

# press release

**Richard Billingham**  
**Ray**

**For immediate release**

**5 June – 18 July**  
Preview 6 – 8 pm Friday 5 June

**Ragged School, Swansea**

Glynn Vivian Art Gallery will premiere a major new film installation by Richard Billingham offsite at the Ragged School, Swansea. Billingham shot to fame in the nineties with his beautiful and often disturbing photos of his family, the body of work called *Ray's a Laugh*. *Ray* sees artist Richard Billingham return to these early photographs that he captured of his family to tell a universal story of everyday conflicts, love and loss. At times shocking and laced with unsettling humour, *Ray* is a film about pain, addiction, loneliness and control.

*Ray* was filmed on location in Cradley Heath, West Midlands, in the same housing block that Billingham grew up in with his family. By using the artist's original photographs as a visual reference, the film captures the texture and atmosphere of his family life in the early 1990s through a painstakingly recreated set.

The film features Patrick Romer as Billingham's father, Ray; Richard Ashton as his home-brew supplying neighbour, Sid, and Deidre Kelly, star of Channel 4's documentary 'Benefit Street', plays Ray's volatile wife, Liz.

Richard Billingham lives in Swansea. He was the first recipient of the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize in 1997 and was nominated for the Turner Prize, 2001. His work is held in many international public collections such as the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum, New York, Tate and the V&A Museum, London. He holds professorships at The University of Gloucestershire and Middlesex University.

Duration: 33 minutes

Director: Richard Billingham  
Producer: Jacqui Davies  
Director of Photography: Daniel Landin BSC

## Cast

Ray: Patrick Romer

Liz: Deirdre Kelly

Sid: Richard Ashton

Ray is supported by Arts Council Wales, Arts Council England, agnès b, FIDLab and Panavision, University of Gloucestershire and Glynn Vivian Art Gallery

Produced by Jacqui Davies. Courtesy Anthony Reynolds Gallery

## ENDS

Notes to the editors:

### A Glynn Vivian Offsite exhibition

1. Glynn Vivian Art Gallery is part of the City & County of Swansea. Supported by a grant from The Arts Council of Wales
2. Open Wednesday – Saturday 11am – 4.30pm, 6 June – 18 July
3. Ragged School, 1-2 Pleasant Street, Swansea, SA1 5DS (near Swansea College of Art, Alexandra Road)
4. A reception will take place in Idris Davies Room, Tapestri (directly opposite Ragged School) on Friday 5 June, 6pm – 8pm
5. There is limited disabled access to the Ragged School installation, please contact the Gallery for further information.
6. For more information, high-res images and to arrange an interview with the artist please contact Katy Freer on 01792 516900 or email [katy.freer@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:katy.freer@swansea.gov.uk)

If you wish to receive this information in an alternative format, please contact the Gallery.

### Glynn Vivian Art Gallery

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City and County of Swansea  
Dinas a Sir Abertawe

