

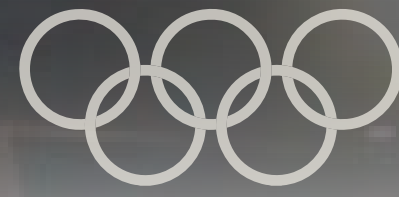
SHOOTING STARS

FOOTBALL, PHOTOS
AND FAVELAS

1x90 FEATURE DOCUMENTARY



FIFA WORLD CUP
Qatar 2022



OVER THE LAST 12 YEARS, AN EXTRAORDINARY GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT HAS BEEN WORKING ALONGSIDE GLOBAL SPORTING EVENTS SUCH AS THE FIFA WORLD CUP, THE ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE, THE OLYMPIC GAMES, THE CRICKET WORLD CUP, THE UEFA EUROS AND THE RUGBY WORLD CUP.



[View Trailer](#)



Shooting Stars: Football, Photos and Favelas

Young ethnically diverse people from both developing and developed countries have transformed themselves into professional photographers to record these global festivals of sport within the context of their own lives and communities. The results are extraordinary.

What these young people have in common is that they are all from backgrounds of often abject poverty, bypassed by formal education, employment opportunities, shelter and basic nourishment.

The catalyst for this has been an initiative called **Wembley to Soweto**, which has fostered life skills and training, enabling these young people to move their lives forward and make a positive contribution to the societies in which they live. In this they have been quietly backed by some of the biggest names in film and TV - *Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, David Harewood, Adjoa Andoh, Muthutuzehli Matshoba, Idris Elba, Stockard Channing, Christoph Waltz* and *Emily Watson* amongst them.



Shooting Stars: Football, Photos and Favelas

The initiative is forever moving forwards, and in this landmark documentary we will follow its latest iteration -

A group of seasoned young photographers from historic major sporting events in South Africa, the UK and Brazil training young people from Los Angeles' poorest communities, to be photographers at the **2024 Superbowl** in Las Vegas.

Off this observational actuality, we will hang the success stories of the last decade – we have a wealth of pre-existing footage spanning all the way back to the South African World Cup in 2010, where the project began in the townships of Johannesburg.

The original programme taught 8 disadvantaged youngsters how to **“feed their family with a camera”**. It has come a long way since then.



The model is a simple tag team...

One set of young people who were initially trained to cover one competition now turn teacher to pass their knowledge on to their contemporaries.

South Africans from Soweto work alongside former learners from the favelas of Rio; young photographers from the East End of London now teach their Chinese contemporaries in Beijing, in Mandarin! Young people from Hispanic gang culture in LA work with black gang members from Compton in an extraordinary reconcillitation of these life long adverseries.

As well as charting the story of the project as a whole, we will tell the retrospective story of the amazing progress of 5 of our learners.



Shooting Stars: Football, Photos and Favelas

THAPELO

Thapelo from Soweto has transformed from a boy hiding from violence and abuse in inner city Johannesburg into an international photographer working with the South African government, The United Nations, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Idris Elba.

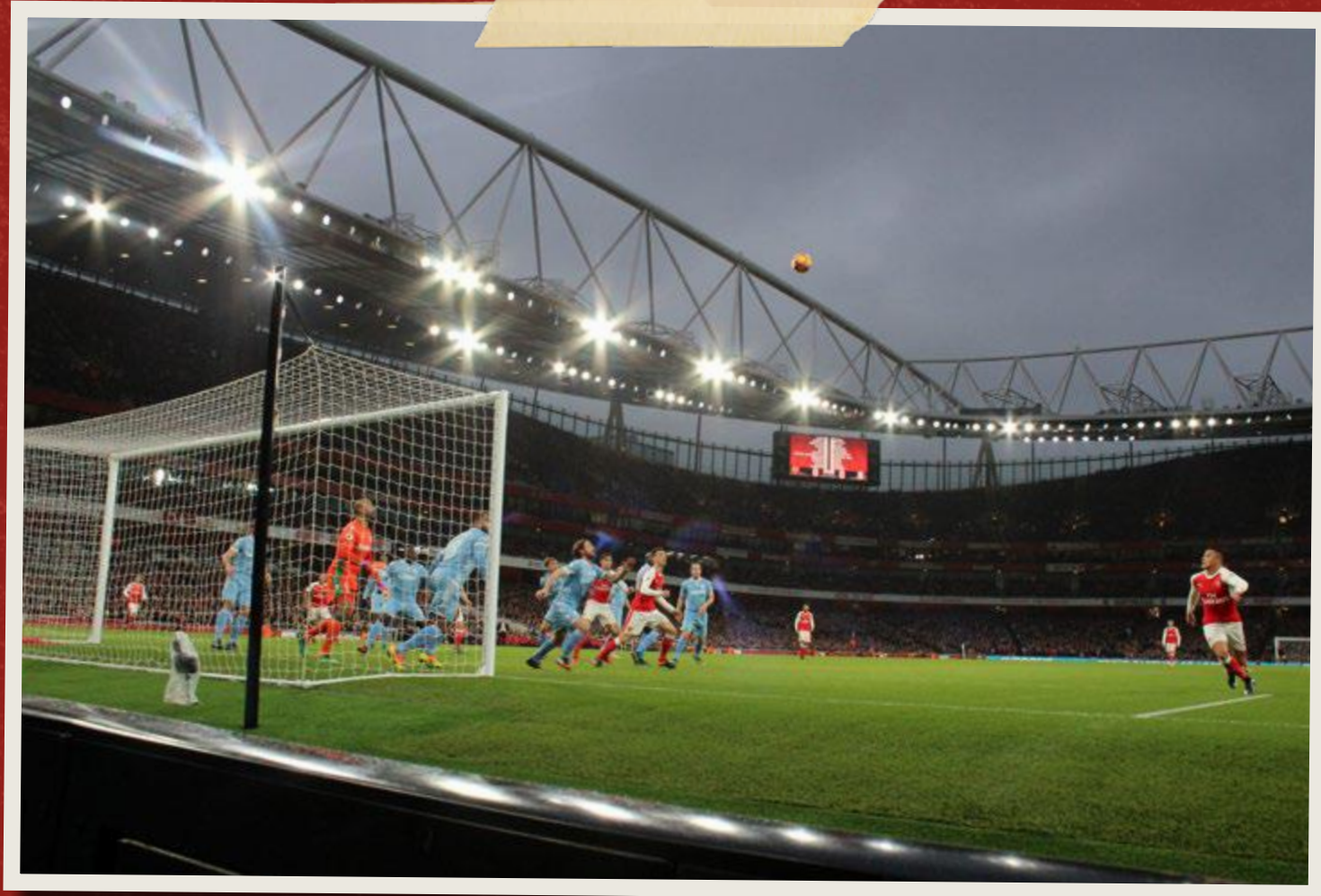


KASEY

Kasey was a disengaged and marginalised youngster in London's East End. She is now a rock photographer, rubbing shoulders with the likes of Sir Paul McCartney and recently gained a business degree from Beijing University. She now teaches her own students, in Chinese.

VICTOR

Victor was forced to join the rebel army in war-torn Sierra Leone. A refugee to the UK, it took 13 years to gain citizenship. Since then he has progressed through the ranks to course leader with the W2S Foundation.



KARMEN

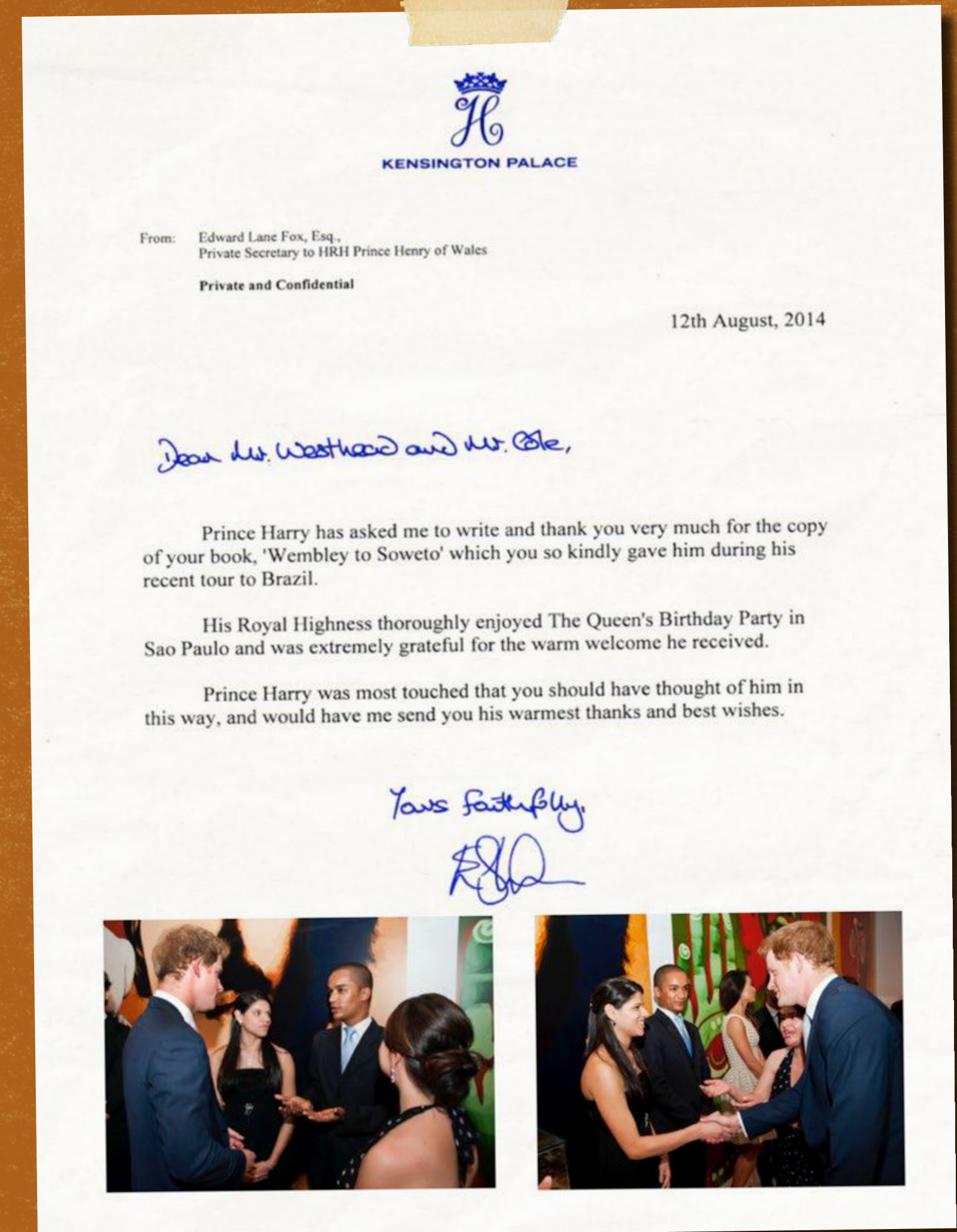
Karmen from North London's troubled Elthorne Estate went from battling with homelessness and mental health issues to teaching her contemporaries and becoming a pitchside photographer at Arsenal FC. She is now a qualified teacher with the W2S Foundation.

Shooting Stars: Football, Photos and Favelas



BAQUETA

Baqueta, from a family of 12 living in a shack in Paraisopolis favela, São Paulo to his work as a fixer for the Foundation, paving the way for his dream job - an air steward for Brazilian airline, Avianca.




KENSINGTON PALACE

From: Edward Lane Fox, Esq.,
Private Secretary to HRH Prince Henry of Wales

Private and Confidential

12th August, 2014

Dear Mr. Westhead and Mr. Cole,

Prince Harry has asked me to write and thank you very much for the copy of your book, 'Wembley to Soweto' which you so kindly gave him during his recent tour to Brazil.

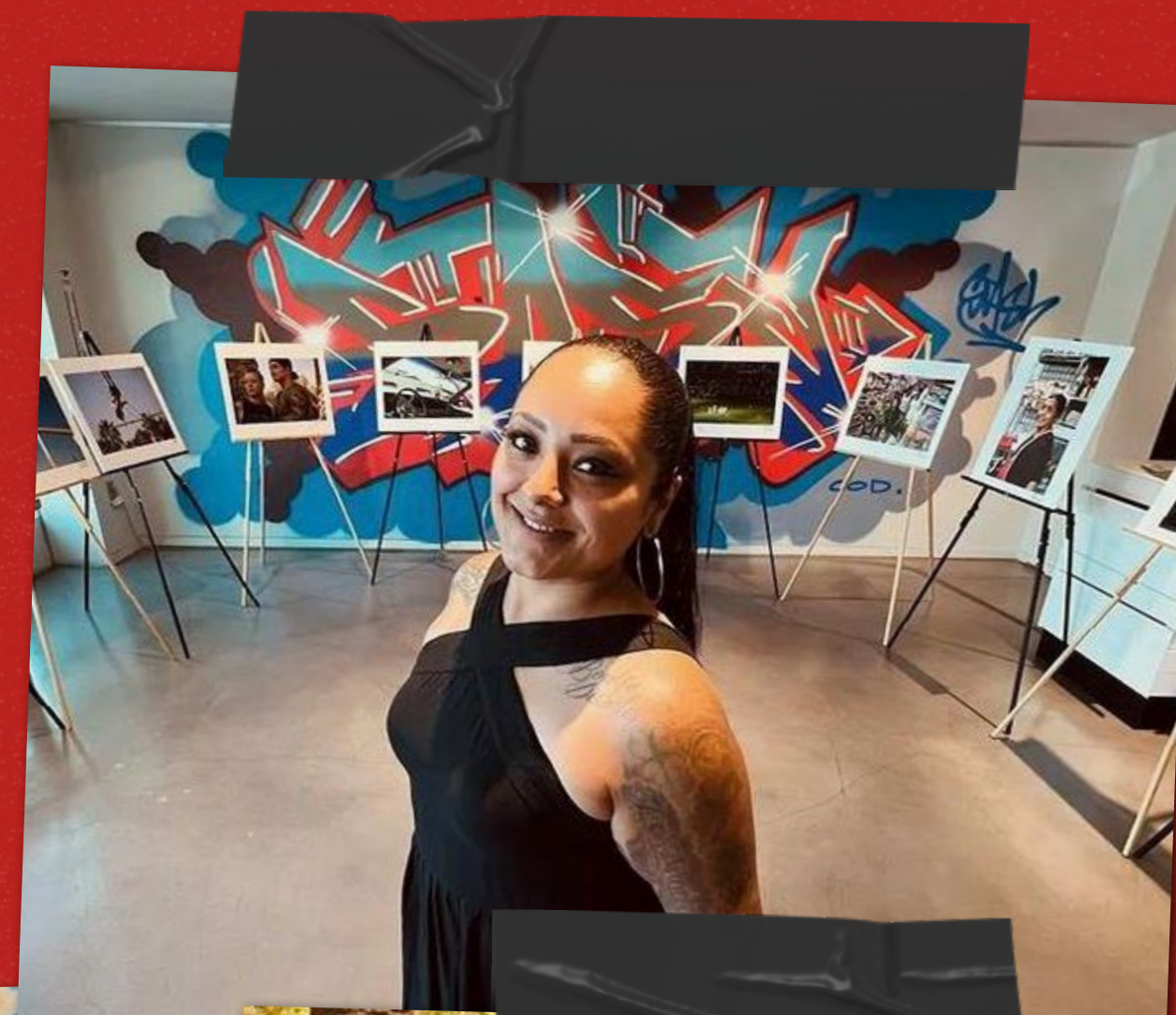
His Royal Highness thoroughly enjoyed The Queen's Birthday Party in Sao Paulo and was extremely grateful for the warm welcome he received.

Prince Harry was most touched that you should have thought of him in this way, and would have me send you his warmest thanks and best wishes.

Yours faithfully,




We will follow these young people from gangland LA as they begin their life-changing journies...



Shooting Stars: Football, Photos and Favelas

Back in present tense storytelling, all these former students come together to pass on their knowledge to their young contemporaries in some of the most violence-torn communities across the U.S.

Can the guys make a difference, leave a candle burning and fulfil Engels' great maxim – *“An ounce of action is worth a ton of theory”* - as they demonstrate over and over again that Black Lives Matter? We'll be on their shoulders as they mount an exhibition at Getty in Los Angeles, and with them pitchside at the 2024 Superbowl in Las Vegas.

Past photographic work generated by the participants provides an extraordinary insight into their lives and a unique perspective on these vast and homogenised global events. What will emerge during the course of our filming period is likely to prove no different. We will luxuriate in both.

“Shooting Stars” has already been selected for roll-out on CBS news flagship ***“60 Minutes”*** reaching 50 million Americans in Autumn 2023. It is supported by ***Participant, The Getty Foundation, The Annenberg Foundation, UTA, The Premier League and Leica.***



Why Alleycats & Wilton Pictures?

Alleycats is a leading and award winning film and TV production company based in Derry, Northern Ireland, with a presence in Belfast and London.

We're well versed with cutting edge landmark documentary; our *BBC4/ RTE How to Defuse a Bomb*, narrated by Liam Neeson, won the Irish Film Institute Documentary Festival and was *RTS nominated*, *BBC4's Mandela: Towards A New South Africa* won the *RTS Award*, and our *ARTE/ PBS/ BBC Storyville: Tiananmen: The People V The Party* sold to 40 territories.

Ed Stobart has won the *Prix Europa* and *Sheffield Documentary Festival* for his *C4 Pink Saris* documentary, as well as being *BAFTA* and *Grierson nominated*. Full details at www.alleycats.tv

Multi award winning producer and actor David Westhead set up Wilton Pictures with a view to establishing a slate of feature films and documentaries in the UK and the developing world.

The company provides on-the-job training to historically disadvantaged individuals both from UK and abroad – offering an opportunity to people who would normally have no direct “in” to the film industry. Alongside a string of successful films, he is currently working on *Mandela's Children* (a feature documentary in collaboration with the Mandela family focusing on the last filmed interview with Nelson Mandela) and the feature film *Great Son of Africa* with the *Academy Award nominated* writer, *Paul Webb*.

In 2010 David set up *The Wembley to Soweto Foundation*, a charity that provides training in photojournalism for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. The charity has run numerous projects in South Africa, UK and Brazil.

WILTON
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Alleycats tv

More about us: www.alleycats.tv