

# FILMMAKERS TO WATCH 2008: UPDATE

Over the past year, *movieScope* Magazine has been showcasing filmmakers who we believe show great promise in their field. These were the men and women behind some of 2008's most exciting, fresh and inspiring film projects, and we wanted to give them the extra exposure that all up-and-coming filmmakers so desperately need.

So, how have they fared since? We contacted them to find out how the rest of their collective years went, and you can find out for yourself here. Don't forget, *movieScope* also has a new blog devoted to up-and-coming film talent and what's being done to support it. Visit [movieScopemag.com](http://movieScopemag.com) to find out more and even make recommendations of your own!

By Liz Hobbs

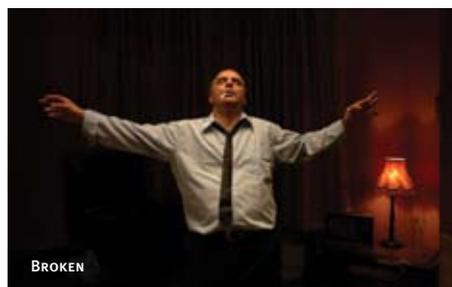
## Vicki Psarias (Directing, Vol. 1. No. 6)

Since winning the Channel 4 4Talent Award for Best Filmmaker in December 2007, Vicki has been working full time as a director. Her first break after the award was directing a promo for the English National Opera's production of *Lucia di Lammermoor*. This was featured online and on television and gained the following review from *Classical Music Magazine*: "I hope the production is as slick as the promo." With a director's traineeship at *The Bill* under her belt, plus a promo for London Fashion Week, Vicki also had time to direct and produce a 45-minute documentary over four months for Teachers TV, with Sir Bob Geldof's company Brook Lapping/Ten Alps. The programme took children of different ethnic backgrounds on a camping trip to



Vicki Psarias

the Lake District where they could break down their prejudices and explore what it means to be British. Vicki is also co-writing a British Cypriot feature screenplay with her childhood friend Yiannis Zardis, and is attached to direct Shelley Castle's short screenplay *Season*, which is currently seeking finance. Vicki's short film *BROKEN* has also scooped several awards at film festivals over the year including: Best Film at the Waterford Film Festival, Best Short Film at the Nashik Film Festival in India, Best Film and Director at End of the Pier Film Festival and a nomination for Best Short Film at Raindance and the NPA awards. Vicki was also nominated for the prestigious Women of the Future Awards in the Arts and Culture Category for her work as a filmmaker.



BROKEN

## Tim Barrow (Acting, Vol. 2 No. 1)

2008 turned out to be a great year for low-budget feature *THE INHERITANCE*. Following screenings up and down the UK, the team put together a "making of" documentary to coincide with the release of the DVD at the end of 2008. Tim is preparing to shoot his latest film, a tale of love and redemption set in contemporary Edinburgh.



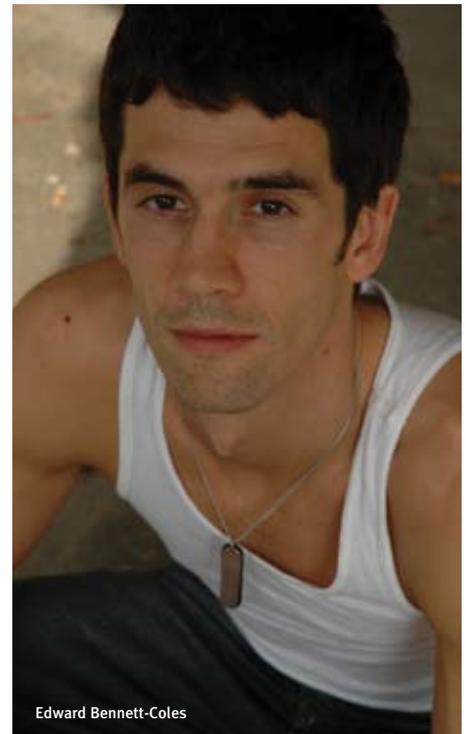
Tim Barrow



Emily Denniston

## Emily Denniston (Acting, Vol. 1. No. 6)

The hugely successful *HOW TO LOSE FRIENDS & ALIENATE PEOPLE*, in which Emily played Danny Huston's assistant, was released back in October. She will soon be seen in David Holroyd's *W.M.D.* Emily is also working on her first feature film script.



Edward Bennett-Coles

## Edward Bennett-Coles (Acting, Vol. 2 No 2)

Following his *One to Watch* acting profile in *movieScope* last spring, Ed was chosen by Vanessa Caswill to shoot her UKFC short *THE FISHDANCE KID* at Pinewood over the summer. Ed has also co-written a pilot for a TV series, *The Congregation*, with Kelly Marcel.



Stefan Georgiou

**Stefan Georgiou** (*Directing, Vol. 2 No 2*) Stefan's NFTS graduation short film, *WE CALL HER DAISY*, has been selected by the UKFC to be supported at international festivals over the coming year. His short *DEAR STEVEN SPIELBERG* has attracted attention from buyers following its screening at a festival in New York. He has just completed his first feature script, *The Persephone Effect*, and is looking to attract finance for the project.

**Elise Valmorbida** (*Producing, Vol. 2 No 2*) Elise has had her hands full following the success of her film, *SAXON*. With an extras-laden DVD release of the film scheduled for January and a "making of" book (including script) of getting the film made against the odds, the *SAXON* brand looks set to thrive. She's also found time to write a novel: *The TV President*, a black comedy revolving around the world of entertainment, available through the CB Editions website or in Waterstones.



Elise Valmorbida

**Branko Tomovic** (*Acting, Vol. 2 No 3*) This year Branko will grace our screens in two major motion pictures: he plays a monk in *POPE JOAN*, with John Goodman and Iain Glen, and also features in the much-hyped *THE WOLF MAN*, the remake of the Lon Chaney film, starring Benicio del Toro and Sir Anthony Hopkins. Branko will also feature in the TV film *Whitechapel*, with Rupert Penry-Jones and Philip Davis, set in the Victorian era during the time of Jack the Ripper.



Branko Tomovic

**Stefan Archetti** (*Low-Budget Filmmakers, Vol. 2 No 4*) *IL FUNGO SIRENA*, Stefan's Italian feature, was screened to rapturous acclaim in the Lake Como region where it is set. Next year will also see an art exhibition in Morbegno featuring stills from the production. On the back of this, Stefan has been approached for collaboration by a newly-formed production company in Italy and their first project will be a thriller in the style of the 1988 Dutch classic *SPOORLOOS* (*THE VANISHING*).



Stefan Archetti



Blaine brothers

**The Blaine brothers** (*Low-Budget Filmmakers, Vol. 1. No. 6*) Their short *HALLO PANDA* won Best Film at the Filmmaker Festival, and recently screened in New York as part of HD Fest. *DEATH OF THE REVOLUTION* screened at the inaugural Branchage Film Festival in Jersey back in September. While there, Chris spent a week mentoring two teenagers and helping them make two short films. Ben, along with writer-director Charles Henri-Belleville, has also been mentoring disadvantaged young men, teaching them filmmaking for the charity Street League. They are currently working on their feature script *The Debt*, and developing a sitcom as part of the ICA film lab.



HALLO PANDA



Vanessa Caswill

**Vanessa Caswill** (*Directing, Vol. 2 No. 1*) Vanessa shot a UKFC short, *THE FISHDANCE KID*, last summer with Ed Bennett-Coles (see below left). Having signed with Annex films last April, she has shot music videos for the up-and-coming Lisa Mitchell (*Neopolitan Dreams*) and Revere (*The Escape Artist*). She is currently looking for finance for her latest independent project. ■