

Saxton Bampfylde

Appointment of
Festival Director

September 2023

Reference: DBKPA



EIFF

Contents

- 3 Welcome from the Chair, Andrew Macdonald
- 4 About Edinburgh International Film Festival
- 5 The Board
- 6 The role
- 7 Person specification
- 8 Knowledge, skills and experience
- 9 Terms of appointment
How to apply

Welcome from the Chair, Andrew Macdonald



The Edinburgh International Film Festival is one of the world's most illustrious film festivals with a legacy of captivating audiences and filmmakers alike for over 75 years. Established in 1947, it is one of the world's longest-running film festivals, renowned for its commitment to celebrating the art of storytelling through the medium of film.

Born out of the post-World War II era, with a vision to heal and unite through the universal language of cinema, the inaugural Festival took place in '47, showcasing a handful of documentaries. From these humble beginnings, it quickly grew into an international platform for filmmakers to share their stories with a global audience.

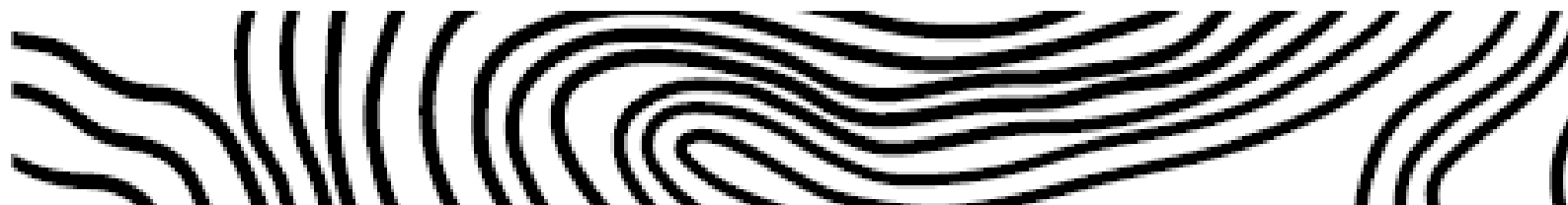
Throughout its history, EIFF has been a pioneer in various aspects of the film industry. It introduced the concept of the film retrospective, allowing audiences to revisit and appreciate the works of renowned directors. EIFF also became one of the first festivals to champion short films, recognizing their unique power to convey impactful narratives in a concise format.

After the pandemic forced the temporary closure of the Festival, we are extremely excited to revive it with a fresh new vision and direction.

Following a successful Festival in August this year in partnership with Edinburgh International Festival, we are looking for a Festival Director to join us at this exciting time, to build and run the business and work with the board to deliver a multi-year plan to present the Festival in August 2024 and beyond.

With the energy and vigour of Edinburgh - the festival city - as our home, there is a great foundation to build an exciting, forward-thinking and vibrant Festival that will once again champion the cutting edge of filmmaking and be a beacon for the industry.

We are looking for a dynamic, entrepreneurial leader with a passion for film and the festival scene, who can work with us to define and develop the Festival going forward. If this sounds like you, and you're excited by what lies ahead, then we can't wait to hear from you.



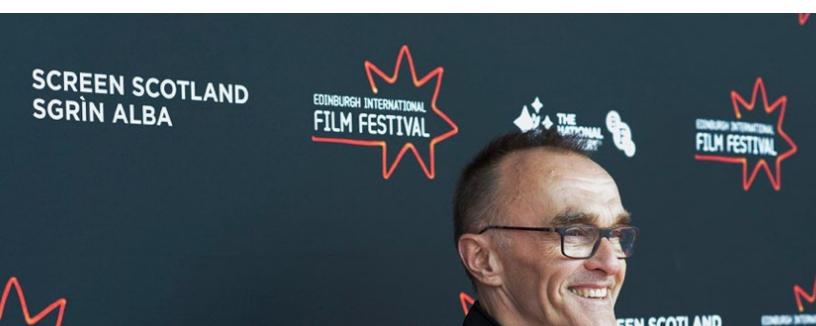
Andrew Macdonald
Chair

About Edinburgh International Film Festival

From its inception in 1947, Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF) has presented some of cinema's most important and exciting moments and played host to the world's greatest filmmakers. Unfortunately, during Covid, the festival had to close operations, and is now being revived with a newly appointed Board and new Festival Director.

EIFF has historically provided a showcase for outstanding new films; a meeting place for those who are interested in making, distributing, exhibiting, watching, and discussing films; educational opportunities for those who wish to deepen their involvement with cinema; a foundation for an informed and sophisticated appreciation of cinema among a non-specialist public; and a platform for collaboration among local, UK, and international film communities.

The newly formed EIFF will build its programming around a strong cinephile vision of film culture and history, all hosted in a visitor friendly city, providing an internationally appealing, beautiful and easily navigable home for the festival. There is a huge opportunity for EIFF to position its talent development, industry, education and events programmes at the heart of the wider Edinburgh Festivals, including the Fringe, as well as a developing relationship with academia. The intersection of audiences, talent, industry and academia within a strong programming vision is critical to the future success of the industry and of EIFF itself.



The Board

The EIFF Board currently comprises of three members but will grow in line with the organisation over the forthcoming years.

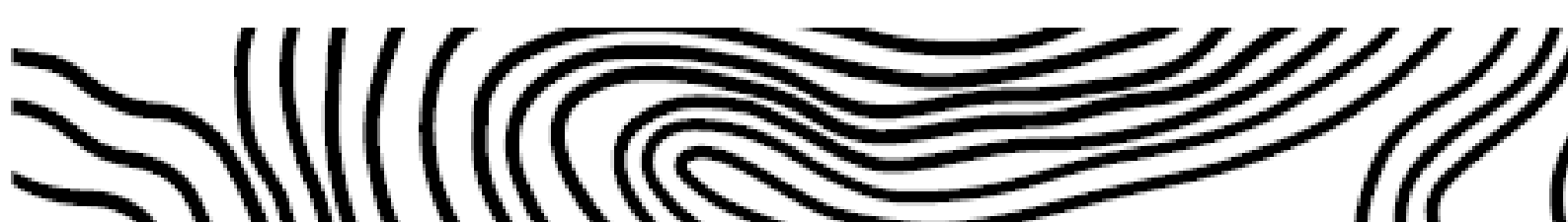
Andrew Macdonald, Chair

Andrew is a Scottish producer and co-founder of DNA Films. His credits include *Trainspotting*, *Never Let Me Go*, *Last King of Scotland* and *28 Days Later*.



Peter Rice

Peter is a British media executive. He is the former Chairman of Disney General Entertainment Content for The Walt Disney Company and former President of 21st Century Fox.



Amy Jackson

Amy is a producer and founder of Unified Theory Productions. She is the former Head of Production at See-Saw Films. Her credits include *Aftersun*, *State of Union*, *Macbeth* and *Lion*.



The role

EIFF is looking to recruit a Festival Director to lead and champion the voice of EIFF by placing film, the filmmaker and audiences at the heart of everything they do.

The Festival Director will have shared responsibility for the organisation's overall strategic direction and sustainability and will work with the Board to develop the strategy and vision and build the team.

This person will be capable of creating, developing and running the business and will be confident of implementing a successful fundraising strategy,



delivering a budget and multi-year plan, and finally, building a dynamic team to present Edinburgh Film Festival in August 2024.

Person specification

The ideal candidate will be passionate and knowledgeable about film, a natural leader and a believer in the transformative power of film for individuals and communities.

They will be an innovative thinker with the drive and ambition to promote the values, vision, aims and objectives of the EIFF. This person will ideally have prior experience of starting and running a business, be confident raising money, delivering a budget and multiyear plan and forming and managing staff to present an Edinburgh Film Festival in August 2024. They will be a strong public speaker with the ability to inspire a wide range of stakeholders.

They will have the ability both to provide direction and also work as a committed team player delivering effective strategy and action plans.

Working collaboratively with the team and the board of trustees, they will have excellent interpersonal skills enabling the EIFF to develop a strong network of relationships throughout the industry. The ability to communicate, persuade and influence effectively as well as a proven track record of delivering success will be essential.



Knowledge, skills and experience

The ideal candidate will bring all or most of the following attributes:

Experience

- Ideally some experience of leadership in the UK arts festival space (film, music, theatre, comedy);
- Founder experience in a relevant sector;
- A proven track record of operational management at a senior level;
- Demonstrable experience of building and managing a team of staff;
- Proven experience of writing, managing and monitoring strategic plans and reports.
- Budget management experience, ideally in the region of £1m or more.
- Experience of developing and managing relationships across a range of stakeholders, including board, funders, sponsors, donors, creatives and press.

Skills and knowledge

- Knowledge of the UK and international film industry with a focus on the independent space;

- The potential to build a diverse and unique festival and engage with audiences in a creative and effective way;
- Strong stakeholder management skills, and the ability to be a compelling and persuasive advocate in order to engage supporters, donors and collaborators;
- Excellent communication and team working skills;
- Strong IT skills.

Personal attributes

- A strong entrepreneurial spirit and ability to generate income.
- A collegiate, collaborative and creative style.
- Highly organised and flexible in approach.
- The ability to communicate effectively with people at all levels both orally and in writing.

Terms of appointment

This role will be based in Edinburgh.

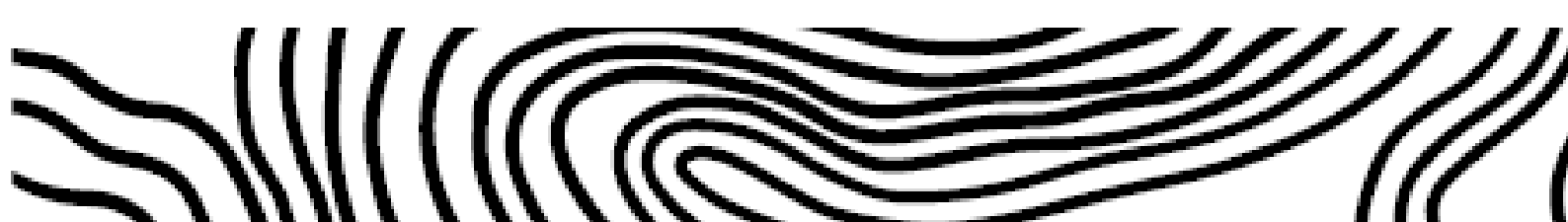
The appointed candidate will ideally start in role before Christmas 2023.

A competitive salary and incentive plan will be offered.

How to apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to the Edinburgh International Film Festival on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/appointments using code **DBKPA**.



Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on **Monday 9th October**.

** The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.*

GDPR personal data notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for

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