

Northern Film & Media, Screen Yorkshire and Vision+Media press release

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Industry leaders heap praise on pan-Northern film partnerships

Pan-Northern talent mentoring programme Triangle has produced a slate of commercially viable features, new industry development partnerships and impressive creative collaborations, according to a panel of industry decision makers at a London pitch marking the end of the programme yesterday.

The Triangle finalists pitched a panel featuring Salt MD Sam Horley, Revolver boss Justin Marciano, Film4 Development Editor Lila Rawlings, BFI Film Fund Senior Production Executive Chris Collins and Film Consultant Sally Caplan. All four film projects will now be developed further by a range of industry partners.

The 6 month talent development partnership from Screen Yorkshire, Vision+Media and Northern Film & Media encouraged the development of pan-Northern writer/producers/director 'triangles'.

A pilot initiative funded by Skillset's Film Skills Fund as part of the UK film skills strategy *A Bigger Future 2*, Triangle provided a structured initiative designed to both encourage creative collaboration and to widen regional talent pools.

A competitive, intensive programme of creative and commercial mentoring delivered by contributors including Vertigo Films, Raindance, Salt, Britdoc and Guerilla Films, Triangle saw 4 teams selected from 75 initial participants to develop their feature ideas. The mentoring received enabled successful participants to develop and prime feature film propositions for investment.

The pitch was attended by an invited industry audience of financiers, distributors, producers, talent agents, sales agents, trade associations and press.

The Triangle finalists were:

Group 1: Steve Bowden, Chris Green, Tom Marshall, Maria Forsstrom

Group 2: Simeon Halligan, KirstyPeart, Andrew Walker

Group 3: Laura Degnan, Deanne Cunningham

Group 4: Carolyn Moat, Ed Connole, Sami Khan

Hugo Heppell, Head of Production, Screen Yorkshire and Triangle lead: "We are thrilled at the response to Triangle from both industry and participants. Triangle was a pilot pan-Northern initiative which could only have happened with the support of Skillset, and we hope it can be seen as a model for future training and development in the regions."

Agnes Wilkie, Creative Director, Northern Film & Media: "All four Triangle projects were loudly praised by the high powered industry panel for the quality of the pitch as well as the content of their taster tapes. Panellists from Film 4, sales agents Salt and distributors Revolver were particularly enthused about the psychological thriller *Unconditional* from newly formed NW-NE partnership Deanne Cunningham and Laura Degnan and *Law and Disorder*, an *In Bruges* style buddy movie from the exciting new partnership formed by the NE director Tom Marshall, producers Vita Nova Films and

Salford writer Chris Green. Northern Film & Media have confirmed they are in talks with Film 4 on how to further develop the North East talent emerging from Triangle.”

Will Massa, New Talent Development & Film Executive, Vision+Media: “From gathering over 80 filmmakers for the initial launch, through to the various stages of mentorship and development before the selection of the final four teams, Triangle has been a huge success and will leave an extremely useful legacy of improved connectivity and industry understanding for film talent across the North.”

Dan Simmons, Head of Film (Acting), Skillset: “Developing creative talent is a major priority for A Bigger Future 2 – investing in talent that will ensure the future success of the UK film industry and maintain our profile within the global industry. Triangle is an innovative example of three agencies working together to provide cross-regional opportunities that will nurture emerging talent and help strengthen the film industry’s creative voice in the North.”

Laura Degnan, Writer/Director/Triangle participant:“The workshops have given me the confidence and vision to take a radical, brave approach to filmmaking. Not only has the initiative inspired collaboration, it has also provided practical guidance on creative and commercial development.”

Sam Horley, MD, Salt: “It’s always great to be pitched projects by filmmakers who have given serious thought to the commercial as much as the creative. Triangle was a highly professional event and unusually one which could also be lucrative. There is definitely one project in there I've got my beady eye on.”

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

Northern Film & Media:

Northern Film & Media (NFM) is a creative industry development agency based in Newcastle. Our vision is to create a strong commercial creative economy in the North East by commercialising talent and ideas.

Historically we have generated £4 for every £1 of public money we have invested.

NFM provides the link between talent, experts and the market, introducing the talent to the market and introducing the market to the talent.

The independent agency invests in talented individuals and innovative companies, ensuring that creative enterprise succeeds in national, regional and international markets.

NFM takes an entrepreneurial rather than bureaucratic approach, drawing funding from a number of sources to deliver a high economic return for the North East. However, funding is only part of the picture. Because the agency is industry-led and agile, NFM uses seed investment, influence, leverage, industry expertise and partnership working to make an impact.

Northern Film & Media have become an efficient and dynamic entity for supporting creative industry development and have an industry board, including practitioners from film, television, games, web, mobile, games and music.

Vision+Media

Vision+Media works on behalf of the digital and creative industries in the North West to help grow a world-class digital and creative economy. We provide strategic leadership, help to build businesses and develop skills and talent.

Find out more at www.visionandmedia.co.uk

Follow us on twitter: [@VisionandMedia](https://twitter.com/VisionandMedia)

Subscribe to our YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NWVisionandMedia>

In 2009/10 Vision+Media invested £9.2m in the North West's digital and creative economy. £48m of inward investment was generated in the North West by production supported by our Film Office. We invested £500,000 into North West creative businesses, returning £7.5 million into the local economy. 850 individuals benefited from our Digital Media Skills Programme (DMSP) and 150 companies through training funds, placements and training

Screen Yorkshire

Screen Yorkshire is the regional screen agency responsible for inspiring, promoting and supporting a successful and sustainable film, television, games and interactive media sector in Yorkshire and Humber. Our aim is to grow the screen media industries in Yorkshire and Humber by helping businesses to compete in a fast-changing global marketplace. Screen Yorkshire offers a variety of funding and support initiatives to individuals and screen media companies based in the region. Screen Yorkshire works nationally and internationally to attract inward investment and stimulate the economic growth of the industry in the region. Since the launch of its £10.2m Digital Media Content Programme in 2006, Screen Yorkshire has attracted over £82 million inward investment to the region's economy, created 1086 jobs, supported 812 businesses and invested in the skills of 1637 individuals.

www.screenyorkshire.co.uk

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Screen-Yorkshire/247323972829>

<http://www.youtube.com/screenyorkshire>

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Skillset

Skillset is the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for Creative Media, with responsibility for 60 per cent of the UK Creative Industries. This comprises TV, film, radio, interactive media, animation, computer games, facilities, photo imaging, publishing, advertising and fashion and textiles. SSCs are licensed by the UK Government and by Ministers in the devolved administrations to tackle the skills and productivity challenges by sector. They are independent, UK-wide organisations, are employer-led, and actively involve trade unions, professional bodies and other stakeholders in the industry. www.skillset.org

A Bigger Future 2 is the second phase of 'A Bigger Future', the UK film skills strategy funded by the Skillset Film Skills Fund, which will address the five top training and education priorities for the UK Film Industry. The Skillset Film Skills Fund is supported by the National Lottery through the British Film Institute (BFI) and the film industry through the Skills Investment Fund. www.abiggerfuture2.co.uk