

## TESSA ROSS AND JULIETTE HOWELL LAUNCH INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION COMPANY

### House Productions launches with investment from BBC Worldwide and Access Entertainment

**LONDON. Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2016:** Tessa Ross and Juliette Howell today announced the launch of their new production company, House Productions. The new independent launches in partnership with leading international distributor BBC Worldwide and Access Entertainment – part of Access Industries, the global media, industrial and technology group owned by U.S. industrialist Len Blavatnik.

House Productions will be based in London with Tessa Ross and Juliette Howell as joint CEOs, working across the company's slate of television and feature films. Ross and Howell will continue to collaborate with the talent with whom they have worked so successfully in the past, as well as welcoming a host of new relationships.

Announcing the new company, **Tessa Ross** said: *"Juliette and I are truly excited about what we can achieve together, and with our partners at BBC Worldwide and Access Entertainment. We're going to build a creative and supportive home at House Productions and look forward to growing something unique and long lasting with both new and old collaborators."*

**Juliette Howell** added: *"Along with our partners, Tessa and I share a vision for the company where the flow of ideas and creative talent between film and television can achieve the best and most ambitious work. House Productions will be the home of original, exciting stories, a place where ideas can be nurtured and produced in a supportive environment."*

BBC Worldwide has taken a 25% stake in House Productions as part of their investment in the new indie. The deal will see the BBC's commercial and international arm act as the global distributor for House's TV content slate.

**Helen Jackson**, BBC Worldwide's Chief Content Officer says: *"Supporting House Productions helps us to continue our mission of delivering high end British content to the world. Tessa and Juliette are two of the most inspirationally creative people I have ever met and we're proud to play a part in enabling yet another great British start-up."*

Recently formed Access Entertainment, headed up by Danny Cohen, have agreed a first look deal to develop and finance feature films with House Productions.

**Len Blavatnik** said: *"We are delighted to be partnering with Tessa Ross and Juliette Howell and look forward to jointly producing premium-quality films with world-class talent."*

**Danny Cohen**, President, Access Entertainment said: *"The mission of Access Entertainment is to work with the world's leading creative talent and this first-look film deal with House Productions is an important step in our plans. I'm excited to get going on developing a slate of premium quality movies with them."*

In addition, House Productions will benefit from additional investment and expertise from New York based investor Laura Sloate.

Ross and Howell have worked together many times over the last 20 years, at the BBC, at Channel 4 and at Film4 on projects including *Billy Elliot*, *Shameless*, *Slumdog Millionaire* and *The Last King of Scotland*.

Ross was Controller of Film and Drama at Channel 4. Under her leadership, Film4 became synonymous with innovative and exciting film making. Her tenure saw a host of award winning films, including *Four Lions*, *This is England*, *In Bruges*, *Slumdog Millionaire*, *Under the Skin* and *12 Years a Slave*. She left the Broadcaster at the end of 2014, where her most recent commissions include the multi-BAFTA and Academy Award nominated features *Carol*, *Room*, *The Lobster*, *45 Years* and *Ex Machina*.

Howell stepped down last year, after five years as Working Title's Head of Television, having established the UK production arm in 2010 and overseen a raft of acclaimed drama series, films and comedy. These include BAFTA-winners, *London Spy* and *Birdsong* for the BBC, the BBC/HBO film *Mary and Martha* and Sky's hit comedy series *Yonderland*, currently in production on its third series. Howell also oversaw the hugely ambitious, ratings-winning drama *You, Me and the Apocalypse* on Sky/NBC.

## ENDS

### For further information please contact:

Cristina Dunn

**PREMIER**

[Cristina.Dunn@premiercomms.com](mailto:Cristina.Dunn@premiercomms.com)

### **ABOUT HOUSE PRODUCTIONS**

House Productions is a new independent production company launched by two of the UK's most successful drama TV and Film executives, Tessa Ross and Juliette Howell. The company, and its subsidiary House Pictures, is based in London and launched in 2016 with investment from BBC Worldwide and Access Entertainment.

[www.houseproductions.com](http://www.houseproductions.com)

### **ABOUT BBC WORLDWIDE**

BBC Worldwide is the main commercial arm and a wholly owned subsidiary of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). Its vision is to build the BBC's brands, audiences, commercial returns and reputation across the world. This is achieved through investing in, commercialising and showcasing content from the BBC around the world, in a way that is consistent with BBC standards and values. The business also champions British creativity globally.

In 2015/16, BBC Worldwide generated headline profits of £133.8m and headline sales of £1,029.4m and returned £222.2m to the BBC. For more detailed performance information please see our Annual Review webpage: [www.bbcworldwide.com/annual-review](http://www.bbcworldwide.com/annual-review)

[www.bbcworldwide.com](http://www.bbcworldwide.com)

[twitter.com/bbcwpress](https://twitter.com/bbcwpress)

### **ABOUT ACCESS ENTERTAINMENT**

Access Entertainment, launched in May 2016, is a division of Access Industries focused on investments across the entertainment sector with a concentration in premium-quality television, films, digital content and theatre. It is led by Danny Cohen, the former Director of BBC Television and Controller of BBC One. The company's mission is to deliver the highest quality creative content and partner with the very best talent in the world.

### **ABOUT ACCESS INDUSTRIES**

Founded in 1986 by Len Blavatnik, an American entrepreneur and philanthropist, Access Industries is a privately-held industrial group with strategic investments in the United States, Europe and South America. With corporate offices in New York, London and Moscow, its holdings include a number of market-leading companies in the Natural Resources and Chemicals, Media and Telecommunications, Technology and E-commerce, and Real Estate sectors. For more information, visit [www.accessindustries.com](http://www.accessindustries.com)