

About the UK Film Council and *Breakthrough Brits*

Breakthrough Brits is the UK Film Council's unique honor program designed to celebrate the new wave of British film-making talent who are on the cusp of breakthrough international success. Because one of the UK Film Council's strategic aims is to support talent from the UK's ethnic communities, *Breakthrough Brits* will, in its second year, honor some of the UK's leading Black and Asian film talent. The UK Film Council has made it a top priority to champion diversity both on and off the screen. This year's honorees are Actor/Playwright **Kwame Kwei-Armah**, Actor/Director/Writer **Noel Clarke**, Producer **Esther Douglas**, Director **John Giwa Amu**, Director/Writer **Kara Miller**, Producer **Rita Osei**, Producer **Karlene Page**, Producer **Barrington Robinson**, Producer **Zoe Stewart**, Co-Producers/Directors **Sunandan Walia** and **Yugesh Walia**, and Documentary Writer/Director **Florence Ayisi**.

The goals of *Breakthrough Brits* is to seed the film industry with exceptional executives from minority communities that will rise to decision-making positions so that they can influence not only which film projects get made, but how they are made. The *Breakthrough Brits* program will give the filmmakers an inside track on film financing, new distribution models, international co-production, sales, marketing and script development. Previous alumni have included actresses Mary Nighy and Emily Blunt, directors Amma Asante, Gaby Dellal and Shona Auerbach, producers Abi Bach, and Nira Park, writer Abi Morgan and cinematographer Natasha Braier.

The UK Film Council is the Government's strategic agency responsible for film in the UK ensuring that the economic, cultural and educational aspects of film are effectively represented at home and abroad. They invest Government grant-in-aid and National Lottery money in film development and production including multi-award winning films (*The Queen*, *Vera Drake*, *The Last King of Scotland*); training; international development and export promotion; distribution and exhibition; and education. Their aim is to deliver lasting benefits to the industry and the public alike.

Breakthrough Brits will be delivered by the UK Film Council's Diversity Team in partnership with the UK Film Council US office in Los Angeles who represent the UK film industry in the USA. Acting as a conduit between the US and UK film industries, their remit is to attract production into the UK, exchange information, skills, talent and business development, generating strategic creative and business partnerships between the two countries.