



## 20<sup>th</sup> KESWICK FILM FESTIVAL

28<sup>th</sup> February – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019

PRESS RELEASE

JANUARY 2019

### **Keswick Film Festival - between The Rock and a few hard places**

An unlikely star will be on screen at Keswick Film Festival. The thought of Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson appearing is probably not what the founders of the Festival had in mind back in 2000, but pupils from Keswick School chose Stephen Merchant's new film as one they would like to see – so Programmer David Miller booked it for the Saturday morning slot. It is based on the true life story of English professional wrestler and actress Saraya-Jade Bevis who performs under the ring name Paige. She won the Divas Championship on her WWE debut.

Festival Director, Ian Payne, said 'Having fun at the pictures on a Saturday morning has long been a tradition at the Alhambra, and a film about a family of WWE wrestlers fits that bill perfectly.'

The film also stars Florence Pugh, last seen on TV in *The Little Drummer Girl*, Nick Frost and Director Stephen Merchant himself.

At the grittier end of the spectrum, the Festival visits a few hard places. Mads Mikkelsen tries to survive in Arctic; Mahershala Ali takes on a different challenge in the southern states of the USA in the award-winning *Green Book* and it doesn't get any tougher than real-life footage of a World War II bombing raid in William Wyler's restored documentary masterpiece *The Memphis Belle*.

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