

## **BAFTA ELEVATE 2017 PARTICIPANTS**

### **Alicia Duffy**

Alicia Duffy is a BAFTA-nominated director. While at the National Film and Television School, she directed two short films: *Numb* (2000) and *Crow Stone* (2001), both of which screened at numerous festivals internationally. *Numb* received a Special Commendation at the Edinburgh Film Festival and the Arri Prize, while *Crow Stone* was a prize-winner in the Cinefondation Competition in Cannes 2001 and received awards at festivals including Edinburgh, Chicago and Bologna, and was an RTS award-winner in the same year.

In 2002, Duffy was selected for the Cannes Film Festival Cinefondation Residence in Paris, and later that year made the short film *The Most Beautiful Man In The World*, for which she received a BAFTA nomination in 2003. In the same year, the film was in the Official Selection at Cannes and won Best International Film at the Hamburg Short Film Festival, as well as receiving further awards at The Rhode Island Film Festival and Chicago Film Festival, and the Turner Classic Movies Short Film Prize.

Alice Duffy's first feature, *All Good Children*, screened internationally and was selected for the Directors' Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival 2010.

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### **Amanda Blue**

Amanda Blue is a BAFTA-nominated director with 15 years' experience in documentary filmmaking.

She began her career in drama, working with BAFTA and Oscar-nominated director Mike Figgis, and later produced his documentary arts films, before directing her own work.

Early in her documentary career, Blue directed the award-winning series, *Young Black Farmers* (2006). In 2008, she received a BAFTA nomination in the Director – Factual category at the British Academy Television Craft Awards for *Prescott: The Class System and Me*. Her other documentary directing credits include *Twincredibles*, which examined growing up mixed-race in Britain, and comedy-documentary series, *The Greatest Shows on Earth*.

In 2016, Blue wrote and directed the feature length drama documentary *Deep Water* for Screen Australia and SBS, which is currently screening at festivals internationally and has been nominated for a Logie (Australian TV's highest accolade) and an Australian Directors Guild award for Best Director.

Amanda Blue is currently developing several drama projects.

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### **Cathy Brady**

Cathy Brady is a two-time IFTA-winning director, having won Best Short in 2011 for her first film, *Small Change* and again in 2013 for *Morning*, which was also selected for the BFI London Film Festival 2012 and won the Short Film Nominee prize for the European Film Awards at Cork Film Festival.

In 2011, Brady directed the BIFA nominated short *Rough Skin* (written by Laura Lomas and starring Vicky McClure) as part of Channel 4's Coming Up scheme. Her short film, *Wasted*, competed at the Edinburgh International Film Festival in 2013. In the same year, Brady was named one of Screen Daily's 'Stars of Tomorrow'.

In 2014, Brady directed on the BAFTA-nominated drama-thriller series *Glue*. Most recently, Brady directed Stefanie Preissner's TV comedy series *Can't Cope/Won't Cope* for Dead Pan Pictures and RTE, which is currently showing on BBC Three. Her debut feature as writer-director, *Wildfire*, is currently in development, and will be produced by Carlo Cresto-Dina (*The Wonders*, Cannes Grand Jury Prize 2014) along with Cowboy Films.

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### **Christiana Ebohon-Green**

Christiana Ebohon-Green is an award-winning drama director, who has worked in television for 15 years. Her credits include *EastEnders*, *Doctors*, *Emmerdale* and *Hollyoaks*.

Ebohon-Green has also written and directed several short films, including *St Claire* (1997) and *In Your Eye* (1998), which won the Kodak Award USA 1998, and was screened at the Kodak Emerging Filmmaker's Showcase at Cannes in 1999.

In 2015, Ebohon-Green won a place on Directors UK's High-end Drama Mentoring scheme, and worked alongside director Carl Tibbitts (*Humans*, *Black Mirror*) in the production of *The Tunnel* as part of the initiative. She was also a mentee on Women in Film & Television's 2015 mentoring scheme.

Christiana Ebohon-Green recently received funding from Creative England under their Emerging Talent scheme to direct a short film, *Some Sweet Oblivious Antidote* (2017), starring Lenny Henry, Wunmi Mosaku, Colin Salmon, and Fatima Koroma, and to develop her first feature film.

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### **Dawn Shadforth**

Dawn Shadforth's directorial career began with documentaries for Channel 4, including *Tales of Battered Britain: The Friends' Tale* (1995) and *The Seven Year Glitch* (1996), a short film documenting the Warp Records seven year anniversary tour.

Shadforth made her directing breakthrough in 2001 with the video for Kylie Minogue's *Can't Get You Out of My Head*. Since then, she has worked with a diverse group of artists, including Bjork, Florence & The Machine, Metronomy, Goldfrapp and The Moonlandingz. Her work has earned her a string of awards, most recently the Outstanding Achievement Award For Staying Relevant at the 2015 1.4 Awards for her latest video for synthpop duo, Hurts.

Outside of music video directing, Shadforth made silent short film *Ding Dong* for Sky Arts, starring Mackenzie Crook, in 2009 and *The Big Day*, a short film written by Kellie Smith for Creative England's iWrite scheme in 2016.

Shadforth continues to be passionate about music videos as an art form, recently joining a BFI advisory panel on preserving music videos for the first time in the National Film Archive. A retrospective of her music videos will be showcased as part of the London Short Film Festival in 2018.

Dawn Shadforth has various film projects in development.

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### **Delyth Thomas**

Delyth Thomas is a twice BAFTA-nominated director whose work encompasses a wide range of both primetime drama and ground-breaking children's shows.

Over her career she has directed the likes of Sir Lenny Henry, Julia McKenzie, Idris Elba, Nina Wadia, Anton Rogers, Rebecca Front, and the legendary Ann Mitchell. Primetime drama credits

include *Hope and Glory*, *The Bill*, *A&E*, *Julian Fellowes Investigates a Most Mysterious Murder* and the feature length comedy drama *You Can Choose Your Friends*.

Equally at home with raw, new talent, Thomas was lead director on three series of the hugely successful *The Story of Tracey Beaker*, for which she received a BAFTA nomination in 2003. Other children's drama credits include BAFTA-winning *The Revenge Files of Alistair Fury*, *The Dumping Ground*, *All at Sea* and *Dani's Castle*. Her second BAFTA nomination came in 2016 for *Hetty Feather*, a period drama for children based on the book by Jacqueline Wilson.

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### **Emma Sullivan**

Emma Sullivan's short film, *After Tomorrow* (2009), was nominated for a Palme d'Or at the 62nd Cannes Film Festival, and won several awards worldwide including Best Short Film at the Edinburgh Film Festival in 2009. That year, she was also named one of Screen International's Stars of Tomorrow. She was later mentored by director John Hillcoat (*The Road*, *Lawless*) on the prestigious Guiding Lights scheme.

Sullivan has also directed television drama for the BBC, with credits including *The 4 O'Clock Club*, *Holby City* and *Doctors*. She is currently developing a feature script set in New York, a high end drama series and has written several other features and shorts.

Sullivan is a graduate of the National Film and Television School, where she was awarded a scholarship from the David Lean Foundation for her MA in Fiction Direction.

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### **Kate Saxon**

Kate Saxon is a director working across film, television, theatre, games and VR.

In 2013, Saxon received BBC training to direct multi-camera and since then has directed *Eastenders*, a one-off special for BBC Red Button and *Doctors*.

Saxon was voice director on Paramount's animated Spanish feature film, *Capture The Flag* (2015), which won the Goya Award for Best Animated Film in 2016.

Saxon is also a performance and cinematic director for video games. Her most recently released game is the twice BAFTA-nominated *Mafia 3*, with other titles including BAFTA-winning *Everybody's Gone to the Rapture* and *Alien: Isolation*. With over 12 years' experience in motion capture, Saxon is often called upon to direct world-renowned actors in games, most notably Michael Fassbender, Judi Dench, Naomie Harris, Simon Pegg and Patrick Stewart.

Currently, she is developing a new short film written by Samuel Evans, working title *Hold Me*. Saxon has directed over 35 theatre productions and is the current Co-Chair of Stage Directors UK, alongside Jeremy Herrin. Saxon is currently directing *As You Like It* for Shared Experience and is also developing a new play by 2016 Olivier award winner, Jessica Swale.

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### **Lindy Heymann**

Lindy Heymann is an award-winning director who received a BIFA for Best Directorial Debut for her film *Showboy* (2002), which also won Best Film at the Milan International Film Festival.

Her feature film, *Kicks* (2009), premiered at the Edinburgh International Film Festival where it competed for the Michael Powell Award. Heymann and writer Leigh Campbell were also both nominated for Best British Newcomer awards for the film at the BFI London Film Festival in the same year.

Across television, Heymann was 2nd Unit Director on the BAFTA-winning sci-fi drama series *Humans* and the BAFTA-nominated BBC Three drama *Thirteen*, and has directed several episodes of the 2017 CBBC adaptation of *The Worst Witch*.

Heymann recently co-wrote and directed the short film, *The Laughing King* (2016), starring Colin Morgan (*Humans*, *Merlin*). The film premiered at the London Short Film Festival, where she was nominated for the Best Woman Director award.

Lindy Heymann is currently directing the television adaptation of the play *I told my Mum I was going on an RE Trip* for BBC's Performance Live Strand. She has several other features in development, including *Rum Doxy Diver*, an adaptation of Sara Stockbridge's acclaimed novel, and biopic of a prominent figure in the British music industry for Creative England.

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### **Lisa Clarke**

Most recently, Lisa Clarke has directed on two series of the BAFTA-winning drama *Call the Midwife*. Clarke began her directing career in theatre. After studying Theatre Direction at the Central School of Speech and Drama, she went on to win the highly sought after Carlton/Donmar Traineeship and spent a year as Assistant Director to Sam Mendes at the Donmar Warehouse.

Having directed a number of successful theatre productions, Clarke made the crossover from stage to screen directing via a stint as a script editor on *EastEnders*. From there, she went on to direct the BAFTA-winning soap before going on to direct other popular dramas including *Doctors*, *Holby City* and *WPC56*.

Her first short film, *Heard* (2014), starring Louise Brealey (*Sherlock*, *Ripper Street*) and Ferdinand Kingsley (*Victoria*), was screened as part of the London Short Film Festival and the Aesthetica Short Film Festival.

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### **Rebecca Johnson**

Rebecca Johnson's debut feature, *Honeytrap* premiered at the BFI London Film Festival in 2014, where she was nominated for the Best British Newcomer Award. It was released in the UK in May to widespread critical acclaim, including four-star reviews in *The Guardian* and *Total Film*.

*Honeytrap* had its US premiere at SXSW in 2015, where Johnson secured US representation, and went on to screen at other festivals including Montreal and Urban World in New York. The film was day and date released in the US by Ava DuVernay's *Array*.

In 2016, Johnson made a move into US television, directing *The Magicians* for Syfy and *Supergirl* for Warner Brothers. She is set to direct UK television for the first time this year with two episodes of the BAFTA-winning drama, *Call the Midwife*.

Rebecca Johnson is currently writing her own film and TV projects and is slated to direct *Underneath*, a female-led action thriller set on a diamond trawler off the coast of Namibia.

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### **Sally El Hosaini**

Sally El Hosaini's acclaimed debut feature, *My Brother The Devil* (2013), screened at over 40 international festivals, garnering 12 awards, 17 nominations and an honourable mention including wins at the Sundance, Berlin and London Film Festivals.

The film was released theatrically in the UK, US, Canada and Germany. As writer/director of the film, El Hosaini won the Most Promising Newcomer Award at the 2013 Evening Standard Film Awards, Best Screenplay at the 2013 Writer's Guild of Great Britain Awards, Best Newcomer at the

2012 BFI London Film Festival and the UK New Talent Award at the British Women in Film and Television Awards 2012.

El Hosaini was named a Screen International Star of Tomorrow and was featured in *Variety* as one of their 2014 'Brits to Watch'.

In 2015, El Hosaini was one of two directors chosen by Danny Boyle to direct *Babylon*, the television series he co-created and produced for Channel 4 and SundanceTV.

Sally El Hosaini is currently developing feature projects with House Productions, Sixteen Films and FilmWave.

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### **Sarah Walker**

Sarah Walker was named a BAFTA Breakthrough Brit in 2014. Her directing credits include numerous high profile television shows, from *I Am Elizabeth Smart* (Lifetime USA) to *Dates* (Channel 4), *Wolfblood*, *The Cut* and *The Crash* (BBC). The latter saw her nominated for a BAFTA Scotland Award in 2013.

Walker began her career as an independent filmmaker, and was nominated three years in a row by Broadcast Magazine in the 'Best Young Writer' and 'Best Young Director' categories respectively for her short films *420 Seconds of Love* (2002), *Almost Strangers* (2003) and *Soul Boy* (2004). She has an RTS Award, a Channel 4 Creative Class Award and was hailed as one of Shooting People's 'Top UK Filmmakers'.

Represented by United Agents (UK) and WME (USA), Sarah is currently writing two feature films (*New Year's Kiss* and *Beautiful Monster*), developing two TV dramas (*Summer Blues* and *YoungBlood*) and a web series aimed at championing marginalised voices (*Creepers*) through her production company Underdog Productions, which is dedicated to telling stories with female leads.

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### **Tina Gharavi**

Tina Gharavi is a BAFTA-nominated filmmaker whose work focuses on storytelling from the margins.

In 1998, Gharavi established Bridge + Tunnel, an award-winning media production company based in Newcastle to support "unheard voices, untold stories". Her first short, *Closer* (2001), was an official selection at Sundance. Gharavi's next major production *Mother/Country* (2003), which chronicled her return to her mother's house in Iran 23 years after the Islamic Revolution, was broadcast at prime time on Channel 4 in the UK to critical acclaim.

Her first feature, *I am Nasrine* (2012), a coming of age story of two teenage Iranian refugees in the North of England, received the BAFTA nomination for Outstanding Debut in 2013, as well as a BIFA nomination in the same year.

Tina Gharavi is currently working on her follow-up feature with the BFI and Film4, *The Good Iranian*, a gangster tale set in Paris and Iran, and a documentary about racism, *Tribalism is Killing Us*. Gharavi teaches filmmaking at Newcastle University.

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## **Vanessa Caswill**

Vanessa Caswill is a self-taught filmmaker with a theatrical background. Following the success of her short film, *Pudding Bowl* (2007), Caswill won the 4Talent Award for Best Young Director in UK in the same year, and soon after got signed by Annex Films for music videos and commercials.

In 2013, she directed *Aphrodite Fry*, a pilot for Ruby / Sky written by and starring Sarah Solemani. Other directing credits include: BAFTA-nominated Channel 4 series *My Mad Fat Diary*; and *Flea* (2014), a short film by Cat Jones for BBC, which won the award for the second prize in the TeenScreen Competition at the 8th International Short Film Festival for children and youth KUKI + TeenScreen.

Caswill was the lead director on BAFTA-nominated BBC Three series *Thirteen*, which was highly commended at the Broadcast Digital Awards and nominated for and RTS award.

Vanessa Caswill is currently in pre-production for a three-part BBC One adaptation of *Little Women*, written by Heidi Thomas.