



PRESS RELEASE

BRANCHAGE SCHOOL RETURNS WITH 'DIRECTORS DOCUMENTARY LAB' WORKSHOPS & MASTERCLASS

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Tuesday 16th August 2011

The annual **Branchage International Film Festival** returns for its fourth edition from 22-25th September 2011, with films, live soundtracks, parties and performances taking place in a host of wonderful and unlikely venues across the parishes of Jersey. Branchage combines a creative, lovingly-curated programme of site-specific events and one-off performances with all the idiosyncratic charm of Jersey, making it not only the Channel Islands most unique cultural event, but one of the most desirable destination festivals in Europe.

As well as recently-announced showpiece events including Antarctic documentary **The Great White Silence** with a live score by **Simon Fisher Turner & the Elysian Quartet** at the Opera House, the **Branchage Globale** world music party featuring highly-rated **DJ Martelo**, an afternoon of comedy with **Jeff Leach** and **Mark Dolan**, and many more fantastic events to be announced, this year also sees the return of the **Branchage Documentary Directors Lab**.

Following the success of last year's Features Directors Lab, which featured workshops headed by producer **Rebecca Mark-Lawson**, actor **Orlando Seale** (*Sleepy Hollow, Pride & Prejudice*) and acclaimed director **Gillies McKinnon** (*Hideous Kinky, The Escapist*), the educational course returns with a focus on Documentaries, and is open to aspiring local filmmakers as well as those from overseas.

The Documentary Directors Lab is a workshop for filmmakers working on development of their documentary films. It is an intensive two days of creative development of their ideas, and workshops and masterclasses from top documentary filmmakers.

Taking place in Jersey in the days preceding the Branchage International Film Festival 2011, 20th and 21st September 2011, the Lab focuses on the creative development of participants' projects in a supportive and nurturing environment.

Branchage School Mentors

The course is led by award-winning documentary filmmaker **Marc Isaacs** (*Lift, All White In Barking, Outside The Court*), with masterclasses and tutoring by other leading documentary filmmakers (TBC). Award-winning director **Liz Mermin** (*Horses, Team Qatar, The Beauty Academy of Kabul*) will also be joining us. **Lauren Simpson**, the producer of *Just Do It* (showing as part of Branchage 2011) will be hosting a session on the importance of building a campaign around your film, and how to find an audience.

Also on the team of mentors is **Natasha Dack** of Tiger Lily Films who has produced several successful films including C4 BAFTA and RTS Award-winning feature-length drama *Pleasureland*, critically acclaimed documentary *Black Power Salute* and Best British Feature Documentary (BritDoc) winner *37 Uses For A Dead Sheep*. Jersey-born filmmaker **Hannah Patterson** (*Give Me Shelter*) will be hosting a session on pitch development. The Doc Lab will end in a Pitch Session to a panel of industry experts including Charlie Philips from Doc Fest who will give the filmmakers feedback on their projects and advice on the next steps moving forward.

The Course

As well as developing participants' treatments and script ideas, the Lab looks towards production, navigating each of the stages beforehand and helping to prepare for the journey ahead.

All filmmakers participating in the Lab will receive a free pass for the Branchage International Film Festival 2011, granting access to a wide array of screenings, performances, concerts and parties.

The Lab fosters a nurturing, non-competitive and supportive environment. Past Lab participants have found supporters, friends and future collaborators in their fellow students and tutors.

Those wishing to apply need a 1,000-word treatment/ outline of your documentary film project. Applicants may have begun researching or filming, and we will accept applications up to 'rough cut' stage.

The cost is £250.00 including tuition, refreshments and a Festival Pass.

The Lab takes place in the Radisson Blu, Waterfront Hotel, Jersey on 20th and 21st September 2011, from 10am – 5.30pm.

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Visit:

<http://www.branchagefestival.com/branchage-school/doc-directors-lab/>

Email:

school@branchagefestival.com

Quotes:

Rebecca Coley, Branchage Directors Lab Co-Ordinator:

“The Branchage School Labs are always a unique chance for filmmakers to focus on their projects, and meet like-minded collaborators and friends, as well as receiving excellent tailored advice on their projects from top filmmakers.”

Rebecca Mark-Lawson (Tutor – Branchage Fiction Directors Lab 2011):

“I was surprised how insightful and generous the directors were on the Lab, it made the whole experience enriching for everyone”

Notes to Editors:

Started in 2008 by Creative Director Xanthe Hamilton, Branchage engages local audiences in Jersey as well as attracting visitors from the UK and further afield. The festival has made its names as a leader in live soundtracks, site-specific screening and unusual filmic experiences. Past live soundtracks have included: The Memory Band performing to The Wicker Man and British Sea Power playing to Man of Aran, as well as new soundtracks commissioned to the festival by Bo Ningen (Cat Soup), Amiina (Lotte Reiniger fairytales) and Euros Childs (Yuri Norstein animations).

The festival delights in turning unexpected spaces into cinemas including Battleship Potemkin on a tugboat; Sleep Furiously in the barn of an organic farm; Lindsay Anderson’s If... in Victoria College’s Great Hall; The Vanishing of the Bees in a polytunnel and Lourdes in a church. Elaborate themed parties are another staple of the Branchage experience, with past performances by Chrome Hoof, Kitty Daisy & Lewis, Paloma Faith and Top Cats, as well as troupes of interactive performers, aerial artists, burlesque dancers and troubadours.

Many more events and performances will be announced soon.

Please visit www.branchagefestival.com for further programme information.

For more information/images/interviews, please contact press officer

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