

PRESS RELEASE

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The Big 5 Comedy Award

The Cinema and Television Benevolent Fund are launching a prestigious new comedy writing competition on January 28th where the winning screenplay will be made into a film funded by the CTBF and the UK Film Council with a cash prize for the writer from Working Title Films.

This award has the backing of some of the biggest names in film and television and the scripts will be judged by an 'industry panel' consisting of: -

Kenton Allen - Big Talk Productions, Sally Caplan - UK Film Council, Oscar nominated screenwriter Dan Mazer - writer and producer of 'BORAT' and 'BRUNO', Amelia Granger- Working Title Films and Sarah Farrell- Paramount Comedy Central.

Dan Mazer one of the judges and himself an Oscar nominated screenwriter says: "The opportunities that arise from this competition are brilliant. Just being on set will teach you a million things about how a film is made and directed, how your words translate from the page to the screen - all of that is the same for a short as a feature. The process of the words that you have written on a page becoming real can teach you a huge amount and it is a real privilege as most words don't make it further than the page".

The CTBF's John Brabourne Awards were set up to nurture and support talent and are designed to help people break into the film and television world. The CTBF's Head of Marketing, Johanna Crotty says "We are so excited about this award and the amazing support from the industry. We hope that through this scheme we will be able to find some exciting new talent and give them a significant opportunity to break through into these difficult industries".

Norma Burke who will be Executive Producing the short says: "Comedy is one of the most successful genres at the box office but it is also one of the hardest ones to get right. The UK is an amazing hotbed of comedy talent and this award is a fantastic opportunity for new writers or writers from disciplines such as stand up or theatre to show their funny bones on celluloid whilst working with a team of people who will support and nurture them".

The award is supported several major sponsors and has the financial backing of the **UK Film Council and Working Title Films. The winner will receive a £1000 cash prize from Working Title.**

The Big 5 Commercial Sponsors include: -

Arri Media will donate lights and cameras to the project

Technicolor will donate the telecine and processing of the rushes and the visual post production of the film.

Pinewood will donate the sets and the audio post production

Kodak will be donating 10,000ft of 35mm film

N₂O Entertainment is the production company that will oversee this project. N2O will also be responsible for appointing a known comedy Director to the film.

The award and the website launches on January 28th and writers will be able to submit their scripts till the end of February 2010. The scripts will be short listed before being submitted to the industry panel for judging. The winning script will then be put into development and production with N₂O Entertainment.

For further details on this competition and many other opportunities please see the website : HYPERLINK www.ctbf.co.uk/johnbrabourneawards

Notes to editors:

The Cinema & Television Benevolent Fund

(CTBF) was established in 1924 and is the only trade charity that provides care and financial support to employees and their families from the UK film and commercial television industries who have fallen on hard times. The CTBF also seeks to provide new talent from disadvantaged and diverse backgrounds with opportunities in the film and television industries. The patron of the CTBF is HM The Queen. The Royal Film Performance™ began in 1946 and is the charity's biggest annual fundraising event.

N₂O Entertainment, founded by creative producer Norma Burke, is the production company who will work with the winning writer in bringing this film to life. N₂O specialises in comedy content for film, TV and internet as well as promoting live comedy events.

The UK Film Council, is the Government backed lead agency for film in the UK ensuring that the economic, cultural and educational aspects of film are effectively represented at home and abroad.

Dan Mazer

Dan Mazer is an exceptional writer, director and producer who has produced everything from The Word on Channel 4 to the Big Breakfast and in more recent years has been the writing partner of Sasha Baron Cohen and co creator of the infamous Ali G Show. Dan is the Writer and Producer of the

iconic films Borat and Bruno and received an Oscar nomination in the Best Screenplay category for his work on Borat. He is currently developing a slate of films with companies including Working Title Films and Lionsgate.