



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

On your marks, get set!

A new training scheme is launching across Scotland 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 in May 2010.

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. The film concepts, based around the theme of 'diversity', will be generated by project participants during a series of introductory film schools, development training and a production mentoring programme. Workshops will be rolled out in Fife, 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. Equally important will be the partners on the ground helping to widen access to the programme and provide venue spaces for training activity. In Fife, Starting Block is part of Celebrating Fife 2010 linking to Fife's year of culture programme and additional funding support has been received from LEADER in Fife. Dumfries and Galloway activity is supported by the Holywood Trust and Dumfries and Galloway Council. Glasgow based work will be strengthened by the North East Area Committee at Glasgow City Council. This diverse package of funders will ensure that people from urban areas as well as more remote parts of Scotland will all get a chance to benefit from this experience.

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'.

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