

*A Unique and Special Filmmaking Society*



Action! Thrills! Suspense!  
**It's the Beacon Films Annual Report**  
**April 2017-March 2018**

A Community Interest Company Limited by Guarantee #7740648

# Beacon Films CIC is a training and production company for filmmakers with learning disabilities, autism and additional needs.

We support our members to:

1] **Discover**  
filmmaking talents

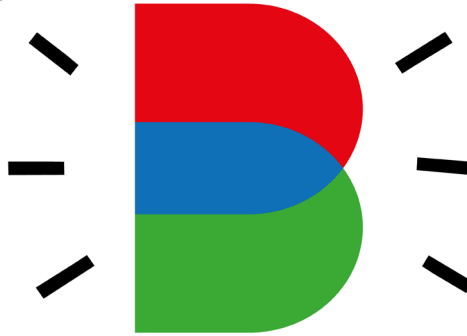
2] **Develop**  
professional skills

3] **Work** on film  
commissions

4] **Become**  
independent  
filmmakers

5] **Showcase**  
creative  
talents

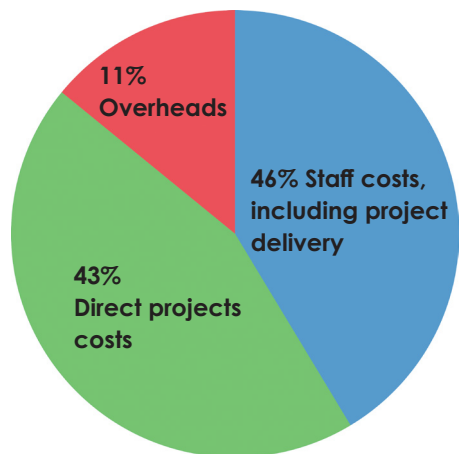
6] **Campaign** for  
equality in the screen  
industries



During 2017-18 we raised a total budget of **£143,563**.

Here is what we spent it on

(more details on inside back page)



## Key Statistics: 2017-18

We delivered **10 projects...**

... that supported  
**42** filmmakers

... to produce **26** films

... which received a total of  
**15,692** views online



... **13** film festival screenings

... and were nominated for or won **5** awards

At our annual premiere at Playhouse Whitley Bay (November 2017), our work was screened to an audience of approximately **200 people...**

... who gave the quality of the work an average score of **9/10**  
(survey sample size: 35)



We provided **23** film-related volunteering and work experience placements...

...which included **5** films that were made in partnership with external organisations and paying clients

# 1. Discover Filmmaking Talents

Beacon Films members Paul, Rowan, Zosia and Philip:

“The BFI Film Academy is an introduction to filmmaking and film watching. You make a film as a team, and we try out different styles and techniques.”



“It was the first time that I'd properly worked in a group. The people in the workshop understood me and knew what I was going through but also knew what I was capable of.”

Twelve young people took part in our 17-18 BFI Film Academy. Of those surveyed (sample size: 10) 9 out of 10 said that:

- The project was **helping them work better with others**
- The project was **helping them work better independently**



- 8 out of 10 said that they thought the project had given them **skills that were useful for work or volunteering** (the 2 who didn't were “don't knows”).

## 2. Developing Professional Skills

Viewfinder is our talent development programme.

Taking place on alternate Saturday mornings, members work on their own and each other's personal projects.

Beacon Films member Paul:

"I didn't know what Viewfinder was at first but the more I knew, the more I got into it. ... Viewfinder has helped me spread my mind in having people help, which makes me gain confidence in trusting others."

75% of members surveyed thought that the project gave them **skills that 'are useful for work or volunteering'** and made them feel **'better about their life and future'** (sample: 24).

Over 90% of parents, carers and supporters surveyed **thought the project supported 'work skills' & 'wellbeing'** (sample: 21/ 25 respectively).



### 3. Working Professionally

Beacon Films member Philip:

“‘Making Routes’ was a film about the Making Routes Festival in London. We were in London for five days.

We had to go around filming people doing activities and interviewing people...



It was a proper professional paid work that I hadn't done before, so it showed that I could do it.”

Beacon Films member Zosia was part of a team of volunteers who made a film for St Camillus Care group that promoted people with learning disabilities and autism in the workplace.

“I enjoyed making this film because it was filmmakers with autism/ learning difficulties working with people with autism/learning difficulties to make a film about how we are good at working and that we should work.”





# Hire Us!

## Training: Tablet & Smartphone Filmmaking

Want to learn how to shoot & edit films using your smartphone or tablet? Our workshops will teach you how!

Use your new skills to:

- Make films for your social media channels and websites
- Evaluate your project in a fun & inclusive way
- Engage people through a creative process



**“Beacon Films were excellent: they explained each element of the training clearly ... We learned a lot about how to use smartphones to capture video, including framing, focus, lighting, angles and editing.”**

Catherine Riley, Spirit of 2012

## Film Production: Concept to Completion

Want a film made about your project? We make films from script to screen that evaluate, promote and raise awareness.

**“We’re so thrilled with the film made by Beacon Films. They really captured the spirit of the festival... a real treat to work with.”**

Victoria Briggs, Battersea Arts Centre



- Find out more at [www.beaconfilms.org.uk/hireus](http://www.beaconfilms.org.uk/hireus)
- Or contact us to discuss your ideas (see back page!)
- All profits are reinvested to support our talented filmmakers.

## 4. Becoming Independent Filmmakers

Beacon Films member Philip:

“My proudest achievement is being selected for a First Act. I wrote a short film called ‘March of the Cuckoos’ and directed a professional crew. It was selected as Channel 4’s First Act of the Day on Twitter.”



Beacon Films member Paul:

“I was given the opportunity to teach new members character development and brainstorming with one another...”

Feeling like a teacher gets me one step closer to what I have been wanting to do and I know for a fact that this is just the beginning.”

Beacon Films member Rowan:

“I did three films that I worked on during my time at Gateshead College.



The first film I did is a 5-minute documentary film on how the benefits system at the time is not doing enough to help disabled people...”

Beacon Films has inspired me to do my own films and work as a team...”



## 5. Showcasing Skills and Talents

Our annual premiere in November 2017 attracted an audience of 200, who enjoyed a night of films and a live performance of one of the film's soundtracks, composed and played by Beacon Films members.



In addition to our film festival successes (see Key Statistics), our interactive film exhibit: 'Hidden Histories', made in partnership with Newcastle Castle, won a Historic England Angel Award which was presented to our filmmakers by Andrew Lloyd Webber at a prestigious ceremony in London.

Our filmmakers' audio-visual installation 'Ebb & Flow' was co-commissioned by and screened for five days at Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival.

In a survey of attendees of our annual premiere (sample: 35), 93%



“strongly agreed” with the statement **“films made by Beacon Films increases awareness in communities of the potential of disabled people.”**

## 6. Campaigning for Equality in the Screen Industries

Our Development Director, Will:

“During 2017-18, I represented Beacon Films on a national project called ‘Disabling the Screen’, funded by the BFI.



Its aim is to increase the numbers of disabled and autistic people who work in the screen industries. The partners on the project are Carousel, Beacon Films and 104 Films, and we launched the campaign at the BFI London Film Festival 2017. This led onto an Action Meeting at Sky Television, which was attended by over 30 people from across the industry.

Our work is far from done, but I feel we have built solid foundations moving forward. The next step is to put the actions discussed at the meeting into... action!”



<b>Financial Summary*</b>	17/18	16/17
Sales Income	£18,267	£23,078
Grant Income	£125,296	£99,906
Other Income	£0	£18
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£143,563</b>	<b>£123,002</b>
Expenditure	£138,472	£117,540
Surplus/Deficit**	£5,091	£5,462
Reserves	£22,602	£18,444

We would like to thank the following funders who have supported Beacon Films during the year (in alphabetical order):

- Arts Council England
- Awards for All (Big Lottery)
- Barbour Trust
- BFI (British Film Institute)
- Children's Foundation
- Greggs Foundation (North East Core Funding)
- Sir James Knott Trust
- St Hilda's Trust
- Joyce Trust
- Spirit of 2012 Trust (Big Lottery)
- William Leech Charity
- Winship Foundation

We would also like to thank our clients and creative partners:

- Battersea Arts Centre
- Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival
- St Camillus Care Group
- Carousel
- Connect in the North
- Oasis Play
- South London Gallery
- Tyneside Cinema

\*Full financial statements, prepared by Bell Tindle Williamson Accountants are available to download from our website: [www.beaconfilms.org.uk/about](http://www.beaconfilms.org.uk/about)

\*\*Unrestricted surplus, generated from sales income

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t: [twitter.com/beaconfilmsuk](https://twitter.com/beaconfilmsuk)

## Beacon Films Staff & Freelancers:

Development Director  
Will Sadler

Creative Director  
Andrew Coats

Head of Programme  
Michelle Fox

Exhibition Officer  
Midnight Memphis

Support Co-ordinator  
Sarah Rose

Film Facilitators  
Taryn Edmonds, Danielle Giddins,  
Sean Mckenna, Robin Webb

Evaluation & Participation Officer  
Emma Tilney

Musician Mentors  
Simon Tarrant, Keith Hill

Design & Interactive Development  
Chris Younger

External Evaluator  
Chris Ford

## Key Funders 2017-18:



Awarding funds from  
**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY®**



A full list of our funders, clients and creative partners can be found inside.

Special thanks to our non-executive board members:

Anne Moran  
Robert Laycock  
Roxy McKenna

This Annual Report was completed with the support of members:

Philip Coghill  
Zosia Feher  
Paul Lycett  
Rowan Simpson