

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!*

