

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

British designers set to dominate the Oscars

Oscar nominations expected to honour the UK's film design teams



2012 is turning out to be another bumper year for our set designers, with movie awards season proving yet again that the UK hosts some of the world's most talented artists and technicians. Four of the five nominations for this year's BAFTA award for Production Design have been given to films that were visualised by production designers working in the UK with British Art Departments: **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2, Hugo, Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy** and **War Horse**.

Meanwhile, the list of nominees for the Excellence in Production Design awards to be presented by the ADG³ in February is even more extensive: **Hugo, Tinker Tailor, Captain America: The First Avenger, Harry Potter, Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Times**, and **Game of Thrones** (TV).

All of these films have been whispered about in anticipation of the imminent Academy Award nominations, and in fact this particular Oscar category has been dominated by films that were made using British talent for several years now². In both 2010 and 2011, four of the five available nominations went to productions that were either entirely or partly made in the UK using British crew.

Here in Britain, we are duly proud of our home-grown Oscar-nominated Production Designers¹ who have contributed some truly beautiful and challenging aesthetics to the films they've worked on. However, we also provide fertile ground for Production Designers visiting from Hollywood and elsewhere in the world. Whilst here, these designers rely on the professionalism and skill of scores of artists and craftsmen to realise their visions; from concept artists to carpenters, draughtsmen to set decorators, and plasterers to art directors. Our British draughtsmen are producing some of the best technical drawings in the world; our UK-trained carpenters, plasterers and painters are internationally sought after for their skill. It is no exaggeration to suggest that the talents of the UK Art department play a large part in attracting film projects to this country, with all the jobs and investment that follow.

The British Film Designers Guild represents not only Production Designers, but highly-skilled technicians across the Art Department. We would like to congratulate our members on their outstanding achievements over the past year. In total, BFDG members contributed to 19 films released in 2011, including **War Horse**, **The Iron Lady**, **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2**, **X-Men: First Class**, **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows**, and **One Day**, as well as numerous TV shows and commercials.

On 22nd January, the British Film Designers Guild presented awards to Neil Lamont, Andrew Ackland-Snow, Alastair Bullock and Gary Tomkins for their work on War Horse (Best Production), and to Sophie Bridgman who won the Spotighting Young Talent category.

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FOOTNOTES

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Films that employed UK Art Departments, and were nominated for Oscars in the Best Art Direction category (information from Wikipedia)

2001: 2 nominations

Gladiator

Quills

(none)

2008: 3 nominations

Sweeney Todd

Atonement

The Golden Compass

2002: 2 nominations

Harry Potter and the Sorcerers Stone

Gosford Park

2009: 1 nomination

The Dark Knight

2003:

(none)

2010: 4 nominations

Nine

The Young Victoria

The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus

Sherlock Holmes

2004:

(none)

2005: 2 nominations

Finding Neverland

The Phantom of the Opera

2011: 4 nominations

Alice in Wonderland - Partly shot on Location in Cornwall

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1

Inception - Cardington - part UK Art Department

The Kings Speech

2006: 2 nominations

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

Pride and Prejudice

2007:

2

UK Oscar-nominated production designers who are currently working include:
(information from IMDB)

Stuart Craig - 9 nominations, 3 wins,

Martin Childs - 2 nominations, 1 win

Sarah Greenwood - 3 nominations

Guy Dyas - 1 nomination

Antony Pratt - 2 nominations

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ADG = Art Directors Guild (USA) www.adg.org