

FAST GIRLS

Focusing on British film

From: *Fast Girls* - Production Notes

The history behind *Fast Girls*

With a deadline to get the film in the can and released before the 2012 Olympics in London, Jones [the producer] and the team he gathered had to rise to every challenge: *“Aside from the weather (because we had to shoot mid-winter for summer), as always British movies are hard to put together. We also had to sell the idea of a mixed race lead actress and I think we’re quite possibly the first major feature film in the UK to have a mixed race female lead”*.

With the support of the UK Film Council (now the BFI) and with what is essentially a very commercial script, coupled with the groundbreaking role that films like *Kidulthood*, *Adulthood* and *Streetdance3D* have played in attracting those all-important youth audiences, Jones achieved it.

“Obviously with the Olympics coming up we can also ride the wave of those interested in sport. It’s a very universal coming-of-age story, so the other important factor in getting it financed was convincing people that it can play beyond the UK, which I absolutely believe it will because the story has universal appeal and universal themes that people can relate to” he concludes.

*It’s great to be bringing a multi-cultural, female-led film to the big screen. With the Olympics just around the corner our timing couldn’t be better, and I hope to see lots of beaming faces walking out of the cinema. **We’re a truly British film** and it couldn’t have been done without the tremendous support of the BFI and STUDIOCANAL. We might be low-budget, but I’m proud to say we’ve managed to pull off something special.*

- Regan Hall, Director

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Lenora Crichlow who plays *Shania*

Q: What's the importance of making a British film like "*Fast Girls*"?

A: Making a film like this is important because it's a celebration of Britishness. It's lovely to have British female roles with a diverse mix of cultures. I think it's a lovely story that crosses from Shania's urban world, into the athletics world, into a quite privileged world through Lisa's character. Everything's there just to tell a story as opposed to preaching or to prove a point. We've crossed into lots of different demographics without meaning to.

It's really nice to see British women of colour in really positive leading roles. I don't think we see that enough. It's not about creating an issue and it's not a racially motivated film which is so refreshing. But, at the same time it's there and it's representative, and I know from myself as a woman of colour growing up in this country, that's really important, just to show that without labouing the point.

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Lashana Lynch who plays *Belle*

Q: What's the importance of producing a British film like "*Fast Girls*"?

A: *For one, we haven't had a film about females in sports, I think the last one was Bend It Like Beckham and that was years ago. I think it's really important to see strong females on screen. It's really important to send out the kind of important messages that are in this film.*

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Phil Davis who plays *Brian*

Phil Davis is a veteran of British film, TV and theatre and has garnered praise for a variety of eclectic roles over his long and colourful acting career. In 2005 he was BAFTA-nominated for Mike Leigh's *Vera Drake* and was named Best Actor at the BIFAs and the San Diego Film Critic's Awards. Most recent film credits include Mike Leigh's *Another Year*, *Brighton Rock* for Rowan Joffe, Woody Allen's *Cassandra's Dream* and *Notes on a Scandal* directed by Richard Eyre.

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Noel Clarke who plays *Tommy*

Clarke really came to the attention of British TV audiences when he was cast as *Mickey Smith* in the BBC's hugely popular *Dr Who* franchise starring Christopher Eccleston, then David Tennant. In 2005 Clarke took the lead role of Sam Peel in *Kidulthood*, a film produced from his own original screenplay...He went on to script and reprise his role as Sam in the UK smash hit sequel *Adulthood*, this time also taking on the role of director.