How to Get Ahead in...

Editing

EMPIRE SHINES A SPOTLIGHT ON DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF THE CINEMATIC ARTS

EDDIE HAMILTON is one of the best editors in the film business right now. His work with Matthew Vaughn on Kick-Ass, X-Men: First Class and Kingsman: The Secret Service bagged him a gig crafting Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation (below right). “It’s important that I find an editor that I really click with,” his director, Christopher McQuarrie, told us, “and I just immediately hit it off with Eddie. He’s great with action, great with character, but most of all, his attention to detail is extraordinary.”

Do you need qualifications? You don’t need any. I did a psychology degree at University College, London! I was in the Film Society and in my second year, Christopher Nolan was the president. I got a job as a runner at a post-production facility in Soho and taught myself how to use AVID Media Composer, which was in its infancy. One day, when someone was sick, I said, “I can do this.” Then I was promoted and spent about a year editing Portuguese and Spanish sports programmes.

What qualities do you need to edit? You need a lot of patience. You’re sitting alone for 12 to 14 hours a day. It takes a long time before you see your way through the woods of a scene. When you have 15 hours of skydiving footage on Kingsman and you know the scene is going to be four minutes, it takes a lot of time and patience to carve through that. And an understanding spouse! CH

MOVIE MONEY

IAN McKELLEN CAREER GRAPH (US DOMESTIC BOX OFFICE ONLY)

THE TOP 10 BILLION DOLLAR CLUB

$2.786 BILLION
AVATAR

$2.186 BILLION
TITANIC

$1.516 BILLION
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

$1.467 BILLION
FAST & FURIOUS 7

$1.341 BILLION
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS — PART 2

$1.274 BILLION
IRON MAN 3

$1.215 BILLION
TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON

$1.123 BILLION
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING

$1.119 BILLION
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

$1.106 BILLION
SKYFALL

MOVIE INFLATION

$1,000,000 — THE AMOUNT OF MONEY ROBERT REDFORD PAID TO SLEEP WITH DEMI MOORE IN INDECENT PROPOSAL (1993) =

$1,624 MILLION

CLICK TO GET AHEAD

“If editing is for you,” says Hamilton, “get a job as a runner in a post facility in London. You will have access to all the best equipment and editors and they will pay you to learn.” For more info on editing, visit www.eddiehamilton.com