



FILM NATION UK ANNOUNCES NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

02 July 2013: The board of trustees of FILM NATION UK today announced the appointment of Paul Reeve to the position of Chief Executive.

Paul Reeve comes to FILM NATION UK from the Royal Opera House where he is currently Director of Learning and Engagement. He will take up his post in late September.

Paul was the unanimous choice of the FILM NATION UK board bringing with him a wealth of experience in arts education and a love of film. Aged 48, he has been at the Royal Opera House for the past 13 years, starting as Opera Education Manager, becoming Deputy Director of Education in 2004 and Director in 2006. Prior to joining the Royal Opera House, Paul held educational positions at the Royal Shakespeare Company and English Touring Opera. He is also Chair of East London Dance, one of the country's leading dance development organisations.

Under his leadership, learning and community engagement has made a central contribution to the organisation's transformation since the millennium. Developments have included a major expansion of educational programmes and schemes to widen access, the establishment of Thurrock as ROH's 'second home' and a range of digital initiatives to increase reach and support learning.

Paul said: *"I'm delighted to have been appointed Chief Executive of FILM NATION UK. I'm hugely excited to be given the opportunity to lead an organisation that will ensure film education plays a dynamic, UK-wide role both in the creative, cultural and educational development of young people, and the development of audiences and the next generation of talent for the film industry."*



I'm looking forward to working with the Board, colleagues and a broad range of partners to build on the great practice already in place to create a new programme that provides a film education offer for young people across the UK of a scale, reach and quality unparalleled anywhere in the world."

Mark Higham, currently FILMCLUB Chief Executive, will be contributing to FILM NATION UK in a new role as a consultant. Remaining in position over the next few months, he will work with the board of trustees to oversee the converging activities of FILMCLUB and First Light towards one organisation and working with partners. He will continue to direct National Youth Film Festival 2013, which takes place at the end of October before moving to a new consultancy role with FILM NATION UK later in the year. Leigh Thomas, currently First Light Chief Executive, will continue to bring First Light into FILM NATION UK's emerging plans as well as championing filmmaking and its role in the new unified offer.

Working closely with teachers, educators and youth leaders, FILM NATION UK will provide a significant step change in education provision. It will develop within children and young people a life long passion for film, encouraging them to learn about and learn through film.

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About FILM NATION UK

Supported by over 100 industry partners from national, regional and grassroots organisations, FILM NATION UK is a new organisation, which builds on the work of leading film education charities FILMCLUB and First Light. It brings together a network of film, education, arts, culture and youth partners united in their aim to engage millions of young people in film.

Additionally, FILM NATION UK benefits from a prestigious founding board of trustees including leading figures from the film industry, who share a passion for the idea of transforming young people's lives through the experience of film. The founding Board is led by Chair Eric Fellner (Co-Chairman Working Title Films) and Deputy Chair Heather Rabbatts (Managing Director Smuggler Entertainment) and includes James Bond producer Barbara Broccoli, director Beeban Kidron, journalist and broadcaster Samira Ahmed, Alan Bushell and Director of Ventures at Ingenious Media Patrick Bradley.

About the BFI

The BFI is investing £26m of Lottery funding over four years for FILM NATION UK to deliver a bold and visionary new film education programme, available to every 5-19 year old and the 26,700 schools in the UK. The BFI's aim is to create a single unified programme for watching, making and learning about film in order to safeguard and boost future film audiences through learning and appreciation of film and stimulate a new generation of filmmakers and film talent.

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI is now a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role, which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Greg Dyke.