

EXAM

Cube meets The Apprentice in festival-slaying thriller

➔ **EMPIRE'S EDINBURGH FILM FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE INVOLVED**

everything you would expect from the Scottish capital's annual celluloid celebration: films, lager and narrowly avoiding being beaten up by soldiers. The major pleasure was Exam, a sleek British thriller about eight candidates for a high-powered job at a secretive corporation, who must sit one final trial together. When they turn over their test papers, however, they find them blank and have 80 minutes to work out the question.

It's intelligent and tense, with a brilliant breakout performance from Luke Mably, so **Empire** asked writer-director Stuart Hazeldine to talk through the key players of the only Exam we've ever looked forward to sitting through again...

THE INVIGILATOR (COLIN SALMON)

"Company spokesperson. An imposing, authoritative individual who lays down the law to the candidates. Is he enforcing it from behind the screen too?"

CANDIDATE 1 (JOHN LLOYD FILLINGHAM)

"Loner who doesn't engage with the group. Doesn't listen. He barely talks, either. Previous tests have left him hanging by a very thin thread."

CANDIDATE 2 (GEMMA CHAN)

"Prepared. Nervous. Eager to impress. Perhaps a little too eager..."

CANDIDATE 3 (ADAR BECK)

"Serious. Analytical. Frumpy. She seems to know an awful lot about the company — and her fellow candidates."

CANDIDATE 4 (POLLYANNA McINTOSH)

"Smart, sassy and sexy in equal measure. Her can-do attitude makes her a strong contender for leader of the group."

CANDIDATE 5 (LUKE MABLY)

"The alpha male of the group. A sexist, racist big-mouth who is determined to win at all costs."

CANDIDATE 6 (JIMI MISTRY)

"Gambler. Cynic. Plays his cards close to his chest. Not to be trusted."

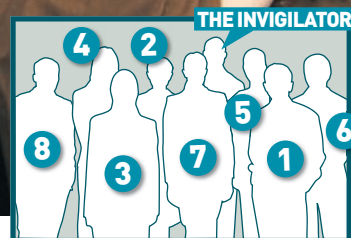
CANDIDATE 7 (NATHALIE COX)

"Cool. Calm. A detached observer. Is there more to her than just a pretty face?"

CANDIDATE 8 (CHUKWUDI IWUJI)

"Team player. Optimist. A religious man who tries to live by his moral principles. But it's hard to do the right thing when you're under pressure."

➔ **EXAM IS OUT IN LATE 2009.**



VIEW TO A KILT*

Other Edinburgh Festival highlights...

MOON

You should by now have had the chance to watch Duncan Jones' absorbing sci-fi thriller... But if a four-star *Empire* review isn't enough for you, it won the Michael Powell Award for Best New British Feature Film. Make sure you go and bloody see it.

LE DONK PARTY

Shane Meadows' low-budget but rich-at-heart comedy *Le Donk & Scor-Zay-Zee* was not only the funniest film of the festival (see page 64 for more details), but had a quite legendary knees-up, featuring a tombola and a rapping Paddy Considine.

TURN IT LOOSE

B-boy documentary... What's a B-boy? Someone who breakdances (in this case really, really well) at the B-boy World Championship that takes place in Soweto, South Africa... Their floor skills astonish, their personal stories are heartfelt.

FINDING OUT HOW MAGAZINES WORK

Another documentary, *The September Issue*, followed *Vogue* editor Anna "Nuclear" Wintour as she put together the doorstep, ad-heavy edition. She is cute and stern and wears sunglasses indoors. It's Mark Dinning in a dress!

SHIR SEAN CONNERY'S PUB QUIZ

Which *Empire* won, naturally. Winning a festival programme signed by 007 himself.

➔ **DANIEL RADCLIFFE LEARNING BALLET** ➔ **KATE BOSWORTH SIGNS UP TO STRAW DOGS REMAKE** ➔