



BA Film & TV Production Newsletter Winter 2009/10



Film Awards and Accolades in Manchester, London and Munich

A team of film students rounded off a memorable 2009 by winning 'Best Live Action Film' at the prestigious Exposures: New Talent in Moving Image Festival in Manchester in November and 'Best Short' at the London Young Film Festival for filmmakers under 26.

Earlier in the year 'Chequered Flags of Our Fathers' won a Royal Television Society award as Best Undergraduate Documentary, and a 30 second commercial for Lynx was the overall winner of the Kodak/BTAA Student Commercials award.



Above- actors Kim Hardy and Kate Malyon in award winning drama 'Prick'

Over 300 films were entered for the three day Exposures festival, 40 were selected for screening and Westminster's entries were first and second in the competition. 'Prick', directed by Ryan Vernava, written by Richard Manders and produced by Krystian Jones, is a drama about contemporary youth culture, following a protagonist who is forced, as the film develops, to confront the consequences of his actions. 'Tears of the Son', produced by Emma Schofield and written by Tom Coldrick received an 'honourable mention' as the runner up.

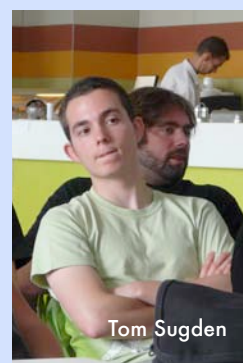


Above- the crew prep for a take on the set of 'Tears of the Son'

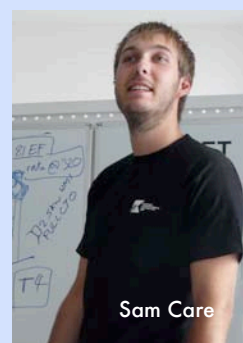
'Tears of the Son' was also selected in competition at the Munich International Festival of Film Schools in November, and its director, Dean Threadgold, was invited to attend the week-long festival. He found it "a fantastic opportunity to network with like-minded filmmakers from around the world." The crew of second-year drama 'Charlie Chaplin' (written by Harry Sloan, produced by Siobhan Finnon, and directed by Nathan D'Arcy Roberts) attended Encounters Film Festival in Bristol, where the film was screening in competition for the NAHEMI prize.

Peter Hort, Course Leader for BA Film and Television Production, commented that "our students have set the bar very high this year, and the challenge is to make sure that we can continue to offer an environment where they can be both creative and professional".

Two graduates win scholarships to train with Oscar winning DoP Vilmos Zsigmond



Tom Sugden



Sam Care

Above- The class of the 2009 cinematography masterclass, held at the Korda Studios in Budapest

Westminster Film School teamed up with HKW Berlin to secure EU Media funding for the 9th biannual Budapest Cinematography Masterclass, held at the Korda Studios in Hungary. Sixteen scholarships were awarded to exemplary young cinematographers - and both UK scholars were Westminster alumni.



Above- Academy Award winning DoP Vilmos Zsigmond ('Close Encounters of the Third Kind', 'The Black Dahlia')

Sam Care is a BA Film and TV graduate from 2005 and a recent graduate of the National Film and Television School, and Tom Sugden graduated from the BA Film and TV course in 2009. Over the two week period the students were mentored by Emmy award winning cinematographer Elemér Ragályi, HSC and Oscar winning cinematographer Vilmos Zsigmond, ASC. They were given the opportunity to shoot a variety of scenes on 35mm film, using equipment, cameras and lenses of a Hollywood standard, donated to the masterclass by industry sponsors such as Panavision, Kodak and Korda Studios.

"From a creative and technical viewpoint, Elemér and Vilmos were able to offer unparalleled advice" said recent graduate Tom Sugden. "And my time in Budapest, which allowed me to make many industry contacts, was a great way to end an invaluable three years at Westminster Film School."

Westminster's Joost Hunningher also took part in the activities, delivering a lecture on the promise, problems and future of D-cinema.



Katie Allsop, born 31st August 2009

Katie's mother Zoe, who runs the first year practice modules on the BA Film and Television Production course, is currently on maternity leave.



New BBC teen comedy series filmed on campus

***Off The Hook* is a new BBC comedy series about freshers filmed on location at Westminster University's Harrow site, with the support of students and staff from the BA Film and TV Production. The 7-episode show debuted on both BBC Three and BBC Switch, and is produced by Greenroom Entertainment, run**

"*Off The Hook* couldn't have been made without the University of Westminster," said Simon. "Not only did the Harrow site serve as a great location for the show, but the film students got involved and became an essential part of our production team". Many worked as assistants in the camera and art departments, and Westminster alumnus Rob Jelley played an integral part in co-ordinating the shoot in his role as Location Manager.



"It is enormously exciting for myself and Nick to see the show come to fruition," said producer Simon, who studied Film and Television Production at Westminster, graduating in 1999. He began his film career working in commercials, music videos, and in the production departments of several British independent feature films. "My time at the Uni provided me with the inspiration to make *Off The Hook*. It has been a very positive experience to come back and make my first show here as a producer for the BBC."



MALCOLM GOES TO HOLLYWOOD

BA Film and Television tutor and MA Directing Course Leader Malcolm Mowbray went back to work at the coal face this Summer, directing a new feature film. Meeting Spencer stars Jeffrey Tambor (*Arrested Development, Hellboy*) Jesse Plemons (from acclaimed series *Friday Night Lights*) and Melinda McGraw (from Emmy-Award winning series *Mad Men*). Following a studio shoot in Los Angeles, the film is now completing post-production in the US, and Malcolm is already in development on his next feature.

TWO WIN PLACES AT THE NFTS

Robert Harper, a BA Film and TV graduate from 2008, won a place at the National Film and Television School as a documentary directing student. Sarah Byers, who graduated in 2009, has been offered a place on the SFX course.

TITANIC AND JUMANJI STAR JONATHAN HYDE TAKES LEAD ROLE IN WESTMINSTER FILM

Third year film 'Foxes in the Underground' secured a big star for their lead role, with acclaimed film and stage actor Jonathan Hyde agreeing to work on the film because of his enthusiasm for the script. The third year drama, directed by Daniel Nickson, produced by Jo Michael and written by Alan Forbes, has screened in competition at Film Stock Film Festival in Luton and Salford Film Festival in Manchester.



Jonathan Hyde gets ready for his close-up