



PRESS RELEASE

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DocHouse and the BBC present  
'CROSSING the LINE:  
between fact and fiction'

21 - 23 September 2007 | Rich Mix, London

A unique weekend festival exploring the new wave of films that cross the border between documentary and drama.

Docudrama, dramadoc, dramatised reconstruction, faction, drama documentary - whatever term you use - crossover forms are increasingly popular on TV and in the Cinema. From *The Government Inspector*, *The Deal* and *A Very Social Secretary* to *Touching the Void*, *Ghosts* and *United 93*.

As ever more documentary filmmakers turn to dramatised forms and an increasing number of fiction directors make films 'based on reality', CROSSING the LINE will explore the blurring boundary between fact and fiction and look at what this means for the future of documentary.

We will bring together leading filmmakers, commissioners, critics and industry professionals to explore the issues, see the films and discuss what constitutes good practice when dramatising reality.

Including premiere screenings, masterclasses, classic films and workshops, this festival is a must for anyone interested in developing, directing, producing or working in fact/fiction genres in the industry.

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## HIGHLIGHTS

The full programme will be posted soon.  
Confirmed speakers so far include...

### NICK BROOMFIELD

Perhaps the best-known face in UK documentary, due to his on-screen presence in award winning documentaries from *The Leader*, *The Driver* and *The Driver's Wife* to *Biggie and Tupac*, Nick has recently turned to fiction with the feature film *Ghosts* (2006) and now in post-production *Battle for Haditha*. In these films Nick has created a unique hybrid style, using non-actors and working with a small documentary crew. In both cases he cast people who have had similar experiences to the people they play giving the films a potent authenticity which will be the focus of discussion in this masterclass.

### PENNY WOOLCOCK

Making films for nearly two decades, Penny's groundbreaking work covers a wide range of genres from people 'performing' themselves to full blown opera. Her work has always pushed the boundaries, defying conventional definition. Her ability to achieve extraordinary performances from people, often in improvised situations, is particularly evident in the controversial *Tina Goes Shopping* (1999), *The Wet House* (2000) and *Mischief Night* (2006). Her latest film is the epic *Exodus* (2007), a contemporary re-telling of the biblical tale in a multi-genre format.

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**ANDY HARRIES**

"Andy Harries is one of the greatest producers of his generation," BBC Worldwide. In July 2007 he launched his own company Left Bank Pictures with the focus on quality drama, film and comedy while looking to develop projects in arts and documentary films. Former Controller of Drama and Comedy at ITV Prods, Andy Harries has been extremely influential in the history of drama-docs, recently executive producing *The Deal* and *The Queen* - both provocative dramas written by Peter Morgan and 'based on reality'. Andy will use clips from the films to describe how they came about charting the development journey from script to screen.

**ED COULTHARD**

Managing Director of Blast! Films, the award winning independent production company, Ed will speak about the difference between creating political reconstructions as opposed to docudramas that aim to give social insight. He'll explore the rules of engagement and what makes it work or not. Blast! have produced some of the most creative and controversial docudramas of recent times working with directors Penny Woolcock and Dominic Savage. A highly respected director in his own right, Ed's credits include the BAFTA winning *Soundproof* and *The Year London Blew Up*.

**PAWEL PAWLIKOWSKI**

Currently famed for his latest fiction films *My Summer of Love* and *The Last Resort*, Pawel will look back at his early documentaries, *Dostoevsky's Travels* (1992), *Tripping with Zhirinovsky* (1995) and *Twockers* (1998) in order to discuss the essence of dramatising reality and explore how dramadocs can be a uniquely insightful form. In conversation Pawel will discuss the elements, already present in his documentary work, that went to inform his approach to fiction.

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

- WEBSITE

Website goes live on 26<sup>th</sup> June: [www.crossingtheline2007.co.uk](http://www.crossingtheline2007.co.uk)

- REGISTRATION

Registration will open on-line 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2007 with a limited number of early-bird discount passes available. 'CROSSING the LINE: between fact and fiction' will be an intimate event in which discussion will prevail. Spaces are restricted so book early to avoid disappointment.

- SCREENINGS

The screenings programme, presented in collaboration with DocHouse, will show 3-days of the very best in international docudrama and dramadocs. This will be open to the public as well as the industry delegates. Titles TBC.

- ABOUT DocHouse

The UK Centre for Documentary in The Cinema

DocHouse has been supporting and promoting independent documentary films and filmmakers since 2002 with weekly screenings of outstanding international documentary films, masterclasses with leading documentary filmmakers, training courses in association with the NFTS and educational events held in partnership with BAFTA, Tate Modern, Film London and the BBC.

More information at: [www.dothouse.org](http://www.dothouse.org)