

celador films

Yiannis Theodorou
PSB Review
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA

Celador Films Limited
39 Long Acre London WC2E 9LG
Telephone +44 (0)20 7845 6800
Fax +44 (0)20 7497 9541
www.celador.co.uk

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Dear Sirs

We understand that your organisation is currently reviewing the funding mechanism for terrestrial broadcaster, Channel Four. As we are a company that works closely with and values our relationship with Channel Four's film division we are eager to make our views known to those conducting the review.

We have had the privilege and benefit of working, in varying relationships, with Film Four in relation to three theatrical motion pictures so far. Aside from the valuable funding which the company provides, through development, UK TV rights acquisition and limited equity participation, the division is headed by a highly experienced and inspirational executive. Tessa Ross and her team are gifted in uncovering new and emerging talent who otherwise may never be given an opportunity to demonstrate their significant skills. This model is virtually unique in the UK and any dilution of its influence would have a devastating effect on the British film industry.

It should be understood that Film Four do not just support apparent 'quirky' and 'relatively uncommercial' productions. Our current release, SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE, although unquestionably an outstanding piece of film making, is destined to be a huge international success, both critically and commercially and aside from the prestige that the Britain will enjoy from such successes, this production will create a huge volume of revenue from overseas. Film Four had the vision to acquire the rights to and commission a screenplay from the book on which the film is based, before passing its production over to us.

UK television in general benefits from a variety of differing methods of funding. The Channel Four model is unique and must be allowed to remain so and at its current level. To change it will only result in regrets in years to come.

Yours sincerely



Paul Smith
Chairman

