

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**goNORTH FESTIVAL**  
**MAY 31, 2013**

## **HIGHLAND FESTIVAL KICK-STARTS CREATIVE CAREERS**

**A two-day festival devoted to kick-starting the careers of budding musicians, filmmakers, writers, TV hopefuls, gaming whizz-kids and fashion designers takes place in Inverness next week.**

**goNORTH Festival**, which is being held on **Wednesday 5 June and Thursday 6 June** in venues across Inverness, is the biggest, most wide-reaching festival of its kind in Scotland.

This free festival began 13 years ago as a showcase for musicians and bands in the north of Scotland. Today it is a two-day creative extravaganza featuring performances by up-and-coming bands, on-the-job radio and television training, film premieres and screenings, as well as masterclasses from top names in the creative industries.

***Major industry players taking part this year include:***

**Mamie Coleman:** Vice president of Music and Production with the **FOX** network, recently voted one of the 30 most powerful women in the music industry by Billboard Magazine

**Daniel Savage:** As general manager of *Madonna's Maverick Records*, worked with artists such as *Alanis Morissette* and *Deftones*

**Doug Johnson:** Hugely influential director of *Summerfest* in Milwaukee, the best attended festival in the US, attracting 900,000 visitors over 11 days

**Emma Hogan:** A key player with *ITB*, the world's largest booking agencies. Responsible for live bookings of superstar acts including; *Neil Young*, *Bob Dylan*, *Mumford & Sons*, *Biffy Clyro* and *Rage Against The Machine*.

**Mat Whitecross:** Multi-award-winning director of films, commercials, music videos, including the hit BBC series, *Spooks* and the hard-hitting docudrama, *The Road To Guantanamo*

**Brian Baglow:** A games industry veteran who has worked with most of the country's game developers and some of the world's largest video games companies, including *Grand Theft Auto*

Highlights of the music showcase include sessions by; *Fat Goth*, *Alarm Bells*, *Casual Sex*, *Book Group*, *Roman Nose*, *Garden of Elks*, *Woodenbox*, *Three Blind Wolves* and *Plastic Animals*.

A handful of acts will get the chance to play on the goNORTH Festival Tour, which will see them playing at the *Wickerman Festival*, *Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival* and *Loopallu*.

**goNORTH's** screen and broadcast programme will welcome a cross-section of Scottish and international documentary and film makers, who will provide insight into their work and the creative processes involved.

One of the highlights from the screen and broadcast programme is a BAFTA Masterclass with Mat Whitecross, co-director with Michael Winterbottom on award-winning 2006 film, *The Road To Guantanamo*.

Whitecross went on to direct *Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll*, the 2010 biopic about Ian Dury and Spike Island (2012) which depicts a rising indie band travel to Spike Island in Cheshire to see The Stone Roses.

*Spike Island* will also be shown as part of the **goNORTH** film showcase on Wednesday night.

The world premier of crowd-sourced tartan-noir feature-length film, *Timelock*, shot in Glasgow and Dumfries on a micro-budget will take place on the evening of Thursday June 6.

Earlier that day, director David Griffith and producer Inge Sørensen will lead a discussion on how to make a feature-length movie on a shoestring budget.

**Anthony Baxter**, whose award-winning documentary, *You've Been Trumped* told the story of a group of Aberdeenshire home-owners battle with billionaire businessman Donald Trump, will be screened on the first day of the festival.

Baxter and Inge Sørensen will also take part in the discussion on crowd-sourced funding for films on the second day of **goNORTH**.

On-the-job training is a key element of **goNORTH** and the festival will be documented by trainee film-makers and, for the second year running, **Radio goNORTH**.

This team of trainee radio broadcasters will end an intensive two-week stint of practical hands-on learning delivered by partner organisation, **ScreenHI**, by running an online radio station.

Their course includes masterclasses from the likes of **Jeff Zycinski**, Head of Radio at BBC Scotland and **Ally MacCrae** from BBC Radio 1, as well as **Jim Gellatly** from *In:Demand* (broadcasting across Scotland via the Bauer Radio Network).

In addition, there will be one to one sessions, key digital, publishing and fashion seminars from market leading individuals and companies across all of these creative industries.

**Amanda Millen**, director of **goNORTH Festival** said: “At **goNORTH**, we give hands-on practical advice and helping people on the ladder to success in the creative sector.

“Thanks to funding from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), we are able to pass on expertise from those working at the highest level in the music business, in screen and broadcasting, publishing, gaming and fashion.

“**GoNORTH** tackles head on the feelings of isolation that creative individuals and groups can sometimes experience, particularly in the north of Scotland. What we do best is make connections for people by giving advice and introducing them to the right people in their creative field.

“A recent survey on the economic impact of **goNORTH** and other creative activities found that £3.5m the creative networks funded by HIE generate an estimated £3.5m for the local economy, with a further £5.5m predicted in the future.

“We’re not just taking the best advice out to the creative community, we’re making a difference to the whole economy of the Highlands and Islands.”

#### **Notes to editors:**

- **goNORTH Festival** takes place on Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th June across Inverness city centre. All elements at goNORTH festival can be accessed FREE by registering at [www.gonorthfestival.co.uk/register](http://www.gonorthfestival.co.uk/register).
- Full info on **goNORTH Festival** can be found from [www.gonorthfestival.co.uk](http://www.gonorthfestival.co.uk) and [www.screenhi.co.uk](http://www.screenhi.co.uk) and RadioGonorth visit [www.radiogonorth.com](http://www.radiogonorth.com)
- Watch **goNORTH Festival** video trailer here: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=I5YeQZkeCkU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=I5YeQZkeCkU)
- See the FULL programme for **goNORTH Festival** here: <http://gonorthfestival.co.uk/festival-programme>
- Full Film Screening Programme Schedule: <http://gonorthfestival.co.uk/film-and-music-programmes/film-screening-schedule.php>
- Full Live Music Showcase Schedule: <http://gonorthfestival.co.uk/film-and-music-programmes/live-music-showcase.php>
- **goNORTH** was launched in 2001 to provide a platform for artistes from the north of Scotland to showcase for music industry and media representatives.
- Originally hosted across Aberdeen’s Belmont Street, **goNORTH** briefly relocated to Dundee, before settling in Scotland’s most northerly city, Inverness
- Now covering a wider remit including screen and broadcast, designer fashion and publishing, **goNORTH** has become firmly established as Scotland’s leading Creative Industries Festival

- **Amanda Millen**, Director of **goNORTH Festival** and Music Project Manager, **Alex Smith**, are available for interview.
- For more information about the premier of tartan noir crime thriller, *Timelock*, go to: <http://www.timelockthemovie.com/>
- **goNORTH** is funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND HI-RES IMAGES, PLEASE EMAIL JAN PATIENCE ON [janpatience@yahoo.com](mailto:janpatience@yahoo.com) or call 07802 427207**