

FINAL PRESS RELEASE

JOHNNY DEPP FEATURE FILM “THE LIBERTINE” SECURED FOR PRODUCTION

Isle of Man Film, production company Mr. Mudd and First Choice Films, the equity film partnership, have agreed terms to co-finance the feature film **The Libertine** enabling the UK shoot to go ahead as planned next week. The film which stars Johnny Depp, John Malkovich and Samantha Morton will shoot on the Isle of Man in April. **The Libertine** faced the prospect of immediate closure and the loss of 150 crew jobs following the announcement on 10th February of UK government changes in the tax laws.

Grosvenor Park, who are management advisors to First Choice Films, arranged the new deal. Managing Director Dan Taylor commented “As was always the case, our primary motivation is to ensure that a commercial British film gets made in Britain. It has been commonly misunderstood that our use of tax relief to manage the risk of film investment reflected a disregard for the success of the film. This couldn’t be further from the truth as First Choice investors have a real economic interest in the film’s performance. The government’s announcement was a body blow particularly to films about to start shooting”.

Russ Smith for Mr. Mudd said “Grosvenor Park and Isle of Man Film have been terrific in this crisis. Their ability to move quickly in partnership allows **The Libertine** to continue on schedule. We have a dedicated group of people: cast, crew and financiers, now ready to charge ahead”.

The Isle of Man move has been made all the easier given that John Malkovich is already on the Island filming the much awaited **Colour Me Kubrick**. Malkovich is delighted that the film has been saved and said “I am happy also that **The Libertine** will come to the Isle of Man. This is a very attractive location to make films. The newly built sound stage in Ramsey will provide everything we need”.

Isle of Man Film has to date invested in 58 film and television projects. The Island decided to create a film and television industry in 1995 which has grown steadily.

Chairman of The Isle of Man Film Commission, Leonard Singer stressed that the Isle of Man investment criteria were driven by commercial factors. He said “we only provide finance for films that will provide a commercial return for us. We want to avoid the perceived difficulties that have arisen in the UK.”

Director of Isle of Man Film Limited, Steve Christian is delighted to secure such a major film for the island, and comments; “The Isle of Man has gone to great lengths to be a part of, rather than a competitor to, the British film industry. All of our films help the British film industry and we will continue to follow this joint approach wherever we can.

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