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Press Release



UK FILM COUNCIL
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skillset

Screen South and Skillset

In association with



LEE & THOMPSON



British Filmmakers set to maximise European Co-production opportunities with Cine Euro Training Programme

Screen South and Skillset, in partnership with Cine Regio and Film Export UK, are delighted to announce the launch of the Cine-Euro Co-Production Training Programme. The programme has received further support from Edinburgh International Film Festival, Lee & Thompson Lawyer Firm, Sarajevo International Film Festival, Screen International and Pinewood Studios. Cine-Euro is a 9 month programme which will aim to assist 8 UK producers to develop, market, finance and enable European Partnership for European Co-Productions. The programme will receive full support from The Cine-Regio network as well as training support from Film Export UK, the association of sales companies with UK offices. The programme will include attendance at The Edinburgh International Film Festival and two further European International Film Festivals, to be instructed by the Cine-Regio Network.

Starting in June 2008 and running over 9 months, Cine Euro will comprise a comprehensive training programme consisting of 12 events over the following 9 months. One to one surgeries will take place throughout the programme at regular intervals with award winning producer Pippa Cross (*Shooting Dogs*, *My Left Foot*), to include both development and business co-production advice specific to the producers' needs. Two initial training seminars will be held at Pinewood Studios in June and will focus on the business of co-productions.

This will be followed by attendance of Edinburgh International Film Festival where the 8 producers will be introduced to four members of Cine-Regio who will be able to advise on the regional funds available in their country.

The programme will be officially launched at an evening event to be held at the Edinburgh International Film Festival. E-mentors, British producers with experience of co-productions, will be partnered to each producer to give guidance for the remainder of the programme. In August 2008, the UK producers will be taken to the Sarajevo International Film Festival as part of CineLink. A further networking session will be held at the London International Film Festival. In September 2008, Film Export UK will deliver two further training seminars supported by UK Sales Agents who will assist in delivering training about Marketing, Sales and 'Closing The Deal', a virtual co-production deal with the support of the law firm, Lee & Thompson, who are one of the sponsors of the programme. The Producers will be taken to the Berlin International Film Festival 2009 where they will meet with financiers alongside their new European Production partners.

Important Note: The Cine-Euro programme is open to applicants from all over the UK.

Jo Nolan, CEO, Screen South:

Screen South is very pleased to be working with a fantastic group of partners to deliver this innovative programme for Producers from all over the UK. I am looking forward to seeing a diverse group of feature projects launched to the international market place and some realistic new international business opportunities develop as a result.

Janine Marmot, Director of Film, Skillset:

It's crucial that emerging UK talent is introduced to the international market at an early stage in their careers. And it is essential that producers are able to navigate their way through the complexities of co-productions. The Cine-Euro programme provides an excellent opportunity to do this, and I'm delighted that Skillset is able to support the initiative.

Charlotte Appelgren, Secretary General, Cine Regio, Sweden comments:

We at Cine-Regio, would like to encourage interregional and cross-border co-operation. This includes stimulating artistic, creative and technical exchange throughout Europe. This new training initiative developed by Screen South is a unique opportunity to strengthening the co-development and co-production of films between regions, promote the film sector and establish new international friendships and contacts.

Charlie Bloye, Chief Executive , Film Export UK

International sales and distribution companies were thinking globally and acting locally long before the motto was coined, so this initiative seems long overdue. Making connections between filmmakers is a valuable precursor to connecting with audiences in our continent and beyond.

Full guidelines and applications will be available on the Screen South

Website, www.screensouth.org

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 17th April, 5PM.

Ends.

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Notes for Editors:

Screen South:

Screen South is the regional development agency of the UK Film Council for film in the South East of England. It encompasses the counties of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, West Berkshire, Hampshire, East and West Sussex and Kent

Screen South is passionate about developing a dynamic environment in which film and media culture can flourish. Screen South aims to:

- Provide the first port of call for funding and information relating to film in the region
- Collaborate with existing organisations to develop hubs of activity and expertise
- Encourage networking and collaboration between media practitioners
- Work with the industry to set standards for excellence, creativity and innovation

- Act as an advocate for the region's film and media industry nationally and internationally
- Promote the profile of the region to attract inward investment
- Find creative ways of developing audiences for film and the moving image, promoting opportunities for education and wider access
- Act as a key route for the flow of information between the Film Council, regional organisations and film makers

www.screensouth.org

SKILLSET:

Skillset is the Sector Skills Council for the Audio Visual Industries covering Broadcast, Film, Video, Interactive Media and Photo Imaging. Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) are licensed by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills and by Ministers in the devolved administrations to tackle the skills and productivity challenge by sector. SSCs are independent, UK wide organisations developed by groups of influential employers in industry or business sectors of economic or strategic significance. SSCs are employer-led and actively involve trade unions, professional bodies and other stakeholders in the sector.

Cine-Regio:

Cine-Regio is a network of regional film funds in Europe. The network is continuously expanding and today represents 31 regional film funds from 12 EU Member States, in addition to Norway, Serbia and Switzerland.

The members exhibit a range of support schemes and services to the film sector which aim to support film culture, encourage social cohesion and build regional infrastructure. Regional film support is vital to foster and save-guard the development of the European audiovisual sector and fosters regional and local cultural identities, cultural diversity and democratic empowerment.

Cine-Regio's main objectives are threefold and interlinked:

Knowledge Sharing, Film Policy and Co-Productions

- To exchange views, perspectives, good practices and information for the benefit of the European film industry, including integrating new regional film funds

- To raise awareness, represent and promote regional audiovisual interests across Europe, including members' interests towards European institutions and other organisations which play a role in determining the set of rules and conditions for regional film funds
- To strengthen the co-development and co-production of audiovisual products, fusing talents and resources in different regions for a wider market - including stimulating artistic, technical and creative exchange and know-how throughout Europe

Together with the European film industry and members, Cine-Regio are continuously involved in initiating and organising activities in the European regions. Cine-Regio a.i.s.b.l. was established in May 2005 as an independent non-profit association.

Film Export UK:

Film Export UK is the trade association for independent feature film companies with international sales operations in the UK. It was formed in June 2007 to provide a voice for a vibrant, important, but hitherto often overlooked, sector of the film industry and currently boasts 31 members. The association is active in the fields of: lobbying and policy development for film funding; training - both within its sector and reaching beyond; new technology - exploring the opportunities, technical and legal implications of innovation; services - providing practical help to its members in the sale and marketing of films.