



PRESS RELEASE: 10 November 2011

UK Film Directors welcome Tax Break Extension

Directors UK, the professional association for UK film and TV directors, today welcomed the Government's announcement that the film tax credit would be extended until 2015.

Iain Softley, chair of Directors UK's Film Committee, said:

"Established directors and new filmmakers alike will welcome the Government's continued commitment to supporting British film. To have the Prime Minister himself make the announcement is a pleasing indication of the Government's understanding at the highest level of both the cultural value of our industry and the contribution it makes to economic growth."

"The film tax break has enabled the UK to compete alongside other nations which offer financial incentives, allowing Britain to use its leading filmmaking expertise to be the decisive factor in bringing major productions and hundreds of millions of pounds in investment to the country. In addition, combined with BFI subsidies, it is a crucial component in the financing of independent film production in the UK."

Chief Executive Andrew Chowns said:

"(Treasury Minister) David Gauke is right to praise the UK's infrastructure and skills, but we need to ensure all those in the industry are properly incentivised to remain in the UK and contribute their full creative talent to the industry's continued success. For directors, that means making sure their copyright is protected and that they are fairly rewarded for the success of their work."

"We are contributing to the Government's film policy review in order to achieve this objective, and are hopeful that we can effect change, in a way that would not result in additional cost to the taxpayer."

- **Ends** -

Notes to Editors:

1. Directors UK proposes that the UK film tax credit, Lottery funding and any other form of public film funding should only be made available to producers on condition that the director, as joint copyright holder, is contracted on terms at least as favourable as minimum terms of trade, to be freely negotiated between Directors UK and the trade body for UK film producers. Critically, the terms would include compensation for the assignment of the director's copyright in the form of payment to the director for the exploitation of a film in the various media/markets, and rewards based upon the performance of the film in those markets.

2. DIRECTORS UK is the single voice of British screen directors representing the creative, economic and contractual interests of its 4,000 members – the overwhelming majority of working film and television directors in the UK. It campaigns for the rights, working conditions and status of directors in the industry and works closely with fellow organisations in the UK, Europe and around the world to represent directors' rights and concerns. It also promotes excellence in the craft of direction both nationally and internationally.

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