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Red Planet Pictures backs diversity indie

28 April, 2015 | By Matthew Campelli



Diverse talent development company TriForce Creative Network has launched an indie backed by Tony Jordan's Red Planet Pictures.

The indie, TriForce Productions, will tap into the database of 16,000 diverse actors, writers and production professionals the network has cultivated over the past 11 years to build its development slate.

The TriForce Creative Network was founded by Jimmy Akingbola, Ayres and the network's chief operating officer Minnie Crowe in 2004 to

TriForce Productions has been established with funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, and will be overseen by Akingbola, Ayres and the network's chief operating officer Minnie Crowe.

Red Planet Pictures has offered TriForce production space in its Warwick Street offices, as well as creative expertise.

Jordan told Broadcast that the commercial elements of the relationship were yet to be finalised.

"We're here as a facilitator, the commercial side of things will work itself out," he said. "We're concentrating on the creative side first before we start number crunching."

He said that as a result of the relationship, Red Planet Pictures will benefit from access to TriForce's database for its own productions.

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TriForce talent

Jordan worked with Akingbola on BBC's Holby City police spin-off Holby Blue and the idea to launch an indie came as a result of a meeting between the pair.

Crowe said TriForce had previously planned to set up an indie within five years but Jordan's involvement had sped up the process.

She highlighted that the network's talent database includes individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds as well as black, Asian and minority ethnic professionals.

"Even though there's a lot of engagement with diversity with the broadcasters agreeing targets, they don't necessarily know where to look for that talent, especially behind the camera," Crowe said. "We have it all here, we can just give them a ring."

Jordan said he expected indies to find it challenging to meet the diversity targets which have been set by broadcasters and claimed TriForce's training initiatives were increasingly vital.

TriForce Productions has targeted securing commissions in the UK and US. While much of its talent has a background in comedy and drama, Crowe said the indie had plans to produce programming across a range of genres.

Separately, the TriForce Creative Network has partnered with the BBC, ITV and ITV Studios to offer diverse writers and actors career development opportunities following an event at which they will be given the opportunity to showcase their abilities.