



**PRESS RELEASE:** Monday 28 November 2011

## **DIRECTORS UK – BRINGING DIRECTORS TOGETHER TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR INDUSTRY**

**Directors UK** today announces that, for the first time, it is opening its doors to not just film and television directors but to all screen directors working in any medium. It marks Directors UK's transition to becoming *the* single professional organisation supporting and campaigning on behalf of all directors in the UK. Together directors can now shout even louder for 'action'.

### **One of you – many of us**

The launch of the new Directors UK Membership Scheme aims to unite directors working in all forms of audio-visual media into an even stronger, self-supporting, creative community. Broadening its membership base from film and television to include directors working in new media, games, music videos, commercials, corporate, short films - and nurturing emerging talent in the form of student membership - means that Directors UK can speak with authority for all directors.

The new Membership Scheme offers a full range of services and a new website to provide directors with all the support they need to protect their rights, advance their skills and career, and to be part of an organisation and community which campaigns and lobbies for *all* British screen directors.

### **Championing and empowering**

The announcement today completes the transition started 3 years ago with the launch of Directors UK (June 2008). From its origins as a pure collecting society, it is now established as a professional association championing screen directors and representing their views to government and industry.

Directors UK has a recognised negotiating role with broadcasters and producers for directors' creative and commercial rights. It is also now established as a representative of creative leadership on various government and industry committees, lobbying to ensure that policymakers take account of directors' views and issues. One of its key messages is the importance of 'incentivising the creators' through protecting and rewarding copyright. Directors UK has contributed recently to the Film Policy Review, the BBC's Delivering Quality First consultation, the Hargreaves IP review and EC Consultations on State Aid for Film and Online licensing. The launch marks the emergence of Directors UK, and its members, as a real force in debating and creating policy in the industry.

**Paul Greengrass, President of Directors UK, says:** *"Directors are speaking up for creativity, quality and leadership and it's more important than ever that we do. The more directors we can bring into the community the more powerful our voice will be. Directors can make a difference. It does matter what we think about the key issues affecting our industry, and government, broadcasters and stakeholders are now listening to us and asking for our views."*

**Andrew Chowns, Chief Executive of Directors UK, says:** *"From today every UK screen director can join Directors UK and benefit from our new services and our campaigns. We can represent and speak for all audio-visual directors, from the most eminent award-winning film makers to the student director just starting their career. The true voice of directors will be heard as we make a full contribution to the future of our industry."*

- **Ends** -

## **Notes to Editors:**

- DIRECTORS UK is the professional association for British screen directors in the UK. With 4,000 current members it represents the overwhelming majority of working film and television directors in the UK. Today it opens its doors to all screen directors.
- DIRECTORS UK is both a collecting society for the distribution of secondary rights payments to directors, and the professional organisation for screen directors providing services and support to its members. It seeks to protect and enhance the creative, economic and contractual rights of directors in the UK and works closely with organisations in the UK, Europe and around the world to represent directors' rights and concerns.
- DIRECTORS UK's Board is comprised of some of the UK's most respected directing talent chaired by Chairman, Charles Sturridge (*The Road to Coronation Street, The No 1 Ladies Detective Agency*). Its President is Paul Greengrass (*United 93, The Bourne Ultimatum*) and its Chief Executive is Andrew Chowns.
- Current Board Members: Charles Sturridge, Dan Clifton, Anna Davies, Paul Elston, Coky Giedroyc, John Goldschmidt, Piers Haggard, James Hawes, Dan Reed, Beryl Richards, Tom Roberts, Iain Softley, Delyth Thomas, Paul Unwin.
- DIRECTORS UK was launched in June 2008. It was born out of a gathering of leading film and television directors concerned over the fragmentation of directors' representation. It was formerly the DPRS (the Directors and Producers Rights Society) which was initially established in 1987.

## **The New Directors UK Membership Scheme**

- Services provided to members include: a new website **www.directors.uk.com** for directors featuring full social networking functionality and a new 'Find a Director' facility; networking events; a dedicated Legal Service offering contract and other legal advice; masterclasses; training; mentoring; exclusive screenings and other events.

## **Current campaigns, policy objectives and activities**

DIRECTORS UK campaigns and lobbies on behalf of all directors on issues. Current activity includes:

- Campaigning for better protection for directors' creative rights and for fair rewards for the use of directors' copyright.
- Ensuring that the UK's creative industries encourage our creative talent to develop and be a place where high quality and innovative content production can thrive.
- Contributing ideas for the transformation of the UK film industry through the Film Policy Review.

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