

South West Talent Module 2015 Participant's Guide
Speakers Biogs

Kate O'Hara – iFeatures Project Manager, Creative England

Kate manages iFeatures, a UK wide low budget feature film development and production initiative aimed at 1st & 2nd time feature filmmakers funded by Creative England, BFi Film fund and BBC Films. Kate takes overall responsibility for the running of iFeatures, including managing the submission, development and production process. As well as managing the initiative she also feeds in to the development of the projects. She has overseen the development and production of award winning feature *The Goob*, *Norfolk* and *Spaceship* to date. Kate also works alongside Creative England's Talent Team & Production Fund assessing projects and feeding into development. Previously to managing iFeatures, Kate worked for Lifesize pictures exec producing short films on new talent schemes such as Cinema Extreme and Digital Shorts for the UK Film Council. She has worked with filmmakers from across the UK, script editing shorts and managing national programmes such as the UK Film Council's Directors Lab at EIFF. Kate also works as a freelance assessor/script reader on initiatives such as Collabor8te, Northern Ireland Screen, the Royal Exchange Bruntwood Competition and BBC Drama. She is also reading & developing projects with Crybaby Films and Duck Soup Films.

Celine Haddad – Senior Film Executive, Creative England

Céline's (professional) life changed the day she first watched NOTORIOUS by Alfred Hitchcock in an arthouse cinema in Paris' Latin Quarter. So mesmerized was she by the film (Best kiss in the history of cinema bar none, fact), that she subsequently watched it on a videocassette once a day for an entire year. Though she had spent most of her young adult life hiding in cinemas d'art et d'essai in Paris, it is not until that exact moment that she decided to try and make a living working in the film industry (she is still trying). In her first work experience working as an intern on a collection of short films shot with the original Lumiere camera to mark the 100th anniversary of cinema (the film was called "Lumiere et compagnie"), Céline got to see the likes of David Lynch, Michael Haneke, Wim Wenders and Abbas Kiarostami work their magic and didn't quite realize at the time this was to be the peak of her career.

Céline's love of American cinema took her to Los Angeles where she earned a Master of Fine Arts at the Peter Stark Producing Program at the University of Southern California. There, she interned with several specialty distributors (October Films, Samuel Goldwyn and Paramount Classics) and also at Hollywood talent and literary agency ICM in their international department. Her adventures then took her to London where she joined Pathé, first as a Creative Executive and then as Head of Creative Affairs. There, she was very fortunate to work on films directed by great British filmmakers such as Danny Boyle and Stephen Frears. Céline then started her own production company, Connection Films, to pursue her passion projects – such as WE DON'T NEED NO EDUCATION in partnership with Left Bank Pictures and BBC Films. But she soon realized she was far too delicate to survive as a producer and decided to get a job, much to her mother's relief.

Céline joined Creative England as Senior Film Executive in September 2013 and is based in Brighton. Alongside the Talent Centres team, she is in charge of helping new and emerging filmmakers based in England, develop their scripts, make their shorts and eventually their first feature films. This is the best job she's ever had.

Peter Parker - Development Executive, Creative England

Peter is Development Executive at Creative England's Brighton Talent Centre; scouting new and emerging talent, assessing fund submissions and providing bespoke support across feature film development, short schemes and pilots. Before joining Creative England he spent four years with Exclusive Media, developing and marketing a raft of international features including *Begin Again*, *The Quiet Ones*, *Rush*, *Snitch*, *End Of Watch*, *The Woman In Black*, *The Ides Of March*, *Let Me In*, *The Way Back*, and award winning documentaries *George Harrison: Living In The Material World* and *Undefeated*. He's also enjoyed successful spells with The Weinstein Company and Heyday Films in London; is credited on Eran Creevy's BAFTA nominated Film London Microwave debut *Shifty*; and has script read for BBC Films, Celador Films, Focus Features and Pathe, amongst others.

Before moving into the film industry in 2007 Peter had a highly successful advertising career with UK & US media owners such as *The Independent & Independent On Sunday*, *Clear Channel Outdoor* and *CBS Outdoor*. Peter has a degree in Film Studies from the University of Kent in Canterbury.

Paul Ashton - Senior Film Executive, Creative England

Paul leads the Sheffield talent team as part of the BFI NET.WORK to support new and emerging film-makers on the journey towards getting their first feature films made. He recently exec produced Rachel Tunnard's BAFTA and BIFA nominated short EMOTIONAL FUSEBOX, and is currently an exec producer on her debut feature HOW TO LIVE YOURS starring Jodie Whittaker. Paul was previously Development Producer at BBC writersroom, and before that freelanced across film, television, radio and theatre. He has been involved in finding, developing and producing Academy- and BAFTA-nominated films, and BAFTA, RTS, SONY, PRIX ITALIA, IMISON and TINNISWOOD award-winning drama and comedy for television and radio. Paul is the author of *The Calling Card Script: A Writer's Toolbox for Stage, Screen and Radio* published by Bloomsbury.

David Segal Hamilton – Development Executive, BFI

Prior to joining the Film Fund, David worked in development for Stephen Fry's Sprout Pictures and as a freelance script consultant and assessor for companies such as BBC Films, Film4 and Film London's Microwave programme.

Matimba Kabalika - NET.WORK Talent co-ordinator & content editor, BFI

Matimba looks after the talent development programme BFI NET.WORK and manages the accompanying website. She originally joined the BFI in June 2012 as Assistant to Ben Roberts. Before joining the BFI she spent four years at Partizan, where she worked in production on commercials, music videos and short films, working with an array of emerging and established directing talent.

Rich Warren – Festival Producer, Encounters Festival

Rich Warren is currently Festival Producer for Encounters Short Film and Animation Festival, the UK's leading short film and animation festival based in Bristol, UK. The festival prioritises the showcasing, supporting and progression of new and emerging talent in film and animation. The 21st edition of the festival will take place between 15-20 September 2015.

Rich began working for the festival in 2008 however during this time he has also had the opportunity to continue his support of new and emerging talent with roles such as the Talent Scout for the National Film and Television School and a sabbatical in Sydney working with FlickerFest and Metro Screen. His role requires him to attend festivals across Europe and spends hours of his life online in search of new and emerging talent.

The Blaine Brothers - Writers/Directors

Chris and Ben write, direct and edit for TV and film. Their debut feature NINA FOREVER received its world premiere at SXSW. It played to near unanimous acclaim, one review saying "*Who are these Blaine Brothers and where have they been hiding? Nina Forever is a sensational film... and with it, the Blaine Brothers have brought serious game to the screen. It's clear the film world's latest sibling tag-team has come to play.*"*

As it goes they had mainly been hiding in London, creating an eclectic array of short films, sketches, music videos and documentaries. Their work received a retrospective at the ICA and has been both BIFA nominated and BAFTA shortlisted. Lucky enough to have been mentored by Gillies MacKinnon through the Guiding Lights scheme, the Blaines were Screen International "Stars of Tomorrow" sometime before yesterday.

They are represented by Ian Benson & Hannah Boulton at The Agency.

Cassandra Sigsgaard - Producer

Cassandra cut her teeth working with top producers such as Simon Channing-Williams (The Constant Gardener) and Andrea Calderwood (Last King Of Scotland), before setting up Jeva Films.

Her first feature is the Blaine brothers' debut, Nina Forever, which premiered at SXSW 2015 to great acclaim and is now being sold by Epic Pictures internationally; previous productions include Film London-funded The

River, starring Robert Emms (Broken), and Clive Russell (Sherlock Holmes) which premiered at Palm Springs and was nominated for Best British Short Film at the East End Film Festival, London; and the award-winning short film Eva by Laura Smith, which has screened at festivals and in cinemas all over the world. She is currently packaging the supernatural thriller, The Girl in the Corn, the feature debut from Laura Smith. Next up will be a thriller from the Blaine brothers, and two films by writer Joy Wilkinson: comedy, Enter the Dragons, developed with funding from Creative England, and thriller, The Killer CV, which was on the Brit List 2014 (the UK equivalent of the Blacklist). Cassandra is also Deputy Chair of Women in Film and Television, and a voting member of BAFTA. (www.jevafilms.com)

Kate Leys – Script Editor

Kate is a feature film script editor who works on projects at all stages of development. Recent completed productions include SLOW WEST by John MacLean, which was a prize-winner at Sundance 2015, and the C4 series BABYLON, her first TV drama, written by Jesse Armstrong & Sam Bain. In the last year she has worked on projects for producers including Mary Burke and Robin Gutch at Warp Films, Iain Canning at SeeSaw Films, Robert Jones at Nightjack/Jonescompany, Elizabeth Karlsen at Number 9, Rory Aitken & Ben Pugh at 42, Sam Taylor at F&ME, Gareth Unwin at Bedlam Productions, Film4, Ivana MacKinnon at Stray Bear, Gavin Humphries at Quark Films, Microwave at Film London, iFeatures, the BFI Film Fund, Creative England, & Creative Scotland. She works with screenwriters and filmmakers including John Maclean, Martina Amati, Tom Harper, Jesse Armstrong & Sam Bain, Alice Lowe, Tom Green, Deborah Haywood, Eran Creevy, Johannes Roberts, Michael Please, Ben Schiffer, Josh Appignanesi and documentary filmmakers Eva Weber and Sam Firth. She works in all genres, on adaptations as well as original screenplays, and on a handful of short films. She has been head of development at several companies including Film4, where she was based for 5 years and where she was part of the small team commissioning and developing some of the UK's most successful feature films; and sales agents Capitol Films. She has also been a film agent; a TV presenter & producer; director of the Edinburgh Television Festival; Associate Director of Cinema at the ICA; a location caterer, a film festival programmer, a screenwriting lecturer, a film distributor and a cinema usherette. She works with film schools, film festivals, Creative Skillset and the Wellcome Trust.

Rachel Tunnard – Writer/Director

Rachel is a writer, director and editor represented by United Agents. Her short film EMOTIONAL FUSEBOX was nominated for a BAFTA and a BIFA (2015 / 2014) and she has just finished shooting her first feature film called HOW TO LIVE YOURS (Creative England / BFI Net.Work). Rachel is a BAFTA 'Brit to Watch' and is mentored by Sean Durkin (Martha Marcy May Marlene / Southcliffe) through Guiding Lights 2014. She has been on shed loads of schemes including 'iFeatures 2' (BFI, Creative England, BBC Films), 'Build Your Audience' (Film London), Edinburgh Film Festival 'Talent Lab', 'Regards Croises' (British Council, EIFF, Moroccan Film Festival) and 'She Writes' (Birds Eye View / Script Factory). She was also on the Script Factory Talent List 2011 and nominated for a creative residency at The Hospital Club. As an editor, Rachel has cut award winning features and shorts, including Bafta nominated features SHELL (Dir: Scott Graham) and SKELETONS (Dir: Nick Whitfield). Rachel was awarded 'Best Editing in a Feature Film' at Los Angeles HDFEST 2008. As a writer, Rachel is developing several projects including feature road-trip BOYS OF SUMMER. She recently co-devised FUZZBOX – a comedy pilot for BBC3 and co-wrote the story for MY DIRTY LITTLE BOOK OF STOLEN TIME with Nick Whitfield (BFI / Creative England). Rachel has a First Class Honours degree from the University of Bristol and an MA in menial jobs including cleaning for the Army, working the night shift in a fish factory and people counting.

Michael Berliner – Producer

Michael is an independent producer working for his production company Pico Pictures. He has produced 14 shorts, screening at top festivals including London and SXSW, and winning awards including the Grand Prix du Jury at Angers Premiers Plans. He produced School Portrait, which became a viral hit on Vimeo with a million views in ten days, and co-produced Friend Request Pending, starring Judi Dench in her only short film appearance to date. His BAFTA nominated short, Emotional Fusebox, was a pilot for the comedy feature How To Live Yours. Both were written and directed by Rachel Tunnard and starred Jodie Whittaker. The feature was backed by Creative England and is currently in post-production. He was mentored by Warp Films' Mark

Herbert on Guiding Lights, and was featured as a 2014 Screen International Star of Tomorrow. He has a development slate with filmmakers including the BAFTA-nominated Luke Snellin, and Henry Darke. Follow him @michaelberliner and www.picopictures.co.uk

Richard Holmes – Senior Film Executive, Production, Creative England

Richard currently manages two productions funds for Creative England and, since joining the company in 2013, has backed six fiction films and six feature docs. His investments include Andrew Haig's second feature *45 Years*, winner of two Golden Bears at the Berlinale 2015 and *The Call Up*, a pure genre film being sold by Altitude, scheduled for a UK release in March 2016. His last film as an independent producer, *Keeping Rosy* (2013), starring Maxine Peake (*Silk*) and Blake Harrison (*The Inbetweeners*) was released with Picture House in 2014 and was nominated for BIFA's Raindance Award. Richard produced *Jadoo*, Amit Gupta's second feature in 2012. *Jadoo* was the closing night film of the Kulinaris section of the Berlinale and the San Sebastian 2013.

In 2011 he produced *Resistance*, based on the award-winning novel by Owen Sheers. The film stars Andrea Riseborough (*Oblivion*), Michael Sheen and Sharon Morgan - who won the Best Actress prize at the BAFTA Cymru awards 2012. Richard produced *Eden Lake* (2007). The Weinstein Company released the film in the US and Pathe sold it worldwide. Written and directed by James Watkins (*The Woman In Black*), starring Kelly Reilly and Oscar-nominee Michael Fassbender.

Earlier in his career, Richard co-wrote and produced Stefan Schwartz's award-winning *Shooting Fish*, starring Kate Beckinsale. The film grossed over £4m in the UK alone. Richard then went on to produce Kirk Jones' *Waking Ned*, which grossed \$26m in the US and a further \$25m+ worldwide. *Waking Ned* won Richard a nomination for a Producer's Guild of America award and both *Shooting Fish* and *Waking Ned* are posting net profits. His first film *Soft Top, Hard Shoulder*, starred the new Dr Who, Peter Capaldi, as well as Jeremy Northam and Simon Callow. It won the London Film Festival Audience Award as well as Scottish BAFTA's for Best Film and Best Actor. Between 1999 - 2001 Richard managed Civilian Content Plc, a film production, sales and finance company listed on AIM. During that time Civilian acquired and/or financed approximately a dozen films, including *24 Hour Party People* and *Bend It Like Beckham*. In addition Richard led the team that placed over a third of the company's share capital with blue-chip City institutions.

Richard was a co-founder of the trade body The New Producer's Alliance, serving a year as its Co-Chairman. For three years he was the Vice-Chairman for Film at PACT, the UK's Producers Alliance for Cinema and TV. Richard has lectured at the National Film & Television School, European Film College, Royal Holloway MA Screenwriting course and for AdvancedProducing.com. He graduated from York University with an honours degree in philosophy and was selected to be on the inaugural ACE (Ateliers de Cinema European) program.

Wendy Bevan-Mogg - Producer

Wendy began her career working in distribution (Artificial Eye) and sales (Pathe International) before moving into production with a number of successful short films. She then became Head of Production for online company Pure Grass Films, making work for clients including Hammer, Sony and Microsoft, before leaving to line produce her first feature SKELETONS (dir. Nick Whitfield, winner of the Edinburgh Film Festival Michael Powell Award) in 2009. After line producing four features, including Rufus Norris's BROKEN (which opened Critic's Week in Cannes 2012) Wendy spent two years at Creative England, working on both the Development and Advantage Midland Production Funds and exec producing Lisle Turner's HERE AND NOW. As producer, she made her first feature LIGHT YEARS (dir. Esther May Campbell) with Samm Hailay of Third Films in 2014, and is now developing her own slate of projects with Knapp Ridge Films. She lives and works in Somerset.

Alison Sterling – Producer

Alison is a producer of feature films. Most recently she produced *Flying Blind*, a feature film starring Helen McCrory, directed by Katarzyna Klimkiewicz (released by Soda Pictures in 2013). She currently has several film projects in development, including: *Faithfull* (biopic about the early life of Marianne Faithfull) co-produced with Julia Taylor-Stanley, *The Sally Anne Test* by Steven Eastwood, co-produced with Patrick Cassavetti, *Running for Beginners* written by Robin Mukherjee (*Lore*); directed by Jill Robertson (*Lip Service*).

Alison began her working life as an actress: she trained at RADA and played substantial roles in television, theatre and film. She founded and ran Moving Target Theatre Company, which produced new writing for venues such as the ICA, the Young Vic and the Edinburgh Festival, focusing on work written and directed by women. She moved into TV and film production in 1997. She previously produced eight short films, with support from UK Film Council, Creative England, BBC Films, Film4; including *Turning* which was BAFTA nominated and *Flytopia*, adapted from a story by Will Self. Other moving image work includes: TV documentaries and drama, academic research projects, artist's installations and web-based oral history projects. She is an experienced Line Producer/Production Manager with recent experience on a large scale TV commercials. She is currently attending ACE24 workshops for European co-producers with The Sally Anne Test; she was recently a participant in Creative England's Compass course for emerging producers. She sits on the Board of Encounters Short Film Festival and was a juror for the live action shorts in 2014.

Jayne Chard - Producer

Jayne started her career as a theatre director, one of her early productions, Beckett's **Happy Days**, won her the Royal Shakespeare Company's Buzz Goodbody Directors Award. She worked on the London fringe as a freelance director at the Royal Court, Soho Poly and Riverside Studios. She was later Artistic Director of Common Stock Theatre Company. She left the theatre to pursue a career in television. Nominated for a BAFTA for her moving portrayal of women with HIV and AIDS for Channel 4, Jayne has produced and directed documentaries for all the major broadcasters and is also an accomplished drama and commercials director.

In the short film genre Jayne has produced **I'm A Feminist Myself** written and directed by Joe Ahearne; **Things We Do For Love**, director Peter Bloore and **I'll Tell You**, written and directed BAFTA winner Rachel Tillotson. The film won the Best of The West at the 2011 Encounters Festival. In 2014 Jayne produced her first feature film, **Dartmoor Killing**, which will be theatrically released in September 2105. Jayne next feature film, **B&B**, is written and directed by **Trance** co-writer Joe Ahearne. It stars Christopher Eccleston, Jamie Blackley, and Francois Arnaud and is shooting in the West Country in October 2015.

Ken Marshall – Producer, Steel Mill Pictures

Ken Marshall set up production company Steel Mill Pictures with writer/director Paul Andrew Williams in 2005. Since the birth of Steel Mill Pictures, Marshall has produced six feature films including the award-winning, critically acclaimed **London to Brighton** (2006), **The Cottage** (2008) and **Cherry Tree Lane** (2010). **Song for Marion** (2013) had its world premiere as the Gala Closing Night Film at the Toronto International Film Festival 2012 and had a wide theatrical release in multiple territories, including a UK release with studio eOne Entertainment and a US release with The Weinstein Company. UK box-office hit **Filth** (2013) was released by Lionsgate in the UK, with Magnolia releasing in the US. The film has been successfully sold around the world by Sierra Affinity.

Marshall was a producer-mentor for Sundance award-winning Microwave feature film **Lilting** (2013) and Executive Produced the powerhouse award-winning documentary **All This Mayhem** (2014) in partnership with Vice. He is also lead Executive Producer for **Adult Life Skills** (2016) starring Jodie Whittaker, the feature debut of writer/director Rachel Tunnard. Independent Film Sales is handling international.

Ken has most recently produced for the BBC the critically-acclaimed **The Eichmann Show** (2015), directed by Paul Andrew Williams, starring Martin Freeman (The Hobbit, The Office) and Anthony LaPaglia (Without A Trace). It's the true story of the producer-director team behind the TV show that taped the Adolf Eichmann "Trial of the Century" in Jerusalem in 1961. The Weinstein Company picked it up for North America.

He currently has projects in development with Scott Free, BFI and Creative England with Paul Andrew Williams and other established and emerging talent.

Matthew Baker – Director of Acquisitions, HanWay Films

Matthew Baker worked briefly in casting before joining Jeremy Thomas's production company, Recorded Picture Company in August, 2000. He worked in development for RPC until 2004, when he officially moved over to HanWay Films, RPC's sister sales company, to handle acquisitions.

Whilst at RPC he worked on projects including 'The Dreamers', directed by Bernardo Bertolucci, 'Sexy Beast', directed by Jonathan Glazer, 'Young Adam', directed by David Mackenzie and Rabbit-Proof Fence, directed by Philip Noyce.

At HanWay, credits include 'Match Point' (dir. Woody Allen) 'Away From Her' (dir. Sarah Polley), 'Nowhere Boy' (dir. Sam Taylor Wood), 'Super', (dir. James Gunn), 'Shame', (dir. Steve McQueen), 'Seven Psychopaths', (dir. Martin McDonagh), 'Quartet', (dir. Dustin Hoffman), 'You're Next' and 'The Guest', (dir. Adam Wingard) and most recently 'Brooklyn', (dir. John Crowley), 'Anomalisa', dir. Charlie Kaufman and Duke Johnson) and 'Carol' (dir. Todd Haynes).

Desiree Akhavan – Writer/Director

Desiree is the writer/director/star of APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and was nominated for Best First Screenplay at the 2015 Indie Spirit Awards. She is also the co-creator and star of the critically acclaimed web series THE SLOPE, a comedy that follows a pair of superficial, homophobic lesbians in love. Akhavan was featured as one of Filmmaker Magazine's "25 New Faces of Independent Film" and appears in season 4 of GIRLS. She has a BA from Smith College and an MFA from NYU's Grad Film Program as was selected to participate in the Sundance Institute's Episodic Story Lab.

Cecilia Frugiuale - Producer

Having joined Parkville Pictures in 2009, Cecilia has since acted as Associate Producer on The company's first feature film BORROWED TIME (BBC Films/Film London), and had produced a breadth of work including award winning shorts and online content for Time Magazine and Random House.

Most recently, Cecilia produced the Indie Spirit Awards nominated feature APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR, written and directed by Desiree Akhavan, which premiered at Sundance Film Festival 2014. An alumni of the Berlinale Talent Campus (2013), Cecilia is currently developing Desiree Akhavan's second feature as well as European Film Awards winner Una Gunjak's first feature.

Will Massa - Senior Film Programme Manager, British Council

Will is the Senior Programme Manager for Film at British Council advising their offices in the Americas and EU on their year-round film activity and programming seasons and showcases of contemporary independent UK cinema. He has special responsibility for short film promotion and talent development, leading on the Short Film Travel Grant Fund that the British Council operates in partnership with the BFI. British Council is the UK's international relations organisation and the film department works to connect the best of UK film and film culture with new international audiences. One of its flagship programmes is the 'Selector Screenings', where British Council hosts programmers from the world's premier festivals who come to London to watch a selection of the best new feature film work from across the UK.