

Dear Jude MacLavery

Over the last 25 years, BAFTA Scotland has been an exceptional institution for the promotion and recognition of Scottish talent working within our film industry. The increase in membership numbers in recent years further enhances its reputation as being one of the most recognised and respected film bodies in the country.

In Scotland, we are very privileged to have the British Academy Scotland Awards and the BAFTA Scotland New Talent Awards. Whilst both these events honour a vast number of our industry professionals, there is a group of filmmakers who struggle to gain recognition from either ceremony. Low budget/independent filmmakers are feeling increasingly isolated as they are often turned away from the New Talent Awards for being too established/too over qualified or fail to gain a nomination at the British Academy Scotland Awards due to strong and overwhelming competition from productions by much larger studios with greater budgets.

Whilst we do not disagree in any way with those who have received nominations in recent years at the British Academy Scotland Awards, we do feel disappointed that so many independent films and filmmakers are missing an opportunity to receive the recognition they potentially deserve. These are often films and filmmakers who have been celebrated at events/screenings around the world but receive very little attention at home. In some cases, filmmakers haven't even made an attempt to submit to BAFTA as they fear it's a lost cause against established names. We know it is impossible to celebrate every decent film that ever gets made but we do feel there is an opportunity here to level the playing field and reduce the number of filmmakers who fall off the radar.

We would like you and your colleagues at BAFTA Scotland, to consider a proposal to introduce, at some point in the near future, 3 new categories at the British Academy Scotland Awards or to potentially include them in a reformed version of the New Talent Awards ceremony. A change to the current event could see the recognition of both emerging talent and established individuals in the industry working on productions of a certain size. The three new categories would be as follows.

A best film award which would incorporate both short and feature films. This award would recognise a film for its overall content in terms of writing, direction and overall production value.

A best technical achievement award. This award would recognise the work of an individual from various areas including but not limited to Cinematography, Sound and Editing.

A best performance award which would recognise the performance of an Actor/Actress. We feel strongly that this award in particular would be a great springboard for any acting career.

The entry conditions for these awards would be more relaxed compared to the current awards but would still have strict limitations that would not bring in to question BAFTA's reputation for recognising/honouring high quality films.

Whilst there is every potential to include a whole series of awards for individual categories, we know that these events are expensive to host and already have a long running time. We also appreciate that we are simply voicing the concerns of one city but we are convinced that the above proposal would be welcomed with open arms by filmmakers across the country and would further strengthen BAFTA Scotland's relations with our media professionals. It doesn't necessarily solve the issue in question but it is potentially a step in the right direction.

We know this is currently a busy time for your organisation and that this is now a matter for 2015/2016 but we hope you and your colleagues will assess our proposal and think about its potential benefit to BAFTA Scotland and the industry.

Thank you for your time

Yours Sincerely

Andrew O'Donnell, Chris Quick
The Glasgow Filmmakers Alliance