



**Industry Programme**

# Introduction

This is an exciting year for the BFI Flare Industry Programme. 2016 heralds the 30th Anniversary of BFI Flare, and the exciting and dynamic film programme is testament to the incredible LGBT filmmaking talent in the UK and around the world. So, too, the vibrancy of this year's Industry Programme would not be possible were it not for the leaps and bounds that the film industry has made in embracing LGBT content and nurturing diverse narratives from diverse filmmakers, for diverse audiences.

We celebrate this coming-of-age with an Industry Programme that explores the contemporary landscape of the film industry, the numerous opportunities and avenues available for queer storytelling, new frontiers in science and technology, and the hurdles we still face in making our voices heard. We are delighted to present an Industry Programme of three strands. **The Makers** is a series of one-to-one interviews with filmmakers who have made a major contribution to LGBT representation in the mainstream. **Industry Dialogues** examine the theory and realities of LGBT-related production, distribution and exhibition. Meanwhile, **Labs, Workshops, Roundtables** is a series of events exploring practice in LGBT creative media.

This year, we are extremely honoured to welcome an incredible range of guest speakers, including Silas Howard, Tom Rob Smith, Fenton Bailey, Desiree Akhavan, Donna Deitch, and Hong Khaou, who will share their knowledge, wisdom and experience with us.

We are also very excited to partner with Crossover, Sheffield Doc/Fest, Creative Skillset and National Theatre on **XO LGBTQ**, an intensive training programme designed to counter the lack of visibility for LGBTQ issues in the interactive media and games industries.

As previously announced, we also team up again with British Council for our global programme, **fiveFilms4freedom**, which uses film to champion love as a human right, and also continue developing new LGBT film talent with the **BFI Flare Mentorship** programme, delivered with BAFTA and Creative Skillset.

It seems only right that, to honour this year's expanded Industry Programme, we have a series of **Networking & Social Events** to match! Throughout the festival we will be presenting a series of networking lunches delegate socials and receptions, meaning there are plenty of opportunities for our delegates to catch up with old friends, meet new ones, and raise a glass (or two) to BFI Flare's 30th!

We look forward to welcoming you to the festival.

**Tricia Tuttle**

*Deputy Head of Festivals*

**Jack Casey**

*Industry Office Coordinator*

**Dimitris Boutourelis-Grammatikopoulos**

*Industry Office Assistant*

# The Makers

*The Makers is a series of one-to-one interviews with filmmakers who have made a major contribution to LGBT representation in the mainstream.*

## **The Makers: Fenton Bailey**

*Friday 18 March, 3pm - Studio, BFI Southbank*

Brit Fenton Bailey is one half of the transatlantic creative and business duo World of Wonder, one of the industry's most successful film and TV production companies. With WoW partner Randy Barbato, he's been behind film fiction and doc projects such as *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*, *Inside Deep Throat*, *Party Monster* and the wonderful *Mapplethorpe: Look at the Pictures* in BFI Flare. WoW also deliver the TV phenomenon, *RuPaul's Drag Race*, which has brought drag culture's irreverence and wit to a mainstream American audience. Here he joins us to talk about a career in which he and Barbato have consistently barged the boundaries of mainstream LGBTQ acceptability, pushing buttons and celebrating outsiders with work that has oodles of flair, endless smarts... and a wicked sense of play.

## **Meet Silas: From By Hook or By Crook to Transparent**

*Saturday 19 March, 4:20pm - NFT3, BFI Southbank*

The first transgender director of Jill Soloway's Emmy and Golden Globe-winning hit series *Transparent*, Silas Howard has steadily built a distinctive career as an independent filmmaker since his ground-breaking 2001 feature debut *By Hook or By Crook*. Formerly a member of queer punk band Tribe 8, music still plays a significant role in his work, as seen in sexy, gorgeous music videos for the likes of Peaches and Justin Vivian Bond. Alongside our screening of *By Hook or By Crook*, Howard will join us to show a selection of his work. With much time for questions from the audience, we'll explore themes that fascinate him, how he chooses and develops projects, and also take a wider look at how things have changed for queer and trans filmmakers over the last 15 years.

There is a screening of *By Hook or By Crook* on 19 March after this event.

Host: Tricia Tuttle (BFI Flare)

## **The Makers: Donna Deitch**

*Monday 21 March, 3pm - Studio, BFI Southbank*

In 1986 if you saw lesbians on screen, it almost certainly would have been as mentally ill and tortured souls; sucking your blood as vampires, or stalking you as predatory butches in prison. Donna Deitch changed all that with her gloriously unapologetic and sexy *Desert Hearts*, which was truly, ahem, seminal. The only lesbian film we screened in the first edition of the BFI's LGBT festival (now BFI Flare), it was a groundbreaking drama which allowed lesbians to just love each other. So how delightful that Deitch joins us to discuss a career as a filmmaker in the 30 years since and reflect on what has changed - and what has stayed the same - in lesbian cinema.

Host: Emma Smart (BFI Flare)

## **The Makers: Tom Rob Smith**

*Thursday 24 March, 3pm - Studio, BFI Southbank*

Screenwriter Tom Rob Smith joins us to discuss the making of *London Spy*. At once a gay love story and a thrilling tale of mystery and international espionage, *London Spy* was one of the UK's landmark television moments in 2015. The show tells the story of Danny (Ben Whishaw), who is drawn into a complex and dangerous game after the disappearance of his boyfriend, Alex (Edward Holcroft). With a knockout supporting cast including Charlotte Rampling, Jim Broadbent, Harriet Walter and Mark Gatiss, *London Spy* presents a modern view of the city, where chemsex and covert ops are both a daily reality. This event will explore the show's resounding success, and what this means for the future of LGBT storytelling on television.

Host: Jack Casey (BFI Flare)

## **Industry Dialogues**

*Industry Dialogues explore the theory and realities of LGBT-related production, distribution and exhibition.*

### **The Road to First Feature, with BFI NET.WORK**

*Thursday 17 March, 12:30pm - Delegate Centre, BFI Southbank*

Making the leap from shorts to first feature film is an exciting prospect, but not always a simple one! Filmmakers Desiree Akhavan (*Appropriate Behaviour*), and Hong Khaou (*Lilting*) join NET.WORK Coordinator and Content Editor Matimba Kabalika to discuss the ups, downs, and hairpin bends on the road to first feature.

#### About BFI NET.WORK

BFI NET.WORK is a nationwide collaboration to develop filmmaking talent. They help new writers, directors and producers on the way to their first feature.

Host: Matimba Kabalika (BFI NET.WORK)



### **Renegotiating Narratives of Desire, with kuntuuum**

*Friday 18 March, 1pm - Delegate Centre*

Whilst we have often seen films with lesbians, queer-identified women and transgender people with a trajectory of stigmatization, we seldom simply see the sexual and intimate pleasure our bodies can hold, and the rich, complex narratives that drive this.

Renegotiating Narratives of Desire will create a space to reflect upon what narratives of desire we've seen, which ones we're missing, and why.

The event will explore a series of questions relating to representations of desire. What are the boundaries we face? How do we navigate these potential barriers? What has already been achieved? Are we less radical in representations now in a time where the last few years have been about shifting technologies as well as shifting legalities? How does the representation of desire shift when the filmmakers and characters identities portrayed are queer people of colour?

### About kuntuuum

kuntuuum is an artist-run salon in London for queer-identified female and non-binary creatives. Its mission is to support, empower and provide a space for their voices – as well as cultivate audiences for their work.

Host: Claire Kurylowski (kuntuuum)

### **Meet the Programmers, UK**

*Saturday 19 March, 12pm - Delegate Centre, BFI Southbank*

BFI Flare is delighted to welcome our friends and colleagues from LGBT+ Film Festivals around the UK. Each year, more festivals for LGBT+ film, media and arts are springing up around the UK alongside longstanding favourites. In Meet the Programmers, UK, we will invite representatives from some of these festivals to speak about their events, how they curate their programmes, and how filmmakers can submit work.

Join us to meet the programmers:

Siobhan Fahey – Anomaly Manchester Queer Film Festival (Manchester)

Muffin Hix – Fringe! Queer Film & Arts Fest (London)

Jacob Engelberg – Eyes Wide Open (Brighton)

*More speakers will be confirmed in due course.*

### **Meet the Programmers, International**

*Saturday 19 March, 1pm - Delegate Centre, BFI Southbank*

We are very proud to welcome representatives from LGBT+ Film Festivals around the world to BFI Flare. Each year, we celebrate the global exhibition of LGBT+ film with old friends, and welcome new ones. In Meet the Programmers, International, we will invite representatives from some of these festivals to speak about their events, how they curate their programmes, how filmmakers can submit work, and how LGBT+ content is received around the world.

Join us to meet the programmers:

William Stewart – &PROUD Yangon LGBT Film Festival (Myanmar)

Bohdan Zhuk – Sunny Bunny, Molodist International Film Festival (Ukraine)

Angelo Acerbi – Torino Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (Italy)

Roisín Geraghty – GAZE International LGBT Film Festival (Ireland)

*More speakers will be confirmed in due course.*

### **Keeping up with the Distributors**

*Thursday 24 March, 1pm - Delegate Centre, BFI Southbank*

Because making a film is only half the journey! With appetites for LGBT content growing every day, there is more opportunity than ever before to seek distribution for your work. But in an

ever-changing landscape it can be hard to keep up. Join us for an in-depth analysis of how to find and build audiences in LGBT film markets that continue to change and develop.

Host: Tricia Tuttle (BFI Flare)

## Labs, Workshops, Roundtables

*Labs, Workshops, Roundtables is a series of events exploring practice in LGBT creative media.*

### **The Flare Queer Sci-Tech Lab**

*Sunday 20 March, 11am – NFT3, BFI Southbank*

For this unique event, we assemble a coterie of bold thinkers from the worlds of science, technology, new media, art and the humanities, to explore provocative ideas and concepts, and to discuss key innovations that are packed with queer possibility. Have advances in medicine given us new agency over our own biology? What is the ‘trans’ in ‘transhumanism? How has the internet changed the nature of queer community? Have new media technologies changed the modes of representation available to artists? We’ll close with a look at queer experimental film from the past 30 years which has engaged with ideas about technology – at the level of content and/or form – including works by Peggy Ahwesh, Ryan Trecartin and Zach Blas, amongst others. Ideas will pile up, multiply and crash into each other in a high-energy session that will hopefully prompt much discussion and creative stimulation.

### **Transform**

*Sunday 20 March, 3pm – NFT3, BFI Southbank*

When BFI Flare hosted a panel on transgender representation in 2008, a trans actor in a mainstream drama seemed just a dream. In 2012, we met again for *Are We Nearly There Yet?*, with Paris Lees predicting trans characters would soon appear in TV soaps. Well, a lot has happened since. BBC’s *Boy Meets Girl* has been commissioned for a second series; trans media representation is now major transatlantic news; we’ve seen a Channel 4 trans documentary series; trans actors in indie sensation *Tangerine*; trans director Silas Howard joined *Transparent*, while trans director Lana Wachowski delivered *Sense8* featuring a trans performer as trans character. And by the time BFI Flare 2016 starts, we’ll know if Eddie Redmayne received an Oscar for playing a trans woman. Clearly, it’s time to check back in. Picking up on threads explored in 2015 course *Trans Acting*, a collaboration between The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Gendered Intelligence and My Generation, we will be bringing together casting agents, film/TV makers and actors for a series of panels and workshops looking at where we are and where we want to be. We have a lot to talk about.

*More details of this event will be released in due course.*

### **Creating Online Content**

*Monday 21 March, 1pm - Delegate Centre, BFI Southbank*

From vlogs to webseries and online platforms, the internet offers a whole new world of digital storytelling opportunities. But how do filmmakers exploring this world stand out and make their voices heard? Our expert panel are here to help. Whether you’re seeking a commission, or going it alone, join Adam Gee (Commissioning Editor, Multiplatform & Online Video (Factual),

Channel 4) and Andy Mundy-Castle (director, *The Black Lesbian Handbook*, All 4), for an insight into how to navigate the complexities of creating online content.

Host: Jack Casey (BFI Flare)

## Perfecting the Pitch

*Tuesday 22 March, 1pm - Delegate Centre, BFI Southbank*

For filmmakers today, pitching is an essential requirement of attracting the best talent to a project. However, these conversations are rarely formal 'pitching' set-ups. In our current fast-paced and competitive industry, filmmakers must frequently pitch their projects at the drop of a hat - at festivals, or through mutual contacts. These opportunities can be fleeting, but also have the capacity to make or break a project, and being prepared for them is an essential skill!

Lead by Lucy Scher, Perfecting the Pitch is an informal round table discussion of the dos, the don'ts, and the various forms of pitching in the film industry.

### About Lucy Scher

Lucy was the Director of The Script Factory for its 18 years of operation, and is the author of *Reading Screenplays*. She is inching out of semi-retirement as a screenwriter.

## XO LGBT Pitch

*Wednesday 23 March, 1pm – NFT2, BFI Southbank*

XO LGBTQ is an intensive training programme designed to counter the lack of visibility for LGBTQ issues in the interactive media and games industries. The programme is for creatives involved in film, television, theatre, interactive and immersive production.

Following a five day residential Lab in Manchester, the XO LGBTQ participants will join us at BFI Flare for the XO LGBTQ Pitch. Participants will pitch their projects on stage in front of a panel of industry experts and funders, and an audience of BFI Flare delegates..

XO LGBTQ is produced by Crossover in partnership with BFI Flare: London LGBT Film Festival, Sheffield Doc/Fest, Creative Skillset and National Theatre.



### About Crossover

Crossover is an international training organization dedicated to developing the production of crossmedia content and exploring the creative and commercial challenges of developing digital media. Their process brings together creative professionals from diverse disciplines including

film and TV production, animation, games, theatre and interactive design to form new interdisciplinary collaborations and generate ideas for projects.

## Networking & Social Events

### **Delegate Socials**

*5:30pm - Atrium, BFI Southbank*

Throughout the Festival, we will be hosting a series of Delegate Socials. These are a great opportunity for our delegates to meet each other, wax lyrical about the films they've seen, and enjoy a drink or two!

### **NET.WORK Networking Lunch**

*Thursday 17 March, 1:30pm - Delegate Centre, BFI Southbank*

Join BFI NET.WORK after The Road to First Feature to meet the team, find out about their work, and continue the discussion!

### **BFI Flare Welcome Drinks**

*Thursday 17 March, 7pm - Delegate Centre, BFI Southbank*

2016 marks the 30th Anniversary (Pearl, if you're nasty) of BFI Flare: London LGBT Film Festival. Formed as Gay's Own Pictures in 1986, the festival evolved into London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival from 1988-2013, before being reborn as BFI Flare in 2014. Please join us to celebrate this truly landmark anniversary!

### **TransLondon Reception**

*Sunday 20 March, 7pm – Delegate Centre, BFI Southbank*

Join the Flare team and our friends and community partners, TransLondon, to close the first weekend of the Festival!

TransLondon is a discussion/support group for all members of the 'trans' community, whatever their gender identity (or identities) and whatever stage in their 'transition' they have reached (if at all).

### **Women's Networking Lunch**

*Wednesday 23 March, 1:30pm – Delegate Centre, BFI Southbank*

A networking lunch for women who work in the film and media industry. Pop along and mingle with filmmakers from the festival and beyond.

In association with Looking At You Productions.

### **XO LGBTQ Reception**

*Wednesday 23 March, 3pm – Atrium, BFI Southbank*

Following the XO LGBTQ Pitch, we welcome the XO LGBTQ participants, panelists, and audience to join us for a drink.

## **Student Delegation Social**

*Thursday 24 March, 5pm – Atrium, BFI Southbank*

For the second year running, we are delighted to offer a Student Accreditation at BFI Flare. Join us to meet our Student delegation.

## **Canadian High Commission Reception**

*Thursday 24 March, 6:30pm – Canada House, Trafalgar Square*

Join Festival Filmmakers from the UK and abroad alongside Industry guests to toast our Canadian cousins at the incredible Canada House. \*RSVP essential, invitation to follow\*

*More Industry Events and Networking & Social Events may be added to the Programme nearer the festival. Please check back for updates.*