

February 2008

Gail Egan and Elisabeth Murdoch appointed to the board of the UK Film Council

Margaret Hodge, Minister for Culture, has appointed Gail Egan and Elisabeth Murdoch to the board of the UK Film Council. Their terms of appointment will run for four years from 11 February 2008.

Biographical Notes

Gail Egan

Gail Egan is a qualified barrister and practised commercial law at Lincoln's Inn before joining Price Waterhouse Corporate Finance. She then worked for the International Media Group Carlton Communications.

In 2000 she formed the independent production company Potboiler Productions with Simon Channing Williams. She has produced or executive produced eleven films including Mike Leigh's *Happy-Go-Lucky* and *Vera Drake*, Fernando Meirelles' *The Constant Gardener* and *Blindness*, *Man About Dog* with Paddy Breathnach and *Brothers of the Head* with Keith Fulton and Lou Pepe.

Elisabeth Murdoch

Elisabeth Murdoch is Chief Executive and Chairman of Shine Limited, an independent TV production company which she founded 2001. Shine is responsible for programming such as the Emmy award winning *Sugar Rush*. The company has recently been expanded with the acquisition of 3 leading independent companies; Kudos, Princess and Firefly, and currently has a turnover of over £100million. Before founding Shine, Elisabeth was Managing Director of BSkyB Networks, where she was responsible for all the networks non-sport output and the group's consumer marketing division. She oversaw record viewing figures for Sky One and launched the UK's first Pay Per View service and multiplex film channels.

Background

1. The UK Film Council is the Government-backed lead agency for film in the UK ensuring that the economic, cultural and educational aspects of film are effectively represented at home and abroad. Their goal is to help make the UK a global hub for film in the digital age, with the world's most imaginative, diverse and vibrant film culture, underpinned by a flourishing, competitive and sustainable film industry. Key aims:
 - Developing a competitive film industry, built on creativity and skills
 - Stimulating greater choice for audiences
 - Encouraging participation and opportunities for learning
 - Promoting the UK in the wider world

The UK Film Council is chaired by Stewart Till CBE

2. The appointments do not attract remuneration but board members may claim reasonable travel and subsistence.
3. The appointments process was carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. Gail Egan and Elisabeth Murdoch have not undertaken any political activity during the past five years.