

## **Mike Downey OBE**

*Hon DLitt (am)*

Educated at the Universities of Warwick, Paris III (Sorbonne-Nouvelle) and Paris X (Nanterre), Mike Downey founded the London/Dublin -based independent production house Film and Music Entertainment (F&ME) in 2000 and is currently Chairman of the European Film Academy (EFA), and President of the Jury of the LUX Prize of the European Parliament.

To date, Mike has production credits for well over 100 feature films. He has worked with four times Academy award nominee Stephen Daldry and many other directors across Europe. He has developed projects with novelists including James Ellroy, the late Gunter Grass and Thomas Keneally (*Schindler's List*), Academy Award®-winning writer of *Ida*, Rebecca Lenkiewicz, as well as Academy Award®-winning Director, Volker Schlöndorff and writers Lee Hall (*Billy Elliot*) and Colm Toibin (*Brooklyn*).

Mike is involved in humanitarian work; he was a long-time trustee of the White Ribbon Alliance, which aims to reduce mortality in childbirth in the developing world, and he is currently developing an educational organisation Filmclub with the EFA to bring quality cinema into schools across Europe. He is the founder of the International Coalition for Filmmakers at Risk (ICFR), which aims to activate the film community's collective response to filmmakers who face political persecution for their work. It has recently established an Emergency Fund for filmmakers in Ukraine.

Mike was elected to the Council of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) and to the BAFTA Film Committee. He sits on the boards of several film festivals and has served on many international juries, while his own work has been recognised with accolades and tributes worldwide. He was awarded The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in 2021, for his services to World Cinema. In early 2022, Mike was invited to be a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, as well as being inducted into US Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS).

Mike's debut novel, *Istria Gold*, will be published in the UK in October by MPress Media.