

NEWS: For immediate release

**PRODUCTIONS LIKE STEPHEN MERCHANT'S THE OUTLAWS CONTRIBUTED TO STRONG RECOVERY OF BRISTOL FILM/TV SECTOR IN 2020-21**  
***Bristol Film Office's annual figures show £12.6 million generated by filming in 2020-21; dip in spend was 'expected' and filming levels bounced back quickly following filming pause***

BRISTOL, 25 October 2021: Annual figures released today by Bristol Film Office show that despite an 'expected' dip in the value of inward investment generated by film and TV production in Bristol last year, caused by the three-month pause in filming brought on by COVID-19, the city's filming levels bounced back quickly, with productions like Stephen Merchant's *The Outlaws* contributing to a strong recovery.

Film and TV production was worth an estimated **£12.6 million** (£12,609,250)\* in Bristol in 2020-21, a lower figure than the £17 million recorded in the previous financial year, but one that was "fully expected", according to the city's Senior Film Manager.



*Left: The Outlaws, beginning tonight (25 Oct) on BBC One (image: BBC/Amazon Studios/Big Talk/Four Eyes); Right: Lesley Sharp in Before We Die (image: Channel 4)*

**Senior Bristol Film Manager Laura Aviles**, who oversees The Bottle Yard Studios and Bristol Film Office, says: "We fully expected to see a dip in Bristol TV and film production spend due to the pandemic forcing a pause in production between March and the end of June last year. What is heartening to see, is that once production resumed, Bristol went on to register similar quarterly levels of spend to previous years for the remainder of the financial year.

"This is clear evidence that the film and TV production bounced back incredibly quickly in Bristol, despite crew, companies and facilities having endured an incredibly uncertain and challenging period. The levels of production we've seen so far in the current financial year are exceptionally strong, and we forecast a healthy spend for 2021/22 that we hope will match, or even exceed pre-pandemic levels."

**Councillor Craig Cheney, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet member for Finance, Governance and Performance**, said: "Film and TV production truly felt the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, with its impacts reaching into the wider creative sector and the industry's supply chains. These figures show that the industry is making a strong return with Bristol continuing

to play a major role internationally in filming and production. "We are committed to supporting the industry through Bristol Film Office and The Bottle Yard Studios and are encouraging those who work in the sector to use our local businesses and talent pool to ensure it remains sustainable as it works towards a brighter future."

The first production to commence filming on location in Bristol in Summer 2020, following the Government's greenlight and implementation of safety guidelines for filming by leading industry bodies, was season two of **War of the Worlds (Disney+)** starring Gabriel Byrne and Daisy Edgar Jones. Period drama **The Pursuit of Love (BBC One)** starring Emily Mortimer and Lily James, series two of **Andy's Aquatic Adventures (CBeebies)** and popular gameshow **Tipping Point (ITV)** were among the first titles to kick back into action at The Bottle Yard Studios.

The remainder of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021 saw a rapidly increasing flow of titles commence filming, including new **comedy thriller The Outlaws (BBC/Amazon Studios)** starring Stephen Merchant and Christopher Walken (beginning tonight on BBC One), upcoming sci-fi thriller **The Last Bus (Netflix)** and upcoming period drama **Becoming Elizabeth (STARZ)**, all of which filmed at the Studios and on location across Bristol with support from the city's Film Office.

Other titles filmed on location in the city with assistance from Bristol Film Office throughout the year included true crime series **Manhunt The Night Stalker (ITV)** starring Martin Clunes; crime thriller **Before We Die (Channel 4)** starring Lesley Sharp, season two of contemporary detective drama **McDonald & Dodds (ITV)** starring Jason Watkins and Tala Gouveia; the upcoming second series of teen spy thriller **Alex Rider (Amazon Prime)** starring Otto Farrant and Vicky McClure, upcoming action thriller **Extinction (Sky)** starring Paapa Essiedu and the upcoming third season of fantasy series **A Discovery of Witches (Sky)** starring Matthew Goode and Teresa Palmer.

Bristol Film Office recorded a total of **653 filming days** at Bristol locations and/or at The Bottle Yard Studios in 2020-21.

*\*Annual inward investment figures are calculated using national average production spend figures compiled by Creative England with contribution from all national Film Offices' data.*

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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.

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

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

### **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.

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. A creative hub of 24 tenants deliver a host of services on-site including creative, digital, technical and audio/visual expertise, grips, transport, structural, fire and safety assistance.

The Bottle Yard Studios is committed to improving pathways into the production industry for young people from all backgrounds. Onsite classrooms are home to more than 60 16-19 year olds studying a Film & TV Production Diploma taught in a working studio environment, delivered by further education provider Boomsatsuma.

Productions include: The Spanish Princess (STARZ), The Trial of Christine Keeler (BBC One), The Pale Horse (BBC One), Tipping Point (ITV), The 'Andy's Adventures' series (CBeebies), McDonald & Dodds (ITV), Sanditon (ITV), Fortitude (Sky Atlantic), The Crystal Maze (Channel 4), Poldark (BBC One), Eric, Ernie & Me (BBC Four), Ill Behaviour (BBC Two), The Festival (Entertainment Film), Hellboy (Lionsgate), Three Girls (BBC One), The White Princess (STARZ), Broadchurch (ITV), Trollied (Sky1), Crazyhead (E4/Netflix), Sherlock: The Abominable Bride (BBC One), The Living and the Dead (BBC One), Galavant (Disney/ABC Studios), Wolf Hall (BBC Two), The Lost Honour of Christopher Jefferies (ITV).

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

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

