

NEWS

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**BBC FOUR ONE-OFF PROGRAMME 'ERIC, ERNIE & ME' FILMS AT  
THE BOTTLE YARD AND ACROSS BRISTOL**  
***Starring Stephen Tompkinson, Neil Maskell and Mark Bonnar***

BRISTOL, 6 October 2017: A new BBC Four programme which celebrates Eddie Braben, the comedy scriptwriter behind the success of Morecambe and Wise, is filming at The Bottle Yard Studios and on location across Bristol from this week onwards.

*Eric, Ernie & Me* is written by Neil Forsyth (*Bob Servant, Waiting for Andre*) and produced by Objective Fiction. It explores the relationship between Morecambe, Wise and Braben, who became known as The Golden Triangle. For over a decade, Braben penned Morecambe and Wise's material, and reshaped the double act into the Eric and Ernie that the nation took to its heart. But it wasn't all sunshine. This one-hour film celebrates Braben as the man behind Morecambe and Wise's greatest successes, culminating in their iconic 1977 Christmas Show, whilst showing the pressure and pain he went through to help create the screen work of Britain's most beloved double act.

*Eric, Ernie & Me* is filming a two week shoot at sets built in 8,000 sq. ft. of The Bottle Yard's Studio 6 and at locations across Bristol, including Colston Hall, Mariners Drive in Stoke Bishop, Thingwall Park (Fishponds), The Wills Building (Bedminster), St Annes Board Mills Social Club (Redfield), Brislington United Reformed Church and Filwood Community Centre (Knowle West). Bristol Film Office has assisted the production team with sourcing a host of locations, setting up recces and unit bases.

**Producer Alison Sterling** says: "The presence of the Bottle Yard as a filming resource in Bristol has been an enormous boon to the local film industry. There is a thriving network of really high-quality crew in the region which has helped us in the making of *Eric Ernie and Me*. Nearly all our crew and equipment are based in the Bristol region and we are delighted also to be able to use locations in the communities of Filwood, Brislington and St Anne's. All the local residents have been exceptionally welcoming."

**Natalie Moore of Bristol Film Office** says: "What could be more intriguing than a look at the relationship behind the success of the nation's favourite double act? We've helped line up a variety of locations for this shoot and it's fantastic to see the many sides of Bristol, from residential Knowle West to the iconic Colston Hall, portraying a 60's and 70's period British setting for a story about one of the most popular comedy duos of all time."

Stephen Tompkinson (*DCI Banks, Drop the Dead Donkey*) will play Eddie, as he sets about reshaping the iconic double act into the Eric and Ernie that the nation took to its heart. Eric Morecambe will be played by Mark Bonnar (*Apple Tree Yard, Catastrophe*) with Neil Maskell (*Humans, Utopia*) as Ernie Wise. Rufus Jones (*Stan and Ollie, W1A*) stars as the double act's long term producer John Ammonds; Alexander Macqueen (*Peaky Blinders, Hunderby*) as Bill Cotton, BBC's Head of Light Entertainment, and Liz White (*Ackley Bridge, Our Zoo*) as Braben's ever encouraging wife Deidree.

**Fiona Francombe of The Bottle Yard Studios** said: "We're very excited to host this excellent new BBC Four film, featuring such a strong cast headed up by the talented

Stephen [Tompkinson] – great to have him back on site after he filmed *Trollied* here previously. We're equally pleased to see Alison return to the Studios after she produced Katarzyna Klimkiewicz's *Flying Blind* here in 2012 and line produced Claire Downes' *We Can Be Heroes* here last year. It's always a joy to see cast and crew returning to work on new projects that can benefit from strong support provided by the our city's Film Office for location filming."

The 1x60 programme was commissioned by Gregor Sharp, Commissioning Editor, BBC Comedy and is produced by Objective Fiction, part of Objective Media Group. Executive Producers are Ben Farrell and Toby Stevens executive produce with Alison Sterling producing.

Other productions recently filmed at The Bottle Yard Studios and across Bristol include *Poldark* (BBC One), *Three Girls* (BBC One), *Ill Behaviour* (BBC Two), *Broadchurch* (ITV) and *The White Princess* (STARZ).

**– ENDS –**

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

For further information about The Bottle Yard Studios or Bristol Film Office please contact Tara Milne: [taracmilne@gmail.com](mailto:taracmilne@gmail.com).

#### **The Bottle Yard Studios**

The Bottle Yard Studios is a Bristol City Council initiative. The site, which operated for more than 50 years as a former winery and bottling plant, is now an established base for film and television production in the West of England, attracting major UK and overseas productions of all sizes.

The Bottle Yard Studios has eight stages available at competitive rates, just 15 minutes from Bristol city centre. It also offers a giant green screen studio, extensive back lot, workshop areas, production offices, costume and make-up rooms, dressing-rooms, storage, private roadways and parking.

Recent productions made at The Bottle Yard Studios include: *Poldark* (BBC), *The Crystal Maze* (Channel 4), *Ill Behaviour* (BBC), *Broadchurch* (ITV), *Three Girls* (BBC), *The White Princess* (STARZ), *Sherlock: The Abominable Bride* (BBC), *Crazyhead* (E4/Netflix), *The Living and the Dead* (BBC) *We Can Be Heroes* (directed by Claire Downes), *Andy's Prehistoric Adventures* (CBeebies), *Golden Years* (directed by John Miller); *Galavant* (ABC Studios), *Wolf Hall* (BBC), *The Lost Honour of Christopher Jefferies* (ITV), *Trollied* (Sky 1).

[www.thebottleyard.com](http://www.thebottleyard.com)

#### **Bristol Film Office**

Bristol Film Office, a division of Bristol City Council, is a free service to all productions planning to film in the city. Dedicated to making film, television or commercial photography shoots run as smoothly as possible when on location in Bristol, it is the one-stop-shop for all filming enquiries. It can assist at all stages of production, from initial location and crewing advice to reces and logistical support.

[www.filmbristol.co.uk](http://www.filmbristol.co.uk)

The Bottle Yard is a partnership initiative with:

