



## Filmed in Bristol: BAFTA-nominated **STAN & OLLIE** opens in cinemas this Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January

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BRISTOL, 9 January 2019: **Stan & Ollie**, the highly anticipated new biopic starring Steve Coogan and John C. Reilly as the legendary movie comedy duo Laurel & Hardy, opens in UK cinemas this week after filming partly in Bristol, supported by Bristol Film Office.

The film's release comes in the week that BAFTA announced it is nominated for three 2019 EE British Academy Film Awards: Outstanding British Film, Best Actor (Steve Coogan) and Make Up & Hair.

Bristol's historic harbourside was a star attraction for filmmakers behind the British biographical film when it filmed along Princes Wharf in April 2017. The preserved historic harbourside, which is a popular location for film and TV shoots, doubled 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* (© EOne)

**Stan & Ollie** Producer Faye Ward recalls "One of the most memorable days [of the shoot] was when we recreated Cobh Harbor in Ireland. We couldn't actually go to Cobh Harbor, so we cheated it in Bristol Harbour, which was fantastic. It was a sunny day and we had this incredible vintage ship there and had about 350 extras, all dressed in Irish textures along with authentic reproduced banners and we recreated that wonderful arrival. The Irish church at Cobh Harbor played the Cuckoo Waltz, through the bells, for their arrival, which was really wonderful. And it was their journey from England to Ireland at the last moment of their tour.... It was a very special day and I am sure that will come across in the film.

"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."

**Natalie Moore of Bristol Film Office** says: “Stan & Ollie was one of four films that Bristol welcomed last year, in what was a busy year for feature film shoots in the city. The cooperation of the Film Office, the M Shed and The Balmoral meant that we could help bring the large crowd scenes that the script required to life, in an authentic and visually stunning setting. Stan & Ollie is set to be a hit with audiences the world over and we’re really proud that Bristol, UNESCO City of Film, played a part in its production.”



*John C. Reilly films Stan & Ollie in Bristol (credit @Anth0ny\_Ward)*

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 in Bristol in April 2018 (credit @Anth0ny\_Ward)*

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.

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

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

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **Bristol Film Office**

A division of Bristol City Council, Bristol Film Office 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 recce 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)