



Supporting the next generation of Industry Professionals

Daniel, 26, graduated from university with an English degree and a burning ambition to work in the film industry. With large student debts his parents urged him to go into a more stable profession. Undeterred, Daniel found several work placements, mainly script-reading for several of the major production companies in Soho. After reaching limits on his credit cards and overdraft, he had to turn down further placements but found part-time work in the box offices of The National Film Theatre and The Electric Cinema in London.

Three years later, he decided to give film production another try and put together financing from a range of sources for a short film called 'Amelia and Michael'. With the support of established producers, directors and actors Daniel was able to see the project through and secured the actor Anthony Head (Giles from 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer', and the Prime Minister in 'Little Britain') to play the role of Michael.

Although Daniel had successfully found funding for the film, he had neglected his own finances and was in dire straits.



Daniel Cormack (left) directing Anthony Head on location in Mayfair, London. Photo: Marianne I. van Abbe

Daniel had heard about the CTBF through the Production Guild and explained, "I did feel a bit proud and a little embarrassed about getting in touch – as surely there were more deserving cases than my own". But he submitted an application and Howard Lillie, a Welfare Visitor arranged to meet him. He jokingly recalled, "I feared the visit might be akin to a search of my flat, to check I was genuinely eating cold beans from a tin".

Daniel had no need to worry and on receiving his maintenance award he said, "The CTBF's grant was such an enormous help in alleviating some financial worries, and gave me the space to finish shooting 'Amelia and Michael'. I hope I can repay The Cinema and Television Benevolent Fund's faith in me, by producing a first class film and using it as a platform to get regular work in film production".