



Paul Greengrass to receive BFI Fellowship at BFI London Film Festival Awards Ceremony

London – 29 August 2017: The BFI and BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express®, today announces that British film director, producer, screenwriter and former broadcast journalist Paul Greengrass (*The Bourne Supremacy*, *The Bourne Ultimatum*, *Captain Phillips*, *Bloody Sunday*) will receive its highest accolade, the **BFI Fellowship**. The presentation will take place at the BFI London Film Festival's annual Awards Ceremony on Saturday 14 October at Banqueting House.

Josh Berger CBE, Chair of the BFI, said: *"I am incredibly proud to be presenting this year's BFI Fellowship to the talented Paul Greengrass, a director, writer and producer whose skill for storytelling is as powerful and courageous as the stories and figures he brings to life in the cinema and on the small screen. As a filmmaker, Paul has been a true pioneer, bringing his instinct and experience from making hard-hitting programmes, such as those for World in Action, into the world of cinema. His distinct ability to combine the visceral with the cerebral and offer a nuanced picture of heroism has injected a bold new realism into action thriller movies, leaving audiences around the world transfixed and eager for more."*

Paul Greengrass commented, *"I'm honoured and thrilled to receive the 2017 BFI Fellowship. The BFI does an extraordinary job, leading our industry both nationally and internationally. It is a beacon of excellence, and most importantly an imaginative and committed champion of new talent. On a personal level, I'm particularly touched, as the BFI has always supported my career and *Bloody Sunday* was financed through the National Lottery 15 years ago. Like so many people in our industry, I owe this wonderful organisation an enormous debt."*

Paul Greengrass, who was last at the BFI London Film Festival with *Captain Phillips* (Opening Night, 2013), started his career in film and TV 40 years ago as a researcher and journalist for TV documentaries, working his way up to producer and director on the acclaimed *World in Action* series from 1984-87 and *Cutting Edge*. Paul's directorial film debut was *Resurrected* (1989) the true story of a British soldier left behind in the Falklands after the war, followed by *The Theory of Flight* (1998), a bittersweet comedy about a young woman suffering with motor neurone disease, starring Sir Kenneth Branagh and Helena Bonham Carter, which screened at the 1998 BFI London Film Festival.

It was Greengrass' third feature, the critically acclaimed *Bloody Sunday* (2002), a powerful dramatisation of the events that led to the Bloody Sunday shootings in Northern Ireland in 1972 and inspired by Don McMullan's politically influential book 'Eyewitness Bloody Sunday', that catapulted Greengrass into the international industry spotlight by winning both the Berlin International Film Festival's Golden Bear (shared with *Spirited Away*) and the Sundance Film Festival's Audience Award.

His TV film, *The Murder of Stephen Lawrence* (1999) won the BAFTA for Best Single Drama and the Special Jury Prize at Banff; his Jason Bourne films changed the face of the action thriller, and the documentary-style realism of *United 93* (2006) about the passengers who lost their lives in wresting control of a plane and crashing, to avoid terrorists targeting it at the White House or the Capitol Building, brought Greengrass an Oscar® nomination. *Captain Phillips* (2013), Greengrass' film about the Maersk Alabama hijacking off the coast of Somalia and starring Tom Hanks, Barkhad Abdi and Faysal Ahmed, launched the 2013 BFI London Film Festival as the Opening Night film. Last year saw Greengrass and Matt Damon reunited for *Jason Bourne*, thrilling critics and audiences worldwide, and this autumn he starts work on his next film, about Anders Behring Breivik, the Norwegian terrorist who murdered 77 people in 2011.

Greengrass has been a strong advocate for filmmakers, spearheading the establishment of Directors UK in 2008, the industry organisation for film and television directors, and championing the need for the industry to be more diverse and inclusive, by creating opportunities for filmmaking talent from different backgrounds to work in film and television. In 2007 he received the Variety UK Achievement in Film award as part of the BFI London Film Festival.

Each year at the LFF Awards Ceremony a BFI Fellowship is bestowed on a film luminary. Previous BFI Fellowships have been presented at the ceremony to Steve McQueen in 2016, Cate Blanchett in 2015, Stephen Frears in 2014, the late Sir Christopher Lee in 2013, Tim Burton and Helena Bonham Carter in 2012, and David Cronenberg and Ralph Fiennes in 2011. Most recently, in the Spring of this year, Peter Morgan was also awarded the BFI Fellowship at the BFI's annual Chairman's Dinner.

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NOTES TO EDITORS**About the BFI Fellowship**

The BFI Fellowship is awarded by the BFI Board of Governors and it is presented for outstanding achievement in film and television. Since 1983, a total of 84 Fellowships have been awarded – the full list is a roll-call of the leading lights of the world of film and television. The Fellowship of the BFI (British Film Institute) was created in 1983 to coincide with the BFI's 50th anniversary. On that occasion the British film industry gathered in the Guildhall for a televised event at which the first group of Fellows were created - Marcel Carné, David Lean, Michael Powell, Emeric Pressburger, Satyajit Ray and Orson Welles.

Since its creation, the BFI Fellowship has been awarded to key figures in British cinema including Peggy Ashcroft, Dirk Bogarde, Alec Guinness, Maggie Smith, Laurence Olivier, Vanessa Redgrave, Mike Leigh, Helena Bonham Carter, Christopher Lee and Stephen Frears. Also recognised have been such film industry luminaries as Jack Cardiff, Sydney Samuelson and Jeremy Thomas, and some of the giants of world cinema, including Michelangelo Antonioni, Abbas Kiarostami, Akira Kurosawa, Jeanne Moreau, Elem Klimov, Bernardo Bertolucci, Al Pacino, and Mel Brooks.

The BFI Fellowship also celebrates achievement in the world of television with such names as Alan Yentob, Jeremy Isaacs, David Rose, Michael Parkinson, Lynda La Plante, Lord Bernstein and Verity Lambert all receiving the award.

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About the BFI

The BFI is the lead organisation 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.

The BFI London Film Festival

BFI London Film Festival is Britain's leading film event and one of the world's best film festivals. It introduces the finest new British and international films to an expanding London and UK-wide audience and attracts significant international film industry participation. LFF is a compelling combination of red carpet glamour, friendly audiences and vibrant exchange. LFF provides an essential profiling opportunity for films seeking global success; promotes the careers of British and international filmmakers through its industry and awards programmes and positions London as the world's leading creative city.

Clare Stewart biography

Clare Stewart's 20 year programming career has encompassed leadership roles as Festival Director, Sydney Film Festival (2006-2011) and the inaugural Head of Film Programs at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image in Melbourne (2002-2006) as well as various roles at the Australian Film Institute (1996-2001), including Exhibition Manager, and programmer and Committee Member of the Melbourne Cinémathèque (1995-2002). She has been BFI Head of Festivals and BFI London Film Festival Director since October 2011.

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