



56TH BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL ENJOYS ITS MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR EVER WITH HIGHEST EVER ATTENDANCE

- *Boasting a 12% increase in festival attendance with the highest ever audience turn-out with 149,000 across London venues*
- *BFI London Film Festival Award winners include: Rust and Bone for Best Film, Beasts of the Southern Wild for the Sutherland Award (Best First Feature), Mea Maxima Culpa: Silence in the House of God for the Grierson Award (Best Documentary) and Sally El Hosaini for Best British Newcomer (director of My Brother the Devil).*
- *BFI Fellowships were awarded to Tim Burton and Helena Bonham Carter.*
- *Red carpet highlights include The Rolling Stones , Tim Burton, Arjun Rampal and Abhay Deol, Ben Affleck and John Goodman, Dustin Hoffman and Dame Maggie Smith, Omar Sharif, Helen Hunt and John Hawkes, Bill Murray, Elle Fanning, Michael Palin and Terry Jones, Salman Rushdie, Marion Cotillard, Viggo Mortensen, Gemma Arterton and Terence Stamp, Helena Bonham Carter and Ralph Fiennes*
- *Tens of thousands of people across the UK attended the cinecast screenings of Opening Night Film Frankenweenie and American Express Gala Film Crossfire Hurricane, opening the Festival out further than ever before*
- *Industry legend Harvey Weinstein delivered the Festival's Keynote address*
- *The much loved Surprise Film slot offered a real treat to cinema lovers this year with the highly anticipated SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK, with actor Bradley Cooper and director David O. Russell taking part in a lively Q&A.*

Sunday 21st October The 56th BFI London Film Festival, in partnership with American Express, closed tonight with the European premiere of **Mike Newell's GREAT EXPECTATIONS** and the highest ever audience attendance, with 149,000¹ film goers enjoying the festival in cinemas all over the capital. New Festival Director Clare Stewart introduced a revised programme structure and competitive sections as well as shortening the festival to 12 days, whilst expanding its reach to more cinemas in London and the rest of the UK with 2 cinecast screenings. In all, the festival screened 228 fiction and documentary features, including 12 World Premieres, 11 International premieres, 37 European premieres and 111 live action and animated shorts from 68 countries. There were 570 filmmaker guests, including 286 UK- based and 284 from outside the UK and 1139 industry delegates attending 43 industry screenings and events.

The new 12-day duration of the Festival gave a concentrated burst of film across more boroughs of London than ever before. The Festival expanded from its traditional Leicester Square cinemas – Odeon West End, Vue West End, Odeon Leicester Square and Empire – and the BFI Southbank to include four additional new venues – Hackney Picturehouse, Renoir, Everyman Screen on the Green, Rich Mix, which joined the existing London venues the ICA, Curzon Mayfair, Ritz Brixton and Ciné Lumière. There were new focused categories – love, debate, dare, laugh, thrill, cult, journeys, sonic and family –introduced to help Festival goers find the films that mean the most to them and to open up entry points for new audiences from some of the 200 films playing at the Festival.

Other changes to the Festival's format included the Festival Awards which have been enhanced by introducing competitive sections. The Best Film Award, the Sutherland Award for First Feature Film, and the Grierson Award for documentary filmmaking were presented to winning films from three programme sections: Official Competition, First Feature Competition and Documentary Competition, giving much more prominence to participating films. In a bid to bring the Festival to a wider audience, both **FRANKENWEENIE** and **CROSSFIRE HURRICANE** were screened simultaneously to cinemas across the UK via satellite link, giving the cinema going public the opportunity to enjoy all the glitz and glamour from the Leicester Square red carpet as part of the Festival's drive to put the UK audience at the heart of the Festival-going experience. Tens of thousands of people across the UK, Ireland and Europe attended these cinecast screenings.

High-profile international filmmakers and actors graced the red carpet over the 12 days. Opening the Festival was the European premiere screening of **FRANKENWEENIE** with director Tim Burton in attendance along with actors Martin Landau, Martin Short and Catherine O'Hara . The Festival finished with the Closing Night Gala screening of **GREAT EXPECTATIONS** attended by Helena Bonham Carter,

¹ compared to 133,000 in 2011

Holliday Grainger, Ralph Fiennes, Robbie Coltrane, Tamzin Outhwaite, David Walliams and Jeremy Irvine, director Mike Newell and writer David Nicholls.

Other actors bringing red carpet glamour to Leicester Square on a daily basis included HYDE PARK ON HUDSON stars Bill Murray and Samuel West along with director Roger Michell; Paul Bettany for BLOOD; Elle Fanning and Alice Englert for GINGER AND ROSA; Marion Cotillard and Matthias Schoenaerts who were joined by director Jacques Audiard for RUST AND BONE, whilst Chris O'Dowd headed up THE SAPPHIRES premiere alongside actresses Jessica Mauboy, Deborah Mailman, Miranda Tapsell and Shari Sebbens. Helen Hunt and John Hawkes were present for THE SESSIONS; Ben Affleck graced the red carpet as both actor and director for ARGO and was joined by fellow actors John Goodman and Bryan Cranston; whilst music legends The Rolling Stones brought rock 'n' roll glamour to the red carpet with Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Ronnie Wood and Charlie Watts presenting their film CROSSFIRE HURRICANE along with director Brett Morgen.

British cinema once again had a strong presence at the Festival with films such as QUARTET, featuring a sterling British cast including Dame Maggie Smith, Pauline Collins, Tom Courtenay and Billy Connolly all of whom attended the Gala Screening alongside Dustin Hoffman making his directorial film debut. Director Paul Andrew Williams and Gemma Arterton and Terrence Stamp were present to introduce SONG FOR MARION. A LIAR'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY with director/producer Bill Jones, director/producer Ben Timlett, director Jeff Simpson, actors Michael Palin and Terry Jones, all turned out to lend their support. Director/writer Kieran Evans introduced KELLY + VICTOR, with actors Julian Morris, Antonia Campbell-Hughes and producer Janine Marmot. EVERYDAY director Michael Winterbottom attended with cast members John Simm, Shirley Henderson, young acting siblings Shaun Kirk, Katrina Kirk, Robert Kirk, Stephanie Kirk and producer Melissa Paramenter. Director Ben Wheatley and cast members Alice Lowe and Steve Oram were also present at SIGHTSEERS.

In addition international filmmakers were welcomed to the capital. These included Mira Nair (THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST); Haifaa Al Mansour (WADJDA); Michael Haneke, Cannes Palme d'Or winner (AMOUR); Benh Zeitlin (BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD); Deepa Mehta (MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN), Pablo Larrain (NO); Rama Burshtein (FILL THE VOID), Ira Sachs (KEEP THE LIGHTS ON); Alix Lambert (BAYOU BLUE); Pablo Trapero (WHITE ELEPHANT); Thomas Vinterberg (THE HUNT).

A diverse range of documentaries were enhanced by the presence of the filmmakers including Charlie Paul & Lucy Paul (FOR NO GOOD REASON); Amy Berg (WEST OF MEMPHIS); Nick Ryan (THE SUMMIT), Alex Gibney (MEA MAXIMA CULPA: SILENCE IN THE HOUSE OF GOD); Sébastien Lifshitz (LES INVISIBLES); Greg Olliver (TURNED TOWARD THE SUN); Liz Garbus (LOVE MARILYN); Sarah Gavron (VILLAGE AT THE END OF THE WORLD); Sophie Fiennes and subject Slavoj Zizek (THE PERVERT'S GUIDE TO IDEOLOGY); and Jay Bulger (BEWARE OF MR. BAKER). Highlights from

Treasure from the Archive included LAWRENCE OF ARABIA, THE SPANISH DANCER and the BFI Archive's gala screening of THE MANXMAN, which rounded off their Hitchcock celebration.

This year's Screen Talks included leading actor Viggo Mortensen, award-winning actress Marion Cotillard, celebrated author Salman Rushdie and award winning documentary maker Alex Gibney, whilst Ian Neil, David Wasco and Sandy Reynolds Wasco led Masterclasses. Exhibitions and other events included The Art of Frankenweenie Exhibition, and an illustrated talk on the legendary designer Edith Head by costume designer Deborah Nadoolman Landis. Following the screening of JAPAN IN A DAY, the filmmakers conducted a live Q&A link from the World Premiere at the Tokyo International Film Festival.

The new Sonic strand saw a strong line-up of titles including SPIKE ISLAND, GOOD VIBRATIONS, BIG STAR NOTHING CAN HURT ME NOW and THE SECRET DISCO REVOLUTION. Continuing the year-round Sonic Cinema Programme, several special events celebrating the links between music and film took place including a screening of THIS IS ENGLAND with a live score and Sigur Rós The Valtari Mystery Film Experiment with Q & A. The Cult Strand featured a diverse range of films including ANTIVIRAL, BLANCANIEVES, THE JEFFREY DAHMER FILES, ROOM 237 and MY AMITYVILLE HORROR.

Last night the BFI London Film Festival Awards were held at Banqueting House, introduced by BFI Chairman Greg Dyke and hosted by Sue Perkins. The winner of the Best Film award RUST AND BONE, was announced by President of the Official Competition Jury Sir David Hare. Best British Newcomer went to Sally El Hosaini, director/screenwriter for MY BROTHER THE DEVIL presented by Olivia Colman and Tom Hiddleston. Helen McCrory presented the long-standing Sutherland Award for Best First Feature to Benh Zeitlin, director of BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD. The winning recipient of the Grierson Award for Best Documentary went to Alex Gibney, director and screenwriter of MEA MAXIMA CULPA: SILENCE IN THE HOUSE OF GOD. The jury was chaired by Roger Graef.

Also at the Awards ceremony last night, both Tim Burton and Helena Bonham Carter each received the BFI Fellowships, the highest accolade bestowed by the BFI. Tim Burton was presented with his award by Sir Christopher Lee and Helena Bonham Carter received her award from Sir Trevor Nunn.

The Festival hosted a wide-range of industry-related events including Power to the Pixel's *Cross-Media Forum* and the sixth *Film London Production Finance Market* which brought together UK and international producers and financiers. The Festival again ran its highly-regarded filmmaker training programme, *Think-Shoot-Distribute*, supported by Creative Skillset, Film London, Creative England, Adobe and the Hospital Club, whilst the annual Buyers and Sellers Screenings at the Curzon Soho showing 41 feature films without UK distribution attracted a record 1088 attendees. Other highlights of the Industry Programme included the *Industry Keynote* given by BFI Fellow Harvey Weinstein, CBE, in collaboration with Directors UK and an *In Conversation* with Director Roger Michell whose new film HYDE PARK ON HUDSON screened as the Centrepiece Gala supported by the Mayor of London, and *Understanding the Hearts*

and Minds of British Audiences, a presentation and debate on the films we watch, the ways we watch them and what this means for the UK film industry.

The Education programme offered a successful range of events, including Q&As with leading directors, screenwriters and animators, free morning film screenings, as well as opportunities for young audiences to get hands-on experience in projects and workshops.

The series of five Filmmakers' Afternoon Teas saw 63 directors and five actors complete a total of 186 interviews with national, regional and international journalists. There were 85 press screenings and a total of 1362 accredited press delegates attended.

For further press information about The 56th BFI London Film Festival please contact:

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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

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 London Film Festival

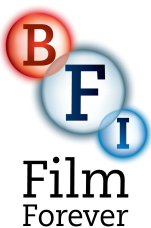
BFI London Film Festival is an iconic international film festival that supports London's position as the world's leading creative city. It presents the best new British and international films to an expanding London and UK-wide audience. It provides career-enabling opportunities for British and international filmmakers through its industry and awards programmes.

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Clare Stewart biography

Clare Stewart's sixteen 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).



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