

LIGHTHOUSE

PRESS RELEASE

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LIGHTHOUSE TO MANAGE BFI FILM FUND SHORTS 2012

Brighton-based digital culture agency, Lighthouse, is delighted to have been selected to manage the BFI Film Fund's new fund for short film. The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with responsibility for championing emerging and world-class filmmakers.

Lighthouse - who will work in partnership with producer, Nicky Bentham of Neon Films and independent development producer Becca Ellson - was appointed as the manager of the BFI's one-year short film fund, following an open call in September 2011, to which 25 organisations nationwide applied.

Lighthouse was selected in recognition of its exceptional hands-on work with UK filmmakers, and the successful delivery of schemes such as BBC Drama Shorts and Guiding Lights, the UK's leading film mentoring programme, which connects film talent with some of the industry's biggest names, including Sam Mendes, Tim Bevan, Barbara Broccoli and Kenneth Branagh.

This news follows recent significant achievements and awards for the organisation, including the presentation of ambitious works from internationally recognised artist filmmakers Kutlug Ataman and Lynette Wallworth for Brighton Festival; the launch of new commissions in association with the Cultural Olympiad; the launch of Happenstance, a new collaboration with Site Gallery, Sheffield and Spike Island, Bristol; and the success of last year's Brighton Digital Festival.

Honor Harger, Director of Lighthouse comments: "As a digital culture agency that commissions vibrant and inspirational work, which shows how important artists and filmmakers are in our changing media landscape, we are thrilled to be managing a programme that will stimulate outstanding new work. We are looking forward to working with some of the UK's most promising filmmakers, and exploring ways their work can reach new audiences."

Chris Collins, BFI Film Fund Senior Executive comments: "The team at Lighthouse have a strong track record of working successfully with UK film talent, helping to connect filmmakers with high profile mentors and overseeing the development and production of short films which have gone on to garner BAFTA and Oscar® recognition. We're delighted to announce their appointment as the management company for Film Fund Shorts 2012 and we're already excited to see the films and filmmakers which will emerge from the scheme."

The BFI Film Fund's short film scheme will support emerging filmmaking talent and provide filmmakers with opportunities to demonstrate their feature film potential. Up to twenty shorts will be commissioned at budgets ranging from £25,000 to £50,000 per film.

Emily Kyriakides, Programme Producer at Lighthouse, will work in partnership with Nicky Bentham, who co-produced Duncan Jones' BAFTA award winning *Moon*, and Becca Ellson. Together, they have credits on 28 short films and 43 feature films that have screened at festivals including Sundance, Cannes, Tribeca, Edinburgh, South By SouthWest and Venice. They have won several prestigious awards including a BAFTA and two BIFAs, and been nominated for many more, including an Academy Award. Together, they will oversee the selection and executive production of the films supported through the scheme.

The short film fund, which launches this February, will sit alongside Lighthouse's existing programmes of digital art, film and moving image, which include exhibitions, commissions, screenings, performances, education and events, which are presented locally in Brighton, nationally and internationally.

For further information:

To find out more about the scheme when it launches in February, please sign up to the Lighthouse mailing-list to receive further updates, as well as information about the Lighthouse programme: <http://www.lighthouse.org.uk/contact>

Lighthouse – Janette Scott, PR

Tel: 07966 486156 or email: janettescottartspr@gmail.com

Lighthouse – Iyke Onodugo, Press Assistant

Tel: 01273 647197 or email press@lighthouse.org.uk

BFI – Emma Hewitt, Press Officer (Corporate and Industry)

Tel: 0207 173 3256/ 07584 264 618 or email: emma.hewitt@bfi.org.uk

Notes To Editors

1. Lighthouse is a digital culture agency based in Brighton that supports, commissions and exhibits work by artists and filmmakers. Occupying an important strategic position at the intersection of the art, film and creative industry sectors, Lighthouse creates vibrant, inspirational programmes that show how important artists and filmmakers are in a changing media landscape. By supporting artists and filmmakers, through commissioning, exhibition and professional development, Lighthouse demonstrates that digital culture is about more than technology and tools; it is about ideas, emotion, learning, and aesthetics. Lighthouse shows work in their own venue in Brighton, and works in partnership with galleries, museums, festivals, and cinemas nationally and internationally. They currently have a major exhibition - *Invisible Fields* - showing at Arts Santa Monica in Barcelona.

www.lighthouse.org.uk

2. The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive. They do this by connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema; preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations; championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK; investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work; promoting British film and talent to the world; and growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

www.bfi.org.uk

3. Neon Films was founded in 2008 by producer Nicky Bentham whose producing credits include the multi-award winning *Moon* and the BAFTA nominated *Taking Liberties*. The organisation has assembled a raft of commercially viable, artistically outstanding film projects and is collaborating with some of the best new and established talent in the UK. The company focuses on highly creative ideas, delivered with a fresh perspective and is especially experienced in working with first time feature filmmakers.