

NEWS

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'THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY' BEGINS FILMING IN BRISTOL - 'STAN & OLLIE' FILMED IN THE CITY EARLIER THIS MONTH - BOTH FEATURES SUPPORTED BY BRISTOL FILM OFFICE

BRISTOL, 25 April 2017: April is proving a busy period for film production in Bristol as the second feature film to be made in the city this month has begun shooting today, supported by the city's dedicated Film Office.

Mike Newell's *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* is filming this week along the same stretch of harbourside that earlier this month hosted filming for **Jon S. Baird's *Stan & Ollie***.

Attracted to Bristol by its uniquely well-preserved harbour, the filmmakers behind *Guernsey* will recreate a 1940's dockside using Princes Wharf and its famous vintage paddle steamer, The Balmoral. Bristol Film Office has worked with the production team over the past four months to provide location scouting and recce, liaising with the industrial team at M-Shed, securing unit base at Wapping Wharf, sourcing costume stores and arranging holding areas for extras.

Guernsey Producer Paula Mazur says: "Bristol has a fantastic, dockside museum, which has been beautifully preserved. It has enabled us to transform the exterior to represent Weymouth Docks in 1946. We're grateful for the support of the Bristol Film Office in helping us bring our scenes here to life."

Directed by Mike Newell (*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, *Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time*), ***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*** is the film adaptation of Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows' international best-selling novel of the same name. Lily James (*Cinderella*, *Downton Abbey*) stars as journalist Juliet Ashton who forms a bond with a secret book society formed during German occupation of the Channel Islands during WWII. The free-spirited Ashton forms a life-changing bond with the eccentric Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, when she decides to write about the club.

Other cast includes Michiel Huisman (*The Age of Adeline*, *Game of Thrones*), Glen Powell (*Hidden Figures*), Matthew Goode (*The Imitation Game*, *Downton Abbey*), Jessica Brown Findlay (*Downton Abbey*), Tom Courtenay (*45 Years*) and Penelope Wilton (*The BFG*, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*).

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society is produced by Paula Mazur and Mitchell Kaplan from The Mazur/Kaplan Company and Graham Broadbent and Pete Czernin from Blueprint Pictures (*Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, *In Bruges*). The film is financed and distributed by STUDIOCANAL.

Princes Wharf was also the star attraction for the filmmakers behind ***Stan & Ollie*** – which filmed major harbour scenes earlier this month featuring The Balmoral ship,

with other scenes also filming in the vicinity of Bristol Hippodrome. Again, Bristol Film Office facilitated filming, working with ***Stan & Ollie***'s production team to secure locations and set up a unit base at Lloyds Amphitheatre.

Stan & Ollie producer Faye Ward said: "The Balmoral was a gem of a find. Its conserved beauty was the perfect setting for a crucial moment in the film and we couldn't have done it without the wonderful support of Bristol."

Inspired by actual events, ***Stan & Ollie*** is an original film based on one of the world's most loved comedy duos and geniuses of their time - Laurel & Hardy. Penned by award winning screenwriter Jeff Pope (*Philomena*, *Mrs Biggs*) and directed by Jon S. Baird (*Vinyl*, *Filth*), ***Stan & Ollie*** stars stellar lead actors Steve Coogan (*Philomena*, *Alan Partridge*) as Stan Laurel and John C. Reilly (*Chicago*, *We Need to Talk About Kevin*) as Oliver Hardy. ***Stan and Ollie*** celebrates the duo's unique friendship and legendary working partnership.

Laurel & Hardy, the world's favourite comedy double act, set out on a variety hall tour of Britain in 1953. Diminished by age and with their golden era as the kings of Hollywood comedy now behind them, they face an uncertain future. As they set out, crisscrossing the country, attendances are disappointingly low. But they've always been able to make each other laugh and as the charm and beauty of their performances shines through their audiences laugh too, and they re-connect with legions of adoring fans, old and new.

Stan & Ollie is a Fable Pictures and Sonesta Films production, developed with BBC Films. It is written by Jeff Pope, directed by Jon S. Baird and produced by Faye Ward. It is executive produced by Christine Langan & Gabrielle Tana for Baby Cow Productions, Jeff Pope for Sonesta Films and Joe Oppenheimer for BBC Films.

Natalie Moore of Bristol Film Office says: "April has been a fantastic month for Bristol on the big screen. We're delighted to have supported both *Guernsey* and ***Stan & Ollie*** to use our locations this month. Films like these take months of preparation where we introduce the filmmakers to Bristol and show them exactly what the city has to offer. Whether its setting up location recce's and liaising with local partners, closing roads or processing permits, a lot of work goes on in the background to help filming run smoothly."

"Shoots like these are major operations that employ local crew and bring an influx of cast and crew to the city to spend in our local economy. The benefits to Bristol are significant, worth more than £16 million to the city last year alone, not to mention boosting Bristol's profile as a world class filming destination."

Other films made in Bristol recently include Ritesh Batra's *The Sense of an Ending*, Chris Menaul's *Another Mother's Son*, John Miller's *Golden Years*, Claire Downes's upcoming *We Can Be Heroes*, Damon Beesley and Iain Morris's *The Inbetweeners 2*.

Bristol Film Office and The Bottle Yard Studios are Bristol City Council initiatives



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For further information about *Stan & Ollie* contact Kate Lee on kate@freuds.com.

NOTES TO EDITORS

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 reccees and logistical support.

In 2015-16, Bristol Film Office issued 370 filming permits and recorded a total of 943 filming days (up by 65% from 2014-15) in the city. Inward investment from productions working in Bristol continued to remain high with a total figure of £16,674,000 continuing the strong levels recorded in 2014-2015.

Bristol Film Office's inward investment figures are calculated using national average production spend figures that have been compiled by Creative England with contribution from all national Film Offices' data.

www.filmbristol.co.uk

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