# **Director's Statement**

My Old School is a documentary which finally reveals the truth behind one of the most incredible stories of the past 30 years. Featuring interviews with my old classmates and teachers, together we tell how a 32-year-old man tricked his way into our school – and, for the first time, how Brandon Lee's true identity was revealed.

Playing with its theme of identity and deception, this documentary stars the internationally renowned actor Alan Cumming as both the face and the voice of Brandon, albeit never at the same time. In an astonishing performance, Alan perfectly lip-syncs to an audio interview I recorded with the imposter himself. In addition to that, Alan also provides the voice of the young Brandon in our animated flashback scenes. As Alan notes, 'This is a great Scottish tale, one that gripped the entire nation when it first broke back in the 1990s, and this documentary retells it from the point of view of the pupils and teachers it all happened to! Their experience, their truth and the legacy they still struggle with will, I believe, now captivate a global audience. It's told with a quirky sensitivity, humour and honesty. It's a story that has always fascinated me and I am delighted to play a part in its telling.'

One of the roles Alan is best known for is class nerd Sandy Frink in *Romy and Michele's High School Reunion*. But Alan isn't the only actor in our cast who's been in an iconic high school movie. Our teaching staff includes *Gregory's Girl* herself, Clare Grogan, and the star (and US Billboard chart-topping singer) of *To Sir with Love*, Lulu. And just like in that movie classic of 1967, Lulu sings our title song, the Steely Dan hit 'My Old School'. Her powerhouse of a performance plays over a fun end credit sequence where cartoon characters meet their real life counterparts.

Animated flashback scenes with cartoon characters evoke high school life from 25 years ago. While drawing inspiration from MTV's 1990s high school icon, *Daria*, the film also nods to the animation styles of the 1970s. Producers John Archer and Olivia Lichtenstein say, 'This is a story that will remind you of your schooldays; an unforgettable tale told with warmth, verve and originality by Class 5C, who lived through this extraordinary deception and have never forgotten it. And now, neither will you!'

My Old School is an exciting and unique project – a real-life rollercoaster of a story, told on film in a completely new way.

**Production notes** 

#### MY OLD SCHOOL

Directed by: Jono McLeod ©: Going Back Limited

Production Company: Hopscotch Films

Developed and supported by the:

National Lottery through Creative Scotland

Executive Producer. Jono McLeod

Executive Producers for Hopscotch Films: John Archer, Clara Glynn

Produced by: John Archer, Olivia Lichtenstein

Line Producer. David Brown

Production Co-ordinators: Mhairi Valentine, Phil Mews

Accountant: Ken Livingstone

Head of Post-production. Ross MacRae Post-production Manager. Joanna Clements

Researchers: Jack Archer, Alex Chandler, Chris Walker

1st Assistant Director. Remo Catani

Written by: Jono McLeod

Cinematography by: George Geddes

Additional Photography: Jack Archer, Jack Cocker, Cal Hallows,

Jono McLeod, Chris Murray, Allan Nagy Digital Imaging Technician. Derek Gereg

Gaffer. Sean Macdonald
Animation Director. Rory Lowe
Lead Animator. Scott Morriss
Animation by. Wild Child

Wild Child (Creative Director): Rory Lowe Wild Child (Art Director): Scott Morriss Wild Child (Producer): Sueann Rochester

Wild Child (Head of Production): Anthony Eliot-Finch Wild Child (Line Producer): Martha MacDiarmid

Edited by: Berny McGurk
On-line Editor: Lewis Carmichael
Additional Editing: Jono McLeod
Production Designer: Jamie MacWilliam

Storyboard Artist: David Cameron Newbigging Costume Designers: Finlay McLay, Layla Mall

Make-up Artists: Caroline Hamilton, Jo McAuliffe, Jade Nicholl

Colourist: Jon Bruce

Original Score by: Shelly Poole

Original Soundtrack Arranged by: Shelly Poole

Music Supervisor. Gemma Dempsey

Sound Designers: Heather Andrews, Stewart Simpson Sound Recordists: Lisa Higgins, Jonathon McLoone,

David McKeitch, Kevin Robertson Re-recording Mixer. John Cobban

#### Cast

Alan Cumming (Brandon)
Lulu (voice of Mrs Holmes)
Clare Grogan (voice of Mrs Ogg)
Juliet Cadzow (voice of Brandon's gran)
Michelle Gallagher (voice of Mrs Thomson)
Camilla Kerslake (voice of Brandon's mum)
Gary Lamont (voice of Mr McKinnon)
Natalie McConnon (voice of Nicola)
Joe McFadden (voice of Mr MacLeod)
Carly McKinnon (voice of Miss Mackichan)

Brian O'Sullivan (voice of Mr Gunn) Wam Siluka Jr (voice of Stefen) Dawn Steele (voice of Mrs Nolan)

Michelle Gallagher, Gary Lamont, Natalie McConnon, Brian O'Sullivan

(additional voices)

UK 2022© 104 mins

Courtesy of Dogwoof

#### **NEW RELEASES**

Hit the Road (Jaddeh Khaki)

Continues from Fri 29 Jul

The Feast
From Fri 19 Aug
My Old School
From Fri 19 Aug
Where Is Anne Frank

From Fri 19 Aug Queen of Glory From Fri 26 Aug

### **RE-RELEASES**

The Big City (Mahanagar)

Continues from Fri 22 Jul

Paris, Texas

Continues from Fri 29 Jul

The Harder They Come

From Fri 5 Aug **Burning an Illusion**From Fri 19 Aug

# **BECOME A BFI MEMBER**

Enjoy a great package of film benefits including priority booking at BFI Southbank and BFI Festivals. Join today at **bfi.org.uk/join** 

# **BFI PLAYER**

We are always open online on BFI Player where you can watch the best new, cult & classic cinema on demand. Showcasing hand-picked landmark British and independent titles, films are available to watch in three distinct ways: Subscription, Rentals & Free to view.

See something different today on player.bfi.org.uk

# BFI SOUTHBANK

Welcome to the home of great film and TV, with three cinemas and a studio, a world-class library, regular exhibitions and a pioneering Mediatheque with 1000s of free titles for you to explore. Browse special-edition merchandise in the BFI Shop.

We're also pleased to offer you a unique new space, the BFI Riverfront – with unrivalled riverside views of Waterloo Bridge and beyond, a delicious seasonal menu, plus a stylish balcony bar for cocktails or special events. Come and enjoy a pre-cinema dinner or a drink on the balcony as the sun goes down.