



Author and screenwriter Anthony Horowitz and his wife, TV producer Jill Green,

Picture: SARAH LUCY BROWN

Bestselling author hails Suffolk's landscapes for TV and film

Bestselling author and screenwriter Anthony Horowitz and his wife, TV producer Jill Green, have backed Suffolk's bid to be put on the film-making map - and urged industry professionals to bring productions to the county.

The couple, who spend part of the week at their home in Orford, were involved in a special talk at Christchurch Mansion on Friday with former London Film Commissioner Sue Hayes.

The Screen-Suffolk organised event featured the couple discussing their experiences of filming in Suffolk before an audience of Suffolk film professionals, and aims to encourage other productions to bring work to the region.

The 62-year-old Anthony, who has written the Alex Rider series alongside Sherlock Holmes and James Bond novels, said

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that Suffolk was often an inspiration for settings in his screenwriting work, which includes Foyle's War, New Blood and Vexed – series his wife Jill Green has produced.

Ms Green added: "The incredible thing about Suffolk is it has amazing history but it is also quirky – that's what is unique."

"Everybody is converted when they are here. There is so much to offer here in terms of visuals, and there is no traffic in Suffolk for a start!"

The couple pointed to Suffolk's clear skies free of aeroplanes, variety of rural and urban locations and willingness to accommodate productions as key selling points.

An industry drive to divert production into regions outside of London is a promising prospect for

the county, with a target 75% of all productions in the UK set to be filmed outside of the capital by 2025.

Ms Green added: "Period drama would be really good here – if you follow the road along Rendlesham there are no road markings, no yellow lines, no signs – it's absolutely brilliant."

The couple fondly recalled the experience of filming part of their 2011 series Injustice around Felixstowe docks, and said the openness and willingness to help was important.

There are also plans to film "about 60-70%" of the adaptation for Anthony's 2016 novel Magpie Murders in Suffolk in the future.

Anthony added: "Suffolk has a very unique quality. London is just another red bus, just another phone box, but if one is looking to create original drama then Suffolk has something really wonderful."

newsbites

Centre opens

A ribbon-cutting ceremony has been held to celebrate the opening of the Foxhall Centre Lavender Trust.

Mayor of Ipswich, Roger Fern, and the new High Sheriff of Suffolk, Geoffrey Probert, were among those to officially open the day centre on Monday.

The centre, which acts as a social hub for more than 60 older people in Ipswich, has recently been saved from closure thanks to the efforts of its staff, newly-formed trustee board,



Foxhall Centre Lavender Trust was officially opened last Monday. Picture: CONTRIBUTED

Suffolk Community Foundation and The Pargiter Trust.

Earlier this year, the centre's future was uncertain after Age UK, which funded it, closed.

Debbie Dodd, operations manager, said: "We decided we just couldn't let it close. We just couldn't let it happen."

"We couldn't let all these people who desperately need our help down so we decided to run the centre ourselves."

The centre opens four days a week and has 63 people regularly attending aged between 70 and 105.

Theatre

It has been revealed that master of psychological illusion Derren Brown is bringing his best of show to the Ipswich Regent for a three-night run this summer.

Derren Brown Underground is the latest live show from the multi-award winner.

Direct from its sell-out

London run, it brings together a collection of his favourite work from previous stage tours.

He will perform at 7.30pm on Monday, July 31; Tuesday, August 1; and Wednesday, August 2.

Tickets go on sale from 10am, Tuesday, May 2, via www.ipswichregent.com or by calling 01473 433100.

Unsuitable for under 12s,

people are advised to book early to avoid disappointment.

Brown has redefined the genre of magic for modern audiences, becoming synonymous with the art of psychological manipulation.

His TV shows have become must-see events and his stage shows regularly sell out.

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