

GURINDER CHADHA DONATES WORKING ARCHIVES TO BFI NATIONAL ARCHIVE



Gurinder Chadha on the set of Viceroy's House with Huma Qureshi

Embargoed until 10am, Monday 6 March 2017, London

With this weekend's release of *Viceroy's House*, the BFI is delighted to announce that Gurinder Chadha, one of the UK's most respected filmmakers, who was awarded an O.B.E. in 2006 for her services to the British Film Industry, has donated her entire working archive to the BFI National Archive.

The Gurinder Chadha archive covers the award-winning Punjabi-British director's work from her breakthrough BFI-produced 1989 documentary, *I'm British But...* (1989) and early shorts, to her BAFTA-nominated feature debut *Bhaji On The Beach* (1993), the international box-office smash *Bend It Like Beckham* (2002), the highest grossing British-financed, British-distributed film, ever in the UK box-office (at time of release), right up to her latest feature, *Viceroy's House* (2017). The archive contains 37 boxes of paper and digital material including script drafts and shooting scripts, story development notes, budgets, correspondence, on-set photographs and other production paperwork as well as extensive material relating to publicity, marketing and press.

The archive reflects Chadha's work as a writer-director with numerous script drafts and handwritten notes for films such as *Bride and Prejudice* (2004), *Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging* (2008), and *It's a Wonderful Afterlife* (2010). Also held is an early script for *Viceroy's House*, dated 2009/10, illustrating Chadha's long-held determination to make a film about Indian Independence. Extensive sets of photograph albums go behind the scenes of films such as the Golden Globe and BAFTA-nominated *Bend it Like Beckham*, showing Chadha working with actors including Keira Knightly, Parminder Nagra and Jonathan Rhys Meyers. The archive also includes hand-drawn storyboards for *Bend It Like Beckham* illuminating the development of this worldwide hit film in its journey from script to screen.

The BFI has enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship with Gurinder Chadha, having supported her career from her early BFI-produced *I'm British But...* to most recently *Viceroy's House*, with National Lottery funding through the BFI Film Fund. A regular at BFI Southbank, Chadha was most recently onstage for a special preview screening of *Viceroy's House* on Sunday 26th February.

The collection has been transported to the BFI National Archive at Berkhamsted where it will be stored in optimal archival conditions. Once catalogued, the archive will be open to the public, with selected material being digitised for access. Recent donations made to BFI National Archive Special Collections include working archives from Sir Alan Parker, Ken Loach, Richard Lester, Jenny Beavan and Alan Whicker.

Nathalie Morris, Senior Curator - Special Collections, BFI said: "We're thrilled that Gurinder Chadha has donated her archive of working papers to the BFI. She has forged a strong and distinctive voice across her career as a director and writer, making films that have huge audience appeal while remaining true to story she wants to tell. I'm delighted that we will be able to open up the archive of a director at the height of her career, enabling the public to explore the way in which Chadha's films have been made and shown."

Gurinder Chadha said: "I am overjoyed that the BFI will be the home to my working archive. For 28 years I have kept a record of all my research, notes, scripts, photos, etc. for all of my films. I realised that this archive comprises an important history of British Asian cinema and I am very pleased that the BFI will now preserve and share it with future generations of film-makers and film enthusiasts."

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 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 Josh Berger CBE.

About the BFI National Archive

The BFI National Archive was founded in 1935 and has grown to become the one of the largest and most important collections of film and television in the world with over 180,000 films and 750,000 television programmes. For over 80 years the BFI has been an international leader in film preservation and guardian of Britain's unparalleled film and TV heritage. The BFI is an innovator in presenting films to audiences in new and dynamic ways, from cinemas to film festivals, outdoor events to online video-on-demand. At the heart of all its activities is the BFI's central aim to ensure that everyone in the UK has access to the widest possible range of film and their own film heritage.

That heritage includes all-time great British directors Alfred Hitchcock, David Lean and Powell and Pressburger; and the rich vein of documentary filmmaking, in which Britain led the world, including the lyrical work of Humphrey Jennings. The archive also boasts a significant Special Collections of filmmakers' papers as well as extensive stills, posters and production and costume designs along with original scripts, press books and related ephemera.

Expert teams undertake the time-consuming and complex task of restoring films at the BFI John Paul Getty Jr Conservation Centre in Hertfordshire. The BFI's most precious film materials are kept in optimum conditions in the world-leading Master Film Store in Warwickshire.

Press contact for further information:

Sarah Bemand, Press Officer Cultural Programme Archive & Heritage, BFI,

Email: sarah.bemand@bfi.org.uk

Tel +44 (0) 207 957 8940

Mobile: 07752 370745