

JACQUI DAVIES

PRESS RELEASE

RICHARD BILLINGHAM: *RAY* AT GLYNN VIVIAN ART GALLERY, SWANSEA



Ray: a new, ambitious film installation by Richard Billingham will premiere in an exhibition at Glynn Vivian Art Gallery in Swansea. Billingham shot to fame in the 90s with his beautiful and often disturbing photographs of his family, the first body of work entitled *Ray's a Laugh*, some of which he captured when he was only 19. *Ray* sees Billingham return to these striking photographs to tell a universal story of everyday conflicts, love and loss. At times shocking and laced with an unsettling humour, *Ray* is a film about addiction, loneliness and control.

Ray was filmed on location in Cradley Heath, West Midlands, in the same housing block that Billingham grew up in with his family. By using the artist's original photographs as a visual reference, the film captures the texture and atmosphere of his family life in the 1990s through a painstakingly recreated set.

We are delighted to be working with Director of Photography, Daniel Landin on the production, known for his stunning cinematography on *Under the Skin* (2014). The film features Patrick Romer as Billingham's father, Ray; Richard Ashton as his homebrew-supplying neighbour Sid, and Deirdre Kelly, star of Channel 4's documentary 'Benefit Street', plays Ray's volatile wife, Liz.

Ray forms part of *Ray & Liz*: an ongoing project that takes as its starting point Billingham's early photographs. This includes a feature film developed by Richard Billingham and Jacqui Davies and various writings. In a newly-commissioned text on *Ray*, Kieran Cashell states that

'in *Ray* Richard Billingham creates a *picture that holds us captive* (Wittgenstein): we are here, in other words, captivated by someone's captivity. But ultimately his intention is not to represent a life as it actually was, but rather, as Benjamin remarked of Proust, to acknowledge a life as remembered by one who actually lived it. His film thus signals a radical departure from the conventions of autobiography 'in order to come to terms with the fragmentary and extratextual nature of thoughts that underpin memory'.

Key credits for *Ray* (2015)

Director: Richard Billingham
Producer: Jacqui Davies
Director of Photography: Daniel Landin BSC

Cast

Ray: Patrick Romer
Liz: Deirdre Kelly
Sid: Richard Ashton

Ray is supported by Arts Council Wales, Arts Council England, agnès b, FIDLab and Panavision, University of Gloucestershire and Glynn Vivian Art Gallery.

Ray is the winner of the Panavision / Air France Prize at FID Marseille 2014.

Produced by Jacqui Davies. Courtesy Anthony Reynolds Gallery

Image: Richard Billingham, Still from *Ray*, 2015. Courtesy Jacqui Davies Limited

For further information please contact Joseph Constable: info@jacquidavies.com

Notes to Editors:

Richard Billingham (b. 1970, Cradley Heath, England) shot to fame in 1996 with his ground-breaking photographic series *Ray's a Laugh*, extraordinary images of family life in his childhood home, a tower block in Cradley Heath in the West Midlands. *Ray's a Laugh* was exhibited internationally and featured in the pivotal show, *Sensation* (1997) at The Royal Academy of Arts. He was awarded the Citibank (now Deutsche Börse) Photography Prize that year, and was nominated for the Turner Prize in 2001.

Jacqui Davies Limited

Jacqui Davies is a London-based producer and curator.

Since 1997, Davies has worked internationally with artists on projects involving film and video. Working independently across all platforms -- producing, commissioning and curating -- Davies has facilitated projects for television, galleries, site-specific, stage, cinema and online.

Davies is the Producer of a major Artangel/BFI-funded project by Ben Rivers. She was the Associate Producer on Phillip Warnell's feature film, *Ming of Harlem*, which won the George Beauregard Prize at FID Marseille 2014. Davies also has two upcoming feature projects that are currently in development and will be acting as a tutor as part of Feature Expanded: an intensive training programme for visual artists developing and producing their first feature film organised by HOME Manchester and Lo Schermo dell'arte Film Festival, Florence.

Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea

Richard Billingham: *Ray*

6 June – 18 July 2015
Ragged School, 1-2 Pleasant Street, Swansea, SA1 5DS

The exhibition forms part of the Glynn Vivian Offsite Programme. Entrance is free.