



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

On your marks, get set!

A new training scheme is launching in Fife 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 17th of May 2010 at the Rothes Halls 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 Fife filmmakers during a series of introductory film schools, development training and a production mentoring programme. Workshops will also be rolled out in Dumfries and Galloway 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 Fife, Starting Block is part of Celebrating Fife 2010 linking to Fife's year of culture programme and Fife LEADER, which boosts activities in rural areas, to ensure that people from urban areas as well as more remote parts of Fife will all get a chance to benefit from this experience. Equally important will be the partners on the ground, currently including Fife Women's Technology Centre in Lochgelly, Tayside Institute in Newburgh, Auchmuty Learning Centre, in Glenrothes and the Community Education Team in South West Fife Villages, with in-kind support from Arts & Theatre Trust.

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".

Please check [www.diversityfilms.org.uk](http://www.diversityfilms.org.uk) for detailed guidelines, sign up to the newsletter on the website or email [sarah@diversityfilms.org.uk](mailto:sarah@diversityfilms.org.uk), to be sure you get the latest news first.