HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES ANNOUNCES BFI SKILLS PROGRAMME GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE UNIQUE JOB AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES ON BOND 25

Eight BFI Film Academy Alumni recruited into paid roles supported by National Lottery funding

Trainees meet HRH The Prince of Wales as he visits set of iconic UK film franchise

PINEWOOD – Thursday 20 June 2019 HRH The Prince of Wales today announced a new partnership between the BFI and EON Productions to give a unique opportunity to eight talented young people from a range of backgrounds to work as paid trainees on Bond 25 through the BFI Film Academy Future Skills Programme as part of the film’s dedicated apprenticeship scheme. While on a tour of the Bond sets at Pinewood Studios HRH The Prince of Wales, who visited BFI Southbank in December 2018 to mark his 40th year as Patron of the BFI, met BFI CEO Amanda Nevill, Bond producers Michael G. Wilson and Barbara Broccoli of EON Productions, the young trainees, cast and crew.

Eight of the trainees are graduates of the BFI Film Academy, which provides training for 16-19 year olds from across the UK. They have been selected to be part of the pioneering Future Skills Programme which is the next step in industry-led training designed to give young people from under-represented backgrounds the opportunity to have a career in film production. The programme is made possible thanks to National Lottery funding. Bond 25 is employing a total of 16 trainees on the production, half of which are through the BFI partnership.

Starring Daniel Craig and directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga, Bond 25 is currently shooting at Pinewood Studios. The trainees working on the production are in a variety of roles across the crew including camera, sound, props, costume, grips, video assistant and two trainees in the locations department. The Programme is a key initiative of the BFI led UK Film Skills Strategy, an industry-wide drive to meet the UK’s production boom with a call for a more diverse work force.

Digital and Creative Industries Minister Margot James said: "Our screen industries are thriving, and it’s vital that, as we build the UK’s skills base, people from all backgrounds are given the opportunity to forge a career in this exciting industry. A diverse creative sector is a healthy one, so it’s great to see the BFI, with government support, providing opportunities for young people to work on iconic films such as Bond and helping develop the next generation of world class behind the scenes talent."

Amanda Nevill, CEO BFI said, “It is a real privilege to work with EON Productions on Bond 25—they truly understand the future of our industry depends on finding talent and providing real training and job opportunities to young people regardless of their backgrounds, or where they live. The chance for our BFI Film Academy graduates to work on Bond, an iconic UK production,
is unique and incredibly special. Crucially this programme will equip them with the skills and experience to grow a sustainable career.”

The BFI is in discussion with other major studios to run the programme on other upcoming UK-shot productions.

Offering progression, experience and networking opportunities for all the trainees, a dedicated alumni officer is on hand to provide support and care throughout the programme with regular mentorship from respective Heads of Departments (HODs). Upon completion of the programme, alumni officers, HODs and the BFI work with the individual participants to plan and support their next steps. The aim is that trainees will be recommended for other jobs.

The BFI Film Academy, and its partnerships with major productions and studios on the BFI Future Skills Programme, focuses on discovering and training the next generation of talent to fill craft and technical roles in the screen industry. It is part of the BFI’s Future Film Skills strategy, the majority of which is delivered by ScreenSkills.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Trainees beginning their careers on Bond 25, follow the huge success of the BFI Future Skills Programme in partnership with Lucasfilm, which employed trainees on Solo: A Star Wars Story and Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker. A massive 96% of the trainees from the first edition of the programme have gone on to forge careers working in the industry, employed on other productions including Artemis Fowl, Wonder Woman 2, Blinded by the Light, Misbehaviour, Men in Black: International, The Voyage of Dr Doolittle and Mary Poppins Returns.

About the BFI
The BFI is the UK’s lead organisation for film, television and the moving image. It is a cultural charity that:

• Curates and presents the greatest international public programme of world cinema for audiences; in cinemas, at festivals and online
• Cares for the BFI National Archive – the most significant film and television archive in the world
• Actively seeks out and supports the next generation of filmmakers
• Works with Government and industry to make the UK the most creatively exciting and prosperous place to make film internationally

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

www.bfi.org.uk/filmacademy
About the BFI Film Academy
The BFI Film Academy aims to help train and inspire the next generation of UK filmmakers, supporting talented and committed young people aged 16-19 to develop the commercial and cultural knowledge and skills to help make a career in film a reality.

The BFI Film Academy offers training for every film industry role, from writing and directing through to production, sound design, editing and camera, and provides learning around film history and cinematic storytelling to inspire an appreciation of film culture in the round.

The BFI Film Academy funding partners include the Department for Education in England, the National Lottery, Screen Scotland, Northern Ireland Screen.

About Future Film Skills
The Future Film Skills Programme was launched by the BFI and the Film Sector Task Force in June 2017 at the House of Commons and identified the need for 10,000 more people working in film, and to provide training for an estimated 30,000 jobs over the next five years. At the heart of the strategy is an industry-led commitment to ensure the workforce is representative and inclusive, with a proactive approach to ensure that opportunities exist for everyone.

ScreenSkills will deliver the majority of the UK-wide Future Film Skills Programme, with £19m of BFI funding through the National Lottery, which will work across the nations and regions to provide opportunities for people at all stages of their career, no matter where they live. Key elements will include an industry endorsed careers service, accredited training courses, fast-tracked apprenticeship standards, and working in partnership with existing education establishments and studios to develop industry-led specialist centres for technical and craft skills in key locations across the UK.

Bond 25 is employing a total of 16 apprentices on the production as part of the film’s dedicated scheme.