

SIX PROJECTS TAKE ONE STEP NEARER £250,000 PRODUCTION PRIZE

Micro-budget studio Moxie Makers today announces the six feature projects that have progressed in their innovative **Skillset** supported Big Pitch scheme.

The Big Pitch was launched on December 6th and was open for 10 weeks. Over 200 projects applied for the scheme including multi-award winning filmmakers from around the UK.

After thorough assessment of the applications a long shortlist of 30 was drawn up before 12 teams were invited for interview. After interviews the Moxie Panel selected 8 projects to enter The Big Pitch Training Programme based on **talent, experience, marketability** and **quality**. At the end of April these eight projects took part in a four-day intensive workshop in London where they heard from industry professionals including Rachel Robey (Better Things, London To Brighton), Sebastien Delloye (Irina Palm), Mark O'Halloran (Garage) and Chris Bird (Lovefilm)

The Panel then reconvened at the Cannes film festival to eliminate two projects and allow six to enter the four month development stage. The panel consists of Christine Alderson and Hayley Manning (Moxie Makers), Lorianne Hall (Ipso Facto Films), Eve Gabereau (Soda Pictures), Mark Vennis (Moviehouse Entertainment) and Denise Parkinson (Bauer Media).

Over the next four-months the six remaining teams will work with industry professionals to develop and package their project. At the end of this period four out of the six teams will be invited to The Big Pitch event where they will sell their feature film ideas before a live audience at **Northern Lights Film Festival 2008** - as they compete for the production deal worth over £250,000!

A celebrity host, an industry panel and a live audience of over three hundred people as well as many more watching on the web, will view as the teams try to sell the merits of their feature film project to the panel and most importantly try to inspire the audience with their vision. A question and answer session will put them through their paces before the live audience and the online viewers watching the live stream vote to select the winning team.

The winner will be guaranteed production finance from **Moxie Makers** which includes a post-production deal with **Molinare**, guaranteed UK distribution with **Soda Pictures** and international sales representation with **Moviehouse Entertainment**.

THE 6 SELECTED PROJECTS ARE:

Project: RED SLEIGH DOWN

Team: Ian Gilbertson and Stephen Atherton (Writers)

Synopsis: *Santa's sleigh is shot down over the English countryside on Christmas Eve by a ruthless assassin hell bent on taking over Santa's business. Coming to the rescue is an elite group of Lapland Special Agents a.k.a Santa's Little Helpers who will risk their lives to save Santa and Christmas.*

Genre: Christmas Action Comedy

Project: DIFFERENT SHADES OF GRAHAM

Team: Brad Watson, Keith Lynch, David T. Lynch (Co-Writers/ Co-Directors) and Simon Thomas (Producer)

Synopsis: *A man with multiple personalities struggles to keep the various sides of himself together in the wake of the disappearance of his/their oldest friend. Things go from bad to worse when that friend contacts the paranoid third of Graham urging him to murder a prominent politician.*

Genre: Psychological Thriller

Project: TIL JIHAD DO US PART

Team: Shai Hussain (Writer)

Synopsis: *Lovelorn Mena surprises herself by agreeing to an arranged marriage, but the real surprises are in store when she begins to suspect her new husband, who she's now fallen for, is a terrorist.*

Genre: Romantic Comedy.

Project: BLACKOUT

Team: Derek Boyes (writer/director)

Synopsis: *Gary wakes up in a wood next to the battered dead body of Sarah, a local girl. Despite not being able to remember anything, Gary refuses to believe he is capable of such a crime and flees the scene. However he soon discovers the police are already looking for her and is forced to cover up the evidence in a desperate attempt to buy time, recall his fragmented memory and figure out what really happened and by whom the previous night.*

Genre: Thriller

Project: THE BRIGHTNESS

Team: Gary Reich (writer/director) Celine Haddad (Producer)

Synopsis: *It's the final 2 days of humanity's reign on Planet Earth. Down in a subterranean mixed sex prison housing the most deranged psychopaths in British history, we follow the attempts of one sane man accidentally incarcerated there who has to find his way out.*

Genre: Horror Comedy

Project: LEANNE LOVES PIERRE

Team: Neil Wagstaff (writer/director) and Christine Hartland (producer)

Synopsis: *Leanne, a 14-year-old with dyspraxia is growing, but not quite the same way as everyone else around her. When she meets Pierre, it is love at first sight – for her. Pierre's determination to stop his bully friends from picking on Leanne have dangerous consequences but ultimately lead, not to first love but to Leanne's first real friendship.*

Genre: Teen Romance/Coming of Age

Christine Alderson, Founder of Moxie Makers said:

“The decision was really difficult because the standard has been so high. Ultimately we now have six projects remaining and all would make fantastic films.”

“It will be a fascinating ride as we see these films develop to fulfill their massive potential and Moxie Makers are proud to be at the forefront of developing new talent in the UK.”

NOTES

Partners

Moxie Makers- A “micro studio” launched in November 2007 that will showcase new UK filmmaking talent and exploit digital technologies in order to produce up to nine micro-budget feature films over the next three years. www.moxiemakers.com

First two films are already in production – *Mad, Sad & Bad* and *Who Killed Nancy*

Ipsos Facto Films- The management company for Moxie Makers and The Big Pitch. Ipsos Facto Films are also a producer and co-producer of feature films made for the international market. www.ipsosfactofilms.com

Soda Pictures- London based independent UK theatrical and DVD distributor, with whom the new distribution label - "Soda Makers" will be created. Established in 2002, Soda Pictures has since acquired over 50 feature films. www.sodapictures.com

Moviehouse Entertainment- An international sales company with a wealth of experience introducing low budget and digital films to the marketplace. With Moviehouse the micro-budget label "Moxiehouse Entertainment" will be created. www.moviehouseent.com

Skillset - Sector Skills Council for the Audio Visual Industries (broadcast, film, video, interactive media and photo imaging). Jointly funded by industry and government, their job is to make sure that the UK audio visual industries have the right people, with the right skills, in the right place, at the right time, so that our industries remain competitive. www.skillset.org

Molinare - A front-runner in HD feature film post-production since Mark Foligno and Chief Executive Steve Milne’s MBO in September 2003. They have propelled the company forward with a focus on film projects and have completed the HD & DI (Digital Intermediate) post-production on over fifty feature films in the past 3 years since their take-over. Molinare has a rich 35-year heritage and is now the largest, privately owned post-production company in the UK, they work across all story genres and distribution formats. www.molinare.co.uk

Northern Lights Film Festival- Despite already being the North East’s premier film festival, Northern Lights is undertaking a large expansion programme and will re-launch as a festival of even greater international significance in 2008. www.nlff.co.uk

NLFF forms part of the culture10 curated programme of world-class cultural events and festivals across the North East region.

For more information on culture10 go to: www.newcastlelegateshead.com
<<http://www.newcastlelegateshead.com/>>