

Oscar, BAFTA and Golden Reel Success for Alumni



Babak Anvari (left), Writer and Director of 'Under the Shadow' with his Production team



Zoltan Juhasz accepting his Golden Reel Award

Babak Anvari, who graduated from the course in 2005, won 'Outstanding Debut Feature' at the BAFTAs in February for 'Under the Shadow', which he wrote and directed. The film was also nominated for Best British Feature. The story was drawn from Babak's experiences growing up under bombardment in Tehran during the war with Iraq. The Guardian commented that the film "succeeds equally as feminist fable, fractured family drama and full-on fright-fest." Director of Photography Kit Fraser also graduated in 2005, and the two previously combined on the BAFTA nominated short 'Two Plus Two'. Film students were able to question the pair at a screening at the University's Regent Street Cinema. Anvari is now in preproduction for his next feature, and Fraser has just completed principal photography on 'Possum'.

'Sing', directed by Kristóf Deák, won the Best Live Action Short Film Oscar at this year's Academy Awards. Kristóf graduated from the MA Directing Film course in 2010, and his film follows a group of children in a school choir who stand up to corruption in the most surprising way. 'Sing' has also been a hit at festivals such as Chicago International Children's Film Festival (where it won Best Short Film), TIFF Kids 2016 Toronto, Olympia Film Festival Greece and Short Shorts 2016 in Tokyo. Of his time at Westminster, Kristof said, "One of the best days of my life was our final project screening which we held with full house in the University's Regent Street Cinema."

Peter Hort, BA Film course leader, commented: "I'm really proud of what Kristof has achieved, and it's amazing that this is the second year in a row that a Westminster film alumnus has won the Oscar for Best Live Action Short." 2009 graduate Shan Ogilvy, who produced the 2016 winner, 'Stutterer', has recently wrapped on his new film, 'Fog'.



Kristof Deak at the Academy Awards

Zoltan Juhasz (2012 graduate) was awarded the Verna Fields Award at the Golden Reel Awards in Los Angeles, often referred to as the 'Sound Oscar', for his work as the supervising sound editor, foley artist and sound designer on the stop motion film 'FishWitch'. He was presented with the award by 'Hacksaw Ridge' sound editor Liam Price. Zoltan found his passion for sound editing and design at Westminster: "I made a documentary in my first year, and that is how I found out that I like doing sound. From then on I was the 'sound guy' in our year, and I spent the rest of my degree sound editing."



2005 grads Babak (right) director, Kit Fraser (left) DOP on set of 'Under the Shadow'

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Westminster wins Best Film School Award in Moscow



'Lazar' members Tomas Brice, Jelena Krivosic, Plum Stuppel-Harris, Shaun Kobrak pictured with the VGIK Best Film School Award.

During the last 12 months, the students' films from 2016 have been reaching audiences all over the world. Three were selected for the 36th VGIK International Short Film Festival in Moscow: 'Lazar', 'Husky' and 'Cattle Market'. Jelena Krivosic, producer of 'Lazar', travelled to Russia as a guest of the festival, and this is her account of her time there:

"The first day we were all introduced to the city with a tour of some of the most famous locations seen in many Russian films, followed by the massive opening ceremony with some of the biggest Russian filmmakers involved. The Westminster films were shown in different groups of films within extremely strong categories but the audience feedback to each was good. All three were very British films so it was interesting to see how a majority Russian audience understood and reacted to everything."

'Lazar' was in a section on the theme of immigration; each film was from a different country and each showed a very different viewpoint. The festival finished with a big event, the closing awards ceremony. This was the first time we were properly introduced to the international jury, made up of filmmakers and festival organisers from many different countries. And this is where Westminster was awarded with the best program of films entered by a University. Having seen many films entered together from different universities it was a great surprise to be called up onto the stage to give a speech and receive the award. And it was a great close to the whole festival. And the heavy award just managed to scrape in through customs!"

2nd year drama 'Husky' written by Pedro Takahashi, directed by Yasmin Afifi and produced by Polly Rosier, won the Audience Award at the Eat Our Shorts festival in December 2016, with the prize of a 'workshop day' from the camera company Arri. 'Husky' is a gritty drama following a teenage boy living on a troubled housing estate who chooses to forge his own identity. 'Husky' and 'Lazar' were both nominated in the Undergraduate Fiction category of the Learning on Screen Awards 2017, and 'Lazar' was selected for the CineMAubit festival in Bucharest.

As well as winning the award in Moscow, 'Cattle Market' has been shown at festivals in London, Cannes, Tbilisi, Paris, Alcudia in Spain, Tblisi and in Wales. It's an observational and sensory documentary that explores a cattle market from a cow's perspective, and was directed by Sean Parnell.



'Husky' Director Yasmin Afifi accepting her Audience Award and Arri Workshop Prize



'Cattle Market' (Dir. Sean Parnell)



'Husky' Crew (Pedro Takahashi, Alex Beighton, Yasmin Afifi)

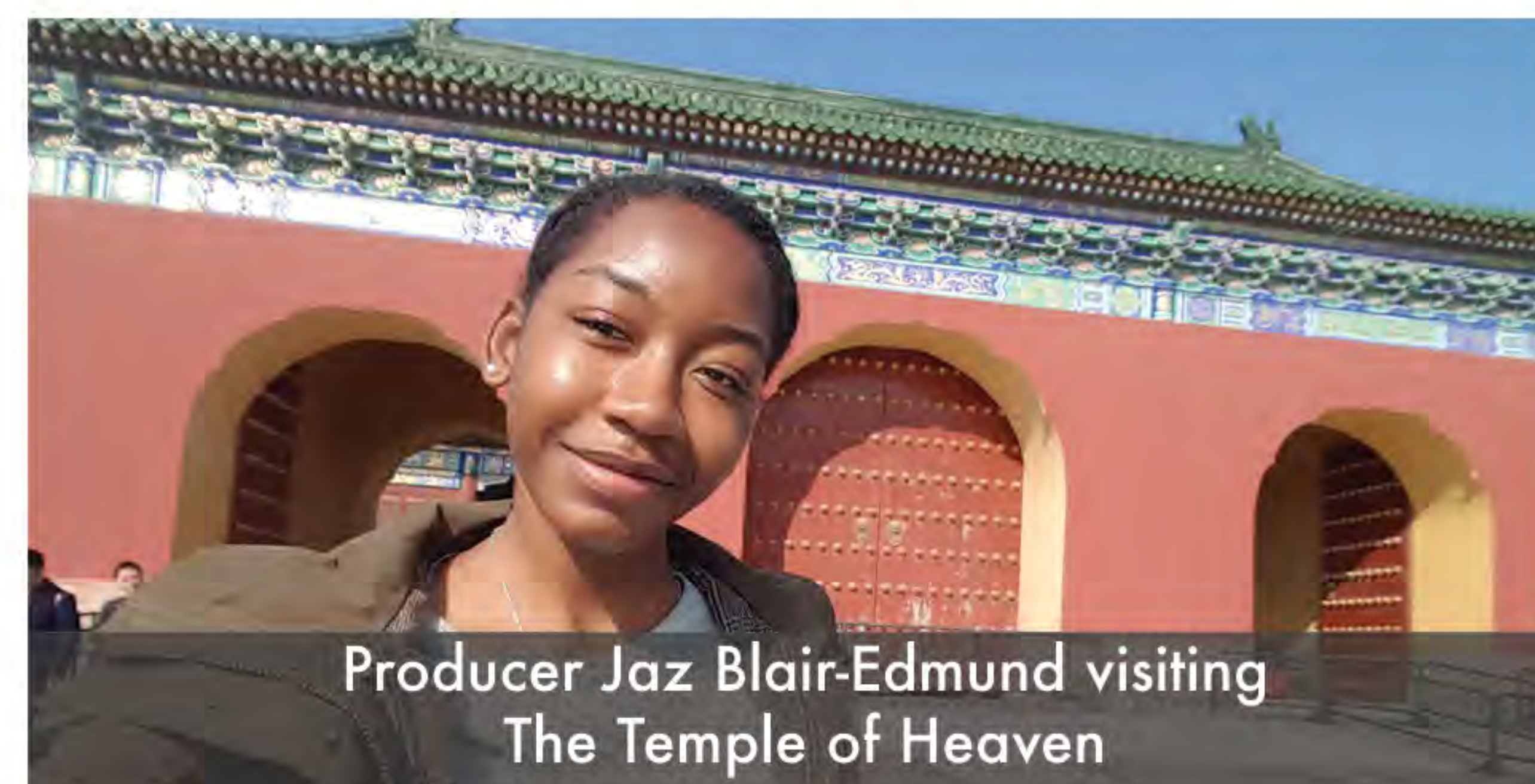
Beijing invitation for Producer of 'Singularity'

'Singularity', a sci-fi comedy drama about a boy who befriends an Artificial Intelligence that's on the run, written by Jack Lewis and directed by Chris Upson, was selected for festivals in San Diego and Beijing. The film's producer, Jaz Blair-Edmund, travelled to Beijing for 15th International Student Film and Video Festival. This is the account of her visit:

"The day I arrived in Beijing was the day they showed Singularity. It was amazing to see it on the big screen again and with Chinese subtitles. I was apprehensive about how it would be received by a Chinese audience, but they seemed to like it, and laughed out loud at the jokes. After the first four films they brought the filmmakers on stage and had the Q&A session. Getting on a big stage in front of hundreds of people was nerve wracking but I composed myself and went up. It was inspiring to watch films from filmmakers all around the world and have a chance to talk to them about how they worked and the reasoning behind creative choices they made. The festival created a great environment to network and form social and filmmaking partnerships."



Jaz on stage during a Q&A after the screening



Producer Jaz Blair-Edmund visiting
The Temple of Heaven

6 Nominations and 2 Wins at the RTS Student Awards

In February, film graduates attended the Royal Television Society London Regional Awards, where they received a total of 6 nominations; this included the commercial 'Damon's Funeral' in the shorts category, and 'Lazar' and 'Sacrifice' in the drama category. Tom Beale won Best Sound for his work on the documentary 'The Abbey', which gives a privileged insight into a small group of monks in a monastery, 'Singularity' Production Designer Sophie Moore won the Production Design Award, and the film was nominated in the comedy and entertainment category. And the drama 'Look Up' was commended, meaning that all five of the 2016 graduation films were honored by the RTS.



Left: Sophie Moore, Production Design Craft Award
Right: Tom Beale, Sound Craft Award

More 2016/17 Festival Highlights:

Animal (Fiction, 13 minutes)

Kiss the Devil (Fiction, 15 minutes)

Sacrifice (Fiction, 20 minutes)

Lazar (Fiction, 17 minutes)

Husky (Fiction, 13 minutes)

Cattle Market (Doc, 10 minutes)

The Abbey (Doc, 25 minutes)

Official Selection: Underwire Film Festival, November 2017

Official Selection: Cameraimage, November 2017

Official Selection: Underwire Film Festival, November 2017

Winner: Best Horror, Les Femmes Underground, Los Angeles, September 2017

Official Selection: VGIK Moscow 2016 (Best Film School Award Winner)

Nominated: Student Production College Higher Education Award, Learning on Screen Awards 2017

Official Selection: World Movements Screening, London Short Film Festival 2017

Official Selection: CineMAiubit

Official Selection: South-West International Film Festival 2016

Official Selection: Underwire Film Festival 2016

Official Selection: VGIK Moscow 2016 (Best Film School Award Winner)

Official Selection: Shorts on Tap, Trumped Programme 2017

Winner: Audience Award, Eat Our Shorts 2016

Shown at Cannes Short Film Forum 2016

Nominated: Best Documentary, Best Cinematography – London ShortPole IFF 2016

Official Selection: VGIK Moscow 2016 (Best Film School Award Winner)

Official Selection: Tbilisi International Student Film Festival 2017

Official Selection: Twisted Oyster Film Festival 2016

Official Selection: Rural Film Festi, El Eden de la Mancha 2017

Official Selection: Ethnografilm, Paris 2017

Official Selection: DocFeed Film Festival 2016

New Oscars President talks Cinematography with Alumni

On the 5th October, the new Academy of Motion Pictures and renowned Cinematographer (Groundhog Day, As Good as it Gets, The Way Way Back), John Bailey ASC, visited the Regent Street Cinema to meet a group of talented young cinematographers from the current students and alumni; Ciara Lavelle (current), Katia Shipulina (current), Luke Harper (2016), Sarah-Jane Harrison (2012), George Allen (2012), Davey Gilder (2009), Sam Care (2005).

After a tour of the cinema projection room, the group sat together for an hour and a half discussing John's progression from camera assisting to becoming a Cinematographer.



Luke, Ciara, Katia, John, Sam, Peter, Davey, George

Sarah-Jane commented on the meeting, "It was very interesting to hear from John, who has had such a successful career in Hollywood. It was reassuring to talk about the journey he took into the industry being so similar to the journey we are undertaking now. Often working on large budget feature films seems like an unreachable goal, but meeting people who have achieved this really inspires you to think it is possible"

Alumni Reunion: The Class of 1977



1977 Alumni with Course Leader Peter Hort (bottom left), Joost (bottom, 2nd from right) & students Yasmin and Pippa

Graduates of the course from 1977 gathered for a '40 years on' reunion in May this year. The reunion was organised by former course leader Joost Hunningher, who led the course between 1967 and 2006. Patrick Nicholas (1977), Ian Potts (1976), Bruno Sorrentino (1976), Adrian Holmes (1975), Richard Cox (1979), Eric Poupore (1977), Grethe Mitchell (1977), Igor Sunara (1977) are pictured here, together with current students Yasmin Afifi and Pippa Howson, plus the current course leader Peter Hort, who took over from Joost in 2006. Nearly all the alumni are still working in film, television or photography, and as well as catching up with one another, they were delighted to meet current students on the course. Alumnus



and Location Manager Jonathan Posner commented: "Thank you so much for a stimulating, inspiring and generally terrific day yesterday. I found the mixing of the old blood with the new as intriguing as it was irresistible. The University itself was also way beyond what I'd been expecting."

Graduation Showcase 2017 at Regent Street Cinema



2017 Graduates celebrate after their Showcase in Fyvie Hall, Regent Street Campus.

This summer's graduating students from the Film BA held their end of year showcase at the RegentStreet Cinema (our state of the art 200 seat cinema that's also the 'birthplace of British Cinema'), and celebrated afterwards at a reception in the Fyvie Hall, attended by family, friends, tutors, alumni and industry guests. Jamie Thornham, director of 'Unspeakable Things', commented "To see so many overwhelmingly positive reactions to the films we'd made was totally exhilarating".

They presented a vibrant mix of films, from the psychological horror 'Kiss the Devil' to '1st Old Boys', an energetic and engaging documentary following a Brass Band in Belfast as they compete both against local rivals, and attempts to sabotage their performance. 'Animal' vividly confronts the morality of revenge in a story about a girl and her dog, 'Cloud Nine' explores a conspiracy at the edge of life and death, and 'Unspeakable Things' is a bold evocation of teenage angst and rebellion.

Two of the films have been selected for the Underwire festival in November this year, which celebrates female talent across the film crafts, with Polly Rosier nominated for Best Producer for 'Animal', and Rachel Wood for Best Cinematography for 'Kiss the Devil'. 'Animal' has also been selected for Camerimage 2017 in Poland, also in November.

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**CLOUD NINE**

Laura wakes up in a bizarre institution. Wood panelled rooms, men offering endless water, broken clocks and no windows. Yet bright light streams from the end of the corridor. Will Laura find out what's on the other side?

Fiction - 17 Minutes

**ANIMAL**

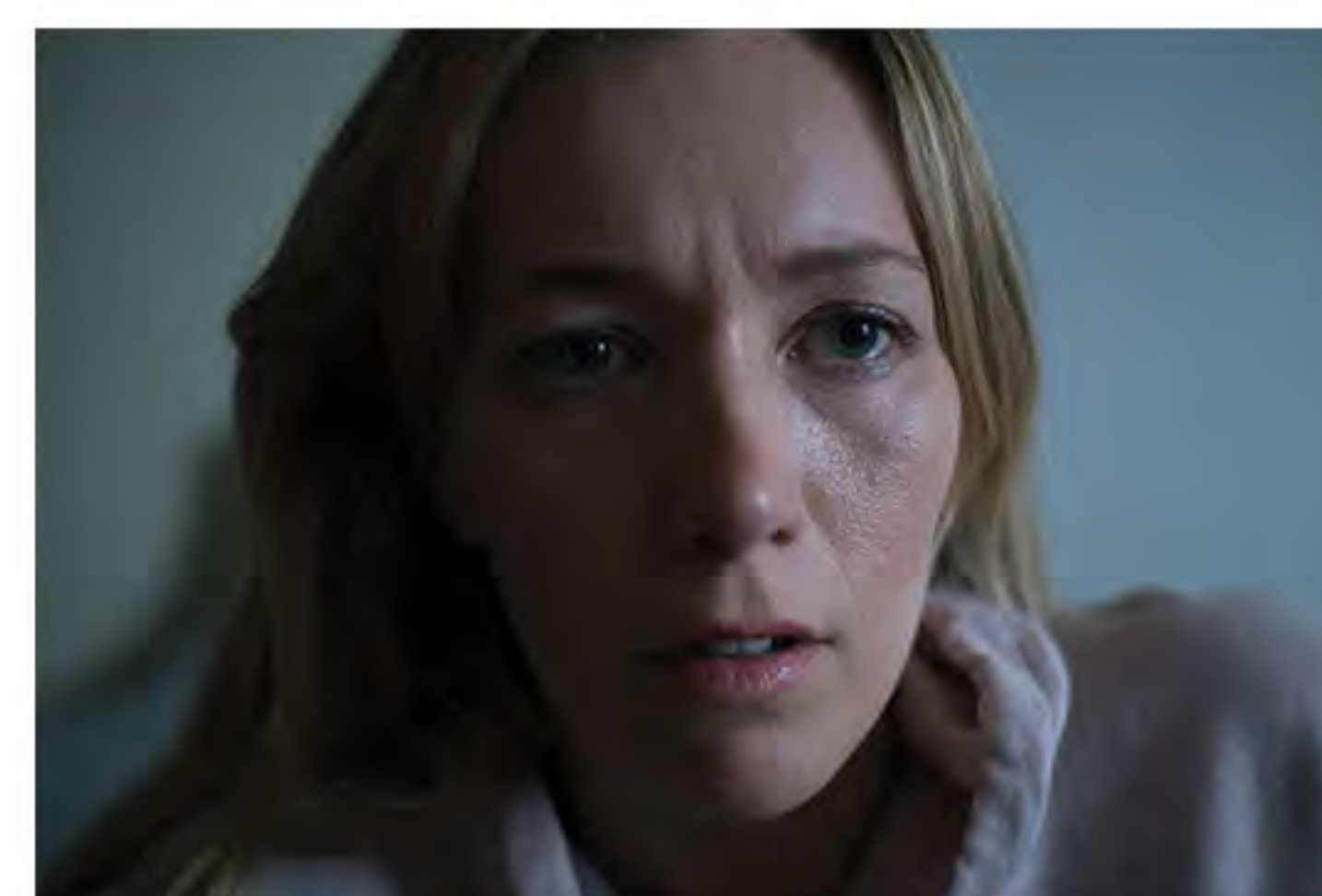
After making a devastating discovery in the forest, Rose stumbles into a world where morals no longer seem to apply. Everyone has an Animal living within them; the forest unearths it.

Fiction | 14 Minutes

**UNSPEAKABLE THINGS**

Hannah is a mute teenager. Thomas eats roadkill. After Hannah is sent to live with her Uncle in the lonely countryside, the two meet, forming an uncanny relationship. Their only obstacle is the outside world.

Fiction | 22 Minutes

**KISS THE DEVIL**

When a manuscript editor begins her darkest project yet, it seems to take on a life of its own. Struggling to maintain the affection and support of her husband, emotions that were once suppressed break out in dangerous ways.

Fiction | 14 Minutes

What Our Recent Graduates Are Doing



2016 Graduates Joseph-Patrick Hung (left) and Luke Harper (3rd from left) after wrap on a Bugzy Malone video.

Since graduating last year, the class of 2016 have started to find their feet in the industry. Many of them have been working on in locations departments, thanks to the contacts they made from their time at Westminster, on features such as Transformers, Paddington 2, Peter Rabbit when they filmed overnight in Harrods and Mary Poppins. Using these further contacts, they have been able to gain work as Locations Assistants, On Set Production Assistants and in Props departments.

Luke Harper (2016 grad) continued to work hard as a DOP and has recently made 2 music videos with the upcoming grime artist Bugzy Malone as well as shooting a feature, 'Meadow

Lane' which was shown at the Southend Film Festival recently. Since 3rd ADing on Emmerdale, Tara Acton (2016 grad) has been working as a location assistant on many blockbuster features, running at ITV Studios and has just finished as a full time location assistant on Midsomer Murders and working over the summer at Wimbledon and the US Open. Isobel McConnell (2016 grad) has landed a Development Internship at Comedy Central after doing work experience in that field. Chris Upson (2016 grad) has been working on numerous features as a Assistant VFX Data Wrangler on films such as Justice League, Wonder Woman, and Peter Rabbit.

2015 Graduates Screen at BFI London Film Festival

BFI London Film Festival selected short film 'V', produced and written by 2015 graduate Ellie Gocher and directed by 2015 graduate Jimmy Dean, as part of the 2017 festival programme. 'V', a story about a teenage vampire who reconsiders a past relationship, was funded by the London Calling Scheme.

There were several alumni from the course in the crew, including Charlotte Hill (1st AD, who was also 1st AD on the festival hit film 'Chubby Funny'), Peter Schmid (Editor, currently working as a Junior Edit Assistant at Slice Post) and Greg Probert (Gaffer, currently working as a Gaffer on commercial shoots). Jimmy and Ellie have had festival success in the past with both their 2nd year final drama 'Charity' and their graduation film 'Offside'.



More Graduates News:

Melissa Searle (2016) is currently making props for Mission Impossible 6. **Phillip Barnes (2016)** was Second Unit Camera Trainee on Muder on the Orient Express. **Sarah Collins (2016)** is now working as a Camera Trainee on BBC drama The Split. **Hannah Jell (2015)** has been working as a Camera Trainee on features such as Justice League, Paddington 2 and Victoria and Abdul. **Seamus McGarvey (1988)** continues to work as a DOP on films such as Atonement, Avengers, Nocturnal Animals and his most recent film Life. **Jack Lewis (2016)** is has been working in the Locations department on films such as The Nutcracker and the Four Realms, Annihilations and Darkest Hour. **Oliver Bentley-Jones (2016)** is working as a Runner on The Crown and has been on Rogue One and The Mummy. **Jaz Blair-Edmund (2016)** is currently a Production Assistant on Oliver's Island. **Chris Starkey (2015)** B Camera Second Assistant Camera on My Cousin Rachel. **Vania Flaccomio (2015)** has been working as a Data Wrangler with the BBC. **Andrew Dunn** is still working as a DOP, his films include Bridget Jones' Baby, The Perks of Being a Wallflower and most recently The Children Act starring Emma Thompson. **Chris Lynch (2015)** has been doing a lot of VFX PA and Assistant Data Wrangler work on such films as Jurassic World 2, Star Wars: The Last Jedi and Pirates of the Caribbean 5. **Aaron Hillier (2015)** is currently working on the latest George Clooney film Suburbicon as a Post Production Co-ordinator. **Asif Kapadia (1994)** has had major success with Senna and Amy and is currently working on a documentary focused on Maradona. **Behnam Taheri (2013)** has just finished as Stephen Frears' assistant during production of his latest release Victoria and Abdul. **Jonas Zimmerman (2013)** is now a Development Assistant at Studio Canal who created films such as Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy and Inside Llewyn Davis, he also recently spoke at the London Screenwriter's Festival. **Saba Kia (2012)** has been working as an Assistant Location Manager on features such as Transformers: The Last Knight, Peter Rabbit and Annihilation. **Charlotte Daniel (2012)** was Studio Unit Manager on The Mummy, and previously had been Location Manager on Life. **Natasha Mullen (2012)** has been working as a Camera Assistant on such films as War for the Planet of the Apes and Cloverfield.