



## False Assurance

How would you act?

# 'We thought everything was in place for a successful future but how wrong we all were.'





An exciting film drama created to provoke discussions about how to deal with difficult decisions and topical issues.

- 'False Assurance generated
  enthusiastic discussions from
  audiences of chairs, senior board
  directors and non-executive
  candidates at three Forum events in
  London, Amsterdam and Zurich.'
- 'The film breaks the traditional training mould by providing an in-situ opportunity to discuss key issues and appropriate actions.'

Elin Hurvenes, Founder & Chair, Professional Boards Forum

#### **TOPICAL ISSUES**

False Assurance is unlike other corporate films. It features well known, UK television and film actors and was professionally produced. It raises topical corporate governance questions and will prompt interesting discussions on many issues, including:

- The evaluation of cyber security risks.
- Effectiveness of anti-bribery controls.
- The structure of executive compensation packages.
- The robustness of internal controls around approval of suppliers and agents.
- Effectiveness of whistle-blowing procedures.
- The reliability of internal investigations.

False Assurance also provides an insight into the consequences that may result from a decision to take the 'easy way out' of a dilemma.

The film is split into four parts - each break provides the opportunity to discuss the issues arising in the preceding part and debate what you would do in the same situations. It can be used as part of discussions within board meetings or as part of away-days for non-executive directors and senior management teams.

### 'You know as well as I do that we can't work backwards from the consequences to form a judgment on the accounting.'



False Assurance provides insight into how companies and boards operate. Use as part of discussions within board meetings or as part of away-days for non-executive directors and senior management teams.

#### **BACKGROUND**

While this is ICAEW's first drama production, False Assurance is the fifth film written by Duncan Wiggetts who joined ICAEW in 2014 as Director of Professional Conduct. Duncan started writing educational film dramas while working as a partner within PwC's European risk management team in 2005.

Duncan's second film, *Risking It All*, was used in training all around PwC's international network. That film was subtitled or dubbed in over 20 languages and featured in many workshops for senior management and boards of directors of major international companies.

After returning to legal private practice, Duncan went on to make two more films with more of a corporate governance focus: Counting The Cost and A Price Worth Paying? The latter was featured in an article on the front page of the Wall Street Journal in July 2013. This publicity led to screenings at many major US companies as well as in Europe and the rest of the world.

False Assurance was filmed on location at Chartered Accountants' Hall in London using cinema-quality film equipment. It was directed by award-winning producer/director Nick White, whose 2011 short film *Incorporated* was longlisted for a BAFTA. The cast is an impressive list of faces from British and international film and television productions. The film was co-produced by Area17 and Positive Mass.

#### WHAT'S FALSE ASSURANCE ABOUT?

Alex Frayn, the former chief financial officer of a fictitious company called D-Merton, tells the story of two turbulent years in the life of that company. He explains how D-Merton was brought to its knees by the actions of its executive directors, the lack of vigilance and courage by its board of directors and failure by the company's auditors to identify and investigate red flag issues.

#### **FIND OUT MORE**

For further information about the film and to view the trailer please visit icaew.com/falseassurance email falseassurance@icaew.com or telephone +44 (0)1908 248 250.

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