

EE BRITISH ACADEMY FILM AWARDS IN 2013

OUTSTANDING DEBUT BY A BRITISH WRITER, DIRECTOR OR PRODUCER NOMINEE BIOGRAPHIES

BART LAYTON (DIRECTOR), DIMITRI DOGANIS (PRODUCER) – THE IMPOSTER

Born in South London, **Bart Layton** is a British filmmaker known for creating stories which are visually innovative and which challenge convention. Prior to making *The Imposter*, Bart built a successful career as a producer and director of films for British and American television broadcast, including the commercially and critically successful *Banged Up Abroad* (2006). *The Imposter* (2012) is a gripping thriller in the mould of a classic mystery; only the film's events are rooted firmly in reality. It is a film that walks the line between true-crime documentary and stylish noir thriller. Bart is currently the Creative Director of production company Raw, where he works alongside Dimitri Doganis.

Dimitri Doganis founded his production company, Raw, in 2001 with a small development grant from Channel 4. Raw's founding principal was to create stories for the screen which were as visually striking and innovative as possible. Dimitri has been doing so ever since and has developed Raw into one of the UK's leading independent production companies. Before founding Raw, Dimitri directed and produced documentaries for the BBC, Channel 4 and Channel 5 in destinations including Cambodia, Iraq and the West Bank. *The Imposter* is Dimitri's feature producer debut. It is a documentary whose story about the disappearance and return of a missing child is at turns riveting, devastating and utterly unpredictable.

DAVID MORRIS (DIRECTOR), JACQUI MORRIS (DIRECTOR/PRODUCER) – McCULLIN

David Morris is a British director and writer of fiction and screenplays. He began his career working in the casting industry with his sister and fellow nominee, Jacqui. In 2009 David wrote and co-directed his debut television film, *Mr Right*, which was screened at the opening nights at the New York, Miami, San Francisco, LA, Melbourne and Berlin Gay Film Festivals. The film continues to air regularly on US television and the positive reviews it received lead to further US screenplay commissions for David. *McCullin*, David's debut feature, is an intimate portrait of Don McCullin, one of the most revered photographers of a generation, who has covered conflicts around the globe. David has recently finished his first novel and is working on a feature script with Jacqui.

Jacqui Morris began her career as a casting director, where she was in the vanguard of street casting for films, TV and adverts. Jacqui then moved into film production and made short film *Values*, written by brother David, which had critical success in a British Film Council New Talent programme. In 2009, Jacqui co-directed her debut television film *Mr Right* which was well-received in international Gay Film Festivals and which continues to air on US television. *McCullin* reveals what happened when a deeply private man and revered conflict photographer allowed Jacqui, an old friend, to interview him, revealing a portrait of a man behind the iconic images that brought the horrors of war to our shores. Jacqui is currently developing a new feature film project with her brother, David.

DEXTER FLETCHER (DIRECTOR/WRITER), DANNY KING (WRITER) – WILD BILL

Born in north London in 1966, **Dexter Fletcher** has been acting professionally since the age of six. During a successful acting career spanning five decades, Dexter has worked alongside such cinema greats as David Lynch, Ken Russell, John Hurt and Tom Hanks. In recent years, Dexter has garnered acclaim for his performances in *Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels* (1998), *Band of Brothers* (2001) and *Kick-Ass* (2010). *Wild Bill* (2012) is Dexter's feature debut behind the camera and is a poignant, charming and dramatic story of renewed father and son relationships set in the East End of London.

Danny King was born in Slough, 1969. He has written for the page, stage and screen. Danny's wealth of written work includes nine comic novels, several plays staged at the Edinburgh Fringe and the BBC Three sitcom, *THIEVES LIKE US*. Before he became a writer, Danny worked as a hod carrier, decorator, shelf-stacker and top-shelf editor, and today he uses his experience to dodge all of the above. In *WILD BILL* (2012), Danny uses his writing talent to craft a story that manages to be fresh, funny and moving. He currently lives in Chichester, West Sussex, with his wife and two small children.

JAMES BOBIN (DIRECTOR) – THE MUPPETS

James Bobin is a British writer, director and producer who in recent years has brought some of the most celebrated and recognisable comedies to the small screen. His previous work for television includes producing and directing *The 11 O'Clock Show* (which garnered a nomination in 2000) and directing and writing *Da Ali G Show* and *Flight of the Conchords* – all of which achieved great commercial and critical acclaim. James is a lifelong fan of *The Muppets*, even writing a tribute to the puppets in an episode of *Flight of the Conchords*. James' long-standing friendships with co-writer Nick Stoller and music supervisor Brett McKenzie (*Flight of the Conchords*) were integral to achieving the unique, endearing humour and tone of *The Muppets* (2012). James currently lives in Los Angeles with his wife and two children.

TINA GHARAVI (DIRECTOR/WRITER) – I AM NASRINE

Tina Gharavi, born in 1972, left her birthplace of Tehran aged seven and has been a true nomad ever since. Carrying no less than four passports, she originally trained as a painter in the United States before studying cinema in France. Her previous work has focused on untold stories and unheard, endearing voices, including TV documentary *A Town Like Lackawana* (2002) and documentary shorts *Closer* (2000) and *The King of South Shields* (2008). *I Am Nasrine* is a coming-of-age story set against the modern refugee experience and was filmed in Newcastle and Tehran. Tina currently resides in the North of England where she teaches filmmaking at Newcastle University.