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FirstLight
INSPIRING YOUNG FILM

AUTUMN 2005

For adults working
with young filmmakers

FIRST LIGHT MAKES A BIG SPLASH

'Big Screen Science'
Concludes



UK FILM COUNCIL
LOTTERY FUNDED



PIP'S POSTING



Autumn brings in lots of changes at First Light. We say goodbye to Gabriel, our Press and Communications Manager, who is leaving to work in a NHS trust. We say hello to Yen Yau, our new Strategic Partnerships Manager, who will be developing more partners and

projects to extend First Light's reach.

We also say goodbye to one of our board members, Sally Hibbin, who was one of the founders behind First Light and hello to Lynne Connolly from the BBC, who joins the First Light Board in Sally's place. Good luck to Gabriel, Lynne, Sally and Yen.

First Light films have had a busy time at festivals this year. One project, *Special People*, will have featured at both the Edinburgh and London Film Festivals.

The 'Big Screen Science' project is almost complete, with all six films being screened during September and October. We have a mix of films across the genres, highlights being an animated *Jerry Springer*-esque film about xenotransplantation called *Pork Snatchings* (featuring Perry Pigger as the main character) and a documentary analysing the debate about stem cell therapy through the eyes of a former pupil, left paralysed after a rugby accident.

The website that First Light has been developing for six to nine year olds is now into the construction phase with some really exciting content and will launch in the new year.

Don't forget the next funding deadline is 24 January 2006!

www.firstlightmovies.com 0121 693 2091

Primary Film Online

'Primary Film Online,' First Light's partnership project funded by Culture Online, is well into its second phase of activity with the major launch of the website due in early 2006.

The website is designed to delight six to nine year olds and spark their interest in film.

A cluster of organisations has been brought together to bring the inspirational website to life. The project partners are the UK Film Council, British Film Institute, CBBC interactive and Creative Partnerships. Atticmedia, a new-media production company, is developing the resource while user testing is being carried out by market research agency ChildWise.

'Primary Film Online' will encourage children to take part in a series of interactive activities and will provide the opportunity to watch a range of films and clips. Children will also make their own films online.

The early designs of the website look bright, colourful and packed with fun imagery, while the research is providing a fascinating insight into young people's thoughts on film production and media generally.

For example, one child queried, "How did they get dinosaur noises like in *Jurassic Park* [for the film soundtrack], because dinosaurs are dead?"

And another boy's answer? "They probably recorded it when dinosaurs were still alive and kept it!"

For more information on 'Primary Film Online,' go to www.firstlightmovies.com/PrimaryFilmOnline.php

Big Screen Science



series of premiere screenings will celebrate 'Big Screen Science,' the partnership project between First Light, the Wellcome Trust and the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA).

Schools in Barrhead, Belfast, Manchester, Penarth, Plymouth and Yateley will see their films shown on the big screen at science museums across the UK. The schools had submitted the best film ideas based on a biomedical science theme to First Light and won the chance to create a £7,000 film with the support of a filmmaker and scientist.

The films include tales of pigs discussing the positive and negative aspects of xenotransplantation (the transplantation of organs from one species to another), the difficulties of romance following face transplant surgery and dilemmas surrounding stem cell research.

Pip Eldridge, Chief Executive Officer of First Light said, "Big Screen Science has been such a worthwhile project, its success can't simply be measured by the finished films alone. The 'Info-Labs' and workshops were fabulous events, clearly demonstrating how filmmaking can be beneficial in teaching complex biomedical science topics.

"The filmmaking process itself has proved hugely engaging for the schoolchildren, teachers and even the filmmakers and scientists too. The evaluation process for this project has been comprehensive and well supported by the schools. There has also been an excellent resource book to accompany the project, providing an insight into the filmmaking process and the strong links to the curriculum."

The screening dates are:

Friday 30th September, MANCHESTER
4.30pm – 6.30pm

Lecture Theatre B, Simon Building,
Science Learning Centre North West,
Manchester Metropolitan University,
Institute of Education, 799 Wilmslow
Road, Didsbury M20 2RR

Tuesday 4th October, CARDIFF
4.30pm – 6.30pm

(Option to arrive at 4pm and see the
exhibition) Techniquest, Stuart Street,
Cardiff CF10 5BW

Friday 7th October, GLASGOW
4pm – 6pm

Science Show Lecture Theatre,
Glasgow Science Centre, 50 Pacific Quay,
Glasgow G51 1EA

Wednesday 12th October, PLYMOUTH
4pm – 6pm

Portland Square Lecture Theatre,
(A Block Atrium), University of
Plymouth, North Hill, Plymouth PL4 8AA

Friday 14th October, LONDON
4.30pm – 6.30pm

Science Museum, Exhibition Road,
South Kensington, London SW7 2DD

Wednesday 19th October, BELFAST
4pm – 6pm

Lecture Theatre Level 4/5,
(Atrium level 2) W5, 2 Queen's Quay,
Abercorn Basin, Belfast BT3 QQ

For more information about the
screenings or the resource book, please
e-mail science@firstlightmovies.com

NEXT FUNDING DEADLINE: JANUARY 24TH 2006

Don't worry if you've just missed the September deadline for applying for First Light funding! Log onto www.firstlightmovies.com, download an application form and get applying. The next generation of filmmaking talent is relying on you!

Gabriel Leaves First Light

The First Light team has said goodbye to Gabriel, the Press and Communications Manager since 2002.

He leaves the world of film to take up a communications role at a NHS Primary Care Trust in the West Midlands.

Gabriel said, "I'd like to thank everyone who has helped make my time at First Light the most enjoyable I've ever spent at work. That includes the First Light team itself, which has been a brilliant group of people to work with."

"It's a real shame to be leaving First Light, especially as the initiative is about to enter its most exciting phase ever. It's also going to be peculiar not being involved in the exciting build up to the First Light Film Awards. Hopefully the team will send me an invitation for the ceremony itself."

Over the next month or so, if you have any queries about PR relating to First Light projects, or you have ideas or content for the newsletter, please contact Sam: sam@firstlightmovies.com

Lynne Bolsters Board As Sally Says So Long

Sally Hibbin has left the First Light Board after over four years of sterling support. Sally, producer at Parallax Pictures, was one of the founding members of the First Light initiative.

In Sally's place, Lynne Connolly has become the latest member of the board. Lynne, like Sally, is a board member for Hi8us Projects Ltd, the organisation that launched First Light.

Lynne is currently working on a special project, which is implementing a large amount of business change across the television division of the BBC. Prior to this, she has worked largely in business affairs, in roles ranging from overseeing the entire drama slate across BBC television, to managing the relationship between BBC drama and BBC resources. That particular role involved the negotiation of the annual resource budget for *Eastenders*, *Casualty* and all other BBC dramas.

Lynne said on her appointment, "I am really thrilled to be joining the First Light Board at this exciting time and hope that I can make a valuable contribution to the future, even greater, success of the organisation."

Pip Eldridge, First Light's Chief Executive Officer, said, "Although we are sad to lose someone with Sally's considerable experience from the First Light Board, we are lucky to be able to call on Lynne as a new member. Her extensive broadcast experience will make her an influential contributor to the future of First Light."

Yen Yau Joins First Light

First Light welcomes a new addition to the team with the appointment of Yen Yau. Yen takes on the new role of Strategic Partnerships Manager, working closely with the Chief Executive Officer to implement and sustain strategic relationships with partners across the UK and beyond.

Yen, with Leigh Thomas (First Light's Project Manager), is developing a host of new First Light strands in partnership with external organisations. She'll also use her experience to work alongside the Hi8us network.

Yen's role will see her working towards widening opportunities for young people after they have made their First Light film and implementing international partnerships. Prior to taking up her

new post, Yen was the Professional Development Manager of national charity Arts & Business, working out of the West Midlands office. She was also the Deputy Director of the Birmingham Film & TV Festival and freelanced for organisations such as Rushes Soho Shorts Film Festival and Big Brum Theatre in Education.

Yen said, "I am absolutely delighted to be taking up this new post at such an exciting organisation. I look forward to playing an active role in the delivery of new partnerships."

"It's going to be a challenging role, but it will be one that I relish."

Pip Eldridge, First Light's Chief Executive Officer added, "It's fantastic to have Yen on board and I'm sure she'll turn out to be an excellent appointment. Her experience lends itself well to the new role of Strategic Partnerships Manager, a role that will help the First Light initiative reach even greater heights."

Get in touch with Yen by e-mailing yen@firstlightmovies.com



Yen Yau

SCREENINGS

First Light productions have entertained the masses across the UK during the summer. *Special People* has been a particularly popular film. The short, made by young people from Hereford Kielder centre (co-ordinated by Birmingham-based 104 Films), was shown during the Edinburgh Film Festival and will also feature during the London Film Festival.

Special People wasn't the only film to secure a high-profile screening north of the border. *Sticks and Stones*, which was co-ordinated by Community Arts Workshop in Leamington Spa, was shown to protestors at Gleneagles outside the G8 summit! This was after it had picked up the prestigious UNICEF UK Youth Award at Sheffield's Showcomotion festival.

There will also be a number of First Light films shown during October's Co-Op Young Filmmakers Festival in Bradford. These include Coombeshead College's *Talisman*, Exeter Phoenix's *Tim's Big Adventure* and Haltwhistle Film Project's *The Gem*.

To find out what other First Light films are being screened, please check out the website at <http://www.firstlightmovies.com/FirstLightScreenings.php>



Rebecca's

PRODUCTION REPORT



Once the soundman returned from hospital with a glass-free foot, things on the set of Cornerhouse's latest production, *Tea Leaf*, settled back to normal.

Youth Projects Officer, Rebecca, could have been having a great time sitting on a garden bench in the sunshine. However, five feet away the cast and crew were hard at work shooting the second scene of the day, while Rebecca took phone calls with one hand and rifled through folders and papers with the other.

"The crew have worked so well together. None of them knew each other prior to this film; it's been really rewarding to watch them develop into a strong team."

The film is one of four being produced by Cornerhouse, all of which Rebecca is responsible for co-ordinating. "All the young people involved had to apply to get onto the production. By running things this way you know that everybody wants to be here - they're all putting in 100 percent."

That is more than self-evident. The crew work passionately, each taking their role very seriously, ensuring that all work is done perfectly.

"The film started off as one girl's idea," she continued "but through a series of preliminary workshops on scripting and storyboarding, we finally put the whole production together.

"There's not one of them that hasn't expressed a strong desire to continue to work in film. It's been such a positive experience for them all."

As the cast and crew came to the end of their day, Rebecca squeezed in a five minute coffee break before returning to the office to run an evening training course. It's clear that the staff at Cornerhouse take great care and pride in the work they do and the young people it benefits.