

BFI APPOINTS DR PAUL GERHARDT AS NEW DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

London, Thursday July 18th 2013: The BFI has appointed a new Director of Education, Dr Paul Gerhardt, to develop and implement an exciting new strategy for BFI Education building on one of the key priorities of the BFI's five year plan for *Film Forever*. From 2nd September 2013, Paul will be responsible for strategy, advocacy and helping position the BFI as a pivotal cultural force for film education across the UK and internationally. The new role will include fostering new educational strategic partnerships, including Higher Education, and working closely with the BFI research and curatorial programmes. Paul will report into the BFI's Deputy CEO Tim Cagney.

Currently running the independent consultancy Archives for Creativity, aimed at stimulating the educational and creative use of film, television and sound, Paul has a wealth of experience across the education, broadcasting, film and archive sectors. Paul's previous roles include Controller of Adult Learning at the BBC and Project Director of the BAFTA winning Creative Archive Project, Head of Commissioning at the BBC / Open University, Nesta's Chair of the Manchester Forum on Digital R&D Fund for the Arts, Co-Chair of JISC's Film and Sound Think Tank, leading a major educational project for the BFI/Arts Council London Development of The Artist in the Archive and a major review of the Arts Council England collections, special advisor for the ACE's The Space project and Executive Producer for John Akomfrah's *The Stuart Hall Project* (2013) and *The Unfinished Conversation* (2012).

Paul joins the BFI at a pivotal time for film education in the UK. The BFI has put educating and investing in young people at the heart of its forward plan for film. Following the hugely successful BFI Film Academy, which launched at the end of 2012, and on the cusp of developing its relationship with a new strategic organisation FILM NATION UK delivering - for the first time ever - a single unified programme for every 5-19 year old to make,

watch and learn about film, the BFI is investing more in film education, and the audiences and filmmakers of the future, than ever before.

Tim Cagney, BFI Deputy CEO said *'Paul couldn't have joined the BFI at a more dynamic and transformative time for film education – at the BFI and across the UK. He has an extraordinary track record having worked across the film, education, broadcasting and archive sectors and is a leading figure in educational research and development as well as having an in-depth and hands-on knowledge of the creative side of film. With education firmly at the heart of the BFI's future strategy I am confident that Paul will help drive forward e opportunities to achieve our big ambitions in this area.'*

Paul Gerhardt said of his new appointment *'I can't think of anything more exciting than working with all the talented people and world class collections at the BFI to put film, film archive and moving image at the heart of what we learn, how we learn and how we share our culture. We have an enormous amount to contribute to shaping the next, critical phase of film education both in the UK and internationally.'*

– Ends –

For media enquiries please contact

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NOTES TO EDITORS

BIOGRAPHY

Dr Paul Gerhardt runs the independent consultancy Archives for Creativity (www.archivesforcreativity.com), working with cultural organisations, public broadcasters and archives to stimulate the educational and creative use of film, television and sound. He has worked with the US Corporation for Public Broadcasting, New Deal of the Mind, LUX, Skillset, Nesta, and co-chaired the Film and Sound Think Tank for JISC. His career in broadcasting spans the early years of Channel 4 through to senior management at the BBC, where he was Controller of Adult Learning, and Head of Commissioning at the BBC/Open University. Paul Gerhardt and his team won a BAFTA for the BBC Creative Archive project.

Paul is currently working with the Arts Council on their film collection, advising the rights agency DACS on new service development, and, recently, working with the BBC on the education phase of the digital public space. In association with the Arts Council and the BFI he has created The Artist in the Archive, which forms relationships between the creative sector and moving image collections. He is also the Executive Producer for John Akomfrah's The Unfinished Conversation (Liverpool Biennial 2012) and The Stuart Hall Story (Sundance Film Festival 2013).

About the BFI

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI is now a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter.

The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Greg Dyke.

