
Artist and film maker Ben Rivers completes his Vauxhall Collective commission

Showing at Edinburgh International Film Festival

Press Screening Sunday 21st June,
11.15am, Film House 3



Ben Rivers, Vauxhall Collective member for film

Public Screening Tuesday 23 June,
3.00pm, Film House 3

Vauxhall Collective member Ben Rivers completes his film *I know where I'm going* his new work inspired by research undertaken on Vauxhall's Great British Road Trip

Visiting Yorkshire bee keepers, Britain's self-declared king of the eccentrics and a hermit-like forest clearer might not be the most obvious people to seek out on a road trip across the UK but for Ben Rivers, artist and film maker, these are subjects of his latest film *I know where I'm going*. Commissioned by Vauxhall Motors, as part of its Vauxhall Collective programme, Ben was given the film commission and a Vauxhall Zafira to tour the country in and make a film on the theme of the Great British Road Trip.

Filmed in epic cinemascope format, a departure in style for the filmmaker, Ben travelled the length and breadth of the country and battled the unprecedented snow storms that took place earlier this year to complete his commission. *I know where I'm going* will now premiere at the Edinburgh International Film Festival as part of Black Box Shorts.

Ben set out on his road trip with the intention of letting the film develop as he was on the road, allowing the story, and the people he met along the way, to present itself to him.



Continued from previous page

The film focuses on those who live in solitude, in turn relating to how Ben sees his own place in the UK. Episodic in structure, the film sees him re-visiting old characters, such as Jake from *This is my land*, and uncovering new subjects hovering in the shadows of our day to day lives. Ben seeks out those who exist in the wilderness and self-contained worlds and through his filming, presents them to the every day audience as extraordinary and other worldly characters.

Ben Rivers explains the reason behind the commission name; “The title of the film is a reference to the 1945 film of the same name by Powell and Pressburger, they inspired me to become a film maker and I wanted to recognise them in some way. The title is a nice twist to the concept of my film, because I really didn’t know where I was going when I set off on my road trip.”

Ben was selected to be part of the Vauxhall Collective for 2008-09, an initiative by Vauxhall Motors to support up and coming creatives across the arts. A panel of experts including Maggie Ellis from Film London, London Short Film Festival director Philip Illson and the film maker Lucia Helenka agreed his concept for a film was deserving of the £20,000 commission.

Ben River’s *I know where I’m going* will be screened at the Edinburgh International Film Festival on 23rd June as part of Black Box Shorts. Ben is a member of the Vauxhall Collective 2008/09, an initiative from Vauxhall Motors, for more information visit www.vauxhallcollective.co.uk

Editor’s Notes

Vauxhall Collective

The Vauxhall Collective is one of the most ambitious commercially-funded creative support schemes in the UK.

Members of the Vauxhall Collective are supported financially to carry out projects, consequently raising their profile in the industry and in the media, and giving them the resources to fulfil their creative potential.

A host of leading industry opinion formers from arts institutions including the **Photographers’ Gallery**, **BFI**, **Film London**, **Crafts Council**, **Donmar Warehouse**, The **Hayward**, **ICA**, **London College of Fashion** and **Central St Martins** formed a “Style Council” to make the decision on the commissions.

The Vauxhall Collective for 2008/09 is: Simon Hasan for craft & design, Jonathan Kelsey for fashion, Ben Rivers for film, Gayle Chong Kwan for photography, Gideon Reeling for theatre and Matthew Darbyshire for fine art.

Ben Rivers

Born in Somerset, Ben is an artist and independent film maker who specialises in rich, cinematic portraits that explore wilderness environments and self-contained worlds.

A well respected artist and filmmaker, Ben has had screenings at the ICA and the BFI.

Ben has helped to run screening programmes at Brighton Cinematheque since 1996, one that includes both recent and historical work.

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