



***UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 11.30AM WEDS 7th SEPT**

London, Wednesday 7 September: The programme for the 55th BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express launched today by Artistic Director Sandra Hebron, celebrates the imagination and excellence of international filmmaking from both established and emerging talent. Over 16 days the Festival will screen a total of 204 fiction and documentary features, including 13 World Premieres, 18 International Premieres and 22 European Premieres*. There will also be screenings of 110 live action and animated shorts. Many of the films will be presented by their directors, cast members and crew, some of whom will also take part in career interviews, masterclasses, and other special events. The 55th BFI London Film Festival will run from 12-27 October.

GALAS & SPECIAL SCREENINGS:

Opening the festival is Fernando Meirelles' *360*, written by Peter Morgan, and starring Sir Anthony Hopkins, Jude Law and Rachel Weisz. Weisz is also the star of Terence Davies' closing night film, *THE DEEP BLUE SEA*, alongside a cast which includes Simon Russell Beale and Tom Hiddleston. Key talent will be in attendance for both films. George Clooney features in two Gala presentations - the political thriller *THE IDES OF MARCH* which he directs and stars in alongside Ryan Gosling, Evan Rachel Wood, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Paul Giamatti, and *THE DESCENDANTS*, Alexander Payne's latest feature. Among several literary adaptations are Lynne Ramsay's *WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN* with Tilda Swinton, John C. Reilly and Ezra Miller; *TRISHNA*, Michael Winterbottom's reworking of Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, with Freida Pinto and Riz Ahmed; and *CORIOLANUS* with Ralph Fiennes directing as well as taking the lead role alongside Gerard Butler and Vanessa Redgrave. Redgrave is also cast in Roland Emmerich's *ANONYMOUS* with Rhys Ifans, Joely Richardson and David Thewlis. Madonna directs romantic drama *W.E.* which stars Abbie Cornish, Andrea Riseborough and James D'Arcy whilst Steve McQueen's second feature *SHAME* has a cast that includes Carey Mulligan and Michael Fassbender. Fassbender can also be seen alongside Viggo Mortensen and Keira Knightley in David Cronenberg's *A DANGEROUS METHOD*. Foreign language cinema is represented by *THE KID WITH A BIKE*, the Cannes Grand Prix winner from the Dardenne brothers; Nanni Moretti's *WE HAVE A POPE*; and Michel Ocelot's enchanting animation *TALES OF THE NIGHT*. Hollywood's silent era is celebrated in Michel Hazanavicius' *THE ARTIST*

* Figures correct at time of printing

whilst this year's Archive Gala is the BFI National Archive's restoration of Miles Mander's *THE FIRST BORN* with a new score by Stephen Horne.

FILM ON THE SQUARE:

Showcasing some of this year's most anticipated and acclaimed films, the selection includes work from renowned directors such as Roman Polanski (*CARNAGE*), Gus Van Sant (*RESTLESS*), Werner Herzog (*INTO THE ABYSS: A TALE OF DEATH, A TALE OF LIFE*), Todd Solondz (*DARK HORSE*), Jonathan Demme (*I'M CAROLYN PARKER*) and Jonas Mekas (*SLEEPLESS NIGHTS STORIES*). Star power is provided by Jack Black in Richard Linklater's *BERNIE*; Sean Penn in Paolo Sorrentino's *THIS MUST BE THE PLACE*; Joseph Gordon-Levitt teams with Seth Rogen in Jonathan Levine's *50/50*, whilst Woody Harrelson stars in Oren Moverman's *RAMPART*, developed from a screenplay by James Ellroy. British films include Andrea Arnold's bold retelling of *WUTHERING HEIGHTS*, Marc Evans' *HUNKY DORY*, a celebration of pre-punk 70s pop culture, and Nick Broomfield's *SARAH PALIN – YOU BETCHA!* International cinema takes centre stage in the West End with a powerful selection of premieres including Norway's Joachim Trier's stunning *OSLO, AUGUST 31st*; Bruno Dumont's provocative *HORS SATAN*; and Cannes Grand Prix winner Nuri Bilge Ceylan's audacious *ONCE UPON A TIME IN ANATOLIA*. Mexico's Gerardo Naranjo delivers a thrilling action film with *MISS BALA*, whilst divided family life in Japan is the focus of Hirokazu Kore-eda's engaging *I WISH*, and Australia's most infamous serial murder case inspires Justin Kurzel's first feature *SNOWTOWN*. Other feature debuts include Dee Rees's emotionally powerful *PARIAH*; Sean Durkin's beautifully disturbing *MARTHA MARCY MAY MARLENE* and Nick Murphy's 1920s set supernatural tale *THE AWAKENING*.

NEW BRITISH CINEMA:

Original cinematic voices from across the UK making their debuts this year include D.R. Hood with the haunting *WRECKERS* starring Claire Foy and Benedict Cumberbatch, and Tinge Krishnan with the social drama *JUNKHEARTS* in which Eddie Marsan heads a cast which includes Tom Sturridge and Romola Garai. London is the setting for Dexter Fletcher's drama *WILD BILL*, starring Charlie Creed-Miles; and Andrew Haigh's second feature, *WEEKEND*, is an original and affecting romance. Nirpal Bhogal's fresh young cast enliven urban drama *SKET*, and *LOTUS EATERS* finds director Alexandra McGuinness introducing us to the city's indulgent, affluent youth. Frances Lea's *STRAWBERRY FIELDS* provides an escape to the country with a story of lust, rivalry and liberation. A strong selection of British work include films which imaginatively blur the boundaries between documentary and drama such as Richard Jobson's response to the Iraq war, *THE SOMNAMBULISTS*, Simon Pummell's *SHOCK HEAD SOUL* and *DREAMS OF A LIFE* by Carol Morley. Paul Kelly's portrait of cult hero, *LAWRENCE OF BELGRAVIA* and Daniel Edelsyn's *HOW TO RE-ESTABLISH A VODKA EMPIRE* round out the documentary selection.

FRENCH REVOLUTIONS:

The focus on French cinema brings a wide range of new and established filmmakers including Dominik Moll, with *THE MONK* starring Vincent Cassel and Geraldine Chaplin. Chaplin also appears with Salma Hayek in *AMERICANO*, the feature debut of actor Mathieu Demy. From the directorial team of Nicolas Klotz and Elisabeth Perceval, *LOW LIFE* is a study of the trials facing French youth that has universal resonance whilst Laurent Achard provides a macabre touch in *LAST SCREENING* and popular comedian Emmanuel Mouret brings wry comedy to *THE ART OF LOVE*. Among a number of French directors returning to the Festival are Mathieu Amalric with a modern adaptation of Corneille's classic play, *THE SCREEN ILLUSION*, Jean-Marc Moutout examining executive culture in *EARLY ONE MORNING* and Mathieu Kassovitz directing himself in the provocative military drama, *REBELLION*.

CINEMA EUROPA:

A diverse selection of filmmakers bring Europe into focus with films from countries including Belgium, Bulgaria, Ireland, Sweden, Austria, Romania, Poland, Slovakia, The Czech Republic, Denmark, The Netherlands, Russia and Iceland, as well as Italy, Spain and Germany. Highlights include Benito Zambrano's post-Spanish Civil War drama *THE SLEEPING VOICE*; Iceland's Rúnar Rúnarsson's *VOLCANO*; Angelina Nikonova's *TWILIGHT PORTRAIT*, a study in Russian institutional corruption, Andrea Molaioli's Italian conspiratorial drama *THE JEWEL*, Ulrich Köhler's *SLEEPING SICKNESS* and the World Premiere of Hans Weingartner's *HUT IN THE WOODS*. There are a number of outstanding directorial debuts which include Jonathan Cenxual Burley's absurdist road movie, *THE SOUL OF FLIES*; Andrea Segre's *LI AND THE POET* and Marie Kreutzer's *THE FATHERLESS*. From Germany, the unique *DREILEBEN* project brings together Christian Petzold, Dominik Graf and Christoph Hochhäusler with three very different features that share an incidental starting point. Documentary features include Andrey Paounov's *THE BOY WHO WAS A KING* and *WHORES' GLORY* from Michael Glawogger, who will be one of the four Austrian filmmakers with work in the Festival who will be participating in a special panel discussion on the current state of Austrian cinema.

WORLD CINEMA:

An extensive selection of the finest features and documentaries from across the globe includes new films from well known filmmakers and emerging voices. Highlights from the US include *NATURAL SELECTION*, the brilliant debut from Robbie Pickering that swept the board at this year's SXSW Film Festival awards; Ken Kesey and The Merry Band of Pranksters' trek across America is revisited in *MAGIC TRIP* from directors Alison Ellwood and Alex Gibney; whilst a journey of a different kind features in Braden King's *HERE*, part road-movie, part love-story and part investigation of cinema itself. Tristan Patterson's skateboarding documentary *DRAGONSLAYER* and Michael Barnett's hugely entertaining *SUPERHEROES* about real life crimefighters offer fascinating glimpses of American life. Latin American cinema is well represented with *HARD LABOUR*, a blistering dissection of the class structure of Brazilian society from directors Juliana Rojas and Marco Dutra;

KAREN CRIES ON THE BUS, the debut feature from Colombia's Gabriel Rojas Vera; Laura Citarella's OSTENDE and Santiago Mitre's THE STUDENT, both from Argentina. The notable rise of ethnically Tibetan filmmaking is evidenced in Pema Tseden's OLD DOG and Sonthar Gyal's THE SUN-BEATEN PATH whilst other East Asian highlights include Hong Sangsoo's THE DAY HE ARRIVES and Kim Kyung-Mook's STATELESS THINGS, both from South Korea; Jiang Wen's LET THE BULLETS FLY, China's highest-grossing film; Ann Hui's A SIMPLE LIFE, and Yuya Ishii's MITSUKO DELIVERS. Indian cinema is represented this year by titles including Salim Ahamed's ABU, SON OF ADAM, a rare and poignant tale of Muslim community life in Kerala; Gurvinder Singh's ALMS OF THE BLIND HORSE and Kaushik Mukherjee's cult film in the making ASSHOLE.

EXPERIMENTA:

This year's programme features an innovative and cutting edge selection of films to inspire. Highlights include TWO YEARS AT SEA, the new work from Jarman Prize nominee and Rotterdam Tiger Award winner Ben Rivers; CORRESPONDENCE: JONAS MEKAS – JL GUERÍN, a series of five cinematic letters presented in Spanish and English; and FREE RADICALS: A HISTORY OF EXPERIMENTAL FILM from Pip Chodorov. Lewis Klahr returns to the Festival with THE PETTIFOGGER and other featured filmmakers include Phil Solomon, Chick Strand, Gabriel Abrantes, Robert Fenz and Nathaniel Dorsky. *Altered States* is a selection of shorts from filmmakers including Ben Russell, Neil Beloufa, Mary Helena Clark and Deborah Stratman.

TREASURES FROM THE ARCHIVE:

Highlighting invaluable restoration work, these cinematic treasures will entertain and capture the imagination in equal measure. Titles include a digital restoration of George Sidney's exuberant, good-natured satire on rock'n'roll BYE BYE BIRDIE with Janet Leigh; Humphrey Bogart stars in Edward Dmytryk's epic THE CAINE MUTINY; Elia Kazan's Oscar-winning AMERICA, AMERICA and Marcel Carné's timeless masterpiece, LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS. The latest restoration by Martin Scorsese's World Cinema Foundation, LAW OF THE BORDER will also feature alongside the little seen Roberto Rossellini film, THE MACHINE THAT KILLS BAD PEOPLE. One of two colour features from the prolific Japanese master Kenji Mizoguchi, SHIN-HEIKE MONOGATARI, will play in the section along with WE CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN by Nicholas Ray, a film which anticipated experiments by Jean Luc Godard, Mike Figgis et al. And from close to home comes WONDERFUL LONDON programme, restored by the BFI National Archive, in which directors Harry B. Parkinson and Frank Miller capture some of the most evocative images of the capital in the mid-1920s.

SHORT CUTS AND ANIMATION:

A strong line-up of short films and animation that will captivate audiences young and old make up this year's programme. Animation from around the globe is covered including a

dedicated collection aimed at the younger audience, *Animated Shorts for Younger Audiences*, which include FUNNY ALPHABET and PICKELS IN A PICKLE. Exciting new filmmakers from the capital are showcased in *London Calling*, experiences of modern urban living are the focus of *The Suburbs*, and LONG DISTANCE INFORMATION and HOLD ON ME feature in *The School of Life*, a series dealing with issues such as family duty and conscience. Talent spotters will be able to see established names including Nicholas Hoult, Michael Fassbender and Luke Treadaway, along with new shorts from director Terry Gilliam and comedian Matthew Holness.

EVENTS:

To accompany the screenings, the festival will present an extensive programme of public events featuring panel discussions, on-stage interviews and masterclasses. There will also be a number of free events. This year's Screen Talks, presented in partnership with American Express, feature directors Michael Winterbottom and Alexander Payne. The Masterclasses, presented in partnership with Swarovski, feature celebrated writer Abi Morgan, writer-director Miranda July, award-winning composer Alexandre Desplat and cinematographer Barry Ackroyd. Other highlights include an in-depth look at the making of WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN with key members of the cast and crew, one of three free to access events presented in collaboration with Time Out.

AWARDS:

The BFI London Film Festival Awards recognise creative excellence from both new and established filmmaking talent. Taking place on 26 October at LSO St Luke's, awards presented include: Best Film, The Grierson Award for Best Documentary, The Sutherland Award for most imaginative and original first feature in the festival, Best British Newcomer Award and the BFI Fellowship. This year's jurors and full awards shortlists will be announced on 4 Oct – full details will be available at bfi.org.uk/lff.

FILM GUESTS:

In addition to many of the names already highlighted, we expect to welcome guests including Alexander Payne, Andrea Arnold, Azazel Jacobs, Ben Rivers, Braden King, Bruno Dumont, Carol Morley, David Cronenberg, Dexter Fletcher, Elisabeth Olsen, Fernando Meirelles, Freida Pinto, George Clooney, Hans Weingartner, Harry Belafonte, Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, Joe Swanberg, Jonas Mekas, Jonathan Demme, Lynne Ramsay, Marina Goldovskaya, Michael Fassbender, Michael Shannon, Michael Winterbottom, Miranda July, Nanni Moretti, Nuri Bilge Ceylan, Phil Solomon, Ralph Fiennes, Roland Emmerich, Sean Durkin, Shailene Woodley, Terence Davies and Yorgos Lanthimos.

ENDS

FOR FURTHER PRESS INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:



55th BFI London Film Festival Press Office:

Christelle Randall	christelle.randall@premierpr.com	+44 (0)20 7292 8330
Paul Smith	paul.smith@premierpr.com	Account Director
Sam Ross	sam.ross@premierpr.com	Head of Print Press
Sanam Jehanfard	sanam.jehanfard@premier.com	Head of Broadcast
Annabel Hutton	annabel.hutton@premierpr.com	Head of Online
Simone Devlin	simone.devlin@premierpr.com	International Press
Lucinda Glover	lucinda.glover@premierpr.com	Press Accreditation
Tom Westgate	tom.westgate2@premierpr.com	Press Events Manager
		Press Screenings Manager

For film images please go to: www.image.net

Website: www.premierpr.com

Opening and Closing Night Enquiries

Freud Communications:

Sal James	sal.james@freud.com	+44 (0)20 3003 6300
Bianca Boey	bianca.boey@freud.com	Media Management
		Ticket Requests

Website: www.freud.com

BFI Press Enquiries

Press Office	pressoffice@bfi.org.uk	+44 (0)20 7957 4833
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FESTIVAL INFORMATION AND TICKET BOOKING

Tickets go on sale to the public on 26 September

Telephone Bookings: 0207 928 3232 between 09.30 – 20.30

Online: www.bfi.org.uk/lff (no booking or postal fee)

In person: BFI Southbank Office: 11.30 – 20.30

BFI Members receive priority booking : join at www.bfi.org.uk/join

nb. Tickets are available to be purchased on the day about 30 minutes prior to the screening at Festival venues

THE 55th BFI FILM FESTIVAL SPONSORS AND FUNDERS

We are delighted to welcome **American Express** back for their second year as Principal Sponsor.

We thank **DCMS** and we acknowledge and are very grateful for the support the Festival receives from the **National Lottery**. We are delighted to be supported directly by the **Mayor of London** for the first time as a funding contributor, alongside **Skillset**.

We are proud to continue to work with **American Airlines**, the Festival's long-standing official airline. The Festival is also pleased to be working with **Jameson Irish Whiskey**, the Official Spirit of the Festival, who this year are sponsoring the Film on the Square strand. **TV5Monde** will return to sponsor the French Revolutions strand for their seventh consecutive year and for the first year sponsoring an Education Event . New Official Beer Partner **Kirin Ichiban** will sponsor the Short Cuts and Animations strand. We are also pleased to be working again with **Swarovski** who will be supporting both our Masterclasses and the Best British Newcomer Award. We also welcome new sponsor **MontBlanc** to the Awards this year.

Many thanks to the Festival's generous in-kind Sponsors: returning Official Hotel **The May Fair**; returning Official Festival Car Supplier **Renault**; returning photography sponsor **Getty Images**; cinema advertising partner **Digital Cinema Media**; returning cinema partner **Vue**; and official make up brand **MAC Cosmetics** . Additionally, we would like to thank **Soho House, Odeon, Midnite Express, Official water sponsor Icelandic Glacial, Green & Black's Organic chocolate, The Picture Production Company, CBS Outdoor, The Hospital Club, Impact Distribution** and the **Curzon Cinemas** for their continued support.

We are delighted to welcome back Media Partner **Evening Standard**, as well as valued Broadcast Partner **BBC London**. Thanks also goes to returning Media Partners **Empire, Time Out, Sight & Sound, Variety, Screen International, The Hollywood Reporter** and **LOVEFiLM** for continuing to provide invaluable media support.

The Festival would also like to give a huge thanks to **Christie digital projectors, Newman Displays** and **Molinare** .

Finally, the Festival would like to thank **Adobe, MEDIA Desk UK** and the many embassies and cultural institutes who support the Festival by helping to bring in filmmakers to present their work.

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
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of filmmakers and audiences

The BFI London Film Festival

The BFI London Film Festival champions creativity, originality, vision and imagination by annually showcasing the best of contemporary world cinema, documentaries, shorts, animation and experimental film. The BFI London Film Festival is a highly regarded and anticipated event in Europe's cultural calendar, attracting leading international filmmakers, industry professionals and the media together with large public audiences to London for a two week showcase of the best in contemporary world cinema.

Last year's Festival hosted 201 feature films and 112 short films from 68 countries including 11 world premieres. There were 629 filmmakers in attendance, drawing the highest ever audience attendance of over 132,000 filmgoers. The Festival opened with the European Premiere of NEVER LET ME GO and closed with the European Premiere of 127 HOURS.

www.bfi.org.uk

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The company has multi - year partnerships with a range of entertainment institutions including AEG Live, Ticketmaster, Live Nation and the British Film Institute. For full details, or to sign up to receive the free eNewsletters visit www.amex.co.uk/music

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