



## STARTING BLOCK PREMIERES SIX SHORT FILMS FROM NEW FILMMAKERS ACROSS SCOTLAND at GLASGOW SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

WORLD PREMIERE

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2011, 4pm

Centre for Contemporary Arts, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow

*'Starting Block was an inspirational and quite wonderful idea, pre supposed on the idea that we would deliver good films....well, we tried to give them good movies and we all failed quite spectacularly.....we all delivered WONDERFUL films that we are very proud of!' (Tam Hickey, Starting Block filmmaker)*

**Starting Block** is **Diversity Films** Community Interest Company's primary filmmaking and training programme. Launched in May 2010, the film scheme was open to new filmmakers across Scotland, aged 16 and over. From a long list of surprisingly fresh and spellbinding short film ideas, 15 were shortlisted and developed further – of which eventually six were selected with enormous difficulty. The six ideas underwent a period of thorough development before they finally went into production.

With subject matters of the six shorts ranging from **disability** to burgeoning **sexual identity**, from **alcoholism** to **autism** and from **farming** to **ultra running**, the final result are six completely different films, showcasing a variety not only of inspiring emerging talent, but also a series of captivating snapshots of Scotland today. **Details of the filmmakers and films overleaf.**

**Diversity Films** encouraged people to collaborate across communities and generations and worked with people to form teams around each production.

The six Starting Block Films are now set to screen at **Glasgow Short Film Festival** in association with **Glasgow Film Festival** and across **Fife** and **Dumfries & Galloway (Details of regional screenings overleaf)**

**Starting Block** is funded by a mixture of national and regional funding with **Creative Scotland** (previously **Scottish Screen**) and the **Paul Hamlyn Foundation** as the key backers.

Leslie Finlay, Development Executive at Scottish Screen said **'Creative Scotland is delighted to be supporting 'Starting Block', through our New Talent Development initiative, to discover and train screen talent of the future in diverse communities throughout Scotland'**.

Other regional funders include the **Hollywood Trust**, **LEADER Fife**, **Dumfries & Galloway Community Learning & Development Department**, **Celebrating Fife 2010** and **North East Glasgow Area Committee**.



Photo of DT Wilson by Marie Olesen

### FOR THE LOVE OF LUGOSI

By **D.T. Wilson** (Glenrothes)  
Directed by **Andy Gregor** (Dunfermline)  
Produced by **Kim Hickey** and **Tam Hickey** (Glasgow)  
**Drama Documentary** (15'36).

**For the Love of Lugosi** explores one man's interest in old gothic horror movies and the effects that Asperger's Syndrome has had on his life. Shot in Fife and Glasgow.



Photo of Calum Murray & Paul Massie by Ross Wilson

### I, ALIVE

Written by **Thomas Simpson**  
Directed by **Thomas Simpson**  
Produced by **Andrew Lanni** (Kirkwall/Glasgow) and **Thomas Simpson** (Glasgow)  
**Drama Short** (8'32).

**Wheelchair bound and unable to speak, Kevin still has a voice and is certain that his brother Paul will listen to him sooner rather than later.**



Photo of Lauren Dempsie by George Geddes

### JAMES DEAN

Written and directed by **Lucy Elliott** (Glasgow)  
Produced by **Jennifer Scammell** (Glasgow)  
**Drama Short** (7'20).

**A family day out takes an unexpected turn when young Alex decides to share her secret.**



Photo of Isobel Henkelmann by Campbell Mitchell

### THE KING AND QUEEN OF WÜRTEMBERG

Directed by **Samantha Fernando** (Kirkcudbright)  
Produced by **Amy-Dee Tighe** (Newton Stewart)  
**Documentary** (24'44).

**Working the land is in Isobel's blood; Now it's her turn to tackle the acres and make the land work for her.**



Photo of Isobel Henkelmann by Campbell Mitchell

### MY FATHER'S SON

Directed and produced by **Claire McGuire** (Glasgow) and **Ian McLaughlin** (Glasgow)  
**Drama Documentary** (14'09).

**When Ian was a wean he was petrified of his alcoholic dad. Was it too late to change his ways when he realised that he was slowly turning into this person he loathed so much?**



Photo of Runner by Campbell Mitchell

### RUNNING WILD

Directed by **Pete Rennie** (Cairneyhill)  
Produced by **Helen Brogan** (Dunfermline)  
**Documentary** (Dur 16'16).

**A documentary tracking the life of ultra-distance runner Fiona and her family.**



## Starting Block Filmmaker Quotes:

*'At almost 50 yrs old, I thought that there was nothing out there to help me, although I was happy making videos for YouTube, I wanted to know more about film making so when the opportunity of getting on to Starting Block came up I jumped at the chance....I was a co-producer on 'For the Love of Lugosi', I never thought that I would meet and work with others, least of all those from Fife, But with Starting Block's help it came together and they made every effort to make sure we kept in touch and got the best out of each other in making the film'*  
**Kim Hickey, For the Love of Lugosi, co-producer (Glasgow)**

*'The media industry can be a cold and harsh business for anyone with a desire to work within this environment. Many places want you to work long hour for no pay and expect you to be grateful for it. What I love about Starting Block is the programme gives people the opportunity to do what they want with regards to film whether that is direct, write, produce, sound, camera and so on. I know that I would have struggled to get funding for my project, with Starting Block all I needed was an idea and a vision.'*  
**Thomas Simpson, I, Alive, writer/director (Glasgow)**

*'Diversity Films to me is a doorway into an industry which is without doubt one of the hardest to get into. In my experience Diversity Films main objective is to find people with good ideas who have the passion and talent to turn them in to great films and Diversity does not discriminate based on your experience, qualifications or who you may or may not know.*

*Diversity films gave me the opportunity to make a film the way I wanted to make it. I also had the best equipment available to me, advice from so many talented professionals whenever I needed it and I was given creative freedom.*

*Starting Block has been an exciting learning experience for me as well as the chance to meet lots of like minded people. I'm certain that without it I wouldn't have been given the chance to direct and produce a film and have it shown at the Glasgow Film Festival.'*  
**Claire McGuire, My Father's Son, co-director & producer (Glasgow)**

*'I was amazed that the mentors (producers and directors) were so willing to give us the creative freedom to explore our own film ideas and make our own films. From script development and filming, to editing and dubbing, my mentors were on hand to offer their knowledge and experience - the learning curve was huge!! but the rewards tremendous. Just want to make another film now!'*

**Samantha Fernando, The King and Queen of Wurrtemberg, director (Kirkcudbright)**



## **Fife Screening Programme:**

**All screenings are free and there is no need to book in advance. Refreshments will be served.**

**Glenrothes**, Rothes Halls, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2-4pm

The screening will be followed by a reception.

**Blairhall New Community Centre**, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 6.30-9pm & Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2-4.30pm

**Lochgelly**, The Royal Oak Social Club, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2-4.30pm

**Cupar**, Marathon House. YMCA – YWCA, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 7-9.30pm

**Dunfermline**, King Malcolm Hotel (via the Carnegie Harriers Running Club), Dunfermline,  
Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm

**Newburgh**, Tayside Institute & Community Centre, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2-4pm

## **Dumfries & Galloway Premiere:**

**Sanquhar**, A'The Airts, 8-12 Main Street, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2-4pm

## **About Diversity Films:**

Diversity Films, a not for profit organisation set up by film professionals in 2007 with its main aim being to find, nurture and mentor new filmmakers. They've run Community Filmmakers Project and Brand New across Greater Glasgow and so far worked with over 300 individuals aged 9-80+, who have produced over 50 films between them. Diversity Films is currently fundraising to continue working across Scotland.

## **For more info, for interviews and photographs please contact:**

0141 357 7299 [mail@diversityfilms.org.uk](mailto:mail@diversityfilms.org.uk), Studio 6 333 Woodlands Road, Glasgow G3 6NG

## **For further info or to watch films\* please visit:**

[www.diversityfilms.org.uk](http://www.diversityfilms.org.uk)

[www.vimeo.com/channels/diversityfilms](http://www.vimeo.com/channels/diversityfilms)

[www.youtube.com/diversityfilms](http://www.youtube.com/diversityfilms)

[www.facebook.com/DiversityFilmsCIC](http://www.facebook.com/DiversityFilmsCIC)

[www.twitter.com/diversity\\_films](http://www.twitter.com/diversity_films)

\*Starting Block films won't be available online until after the screening programmes.

