

PRESS RELEASE

Monday, 04 February 2008

New Training Programme to boost film talent in Scotland

A unique new training programme for the Scottish film and television industry was launched today by Edinburgh-based production company, Fluid Eye Productions Ltd.

The training programme will train beginners, new talent and experienced working professionals through a series of continuous professional development courses, run in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Intensive one and two-day workshops, covering a range of production skills in drama and documentary, will give participants skills and confidence that they can apply immediately in their chosen field.

Fluid Eye Productions' managing director and training manager, Douglas Dougan said: "Outside of formal education, there is currently a lack of accessible training for people wanting a career in film and television. Breaking in is hard. At the start of your career or when you are busy trying to do your job and improve, it isn't possible to take a year or more out to study a degree at university. Our training programme has been designed to address this. We've spoken to the key industry bodies and developed a programme of workshops that are accessible, affordable and skills intensive."

The course programme includes courses on film production skills, script development, documentary filmmaking for broadcast, marketing, distribution and making the tricky leap from short films to feature projects. A range of experienced professionals and tutors from across the UK have been lined up to deliver the workshops. The programme is structured over the course of the year so that participants can achieve continual development by attending each workshop in succession.

The Fluid Eye training programme is supported by 4Talent Scotland, Channel 4's broadcast and new media talent development scheme. Rebecca Thompson, 4Talent Scotland commissioning editor, said: "There is a real need for this level of production training in Scotland. Many people coming into the broadcast industries are side-stepping from other creative disciplines, and often need to learn really specific sets of skills in order to progress. We're delighted to be working with Fluid Eye Productions on this flexible range of courses, which we hope will make the broadcast sector more accessible to a broader range of talent."

Freelancers attending any of the Fluid Eye Productions training courses can apply for bursary assistance of up to 80% of course fees and expenses from the Skillset Scotland Training Fund which is supported by the National Lottery through Scottish Screen.

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Bookings are now open for the first workshops which will run in April 2008. *The Language of Film* is a starter workshop for anyone interested in directing, producing or writing for the screen. *Film Production Foundation Course* is an intensive two-day workshop to fast-track participants through all the skills needed to make a screen project, from idea through funding, production and post-production to final delivery of the film. There is also a masterclass session led by experienced location manager Hugh Gourlay, whose credits include *Hallam Foe*, *Saving Private Ryan* and *Nanny McPhee*.

4 & 5 April 2008, *The Language of Film*, Edinburgh

11 April 2008, *Re:Location – Hugh Gourlay Masterclass*, Edinburgh

9 & 10 May 2008, *Producing A Film* (foundation course), Edinburgh

For more details and booking information, call 0131 346 7121 or visit <http://www.fluideyeproductions.co.uk>.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Fluid Eye Productions Ltd is a film and television production company based in Edinburgh. It is a creative partnership between producers Douglas Dougan and Rebecca Day.
2. Fluid Eye Productions develops and produces short films, feature films and documentaries. Their credits include the BAFTA award winning *“Run, Tony, Run!”*, *“Waiting for the 42”*, the first film to be made using the new Screen Academy Scotland production centre in Edinburgh; and *“Mono”* a production for the UK Film Council/Scottish Screen Dicult initiative, which was runner up in the BBC Three New Filmmaker Awards 2006.
3. Fluid Eye Productions Ltd is an Approved UK Learning Provider (UKPRN 10019995)
4. Fluid Eye Productions' website address is <http://www.fluideyeproductions.co.uk>
5. Scotland has a wide range of film talent, from award-winning directors, producers and writers to internationally renowned actors. There are over 100 Scottish-based production companies, over 2000 freelancers and more than 300 facilities companies generating a turnover of £1.2 billion (€1.7 billion) per year.
6. Production activity in Scotland is the highest in the UK outside London.
7. The UK film business is now a significant industry, directly employing over 31,000 people. The UK film industry contributes on average £3.1 billion to UK GDP, and around £850 million to the Exchequer (gross of tax relief and other fiscal support). On average, £570 million is spent on film production activity every year. Film accounts for 18% of the total revenues of all the UK screen industries. UK films promote tourism to an estimated value of £800 million per year.
(Source: *The Economic Contribution of the UK Film Industry*, UK Film Council)
8. 4Talent Scotland is part of Channel 4's national broadcast and new media talent development scheme. More information at <http://www.channel4.com/4talent/scotland/>
9. Skillset Scotland is the regional agency of Skillset, the Sector Skills Council for the audio visual industries. More information at <http://www.skillset.org/uk/scotland/>