

PRESS RELEASE :

DIRECTORS GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN – A NEW DIRECTION

London - Thursday 12th June 2008 : The Directors Guild of Great Britain (DGGB) has deregistered as a trade union and today redefines its role by becoming a not-for-profit Community Interest Company (CIC) to support the work of sister charity the Directors Guild Trust in promoting and developing the craft of directing.

The DGGB is continuing its successful activities promoting directors and their work and helping newcomers to the profession with an expanded programme of events, training and awards. The Board will consist of present Council members until new elections are held later in the year.

The DGGB intends to work closely with the newly-formed Directors UK, formerly the Directors & Producers Rights Society, the independent body originally formed by the DGGB in 1987 for the financial benefit of Film and TV Directors. Directors UK, who formally launched on 12th June, has already pledged its support for the Directors Guild Trust.

DGGB Chairman Ivor Benjamin says: “The Guild applauds the creation of Directors UK and supports them wholeheartedly in their efforts to provide a single voice for those British directors working in television and film. Creative and economic rights are the most important bargaining chip that directors possess.”

The DGGB is a cross-media organisation. Ivor Benjamin says: “Britain has a long history of directors moving between stage and screen. Directing can be a lonely profession; the Guild recognises the value of a place for all directors, whatever their background. The future of directing lies in recognising and celebrating what unites us – ambition, good training and shared experiences.”

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. **Directors Guild of Great Britain** - is a professional organisation of British Directors supporting the aims of the Directors Guild Trust.

Most recent events:

The DGGB *commemorated the centenary year of birth of Sir David Lean*, with a *Blue Plaque* at the film director's family home in Croydon and an evening of celebrations at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts.

The Observer Mentoring Scheme, “*Direct Access*” has placed a candidate on the Universal Pictures feature film, “*The Wolfman*”, currently filming in the UK directed by Joe Johnston and starring

Benicio Del Toro, Anthony Hopkins, Hugo Weaving and Emily Blunt. This is a first in the history of the DGGB for feature film Directors, successfully mirroring the standard industry trainee schemes of the Directors Guild of America.

The DGGB counts amongst its numbers: Sir Alan Parker, Nicholas Hytner, Sir Trevor Nunn, Mike Leigh, Sir Richard Eyre, Nicolas Roeg, Sir Richard Attenborough and Sir Peter Hall. Membership of the Directors Guild of Great Britain (CIC) will still be restricted to those members of the charity with professional credits as directors.

2. **The Directors Guild Trust** supports and raises the profile of all directors to improve public understanding of a Director's work. Trust Secretary Simon Campbell-Jones says, "Increasing recognition and appreciation of the art, craft and expertise of directing within industry, government and amongst the general public can only help raise the status of our profession." Membership of the Directors Guild Trust is open to anyone - and any organisation - interested in supporting the art of direction across all media - theatre, film, television, radio and new media.