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Press Release

## **F FOR FANTASTIC – FILM MADE AT CRC TRIUMPHS**

**A low budget horror film made at Cambridge Regional College and featuring Media and Performing Arts students is set to be the star of this week's Cambridge Film Festival – and much further afield.**

The film, "F", by director Johannes Roberts, a guest lecturer at the College, has been snapped up by a major distributor and will be shown in cinemas nationwide this month after a London premier which received rave reviews.

Costing less than £1million to make – a tiny budget in the film world – it was one of the most talked-about films on Channel 4's FrightFest, and has been described as a "resounding triumph".

More than 30 CRC students worked on the production during a hectic three-week filming schedule at the College last summer, appearing as extras, taking on minor acting roles and helping behind the camera.

Drew Tremlett, Media and Performing Arts lecturer at the College, said the students had had a fantastic time working on the film, which had given them hugely valuable real media experience.

"They loved it, they absolutely loved it. It was great for them to put their learning into practice in a real environment and get industry experience working alongside professionals," he said. "We had around 30 Performing Arts students working as extras and taking small speaking roles and others working on the production side.

“I have never heard of a college being involved in such a big project before – it’s very difficult to find relevant work experience for Media students but this project provided them with superb experience, which will help greatly when they’re looking for jobs.”

Chris Lang, CRC’s Director of Finance, said the College was always keen to support enterprise and business ventures either generated by students or involving students.

“As a major vocational/occupational provider, interaction with the working world is vital - and what better for our Media and Performing Arts students than a professional film production being shot on site,” he said.

The film tells the story of a world-weary English teacher who has to battle for the survival of his pupils and fellow teachers when his school comes under attack from a group of bloodthirsty ‘hoodies’ intent on spreading terror.

Alec Houghton, a National Diploma Film and Television student now studying Digital Film Production at Solent University, worked on the production as a camera assistant. He said it had been one of the best things that could have happened to him.

“Being able to put into practice everything I learnt on my film and TV course and getting the chance to get to know and work alongside industry professionals was something that taught me so much about the industry,” he said

Fellow student Lawrie Phillips, now studying film at Falmouth University, became third assistant director on the film. “I was able to work closely with the director and cast and really immerse myself in the film-making process,” he said.

“My experiences on the National Diploma course at College allowed me to comfortably accept high levels of responsibility and adapt to the swift learning curve that the role required. The shoot was gruelling but incredibly rewarding and I feel that the practical, industry experience that I gained perfectly complemented the academic aspects of the course.”

Ernest Riera, the producer of the film, said CRC had been very helpful when asked if the College could be used for the film’s location.

“From the very beginning the College was very interested in the proposition, and the whole team at CRC was extremely helpful at all times,” he said.

“The experience of working together with the students was fantastic. They brought to the set their passion and their constant happiness and willingness to help. The experience was very successful for both parts - for us, it made our task of making the movie easier and more pleasant, and for the students, it was a learning experience that would otherwise prove really difficult to achieve and hopefully will make it easier for them to find a job in the future.”

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**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

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