BFI Film Forever

UK TALENT AND AWARDS

BFI Research and Statistics

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UK TALENT AND AWARDS

UK ACTORS, DIRECTORS AND WRITERS CONSISTENTLY WIN ACCLAIM AT THE GLOBAL BOX OFFICE AND INTERNATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONIES. IN 2014, UK TALENT AND STORY MATERIAL CONTINUED TO REACH ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCES AND SHOWCASE OUR CULTURE AND IDENTITY TO THE WORLD.

FACTS IN FOCUS

- Of the top 200 global box office successes of 2001-2014, 33 films are based on stories and characters created by UK writers. Together they have earned $25 billion (£16 billion) at the worldwide box office.
- Seven of the top 20 global box office successes of the last 14 years are based on novels by UK writers.
- Nearly two thirds of the top 200 films released worldwide since 2001 have featured UK actors in lead or prominent supporting roles.
- UK directors were behind 26 of the 200 biggest films of the last 14 years with Harry Potter director, David Yates, topping the box office league.
- UK films and talent won 31 major film awards in 2014/15, including six Oscars® and 13 BAFTAs.

UK STORY MATERIAL

The global box office performance of UK films and foreign productions which draw on UK source material is a good indicator of the international impact and exposure of British culture. Of the top 200 grossing films released worldwide between 2001 and 2014, 42 are UK qualifying films, and UK-originated story material provided the inspiration for 33 films, a feat bettered only by US story material. Collectively these 33 films have earned $25 billion (£15.8 billion at the 2014 average exchange rate) at the global box office.

Novels by British writers have provided the source material for seven of the top 20 grossing films worldwide since 2001 (Table 1.1). Also appearing in the top 20 are *The Dark Knight* and *The Dark Knight Rises* which feature the character Batman created by American Bob Kane, but the stories for these two films were written by British writer/director Christopher Nolan.

Table 1.1 Top 20 grossing films worldwide, 2001-2014

Rank	Title	Country of origin	Gross box office (US$ million)	US distributor	UK story material (writer)
1	Avatar	USA	2,777	20th Century Fox	
2	Marvel Avengers Assemble	USA	1,519	Walt Disney	
3	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2	UK/USA	1,342	Warner Bros	Novel by JK Rowling
4	Frozen	USA	1,274	Walt Disney	
5	Iron Man 3	USA/China	1,215	Walt Disney	
6	Transformers: Dark of the Moon	USA	1,124	Paramount	
7	The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King	USA/NZ	1,119	New Line	Novel by JRR Tolkien
8	Skyfall	UK/USA	1,109	MGM/ Colombia/ Sony	Based on novels by Ian Fleming
9	Transformers: Age of Extinction	USA/China	1,104	Paramount	
10	The Dark Knight Rises	UK/USA	1,084	Warner Bros	
11	Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest	USA	1,066	Buena Vista	
12	Toy Story 3	USA	1,063	Walt Disney	
13	Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides	UK/USA	1,048	Walt Disney	
14	Alice in Wonderland	USA	1,026	Walt Disney	Novel by Lewis Carroll
15	The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey	USA/NZ	1,017	Warner Bros	Novel by JRR Tolkien
16	The Dark Knight	UK/USA	1,003	Warner Bros	
17	Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone	UK/USA	975	Warner Bros	Novel by JK Rowling
18	Despicable Me 2	USA	971	Universal Pictures	
19	Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End	USA	963	Walt Disney	
20	The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug	USA/NZ	960	Warner Bros	Novel by JRR Tolkien

Source: BFI RSU

Looking just at films based on UK story material, the top 20 grossing films adapted from stories or characters created by UK writers during the period are listed in Table 1.2. Eighteen are adaptations of novels by UK authors and two are from original screenplays.

Table 1.2 Top 20 grossing films worldwide based on stories and characters created by UK writers, 2001-2014

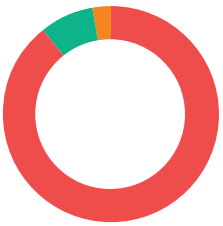
Rank	Title	Country of origin	Gross box office (US$ million)	US distributor	UK story material (writer)
1	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2	UK/USA	1,342	Warner Bros	Novel by JK Rowling
2	The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King	USA/NZ	1,119	New Line	Novel by JRR Tolkien
3	Skyfall	UK/USA	1,109	MGM/Columbia /Sony	Based on novels by Ian Fleming
4	Alice in Wonderland	USA	1,026	Walt Disney	Novel by Lewis Carroll
5	The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey	USA/NZ	1,017	Warner Bros	Novel by JRR Tolkien
6	Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone	UK/USA	975	Warner Bros	Novel by JK Rowling
7	The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug	USA/NZ	960	Warner Bros	Novel by JRR Tolkien
8	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1	UK/USA	960	Warner Bros	Novel by JK Rowling
9	The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies	USA/NZ	955	Warner Bros	Novel by JRR Tolkien
10	Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix	UK/USA	940	Warner Bros	Novel by JK Rowling
11	Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince	UK/USA	934	Warner Bros	Novel by JK Rowling
12	The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers	USA/NZ	923	New Line	Novel by JRR Tolkien
13	Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire	UK/USA	897	Warner Bros	Novel by JK Rowling
14	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets	UK/USA	879	Warner Bros	Novel by JK Rowling
15	The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring	USA/NZ	872	New Line	Novel by JRR Tolkien
16	Inception	UK/USA	826	Warner Bros	Original screenplay by Christopher Nolan
17	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban	UK/USA	797	Warner Bros	Novel by JK Rowling
18	The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe	USA/NZ	745	Walt Disney	Novel by CS Lewis
19	Interstellar	USA	672	Paramount	Original screenplay by Jonathan and Christopher Nolan
20	How to Train Your Dragon 2	USA	619	20th Century Fox	Based on novels by Cressida Cowell

Source: BFI RSU

Of the 33 films from the top 200 based on UK stories and characters, the majority (88%) were based on the work of new and classic authors such as Ian Fleming, CS Lewis, JK Rowling and JRR Tolkien (Figure 1.1). Three new films appear in the list – *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies, How to Train Your Dragon 2* and *Interstellar.*

Figure 1.1 Origin of UK story material in the top 200 films at the worldwide box office, 2001-2014

	%
Novel	88
Original screenplay	9
Musical	3



Source: BFI RSU

UK ACTORS

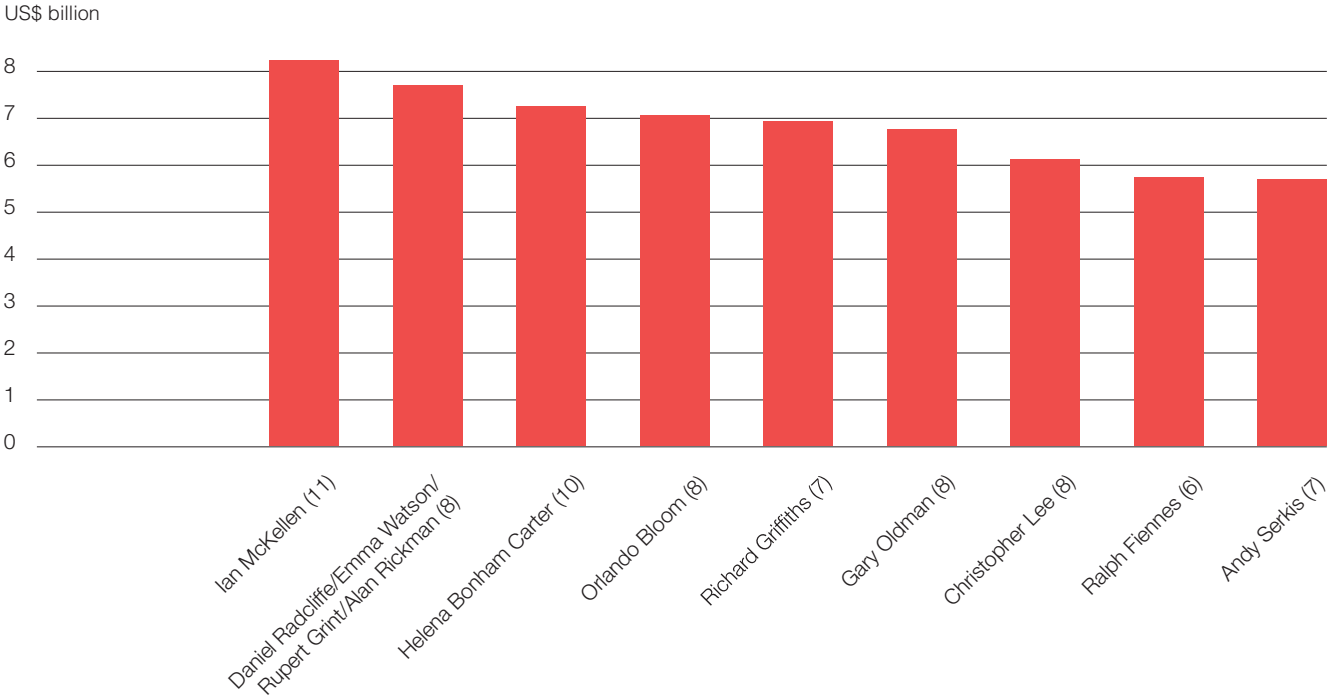
Nearly two thirds (127) of the top 200 films at the global box office since 2001 have featured British actors in either lead/title roles (53) or in the supporting cast (74). The prominent role played by UK actors in many of the most successful releases of the last 14 years is reflected in Figure 1.2, which shows the top 12 British actors based on appearances in the top 200 films and ranked by total box office gross. The Harry Potter films feature heavily in this chart.

At the top of the list is Ian McKellen thanks to appearances in 11 of the top 200 films including the Lord of the Rings franchise, the three Hobbit films and three X-Men films. In second place are four actors from the Harry Potter franchise (only the three young stars and Alan Rickman are shown in Figure 1.2 but several others have appeared in many of the films).

Third in the list is Helena Bonham Carter who has appeared in 10 of the top 200 films, including four Harry Potter films, *The King's Speech* and *Les Misérables*. In fourth place is Orlando Bloom due to his appearances in all three Lord of the Rings films, three Pirates of the Caribbean films, *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies* and *Troy*. The late Richard Griffiths who appeared in six Harry Potter films as well as *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* is fifth, and Gary Oldman is sixth following appearances in eight top 200 releases including two Harry Potter films, the two Dark Knight films and *Kung Fu Panda 2*.

The late Christopher Lee has appeared in many of the same successful franchise films as Ian McKellen, but did not appear in *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* and so is lower down the list in seventh place. Ralph Fiennes is eighth in the list following appearances in a number of Harry Potter films, while Andy Serkis is in ninth place thanks to his roles in the Lord of the Rings and Hobbit films, *King Kong* and *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*.

Figure 1.2 Top 12 UK actors featured in the top 200 films at the worldwide box office, 2001-2014 (number of appearances in brackets)



	Ian McKellen (11)	Daniel Radcliffe/Emma Watson/ Rupert Grint/Alan Rickman (8)	Helena Bonham Carter (10)	Orlando Bloom (8)	Richard Griffiths (7)	Gary Oldman (8)	Christopher Lee (8)	Ralph Fiennes (6)	Andy Serkis (7)
Worldwide gross from films in top 200 (US$ billion)	8.21	7.69	7.24	7.04	6.91	6.74	6.11	5.72	5.67

Source: BFI RSU

Notes: Includes actors who have made four or more appearances in the top 200 films, either in lead/title role or supporting role (not including voices in animated films).

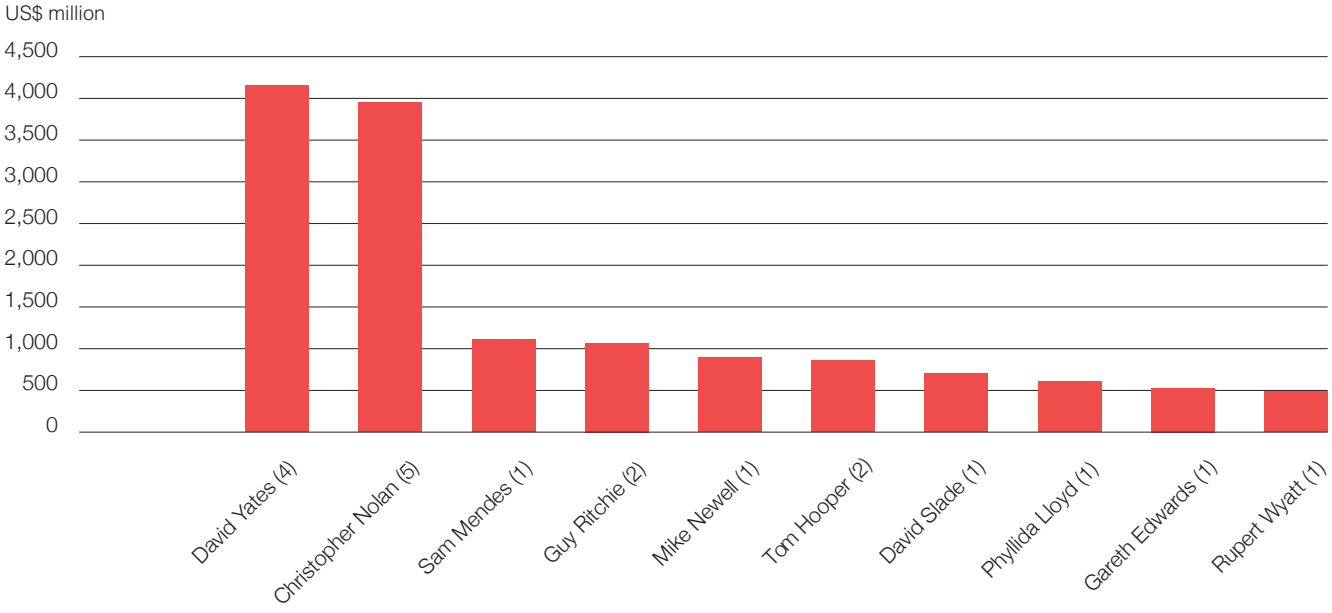
UK DIRECTORS

Twenty-six of the 200 highest grossing films at the global box office between 2001 and 2014 were helmed by British directors (Figure 1.3 and Table 1.3). David Yates remains the most commercially successful British director in recent years, with total top 200 box office takings of $4.16 billion from his four Harry Potter films (*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Parts 1* and *2*). Christopher Nolan is a close second having directed three Batman films, *Inception* and 2014's *Interstellar*, which have combined earnings of $3.95 billion. In third place is *Skyfall* director Sam Mendes ($1.11 billion) followed by Guy Ritchie whose two Sherlock Holmes titles earned $1.07 billion.

Only one woman features in the list of top British directors: Phyllida Lloyd is eighth in the list with a worldwide gross of $610 million for *Mamma Mia!*. New to the list this year are Gareth Edwards, whose *Godzilla* grossed $529 million, and Simon J Smith, co-director of *Penguins of Madagascar* ($374 million).

There are two UK independent films in the top 200. These are Tom Hooper's *The King's Speech* (with a worldwide gross of $414 million) and Danny Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire* ($377 million).

Figure 1.3 Top 10 UK directors based on top 200 grossing films at the worldwide box office, 2001-2014 (number of films in brackets)



	David Yates (4)	Christopher Nolan (5)	Sam Mendes (1)	Guy Ritchie (2)	Mike Newell (1)	Tom Hooper (2)	David Slade (1)	Phyllida Lloyd (1)	Gareth Edwards (1)	Rupert Wyatt (1)
Worldwide gross from films in top 200 (US$ million)	4,156	3,953	1,108	1,068	891	856	699	610	529	483

Source: BFI RSU

Table 1.3 UK directors from the top 200 films at the worldwide box office and their films, 2001-2014

Director	Film(s)	Total gross box office (US$ million)
David Yates	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince	4,156
Christopher Nolan	The Dark Knight Rises The Dark Knight Inception Batman Begins Interstellar	3,953
Sam Mendes	Skyfall	1,108
Guy Ritchie	Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows Sherlock Holmes	1,068
Mike Newell	Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire	891
Tom Hooper	Les Misérables The King's Speech	856
David Slade	The Twilight Saga: Eclipse	699
Phyllida Lloyd	Mamma Mia!	610
Gareth Edwards	Godzilla	529
Rupert Wyatt	Rise of the Planet of the Apes	483
Kenneth Branagh	Thor	448
Paul Greengrass	The Bourne Ultimatum	443
Michael Apted	The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader	416
Ridley Scott	Prometheus	401
Rupert Sanders	Snow White and the Huntsman	397
Danny Boyle	Slumdog Millionaire	377
Simon J Smith	Penguins of Madagascar	374

Source: BFI RSU

WRITERS AND DIRECTORS OF UK INDEPENDENT FILMS RELEASED IN THE UK, 2003-2014

We have information on 1,164 writers and 905 directors associated with UK independent films released in the UK between 2003 and 2014 (not including re-releases of classic films). Almost 90% of the writers and over 80% of the directors have been associated with just one UK independent film during this time, which illustrates how difficult it is to make the leap from first to second feature and to sustain a filmmaking career (Tables 1.4 and 1.5). However, as we are looking just at UK independent films released between 2003 and 2014 it is possible that some directors and writers were involved with more films than these figures indicate. Some might have been involved with earlier films and others will have made successful independent films and gone on to work on studio-backed films. There are also likely to be some writers and directors who have made just one film so far, but will go on to make many more films. Tom Hooper is a good example of a director who appears only once in these data but who has directed more than one successful film. His one independent UK film is *The King's Speech,* the all time highest grossing independent UK film at both the UK and worldwide box office. In addition, he has directed two studio-backed films released during the period, *The Damned United* and *Les Misérables*.

The writers who have been involved with the most independent UK films between 2003 and 2014 are Paul Laverty, with seven films, and Noel Clarke, Tony Grisoni and Ronald Harwood with six each. Sacha Bennett, Frank Cottrell Boyce, Nick Love, Paul Andrew Williams and Michael Winterbottom have written or co-written the screenplays for five films and writers involved with four films include Simon Beaufoy, Anders Thomas Jensen and Oliver Parker.

Table 1.4 Numbers of films by writers of UK independent films, release years 2003-2014

Number of films written or co-written	Number of writers	% of writers
1	1,008	86.6
2	97	8.3
3	44	3.8
4	6	0.5
5	5	0.4
6	3	0.3
7	1	0.1
Total	**1,164**	**100.0**

Source: Rentrak, BFI RSU analysis

The directors of the highest number of UK independent films released between 2003 and 2014 were Michael Winterbottom with 11 films and Ken Loach with 10 films. Stephen Frears and Marc Evans have both directed six films, while the directors of five films include Oliver Parker, Kevin Macdonald and Shane Meadows. (For information on the gender of writers and directors of UK films, see the report on Employment in the film industry.)

Table 1.5 Numbers of films by directors of UK independent films, release years 2003-2014

Number of films directed or co-directed	Number of directors	% of directors
1	745	82.3
2	117	12.9
3	22	2.4
4	12	1.3
5	5	0.6
6	2	0.2
10	1	0.1
11	1	0.1
Total	**905**	**100.0**

Source: Rentrak, BFI RSU analysis.
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

AWARDS FOR UK FILMS AND TALENT

This section presents the awards won by British talent and UK films at the major film festivals and awards ceremonies in the 2014/15 awards cycle. The festivals included here are the Sundance, Berlin, Cannes, Venice and Toronto festivals of 2014 and the BAFTA Film Award and Academy Award® ceremonies which took place in 2015.

However, Table 1.6 also shows the number of awards won in calendar years 2001 to 2014, in order to provide a comparison with previous years. In 2014 UK films and British individuals won 31 awards, representing 20% of awards available. The number of awards won was an increase on 2013, when 26 awards were won, representing 15% of those available. (Awards specific to foreign nationals or films, for example the Toronto International Film Festival's award for Best Canadian Film, are not included in the present analysis).

Of the 31 awards to British films and talent in 2014, a total of 10 were won or shared by British women or won by British films made by women, the same number as in 2013.

Table 1.6 Numbers of UK award winners, 2001-2014/15

Year	Number of UK award winners	UK share %
2001	25	14
2002	24	15
2003	22	13
2004	22	13
2005	23	14
2006	25	14
2007	32	15
2008	32	15
2009	36	17
2010	24	12
2011	30	15
2012	23	14
2013	26	15
2014	31	20
Total (to end of 2014)	**375**	
2014/15 awards cycle	**31**	**20**

Source: BFI

Table 1.7 lists the awards won by UK films and British talent at the major festivals in 2014 and at the 2015 BAFTA Film Awards and Academy Awards®.

UK films and filmmakers won prizes at all the major festivals in 2014. British documentary feature films and talent won three prizes at the Sundance Film Festival – the directing award (Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard), editing award (Jonathan Amos) and the audience award (*The Green Prince*). In the dramatic competition, *God Help the Girl* won the special jury award for ensemble performance. (Another prize-winning UK film was the Film London Microwave scheme production *Lilting*, which won the cinematography award, but as this was presented to Polish-born cinematographer Ula Pontikos, it is not included in the list below.)

UK short films did particularly well at Berlin and Cannes in 2014 – *Mike* was awarded the Crystal Bear (14plus short film) at Berlin, while at Cannes *Leidi* won the Palme d'Or – short film and *The Bigger Picture* won joint third prize in the Cinéfondation competition for student films. Other awards at the two festivals included an honorary Golden Bear for Ken Loach at Berlin and the best actor award at Cannes for Timothy Spall (*Mr. Turner*).

The UK picked up three other major festival awards in 2014 – the grand jury special prize *(The Look of Silence)* and the Orizzonti award for best director (Naji Abu Nowar) at Venice, and the Grolsch people's choice award *(The Imitation Game)* at Toronto.

British talent and films won 13 BAFTAs and six Oscars® at the awards ceremonies in 2015. There were five double winners: Eddie Redmayne won the leading actor award at both events, Anna Pinnock shared best production design (*The Grand Budapest Hotel*), Frances Hannon and Mark Coulier won best make-up and hair/hairstyling (*The Grand Budapest Hotel*), Ben Wilkins shared best sound/sound mixing (*Whiplash*), and Paul Franklin and Andrew Lockley shared best visual effects/special visual effects (*Interstellar*).

Table 1.7 UK award winners, 2014/15

Awards ceremony/ festival	Award	Recipient	Title
Sundance Film Festival 16-24 January 2014	World Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award for Ensemble Performance	Film Award presented to writer/ director Stuart Murdoch, cast Olly Alexander and Hannah Murray (with Emily Browning and Pierre Boulanger)	God Help the Girl
	World Cinema Documentary Directing Award	Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard	20,000 Days on Earth
	World Cinema Documentary Editing Award	Jonathan Amos	20,000 Days on Earth
	Audience Award for World Cinema Documentary	Film (Award presented to Nadav Schirman)	The Green Prince
Berlin Film Festival 6-16 February 2014	Honorary Golden Bear	Ken Loach	
	Crystal Bear (14plus Short Film)	Film Award presented to Matt Nelson (with Petros Silvestros)	Mike
Cannes Film Festival 14-25 May 2014	Award for Best Actor	Timothy Spall	Mr. Turner
	Palme d'Or – Short Film	Film (Award presented to Simón Mesa Soto)	Leidi
	Cinéfondation (joint third prize)	Film Award presented to Daisy Jacobs	The Bigger Picture
Venice Film Festival 27 August- 6 September 2014	Grand Jury Prize	Film (Award presented to Joshua Oppenheimer)	The Look of Silence
	The Orizzonti Award for Best Director	Naji Abu Nowar	Theeb
Toronto International Film Festival 4-14 September 2014	Grolsch People's Choice Award	Film (Award presented to Morten Tyldum)	The Imitation Game
BAFTA Film Awards 8 February 2015	Adapted Screenplay	Film (Award presented to Anthony McCarten)	The Theory of Everything

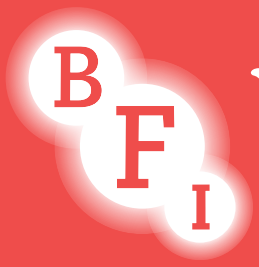
Table 1.7 UK award winners, 2014/15

Awards ceremony/ festival	Award	Recipient	Title
	British Short Animation	Film Award presented to Chris Hees and Daisy Jacobs (with Jennifer Majka)	The Bigger Picture
	British Short Film	Film Award presented to Brian J. Falconer, Michael Lennox and Ronan Blaney	Boogaloo and Graham
	EE Rising Star	Jack O'Connell	
	Fellowship	Mike Leigh	
	Leading Actor	Eddie Redmayne	The Theory of Everything
	Make-Up and Hair	Film Award presented to Frances Hannon and Mark Coulier	The Grand Budapest Hotel
	Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema	BBC Films	
	Outstanding British Film	Film Award presented to James Marsh, Tim Bevan and Eric Fellner (with Lisa Bruce and Anthony McCarten)	The Theory of Everything
	Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer	Stephen Beresford and David Livingstone	Pride
	Production Design	Film Award presented to Anna Pinnock (with Adam Stockhausen)	The Grand Budapest Hotel
	Sound	Film Award presented to Ben Wilkins (with Thomas Curley and Craig Mann)	Whiplash
	Special Visual Effects	Film Award presented to Paul Franklin and Andrew Lockley (with Scott Fisher and Ian Hunter)	Interstellar

Table 1.7 UK award winners, 2014/15

Awards ceremony/ festival	Award	Recipient	Title
Academy Awards® 22 February 2015	Actor in a Leading Role	Eddie Redmayne	The Theory of Everything
	Makeup and Hairstyling	Film Award presented to Frances Hannon and Mark Coulier	The Grand Budapest Hotel
	Production Design	Film Award presented to Anna Pinnock (with Adam Stockhausen)	The Grand Budapest Hotel
	Short Film (Live Action)	Film Award presented to Mat Kirkby and James Lucas	The Phone Call
	Sound Mixing	Film Award presented to Ben Wilkins (with Thomas Curley and Craig Mann)	Whiplash
	Visual Effects	Film Award presented to Paul Franklin and Andrew Lockley (with Scott Fisher and Ian Hunter)	Interstellar

Source: BFI



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