

NEWS

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## FILMED IN BRISTOL: 'STAN AND OLLIE' TO HAVE WORLD PREMIERE ON 21 OCTOBER AT BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

- Featuring Bristol's harbourside and The Balmoral ship  
- Supported by Bristol Film Office

[>> Click here to watch the official trailer <<](#)

**BRISTOL**, 18 October 2018: *Stan & Ollie*, the new film starring Steve Coogan and John C. Reilly as the legendary movie comedy duo Laurel & Hardy, will have its World Premiere at the Closing Night Gala of the BFI London Film Festival this weekend, after filming in Bristol earlier this year.

Bristol's historic harbourside was a star attraction for filmmakers behind the British biographical film when it filmed major scenes along Princes Wharf in April. The preserved historic harbourside, which is a popular location for film and TV shoots, can be seen in the movie's official trailer doubling for the Irish docks that the world's favourite comedy double act arrive at as part of their variety hall tour in 1953. The Balmoral ship stars as the vessel the pair alight from, greeted by crowds of cheering fans. Filming also took place at the Bristol Hippodrome, which features as the exterior of a variety hall on the tour. 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* films on Princes Wharf, Bristol aboard The Balmoral (© Bristol Film Office)

***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."

**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."



*Stan & Ollie films on Princes Wharf, Bristol aboard The Balmoral (© Bristol Film Office)*

**Natalie Moore of Bristol Film Office** says: “Stan & Ollie was one of four films that Bristol welcomed in 2017-18, in what was a particular busy year for feature film shoots in the city. Our harbourside has so much to offer productions seeking a historic port backdrop like this. Not only does it look the part visually, it’s also particularly well set up for filming, with key partners like the M Shed and The Balmoral lending their vital cooperation to make sure that such large crowd scenes can be staged successfully. Last year shoots like this generated more than £15 million to the city’s economy, as well as putting Bristol, a UNESCO City of Film, on screen to audiences across the world. We’re very proud to have been involved.”

Inspired by actual events, ***Stan & Ollie*** is an original film based on one of the worlds 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 & Ollie* is the heart-warming story of what would become the pair’s triumphant farewell tour.



*Stan & Ollie films outside Bristol Hippodrome stage door, Denmark Street (© Bristol Film Office)*

With their golden era long behind them, the pair embark on a variety hall tour of Britain and Ireland. Despite the pressures of a hectic schedule, and with the support of their wives Lucille (Shirley Henderson) and Ida (Nina Arianda) – a formidable double act in their own right - the pair's love of performing, as well as for each other, endures as they secure their place in the hearts of their adoring public.

*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.

Other features made in Bristol in 2017-18 include Neil Marshall's upcoming *Hellboy: Rise of the Blood Queen*, Mike Newell's *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society* and Iain Morris's *The Festival*.

*Stan & Ollie* will be released in UK cinemas on 11 January 2019. Find out more at [www.stanandollie.co.uk](http://www.stanandollie.co.uk)

**– ENDS –**

For further information about Bristol Film Office, contact Tara Milne: [taracmilne@gmail.com](mailto:taracmilne@gmail.com) / 07532 134020.

For further information about Stan & Ollie, contact Entertainment One: [publicityuk@entonegroup.com](mailto:publicityuk@entonegroup.com) / 0203 6918600.

## **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 2017-18, Bristol Film Office recorded a strong total of £15.2 million inward investment from productions working in Bristol and registered more than 1,140 location filming days in the city, a 10% increase on the previous year.

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