



NEWS: For immediate release

BRISTOL FILM & TV PRODUCTION WORTH £20.8M IN 2021/22, THE HIGHEST FIGURE RECORDED IN A DECADE

BRISTOL, 27 September 2022: Annual figures released today by Bristol Film Office show that film and TV production in the city generated an estimated **£20.8 million** in 2021-22, a **22%** increase on pre-pandemic figures and the largest contribution that filming-related activity has made towards Bristol's economy in a decade.

Am I Being Unreasonable?, The Outlaws, Chloe, Showtrial and The Girl Before are just some of the screen hits made in Bristol which contributed towards a total revenue of £20,857,000* in the 2021/22 financial year, a **£3.8 million (22%)** increase on the previous full 12-month total of £17 million recorded in 2019-20, before the pandemic.

The amount of filming that took place in the city was up by 10%, with **1,067 filming days** carried out in the city at the Bristol City Council-owned Bottle Yard Studios and/or on location assisted by Bristol Film Office, the Council department that provides free support to productions working in the city. A total of **709** licenses were issued by Bristol Film Office, permitting filming to take place on Council-owned streets, properties and green spaces.

The 2021-22 figures are the first annual stats released by Bristol Film Office that illustrate an uninterrupted 12-month period of post-pandemic recovery for Bristol film and TV production. 2020-21's annual total of £12.6 million was lower than preceding years, due to the three-month pause in production enforced in the first COVID-19 lockdown.



Filmed at The Bottle Yard Studios and on location in the city in 2021-22 (clockwise from top left): The Outlaws series two (BBC One/Amazon Prime Video); Showtrial (BBC One) The Girl Before (BBC One/HBO Max); Chloe (BBC One/Amazon Prime Video)

Senior Film Manager Laura Aviles (Bristol City Council), who oversees Bristol Film Office and The Bottle Yard Studios, says: "These figures paint an extremely healthy picture for Bristol's thriving film and TV sector. £20.8 million is the highest economic contribution generated by film and High-End TV production that we've seen in a decade, since the BBC took the decision to move Casualty's production to Cardiff in 2011.

"The numbers were no surprise to our Film Office and Bottle Yard staff. We knew that production had kicked back into gear quickly after the production pause during the first lockdown in 2020. Since then, our teams have been busier than ever supporting productions on the ground. The skilled crew, companies and facilities we work alongside, all play a vital

role in making Bristol one of the most film-friendly cities in the UK. With The Bottle Yard's new TBY2 facility opening this Autumn, Bristol's capacity for production is increasing significantly and we look forward to supporting more titles in the year ahead."

Councillor Craig Cheney, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet member for Finance, Governance and Performance, says: "Bristol's film and TV sector is a valuable contributor not only to the city's fiscal economy but to our social economy too. Despite the industry continuing to recover to its full strength post-pandemic, it's clear to see the value brought to Bristol through the hundreds of productions supported this year. I'm delighted to see the sector continue to go from strength to strength and applaud the continued efforts of the Bristol Film Office and The Bottle Yard Studios in supporting this sector growth and continuing to meet our ambitions as a UNESCO City of Film."

Shane Allen, Executive Producer of new BBC One comedy thriller **Am I Being Unreasonable?** which launched on BBC One on Friday (23 September), says: "Bristol proved a terrific choice for many practical reasons and in giving the show its identity. Aside from the well-run Bottle Yard base, there is a wealthy array of city and rural location options within a relatively short radius. There's something of the soul of the West Country in Am I Being Unreasonable? which was creatively important to co-creator and co-writer Daisy May Cooper. Bristol is a very film friendly place, from cityscapes to bucolic beauty nearby, its versatility is impressive. Bristol is fast becoming the destination for shows and films with its advanced production infrastructure, experienced crews and superb locations."



*Daisy May Cooper on the set of Am I Being Unreasonable? at The Bottle Yard Studios
(image courtesy BBC)*

Other scripted titles filmed in 2021-22 at The Bottle Yard Studios and on location in the city with assistance from Bristol Film Office, included: season two of Stephen Merchant's comedy thriller *The Outlaws* (BBC/Amazon Prime Video), thriller *The Girl Before* (BBC One/HBO Max); legal drama *Showtrial* (BBC One); psychological thriller *Chloe* (BBC One/Amazon Prime); season three of detective drama *McDonald & Dodds* (ITV); period drama *Becoming Elizabeth* (STARZ); and series one of children's drama *The Beaker Girls* (CBBC). Titles yet to air include upcoming series *Flatshare* (Paramount+) starring Jessica Brown Findlay and Anthony Welsh and upcoming CBeebies show *Andy's Global Adventures* presented by Andy Day.

Factual entertainment titles made at The Bottle Yard included ITV gameshow *Tipping Point* hosted by Ben Shepherd, CITV factual series *HOW?* fronted by Vick Hope, Sam Homewood and Frankie Vu, and Sky Kids series *The Makery* presented by Nim Odedra.



Filmed on location with assistance from Bristol Film Office in 2021-22 (clockwise from top left): Sanditon (BritBox UK/Masterpiece); The Undeclared War (Channel 4/Peacock); The Lazarus project (Sky Max); The Long Call (ITV)

Period drama Sanditon was one of the biggest productions to film in the city in 2021/22. After its recommission following a successful campaign led by a loyal international fan base, series two and three based production at the Brabazon Hangars (the future home of YTL Arena Bristol) where Sanditon's village sets were built. Series two aired earlier this year on Masterpiece and BritBox UK and is available now on ITV. Series three, which will feature scenes filmed at Bristol's Georgian House, is expected to air next year.

Other titles assisted by Bristol Film Office included: Peter Kosminsky's The Undeclared War (Channel 4/ Peacock) which built large scale anti-capitalist sets on Redcliffe Wharf, Sky Max thriller The Lazarus Project starring Paapa Essiedu, which transformed Bedminster's East Street into a 1990's strip of bookies and electronic store shopfronts; and upcoming Doctor Who special 'The Power of The Doctor'.

The Bottle Yard's new expansion facility, 'TBY2', located less than half a mile from the main Studios site in South Bristol, opens its doors this Autumn. TBY2's three fully sound insulated, acoustically treated spaces will increase the total number of stages at The Bottle Yard Studios from eight to 11. In addition to the 20,000 sq ft, 16,500 sq ft and 7,000 sq ft clear span build spaces, visiting productions will have access to more than 40,000 sq ft of additional ancillary space including serviced production offices, prop stores, construction workshops, costume/makeup and break out areas.

Bristol City Council contracted global construction specialists ISG to deliver the £12m TBY2 redevelopment, backed by West of England Combined Authority investment. Operations at the original Bottle Yard site have also been boosted by a further £1.6m investment by Bristol City Council in renewal and repair works. Overall, the investment in the main Studios and new TBY2 site is expected to create around 1,000 jobs over the next 10 years, supported by a Workforce Development Programme focused on high-end TV skills and targeting development of new talent in South Bristol.

TBY2 will be [powered by a 1MWp solar array](#), the biggest community-owned solar rooftop array in the West of England and one of the largest of its kind in the UK. Consisting of more than 2,000 panels, the array is funded by the Bristol Energy Cooperative (BEC). BEC's community ownership model provides a return to its investor members, whilst surplus revenues go back to the local community through grants and investment into more local energy projects. Over time, surplus energy produced at TBY2 will be utilised through the [City Leap Sleeved Pool](#) electricity supply model which connects buildings and 'sleeves' surplus

energy generated from one building over to another, to reduce energy consumption from non-renewables.

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

– ENDS –

For information about The Bottle Yard Studios and Bristol Film Office, contact: Tara Milne taracmilne@gmail.com / 07532 134020.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About the Bottle Yard Studios

A Bristol City Council initiative, The Bottle Yard Studios is the largest dedicated studio facility in the West of England and a major hub for film and TV production. Located in Bristol, an internationally recognised [UNESCO City of Film](#), the Studios are at the heart of a thriving screen industry in one of the UK's most creative, film-friendly cities. Eight stages of up to 22,000 sq ft are available for hire across the seven-acre main site, plus three additional stages opening in Autumn 2022 at the new £12 million TBY2 facility backed by West of England Combined Authority investment.

More than 25 businesses are based on site, including award-winning VFX specialists [Axis Studios Group](#), [Bristol Costume Services](#) offering more than 90,000 items for hire, equipment rental suppliers [Films@59](#) and [Cinewest](#) and special effects providers [MTFX](#). EPSRC and University of Bath-funded [CAMERA](#) (Centre for the Analysis of Motion, Entertainment Research & Applications) opened its new state-of-the-art Motion Capture Innovation Studio on site last year. CAMERA is a key partner of the £46 million [MyWorld](#) project led by the University of Bristol to position the South West as an international trailblazer in screen-based media.

Productions made at The Bottle Yard Studios include: Chloe (BBC/Amazon), The Outlaws (BBC/Amazon), The Girl Before (BBC One/HBO Max), Showtrial (BBC One), The Beaker Girls (CBBC), The Pursuit of Love (BBC/Amazon), The Spanish Princess (Starz), The Salisbury Poisonings (BBC One), The Trial of Christine Keeler (BBC One), The Pale Horse (BBC One), McDonald & Dodds (ITV), Tipping Point (ITV), The Crystal Maze (Channel 4), The Crystal Maze US (Nickelodeon), Sanditon series 1 (ITV), 'Andy's Adventures' series (CBeebies), Fortitude (Sky Atlantic), 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 (ABC Studios), Wolf Hall (BBC Two), The Lost Honour of Christopher Jefferies (ITV). www.thebottleyard.com

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

Working with city partners, Bristol Film Office leads the programme of activity delivered under the permanent UNESCO City of Film status awarded to Bristol in 2017. www.bristolcityoffilm.co.uk

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

