



**\*\*\*strictly embargoed until 11am\*\*\*\***

## **AND THE ORANGE RISING STAR AWARD NOMINEES FOR 2009 ARE...**

### **Winner to be revealed at The Orange British Academy Film Awards**

**London, 8 January 2009.** Today, Shia LaBeouf, the 2008 winner, announced this year's nominees for the Orange Rising Star Award. The award recognises five international actors and actresses who have demonstrated exceptional talent and have begun to capture the imagination of the public as a star in the making. The five nominees are: **Michael Cera, Noel Clarke, Michael Fassbender, Rebecca Hall** and **Toby Kebbell** [1]

The Orange Rising Star Award is unique as it is the only Award presented at The Orange British Academy Film Awards to be voted for by the British public. Film fans can have their say by voting via the Orange website [orange.co.uk/bafta](http://orange.co.uk/bafta); or via text\*. The winner will be announced at The Orange British Academy Film Awards on Sunday 8 February 2009.

#### **To vote for:**

<b>Michael Cera</b>	<b>text CERA to 82058</b>
<b>Noel Clarke</b>	<b>text CLARKE to 82058</b>
<b>Michael Fassbender</b>	<b>text FASSBENDER to 82058</b>
<b>Rebecca Hall</b>	<b>text HALL to 82058</b>
<b>Toby Kebbell</b>	<b>text KEBBELL to 82058</b>

A jury, led by producer and chair of BAFTA, David Parfitt, and respected industry figures including casting director, Fiona Weir, actors James McAvoy and Kelly

Macdonald, selected the five nominees from a long list of recommendations put forward by the film industry and BAFTA members.

Nominees must have featured in a film that has been entered for this year's Orange British Academy Film Awards. Nominees will have usually already appeared in several feature films in their career so far.

Last year's winner, **Shia LaBeouf commented:** "I was delighted to win the Orange Rising Star Award last year, especially as it is an award voted for by members of the British public. Since then I've had a really busy year working on a number of projects that I'm really proud of and 2009 looks like it's going to be just as hectic! Hopefully I can go on to achieve the sort of success that my fellow Orange Rising Star Award winners have enjoyed."

**Ian Smith, Head of Partnerships at Orange**, commented: "This is the fourth year of the Orange Rising Star Award which now has an impressive list of alumni in James McAvoy, Eva Green and Shia LaBeouf. We're sure that this year's winner will enjoy the same levels of success that previous winners have experienced.

"We are proud to be involved in an award that enables communities of film fans to come together and get closer to The Orange British Academy Film Awards."

**Finola Dwyer, Chairman of the BAFTA Film Committee**, said: "We are pleased to be working with Orange again and we're sure that the five Orange Rising Star nominees will make this one of the most exciting awards on the night."

The Orange Rising Star Award was created in honour of Mary Selway, the highly respected BAFTA-winning casting director who died in 2004. Mary's career spanned three decades and over ninety films. She helped launch the careers of many stars in films as varied as Gosford Park, Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World, Notting Hill and Withnail & I, among countless others. She worked with notable directors such as Steven Spielberg, Roman Polanski, Clint Eastwood and Ridley Scott, contributing to the creation of some of the silver screen's most memorable characters.

For more information on the Orange Rising Star Award, visit [www.orange.co.uk/bafta](http://www.orange.co.uk/bafta).

\*Text cost 25p plus a standard network charge. Network charges may vary.

**For more information please contact:**

**Press Enquiries / Orange**

Naomi Li or Claire Timlett at M&C Saatchi Sport & Entertainment:

Tel: 0207 544 3687/4580

Email: [naomi.li@mcsaatchi.com](mailto:naomi.li@mcsaatchi.com) or [claire.timlett@mcsaatchi.com](mailto:claire.timlett@mcsaatchi.com)

**Press Enquiries / BAFTA**

Vicky Grayson or Johanna Fernihough at Freud Communications

Tel: 020 3003 6300

Email: [Vicky.Grayson@freud.com](mailto:Vicky.Grayson@freud.com) or [Johanna.Fernihough@freud.com](mailto:Johanna.Fernihough@freud.com)

**ends**

**Notes to Editors**

**[1] NOMINEE SHORT BIOGRAPHIES**

**Michael Cera**

Since his acclaimed role as George-Michael Bluth in the Emmy Award-winning *'Arrested Development'*, Michael's career has gone from strength to strength. First came roles starring role the top box office grossing film *'Superbad'*, one of 2007's most talked about films. Soon after he landed another lead role, this time in the Oscar- and BAFTA-nominated *Juno*, opposite Ellen Page.

Most recently Cera starred in *'Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist'*, which was released in October 2008 and screened in a highly coveted slot at the Toronto Film Festival. Next up he will take the lead role in *'Youth in Revolt'*, a film based on his favourite book. He will also star opposite Jack Black in *'Year One'*, due in June 2009. Past credits include a young Chuck Barris in George Clooney's *'Confessions of a Dangerous Mind'*, and *'Frequency'* with Dennis Quaid.

**Noel Clarke**

Since winning a Laurence Olivier Award for Most Promising Newcomer Noel Clarke has been making his mark on British drama in many different ways. As an actor, he's known to millions as *Doctor Who's* Mickey Smith, and as Wyman in *'Auf Wiedersehen Pet'*. As a writer, he penned the hit movie *'Kidulthood'*, which won Best Screenplay award at the Dinard Film Festival and at the Screen Nations Awards, and the award for Best Debut Director at the British Independent Film Awards in 2006. Noel then wrote, starred in and directed *'Adulthood'*, the follow-up to *'Kidulthood'*, and one of the highest grossing British films of 2008. Noel will next star in the feature *'Heartless'*, directed by Philip Ridley, alongside Timothy Spall.

**Michael Fassbender**

Michael Fassbender was born in Heidelberg, Germany, to a German father and Irish mother. They moved to Ireland after he was just a few years old, where he was raised before attending London's Drama Centre. His first major role was as Sergeant Burton 'Pat' Christenson in Steven Spielberg's award-winning *'Band of Brothers'*.

The big-screen adaptation of Frank Miller's graphic novel, *'300'*, gave him his first movie role and numerous others have followed, including Francois Ozon's *'Angel'*, Joel Schumacher's *'Town Creek'* and James Watkin's *'Eden Lake'*. Michael's performance as Bobby Sands in Steve McQueen's *'Hunger'* won him great critical acclaim and, following the film's Camera D'Or winning premiere at Cannes '08, Michael has scooped numerous international festival awards. Since then he has gone on to work with Andrea Arnold on *'Fish Tank'* and is currently shooting Quentin Tarantino's *'Inglorious Bastards'*, both due for release in 2009.

### **Rebecca Hall**

Rebecca's first screen role was in the Channel 4 adaptation of Mary Wesley's *'The Camomile Lawn'*, when she was just ten years old. As a student at Cambridge, she took to the stage, playing many roles including Miranda in *'The Tempest'* and Martha in *'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?'*. Since University Rebecca has continued to act in the theatre, as well as moving into film. Her first feature film role came opposite James McAvoy in Tom Vaughn's *'Starter For Ten'*, a coming-of-age comedy about university students struggling to find themselves while learning the differences between knowledge and wisdom. Next came a role in Christopher Nolan's *'The Prestige'*, starring opposite Christian Bale, Michael Caine and Hugh Jackman. Rebecca will next be on screens in Woody Allen's *'Vicky Cristina Barcelona'* opposite Scarlett Johansson, Penélope Cruz, and Javier Bardem, and as Caroline Cushing in Ron Howard's *'Frost/Nixon'*.

### **Toby Kebbell**

Toby developed a keen interest in acting while still at school. Encouraged by his drama teacher, he attended the Central Television Workshop where his talents were quickly spotted by independent filmmaker Shane Meadows. Toby's performance in Meadows' *'Dead Man's Shoes'* won him considerable critical and audience acclaim, as well as a meeting with Oliver Stone. Toby was cast in a small but pivotal role in the epic *'Alexander'*, alongside Angelina Jolie and more theatre and TV work quickly followed. Toby returned to the big screen in Anton Corbijn's *'Control'*, winning a British Independent Film Award for Best Supporting Actor. He also put in a standout performance as Johnny Quid, a drug-addled rock star in Guy Ritchie's *'RocknRolla'*. He's just finished filming *'Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time'*, an epic fantasy featuring Jake Gyllenhaal and Ben Kingsley and directed by Mike Newell, due to hit screens later this year.

### **About BAFTA**

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts exists to support, develop and promote the art forms of the moving image, by identifying and rewarding excellence, inspiring practitioners and benefiting the viewing public.

### **About Orange**

Orange is a key brand of the France Telecom Group, providing mobile, broadband, fixed, business and entertainment services across Europe. It is one of the world's leading telecommunications operators with more than 168 million customers on five continents.

In June, 2006, Orange became the single brand for mobile, broadband and multi-play offers. In addition, Orange Business Services became the new banner for business communications solutions. Orange Business Services is present in 166 countries with network reach in 220.

In the UK, Orange provides high quality GSM coverage to 99% of the UK population. At the end of September 2007, Orange had over 16.9 million customers in the UK - 15.4 million active mobile customers and nearly 1.6 million Internet customers.

Orange and any other Orange product or service names included in this material are trade marks of Orange Personal Communications Services Limited.

Further information about Orange and France Telecom can be found on the Orange website at [www.orange.co.uk](http://www.orange.co.uk) or the France Telecom website at [www.francetelecom.com](http://www.francetelecom.com)

For further information, call the Orange press office on 0870 373 1500 or email: [Orangepr@golinharris.com](mailto:Orangepr@golinharris.com).