



NEWS RELEASE
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Young people to launch their QPR documentary at exclusive press screening

Young people working on the Octavia Foundation and QPR in the Community Trust Story of QPR project invite press to join them at an exclusive launch of their broadcast quality documentary film. 'R'Story' explores the highs and lows of the Queens Park Rangers (QPR) Football Club over their 133 years as well as the wider impact of football on fans, players and communities in recent history.

Created by over 35 young people, many of whom were unemployed, 'R' Story' is a broadcast quality 60 minute documentary film that charts the history of the club from its very beginnings in 1882, through its key milestones up to the present day and promotion back to the Premier League. Running parallel to the unique QPR story is a wider story of what football means, and has meant, to British society, in particular to west London's working class and diverse local communities.

Told by a broad tapestry of voices, from the club's memorable players, past and present, the film features Mark Lazarus, Rodney Marsh, Les Ferdinand, Harry Redknapp and midfielder Joey Barton. Long standing passionate fans also feature in the documentary such as BBC broadcaster Robert Elms, and Glen Matlock, former bass guitarist from the Sex Pistols. The film explores topics that are prevalent in today's football world - tribalism, multiculturalism, gentrification, the cost of tickets and the impact of celebrity culture on the game since the 1960's.

Joey Barton gives his thoughts on the club's unique journey back into the Premier League in the film saying:

"I remember going to Wembley Stadium before the game with a few of the lads to have a look around the place just to get used to it. There were volunteers from QPR that had made their way to Wembley to sellotape 40,000 flags to seats the day before the play-off final when they probably could have all manner of better things to be doing. If ever anything summed up a sense of community, if ever anything summed up one club for me that was it."

Ross Norman, aged 23, got involved in the project to gain work experience in the film industry and now has a job with an international news channel:

"The Story of QPR has given me more confidence in what I am able to do and what I am capable of and will help me further my career. While taking part in the project I successfully got a job with 'Arise News' where I set up and play all the non-live footage such as news reports for the live shows."

"I've really enjoyed being able to film on the pitch at Loftus Road, especially the playoff game against Wigan. It's not that often you get to walk alongside the QPR players and film them after they have just secured a place at Wembley Stadium with Loftus Road rocking! I feel proud and privileged that I get to be involved in such a unique project."

Reena Mukherji, Director of the Octavia Foundation community charity said:

"We are incredibly proud of all of the young people who have created this broadcast quality film. They have learnt how to use a professional camera, how to script and conduct interviews, how to edit footage and have been involved in researching and shaping the film into the high quality documentary it is. So far seven of the young people have also used the skills learnt and their experience on this project to help

them find employment in the media industries. This is a fantastic achievement and one of the reasons that we continue to give young people, who are often unemployed and not in education or training, these unique opportunities to take part in media projects and help them to break into this very competitive field.”

The documentary will launch with an exclusive press screening at the QPR Loftus Road Stadium on Wednesday 4th February from 4 until 7pm. The main premiere which will be held in W12 to invited guests only followed by a screening tour of local cinemas, community venues and schools over the coming months.

You can access the full press pack including the film teaser, film stills, case studies of young people and biographies of those featured in the film at: www.octaviafoundation.org.uk/StoryofQPR

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Notes to editors:

1. ‘R’Story’ is a 60 minute broadcast quality documentary film created through input from 35 young people as part of the Story of QPR project, charting the history of the Queens Park Rangers football club. The film explores:
 - The potency of football and the draw of QPR to fans
 - The beginnings of the club and fans first memories
 - Heroes of the club such as Rodney Marsh, Stanley Bowles, Dave Thomas, Alec Stock, Phil Parks and Daphne Biggs
 - Football’s past and tribalism
 - The multicultural area of W12
 - The football industry including money, fans, the players connection and gentrification
 - The highs of the 60s, the Wembley 67 final and the rise to the Premier League in the 2013/14 season
 - The future of the club
 - The idea of bringing back the terraces
 - Football as a religion and how it brings people together
 - Celebrity culture and the distance of players to fans since the 60s
 - The cost of tickets
2. Screening tours: A tour of local cinemas and theatres will start with a screening at 2pm at the Lexi cinema on Saturday 28th February – tickets are £5 and are available from the Lexi.
3. A DVD of the film will be available to buy from summer 2015.
4. The Story of QPR is a project working with young people aged 16 to 24, most of whom are not in employment or education to tell the story of the QPR football club and the local community through:
 - The production of the ‘R’Story’ broadcast quality documentary film
 - Production of a website.
 - Production of a podcast.
 - Production of a music track.
 - History of QPR - a heritage and memorabilia event.
 - History of QPR – a micro-site containing short films and memorabilia.
 - History of QPR – a magazine.
 - History of QPR – school educational resources.

The Story of QPR project has received funding from the Premier League, the Professional Footballers’ Association (PFA), QPR 1st Supporters Trust, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Hammersmith United Charities.

5. The Octavia Foundation is a registered charity no 1065817. We connect people affected by unemployment, ill health, social isolation or low incomes with opportunities for positive personal change. Our vision is to build stronger, happier and healthier communities in central and west London to help create an enriched life where we live. <http://www.octaviafoundation.org.uk/>
6. QPR in the Community Trust is a registered charity (1127806) established in 2009 to use the power of Queens Park Rangers Football Club to forge stronger and deeper connections with its community, creating progressive, vibrant hubs for sporting and social activities, leading to enhanced life experiences for individuals and neighbourhoods. For more information, visit www.qprcommunitytrust.co.uk
7. Film stills, images of the filming process and case studies of the young people involved are available within the press pack. The following project participants will be available for comment at the press screening:

Young people:

Ross Norman
Ayo Bodurin
Jonathan Franco
Michael Hagan
Gopesh Pathak

Octavia Foundation:

Reena Mukherji, Director of the Octavia Foundation on what the project has meant to the young people involved and to the Octavia Foundation
Serena Williamson, Story of QPR Project Manager on the making of the film and the project itself
Kate Glinsman, Screening Tour Project Co-ordinator on the screening tour and DVDs

QPR in the Community Trust:

Andy Evans, CEO on what the film means to fans and to the Community Trust

QPR 1st Supporters Trust

Stephen Dedridge, Chair on why the Trust has funded £8,000 towards the project