



**Have: Training Scheme
Want: New filmmakers**

On your marks, get set!

A new training scheme is launching in Dumfries & Galloway in order to find, train and nurture new filmmaking talent. 'Starting Block', run by Glasgow-based Diversity Films, is a new cross-regional training scheme, launching on the **Saturday 29th of May 2010** at the **Robert Burns Centre** in Dumfries, 2-4pm. Its aim is simply to find the best, new first-time filmmaking talent around Scotland and help them produce a total of six films over the next eight months. Two of the film concepts, based around the theme of 'diversity', will be generated from Dumfries & Galloway filmmakers during a series of introductory film schools, development training and a production mentoring programme. Workshops will also be rolled out in Fife and Greater Glasgow and will see some of the participants collaborating across the regions on their different projects.

Starting Block is funded by a mixture of national and regional funding with Scottish Screen and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation as the key backers. Leslie Finlay, Development Executive at Scottish Screen said 'Scottish Screen is delighted to be supporting 'Starting Block', through our New Talent Development initiative, to discover and train screen talent of the future in diverse communities throughout Scotland'. In Dumfries and Galloway, Starting Block is delighted to be supported by the Holywood Trust and Dumfries and Galloway Council with in-kind support from Arts & Museums, Nithsdale.

Diversity Films informed us that "Starting Block will be a mixture of drama and documentary film production, the scheme is open to anyone who has not previously had a funded film commission and you must be aged between 16 to 60yrs+, not in fulltime education, employment or media related education to qualify for a place on the programme".

Weekend Film Schools in Dumfries and Galloway (**Dumfries, Stranraer and Newton Stewart**) have now been confirmed and are attached below.

Please check www.diversityfilms.org.uk for detailed guidelines about the programme, sign up to the newsletter on the website or email sarah@diversityfilms.org.uk, to be sure you get the latest news first.

STARTING BLOCK DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY FILM SCHOOLS

Dumfries & Galloway

DUMFRIES

Introductory Film School

Sat 12th June & Sun 13th June (10am till 4pm)

North West Resource Centre, College Drive, Dumfries DG2 0BX

STRANRAER

Documentary Film School

Sat 19th & Sun 20th June (10am till 4pm)

Agnew Park Pavilion, Agnew Crescent, Stranraer DG9 7JJ

NEWTON STEWART

Drama Film School

Sat 26th & Sun 27th June (10am till 4pm)

Newton Stewart Community Centre, York Road, Newton Stewart, DG8 6HL