

February 2014 at BFI Southbank



Two month seasons celebrating Al Pacino and Derek Jarman begin, BFI celebrate the work of Feng Xiaogang, and the BFI Future Film Festival returns for the 7th edition

Thursday 19 December 2013, London

- Two part season (February – March) dedicated to **Al Pacino** – a man nominated for no less than 8 Academy Awards and one of the finest actors of his generation. Part One of the season will include an Extended Run of **The Godfather Part II** (1974) as well as screenings of **Scarecrow** (1973), **...And Justice for All** (1979) and **Scarface** (1983)
- 2014 will be a year packed with BFI cultural projects focusing on China, a hugely important territory; this will include a 4 month **CHINA** season in partnership with Toronto International Film Festival. Ahead of this, the February programme at BFI Southbank will include a season dedicated to one of China's biggest directors, a man often compared with Steven Spielberg, **Feng Xiaogang**. The first person from mainland China to have his hands and feet immortalised in cement at Hollywood's Chinese Theatre, Feng's films include **Back to 1942** (2012), **If You Are the One** (2008) and **Aftershock** (2010).
- **Queer Pagan Punk** - celebrating the prolific, iconoclastic and hugely influential film-maker **Derek Jarman**, this two part season (February – March) marks the 20th anniversary of his death and is the largest retrospective of his films ever mounted in the UK, featuring many rarities.
- The **BFI Future Film Festival** returns for the 7th year from February 21-23, with the best in screenings, workshops and Q&As for aspiring filmmakers aged 15-25
- **A Serious Man, A Modern World: Buster Keaton and the Cinema of Today** concludes: part two of the season will include **Buster's Music: An Illustrated Talk by Neil Brand**, as well as screenings of **Steamboat Bill Jr** (1928) and **A Serious Man** (2009).

- **Extended Runs** of the BFI's re-release of Louis Malle's *Lift to the Scaffold* (1958), Stanley Donen's *Funny Face* (1957), and Charles Laughton's *Night of the Hunter* (1955)
- **BUG 41** returns for 2014 with a brand new host for this month; comedian, writer and actor **Ben Bailey Smith** aka **Doc Brown** will take on hosting duties, bringing his unique brand of wit to the BUG proceedings.
- **Discover Arab Cinema** continues with *Thrillers* such as the award-winning *The Attack* (Dir. Ziad Doueiri, 2012)
- Mark the **Chinese New Year** with an afternoon of rarely seen Chinese documentaries including *My Way* and *Let's Fall in Love*
- Celebrate **Valentine's Day** with special previews of *Only Lovers Left Alive* (2013) and *Funny Face* (1957), plus LLGFF favourites *Margarita* (2012) and *Out in the Dark* (2012)
- Previews will include London Film Festival hit *The Invisible Woman* (2013) and *The Dallas Buyer's Club* (2013) starring Matthew McConaughey, in a performance which has already been nominated for a Golden Globe and a Screen Actors Guild award
- BFI Southbank will also celebrate the 30th Birthday of *Spitting Image* with an evening dedicated to the cult TV show. This will include a TV Preview of an *Arena Special* (2014), followed by a **Q&A** with **Peter Fluck**, **Roger Law** and **John Lloyd**
- **Dramatic Spaces: The Imaginative World of the TV Studio** – season celebrating TV dramas that were made in the environment of the TV studio between the 1960s and the 1980s, demonstrating how emerging technology contributed to the creation of a new form, unique to the small screen. Includes *Dead of Night: The Exorcism* (BBC, 1972), *Play for Today: Desert of Lies* (BBC, 1984) and *Wednesday Play: Let's Murder Vivaldi* (BBC, 1968)

LEAD SEASONS AND EVENTS:

AL PACINO

Celebrated with a two month BFI Southbank season through February and March, **Al Pacino** studied acting first at the Herbert Berghof Studio, then under Lee Strasberg at the Actors Studio in New York (where he is currently co-president alongside Ellen Burstyn and Harvey Keitel). During this time Pacino performed a number of minor stage roles, which eventually led to his breakthrough film role in *The Panic in Needle Park* (1971). Under the direction of **Jerry Schatzberg**, (whom he would work with again on the Palme d'Or winning *Scarecrow*) Pacino shone as a young New Yorker addicted to heroin. Following this role Pacino came to the attention of **Francis Ford Coppola** and despite reported protestations from studio execs at Paramount, he was cast in *The Godfather* (1972) as Michael Corleone, a role which proved to be career-making. The follow up *The Godfather Part II* (1974), which netted Pacino a second Oscar nomination for the role, will screen during the season in a 4K restoration, previously unseen in the UK, as it returns to cinemas in a nationwide release (the 1990 *Part III* will screen in part two of the season). In less than a decade Pacino quickly established himself as one of the finest actors of his generation by adding a further three Oscar nominations for *Serpico* (1973), *Dog Day Afternoon* (1975) and *...And Justice for All* (1979), all of which will screen during the season. Pacino's foul-mouthed, power-crazed, coke-fuelled Cuban Tony Montana was another career highlight, with direction from **Brian De Palma** and a script by **Oliver Stone**, *Scarface* (1983) has, despite a lacklustre reception from critics, become a firm favourite amongst fans of the mob film genre.

FENG XIAOGANG

Like Steven Spielberg, with whom he is often compared, **Feng Xiaogang** is a director with the common touch; a skilled storyteller who is the envy of most of his contemporaries. Feng started out as a stage designer before establishing himself as a screenwriter and occasional actor, and in the 1990s was one of the first directors to target mass entertainment movies during the Chinese New Year period. Feng made his name with comedies and satires including *Dream Factory* and *Be*

There Or Be Square, but his reputation and popularity in China were truly sealed with 2002's **Cellphone**, a mockery of evolving social mores in contemporary China, set partially in the TV industry. Also screening will be Feng's joyful romantic comedy **If You Are The One** (2008) and the rather more dark **Assembly** (2007) and **Aftershock** (2010). Finally, Feng's latest film, **Back to 1942** (2012), is a drama about the drought in Henan Province during the 1942 Sino-Japanese War which caused 3 million deaths, and is appropriately mounted on a huge scale. It is also the Chinese entry for the Best Foreign Language film at this year's Academy Awards.

DEREK JARMAN

Queer Pagan Punk will be the largest retrospective of Jarman's films ever mounted in the UK, celebrating the prolific, iconoclastic and hugely influential film-maker and marking the 20th anniversary of his death. Highlights of part one of the season will include new digital restorations of two key films: **Sebastiane** (1975) and **Caravaggio** (1986); archival re-discoveries such as Jarman's earliest known film, once thought lost, **Electric Fairy** (1971); a rarely seen documentary **The Royal Ballet in Rehearsal: Jazz Calendar** (1968) featuring a production designed by a young Jarman; and films by friends, collaborators and key influencers of his career such as **Kenneth Anger**, **Ken Russell** and **Robert Wynne-Simmons**, giving a rich context to themes and subjects which would reappear in Jarman's own films. Jarman was fascinated by the occult and the character of the alchemist, and part one of the season **Jarman and the Occult** will focus on this fascination. He was particularly intrigued by the figure of John Dee, Queen Elizabeth I's astrologer who appears in **Jubilee** (1978), **The Tempest** (1979) and **The Angelic Conversation** (1985). His films were like magic spells, rooted in landscape, visually charged and offering a view of history as a place which could still inform the present, playing with notions of time. His love of the English romantic tradition was informed by a deep love and respect for the work of the artists **Paul Nash** and **John Piper** and film-maker **Michael Powell**. Special guests in February will include **Toyah Willcox**, **John Maybury**, **James Mackay** and **Dexter Fletcher**. The season is part of a wider celebration entitled Jarman 2014 which includes exhibitions, screenings and events with a wide range of partners including a major focus at King's College, *Derek Jarman: Pandemonium*.



A SERIOUS MAN, A MODERN WORLD: BUSTER KEATON AND THE CINEMA OF TODAY

BFI Southbank's season dedicated to the comic genius of **Buster Keaton**, and to the modern films which bear stylistic and thematic resemblance to Keaton's oeuvre concludes this month. A highlight of the season in February will be **Buster's Music: An Illustrated Talk by Neil Brand**, in which the musician ponders Buster's films from the pianist's perspective. Some of Keaton's greatest onscreen appearances will be screened in February including **Battling Butler** (1926), **Steamboat Bill Jr** (1928) and **The Blacksmith** (1922), while the 'Keatonesque' films on offer will include the Cohen Brother's **A Serious Man** (2009) and Jim Jarmusch's **Broken Flowers** (2005).

DRAMATIC SPACES: The Imaginative World of the Television Studio

Between 1964 and 1984 developing television technology, associated with the ingenuity of certain producers and directors, revolutionised what could be achieved in the studio. This season revisits that exciting 20 year period by showcasing a selection of productions – some unseen for nearly 50 years – that highlight the breadth of vision in the use of studio space and the creation of a new form unique to TV drama. Season highlights will include Don Taylor's horrifying **The Exorcism** (1972), Alan Bridges' version of Strindberg's **Miss Julie** (1965) and Philip Saville's highly experimental **The Journal of Bridget Hitler** (1981). While some plays exploited the minimalist studio space, some used the blank canvas of the studio to realise epic productions such as Howard Brenton's **Desert of Lies** (1984), in which the studio was transformed into the Kalahari desert. The advent of blue-screen image compositing allowed live action to be superimposed on to any

background; the season will feature some striking examples of CSO and offers a rare opportunity to see Howard Schuman's never-transmitted *Censored Scenes from King Kong* (1974). This season demonstrates how the television studio was a site of intense dramatic performance, expressive mise-en-scène and extraordinary imagined worlds.

BFI SOUTHBANK EVENT LISTINGS FOR FEBRUARY:

Valentine's Day Preview: ***Only Lovers Left Alive***

USA 2013. Dir Jim Jarmusch. With Tilda Swinton, Tom Hiddleston, Mia Wasikowska, John Hurt. 123min. Digital. 15. Courtesy of Soda Pictures

Adam, a rock-star recluse living in the ruins of Detroit, calls for Eve, a prolific consumer of fine literature, to visit him from Tangier. He's come to a crisis of boredom, no longer able to interact with the zombies (humans) that love his music. She gathers supplies for the journey, including a bottle of 'the good stuff'. Languorous, with deadpan wit and flawless performances, Jarmusch's take on vampiric eternal life is utterly wonderful, and a perfect continuation of BFI Gothic: Love is a Devil.

Tickets £15, concs £11.50 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Fri 14 Feb 20:30 NFT1

The Grand Budapest Hotel

USA-Germany 2014. Dir Wes Anderson. With Ralph Fiennes, Saoirse Ronan, Tilda Swinton, Tony Revolori. Min & cert tbc. Courtesy of Fox International

Monsieur Gustave is the stuff of legend as the concierge at The Grand Budapest Hotel. Every guest gets his full attention and is treated as a personal friend, and as he himself says 'I sleep with all of my friends'. Lobby boy Zero calls on the concierge to be his mentor, and joins him in the battle for an enormous fortune gifted to Gustave by a regular guest. Wes Anderson brings together a spectacular cast for this tale set between the two world wars.

Tickets £15, concs £11.50 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Tue 25 Feb 20:30 NFT1

Preview: ***The Invisible Woman***

UK 2013. Dir Ralph Fiennes. With Ralph Fiennes, Felicity Jones, Kristin Scott Thomas, Tom Hollander. 111min. Digital. Cert tbc. Courtesy of Lionsgate Pictures

The secret love story of aspiring young actress Nelly Ternan and Charles Dickens, at the height of his career. Fiennes' nuanced direction of Abi Morgan's (*Shame*) screenplay illuminates the exquisite pain of their affair: the moral dilemma for Dickens, and the sense of entrapment for Nelly as she's forced to keep their love clandestine. This restrained and intimate romance gracefully lays bare the gender politics of the era.

Tickets £15, concs £11.50 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Tue 4 Feb 18:10 NFT1

Preview: ***Dallas Buyers Club***

USA 2013. Dir Jean-Marc Vallée. With Matthew McConaughey, Jared Leto, Jennifer Garner. 117min. Courtesy of Entertainment One UK

McConaughey is astounding in the role of real-life rodeo hot shot Ronald Woodruff, who tested positive for HIV in 1985. Living a rough and ready trailer park life, filled with drug use and rodeo groupies, Ron is shocked by his diagnosis and angered by the lack of treatment available in the US. Setting up a 'Buyers Club' by selling

unlicensed drugs from around the world, he becomes a local hero. Vallée's film is warm-hearted and often funny, with a stellar cast.

Tickets £15, concs £11.50 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Wed 5 Feb 20:40 NFT1

Preview: ***Common*** + Q&A with Jimmy McGovern, producer Colin McKeown, director David Blair plus cast
LA Productions for BBC One 2013. Dir David Blair. With Nico Mirallegro, Daniel Mays, Susan Lynch, Jodhi May. 90min

Renowned writer Jimmy McGovern follows on from acclaimed dramas *Hillsborough* and *Dockers* with his customary zeal for giving a voice to the unheard. *Common* examines the potential for injustice with the Joint

Enterprise or 'Common Purpose' rule; a young man gives friends an impromptu lift to a pizza parlour and finds himself charged with murder.

Please check the BFI website for confirmed panellists closer to the date

Thu 20 Feb 20:15 NFT1

BUG 41: The Evolution of Music Video

The mighty *BUG* returns for 2014, with another selection of fine cinematic and sonic fruits to nourish your cultural souls. Adam 'Dr Buckles' Buxton is taking a year out, so we're lining up a series of exciting mystery guests to step in and take the bridge of the USS *BUG* and captain us to where no man has gone before. Well, maybe not that far, but you get the drift. Please check the BFI website for announcements and remember to book early to avoid disappointment!

Tickets £15, concs £11.50 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Fri 28 Feb 18:30 NFT1

Fri 28 Feb 20:45 NFT1

The Centenary of *The Little Tramp*

This special event marks the centenary of the birth of Charlie Chaplin's 'little tramp'. One hundred years ago this week the iconic character first stepped in front of the camera at the Keystone studios. David Robinson, Chaplin's official biographer, presents his latest thoughts on Chaplin and the tramp and celebrates the launch of his new book 'The World of Limelight,' commissioned by the Cineteca di Bologna, which draws on previously unpublished material from the Chaplin archive.

Tue 4 Feb 18:20 NFT3

In the Tradition of Magick: the Cinema of Derek Jarman

Alchemical symbolism and the associated themes of divination and ritual run right through Derek Jarman's work – from his early Super8 films to his rich, ambitious features. Using stills, extracts and quotes, season curator William Fowler will explore how the artist reimagined cinema as an occult technology, highlighting its capacity to challenge reality and present the world in a different light.

Tickets £6

Mon 17 Feb 18:30

BFI Reuben Library

Jarman on the Thames

The Thames flows strongly through the life and work of Derek Jarman; a forceful presence as he was a student at King's College London in the 1960s and then as a resident of various waterfront warehouses in the 1970s. In this talk Mark Turner – curator of King's Cultural Institute's *Derek Jarman: Pandemonium* exhibition – considers Jarman's life in the context of a shifting and gentrifying London, with the river as a focal point. Turner also looks at the way London's streets and buildings exert a powerful influence on Jarman's artistic output.

Tickets £6

Mon 24 Feb 18:30

BFI Reuben Library

The Derek Jarman Archives

In this special event we delve into an incredibly rich collection of papers, designs and sketchbooks donated by Jarman to the BFI, and look at these alongside his completed films to gain a unique insight into his inspirations, artistic vision and working methods. Following a lavishly illustrated presentation from Nathalie Morris – Senior Curator, BFI Special Collections – we'll be joined by Stephen Farthing and Ed Webb-Ingall to discuss the process of editing the book *Derek Jarman's Sketchbooks* for Thames and Hudson, and to share their personal highlights from the collections.

Tickets £6

Tue 25 Feb 18:10 NFT3

TV Preview: Arena: Spitting Image + Q&A

BBC 2014. Dir Anthony Wall. 60min

Thirty years ago Roger Law and Peter Fluck were happily ensconced in a converted Temperance Hall in Cambridge making cruelly funny plasticine caricatures. These models were photographed and presented to the world in print under the anonymous byline 'Luck & Flaw.' Unlike a drawing, the caricatures looked like they might move and, Geppetto-style, they did. Law and Fluck, with co-conspirator, TV comedy supremo John Lloyd, unleashed one of the most shocking and hilarious TV series ever. Arena tells the story of Spitting Image.

Followed by a Q&A with Peter Fluck, Roger Law, John Lloyd, Anthony Wall

Thu 27 Feb 18:10 NFT1

Spitting Image: A 30th Anniversary Celebration + Q&A

TRT: 120min

We're delighted to host a panel of well known writers and performers who gave the show its satirical edge and who became household names in the process, alongside some of their victims – politicians and celebrities – who will discuss the effect their puppet personas had on their careers. Using illustrative clips, we examine the show's controversial impact at the time and its lasting legacy, and reveal behind-the-scenes secrets of the performers, puppeteers, writers and directors. So, in the words of one famous crew member: 'puppets up, loves – wave those dollies in the air!'

Panellists include impressionist Steve Nallon, Lord Roy Hattersley and Lord David Steel. Please check the BFI website for more confirmed guests closer to the date

Thu 27 Feb 20:45 NFT1

The 7th BFI Future Film Festival

Fri 21 – Sun 23 Feb

BFI Southbank, various venues from 11am each day. Tickets: 15 – 18 year olds: £6 per day or come to all three days for just £12 19 – 25 year olds: £10 per day or come to all three days for just £20

Documentary Day

Our documentary day offers budding and experienced filmmakers of documentary and factual film the chance to network and gain valuable insights into the industry. Practical workshops and masterclasses will cover everything from pitching and planning your film to developing transmedia projects. We'll have guest speakers from the industry alongside emerging documentary talent; a live VJ performance of *DocNext: European Souvenirs*; and a preview of Mark Cousins' *The Story of Children and Film*.

See bfi.org.uk/futurefilm for updates on special guests

Fri 21 Feb from 11:00

Fiction Day

Telling stories on film has never been easier... and with our fantastic line-up of guest speakers, practical storytelling workshops, and inspirational screenings of shorts and feature films you'll be armed with all the tools you need to take your fiction filmmaking to the next level. Whether you're just starting your journey as a filmmaker or if you already have a showreel of films under your belt, there's something for everyone, from writers, directors, and producers, to DOPs, technicians and production designers. There'll also be special screenings of features including new UK teenflick *We Are The Freaks* (2013) plus a Q&A with cast and crew.

Sat 22 Feb from 11:00

Animation Day

Animation doesn't have to be a solitary business. Come and join hundreds of experts and independent young animators at our dedicated animation day. Whether you're a bedroom animator or a recent animation graduate there'll be masterclasses and workshops for all abilities to help you with everything from scripting and cinematography to sound design. We'll have events covering funding and commissioning; networking sessions to help you form collaborations,

collectives and partnerships; plus screenings with talent Q&As – including a special preview of British animation feature *Saving Santa*.

Sun 23 Feb from 11:00

Press Contacts:

Liz Parkinson – Assistant Press Officer, BFI Southbank

liz.parkinson@bfi.org.uk / 020 7957 8918

Caroline Jones – Press Officer, BFI Southbank

caroline.jones@bfi.org.uk / 020 7957 8986

NOTES TO EDITORS:

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 Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £11.00, concs £8.50 Members pay £1.50 less on any ticket. Website www.bfi.org.uk/southbank

Tickets for FREE screenings and events must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment

BFI Shop

The BFI Shop is stocked and staffed by BFI experts with over 1,200 book titles and 1,000 DVDs to choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI.

The benugo bar & kitchen

Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo's décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. The place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI / BFI Southbank / February 2014