

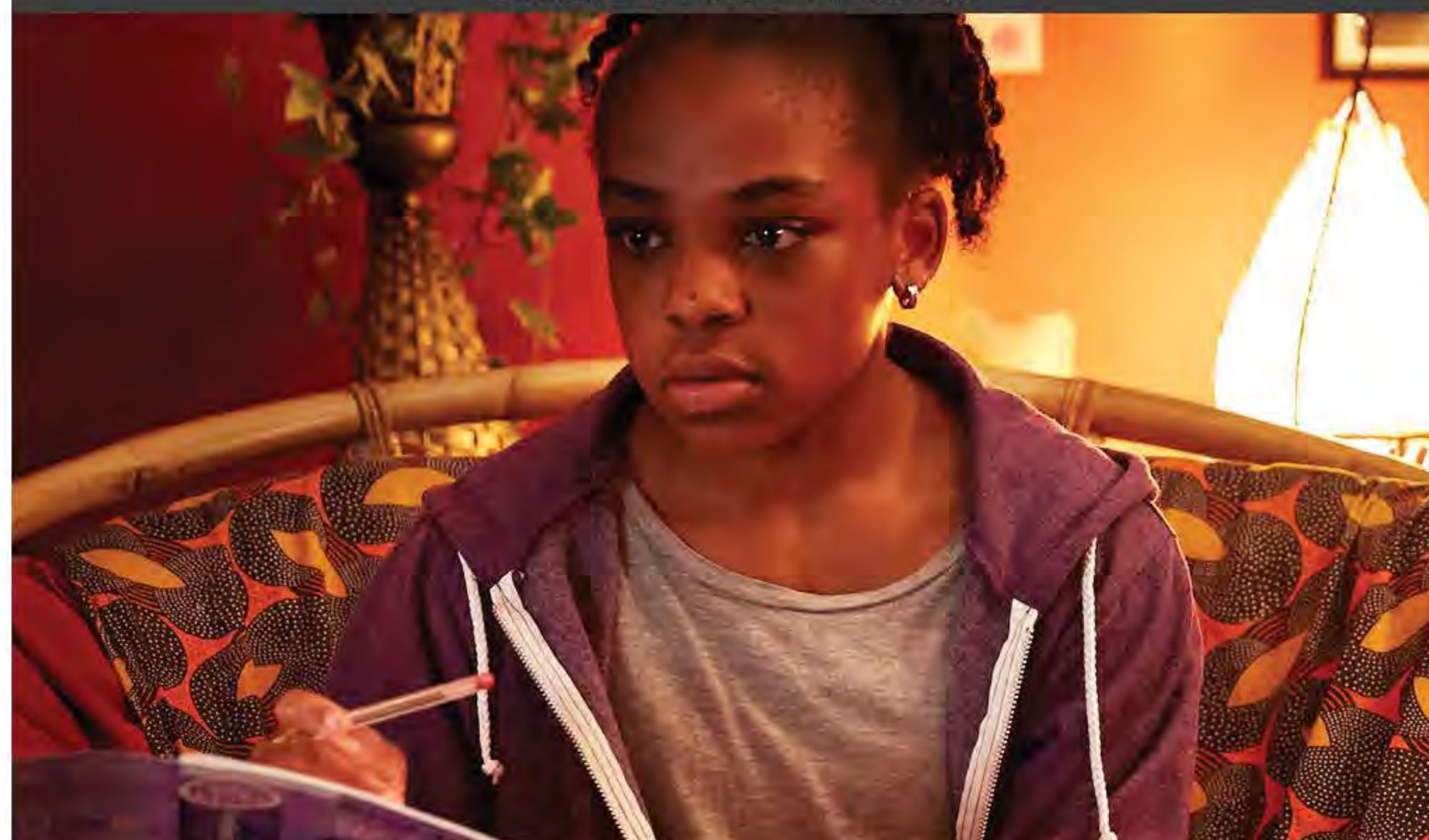
Westminster Alumni Films Backed by BFI and BBC



Two Westminster Film Alumni are currently developing or shooting their debut feature films with backing from the BFI and BBC Films.

Aleem Khan (2006 graduate) has just finished shooting his first feature *After Love*, starring Joanna Scanlan (*The Thick of It*, *Getting On*, *Stardust*). The film is focused on a woman who, having converted to Islam for her husband, has an identity crisis following his death. The film not only has BBC and BFI funding and it was developed by the Creative Network through BFI Network. Aleem is also a former Screen UK Star of Tomorrow and has a BAFTA nominated short film *Three Brothers*.

Above: Dionne Edwards named as a Screen UK Star of Tomorrow. Below: 'We Love Moses' directed by Dionne, wins Short of the Year award at the Critics' Circle Film Awards



Dionne Edwards (2007 graduate) is developing *Pretty Red Dress*, a film focused on a South London black family who find their father wearing a dress. After leaving University, Dionne was working as an agents' assistant until she received a place on the highly sought after Action! internship with Working Title. Following her internship, Dionne realised that writing and directing were all she wanted to do and began to focus on making short films through her production company Teng Teng Films whilst working at the Rio Cinema in East London. Her short film 'We Love Moses' was picked up by over 50 film festivals and won the Short of the Year from the Critics' Circle Film Awards.

Students Travel the World to Film Documentaries



Students filming out in Indonesia. Here Agne Denapaite shares her shooting with the local children.

Two final year documentaries filmed in the Far East last Autumn, thanks to support from the Quintin Hogg Field Trips fund.

'Tono' tells the personal story of one young man whose family now live in a tent outside their village following last year's Indonesian earthquake, whilst he earns money to send home, at a tourist bar on the next island. Five students travelled to Lombok and Gili Island to shoot the film.

'Red Corner' is a film about a young British kick boxer who travels to Thailand with fellow members of his club for some intense training to prepare for an important match, but more importantly, he's seeking a family structure that seems missing at home.

'Just Josie' wins Royal Television Society Best Drama Award



Georgina Rowlands (Prod.), Ben Porro (Dir.), Nathalie Carraro (Prod. Design), Osian Pearson (Editor) win Best Drama

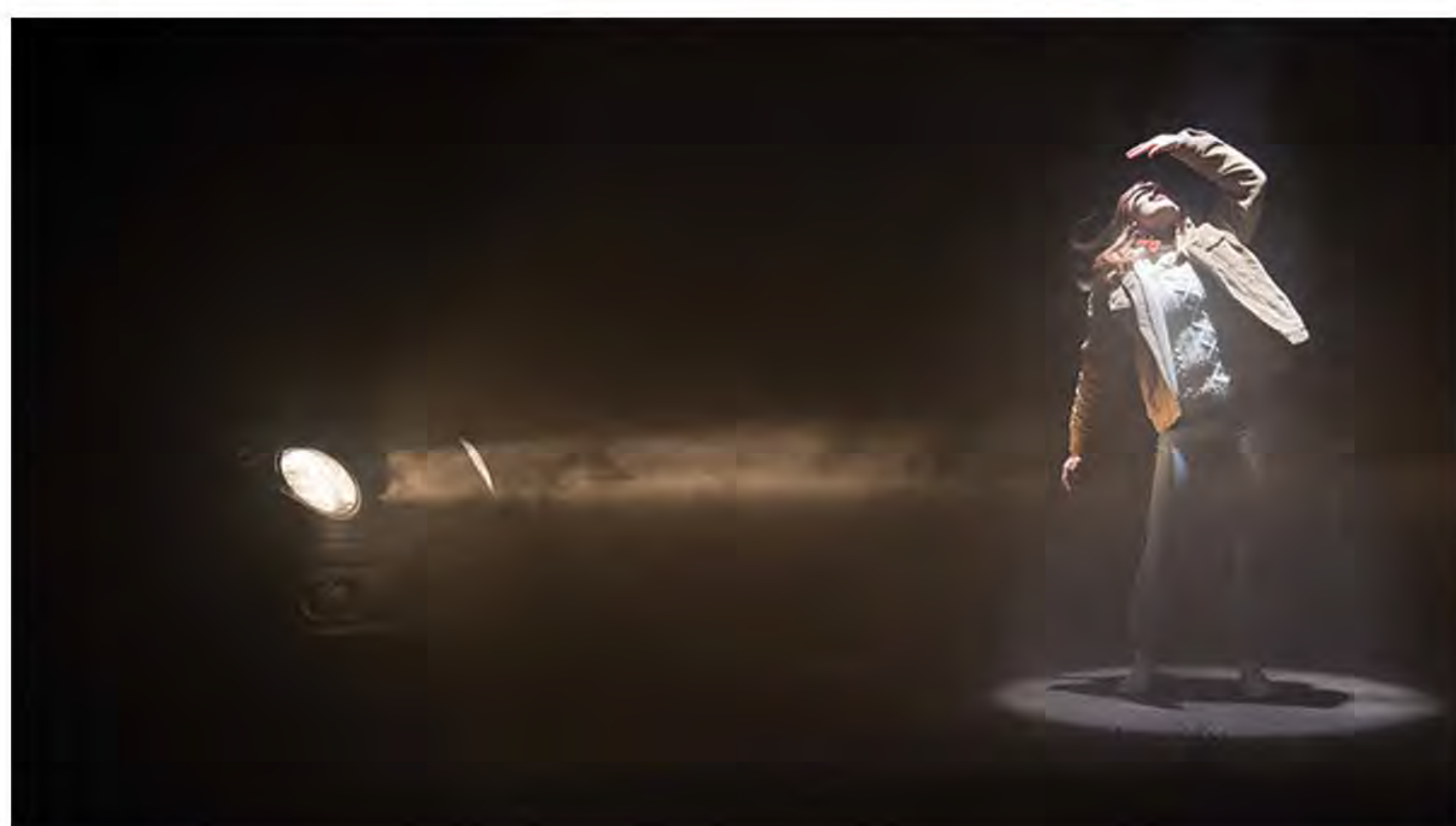
In February, graduation Drama 'Just Josie' won Best Drama at the Royal Television Society Awards, London at a ceremony at Channel 4 Television. The film tells the story of a young woman who has always been the boring one in her family – until an alien abduction gives her something to talk about. 'Just Josie' was written by Lily-Evelina England, directed by Ben Porro and produced by Georgina Rowlands, who led a crew of thirty 2nd and 3rd year students.

The judges were effusive in their praise of the film, describing it as "A simple story, told well, with a simple message: no matter who you are, you are loved. It was beautifully put together, with just the right amount of humour and a hint of sci-fi that makes the piece incredibly charming. They incorporated clever use of claymation which was used brilliantly. We unanimously thought that Just Josie was a heartwarming and professionally put together piece."

The film was also one of three nominated for Best Undergraduate Drama award at the National Royal Television Society Student Awards in June, as well as receiving a nomination for Best Production Design.



Above: Ben Porro testing the abduction scene. Right Top: Lighting and Art team rehearse the UFO landing. Right Bottom: Josie Parker meets the aliens.



Students invited to Bucharest for CineMAbiubit



left to right: 'The Tower' Matthias De Oliveira, Patrick Forster.
'Recharge' Freya Noyce and Katherine Selway in Bucharest.

Two 2018 graduation films were selected in competition at the CineMAiubit International Student Film Festival in Bucharest: 'The Tower' and 'Recharge'. The festival invited the film makers to attend, and the University's Quintin Hogg Trust funded travel to Bucharest for the producers and directors of both films.

The Tower, produced by Patrick Forster and directed by Matthias De Oliveria, is a horror story set in a world where dangerous living conditions in social housing can go without comment. A young boy notices unsettling noises in

the tower block where he lives, but when his warnings fall on deaf ears, he has to take his family's fate into his own hands. Recharge tells a story of a difficult and turbulent relationship between a father and daughter, in a world where fossil fuels are now banned. As he nears death, she decides that to heal their relationship, she must find a way to obtain some petrol, to have one last adventure together. The film was produced by Katherine Selway, Directed by Grace Blick, and Production Managed by Freya Noyce.

All five students had a great time, seeing a range of student work from around the world, and the city itself. Here is Katherine's account: "We were looked after by a lovely student at the university called Maria. She showed us around the university and took us to the screenings. We watched some really interesting short films and documentaries. We all took part in the Q&A after our screenings, and met some other filmmakers who had flown in for the festival. Maria took us all to the Christmas market right by the parliament building which was beautiful. The award ceremony was nice and brief and fortunately we had managed to see pretty much all of the award winning films!"



Patrick and Matthias during a Q&A for
'The Tower'



Patrick, Katherine and Freya in Bucharest

Multiple Wins for Westminster Students at Kodak Awards

Westminster students won three awards at the 2019 Kodak Student Commercial Awards: “Your Comments Follow You” won 1st in Brief for the NSPCC category, and Overall 3rd place, and “The Only Strip You Need” was placed 2nd in the ‘Wisdom’ category.

Film students from around the country created commercials for the NSPCC’s Anti-Cyberbullying campaign and for Wisdom’s new Teeth Whitening Strips, from live briefs supplied by the advertising agencies TBWA and Libertine.

“The Only Strip You Need”, produced by Armanpreet Kapoor and directed by Agne Denapaite featured the inside of a giant mouth, complete with teeth, in a set built in our Film Studio, and designed by Clare Conway. In “Your Comments Follow You”, a young woman walking through the City of London is shadowed by a mysterious figure. This commercial was directed by Zeynep Oguz and produced by Kamil Kwiecinski; the DoP was Sam Donvito.

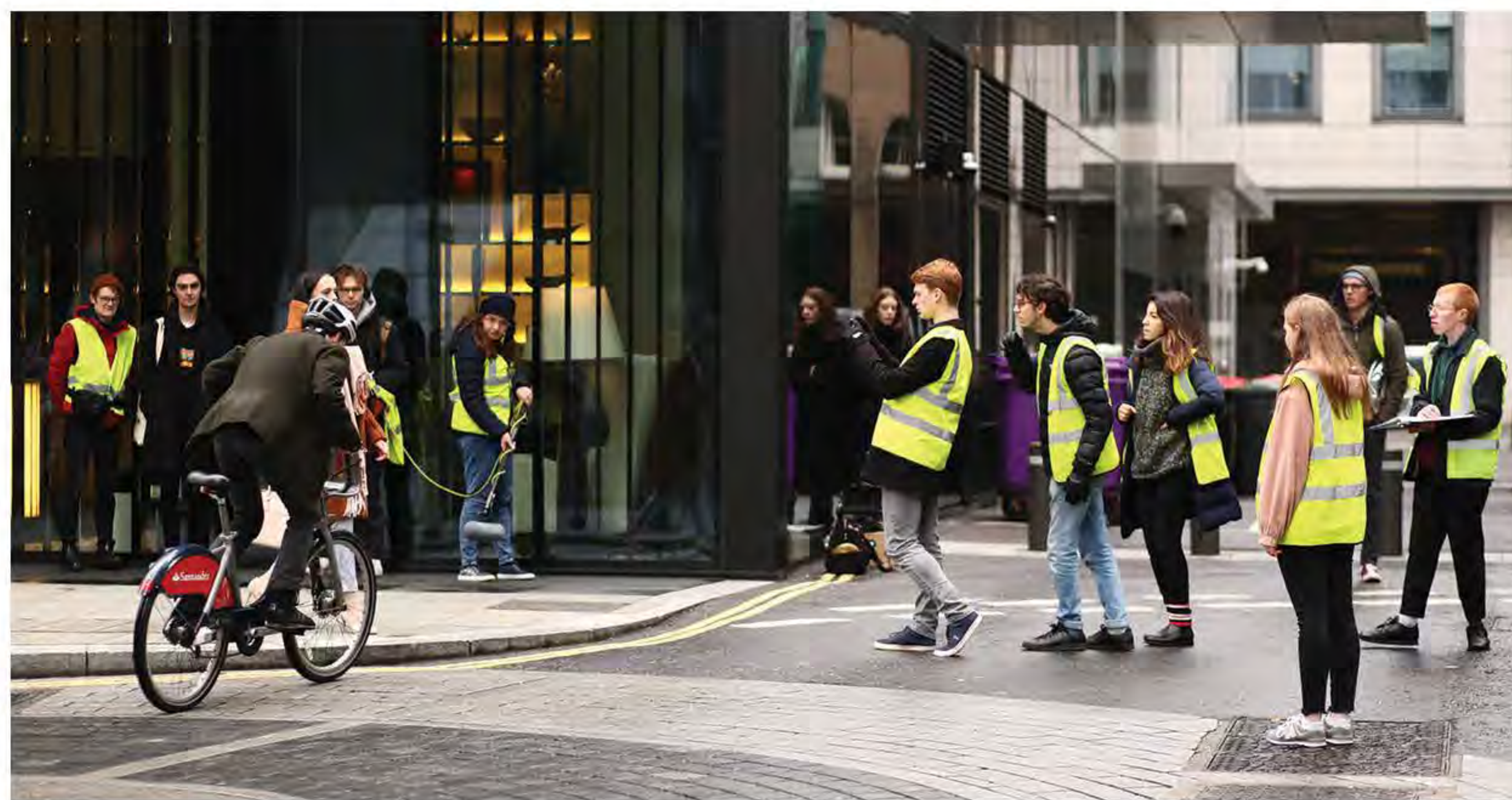
The awards ceremony took place at the Regent Street Cinema on May 17th, with representative of 14 film schools in the packed audience. The awards were presented by one of the world’s leading commercials directors, Dougal Wilson, whose work includes the famous John Lewis adverts ‘She’s Always a Woman’ and ‘Tiny Dancer’, Lurpak’s ‘Adventure Awaits and IKEA ‘Ghosts’. Dougal commented: “It was great to see how much effort and care the students had been put into executing their concepts, and great as always that these were shot on film. There were many highly entertaining and effective ideas, all told very efficiently.” All entries were shot on 16mm film stock provided by Kodak, at a time when leading film makers and brands are once again choosing the distinctive film look.



Producers Kamil Kwiecinski (NSPCC) and Armanpreet Kapoor (Wisdom) with their combined 3 awards



Wisdom team accepting award from Dougal Wilson



NSPCC crew blocking their opening sequence in Central London

More 2018/19 Festival Highlights:

Just Josie (Fiction, 16 minutes)

Winner: Best Drama - Royal Television Society Student Awards, London Regionals 2019

Nominated: Best Drama - Royal Television Society Student Awards Final 2019

Winner: Audience Award - Eat Our Shorts 2019

Nominated: Best Undergraduate Film Award - Learning on Screen Awards 2019

Nominated: Screen Test Fest 2019

Official Selection: UK Offline Webfest Finalist 2018

Special Commendation: Best Documentary Film Award - The Learning on Screen Awards 2019

Official Selection: Underwire Film Festival 2018

Nominated: Best Undergraduate Award - Learning on Screen 2019

Official Selection: Oakland Short Film Festival 2019

Official Selection: Rebel Film Festival, Plymouth 2019

The Cost of Happiness (Doc, 16 minutes)

Wolf Among Sheep (Fiction, 17 minutes)

Tonight with Roger Goodman (Fiction, 13 minutes)

Graduates Celebrate at the Regent Street Cinema



June saw the Film Graduation Showcase at the Regent Street Cinema with a full house of 200. Family and friends, alumni and industry professionals attended the evening which was followed by a drinks reception in the marbled foyer of Regent Street.

The students presented a stimulating mix of films starting with a quirky 2nd year comedy 'Mr & Mrs Bucket' which had the audience in good spirits. Then followed by an inspiring documentary 'Powerchair' focused on a powerchair football player with a bright outlook on life. Two award winning commercials provided a brief intermission before coming of age drama 'Nowhere Fast'. Then followed by 'Cuckoo' an unsettling drama about a mother's struggle. 'Audrey and the Rocket' was next, a sweet and touching film, followed up by 'Cutting' an intense, visceral look into the complex relationship between an MMA fighter and his trainer. The programme was rounded off with a lighthearted documentary following the struggles of a optimistic Geordie with a monumental task of trying to make a difference in his home town.

'Audrey and the Rocket' has been selected for the ISFVF Beijing Film Festival. 'Mr & Mrs Bucket' and 'Cutting' have been selected for the UK Offline Webfest this year. We wish the teams the best of luck as we submit their films to festivals around the world.



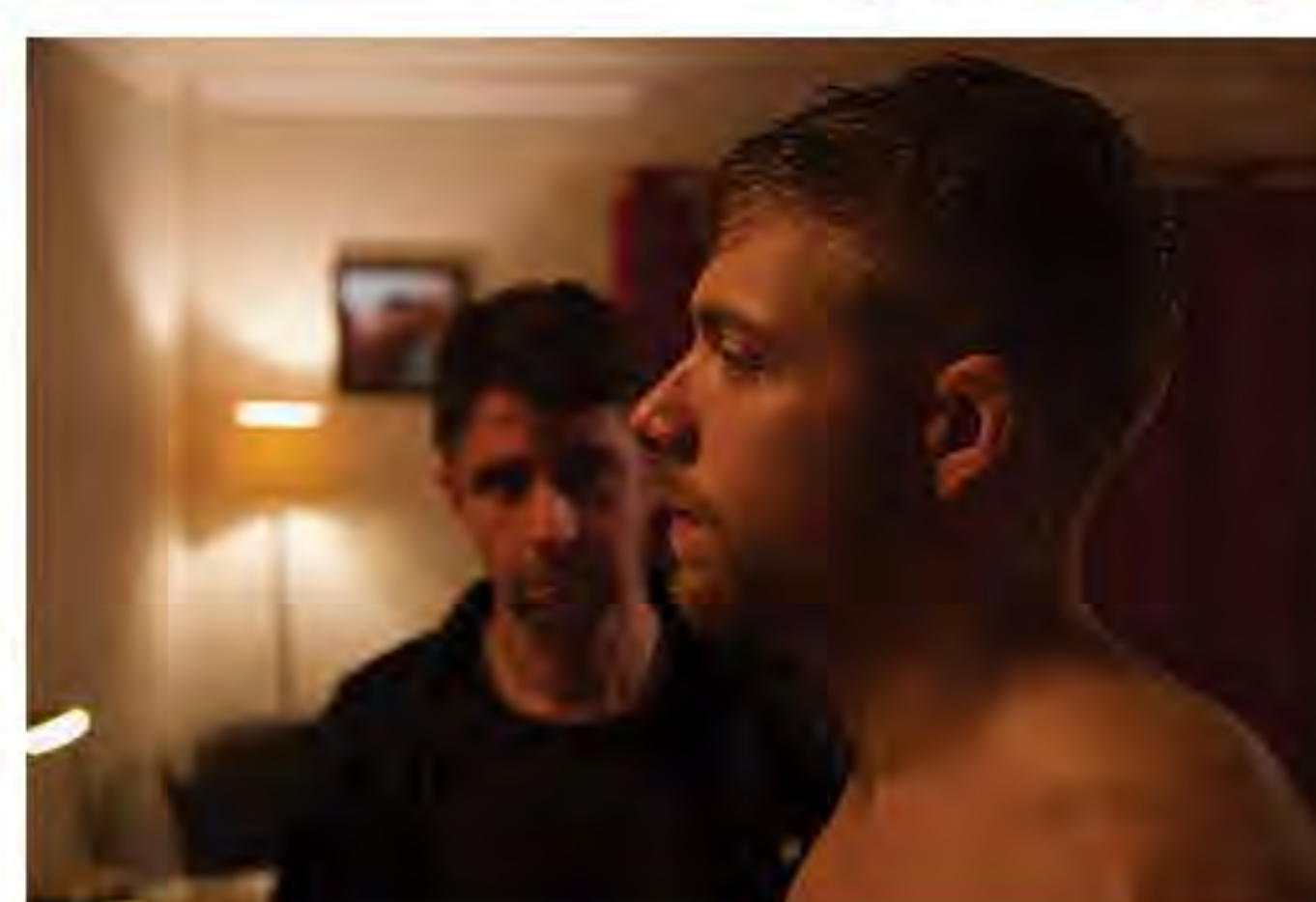
AUDREY & THE ROCKET

Audrey thinks she has found an exciting alternative to a traditional funeral, but Bernard fears being left behind.



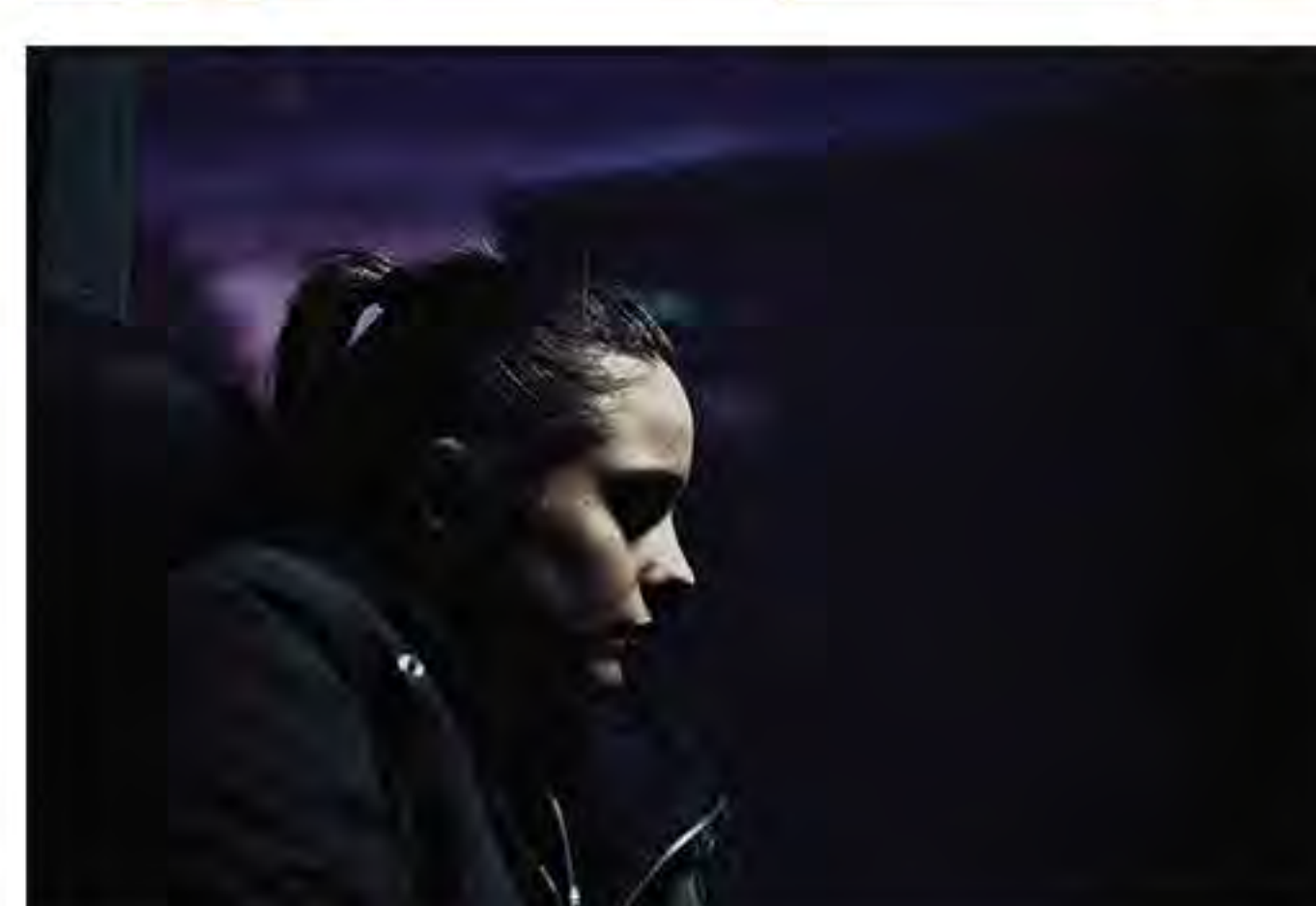
CUCKOO

A mother's love is strong enough to bring a home together... or to tear it apart.



CUTTING

Christian faces a long and intense night of physical suffering to get down to the weigh limit for his fight. But is he ready for the emotional toll?



NOWHERE FAST

Carrie travels across the country to her older brother's house party in search of a place to belong.



OH ME LADS

An optimistic Geordie is determined to reignite pride in the people of Newcastle Upon Tyne. But is his idea of a mass sing-a-long enough to spark change?

Producer Paul Trijbits awarded Honorary Doctorate



Paul Trijbits (right) after the awards presentation with former Course Leader Joost Hunningher (left)

Film Alumnus Paul Trijbits was awarded an Honorary Doctorate at the 2018 graduation ceremony at the Royal Festival Hall for his contribution to the UK film and television industry. He's pictured here with his teacher Joost Hunningher, who was Course Leader for film at Westminster and its predecessor institution the Polytechnic of Central London from 1967 until his retirement in 2006.

Paul's producing credits include 'Fish Tank', 'This is England', 'Saving Mr Banks' and 'Every Day', and he was Head of the New Cinema Fund at the UK Film Council from 2000 to 2006.

He was part of the University's advisory board that relaunched the Regent Street Cinema, and takes an active interest in each new generation of film graduates from Westminster.

What Our Students And Graduates Are Up To

Babak Anvari & Kit Fraser (2005) debuted new horror film 'Wounds', starring Arnie Hammer and Dakota Johnson at Sundance this year. **Marie-Elena Dyche (2012)** is now Producing an iFeatures funded film 'The White Stork', currently in development. **Phil Barnes (2016)** is currently working as 2nd Unit Clapper Loader 'Bond 25'. **Natasha Mullan (2012)** recently completed work as 2nd Unit, Clapper Loader on 'Top Gun: Maverick'. **Alice Guillot (2016)** has been working as Script Supervisor's Assistant on multiple shoots including 'Men In Black: International'. **Jannika Oberg (2008)** has been working on many high profile British films as Production Co-ordinator including 'The Children Act', 'Tolkien', most recently 2nd Unit on 'Bohemian Rhapsody' and main unit of 'Yesterday'. **Sarah Collins (2016)** recently finished as a Camera Trainee on 'The Split', BBC, and the upcoming 'Dark Crystal' reboot, and has now moved onto Clapper Loading on 2020 series 'Code 404'. **Abi Catto (2006)** has been working as 2nd Assistant Camera on both A and B cameras on films such as 'About Time', 'Cinderella', 'Justice League', 'Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation' and most recently stepping into Central Loader position on 'Mission Impossible: Fallout'. **Georgina Rowlands (2018)** is now the Junior Production Co-ordinator at Zinc Media, having networked at the 2018 Graduation Showcase. **Tom Beale (2016)** is now an Assistant Dialogue Editor at Sound Disposition. **Amanda Fox (2017)** is now Technical Assistant at Warner Bros. Television Production UK. **Chris Upson (2016)** continues to work consistently as VFX Witness Camera, most recently completing on 'Cats'. **Amanda Fox (2017)** is now Technical Assistant at Warner Bros. Television Production UK. **Liam Meredith (2017)** most recently worked as a Camera Trainee on the Batman series 'Pennyworth'. **Rhianna Rizvi (2015)** has been working as a Production Secretary on films such as 'Crooked House' and 'Artemis Fowl', and most recently as Assistant to Angus More Gordon on 'The King's Man'. **Shelby Maddock (2017)** after completing the intern position at Westminster is now Assistant to the Head of Production at Passion Pictures. **Philippa Howson (2018)** has been working within Locations and AD teams, her recent credits include 'Gemini' (Bad Robot) and 'Spiderman: Far From Home'. **Cenay Said (2010)** leaving University as a Camera Trainee on films such as 'Skyfall' and 'Thor: Dark World', Cenay has moved onto 2nd Assistant Camera on high profile features and TV including 'The Crown' and 'Annihilation' as well as working as Central Loader on 'Aladdin', 'Mary Poppins Returns' and 'Muppets Most Wanted'. **Aneta Chalas (2008)** left University and moved into Production Assisting on TV and then moving into the role of Production Secretary on films such as 'Prometheus', 'Les Misérables' and before becoming Production Co-ordinator on films such as 'Kingsman: Secret Service' (assist.), 'Fantastic Beats' (2nd Unit) and recently 'Downton Abbey'. **Georgina Rowlands (2018)** is now the Junior Production Co-ordinator at Zinc Media, having networked at the 2018 Graduation Showcase. **Greg Probert (2016)** continues to work passionately in Lighting as a Gaffer on many short films as well as working on 'Spiderman: Far From Home' as 2nd Unit Electrician. **Maiya Rose (2010)** continues to work consistently, and has 2nd Assistant Camera on films such as 'Bohemian Rhapsody', 'My Cousin Rachel', 'Cinderella' and 'The Imitation Game'. **Edgar Dubrovskiy (2010)** continues to pursue his passion as DOP on Documentaries and Commercials including the Will Smith Bucket List series.