

FLACK

PRESS RELEASE

Hollywood star Tom Hardy will be coming to Cambridge on Sunday, May 9 for a special screening of his film *Bronson*. The showing, in the Cambridge Arts Picturehouse at 1pm, will be followed by a question-and-answer session with the actor.

The screening is to support the newly-formed charity Flack, which was set up to replace and expand the services to homeless/vulnerably housed people and the agencies who serve them by the magazine *Willow Walker*. The first editor of the *Willow Walker*, named after a Cambridge hostel run by English Churches Housing Group, was Alexander Masters, whose book *Stuart: A Life Backwards* was turned into a film starring Hardy.

The editor of Flack, which hopes to launch its new magazine in Spring 2011, is Kirsten Lavers, whose tenure at the *Willow Walker* as Alexander Masters' successor saw the formation of a business called Cambridge Link-Up, run by present and formerly homeless people, and Street Voices, whose double CD *Both Sides of the Tracks* was released in March 2009 to critical acclaim.

Tom Hardy, patron of Flack, has successfully battled an alcohol and crack addiction he acquired after the box-office failure of *Star Trek Nemesis*, in which he played an evil clone of Captain Jean Luc Picard; the film was released at the same time as *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, *Die another Day* and *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*.

Bronson is the story of prisoner Charles Bronson, who changed his name from Michael Peterson to give him a harder image as a bare-knuckle fighter in London. First arrested in 1974 for armed robbery, he has spent just four months as a free man since, and is still imprisoned. He has been called "the most violent prisoner in Britain", and has been moved 120 times. Hardy famously did 1200 press-ups a day for five weeks before filming started to bulk up for the role. His other films include *Black Hawk Down*, *Minotaur* and *RocknRolla*, while he has also starred in TV productions such as *Band of Brothers*, *Wuthering Heights* and *The Virgin Queen*.

Notes for Editors

1. Flack's website is at <http://www.flackcambridge.org.uk/>.
2. *Willow Walker*'s website is <http://www.willowwalker.org/>.
3. Cambridge Arts Picturehouse's website is http://www.picturehouses.co.uk/cinema/Arts_Picturehouse_Cambridge/.
4. A review of *Both Sides of the Tracks* is at <http://draughtyoldfentales.blogspot.com/2009/03/both-sides-of-tracks.html>.