



# Residents' associations receive £21,000 from hit TV shows and films

Killing Eve episode 4 Peckham Rye station - photo BBC

## EXCLUSIVE

By Katherine Johnston

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**MORE THAN £21,000 has been donated to Southwark TRAs and charities in the last year from film production companies recording hits like Killing Eve across the borough.**

Film Fixers was set up in 2007 to manage film requests across local authorities including Southwark, and make sure the large-scale films and TV shows filmed in the borough - like the BBC America smash-hit Killing Eve - give back to the community.

In episode four of series two of the BBC America smash hit, Eve Polastri enjoys some late-night fried chicken and flirtation with her security services colleague outside Jenny's café in Peckham Rye station.

Other productions to have filmed on location in Southwark Bohemian Rhapsody, Men in Black, Rocketman, Gangs of London and Netflix's The Crown.

The company makes sure filmmakers

have an agreement in place with residents before recording, including donations to residents' associations and good causes as a goodwill gesture.

Silverlock Estate TRA benefitted from funds from the production companies behind Top Boy, The Capture and Gangs of London.

Chair Gill Davis said: "The donations play a big part us being able to provide three very popular and totally free 'Family Fun Days' for the whole community including free food and entertainment. We are also able to hold coffee mornings in the community hall."

Meanwhile, Trinity and Newington Estate, which welcomed filming teams for Ironbark and Giri Haji, used their donations cover a range of free community events including Christmas carols with mince pies and mulled wine.

Living Bankside has used their funding to put on football sessions for kids, digital support for older people and a series of fetes including Christmas, Ramadan and St George's Day celebrations.

Executive chair Amir Eden described these donations as playing a 'fundamental role in promoting community cohesion in the last few

years.

"To date we have hosted over 5,000 people at our events."

Cllr Rebecca Lury, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Equalities and Communities at Southwark Council said: "We all love spotting London landmarks in films and on TV, and here in Southwark we host many production companies, and their stars.

"But in addition to this, we work very hard alongside FilmFixer, to make sure that all of the big productions give back to our local communities, be that through funding local projects or by creating exciting opportunities for young people."

This work is all the more important given not everyone has always been happy with how landmarks and estates including Aylesbury and Heygate - have been portrayed on the big and small screen, with council rules on the types of filming requests accepted tightened up in 2012 after residents complained too often their homes were made to look like crime-ridden sink estates.

As well as funding, FilmFixers also help find work experience and employment opportunities for young people on set including work as runners or marshals.

Sue Russo, Film Fixer's training and development manager, explained: "In order to find work in the screen industries, most young people need to already have the personal connections and be prepared to do multiple unpaid internships.

"This can put work experience beyond the grasp of many talented locals.

"We want to help change this and create diversity in the industry that fully reflects communities in Southwark."

Five young people to recently join the industry started out with work experience on-set in productions filmed in Southwark, including Megan Bussey (pictured right), a London College of Communication film student who gained paid work as a marshal on the set of Gangs of London with Sue's help.

Megan said: "Working on Gangs of London was a great experience for the start of my career as it introduced me to new people and gave me an insight into a professional set.

"The crew were lovely and very accommodating to all my questions.

"I can't thank Sue Russo, and FilmFixer, enough as it has established, for me that I want to carry on in a career working on film and TV sets."



## WILD SCENES ON OLD KENT ROAD AS ALGERIA FANS CELEBRATE

By Josh Salisbury

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**ALGERIA FANS jubilantly celebrated on the Old Kent Road on Sunday night after dramatically beating Nigeria in the Africa Cup of Nations semi-final.**

The wild scenes saw footie fans let off fireworks to toast their 2-1 victory after

team captain Riyad Mahrez scored a stunning free-kick only moments before the end of the match.

"Absolute SCENES on the Old Kent Road in London after Riyad Mahrez sends Algeria to the final. Congratulations!" said one observer.

The festive atmosphere was mirrored in other parts of London with a strong Algerian community, including in North

London's Blackstock Road.

"It was much of the same on the Old Kent Road!" said one witness to the jubilant scenes.

"Police managed to get people off the road in a peaceful way luckily."

The major thoroughfare may yet see another display of party atmosphere - as the Algerian team face Senegal in a final show-down on Friday.



photos by Salome Gongadze

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