

'For Elsie' strikes Gold at the Student Academy Awards 2012

2011 Graduation Film *For Elsie*, directed by David Winstone from a script by Vincent Klueger, has been selected as the Gold Medal winner in the Foreign Film category at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' 39th Annual Student Academy Awards, competing against entries from 29 different countries.

Actress Laura Dern presented the Student Oscar at the ceremony in the 1000 seat Samuel Goldwyn Theatre in Hollywood on 9th June. David began his acceptance speech by saying: "This is an amazing moment for me, not just because of this award, but because I've been in love with Laura Dern since I was five years old. For me, Jurassic Park was that film that made me fall in love with the movies". Three other members of the production team also attended the awards: Katie Clarke (Production Designer) and Jamie Levitt (Sound) and producer Gemma Priggen: "It was the most amazing night, and it was such an honour to win. We are so proud of the cast and crew. We were the only undergraduate film even nominated and by far the youngest crew with the smallest budget. Everyone's talent shone through on the big screen."

The Academy hosted a week of events for the student winners and nominees, including visits to the Screen Actors Guild, and to the American Society of Cinematographers with two times Oscar winner Haskell Wexler ('One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest'), as well as a dinner with the Academy's Board of Governors.

For Elsie tells the story of a disillusioned piano teacher, a Russian gangster and his daughter, and a day that may go down in piano lesson history.



Left to Right: Producer Gemma Priggen, Director David Winstone, Sound Recordist Jamie Levitt, Production Designer Katie Clarke, at the Awards in L.A.

Paul Trijbits, a graduate of the course and now Executive Producer at Ruby Films ('Tamara Drewe'; 'Fish Tank'), praised the film: "*For Elsie* demonstrates the wealth of talent which is being harboured and nurtured at Westminster Film School. This short, with an exceptional performance by Blake Ritson demonstrates how important short films are in the career progression of the next generation of film-makers from the UK. It's wonderful that this is being recognised by the Academy of Motion Picture & Science."

Peter Hort, Course Director of the Film & Television Production BA was delighted: "Winning a Student Academy Award is a wonderful achievement for our undergraduates. They are competing with much more experienced students, from postgraduate National Film Schools all over the world, and it's a testament to their creativity, maturity and technical ability that they've created films that move and entertain audiences wherever they're seen. And following up our 2011 top five finalist nomination for *The Miserables* with a win this year is tremendously satisfying for the course.."



David Winstone celebrating at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

Graduate Employment 2012

A few of our graduates from 2011:

James Neal
Camera Trainee at *ITV*

Sam Burr
Researcher at *RDF Television*.

Jonah Mayfield
Works in post-production at *the Edge Picture Company*.

Samantha Whitehouse
Production Assistant at *Perform Media Group*.

Dan Baker
1st Assistant Director '*The Power*'.

David Williams
Shooting Researcher at *Dragonfly*.

Helen Dawson
Art Department Assistant: *Les Miserables*, *All You Need is Kill*



3rd year student Natasha Mullan gets to grips with the broadcast equipment she will be using at the Olympics.

OBS recruits Westminster Students to work at Olympics

Paid work for the Olympic Broadcasting Services on the Olympics and Paralympics

Over 100 students and graduates from the course, and a total of over 200 from the University, will be working as part of the team broadcasting the Olympic Games this summer, in roles ranging from camera assistant to sound assistant and liaison officer.

The University was selected as a Broadcast Training Centre by the Olympic Broadcasting Services, and a week-long training session with a full OB setup was held at the Harrow campus in October 2011 for students in Film and Television Production, CMP and Television Production as well as from Ravensbourne and Bournemouth.

The students covered a football game at the Harrow campus before moving to nearby Harrow School, where they set up the OB truck and covered a rugby match.

2011 graduate Craig Harvey was very impressed with the training. He said; "Even when everyone else went to lunch I stayed to learn more about the equipment - the experience taught me so much about live broadcasting and rigging."

Third year student Reuben McNaughton trained as a liaison officer. He said of the experience: "It's an incredible thing to have on your CV, and I'm very pleased to

have done it. I feel it will be a helping hand into the industry. I'm working in Hyde Park on the marathon and cycling events. I'm very excited!"

Contracts for the students run for a minimum of 16 days, but some students are working for longer, and will go on to work on the Paralympics.

Third year student Charlotte Daniel will be working as a sound assistant on the football at Hampden Park in Glasgow: "It's a great opportunity to be a part of the Olympics, and it's fantastic to come out of University and have a paid job almost instantly!"



Like **Westminster Film School** on Facebook for festival news, information about the course, opportunities and connect with alumni and current students! <http://www.facebook.com/westminsterfilmschool>

Third Year Student's 'Project Hollywood' Experience

A week in LA for Joshua Sanger, winner of the Sony *Priest* trailer competition

Last summer, in a competition run by Sony in conjunction with the Film & TV Production BA, Joshua Sanger won the chance to spend a week at Sony Pictures in LA, working alongside top industry professionals.

His first day at Sony's headquarters was spent discussing film distribution with Mark Zucker, President of International Distribution, and best known for the Spiderman franchise. Josh said "Meeting Mark was an

inspiring experience that opened my eyes to the reality of film distribution. I previously had very little knowledge of this so I walk away with a little more direction towards my career path."

Josh found himself whisked onto the set of *Think Like a Man* with director Clint Culpepper. There he met the cast and crew, and was given the opportunity to network and socialise on a working film set in Hollywood.

At the end of the week, Josh experienced Sony's 3D training centre, a venue which has seen Tim Burton and John Schwartzman (Director of Photography on Spiderman) go through a 3D training course. Josh not only had the chance to play with some industry standard 3D cameras, but also experienced some of the training himself. Josh said that through this experience "a new world of filmmaking has been opened to me".

News from the Festivals

Westminster Film School celebrates its most successful festival year.

For Elsie, directed by David Winstone, is performing fantastically both in the UK and internationally. Alongside winning the Gold Award at the **Student Academy Awards**, *For Elsie* won the Bronze Award at the **Beijing International Student Video and Film Festival 2011** and also won the audience award at the **VGIK Festival** in Moscow (which writer Vincent Klueger was able to attend), and an honorary mention at the **Next Reel Festival** in Singapore. *For Elsie* went on to further success by winning the audience award at the annual **Exposures Festival** in Manchester and the Undergraduate Award at the **Learning on Screen Awards** at the BFI South Bank.



Dan Baker (1st AD), **James Neal** (Director of Photography), **Nicola Evans** (writer), **Jonny Burns** (producer) and **Richard Perry** (camera assistant) at the RTS Awards for *Red Letter*.



David Winstone, director of *For Elsie*, picks up the Bronze Award at the Beijing Film and Video Festival 2011.

At the 2012 **Royal Television Society Awards** at the ITV Studios on the Southbank, *For Elsie* was competing with fellow Westminster Graduation film *Red Letter*, directed by Tom Marshall and produced by Jonny Burns for the Fiction award. *Lands of my Fathers*, directed by David Williams with cinematography by Richard Perry was nominated for Best Documentary and came second to *Showgirl*, a documentary produced by students on the BA Television Production course. *For Elsie* won the Best Fiction award.

Red Letter won Best Horror/Thriller at the **National Student Film Awards** this year, and was also nominated for the International Film Award at the **Up and Coming Film Festival** in Hanover. The event lasted a week, and the director and producer of the film flew out to the festival to meet other student filmmakers and to enjoy seeing their film and many others on the big screen. *The Miserables* (University of Westminster, 2010) was nominated in the same category. *Red Letter* was also nominated for Best Screenplay, Post-Production and Best Drama at the **Exposures Festival**.

The Lovely Monster, written by Max McCabe and directed by Jonni Remmler was nominated for Best Comedy, Best Film and Best Performances at **The National Student Film Awards**, where *Bedlam*, written by David Winstone and directed by Callum Smith was also screened.



Nik Powell presents the audience award at **Eat our Shorts** to **Matt Musson**, **Alina Budina** and **Takashi Yoshida** for *Talking Hands*

Each year, Westminster's films begin their festival life at the **NAHEMI Eat Our Shorts Festival**, held at the BFI in July. In 2011, second year film *One Day in Nowhere Town*, directed by Joshua Sanger and produced by Laurie List, won the audience award. The film was written by Alina Budina, who also shot this year's **Eat our Shorts** audience award winner, *Talking Hands*, directed by Matthew Musson, edited by Seema Shah and produced by Jenny Pham.

Graduation Showcase at BAFTA



The 2012 graduation showcase was held on 22nd June in the Princess Anne Theatre at BAFTA, thanks to a 'Gift of the Academy' Award. Friends, family and industry professionals enjoyed the five graduation films on the big screen before celebrating in the bar where they were joined by members of their casts including Roger Lloyd Pack (better known for *Only Fools and Horses*, *Harry Potter*), Allan Corduner (*Gladiator*,

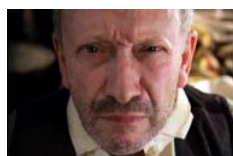
Topsy-Turvy) and Danny Webb (*Alien 3*, *Valkyrie*).

The settings of this year's ambitious productions included a 1920s New York set built in the studio, heaven re-created in a vast hanger near Bedford, a desolate farmhouse in Norfolk and dark goings on in a quaint English market town. Joost Hunningher, course leader 1967-2006, was thrilled by the

standard of the films. "I felt the students who produced this year's showcase totally deserved to have their achievements shown in such perfect conditions. As in the past, the scripts were thoughtful, creative and varied. I did think that the casting was better than I had ever seen before."

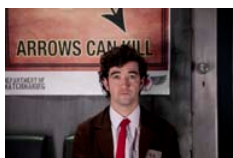


Graduation Films 2012



47 Orchard Street

New York, 1929. Craving forgiveness from the brother he cannot forgive, Hirsch is haunted by a sense of guilt that extends far beyond the four walls of his tenement apartment.



A Human Vice

The worst cupid in Heaven's history is given an ultimatum: complete his next match or face damnation. He'll need all his skill and a lot of coffee to discover the true meaning of love.



The Clown's Son

Thirteen-year-old Jake finds himself caught between the homes of his mother and his professional clown father. He must adapt to two very different lives, but how much juggling can one boy take?



The Dry Fields

When a van crashes into a tree on his land, Howard is drawn into a strange encounter which forces him to rediscover his connection with humanity.



Line of Fire

Redundancies are Keith's speciality. But when the cocky young supermarket supervisor looks for a new contract, he soon finds himself in the firing line.

Major campaign launched to renovate the birthplace of British Cinema

The University's own cinema on Regent Street is to undergo a £5m redevelopment, creating a state of the art venue equipped with digital and 35mm projection. 309 Regent Street is considered the 'birthplace of British Cinema', as the Lumiere Brothers presented the UK's first performance of a moving film to a paying audience there on 21st February 1896, and it operated as a commercial cinema from the 1920s to the 1980s.

A fundraising campaign was launched earlier this year to restore this historic building, and guests at the reception at Regent Street included many notable alumni. Course Director Peter Hort commented that he was "looking forward to the next step, when the annual showcase can be shown in perfect conditions in the restored and reopened Regent Street Cinema."



Alumni at the cinema campaign launch L to R: Neal Purvis, Peter Spencer, Simon Sharkey, Paul Trijbits, Joost Hunningher and Fiona Ryder.