*, took the lead roles in *The Magician’s Wife*, a 15 minute comedy/drama. The film, produced by Aimee White, directed by Derek Ewers, lit by Edgar Dubrovskis and shot on Super 16 equipment from ARRI Media, tells the story of a stage magician haunted by his recently deceased wife, who insists he must give her the burial she deserves.



Sandra Dickinson and  
David Dixon in *The  
Magician’s Wife*

# 'ALL FRIED UP' & 'PIGEON' TRIUMPH AT EXPOSURES



The Exposures festival in Manchester is Britain's leading student film festival, and Westminster's Film and Television BA students won 'Best Drama' for the second successive year with *All Fried Up*.

*All Fried Up* is a 12 minute drama on Super 16, directed by Tom Marshall, written by Jonah Mayfield and shot by Richard Perry, in which a chance encounter with an

eccentric stranger during breakfast at a roadside café leaves a bad taste in the mouth.

*Pigeon* (Super 16), which stars Juliet Oldfield ('Bronson') as a troubled escort who finds an unlikely connection with a disillusioned client, carried off the Corona Extra Audience Award. The film, a 20 minute drama shot on Super 16 with equipment from Take 2, was produced by Siobhan Finnon, directed by Thom Godsill and

written by Harry Sloan.

*The Situation*, a police comedy/drama shot over five nights on the Harrow campus, directed by Ben Simpson, shot by Maiya Davies on a RED ONE and produced by Gemma Fairway, was nominated for best cinematography and best drama.

*All Fried Up* was also selected for the Encounters festival in Bristol, and for Eat Our Shorts at the BFI Southbank.



The 2010 graduates that made these films are already doing well. Here are a few of the interesting things that people are getting up to ...

**Tom Cross** has landed a position as a production co-ordinator at Brook Lapping.

**Nathan D'Arcy Roberts** has a 1 year internship at Ruby Films

**Kieran Waller** is an editorial trainee for the film adaptation of "One Day" by David Nicholls, due for release in 2011.

**Edgar Dubrovskis** has recently been focus puller for the new Manic Street Preachers music video

**Cenay Said** recently wrapped as camera trainee on *Misfits* Series 2

**Savvas Stavrou** has a 1 year internship at Focus Features

**Marc Page** is working for Frame Store as a post production runner

**Claire Tomlinson** is working as a junior editor at Decisive Media

**Siobhan Finnon** is working as a talent management assistant at ARG