

FIL

18

First Light under 18s

AUTUMN 2005

Movie Magic

Films to look out for
this Autumn



FirstLight
INSPIRING YOUNG FILM



UK FILM | COUNCIL
LOTTERY FUNDED



WE WANT TO KNOW...

YOUR NAME: Dionne South

YOUR AGE: 21

THE TOWN OR CITY YOU LIVE IN:
Bristol

THE NAME OF YOUR FIRST LIGHT
MOVIE:

In 2002 I worked on two; *Punk As...*
and *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs*.

YOUR JOB ON THE FIRST LIGHT
MOVIE:

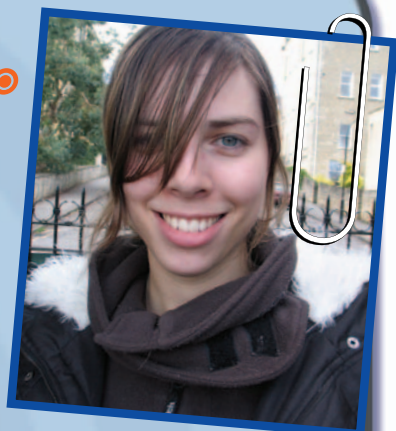
On the first film my role varied quite a lot, from running to camera-work and some editing. I think I made a good impression though because I worked as assistant producer for the second film.

YOUR NEXT STEP:

After working on the two First Light projects, I knew I wanted to learn more about film. I started a degree in Film & Video Production, graduating recently with a 2:1.

ANY POSITIVE OUTCOMES:

During my degree I realised sound design was what I was really interested in. I specialised in it for three years, and now I am particularly keen to design audio for animations and/or video games.



WHAT NOW:

Having graduated, I'm now in regular contact with Suited and Booted, the company that originally got me involved with First Light. I help them as much as I can whilst also looking for more and more experience working with sound.

ADVICE TO FIRST LIGHT
FILMMAKERS:

I know it's a cliché, but stick with it. A lot of times I thought about just giving up, but I'm so glad I didn't. Right now I'm on the set of a short horror film, doing what I've always wanted to do – it's brilliant!

"After working on the two First Light projects, I knew I wanted to learn more about film..."

win

It's been a while, but the FL<18 competition is back. For your chance to win an amazing prize (previous winners have won tickets to advance screenings of *The Incredibles* and a trip to our First

Light Film Awards ceremony to schmooze with the celebs), simply answer this question:

Wallace and Gromit first came to our screens in:

- a) A Particularly Pleasant Trip
- b) A Grand Day Out
- c) An Overall Exciting Excursion

Answers (with name, age and contact details) to: Competition, First Light, Progress Works, Heath Mill Lane, Birmingham, B9 4AL, or e-mail competition@firstlightmovies.com. Closing date: 14th October 2005. Under 18s only! Please note: winning entries will be chosen at random. Prizes are to be confirmed, so time off from work/school may need to be arranged in advance. Any travel costs will be negotiated. Relatives of any First Light, UK Film Council or Hi8us Projects employees are exempt from entering into this competition.

MOVIE TRIVIA

all the gossip



Lord of the Rings star Elijah Wood hung up his Hobbit's feet only to replace them with, well, flippers. The pint-sized megastar is set to be the voice (almost) of Mumbles the penguin in *Happy Feet*. The musical animation will take you into the world of singing penguins, but poor Mumbles is no Pavarotti. He can, however, tap dance like Billy Elliot with a beak! Look out Pingu, there's a new penguin in town...

M. Night Shyamalan has announced his latest feature film. True to form, the man that brought you *The Sixth Sense* and *The Village* will yet again bring you a surreal and bizarre movie with another unexpected twist. This time, the landlord of a block of apartments discovers a sea nymph in the building's swimming pool. Sounds like she was having a whale of a time!

Film production company Paramount has announced plans to take those little blue Belgians, *The Smurfs*, to the big screen. Originating in the late 1950s, the mushroom-dwelling, age-old beasties will bring Smurfism to the masses once more in 2008. Little to no details of the production are known as yet, except that it will be an animation. Well it would have to be – what actor could you put in a pair of white pants and paint blue?

HOLLYWORD!

BUZZ WORDS IN THE WORLD OF FILM



FILM NOIR

Literally meaning "Black film" in French, it is a cinematic style principally associated with early crime films. It is utilised by directors who wish to portray a dark and desperate outlook on life.

FOCUS PULLER

Also known as 1st Assistant Camera (1AC). It is widely regarded as the most technically difficult job on a production. The 1AC is responsible for focusing the camera on the main action, without looking through the viewfinder! They use a device called a *follow focus*.

RECCE

When the director, and perhaps the producer or cinematographer travel to cities or countries to look for places to shoot. Not a bad job if you're making a film about a tropical island!

CLAPPER LOADER

Also known as 2nd Assistant Camera (2AC). A *clapper loader* is responsible for operating the *clapper board* at the beginning of each take. They also look after loading the raw film into the camera magazines.

Taking Your Second Steps...

So, in our last edition (yes, it's been a while) we looked into how your favourite film stars got their first big break. But what if acting isn't for you? What if directing doesn't float your boat? What other options are there for the next generation of filmmakers? Well, First Light has researched into other career opportunities in the wonderful world of showbiz...

Firstly, know the facts: currently, across the UK there are around 45,000 people studying media related courses. On top of that, it's thought that there may be up to 400,000 people already

working in the industry, and over half of them work in London! That's some stiff competition you're up against, but don't let these figures scare you – there's always room for improvement.

Choosing a course

If you are thinking of taking the education route, thoroughly consider what course you want to take. Almost all colleges now offer some form of media training; that means there are a lot of options out there, but will a course in media studies help you find a job as a lighting technician? Similarly, will film studies help you learn the ins and outs of film financing?

Choosing a job

For those that have studied and are now looking for that first job, remember that regardless of qualifications, you'll probably start at the bottom. Making the tea may be dull, but it could be handy one day to know how many sugars Johnny Depp takes!

There are organisations all over the UK, specifically designed to encourage and aid young people in the pursuit of their dream job. Find out about more career options and who can help you realise your dream at www.firstlightmovies.com/Careers.php

Your Thoughts on Your Awards...

In February, the stars came out to celebrate the third annual First Light Film Awards. But who would you like to rub shoulders with next year?

With First Light's finest films of 2003/4 being judged by the likes of Jude Law (*Alfie*) and the awards presented on the day by stars such as Sir Ian McKellen (*Lord of the Rings* trilogy) we thought we'd take to the streets and see just who you look up to. Whose work do you admire? Who would you like to see on First Light's red carpet?

When we planned for last year's ceremony, people suggested the obvious: Steven Spielberg, Tom Cruise, and less obviously, J-Lo - she's not exactly praised for her acting you know!

However, once we got past them, the UK's five to 18 year olds had some quite unexpected suggestions. British stars such as Kate Winslet, Samantha Morton and Gary Oldman rated highly on the list. Higher in fact than Al Pacino and Eminem (yes, someone did suggest him).

OK, that's a good start, but we need to know more! Preparations for the 2006 ceremony have just begun. First Light wants to hear from you. Send your comments to info@firstlightmovies.com



Sir Ian McKellen

Autumn Amusements...

Ah, autumn – the prettiest of all seasons. The leaves are turning shades of red and yellow, there's a chill in the air and the cinemas are positively bubbling over with movie-magic.

Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit

That's right; October will see the long awaited feature-length arrival of your favourite dynamic duo. With days to go until a giant vegetable competition, the pest-controlling pair find themselves pitted against the only creature capable of halting the festival – the mysterious and somewhat hungry Were-Rabbit!

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

This, the fourth HP instalment in just five years, sees Daniel Radcliffe reprise his role as the spectacle wearing wizard. Undoubtedly, you've all read the book, but just in case, you can be sure to expect more broom-riding Quidditch, more terrifying Voldemort and of course more teenage angst, as our star begins to fall in luuuuurve.

The Legend of Zorro

So, many years have passed since Zorro first swashbuckled his way onto our screens. He now has a happy family and in his daily life feels little need to don his mask, hat and cape. That is of course, until the forces of evil (or at least an ill-tempered man with a bad moustache and poncho) threaten the future of California, and the Wild West's most revered swordsman must swing back into action!



Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit



Maria and Alison's PRODUCTION REPORT



It's hard to get started as a film director. As always there are the exceptions: Quentin Tarantino's first feature effort, *Reservoir Dogs*, was instantly dubbed a cult classic; Sam Mendes received FIVE Oscars for his silver screen debut *American Beauty* (not bad Sam) and of course thrice-Oscar nominated *Billy Elliot* was director Stephen Daldry's first feature film, after a hugely successful theatre career. Perhaps Maria is not too far behind herself...

Manchester's Cornerhouse was shooting *Tea Leaf*; an *Amelie*-esque short, focusing on the daydreams of a bored waitress. The 12-strong crew rotated roles for each scene. First Light caught up with them when Maria, 16, was at the helm.

"I've always wanted to do directing," she explained, "but I never really knew what it would involve." This, she said, as her crew ran around following her orders – not bad for someone who'd been directing for, ooh, ten minutes by then!

"The crew make my job so much easier though," Maria continued. "*Tea Leaf* has been a real team effort." Team effort indeed we discovered, as we talked to make-up artist Alison. "Well I guess I was the waitress that this film is about," 18-year-old Alison began. "Day-in and day-out I served a dotty old lady gallons of tea – I'm sure she couldn't have drank it all! [Perhaps you just made good tea? Ed.]

"Once the original idea was in place, everyone had their own opportunities to suggest characters and scenarios until we settled with the final script."

And what a script it is. As the day came to an end we'd witnessed a woman waltzing with a tea-cup, the old drunk obsessed with her and a businessman in a dog's kennel. On just these two scenes alone it looks set to be a real First Light classic.