

Oscar, BAFTA and Sundance Success for Graduates



Sundance: 'Under The Shadow' is acclaimed as "the first great horror movie of the year"



Asif Kapadia and James Gay Reece receive their Oscar at the Academy Awards



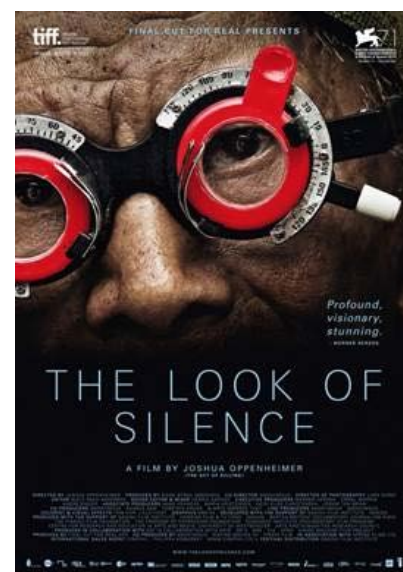
Shan Ogilvie and Benjamin Cleary at the Academy Awards

Westminster's film alumni and staff were nominated for three Oscars this year, and won two. Asif Kapadia (1994 graduate) won Best Documentary Feature for 'Amy', about the late singer Amy Winehouse, as well as the BAFTA for Best Documentary. The film uses footage from home videos and mobile phones as well as more conventional archive material to give a portrait of the real woman behind the headlines. Asif Kapadia has previously won BAFTAs for Best British Feature (The Warrior) and Best Documentary (Senna).

Joshua Oppenheimer, Reader in Documentary at the University, was Oscar nominated for Best Documentary Feature for 'The Look of Silence', his follow up to the BAFTA winning 'The Act of Killing'. Both 'Amy' and 'The Look of Silence' have made it into the BFI's list of the top 20 films of 2015.

'Stutterer', which won the Oscar for Best Live Action Short, was co-produced by 2009 film graduate Shan Ogilvie. The film follows the dating difficulties of a young man with a severe stutter.

Babak Anvari (2005 graduate) followed up his recent BAFTA nomination for Best Short Film with his feature debut as director, 'Under The Shadow', shot in Jordan in 2015. The film was a hit at this year's Sundance Festival, with The Guardian saying "The film's triumph lies in its ability to critique Iran's post-revolution regime's blatant sexism, whilst still working as a full throttle horror". DoP Kit Fraser is also a 2005 graduate.



Like Westminster Film School on Facebook for festival news, more info about the course, opportunities, and to connect with alumni and current students. We're happy to help!

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3rd Year Students Work on Top Gear, Panorama and Annihilation

Students gained valuable work experience, not to mention cash, on three high profile productions this spring. Thirty students worked for three days as location marshals, closing the streets of Central London for a 'Top Gear' shoot with Matt Le Blanc and the Hoonicorn race car. They worked with Christian McWilliams, location manager for major blockbusters such as 'Mission Impossible' and 'Braveheart', who regularly advises students on their productions and mentors them into the industry.

Seven students worked on the Deepcut special for BBC Panorama, in the camera, sound, production and art departments. The producer, Isibéal Balance, commented: "It's an absolute pleasure to come here and film at Westminster and I cannot speak highly enough about the students. They were so helpful, had a bundle of energy and professionalism, and they are a credit to the university".

A dozen students are working on 'Annihilation'; an adaptation of Jeff Vandermeer's Award-winning novel of the same name. The film stars Natalie Portman and is produced by DNA Films - Andrew Macdonald and Allon Reich (Trainspotting, The Beach). This will be Alex Garland's second directorial project following the recent success of Ex Machina.



Students working as location marshals on Top Gear close off the Mall for the Hoonicorn Shoot hosted by Matt Le Blanc in London in May



Five Wins at the Kodak Student Commercial Awards



'Damon's Funeral' crew congratulated by Sir Alan Parker as they go on stage to receive their awards

Students won five awards at the Kodak Nahemi Student Commercials Awards 2016. The event was held at our Regent Street Cinema and awards were presented by Nik Powell, Director of the NFTS, and Sir Alan Parker, director of films including Bugsy Malone (1976), Fame (1980) and Evita (1996).

The competition is run and supported by Nahemi and Kodak, who task the students with creating a thirty second advert for three specific briefs. Westminster students came first in the Think category, second overall in competition, and won best script with their advert 'Damon's Funeral'. 'Three Princesses' and 'Been Inside Too Long?' both won awards for second in their brief.

2014 to 2016 Graduate Updates:

Saba Kia - Location Management, *Annihilation* | Tara Acton - 3rd Assistant Director, *Emmerdale* | Christopher Starkey - Camera Assistant, *Downton Abbey* | Joshua Renaut - DOP, *One Direction Where We Are BTS* | Jimmy Dean - Director, *BFI Short Film Scheme* | Rania Iraki & Ashley Jackson - Assistants to Producer/Director, *Out of Innocence* | Bregeta Bond - Production Secretary, *Secret Life of Four Year Olds* Christopher Lynch - Post Production at Warner Bros. | Jordn Bastian & Zoe Kenndal Shafir - Standby Art Directors, *Murder Maps*, and others at 3DD Productions | Harry Ryan - Cam Op. *ESPN* | Lucia Fedeli - Locations & Researcher, *Snow White & The Huntsman 2* Jack Mealing - Camera Trainee, *Cinderella*

Graduation Showcase 2016 at BAFTA



The graduating students of 2016 celebrated their end of year showcase at BAFTA, 195 Piccadilly. Industry guests, alumni and staff joined the students and parents for the evening of film screenings. This year, the show displayed a vibrant mix of immersive documentary and original drama; 'Look Up' with its ambitious special effects, the realist drama 'Lazar', the family action film 'Singularity', the emotional drama 'Sacrifice' and an intriguing observational documentary, 'The Abbey'. The showcase was followed by a reception in the David Lean room for an evening of drinks and industry conversation.

James Fuller, Senior Creative Producer at Meri Media, commended the "amazing work from the graduating students". Andrew McKerlie, Head of Production at Ten Alps/Brook Lapping, also attended and commented; "High standards as usual, and really strong documentaries". Nick Parry, a freelance television director who tutors 1st years in their multi-camera project had this to say; "I was extremely impressed by the work this year's graduates have produced; particularly the confidence they have displayed in different genres. I remember them as being an outstanding year; it was fantastic to see how they have progressed and matured".

Screening alongside the graduation films was 'Husky', a 2nd year social realist drama, and the immersive and sensory documentary 'Cattle Market', as well as three award winning commercials. The films will be entered in film festivals around the world over the coming year, and you can follow the film school Facebook page for more news.

<https://www.facebook.com/westminsterfilmschool/>

filmschool@westminster.ac.uk

WESTMINSTER FILM SCHOOL

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Look Up

Fiction – 21 minutes

Kenneth's daughter was abducted by aliens. Years later, an unexpected visitor arrives on the doorstep of his UFO research centre, claiming to be the very same girl.



Lazar

Fiction – 17 minutes

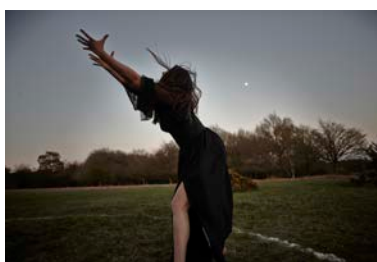
An incident on her morning paper round brings Jess together with a stranger called Lazar. He offers to help, but she soon gets drawn into his desperate scheme to make some quick cash.



Singularity

Fiction – 17 minutes

After the mysterious disappearance of the internet, a lonely boy finds a rogue artificial intelligence program on his computer.



Sacrifice

Fiction – 20 minutes

Morgan Woods is a nurse, but she descends from a long line of witches. As she cares for her dying mother, she's caught in a struggle between her family's traditions and her medical vocation.



The Abbey

Documentary – 25 minutes

This observational film gives a privileged insight into the lives and rituals of a small group of monks who live in Belmont Abbey, a Benedictine monastery near the Welsh border.

Secretary of State for Defence and CND Debate Trident



Sara Medi Jones CND, Roz Morris BBC, and Philipp Dunne MP in the Studio with 1st Years after their debate.

The 1st years' Live Debates projects were extremely high profile this year. Shot in January in our multi-camera television studio in Harrow, subjects included the gender pay gap and the renewal of the Trident nuclear deterrent. The Trident debate, produced by Zora Feeseey, Jacob Elcock and team, was between Philip Dunne MP, Secretary of State for Defence Procurement and

and Sara Medi Jones of CND, hosted by BBC presenter Roz Morris.

The gender pay gap was debated by Kate Green MP, Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities, and Mike Buchanan, leader of the 'Justice for Men and Boys' party. Both films were made available on the House of Commons website.

Mike Leigh Presents Students With Best of Fest Award

'Charity' a short drama about a 16-year-old traveller and her dysfunctional family, has been very successful on the film festival circuit, and recently won the Best of Fest Award at Greenhorn Short Film Festival. The director Jimmy Dean and writer-producer Ellie Gocher attended the festival to collect the award, which was presented by a very special guest. Ellie explains, "It was an incredibly special night for us, as the award was presented to us by the great Mike Leigh, whose films have had such a huge influence on use as filmmakers. We'd love to thank everyone at the festival for such a wonderful and unforgettable night".



Jimmy and Ellie with their award for 'Charity' and behind, Mike Leigh

The Wolf Wins Grierson Award



Kathryn Maccorgarry-Gray and Cullum Carver-Jones with their Grierson at the Award Ceremony.

University of Westminster students triumphed at Grierson 2015: The 43rd British Documentary Awards on 2nd November at London's Mermaid Theatre. Hosted by TV presenter and choirmaster Gareth Malone, the great and the good of the documentary world came together at the star-studded awards ceremony, celebrating the best documentary filmmaking from Britain and around the World.

Two of the four nominations in the Sky Atlantic Best Student Documentary category were from Westminster's film students. 'Black Sheep' was commended by the judges for "its nuanced storytelling and immersion with the characters in a subject that is very powerful, Islamophobia". The winner, 'The Wolf, The Ship and the Little Green Bag', was described by the judges as "hugely innovative, with great use of animation in its storytelling".

The film, in which the coming-of-age stories of Karin, Peggy and Anne (aged from 70 to 94) are evoked through an innovative blend of interview and animation, was a collaboration between film and animation students at the University. The filmmakers received the award and a cheque for £5,000 from Jolyon Rubinstein, one half of 'The Revolution will be Televised'. Lorraine Heggessy, Chairman of the Grierson Trust, said: "Once again our winning films demonstrate the vibrant, exciting and innovative ways in which the UK documentary industry is the world leader."

Westminster Students Win at The RTS Student Awards

Westminster Film School received five nominations at the Royal Television Society's 2016 London Student Television Awards. The awards reward excellence across the medium and are described by the RTS as the 'gold standard in television'.

'Grandma's Big Schlep', produced by a team led by Rhianna Rizvi and Sophie Clarke, won Best Fiction. In their film, things go awry for two sisters when they discover that their recently deceased Grandma wasn't quite as Jewish as she made out to be. 'Mr Duncan', made by a team led by Laura Weissmair and Faye Landborn, won the special craft award for Best Editing.

'Offside', by Ellie Gocher and Jimmy Dean was also nominated for Best Fiction. There was a Special Mention in this category for 'Mr Duncan'.

'Boom Bang A Bang' was nominated in the Comedy and Entertainment category. Finally, in the Factual category, there was a nomination for 'Kraina', by Film students Christine Tynkevych, Kamile Dementaviciute, Vania Flacommio and



The Big Schlep crew receive their RTS awards

Andrei Oprescu. Students attended the award ceremony with Peter Hort, course leader for Film BA Honours: "Our students' films are about real human relationships and dilemmas, and it's great to have acknowledgment from the RTS that they succeed in engaging, moving and entertaining audiences. Film students have repeatedly won RTS awards in fiction, entertainment and documentary, but this is our most successful year yet for nominations."

'Kraina' Wins Best Short Doc at Atlanta Film Festival

A graduation film from 2015 has won Best Documentary Short at the 40th Atlanta Film Festival. Kristina Tynkevych, Kamile Dementiviciute, Vania Flacommio and Andrei Oprescu won the award for their documentary 'Kraina', a moving account of how the war between Ukraine and Russia had affected the lives of people in the Ukraine, told through the story of a young woman and her developing sense of nationalism. As Atlanta is an Oscar qualifying festival, this award places the film on the Oscars longlist for 2017.

Kristina Tynkevych (Director) said: "It was great to screen the film in America and see how the American audience (for whom the Ukrainian conflict is quite distant) reacted to the film". The film also screened recently at the Short Film Corner in Cannes.



Kristina with her award at Atlanta Film Festival

'Offside' tours Israel on The Film Bus



The Film Bus Tour shooting in Israel and Jimmy (inset)

'Offside', a 2015 graduation film, was an official selection at the 2016 Tel Aviv International Student Film Festival in Israel last month. The film follows Kirsty, who after learning she can no longer be part of the local boys' football team, struggles to come to terms with her evolving identity as a young woman. Jimmy Dean, director, was asked to join the festival's Film Bus Tour, which took him and other young filmmakers across Israel to screen their films in schools, and to run workshops to get young people in small towns involved in making short films of their own.

More 2015/16 Festival Highlights:

Offside (Fiction, 17 mins)

- Official Selection: 37th Durban International Film Festival
- Nominated: Best Youth Film, Sehsüchte 2016
- Nominated: Best Undergraduate Fiction, Learning On Screen
- Nominated: Best Performance, Screentest 2016
- Nominated: XX Award, Underwire Short Film Festival

Grandma's Big Schlep (Fiction, 20 mins)

- Winner: Best Drama, Royal Television Society Student Awards
- Official Selection: London Short Film Festival 2016
- Winner: Best Editing (Lewis Cyrus-Thompson) - Creative Skillset Film and TV Launchpad
- Nominated: Best Undergraduate Fiction, Learning On Screen 2016
- Nominated: Best Cinematography, Screentest 2016
- Commendation: Cambridge Strawberry Shorts 2016

Kraina (Documentary, 26 mins)

- Official Selection: Short Film Corner Film Market at Cannes 2016
- Official Selection: Changing Perspectives Short Film Festival, Istanbul 2016
- Commendation: Special Jury Mention, Moscow International Documentary Film Festival
- Official Selection: BFI London Film Festival 2015

Black Sheep (Documentary, 16 mins)