

# Filmmaking Foundation Graduates

*Some of our graduates' stories are listed below,  
You can read more on our website at  
[www.londonfilmacademy.com](http://www.londonfilmacademy.com)*

## **Oliver Parker - Writer, Director and Actor**

Oliver Parker attended the Foundation course back in 1993 in the Monty Python studios in Camden. Two years later he directed OTHELLO with Laurence Fishburne and Kenneth Branagh. Oliver wrote and directed two films based on Oscar Wilde plays: THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST in 2002 with Rupert Everett, Colin Firth and Judi Dench, as well as AN IDEAL HUSBAND in 1999, starring Cate Blanchett, Julianne Moore and Minnie Driver. Recent features include another Wilde-related feature film, DORIAN GRAY (2008) with Colin Firth; ST TRINIAN'S (2007), which did extremely well at the UK box office; THE LITTLE WHITE HORSE (2007); I REALLY HATE MY JOB (2007) and FADE TO BLACK (2006).

## **Jamie Payne - Director**

Jamie also attended the Foundation course in 1993, following which he organised many high profile events and screenings for Club Panico. He went on to build a successful career directing drama for film and television. In 1998 he produced and directed the acclaimed short film THE DANCE OF SHIVA starring Sanjeev Bhaskar, Kenneth Branagh, Julian Glover and Paul McGann and in 2001 directed a documentary about the making of Kenneth Branagh's TV film SHACKLETON. Jamie's film - SHACKLETON: BREAKING THE ICE - tracked the real-life adventure of a film crew working on the frozen sea off Eastern Greenland. Since then he has directed many programmes and films including: SUSPICION (2003), which received rave reviews and impressive viewing figures, starring Amanda Redman, Adrian Dunbar and Saskia Reeves; CHILD OF MINE in 2005 for Kudos Productions; LIFE LINE for the BBC in 2007; the first and second series of PRIMEVAL (2007-8) for ITV with Douglas Henshall, Andrew Lee Potts and Ben Miller; and most recently the drama U BE DEAD with David Morrissey and Tara Fitzgerald.

## **Roland Gift - Musician, Composer and Actor**

Roland attended the Foundation course in 1994, after which he kindly agreed to become one of Panico's Patrons. Lead singer of the internationally successful Fine Young Cannibals, Roland is also an actor and composer. He has taken time out from working on albums to contribute soundtracks to a variety of feature films, including Neil Marshall's DOOMSDAY (2008), Bernardo Bertolucci's STEALING BEAUTY (1996) and Barry Levinson's TIN MEN (1987). Acting credits include Bertolucci's and Claire Denis' TEN MINUTES OLDER - THE CELLO (2002), Michie Gleason's THE ISLAND OF THE MAPMAKER'S WIFE (2001), Stephen Frears' SAMMY AND ROSIE GET LAID (1987) and Michael Caton-Jones' SCANDAL (1989).

## **Rachel Tillotson - Director, Writer**

Rachel did the Foundation course in late 1994 after completing a Dramatic Arts degree. Immediately after this she wrote and directed her first short film, THE WHITE ROOM. On the strength of this short film she was accepted onto the Royal College of Art's two year MA in Film Direction from 1995-97. After graduating she made a further three shorts with the support of regional funding. Her next short FUEL was funded by Film Four and received national cinema distribution with screenings of the Film Four feature CRUSH. She has been directing television since 2001, winning a BAFTA in 2002 for the BBC drama OFFSIDE and an Royal Television Society Award in 2004 for GIRLS IN LOVE. She has also been developing feature film scripts since taking up a Cinéfondation screenwriting residency in 2000 (funded by Cannes film festival).

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## **Sadie Frost - Actress, Producer**

Sadie attended the Foundation Course in 1996. She has a long list of high profile acting credits, including including the part of Lucy Westenra in the Oscar-winning BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA (Francis Ford Coppola, 1992), SPLITTING HEIRS (1993) with Python Eric Idle, the Emmy and ASC award-winning UPRISING (2001) and SHOOT ON SIGHT (2008). Sadie also produced the visual effects feature film SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW (2004), was Associate Producer for LOVE, HONOUR AND OBEY (2000), and has produced several short films. She is currently in pre-production for an acting role in the Stephen Wallis comedy DEFINING MOMENTS.

## **James Larkin - Director, Actor**

James completed the Foundation course in 1997. Already an established actor, he has since gone on to direct prime-time television and to write and direct several acclaimed short films. His films, including MY OWN PRIVATE LIDO and POINT OF VIEW, have screened at many festivals worldwide. His third short, DEAD ON TIME (1999) starring Michael Gambon, was nominated for Best Short Film at Montreal World Film Festival, won Best Short at Palm Springs and was bought by Channel 4, Atom Films and Canal Plus. His most recent, INTERIOR BEDSIT DAY, was runner-up for the Ascent Media Award at Rushes Soho Shorts Festival 2007. For television he has directed HOLBY CITY, DOCTORS, PEAK PRACTICE, BROOKSIDE and THE BILL, as well as the improvised 'Dogme TV' Channel 4 comedy drama ALL THE WAY. As a commercials director he has directed campaigns including the AA, National No Smoking Day, Virgin Mobile, Supergoals and the RNIB. James also continues to have a highly successful screen acting career, including ROMAN ROAD (2004) alongside Alan Davies, and playing Tony Blair in THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR, Peter Kosminsky's Channel 4 drama about the death of David Kelly (2005).

## **Brendan McGinty - Director of Photography**

Brendan completed the Foundation course in 1998. He is now a London-based DP who shoots across film, tape and HD for feature films, documentaries, commercials and pop promos. Credits include: short film THE CONSTANT FATHER (2008), TV series ROB NEWMAN'S HISTORY OF THE WORLD...BACKWARDS (Dir. Jamie Rafn, 2007), feature films DOLPHINS (Dir. Mark Jay, 2007) and FLAMINGO BLUES (Dir. Robbi Stevens, 2004), BBC documentary JIMMY'S FARM; Channel 4 documentary series A YEAR IN TUSCANY (2003); short film LIPSTICK AND LETTERBOX (Dir. Richard West, 2000).

## **Matt Lopez-Dias - Grip**

Matt took the Foundation course in 2001. Since then he has gone on to become a successful freelance grip. Recent grip and key grip credits include: REVERB (Dir. Eitan Arrusi, 2008), STARDUST (Dir. Matthew Vaughn, 2007), JOY DIVISION (2006), MRS HENDERSON PRESENTS (Dir. Stephen Frears, 2005), BATMAN BEGINS (Dir. Chris Nolan, 2005), ALEXANDER (Dir. Oliver Stone, 2004); The Kaiser Chief's I PREDICT A RIOT and OH MY GOD music videos; and various TV programmes, music videos, idents and commercials.

## **Robert Tannion - Choreographer, Director, Dancer and Actor**

An accomplished performer, Robert took the Foundation course in 2001 to complement his dance, acting and theatre work and develop his filmmaking skills. He acted in a number of films made by Club Panico members whilst on the course. Rob then took up the role of Dr Brown in the US feature film RESIDENT EVIL (Dir. Paul WS Anderson, 2002), starred in the Emmy award-winning TV Series STIG OF THE DUMP as Stig and played Jake 'the Manc' Bancroft in Justin McArdle's short film FUNCTION AT THE JUNCTION in the same year. He danced in Chris Cunningham's film FLEX (2000), in 15 FEET OF PURE WHITE SNOW for Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds (2001) and in JUMP FOR JOY for 2 Unlimited (1996). He is an award-winning choreographer: among others, he won an Emmy in 1997 for ENTER ACHILLES with dance company DV8 along with the Prix Italia and the IMZ Dance Screen.