

Westminster Films Win Royal Television Society Awards



'Exist. Live. Rejoice.' team Sam Charlesworth (Editor), Deividas Auksciuas (Dir.) and Yiming Yuan (Prod.)

In February, two final year documentaries were nominated for 'Best Factual Programme' at 2018 Royal Television Society London Region Awards. Both Westminster production teams were able to celebrate at the ceremony at The London Studios, as both films were honoured with awards.

'Exist. Live. Rejoice.', produced by Yiming Yuan and directed by Deividas Auksciuas, is set in a Lithuanian hospice for the terminally ill, observing the dying residents and the staff caring for the patients, and won Best Factual. The chair of the judging panel, Factual Television veteran Peter Evans, presented the award saying: "The filmmakers had remarkable access and had clearly gained the trust of the participants, but the way you repay that trust is to do whatever

it takes to tell their story. Death and dying is a difficult subject, but here there was no shying away from the realities they wanted to communicate." participants, but the way you repay that trust is to do whatever it takes to tell their story. Death and dying is a difficult subject, but here there was no shying away from the realities they wanted to communicate."

'1st Old Boys', directed by Dylan Cargill and edited by Tom Hamblin, follows a Belfast brass band as they prepare for a competition. The documentary missed out on Best Factual, but instead won the Best Editing Craft Award. The jury said this film felt like "proper telly... there was a classic narrative arc with a satisfying conclusion." They went on to say that because it was so well shot, edited and recorded, "It could be transmitted just as it is".



Thomas Hamblin wins Best Editing Award for '1st Old Boys'

Festival Success for 'Animal' and 'Coffee'

2017 graduation film 'Animal' was selected for the prestigious Camerimage cinematography festival in Poland, in the Student Etudes competition. The cinematographer, Pedro Takahashi, also wrote the script of this film about a girl's split-second decision when pushed to breaking point in a forest. 'Animal' also screened at the Underwire Film Festival, where Polly Rosier received a nomination for Best Producer, and has recently been selected in the Fiction Category at the FiaFest 2018 festival in Columbia. 'Kiss the Devil', a psychological horror film about tumultuous relationship that's seemingly haunted by a novel one of the protagonists is writing, was also screened at



'Animal' directed by Alex Cole



Coffee Director and Producer finalise their Sound Mix with Aidan McCarthy in our new mixing room.

the Underwire festival as part of the Walking Home Alone at Night programme, and the film's Director of Photography Rachel Wood was nominated for Best Cinematography.

2nd Year drama 'Coffee', which was first screened at Westminster's Graduation Showcase in June 2017, has also enjoyed festival success. After securing a nomination for 'Best Comedy' at the Independent Directions Film Festival 2017, the film was nominated for two awards at the UK Offline Web Fest: Best Actress (Georgia Macguire) and Best Actor (Donal Cox), and won the award for Best Student Film. Coffee was also nominated for Best Short Film at the Exposure Short Film Festival 2018 in Glasgow. The producer and director team of Georgina Rowlands and Ben Porro, have collaborated again on the 2018 graduation film 'Just Josie'.

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BAFTA Winning Alumni Shoot New Feature in New Orleans



Alumni Babak Anvari (Dir.) and Kit Fraser (DOP) on set in New Orleans

2005 graduate Babak Anvari won a BAFTA last year for his debut feature, 'Under the Shadow', which was also Mark Kermode's 'film of the year' for 2017. His second feature, shot in New Orleans and starring Armie Hammer and Dakota Johnson, is currently in post production. It's still untitled, but is based on a novella by Nathan Ballingrud.

Recently he took a little time out of his busy schedule to answer our questions:

What drew you to the source novella, and how you feel about working in the horror genre again?

"One of the producers of the film thought I would find it interesting. He wasn't wrong. Even though I wasn't really looking to do another film in the genre space, I was so hooked by the novella that I realised I had to do it – I could clearly see the film version in my head."

How different was this from shooting 'Under The Shadow'?

"We pitched it to Annapurna Pictures and they came in to fully finance. Working with known Hollywood actors was great, but I did more or less the same prep as with the actors on my first film. All the cast members were incredibly supportive – especially Armie Hammer who plays the lead. Shooting in New Orleans was great too. I love that city, with its mysteries and jazz. We managed to create a family feel even though it was a much larger crew than my first film. Working in the US was also a huge learning curve for me."

Could you tell us about your choice of DoP?

"Once again it was so good to have Kit Fraser by my side as my DoP. He is not only a great cinematographer but he is also a very close friend of 16 years – I met him on the first year of our course at Westminster and we've been friends and collaborators since then. As you can imagine we now have such a shorthand which allows us to work so fast and efficiently, which ultimately helps the production."



The film is due to be released in April 2019.

More Graduates News:

Phillip Barnes (2016) was Second Unit Camera Trainee on *Mud on the Orient Express*. **Sarah Collins (2016)** Camera Trainee on TV dramas *Poldark*, *The Split* and *Vanity Fair*. **Jack Mealing (2013)** has been pioneering a new role within camera departments working as assistant to DOPs for *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Mummy* and *Wonder Woman 1 & 2*. **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 *Nocturnal Animals*, *The Greatest Showman* and the upcoming *Bad Times at the El Royale*. **Jack Lewis (2016)** 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)** has been working as a Runner on *The Crown*, *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 Flacomio (2015)** has been working as a Data Wrangler with the BBC. **Kit Fraser (2006)** has been continuing to do well as an up and coming DOP, currently working on *Eternal Beauty* with Sally Hawkins, Billie Piper and David Thewlis. **Chris Lynch (2015)** has been working as aVFX 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)** worked 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)** worked 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 produced 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*.

Kodak Student Commercials Awards 2018



'The Fight' Ataxia Commercial Crew; Katia Shipulina (DOP), Harry Holroyd (Dir.), Jane Lo (Sound), Kurosh Shabani (Editor) and Patrick Forster (Prod.)

Some of the biggest names in film have launched their careers with success at the Kodak student commercial awards, which are now in their 25th year. The students received live briefs from the advertising agencies Mother, TBWA and Libertine, and shot on 16mm film stock provided by Kodak to create 30 second commercials which are judged by advertising professionals. This year's awards were presented by award winning director Sara Dunlop, who has directed many recognisable commercials for brands such as Levi, Sky, TFLand Barnardo's.

At the awards held in May at the historic Regent Street Cinema, all three Westminster entries won awards.

'Don't Let Your Baggage

Let You Down', produced by Miri de Rosa and directed by Matthias De Oliveira won 3rd in brief for Health Back Bag; 'Fragile Child', produced by Georgina Rowlands and directed by Mario Manas won 3rd in brief for the Vagabond ID travel bracelet, and 'The Fight', produced by Harry Holroyd, directed by Patrick Forster and edited by Kurosh Shabani won 2nd brief for Ataxia Awareness as well as winning the award for Best Editing.



'Don't Let Your Baggage Let You Down' crew wins 3rd in Brief

Two Awards for Westminster at 'Learning on Screen'

The Annual Learning on Screen Awards reward the year's best TV programmes with an educational impact. There are also awards for the best student films of the year.

Two Westminster films were nominated for the 2018 awards, held at the BFI Southbank in London. In 'Self Made Man', filmmaker Harry Taylor's investigation into the world of gender transitions leads to him having to confront issues around his own transition. The film, directed by Yasmin Afifi and produced by Harry Taylor, won the award for Best Student Documentary. 'Animal', a short drama exploring the animalistic nature concealed in all of us, directed by Alex Cole and produced by Polly Rosier, won the Best Undergraduate Fiction award. The judges commended the way the cinematography and sound design of 'Animal' captured the atmosphere of an eerie forest, and the authenticity and importance of 'Self Made Man'.



Harry Taylor on stage making a speech of acceptance for Best Student Documentary award



Alex Cole and Polly Rosier accepting the Best Undergraduate Fiction award



Harry Taylor on set with Finlay Jai Games, the subject of 'Self Made Man'

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www.westminsterfilmschool.co.uk

Graduates Screen at the Historic Regent Street Cinema



This summer, graduates from the Film BA course had their end of year showcase at the University's Regent Street Cinema. The cinema was established in 1848 when it was part of the then Polytechnic Institution. The cinema became the birthplace of cinema in the UK on 20 February 1896, when the Lumière brothers' Cinématographe machine was demonstrated to the press and these earliest of moving images given their first presentation to a paying audience the following day. After a three year fundraising campaign, the cinema was restored and reopened in May 2015 by the University of Westminster and now provides a valuable asset to the course and students.

The graduates produced four graduation dramas and celebrated with a reception at the neighbouring Regent Street Campus of the University. This was attended by students, staff, alumni and industry guests. There was a plethora of films, from 'The Tower' a horror set in London, to 'Just Josie', a comedy set in rural Somerset. 'Terra Firma', one of the four graduation films, is a drama surrounding an astronaut's return from a space mission whereas 'Recharge', the final of the four films, explores dystopian themes set in a future where toxic fumes from cars have polluted the UK, and follows a father-daughter relationship struggling in such a bleak reality.

The films are now completing the festival circuit, entering into festivals around the world for shorts and student films.



RECHARGE

In a world that seems broken beyond repair, Emma tries to mend her relationship with her father before it's too late.

Fiction - 17 Minutes



THE TOWER

When Theo begins to notice unsettling noises in the tower block he lives in, his warnings fall on deaf ears, and he has to take his family's fate into his own hands.

Fiction - 17 Minutes



JUST JOSIE

Josie lives a quiet life tending to her model railway in Somerset. After being abducted by aliens, her family convince her that if she wants to be taken again she'll have to be far more interesting.

Fiction - 17 Minutes



TERRA FIRMA

Haunted by visions of space, will returning astronaut Sydney be able to make the next 'giant leap' of her life?

Fiction - 16 Minutes

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