

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May

## Welsh Talent Out in Force at Cannes 2008

The best of Welsh film talent will be out in force at this year's Cannes International Film Festival with the support of the Film Agency for Wales and Welsh Assembly Government.

“This event, now in its 61<sup>st</sup> year, is not just about glamour. It is a place where deals are done and fantastic networking opportunities are available – it is essential Wales is represented in the best possible way.” said Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy, Ieuan Wyn Jones.

“We will do all we can to ensure that Welsh film makers and associated companies meet the key decision makers, get the opportunity to network and maximise business opportunities.”

Welsh talent will be supported through the collaboration of three key organisations - Creative Business Wales and the Wales Creative IP Fund (both part of the Welsh Assembly Government), together with Film Agency Wales.

More than thirty companies and organisations from Wales will be attending the festival – promoting a range of feature films, documentaries, comedies, action adventure, thrillers and shorts.

The Wales team will provide support for companies looking to raise finance, find new co-production partners, distributors and agents as well as promoting their films.

The benefits of filming and producing in Wales will be widely promoted with information available on locations, facilities and funding and support available.

Business will be the key focus and Welsh companies attending Cannes will benefit from: the use of a dedicated meeting venue; an exclusive networking reception with a targeted audience; industry partner status in the UK Film centre and invitation only events for companies interested in doing business in and with Wales.

Keith Potter, Head of Talent for the Film Agency for Wales said:

“We will be in Cannes for to meet with financiers and distributors and try to drum up interest in future projects. It's really important for anyone involved in film to have a presence at Cannes. As well as the festival itself, there's the film market, which is the most efficient way to meet with international film financiers, sales agents, distributors or potential co-producers. Cannes is such an important film festival as it has had 61 years to evolve and the fact it has a film market makes it so successful.”

“We are proud of the talent that Wales has to offer the world of film and look forward to helping both newcomers and the more established filmmakers in securing support for their projects.”

**For media enquiries, please call Lisa Jenkins on 0790 873 8763 or Leon Griffiths on 029**

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**Notes to editors:**

## **Welsh Film Makers who will be at Cannes:**

A number of Welsh film-makers will head out to the world's most famous film festival in Cannes this year.

### **Anthony Smith – Nocturne**

Based in Port Talbot, producer Anthony Smith will film horror film 'Nocturne' later this year in and around South Wales. Funded by the Film Agency for Wales, the film tells the story of protagonist Caleb, a man lost on the road to nowhere. One night he discovers that he has entered a brutal and savage world; he has staggered into a secret lost war where he must find the faith and courage to save his own life as he is hunted by the Silure Sect who will stop at nothing to slaughter him.

'Nocturne' will star Welsh-born Richard Brake, who found fame in 'Hannibal Rising' along with Patrick Bergin who starred alongside Julia Roberts in the 1991 hit 'Sleeping with the Enemy'.

### **Catherine Linstrum – Perish**

'Perish' is the latest script in development by one of Wales' hottest writers, Newport-based Catherine Linstrum, along with her artist husband David-John Newman.

Having made her Cannes debut in 2007 with the Romanian feature film 'California Dreamin', which was selected for the highly sought-after Directors' Fortnight screenings, Linstrum has a 15 year track record of writing and directing feature films, dramas and documentaries. This is the first formal collaboration on a film project between Linstrum and Newman, a successful artist and life-coach with work having been held in collections at Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris, Photographers' Gallery London and private collections in Paris, New York, Tokyo and London.

### **Julian Richards – Summer Scars**

Welsh director Julian Richards will be looking to sell BAFTA Cymru winning 'Summer Scars'.

Shot in Wales, the film features six fourteen year old kids who truant school to play in the woods. They are befriended by a drifter whose behaviour becomes increasingly abusive. Held hostage in their den they are forced to embrace the dark side of human nature if they are going to survive their ordeal.

Produced by Julian Richards, Sabina Sattar and Mike Tims the main cast includes Kevin Howarth of Gallow Walker, Ciaran Joyce, Amy Harvey, Jonathan Jones, Darren Evans, Chris Conway and Ryan Conway.

### **Phil Charles – Mr Manchester**

Cardiff-born writer Phil Charles is developing *Mr Manchester*, a British feature comedy about a straight man who competes in a gay beauty contest. Set in Manchester, it is the first feature film

to be developed by Snowball Pictures, the production company run by Lee Ruelle and Britt Harrison.

**Support for Welsh Film Makers in Cannes will include:**

- Welsh companies attending Cannes will benefit from: the use of a dedicated meeting venue; an exclusive networking reception with a targeted audience; industry partner status in the UK Film centre and invitation only events for companies interested in doing business in and with Wales.
- Creative Business Wales will build on the links already established between film makers in Canada and Wales that have developed through attending major international film festivals in Canada.
- A special invitation only lunch has been arranged for Welsh and Canadian film makers working – or keen to work together on co-productions.
- Additionally, a dedicated business resource for Welsh filmmakers in Cannes, taking the form of an apartment central to the various market locations (opposite the Palais) with private meeting facilities, audiovisual provision, display of marketing materials, and photocopying/fax facilities etc.

**Bringing Film to Wales:**

- Film and television are booming sectors within creative industries in Wales and increasing location spend in Wales is a key objective of the Welsh Assembly Government's Creative Business Wales team which includes the Wales Screen Commission. For more information please log onto:  
[www.ibwales.com/server.php?show=nav.4308](http://www.ibwales.com/server.php?show=nav.4308)
- The £7 million Wales Creative IP Fund (WCIPF) was created as part of the Welsh Assembly Government's strategy for the creative industries in Wales. The Fund acts as a "gap financier", offering finance for a production alongside finance that has already been secured from other funding providers.
- The Film Agency for Wales slate currently includes advice, advocacy and funding for seven international feature films and more than 30 projects that are in development. For more information, please log onto:  
<http://www.filmagencywales.com>
- The Film Agency for Wales is funded by the Arts Council of Wales, the UK Film Council and the Welsh Assembly Government, via Creative Business Wales, the latter of which was set up to support, encourage and increase the range and number of films being produced in Wales and to foster the abundance of creative talent in Wales.