

Mark Cousins announces 'SOUNDTRACK': The International Film and Music Festival for Wales at Cannes

Filmmaker, author and broadcaster Mark Cousins (**pictured attached with Huw Williams and Dan Thomas of the Film Agency of Wales**) has celebrated the launch of the first international film and music festival for Wales at the Wales in Cannes drinks party hosted by the Film Agency for Wales, Creative Business Wales and the Wales Creative IP Fund and held last night (Saturday 17 May).

Initiated by the Film Agency for Wales, SOUNDTRACK supersedes Cardiff Film Festival and will be based on film music. Running from 26 – 29 November 2008, the annual event will give the Welsh public and filmmakers the opportunity to interact with major international figures in the film and music industry. More than 7000 people are expected to attend the three day event.

Celebrating the relationship of music in film, the SOUNDTRACK programme will have a mix of complementary events including film screenings, live music, master classes, seminars, keynote speeches, workshops and an emerging talent competition.

A line-up of directors, composers, producers and on-screen talent will be announced over the coming months along with the details of spectacular live music performances; both classical and contemporary music, from live orchestras reproducing film scores to rock and roll gigs.

Project managed by Barry-based P4Music Limited, the programme will be led by an established team of music, filmmaking and event specialists including film curator Mark Cousins. Cousins is renowned for having revived the Edinburgh Film Festival and written the book on movie history titled 'The Story of Film', described by The London Times as 'the best book we've ever reviewed'.

"There are far too many film festivals in the world today, so new ones have to be distinctive. SoundTrack is very much so. It's not so much about new movies, as the crucial creative relationship film has with music. And in the coming years it intends to be really international. And it's not about the boring old middle-brow. And it's taking place

in a shape-shifting city, Cardiff. I love working on it. What's not to like?" commented Cousins.

Further information on SOUNDTRACK is available at www.soundtrackfilmfestival.com with patrons and advocates to be announced over the coming months.