



55th BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL UNVEILS PACKED INDUSTRY PROGRAMME

Highlights include Power to the Pixel and the Film London Production Finance Market, plus new initiatives to champion British filmmakers

London: The 55th BFI London Film Festival in association with American Express today announced an exciting line up of events and services for UK and international film professionals. The comprehensive programme of events, held at BFI Southbank and other London venues, underlines the festival's steadfast commitment to supporting the British film industry.

The BFI London Film Festival's Industry Office partners a wide range of film industry businesses and organisations to deliver its events programme, including Power to the Pixel, Film London, Skillset (Sector Skills Council for Creative Media), Women in Film and Television, the British Council, Festival Scope, the National Film and Television School, London Film School, Film London, Spotlight and Advanced Films.

The festival's enhanced industry offer and wide ranging partnerships reflect the new role of the BFI, which on 1 April became the UK's lead body for film tasked with creating a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive.

This year, for the first time, the BFI London Film Festival Industry Programme is generously supported by the Mayor of London.

BFI London Film Festival Artistic Director Sandra Hebron says: *"I am proud that the Festival industry office is once again offering such a high standard of services for colleagues in the UK and internationally. The industry events programme enriches the BFI London Film Festival, making it an incubator for exciting new filmmaking talent, cutting edge cross-media collaboration, and providing all the right conditions to foster relationships between the international market and British producers."*

Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, says: *"I am delighted to support the 55th BFI London Film Festival, and in particular the Festival's industry programme. London's growing film market brings key financiers and producers to the capital and nurtures great home grown talent. Our own film industry makes a vital contribution to the city's economy, last year generating approximately £866m in feature film production spend alone. It's been extremely gratifying to*

see home produced films selected for this year's BFI London Film Festival showcasing the very best in world cinema."

CEO of the BFI, Amanda Neveill says: *"The BFI is committed to creating an environment for British film in which talent and skills can thrive. The industry offer is one of the cornerstones of the BFI London Film Festival; bringing together international filmmakers and industry professionals to showcase work, share inspirations, meet audiences and seek out new opportunities. We thank all our industry partners for their continued collaboration and especially the Mayor of London whose financial support recognises the significant economic and cultural contribution film makes to our capital city."*

New additions to the Festival's 2011 industry programme include:

Research and Policymaking for Film

This one-day symposium brings together film policymakers and film academics to discuss new ways to create research opportunities and informed policymaking. This invitation-only event is presented by the **Creative Industries Research and Consultancy Unit (CIRCU)** at the University of Hertfordshire, in association with Available Light Advisory and the BFI.

To be held at NESTA on Wednesday 26 October.

Championing filmmakers and their films

Two key developments are set to help the Festival champion filmmakers and their films to international buyers and programmers:

- The Festival is working closely with the **British Council Film Department** to bring in more key overseas festivals programmers to meet new and established British filmmakers and view the latest UK films at BFI London Film Festival's Industry Screenings.
- The Festival is also working for the first time with **Festival Scope**, the on demand service for film professionals worldwide, to make key titles from the Festival's highly regarded *British* and *Experimenta* sections available to buyers and programmers from around the globe. This new partnership enhances the Festival's aims to promote its titles as widely as it can.

Festival Scope CEO and Founder Alessandro Raja says: *"We are very proud to have been chosen by the BFI London Film Festival to contribute actively to the promotion of new British cinema and cutting-edge films among film professionals worldwide."*

Casting Symposium: Meet the Casting Directors

This panel event, in association with **Spotlight**, is aimed at actors and others working in the industry who would like to know more about the role of a casting director. A panel of leading casting directors will discuss the process of casting films and explore topics such as: finding actors, working with directors, how actors can promote themselves, what differentiates acting styles in the US and the UK, and recommendations for auditions and self-taping.

To be held at NFT 1 Tuesday 18 October.

BABYLON Burning: celebrating the past and looking to the future

For the last five years **BABYLON** has brought together filmmakers of Europe's migrant and diasporic communities in a shared development forum dedicated to the exploration and extension of Europe's cultural diversity in film. To celebrate its first five years and launch its next five, **BABYLON Burning** assembles leading and emerging filmmakers from Europe and beyond to describe their work and ask questions such as: is the UK out of step with its European and other partners? Is the shift in national policy a threat to our filmmaking output?
To be held at Gallery, BFI Southbank, Sunday 16 Oct 11.00.

3D Future

Women in Film & TV present a panel of industry experts, chaired by *Screen International's* Wendy Mitchell, to ask whether 3D is living up to its high expectations as the saviour of cinema, or if recent box office blips suggest it remains a gimmick destined to fall in and out of filmgoers' favour. This event is co-hosted by *Screen International* and supported by The Pinewood Studios Group, Deluxe London and Skillset.

To be held at BFI Imax, Wednesday 19 Oct.

Core industry activities returning this year include:

Think-Shoot-Distribute

The Festival's professional development programme supported by the Skillset Film Skills Fund, Adobe and the Hospital Club is now in its eighth year. The course brings together 25 talented filmmakers developing their feature film careers with leading industry professionals for a week of mentoring, workshops and master classes at the Hospital Club in Covent Garden 17-21 October.

Skillset has funded Think-Shoot-Distribute since its inception in 2005. The bespoke personal and project development provides writers, producers and directors with creative support as well as an improved understanding of the marketplace and the business of film. Weaved within the BFI London Film Festival programme with pre and post festival support, Think-Shoot-Distribute has an impressive list of alumni who have gone on to achieve critical and commercial success.

Industry Screenings

The industry screenings are held over four days at the Curzon Soho, Monday 17 to Thursday 20 October, and including the ever-growing, ever-popular Meet the Buyer session on Tuesday 18 October. This year's screenings and attendant events will be once again overseen by the Festival's Buyers & Sellers facilitator, Mary Davies.

Power to the Pixel returns

The 5th edition of Power to the Pixel's Cross-Media Forum takes place from 11-14 October. A leading industry, the forum explores new ways of creating, financing and distributing films and other stories across multiple platforms.

Jeff Gomez, CEO Starlight Runner whose work includes creating story universes for *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Avatar*, will be speaking in the UK for the very time, presenting the opening keynote at the first-day Conference. Other highlights include presentations from Michel Reilhac, Executive Director ARTE France Cinéma and a sneak-peek of the latest

version of *HIGHRISE: Out My Window* from Canadian auteur filmmaker and Digital Emmy award-winner Katerina Cizek.

This year, 25 projects have been selected for The Pixel Market, which is dedicated to financing international cross-media projects. Nine of the teams will compete at The Pixel Pitch on 12 October to win the £6,000 ARTE-sponsored cash prize. Projects include *Cloud Chamber* being produced by regular Lars von Trier collaborator, Vibeke Windeløv, and *Swan Down* from award-winning filmmaker Andrew Köttling and novelist Iain Sinclair.

Film Festivals Forum

The Film Festivals Forum returns for a third edition. Topics to be covered this year will be the new era for film – including the BFI, Creative England and the emerging Film Policy Review – plus a discussion around how festivals can make the most of their offer through partnerships, sponsorship and philanthropy. Speakers will include Branchage Film Festival, Creative England, the BFI and the East End Film Festival.

Film London Production Finance Market

The successful Film London Production Finance Market (PFM), held in association with the Festival, returns for a fifth year on 19 and 20 October. The two-day event focuses on facilitating face-to-face meetings between producers and financiers from the international marketplace and the UK to encourage and foster new financing relationships. The 2010 market attracted almost €230m of production value and leading equity, hedge fund, tax, banking, and public and broadcaster financiers.

Key Note Speaker

Details of this year's high-profile keynote speaker will be announced next week. In previous years, the industry address has been given by director Ken Loach and producer and screenwriter James Schamus.

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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 film makers and audiences

Social Media

Keep in touch and share the Festival experience on Twitter and Facebook:

- Facebook Event: Invite your friends and fans to the official Facebook event:
<http://on.fb.me/ouciUj>
- Facebook: Share your coverage on our official page:
<http://www.facebook.com/londonfilmfestival>
- Twitter: Tag your tweets with **#LFF** or drop us a line **@BFI**