

NEWS

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RELEASE



**‘THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY’
OUT IN CINEMAS FRIDAY 20TH APRIL**
- FEATURING BRISTOL HARBOUR AS POST-WAR GUERNSEY
- FILMED WITH SUPPORT FROM BRISTOL FILM OFFICE

BRISTOL, Tuesday 17 April 2018: Bristol’s historic harbour and the iconic ship ‘Balmoral’ will grace the silver screen this weekend, with the UK release of British blockbuster *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*, the latest feature from award-winning director Mike Newell (*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, *Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*).

Attracted to Bristol by its uniquely well-preserved harbour, filmmakers recreated a 1940’s dockside last April using Princes Wharf and the famous vintage pleasure steamer, Balmoral. At the time of filming, **Guernsey Producer Paula Mazur** said: " Due to the period setting, a very specific look was needed to recreate 1940s Guernsey both during and just after the occupation.... 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."



Lily James in ‘The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society’ aboard The Balmoral on Bristol’s Princes Wharf (© STUDIOCANAL)

Bristol Film Office assisted the production team for four months, providing location scouting and recces, liaising with the industrial team at M Shed, securing unit base at Wapping Wharf, sourcing costume stores and arranging holding areas for extras. Locations matching Guernsey’s countryside and coastline were also used on the south coast of the UK mainland, in Cornwall and Devon.

Natalie Moore of Bristol Film Office says: “Last year was particularly busy for feature films in Bristol – in addition to *Guernsey* we also assisted two other major upcoming features to film in the city, *Stan & Ollie* and *Hellboy 3*. Visiting shoots like these are so important to Bristol. They bring employment and spending that boosts our local economy – to the tune of

£18.3 million last year alone. They show filmmakers in the UK and overseas that Bristol, a UNESCO City of Film, is a world class filming destination that is open for business.”

Andy King of M Shed says: “Bristol made a brave and, at the time, controversial decision in the 1990s to conserve Princes Wharf as a working quayside. With the museum’s operational cranes, steam railway and transit shed, it now makes an ideal and animated backdrop for film productions like this, and one that is unique in the UK.”



‘Guernsey’ filming on Princes Wharf, Bristol (image © Bristol Film Office)

Based on the internationally bestselling novel of the same name, **THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY** tells the story of Juliet Ashton (Lily James), a free-spirited, successful writer living in post-war London. Despite the success of her recent novel and support from her dear friend and publisher Sidney (Matthew Goode), she struggles to find inspiration for her writing after the harsh experiences of the war. Poised to accept a proposal from Mark Reynolds (Glen Powell), a dashing American GI, she receives an unexpected letter from a Guernsey farmer named Dawsey Adams (Michiel Huisman). Juliet impulsively leaves for Guernsey, where she hopes to write about the curiously named book club that Dawsey has written to her about, formed by his fellow islanders under the German occupation in WW2. Juliet is charmed by the island and inspired by the members shared love of literature. As a lifelong bond forms between this unlikely group of friends, Juliet soon realises that the society are hiding a heartbreaking secret, which they are afraid she may bring to the surface. As Juliet and Dawsey become close, she begins to unravel what happened during the difficult years under the occupation and starts to understand why they are so afraid to tell her their story. Her fate now intertwined with the society, Juliet must decide how to help her new friends and follow her heart, knowing that her life may change in ways she had never expected.

Other cast includes 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.



Other features made in Bristol recently include Jon S. Baird's upcoming *Stan & Ollie*, Neil Marshall's upcoming *Hellboy: Rise of the Blood Queen*, Ritesh Batra's *The Sense of an Ending*, Chris Menaul's *Another Mother's Son*, John Miller's *Golden Years*, and Damon Beesley and Iain Morris's *The Inbetweeners 2*.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society is in UK cinemas from Friday 20 April 2018.

– ENDS –

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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 reces and logistical support. In 2016-17, Bristol Film Office recorded a strong total of £18.3 million inward investment from productions working in Bristol and registered more than 1,000 location filming days in the city.

Bristol Film Office is leading delivery of a programme of activity to celebrate the permanent UNESCO City of Film status Bristol was awarded in 2017. www.filmbristol.co.uk

