

# DIRECTORS UK

PRESS RELEASE  
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## DIRECTORS UK & FILM LONDON PARTNER FOR SECOND ANNUAL CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS DAY

Yesterday (Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017) saw Directors UK, the professional association of UK screen directors, and Film London, the capital's screen industries agency, host the second annual **Creative Partnerships Day**, at The Hallam in London.

The Creative Partnerships Day is a free event aimed at connecting writers, directors and producers across film and TV industries, and offers the opportunity to hear from film and high-end TV professionals who have formed lasting creative partnerships. The event is designed to provide unique and practical insights into how some of the most successful creative partnerships in the UK screen industries work.

The event, attended by 150 writers, producers and directors from across the UK included:

An in-depth discussion with the creative team behind the BBC's *Boy with a Top Knot*, producer **Nisha Parti** (*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone & The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*), director **Lynsey Miller** (*Casualty, Doctors & Eve*), and writer **Mick Ford** (*Hunter, Ashes To Ashes & L'amour fugitif*), chaired by director **Lotus Hannon** (*That Peter Kay Thing, Man of Me Dreams! & The Expiration*).

An 'In Conversation' with director **Anthony Byrne** (*Silent Witness, Mr Selfridge & Ripper Street*), producer **Adam Morane-Griffiths** (*The Investigator: A British Crime Story, Behold the Monkey & Roar*), casting director **Kharmel Cochrane** (*The King's Speech, Prometheus & Kick-Ass*), with filmmaker **Femi Kolade** (*Patch, Leaving Stockholm & Limbus*).

An exploration of the relationship between director and producer in TV with director **Pete Travis** (*Dredd, Vantage Point & Omagh*), producer **Adrian Sturges** (*The Enfield Haunting, The Disappearance of Alice Creed & The Escapist*), and **Amy Neil** (*Call The Midwife, Holby City & Bedlam*).

And producer **Charlie Hanson** (*Cemetery Junction, The Big Impression & David Brent: Life on the Road*) discussed his journey from making ground breaking TV comedies to feature films with Amma Asante and Ricky Gervais, with director **Audrey Cooke** (*Coronation Street, EastEnders & Waterloo Road*).

Five directors, producers and writers also had the opportunity to pitch a project to the room. The day was followed by networking drinks for delegates to meet potential collaborators about future opportunities and projects.

The day also featured insight into making production sustainable with **Steve Smith** (Chair of Directors UK/Albert Ambassador and director of *Blind Date, Graham Norton & Cheap Cheap Cheap*), **Adrian Wootton OBE** (Chief Executive of Film London), **Jessica Hines** (Purpose Climate Lab PBC), and **Melanie Dicks** (Greenshoot and first assistant director of *St. Trinian's, Run, Fatboy, Run & Mike Bassett: England Manager*).

Speaking at the event, director & producer **Charlie Hanson** commented: "These events are always useful, because when you have a group of directors in the room together – or in this case, writers and producers too – they all hear shared experiences and find out that it is just as tough for that person who has been doing it for a long time as it is for me starting out. I think sharing experiences with groups of your contemporary peers is always a useful exercise".

Director **Audrey Cooke**, said: "It's very interesting to get the perspective from people in the industry; it was interesting listening to Charlie Hanson about his experience, but it's also nice to get writers, producers and directors together, and find out how we can make progress together within the creative industry."

Casting director **Kharmel Cochrane** said: "Events such as these are useful because it connects people from all different fields and brings them together to the practical side – this is the first time Anthony, Adam and I have all sat down together

in the process of the film – so I think this is really important. Allowing people to ask real questions allows all these creatives to get down to the ‘nitty gritty’ of importance of why we are here.”

Writer **Mick Ford** also commented: “It is great to be able to talk in detail about a process that you’ve gone through, and for people listening in, to pinpoint and figure out how that project worked. It might connect with them on a project they are working on themselves.”

As part of a continuing collaboration with key industry organisations, Directors UK is committed to championing the craft of directing and providing members with significant opportunities to connect with future collaborators and gain an insight into other areas of the industry that has an impact on their work.

**Abigail Berry, Member Services and Events Manager at Directors UK**, said: “The creative industries are the fastest growing sector of the UK economy, with film, TV and music activities growing by 72.4%. The creative industries are incredibly significant and as an organisation which represents screen directors, working in all mediums, we recognise the importance of creating opportunities for those working within it to collaborate and build connections with others, learn new skills, and develop an insight into other areas of the industry that could lead to new prospects in the future. We are extremely pleased to be working with Film London again for the Creative Partnerships Day again this year and we hope this initiative will develop stimulating new work and foster creative relationships.”

**Adrian Wootton OBE, Chief Executive of Film London and the British Film Commission**, said: ““Film and TV are fertile ground for collaboration, from one-off relationships that create a singular pieces of standalone storytelling through to fruitful partnerships that span entire careers. This event highlights the tremendous value of bringing a new producer, writer or director into your creative circle, helping attendees identify potential collaborators and hear how the process has worked for some of the best names in the business. I’d like to thank Directors UK for partnering with us on this successful event once again, and I know we’re all looking forward to hearing about the new connections that have been sparked as a result.”

The Creative Partnerships Day took place on Monday 25 September 2017 at The Hallam in London.

To find out more, or to read the live tweet from the day, please visit the website: [www.directors.uk.com](http://www.directors.uk.com)

**\*\* ENDS \*\***

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

- **Directors UK** is the professional association of UK screen directors. It is a membership organisation representing the creative, economic and contractual interests of over 6,500 members - the majority of working TV and film directors in the UK. Directors UK collects and distributes royalty payments and provides a range of services to members including campaigning, commercial negotiations, legal advice, events, training and career development. Directors UK works closely with fellow organisations around the world to represent directors’ rights and concerns, promotes excellence in the craft of direction and champions change to the current landscape to create an equal opportunity industry for all.
- Further information can be found at [www.directors.uk.com](http://www.directors.uk.com)
- To become a member of Directors UK for access to training, benefits and discounts, please visit [www.directors.uk.com/join](http://www.directors.uk.com/join) or contact us directly at [membership@directors.uk.com](mailto:membership@directors.uk.com)
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