

Media Release

THE BIGGEST FILM PRODUCTION PRIZE IN THE UK DECIDED!

www.the-big-pitch.com

Different Shades of Graham, a non-linear psychological thriller where **David T. Lynch, Keith Lynch** and **Brad Watson** will share the directorial duties and each direct one of the three acts has won The Big Pitch Final.

Simon Thomas – Producer of Different Shade of Graham, said:

"The Final itself was sensational, we cannot thank the production companies enough for making the whole weekend so special. To pitch our movie to a crowd of 300 was baptism by fire but there's nothing to stop us now. The team and I know that we have a huge amount of work ahead of us, but our whole lives have been waiting for this work to begin. Thank you to all the voters and huge amount of support we got from friends and family, you have helped change our lives!"

Keith Lynch – Writer-Director of Different Shades of Graham, said:

"It's absolutely life changing. Winning The Big Pitch has accelerated us further along our career path much faster than we ever could have dreamed."

On Saturday December 6th in front of a live voting audience the four finalists of The Big Pitch competed to win the largest production prize in the UK.

The night was hosted by Chair of the Critics Circle **Jason Solomons** and all four teams entertained the voting audience in a pressure packed 2-hour show full of thrills.

The four finalists each had 15 minutes to sell their film to the 300-strong live voting audience before facing questions and comments from the expert industry panelists. The panel included **Clare Binns** (Programming Director at City Screen), **Brian Gordon** (Director of The Northern Lights Film Festival) and **Denise Parkinson**, (Head of Film at Bauer Media).

The live audience votes were collated and added to the online votes which were cast over 3 weeks before the final event. It was announced that there were literally just a few votes separating first and second place. Second place went to Derek Boyes' neo-noir thriller *Blackout*, before **Different Shades of Graham** were announced as the winners and invited to accept their award.

Brad Watson –Writer-Director of Different Shades of Graham, said:

The moment our project was announced as the winner of the Big Pitch is a moment I will remember for the rest of my life. It was about as emotionally charged as you could imagine and I promise never to be cynical at the tears of people who win stuff again! And that was just on the night! The reality of what this means for our careers and the rest of our lives is only just sinking in! Of course we have to deliver a movie now that is going to do justice to the support and votes we received. The journey isn't over, but what a ride so far!

The team has won production finance together with a post-production deal with **Molinare**, guaranteed UK distribution with **Soda Makers** and international sales representation with **Moxiehouse Entertainment**. The film will be produced during 2009 and premiere at the Northern Lights Film Festival 2009.

The Big Pitch, dubbed "the X-Factor of Film", is an innovative **Skillset** supported competitive training programme that attracted over 200 applications from the UK's most exciting up-and-coming filmmakers when it was launched as part of Northern Lights Film Festival 2007.

David Lynch – Writer-Director of Different Shades of Graham, said:

It was a fantastic night in Newcastle, a great atmosphere, and a brilliant way to end what has been an incredible year for our film careers.

The hard work starts now, ours is a very ambitious project especially at this early stage in our career but I am confident in my team and know we can produce something special.

The three other finalist projects were:

- **Blackout**, a dark neo-noir thriller directed by award-winning short film director **Derek Boyes**
- **Til Jihad Do Us Part**, a romantic comedy written by **Shai Hussain** that tells the story of Meena and her growing suspicions that her new fiancé may be a terrorist
- **The Brightness**, a satirical-comedy set in 2012 on the eve of the apocalypse, written and directed by **Gary Reich**

The Big Pitch forms part of NewcastleGateshead's world-class programme of festivals and events in 2008 managed by culture¹⁰.

QUOTES

Christine Alderson – CEO of Moxie Makers, said:

"Moxie Makers launched this competitive training programme with Skillset in order to stimulate and find fresh creative talent. We're delighted to have been part of the development of four amazing films and are excited to have given the green-light to Different Shades of Graham."

Janine Marmot - Skillset's Director of Film, said:

"I am delighted that Skillset is supporting The Big Pitch. It is a fantastic initiative that delivers dynamic training to filmmakers, honing their pitching skills and encouraging work with a real market focus."

Stella Hall, creative director of culture¹⁰ said:

"The Big Pitch provides a clear focus on breakthrough talent in the context of the exciting new direction of this year's Northern Lights Film Festival."

Enquiries to:

The Big Pitch

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Images available to download from:

<http://www.the-big-pitch.co.uk/press/>

NOTES TO EDITORS

Four teams are available for interview – please contact Nicky Harrison or Lyn Spencer to arrange.

PARTNERS

Moxie Makers- A “micro studio” created with the express purpose of commercially showcasing the exciting new filmmaking talent burgeoning in the UK. www.moxiemakers.com

The company's first two films Mad, Sad & Bad and Who Killed Nancy? are due for release in early 2009

Ipsos Facto Films

The management company for Moxie Makers and The Big Pitch. Ipso Facto Films are also a producer and co-producer of feature films made for the international market.

www.ipsufactofilms.com

Soda Pictures

London based independent UK theatrical and DVD distributor, with whom the new distribution label - "Soda Makers" has been created. Established in 2002, Soda Pictures has since acquired over 50 feature films.

www.sodapictures.com

Moviehouse Entertainment

An international sales company with a wealth of experience introducing low budget and digital films to the marketplace. With Moviehouse's expertise the micro-budget label "Moxiehouse Entertainment" will sell the winning film.

www.moviehouseent.com

Skillset

Sector Skills Council for creative media (broadcast, film, video, interactive media and photo imaging). Jointly funded by industry and government, their job is to make sure that the UK audio visual industries have the right people, with the right skills, in the right place, at the right time, so that our industries remain competitive.

www.skillset.org

Molinare

A front-runner in HD feature film post-production since Mark Foligno and Chief Executive Steve Milne's MBO in September 2003. They have propelled the company forward with a focus on film projects and have completed the HD & DI (Digital Intermediate) post-production on over fifty feature films in the past 3 years since their take-over. Molinare has a rich 35-year heritage and is now the largest, privately owned post-production company in the UK, they work across all story genres and distribution formats.

www.molinare.co.uk

Northern Lights Film Festival

Previously the UK's only film festival dedicated to screening work from Northern Europe, Northern Lights Film Festival (NLFF) is now expanding its remit to take in the entire world. The new focus is on breakthrough talent, and the festival has employed programmers to scout the globe for the hottest new filmmakers out there, and to bring the most exciting and innovative debut features back to premiere in the North East.

www.nlff.co.uk

culture¹⁰

A curated programme of exceptional cultural events and festivals across the North East region which supports the development of the NewcastleGateshead and sub regional brands each year until 2010.

www.newcastlegateshead.com/1785/Culture_10_Overview.html

Arts Council England, North East

Arts Council England works to get more art to more people in more places. They develop and promote the arts across England, acting as an independent body at arm's length from government.

<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/regions/homepage.php?rid=4>