

FILM

40

BEHIND THE SCENES OF BRITISH MOVIES

Televisual's fifth survey of the UK film industry kicks off with a showcase of the country's top 40 indie production companies, from Aardman through to Working Title. Tim Dams reports

Welcome to the Film 40, Televisual's fifth annual survey of the UK film industry. The Film 40 is published in the same month as the Cannes Film Festival, where two British films - Andrea Arnold's *American Honey* and Ken Loach's *I Daniel Blake* - play in competition. The Film 40 is our annual guide to the behind the scenes talent and facilities of the UK's film production industry. It kicks off with a round up of the top 40 film producers in the UK, and in subsequent pages we profile the UK's leading DPs, grading artists, studios and vfx houses.

The big change since the Film 40 began five years ago is how film producers have pushed into TV drama. All leading UK film producers - including 42, Blueprint, Big Talk, Heyday, Cuba, Number 9, Origin, Revolution, Scott Free and See-Saw and Working Title - have TV divisions working for broadcasters who are looking for shows told with the high-end production values of film.

HOW IT WORKS

The Film 40 survey of UK indie producers has been compiled with off-the-record guidance

and input from leading film producers, agents, financiers and PR consultants. But the choice of companies is Televisual's alone.

We have chosen the following companies based on their reputation within the industry. The companies selected are those that have a track record of making films that attract box office, critical acclaim and/or awards. They are not just producers for hire - rather they are producers who look for and develop scripts, attach talent to projects, raise finance and risk their own money in films that they believe in. We've also tried to pick companies that are capable of making a broad slate of films.

Missing from the list are companies that are owned by broadcasters (like Film4 and BBC Films) as well as outfits that are predominantly distributors (StudioCanal, Lionsgate, Pathe) or financiers (Ingenious, Prescience).

The 40 companies are working in an environment where it is as tough as ever to get projects financed. Nevertheless, they're behind some of the big successes of UK cinema in recent years, contributing to the £1.4bn spent on UK film production in 2015.

THESE PRODUCTION COMPANIES ARE BEHIND SOME OF THE UK'S BIGGEST FILMS

42

BEN PUGH, RORY AITKEN, JOSH VARNEY AND KATE BUCKLEY

42 is a production and talent management company, formed in 2013 by four partners: producers Aitken and Pugh; and managers Varney and Buckley. Future releases include Eran Creevy's *Collide*, Johannes Roberts' *The Other Side of the Door* for 20th Century Fox. Fernando Coimbra's *Sand Castle. The Titan*, starring Sam Worthington, began shooting in January. It's producing *Watership Down* for BBC1 and Netflix.

Credits *Welcome to the Punch, Shifty, Monsters Dark Continent*



AARDMAN

PETER LORD, DAVID SPRINTON

The UK's leading animation producer, Aardman produces films, TV series, ads and digital entertainment. Director Nick Park is working on his first film since Oscar winner *Wallace and Gromit. Early Man*, set in a prehistoric world, is a stop frame feature backed by StudioCanal and set for a 2018 release.

Credits *Shaun The Sheep, Chicken Run, Wallace and Gromit, The Pirates!*



ARCHERY

LIZA MARSHALL, KRIS THYKIER

Archery was launched in 2014 by former Scott Free London head Liza Marshall, and PeaPie's Kris Thykier. Coming up is Asif Kapadia's Azerbaijan-set feature *Ali & Nino*. Archery has also pushed into TV, winning a Sky Atlantic commission for *Riviera*, from Oscar-winning writer and director Neil Jordan.

Credits *Woman in Gold, Kick-Ass, Before I Go To Sleep*

ALTITUDE

WILL CLARKE

Launched by former Optimum boss Will Clarke in 2012, Altitude is a rare example of a vertically integrated UK company spanning production, finance, distribution and sales. Altitude recently released music industry satire *Kill Your Friends* which it produced with Gregor Cameron, and has signed on to Asif Kapadia's doc about Diego Maradona.

Credits *Big Game, Kill Your Friends, The Rendelsham UFO Incident*

BIG TALKNIRA PARK, MATTHEW JUSTICE,
KENTON ALLEN

Comedy is the key focus of Big Talk, now owned by ITV. The indie recently produced Sacha Baron Cohen's latest, action-comedy *Grimshy*. TV seems to be the big focus for now, with Big Talk shooting the *Cold Feet* revival and ITV's *Houdini & Doyle*.

Credits *Grimshy, The World's End, Shaun of the Dead, Hot Fuzz, Paul, Attack the Block*

COWBOY FILMS

CHARLES STEEL, ALASDAIR FLIND

Run by Charles Steel and Alasdair Flind, Cowboy Films has built a business across film and TV drama. Last year the indie produced *Bill*, from the team behind *Horrible Histories* and *Yonderland*. It was also behind Kevin Macdonald's submarine drama *Black Sea*, starring Jude Law and produced C4's acclaimed *Top Boy*.

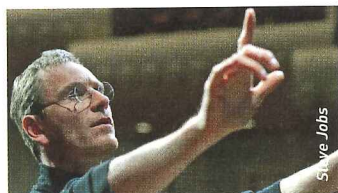
Credits *Bill, Black Sea, How I Live Now, Marley, Top Boy (TV), The Last King of Scotland*

**CLOUD EIGHT**

CHRISTIAN COLSON

Run by Oscar winning producer Christian Colson, Cloud Eight teamed with regular directing partner Danny Boyle on *Steve Jobs*. They have paired up again for the sequel to *Trainspotting*, and are also making *Trust*, a TV series for FX about John Paul Getty III

Credits *Slumdog Millionaire, 127 Hours, Trance, Steve Jobs*

**BLUEPRINT**

GRAHAM BROADBENT, PETE CZERNIN



Blueprint has established itself as one of the UK's pre-eminent producers having enjoyed huge commercial success with *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* and its 2015 sequel. The franchise has proved a wildly successful money spinner for Blueprint, with the two films taking over \$210m at the global box office between them.

It's now in post on the highly anticipated Colin Firth-starring film about round the world amateur sailor Donald Crowhurst, directed by James Marsh. And it is also producing *Three Miles North Of Molkom*, written and directed by Dan Mazer. Both are being backed by StudioCanal, which has forged close ties with Blueprint.

Like many film outfits, Blueprint is now making its first foray into the (relatively) more stable world of television drama. Last year, it produced BBC1's 2x90-min adaptation of Sadie Jone's best selling coming-of-age novel *The Outcast*. It's recently been commissioned to make *The Last Dragonslayer* for Sky1, based on the Jasper Fforde series of novels.

Blueprint co-founder Pete Czernin is on the BFI's governing board. Meanwhile, Broadbent was previously a co-founder of Dragon Pictures and Mission Pictures with Damian Jones.

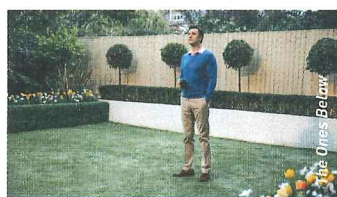
Credits *In Bruges, The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, Now Is Good, Seven Psychopaths, The Riot Club, The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*

CUBA

NICK MARSTON, DINIE LINDER,
TALLY GARNER

Set up in 2008, the production arm of agency Curtis Brown has strong ties to the BBC, producing three features – *Broken*, *London Road* and this year's *The Ones Below* with BBC Films. Its TV arm is active too: it has so far produced *Boy A* and *Coalition* for C4 and *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell* for BBC1. It is currently working on new commissions *McMafia* for BBC1 and *Paula* for BBC2. BBC Worldwide took a 10% stake last month.

Credits *The Ones Below*, *London Road*, *Broken*, *Boy A* (TV)

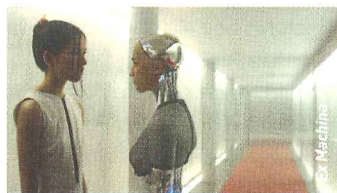


DNA FILMS

ANDREW MACDONALD, ALLOX REICHT

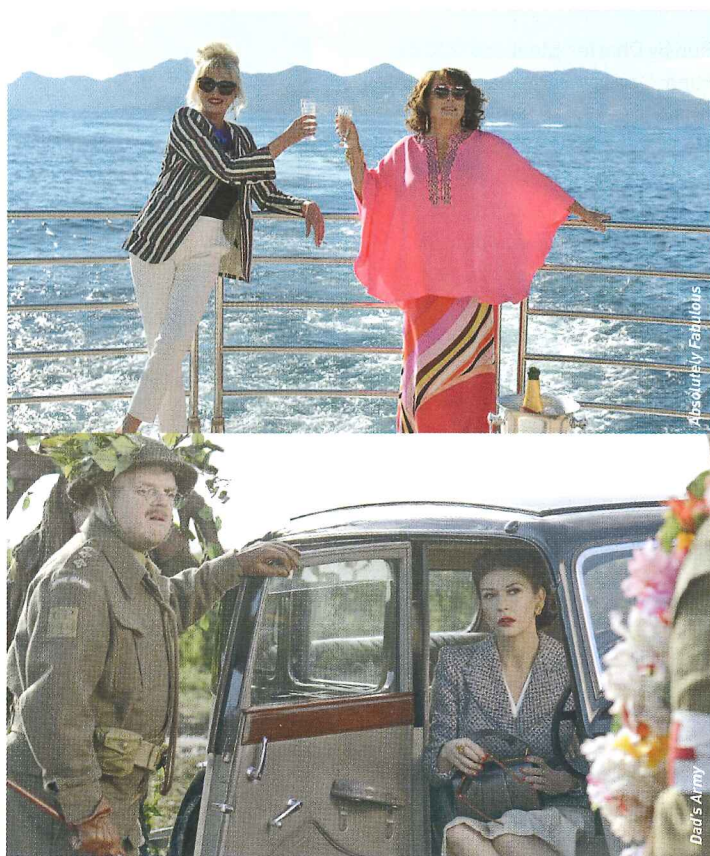
The prolific DNA is a fixture of the British industry. The indie had a sleeper US hit on its hands with Alex Garland's *Ex Machina*. Andrew MacDonald is now working on a sequel to *Trainspotting* with Cloud Eight's Christian Colson. The film started shooting in March.

Credits *Sunshine on Leith*, *Dredd 3D*, *The Last King of Scotland*, *Trainspotting*



DJ FILMS

DAMIAN JONES



Damian Jones is one of the UK's most entrepreneurial and consistent producers, having made over 30 feature films from the Oscar-winning *The Iron Lady* to *The Lady in the Van*, *Belle*, *The History Boys* and *Dad's Army*.

Released back in February, the latter took a respectable £8m at the UK box office.

A one-man band producer, Jones is also behind another television spin-off – the upcoming film adaptation of BBC comedy *Absolutely Fabulous*, set for release in July, and which reunites stars Joanna Lumley and Jennifer Saunders. The story sees the pair blamed for a major incident at an uber fashionable launch party,

causing them to flee penniless to the French Riviera to plot their return to London. Mandie Fletcher directs from a script by Jennifer Saunders. The BBC and Fox Searchlight are co-financing.

Jones is also working on *Goodbye Christopher Robin* with director Simon Curtis and Pinewood and Pathe as backers, and is developing a biography of Alexander McQueen with Chris Urch and Andrew Haigh. Meanwhile, Jones is also executive producing Roger Spottiswoode's *Streetcat Named Bob* and Jenny Lu's *The Receptionist*.

Credits *Dad's Army*, *Belle*, *The Lady in the Van*, *The Iron Lady*, *Fast Girls*, *The History Boys*, *Kidulthood*

ELEMENT

ED GUINEY, ANDREW LOWE

Element Pictures is technically an Irish company, but makes the Film 40 because it is so active in the UK. Element's acclaimed *Room* picked up four Oscar nods and won the best actress award for Brie Larson, while *The Lobster* played in competition at Cannes last year. Element also produces TV too.

Credits *Room*, *The Lobster*, *Frank*, *Jimmy's Hall*, *Shadow Dancer*

EON

BARBARA BROCCOLI,
MICHAEL G WILSON

Home of James Bond, Eon released the 24th instalment of the franchise – *Spectre* – in November. It has taken over \$880m at the worldwide box office so far. Eon remains a family business and is run by original producer Albert R 'Cubby' Broccoli's daughter Barbara and stepson Michael G Wilson.

Credits *Spectre*, *Skyfall*, *Quantum of Solace*, *Casino Royale*

FABLE PICTURES

FAYE WARD, EUGENIO PEREZ

Fable Pictures is a new entry to the Film 40. The indie was set up by former Ruby Films producer Faye Ward, who produced 2015 hit *Suffragette*. Laurel and Hardy biopic *Stan & Ollie*, starring Steve Coogan and John C Reilly, is the first feature to be produced under the new company banner. Sony Pictures Television took a minority stake in Fable in March.

FREE RANGE

KEVIN LOADER, ROGER MICHELL

Free Range is shooting Roger Michell's version of the Daphne Du Maurier's *My Cousin Rachel* for Fox Searchlight, starring Rachel Weisz and Sam Claflin. The company was formed by producer Kevin Loader and director Roger Michell in 1996. Free Range co-produced Bafta-winner *The Lost Honour of Christopher Jefferies*.

Credits *Le-Weekend, Hyde Park on the Hudson, Enduring Love*

FILMWAVE

PAUL TRIJBITS, CHRISTIAN GRASS

Filmwave is run by former Ruby Films md, Paul Trijbits, and ex-UPI exec Christian Grass. It has just produced an adaptation of Hans Fallada's World War II novel *Alone in Berlin*, starring Emma Thompson, Daniel Bruhl and Mark Rylance. It's also made *Sing Street*, a semi-autobiographical movie about U2 in the 1980s, released this month. TV credits include *The Casual Vacancy*.

Credits *The Casual Vacancy* (TV)

FYZZ

ROBERT JONES, WAYNE MARK GODFREY

Former Film Council exec Robert Jones runs The Fyzz Facility with producer Wayne Marc Godfrey. Recent productions include Stephen Fingleton's well-received *The Survivalist*, *A Patch of Fog* and *Alley Cats*. Other Fizz projects include *I Am Not A Serial Killer* and Jackie Chan-starrer *The Foreigner*.

Credits *The Survivalist, Cake*

HEYDAY

DAVID HEYMAN

David Heyman is one of the UK's pre-eminent producers, who steered the *Harry Potter* franchise to the big screen. He is readying a sequel to box office smash *Paddington* (which took \$260m globally) and is in post on J K Rowling's *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. Heyman launched TV arm Heyday Television in November with backing from NBC Universal International Studios.

Credits *Paddington, Testament of Youth, Gravity, Harry Potter*

**INDEPENDENT**

LUC ROEG, ANDREW ORR

Independent straddles production, international sales and UK distribution, and was one of the recipients of the £100k BFI Vision Awards for UK production companies. Recent productions include *The Falling* and the adaptation of John Banville's *The Sea* while Russell Crowe is attached to upcoming survival drama *In Sand and Blood*.

Credits *The Falling, The Sea*

**INK FACTORY**

SIMON CORNWELL, STEPHEN CORNWELL

Run by the sons of John Le Carre, The Ink Factory produces films based on his novels – including *Our Kind of Traitor*, released this month. It also had a TV hit with BBC1's *The Night Manager*. Original films include upcoming *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*, directed by Ang Lee.

Credits *A Most Wanted Man, The Night Manager, Our Kind of Traitor*

MARV

MATTHEW VAUGHN

The production outfit of British producer/director Matthew Vaughn, Marv makes slick action capers and sharply produced British films, such as last month's *Eddie the Eagle*. Next up is Vaughn's adaptation of Terry Hayes' hit thriller *I Am Pilgrim*. A follow up to *Kingsman: The Secret Service* is also in the works.

Credits *Kingsman: The Secret Service, Layer Cake, Kick-Ass, Stardust*

MONUMENTAL

ALISON OWEN, DEBRA HAYWARD

Monumental was launched in 2014 by two of the UK's leading producers, former Ruby Films boss Alison Owen (*Saving Mr Banks*) and Debra Hayward (*Bridget Jones's Diary*). Last year ITV Studios Global took a minority stake in their TV arm. Owen is in post on Justin Chadwick's *Tulip Fever* for The Weinstein Co. Hayward has just produced the third *Bridget Jones* outing.

NEON FILMS

NICKY BENTHAM

Neon was launched in 2008 by Nicky Bentham, a co-producer of Duncan Jones' acclaimed *Moon*. A former exec producer on the BFI's shorts scheme, Bentham is known for backing new voices, particularly female filmmakers. Neon produced Corinna McFarlane's *The Silent Storm*, starring Damian Lewis and Andrea Riseborough, which is released this month. It is now in post on children's ballet film *You Can Tutu*.

Credits *Moon, The Silent Storm, You Can Tutu*

**NUMBER 9**

STEPHEN WOOLLEY, ELIZABETH KARLSEN

Stalwarts of British film, Stephen Woolley and Elizabeth Karlsen set up Number 9 after a long collaboration at both Palace and Scala. After Oscar nominations for 2015's *Carol*, it's in post on Juan Carlos Medina's *The Limehouse Golem* and Lone Sherfig's *Their Finest Hour and a Half*.

Credits *Carol, Made in Dagenham, Great Expectations, Byzantium*



ORIGIN

DAVID THOMPSON, ED RUBIN

Launched by former BBC Films boss David Thompson in 2008, Origin continues to grow. Next up is an adaptation of Julian Barnes' *The Sense of an Ending*. Origin's next TV drama is *The Woman In White* for the BBC.

Credits *Woman In Gold*, *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*



PASSION RED BOX

JOHN BATTSEK, ANDREW RUHEMAN, SIMON CHINN

Frequent collaborators Passion and Redbox have made some of the UK's top feature docs. Upcoming Passion docs include a Vivienne Westwood biopic. Chinn's TV arm, Lightbox, is making Netflix series *Captive*.

Credits *Man on Wire*, *Searching for Sugar Man*

PLAYMAKER

JAMES GAY-REES, JOLYON SYMONDS, ASIF KAPADIA

Set up in 2013 by director Kapadia and producers Gay-Rees and Symonds, Playmaker's feature doc reputation was further bolstered by box office hit *Amy*. Kapadia has just directed feature *Ali & Nino*, and is starting on a Maradona biopic.

Credits *Amy*, *Senna*, *Exit Through the Gift Shop*

POTBOILER/SLATE

ANDREA CALDERWOOD, GAIL EGAN

Experienced producers Calderwood and Egan joined forces in 2009. Egan has just produced *Our Kind of Traitor*. In post is Stanley Tucci's Giacometti biopic *Final Portrait*.

Credits *The Constant Gardener*



PULSE FILMS

THOMAS BENSKE, PATRICK VIEN

Pulse produced Andrea Arnold's highly anticipated *American Honey*, which plays in competition this month at Cannes. Pulse works across TV, film, promos and commercials.

Credits *American Honey*, *20,000 Days on Earth*



QWERTY

MICHAEL KUHN

Film industry veteran and former Polygram exec Michael Kuhn launched Qwerty back in 1999. Qwerty produced Stephen Frears' upcoming *Florence Foster Jenkins*, starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant. The well received *Suite Francaise* hit cinemas last year.

Credits *Suite Francaise*, *The Last Days on Mars*, *The Duchess*

RAINDOG

COLIN FIRTH, GED DOHERTY

Established in 2012, Raindog was founded by producer Ged Doherty and actor Colin Firth. The company's debut feature *Eye in the Sky*, starring Helen Mirren, was released last month. It will be followed by the recently-wrapped *Loving*, an interracial love story written and directed by Jeff Nichols.

Credits *Eye in the Sky*

RECORDED PICTURE CO

JEREMY THOMAS

Veteran producer Jeremy Thomas has made over 50 features in the last 40 years. He's just produced JG Ballard adaptation *High Rise*.

Credits *The Last Emperor*, *Crash*, *Sexy Beast*, *Stealing Beauty*



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REVOLUTION

ANDREW EATON,
MELISSA PARMINTER

The entrepreneurial Revolution produces Michael Winterbottom's films including last year's Russell Brand doc *The Emperor's New Clothes*. Revolution also produced Ron Howard's *Rush*. It is increasingly active in TV production too. Eaton is producing *The Crown* for Netflix and Left Bank. Revolution also produced *The Trip to Italy* and *Doll & Em*.

Credits *The Trip, The Look of Love, 9 Songs, The Face of An Angel*



The Crown

SCOTT FREE

JACK ARBUTHNOTT

Ridley Scott's production company, Scott Free enjoyed box office and critical success with *The Martian*. It also produced Drake Doremus's *Equals*, which premiered at the Venice and Toronto festivals London. In post is *Lords of Chaos*, music director Jonas Akerlund's tale of Norwegian black metal. Scott Free has also moved into TV, producing *Taboo* for BBC1 and FX.

Credits *The Martian, Gladiator, Robin Hood, Prometheus, Before I Go To Sleep*



The Martian

WORKING TITLE

TIM BEVAN, ERIC FELLNER



The Danish Girl

Working Title remains the UK's pre-eminent production company. Backed by Universal Pictures via a first look deal, it delivers two to four films a year which marry a British sensibility with Hollywood production values. Working Title also has a close relationship with StudioCanal. Founded in 1983, the company has produced more than 100 films that have grossed over \$6bn worldwide. Its films have won 12 Academy Awards, including one for Tom Hooper's latest *The Danish Girl*. Working Title's current slate

includes *Hail Caesar!* Bevan and Fellner's eighth film with Joel and Ethan Coen, *Bridget Jones's Baby* directed by Sharon Maguire starring Renee Zellweger and Colin Firth, and *The Snowman*, directed by Tomas Alfredson starring Michael Fassbender, Rebecca Ferguson and Val Kilmer. Working Title also has a TV division which makes *Yonderland* and BBC2's *London Spy*.

Credits *The Theory of Everything, Les Misérables, Atonement, United 93, Nanny McPhee, Love Actually, Johnny English, About a Boy, Bridget Jones' Diary, Elizabeth*

SEE-SAW

IAIN CANNING, EMILE SHERMAN

Anglo-Oz indie See-Saw hit the big time with *The King's Speech*. See-Saw is now readying a biopic of Mary Magdalene, directed by Garth Davies. Two films, *How to Talk to Girls at Parties* and *Lion*, are in post. See-Saw made BBC2's *Banished* and is adapting *Love, Nina* for BBC1.

Credits *The King's Speech, Macbeth, Shame, Mr Holmes*

SHOEBOX

PAUL WEBSTER

The former boss of Film4 and Shine Pictures, Webster launched Shoebox with Guy Heeley and director Joe Wright. Shoebox produced Joe Wright's big budget *Pan*. It is now developing *The Ruins*, a supernatural thriller set in India, written by Jon Croker. Shoebox struck a first look TV deal with Endemol Shine last year.

Credits *Pan, Locke*

VERTIGO

JAMES RICHARDSON, ALLAN NIBLO,
RUPERT PRESTON

Commercially focused and prolific, Vertigo is readying *Kill Command*, the directorial debut of vfx artist Steve Gomez. Set in a near future where a tech reliant society pits man against killing machines, it includes up to 1,100 vfx shots yet was made on an extremely small budget.

Credits *Monsters: Dark Continent, Pudsey The Movie, Streetdance 3d*

WARP

MARK HERBERT, ROBIN GUTCH,
PETER CARLTON

Warp has made many distinctive British films in the last 10 years, most recently Yann Demange's '71. It's now increasingly active in television making jewel heist drama *The Last Panthers* for Sky and C4's *This is England '90*. The company has a distribution deal with ITV Studios Global Entertainment.

Credits *Four Lions, This Is England, Submarine*

WILDGAZE

FINOLA DWYER, AMANDA POSEY

The Wildgaze duo made cinema history this year when they received their second best picture Oscar nomination for *Brooklyn*, the first female producing partnership to do so. Like *An Education*, *Brooklyn* received three Oscar nods and won the Bafta for Outstanding British Film. In post is *Their Finest Hour* from director Lone Scherfig.

Credits *Brooklyn, An Education* ▶