

TOOLS OF DIRECTING 2014

Regional professional development scheme for directors in Film & TV

Participants of the Master Workshop | 14-18 July, London



SIMON PHILLIPS – TOOLS OF DIRECTING TRAINER

www.toolsofdirecting.com

Simon Phillips has built an international reputation as a direction coach and trainer for feature film and TV directors. Oscar and EMMY award winning writers, directors and producers have worked with Simon's unique approach. He works with Directors Guilds, Broadcasters and Showrunners in Europe and has presented his popular workshop in Hollywood and Latin America.



TOMASZ ALEKSANDER

Tomasz@boynorthfilms.info | @TomAleksander

Tomasz is a self-taught writer/director crossing over from acting. Having written and directed 3 short films, Tomasz is in the final stages of post-production on his fourth short film THE DEVIL'S IN THE DETAIL - a collaboration with a writer and producer funded by Creative England as part of their new iShorts initiative. Tomasz has also been planning his next short as the final launch before embarking upon making his first feature which he has been writing and developing the last three years.



DAVID ALEXANDER

www.davidalexanderfilmmaker.com

David's debut short film GROWING won the Time Out award for Best Film at the London Short Film Festival, the Best Film Award at the B3 Media Showcase and was long-listed for the British Independent Film Awards. Shortly after David was invited to talent development programmes run by the Berlin Film Festival, the Tribeca Film Festival and the Toronto International Film Festival, and development labs managed by the UK Film Council, Film London, BBC Films and FilmFour. Most recently David was selected for the BFI talent mentoring programme, Guiding Lights, where he worked with award winning directors Kevin MacDonald and Iain Softley, and began developing his first feature length film project.



DEBORAH ASTON

@blueyedda

Deborah is an independent Producer/Director whose work has been supported by British Council, Regional screen agency and UK Film Council. Deborah first made documentaries at university including; THE WOMAN IN ME – the story of a pre-op transgender dad and WHO ARE THE ANIMALS - a documentary about the mental health of captive animals in British Zoos. Deborah started working in the industry as a broadcast technician before moving into producing and directing. Deborah set up RedCarpet Media, her own independent production company where she produced numerous award-winning shorts finding an international audience in festivals such as Thessaloniki, NXNE and Cannes. She went on to make the RTS nominated MADE IN BIRMINGHAM feature music documentary with swish films and is currently developing a slate of feature films projects and about to direct her debut feature film GINGERBREAD.



ELIZABETH JANE BALDRY www.elizabethjanebaldry.com | www.fairytalesfilms.co.uk | @oldweirdbritain

Elizabeth Jane Baldry is a harpist, composer and filmmaker. Her compositions have been used by ITV, the BBC and by Irish, Japanese, Danish and Canadian film, radio and television. She is the only silent movie harpist in the world, performing live to screenings of early film. She has directed nine films including two feature films, all produced by Chagford Filmmaking Group, an organisation dedicated to preserving the nation's folklore and fairytale heritage through films of British fairytales. The group has received funding from the EU and the former UK Film Council. In her spare time, she grows trees and is creating a magical woodland on Dartmoor where she can brew tea in a twig kettle and listen to the birdsong. Her tiny cottage is full of music, books and harps, and the kettle is always on for friends.

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MENEKA DAS

www.menekadas.com

Meneka trained as an actor at the Lee Strasberg Institute in London and had the privilege of working with directors such as David Yates, Mike Leigh and Tim Supple. Her passion for stories with strong female voices especially those that reflect her own culture inspired her to turn to writing and directing. Her 35 mm short THE AUDITION opened Mira Nair's film HYSTERICAL BLINDNESS at the Bite the Mango film festival in Bradford. Meneka directed her first feature film LITTLE BOX OF SWEETS which was shot entirely in North India. The film screened around the UK and had a two-week run at London's ICA and was in the Top 5 Films of The Week in the Evening Standard. Meneka was awarded the Grand Jury Award for Emerging Talent at The South Asian International Film Festival, New York in 2008. Her current feature project SUMMER OF OUR LIVES is currently in pre-production.



NICK FOGG

www.nickfoggdirector.co.uk

Nick began directing theatre, and has worked on projects with Cardboard Citizens / the RSC, the Young Vic Directors' Programme, MAC, Capital Theatre Festival, and Rattlestick. Her first short films were broadcast as part of the BBC Local TV pilot. Since then she's directed shorts that have been screened at festivals and on digital TV. She won the DepicT! '11 Award for her short documentary, WAKE. Nick was selected for the Triangle '12 feature talent development scheme run by Northern Film and Media and Screen Yorkshire. She is currently developing her first feature projects as a writer and director – one of which was shortlisted in the BAFTA Rocliffe New Writing Forum '13 – alongside several shorts.



NICK HATTON JONES

www.grassrootsmedia.co.uk

Nick is a writer, director who founded Grass Roots Media in 2005. He has previously worked with and alongside the BBC, Pathe and Back Row Productions. With Grass Roots Media, he has written and directed two romantic comedy micro-series, including THE LONDON AFFAIR for the BBC regionally, as well as several other short films. THE LONDON AFFAIR was received internationally by over 2 million viewers when it was re-launched online and is in development as a feature film to shoot in November. His short film, A LIFE'S DEBT, starring Craig Kelly, premiered at Dam Short Film Festival and is being developed into a feature film. The previous short film Nick directed, I LEARN, was internationally acclaimed at festivals including Palm Springs, Heart of Gold, Trés Court and Dam Short Film Festival.



KAREN KELLY

www.karenkellydirector.co.uk

After graduation from the Royal College of Art with the award winning film THE WINDING SHEET Karen took up traineeship at the BBC. Over her 10 years there she worked across major flagship series like *Horizon*, *Timewatch* and *Trouble at the Top*. THE GUINEA PIG CLUB which was awarded a Royal Television Society Best Factual Film. She then went on to do high-end drama docs before leaving the BBC to work at Impossible Pictures –she directed ITV's 6m family drama/doc series PREHISTORIC PARK. At the same time she has built up her experience in drama starting with EASTENDERS, moving onto a thirty min film for BBC Two - HALF LIFE. And more recently Scotland's serial drama RIVER CITY. She is now working out of Scotland and developing a low budget feature which is a story of love and longing.

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PATRICK MAKIN

www.patrick.makin.co.uk

Patrick works mainly as a freelance writer. After working a foreign correspondent in the Middle East he turned to TV and film. He has written over 20 hours of TV, mostly for the BBC in Bristol, where he also works as a script-editor specialising in natural history. He has also had a number of feature screenplays optioned and commissioned and used to be represented by the William Morris Agency. Frustrated with the lack of power one has as a writer, Patrick recently decided to write, produce, and direct his own feature film. He has raised over £100,000 and is due to start filming in mid-August.



RAD MILLER

www.radmiller.com | www.ratzillathemovie.com

Rad Miller is a writer/director with a passion for telling uncompromising yet human stories focussed on the complexities of what it is to be young. Now after 10 years of creating factual docs commissioned by national youth agencies he has decided to branch out into narrative fiction. With a flair for telling highly imaginative stories his films are typically allegorical & centre on such universal themes as friendship, love, fear, alienation & hope. He is dedicated to making powerful & evocative films that shake people up, ultimately giving a voice to those in society that would otherwise go unheard. A feature length version of his award winning short RATZILLA is currently in the early stages of development. [Pic: Rad delivering a film making workshop to students at the University of Abertay, Dundee 2012. © @calevroyianni]



TAMSYN O'CONNOR

<http://tamsynoconnor.weebly.com/> | [@tamsynoconnor](https://twitter.com/tamsynoconnor)

Tamsyn grew up in Yorkshire and survived to tell the tale, despite all the rain. In fact she still lives there now, in the same town she grew up in. She studied Drama at university where she soon realized that becoming a director was her ultimate dream. She's a highly experienced 1st Assistant Director, having worked in the TV/Film industry for several years, working her way up from a runner to lead the AD department. She's never worked on a film shoot that hasn't finished on schedule, where she was the 1st AD. She currently has three major projects in development: Scriptwriter for international feature film ENCLOSED produced by Ouranos Films, Writer/Director of short film THE CARRIERS and Scriptwriter of an original TV crime drama series.



NICK PILTON

www.nickpilton.com

Nick Pilton is a freelance filmmaker and tutor. Nick began on the job fifteen years ago following a career devising and directing educational, community and fringe theatre in London. Nick makes drama, documentary and promos for broadcast and for public sector organisations, galleries, theatre companies and arts organisations. Nick relocated to the south coast ten years ago to create space to develop his own feature projects. His first feature RESERVATIONS, an experimental drama, won awards for best no-budget film at both the London & Toronto independent film festivals. His second feature INTERFERENCE is currently appearing at festivals internationally and has won him Best Director at LIFF this year. Nick's craft has involved a devising process to form screenplays from intensive character development and improvisation using 'real people' and actors. Nick is currently in development for his third feature project using a more traditional approach working closely with a screenwriter.

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MELONI POOLE

<http://vimeo.com/user3278250/videos>

Meloni comes from an ex-coalfield community and began making poetic documentaries for Channel 4 and British Film Institute with: THIS CHARMING MAN, a portrait of her father, an ex-coalminer turned inventor whose love of horses, inspired the horse jazz. Other documentary credits include, A SICK NOTE TO MICHAEL, Channel 4, STRAIGHT GUIDE TO QUEER, Channel 4 and A CLEAN SLATE, Arts Council of England. As a writer/director Meloni's moved into drama, with short films DISH funded by Film4 and the Film Council and LAP funded by Screen Yorkshire and Tartan Films. Both films were selected by the British Council and shown at International Film Festivals. Other writing credits include feature film THIS CHARMING MAN, developed through EM-Media Screen Agency and feature film BITTEN, funded by Screen Yorkshire. More recently Meloni has finished DEERGIRL, an illustrated storybook about a girl with magic antlers.



MARTIN WALLACE

<http://martinwallace.co.uk/>

Martin's debut feature as writer-director, SMALL CREATURES, was nominated for the Michael Powell awards for Best British Feature and Best Performance at Edinburgh International film Festival 2012. As a director of factual TV he is an International Emmy and RTS North West winner and Children's BAFTA nominee. In addition to directing many hours of factual television, he has also made a host of groundbreaking music videos for bands including Pulp, Aphex Twin, Polyphonic Spree, Biffy Clyro and Vixen. Martin is a longtime collaborator with Tindersticks and Pulp's Jarvis Cocker. In June 2013, a 70min live music + archive film, THE BIG MELT, opened the Sheffield Doc Fest, commissioned by the BFI and BBC Storyville. He has written and directed short dramas for the UK Film Council, Channel 4 and Film Four and is currently developing several, offbeat features including an occult thriller and a black-comedy/fantasy.



GEORGIE WEEDON

www.gingerwinkfilms.com | @Gingerwink | georgie@gingerwinkmedia.com

Georgie is a freelance filmmaker, she was selected as "one of Europe's most talented upcoming filmmakers" by The Script Factory and was mentored by one of her "moving from documentary to drama" heroes Pawel Pawlikowski at NFTS shorts. She has executive produced documentary films for Al Jazeera as launch Commissioning Editor/ Acquisitions and prior to that co-authored the book OFFSCREEN about part of a year traveling around the Middle East. She has directed a series of online commercials for O2's Guru TV with ad agency VCCP, and directed the documentaries RETURN TO SOMALIA (Al Jazeera) and THE POET OF BAGHDAD (Al Jazeera, Sheffield Doc/fest, Frontline Club), and EVE'S GIRLS about Richard Branson's mother, Eve Branson. Alongside www.ProjectAriadne.com (creating a series of living archive films about female creatives in post/conflict zones) Georgie would like to develop her craft and direct more drama.



GAVIN WILLIAMS

www.gavinwilliams.info | [facebook.com/sleepworking](https://www.facebook.com/sleepworking)
www.sleepworking.wix.com/alice | @gavstatic

Gavin started out his career primarily as a writer but in recent years has stumbled – unexpectedly – into directing. As a writer he has been commissioned by Yorkshire TV, Channel 5, Carlton, Penguin, HTV, and Lego, among others. Gavin's first short as a writer-director, BREATH, was funded by the UKFC and Northern Film and Media in 2009. His second was commissioned after he won NFM's Shorted challenge to shoot and cut a trailer in 6 hours. The subsequently commissioned film – sci-fi thriller SLEEPWORKING – has won eight awards and is an official selection for forty-eight international film festivals. Gavin won a Northern Promise Award in 2011 and worked on the RTS Award-Winning ARG, TIME MACHINE. He is currently developing a horror feature, FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS, with Shudder films and writing, BEHIND THE EYE, a micro budget mash-up of MEMENTO, RASHOMON, and INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS for himself to direct.

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ABOUT THE MASTER WORKSHOP

www.dggb.org/training.php

The Master Workshop is the second and final part of the professional development training scheme **Tools of Directing – English Regions 2014**, organised by the Directors Guild of Great Britain with support from Creative Skillset's Film Skills Fund. In the first part Simon Phillips toured the regions March-May delivering his Tools of Directing Seminar in Bristol, Newcastle, Sheffield, Manchester and Leeds. The week-long Master Workshop with Simon Phillips is a combination of training, mentoring and networking, focusing on developing participants' skills and confidence in using the Tools of Directing Actors, Casting, Script Development and Directing Camera. This is in the form of a Bursary Scheme bringing 16 talented directors and filmmakers to London in the summer of 2014. Participants will gain vital insights to the complex task of directing and learn planning processes for the director's creative responsibilities, from script development to planning the shoot. In 2013 Simon and the Guild, with Creative Skillset support, took the training scheme to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS GUILD

www.dggb.org

The Directors Guild Trust and the Directors Guild of Great Britain work together to train, promote and celebrate directors and directing across all media: film, television, theatre, radio, opera, commercials, music videos, corporate film, multimedia and new technology. Formed in 1984, The Directors Guild Trust is the charity arm of the Directors Guild of Great Britain, the only organization of its kind in the UK to represent directors across all media. The primary aim of the Trust is to encourage knowledge in the 'art and craft of directing'. The Directors Guild, which hosts events and training, is a forum for its members to meet and share experience and skills. Professional Membership is open to directors with a minimum of 2 professional directing credits; Associate Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the art and craft of directing. We also offer Student and Educational Group Membership.

ABOUT CREATIVE SKILLSET

www.creativeskillset.org

Creative Skillset is the licensed Sector Skills Council for the Entertainment Media, Fashion and Textiles, Publishing and Advertising. It is owned and invested in by employers working in social partnership with unions. It aspires to have the best skills and talent in the world to drive growth of the industries and the UK economy. Creative Skillset brings all parts of the Creative Industries together to add value through collaboration on workforce development.

Creative Skillset's Film Skills Fund, as part of its film skills strategy, is funded by the National Lottery via the BFI and through the Skills Investment Fund, which comprises industry and government co-investment. The film skills strategy focuses on addressing the vital skills and training needs of the industry to deliver maximum economic and cultural return: creating jobs, strengthening skills, building skills for the future and ensuring world-class film education.

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