

# The British Film Designers Guild Promoting BRITISH TALENT

January 2014

# Welcome to a world through Glass.

Google Glass is a wearable computer with an optical head-mounted display (OHMD) that is being developed by Google in the Project Glass research and development project, with a mission of producing a massmarket ubiquitous computer. Google Glass displays information in a smartphone-like hands-free format, that can communicate with the Internet via natural language voice commands.

While the frames do not currently have lenses fitted to them, Google is considering partnerships with sunglass retailers such as Ray-Ban or Warby Parker, and may also open retail stores to allow customers to try on the device. The Explorer Edition cannot be used by people who wear prescription glasses, but Google has confirmed that Glass will eventually work with frames and lenses that match the wearer's prescription; the glasses will be modular and therefore possibly attachable to normal prescription glasses.





Glass is being developed by Google X, which has worked on other futuristic technologies such as driverless cars.

The project was announced on Google+ by Project Glass lead Babak Parviz, an electrical engineer who has also worked on putting displays into contact lenses; Steve Lee, a product manager and "geolocation specialist"; and Sebastian Thrun, who developed Udacity as well

as worked on the autonomous car project. Google has patented the design of Project Glass. Thad Starner, an augmented reality expert, is a technical lead/manager on the project.



# VFX crew plan to protest outside Oscars...

Visual effects artists to march on Oscar night ceremony in protest at non-us subsidies they say are wrecking their industry

- Oscars protest by visual effects artists over Life of Pi
- Ang Lee under fire from visual effects artists over Life of Pi speech

Influential members of the visual effects (VFX) artists community say they are planning another protest to coincide with the Oscar ceremony on 2 March.

This follows a 400-strong demonstration against the industry's treatment of VFX artists last year.

According to the Wrap, Daniel Lay, author of the VFX Soldier blog, is among those planning the new protest, which is being termed March.

According to their Facebook page, their aim is to "bring awareness and show support for our effort to levy duties against VFX subsidies".

Last year the VFX community focussed its attention on Life of Pi, as the company that supplied its visual effects...

- Andrew Pulver (Guardian correspondant)

click to read full article at Guardian.com

# Death of film: Paramount first studio to stop distributing film prints

Paramount Pictures is set to become the first movie studio to stop distributing its movies via physical film, choosing only to distribute via digital form, signaling the end of an era in the film industry.

Though the studio hasn't made any official announcements, the Los Angeles Times is reporting that Paramount will be the first major Hollywood movie studio to phase out the traditional 35-millimeter film for its theatrical releases.

- Published January 20, 2014 news.com.au

Click to read Fox News full article Read the story in the LA Times.. click here

## Government Response: Support for the Creative Economy

**Commons** Select Committee



20 January 2014

The Culture, Media and Sport Committee has published the Government Response to its report on Supporting the creative economy as its Third Special Report of Session 2013–14, (HC 945). This Special Report can be found on the Committee's website.

Commenting on the Government's response, Chair of the Committee John Whittingdale MP said:

"The Committee is very disappointed with the Government's response which, while full of warm words, fails to act on any of our key recommendations. Given its inadequacy, the Committee has asked for a full three hour debate on the Report which will take place in Westminster Hall at 1.30pm on 13th February 2014"

Link to Parliment UK... where you can follow other sections

Pinewood expansion Continues...

An extract from the Planning Inspectorate as of 08 Jan 2014

Application ref – **APP/N0410/A/13/2199037** 

PLANNING AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACT 2004 SECTION 55 AND SCHEDULE 2 Appeal by Pinewood Studios Ltd Site at Land at and adjacent to Pinewood Studios, Pinewood Road, Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire, SLO ONH

Following the closure of the inquiry, the Inspector is now preparing his report and recommendation(s) for submission to the Secretary of State for his consideration.

In accordance with Schedule 2 to the above Act, I am writing to let you know that the Secretary of State will issue his decision(s) on or before 14 July 2014.



Every year, The Celluloid Ceiling tracks the employment of women working as directors, writers, producers, cinematographers, and editors on the top grossing films. Another annual study, Boxed In, follows the employment of behind-the-scenes women in prime-time television. A new study, Independent Women, regularly monitors women's behind-the-scenes employment on films appearing at high-profile film festivals in the U.S.

Women comprised 16% of all directors, executive producers, producers, writers, cinematographers, and editors working on the top 250 (domestic) grossing films of 2013. This figure represents a decrease of two percentage points from 2012. In 2013, women accounted for 6% of (U.S.) directors. If foreign films in the top 250 are

included, this figure increases to 8%. In other roles, women comprised 10% of writers, 15% of executive producers, 25% of producers, 17% of editors, and 3% of cinematographers.

Click to read their 2013 report and to view full site

'I feel the BFDG does not reflect this bias  $!^\prime \dots$  Su Whitaker

## Got a website? Advertise it ...

ALAN SPALDING <u>www.spalding.com</u>



## TIM DUTTON <u>www.thedutton.com</u>



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## Done something you're proud of ...

**John West**...The first feature that I Art Directed "Pulp" won the jury prize at the Las Vegas International Film Festival in 2012.

"Before I Go To Sleep" on which I Art Directed was recommended by The Guardian, "If you're in the market for a refined, British riff on Christopher Nolan's Memento, Before I Go to Sleep may just fit the bill.

Adapted from the 2011 bestseller by SJ Watson, this stars Nicole Kidman as Christine, a forty-something amnesiac desperately attempting to piece together the jigsaw of her life with the help of Mark Strong's shadowy doctor.



Director Rowan Joffe is our guide through the tale's dark pockets, while the supporting cast finds room for Colin Firth and Anne-Marie Duff. Spring 2014".

"Dementamania" the previous film that I Art Directed, is due for UK release in August according to the IMDb.

# Introducing **new** Members & graduating students & **Friends** of the Guild...

If you are new to the Guild or Industry please send in some background, get some publicity.

This is an open invitation to new members and associated NFTS & FDI graduating students...



BFDG are proud to work alongside...





TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SUPPLIERS OF MARKET LEADING OFFICE EQUIPMENT, SOFTWARE AND END-TO-END DOCUMENT CONTROL SYSTEMS

Supporting Macmillan & Pilgrims Hospices through 2013



The sharp and smartly dress chap is our very own Michael Smoker (clue – yellow tie)

Walter Geering established Geerings in 1903. Today this family-run company has grown into a modern, thriving business, celebrating its 110th year.

From humble beginnings trading out of a small shed in Ashford town centre, Geerings of Ashford has flourished and today serves a diverse range of businesses across a variety of sectors throughout the UK and overseas.

"to survive in this tough economic climate a business needs to be financially fit, listen to what its market needs and deliver its service to the highest standards. We have an excellent team here at Geerings and I am proud to be able to build on what the company has already achieved."

## The Guilds of Guilds ... BFDG are within and support the CineGuilds of Great Britain

The Cine Guilds of Great Britain was set up in the early 1990s as a forum in which the crafts of the film industry could meet to discuss matters affecting themselves and the industry generally. It brings together major craft guilds of the British Film Industry, thereby representing in excess of 1500 senior practitioners.

CineGuilds announces that Michael O'Sullivan has agreed to take over as chair, here is his message...

## Proposals for the relaunch of CineGuilds GB

Following discussions at a meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December at Pinewood it was agreed that Michael O'Sullivan (Chairman) and Sally Fisher (Secretary) would draft proposals for activities and funding for CGGB to be considered by the Craft Guilds as soon as possible.

Rather than submit an undefined budget, we propose to include details of costs for each project considered with details of that project; thus the Cine Guilds Budget will only cover the costs of maintaining the organisation itself, including the three websites for Cine Guilds, Cine Masters and Movie Crew. All other expenditure required will be detailed on a project-by-project basis, thus allowing the CGGB to go out for sponsorship or grant funding for specific projects.

## Areas of Activity for CGGB

It is proposed that the CGGB will be active in areas requiring inter-guild co-operation or representation; as an organisation representing all the major crafts involved in the technical and creative areas of making films and high-end television drama the CGGB can provide better representation for the industry than any one guild alone.

It is envisaged that the two principal areas of activity for Cine Guilds will be in lobbying and training.

## Lobbying:

This will involve representing the Guilds at events targeted at the Film Industry sponsored by the Department for Culture Media and sport, as well as direct discussions with officials and ministers in DCMS and the UK Border Agency and its successor organisation in connection with Managed Migration. Michael O'Sullivan will undertake these meetings, with information and research support from the Secretary.

## **Training:**

Creative Skillset has recently received a large tranche of money ( $\pounds 16m$ ) to fund film industry training between now and March 2015 – a period of fifteen months. This money will be paid to training providers who run courses rather than to individuals as bursaries. Various Guilds have existing training relationships with Skillset. It is therefore proposed that Cine Guilds will become involved in training involving more than one department, such as a suggested short course on the technical side of making movies for Probationary Stunt Performers, or an interdisciplinary masterclass explaining the work of departments NOT taught in Film Schools, such as Script Supervisors, Location Managing, Stunts and Hair/Makeup alongside Production Design, Camera, Sound and Editing. (sample details attached)



Cine Guilds can also act as liaison with Skillset on general matters such as problems with the process of applying for funds or completing funding applications, like the actual design of the application process. For example some recent applications could only be made online and there was no provision for a copy of the final application to be provided to the applicant! (There was a way round this, but it was tedious and definitely not obvious!)

We are already planning to approach Skillset with a view to asking them to actively promote the CineMasters scheme on their website and to underwrite the fees payable to CineMasters for talks, masterclasses or mentoring at colleges providing Skillset approved ("ticked") courses in the period covered by this funding.

We estimate that this would cost Skillset between £25,000 and £30,000 at most, with the majority of it being paid to the individual Guild members involved, and CGGB taking a 10% fee for organising the bookings. This would require very little input from Cine Guilds to initiate, updating the lists of available CineMasters can be done very quickly and at minimal cost. Cine Guilds Management:

Most of the work involved in organising attending and minuting meetings for the CGGB Guild Representative Committee can be done very quickly and easily using email and telephone – possibly 1-1.5 days in total every 3-4 months maximum. Thus, if an average of one day per month is budgeted for, this allows the equivalent of 6-8 days for secretarial support for the Chairman's lobbying work.

There is also a closed and unlisted discussion group already set up at Yahoo Groups which can be used for confidential discussion among the members of the Committee both between meetings for urgent matters, and prior to actual meetings for members who are unable to actually attend due to work commitments.

Since the Secretary is a fully-fledged freelance worker, operating from her home office, most general office costs are subsumed into her accounts and covered by her daily rate charge. This means that only her time and actual "hard" costs remain to be paid. These "hard costs" are:

- Website Hosting and Management/Updating
- (eg when a Guild website has been updated and links need to be amended)
- Telephone Costs contribution to rental and call costs
- for a separate landline shared with the other Film Organisations eg GBFTE and SACG
- Secretary's Travel expenses to meetings and events.

Which gives a budget for keeping the CGGB running per year – excluding specific project costs – of:

Secretarial Time – 12 days @135 per day	£1,620.00
Website Hosting	£ 165.00
Website Management – 2x <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> days @ £180 per day	£ 180.00
Telephone Rental Costs	£ 135.00
Travel Costs for Meetings	£ 200.00
Total	£2,300.00

The CGGB is already in receipt of approximately £700 per year from advertising fees for "buttons" on the links page of the Movie Crew website. Any additional suggestions from Guilds for organisations to contact would be welcome (The charge is £50 per annum). The more varied the companies listed on this page the more useful the page will be to incoming productions, and the more likely they will be to recommend it.

At present, therefore, the costs for maintaining the websites and the costs for arranging one or two meetings a year are being covered by this income from button links.

We propose that the balance of the basic costs should be covered by a nominal subvention from the Guilds concerned and money raised by straightforward fundraising events such as that proposed by Sandra Exelby of NASMAH last year. (details attached)

The London Film School has expressed initial interest in hosting one of these "Chance to Meet" events at the end of March. This would be smaller than the event originally proposed – with space for about 70-80 student/recent graduate attendees rather than 120-150. On the other hand, the venue is in Covent Garden, and therefore easy to get to and attractive for students, and free, with sensible film equipment on hand as well.

#### Such an event could raise up to £1,000 (after paying speakers' fees).

We would therefore suggest that the subvention from participating should be of the order of  $\pm 100-\pm 150$  for most guilds, and  $\pm 50-\pm 75$  for the smallest guilds, with less than 60 paying members.

Should you have views on this statement please let us know.





THIS SCHEME IS SUPPORTED BY CREATIVE SKILLSET'S FILM SKILLS FUND, WHICH IS FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL LOTTERY VIA THE BRI, AND THROUGH THE SKILLS INVESTMENT FUND (SIF) **Screen South** is working in partnership with Greenshoot and Creative Skillset to deliver a groundbreaking new training programme 'Green Runner' for entry level production runners & production technicians with 1 year's experience. Please see flyer for further information on the second intake for the Green Runner Training programme.

This scheme is supported by Creative Skillset's Film Skills Fund, which is funded by the National Lottery via the BFI, and through the Skills Investment Fund (SIF).

Screen South The Wedge 75 - 81 Tontine Street Folkestone Kent CT20 1 JR

Tel: 01303 259777 Fax: 01303 259786

www.screensouth.org www.accentuateuk.org www.uscreen.co.uk



## Film negotiations continue

Negotiations between Pact and BECTU that are intended to reach a new feature film agreement continue in January and February 2014. At the end of 2013, both parties agreed to continue negotiations with the

assistance of ACAS (Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service).

Pact wishes to make it clear to its film members that it is committed to reaching an agreement that is in the best interests of its membership, good industrial relations and the film industry.

Agreement - John McVay, Chief Executive at Pact, said: "I remain positive that agreement can be reached, but it is important that Pact members are fully aware that we are doing all we can to ensure an outcome that is workable for the industry - from the very low budget to major budget, theatrical productions.

"Previously we had negotiated on members' behalf for two years, culminating in what we believed was an attractive offer that addressed the union's concerns. We have not been told the details as to why that original offer was rejected and no counter offer has been received. This is why we are now continuing negotiations with BECTU via ACAS."

- See more at Click to read further Click to read full article on PACT site

Thank you to John west for highlighting the latest developments







**for work...** Contact the office for the latest availabilities or check our facebook weekly membership updates.

## **UK BASED**

Adam Faux—ADA **Amy Grewcock - AGD** Chris Piggot—ADA Claudia Parker—SD Dale Jordan Johnson-GD /AAD-avail for Feb **Danny Rogers - GD/AD** David Wood—D Keith Seymour—A / CA Keith Weir— SA Kim Foster Dillon—CD Marcia Doyle - A/ADA Rebecca White—D/AAD Rose Konstam - A / ASD Solomon Honey—A /ADA **Stephen Morahan - AD** Su Whitaker - AD Terry Jones—PB/SD— avail from March

Some enquiries the Guild has received have asked us not to publish information but would like to know available crew. So please keep us informed as this happens fairly frequently but we always respect privacy. Provisional list; intended for Supervising Art Directors and general notifications.

For Production Designer availability contact the office. Like most members of the British Film Industry, we are open to offers !



## **NEW MEMBERS...**

May we welcome the following new members who have joined the Guild recently? We hope your time with us will be a long and rewarding one:

## We have 5 new applications pending the next meeting of the committee on Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Feb

All members are welcome to add to the newsletter, indeed encouraged. If you're been 'out of loop' in recent months / years or now want to open up to a larger audience, just send in your website details, a line / paragraph or monologue about yourself. Images that we can use are great – we will happily give links and credits. Although we are cautious of copyright issues of course – the usual.Come on, tell us about yourself!

## **PRODUCTION NEWS & RUMOUR MILL**

## UK In Production

Secret Service / Fox / UK / Dir Matthew Vaughan / PD Paul Kirby / SAD Andrew Thompson Penny Dreadful / Northern Ireland / SAD Adam O'Neill Queen and Country / UK / PD Anthony Pratt Paddington Bear (re-shoot & one week shoot to complete / PD Gary Williamson

## International in Production

Everest / UK / PD Gary Freeman Interstellar / USA / Warners / Dir Chris Nolan / PD Nathan Crowley Susan Cooper / Europe / Str Jason Statham Ant-Man / Marvel / Dir Edgar Wright / PD Marcus Rowland Bourne untitled Jason Bourne Sequel / UK / Dir Justin Lin Superman vs Batman / Dir Zack Synder

## **Pre-Production**

Star Wars Ep 7 aka AVCO / Pinewood / Disney / PD Rick Carter & Darren Gilford / SAD Neil Lamont
Avengers: Age of Ultron 'aka After-Party' UK / Marvel / PD Charles Woods / SAD Ray Chan
Mission Impossible 5 / Leavesden & europe / UPM Chris Brock / Leavesden schedule prep start Jan 2014
Tarzan / Leavesden / PD Stuart Craig
Babylon / UK / Dir Danny Boyle / PD Mark Tildesley ?
Peter Pan in Scarlet / Warners / Leavesden
Bond 24 Skyfall sequel / UK / Dir Sam Mendes / PD Dennis Gassner
Spooks (feature) / Pinewood / Pd Simon Bowles / SAD Andrew Munro

## Penciled in Productions

Agent Carter / Marvel Prometheus 2 / UK Spectral / Europe / Dir Sergei Bodgov

## Post Production

Fury / Pinewood / Dir David Ayer / PD Andrew Menzies / SAD Peter Russell
Into the Woods (musical) / Shepperton / Dir Rob Marshall / PD Dennis Gassner / SAD Chris Lowe
Fortitude / PD Gemma Jackson / SAD Lynne Huitson
Woman in Black 2 / UK / Str Daniel Radcliffe
Child 44 / Budapest / Prod Ridley Scott / PD Jan Reolfs
Game of thrones / HBO / Belfast & Croatia / PD Deb Rilley
Survivor / Pinewood

Distant Production Alice in Wonderland 2 / UK / Dir Tim Burton / Str Johnny Depp Big Eyes / USA / Weinstein / Dir Tim Burton shoots Aug 2013 Finding Dory / Pixar The Good Dinosaur / Pixar Slow West / NZ / Str Micheal Fassbender Tomorrowland / Canada / Disney Str George Clooney Taken 3 / Str Liam Neeson Fargo tv series / FX Channel / Prod Coen Brothers / Str Billy Bob Thornton Blade Runner 2 / Wtr Micheal Green Everest (working Title) / Tom Hardy Jungle Book / Disney Conan the Barbarian / Str Arnold Schwarzenegger



Fantastic Four 3 reboot / Fox / Prod Matthew Vaughan / Dir Joss Wheldon Pirates of the Carribean 5 / Dir Pinocchio / Warners / Dir Tim Burton / Str Robert Downey Jnr Justice League / DC & Warners / UK? / Prod Chris Nolan ? / Dir Guillermo Del Toro ? Macbeth / Dir Justin Kurzel / Str Michael Fassbender Trainspotting 2 sequel / UK / Dir Danny Boyle The Chef / Europe / Dir John Wells / Str Bradley Cooper Judge Dredd 2 / Str Karl Urban Napoleon / Dir Steven Spielberg Doc Savage / Sony / Dir Shane Black The Crow (remake) / Str James McAvoy Yukikaze / Warners / Str Tom Cruise S.H.I.E.L.D. / Marvel / Dir Joss Wheldon Tron 3 (TR3N) / Joseph Kosinski Pompeii / Dir Paul Anderson

## Movie News

**Justice League** / UK & Europe - Dir Guillermo - still slow The Hateful Eight – still on back burner

**FROM THE RUMOUR MILL...** And some of this info has to be considered just so..... If any Guild members have any more definitive information then please let the office know immediately!..... Please check with any individuals mentioned regarding availability... And do not quote or rely on any of this information!...

Rumours are published for the benefit of the membership only! Please let us know if anything is wrong, and it can be corrected.

And Finally,

Do please, feel free to contribute to the newsletter, by way of comment, with some copy material, news or any info for the RUMOUR MILL....anything that is seriously wrong then please post on Facebook!

Please send contributions via Maddie in the office or to me directly by email. I am aware that many people, other than members of the Guild, have sight of, and read this Newsletter each month. If you would like to apply to become a member, or express a point of view to the wider membership then please do sign up and get involved.

## Simon Bowles (chairman 2014-16) & Su Whitaker (chairwoman 2012-13)

Chairman BFDG mail@SimonBowles.com





in

BFDG on Linkedin...click here

British Film Designers Guild (in construction)

## **Mads Bushnell**

Administrator British Film Designers Guild Contact info@filmdesigners.co.uk Address: British Film Designers Guild, Pinewood Studios, Pinewood Road, Iver Heath, Bucks SL0 0NH Mobile: +44 (0)7768 573450

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