



BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

8 – 19 October 2014

in partnership with



58TH BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL ENJOYS RECORD BREAKING YEAR

Boasting a 7.5% increase in Festival attendance and highest ever audience turn-out with 163,300 across London venues

BFI London Film Festival Award winners:

Andrew Zvyagintsev's LEVIATHAN for Best Film (Official Competition)

Myroslav Slaboshpytskiy's THE TRIBE for the Sutherland Award (Best First Feature)

Ossama Mohammed & Wiam Simav Bedirxan's SILVERED WATER, SYRIA SELF-PORTRAIT for the Grierson Award (Best Documentary)

and Sameena Jabeen Ahmed won Best British Newcomer (actor CATCH ME DADDY)

BFI Fellowship was awarded to British film director Stephen Frears

Red carpet talent included: Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley, Allen Leech, Alex Lawther, Charles Dance, Mark Strong, and Matthew Beard for Opening Night

Brad Pitt, Shia LaBeouf, Logan Lerman, Jon Bernthal and Michael Peña for Closing Night

Ansel Elgort, Timothy Spall, Mia Wasikowska, Noomi Rapace, Maisie Williams, Reese Witherspoon, Sally Hawkins, Rafe Spall, Jennifer Lawrence, Kit Harington, Dominic West, Emily Watson, Damian Lewis, Andrea Riseborough, Miles Teller, J. K. Simmons, Alfred Molina, Steve Carell, Sienna Miller, Vanessa Redgrave, Alan Rickman, James McAvoy, Agyness Deyn, Viggo Mortensen and Cara Delevingne

Directors attending Galas and Official Competition include: Morten Tyldum, Jason Reitman, Peter Strickland and Nick Fenton, Mike Leigh, Abderrahmane Sissako, François Ozon, Carol Morley, Peter Ho-Sun Chan, Daniel Barber, Jon Stewart, Frederick Wisemann, Ahmad Abdalla, Damián Szifrón, Ana Lily Amirpour, James Kent, Kristian Levring, Damien Chazelle, Bennett Miller, Xavier Dolan, Céline Sciamma, Ned Benson, Julius Avery, Moshen Makhmalbaf, Jacob Cheung and David Ayer, among many other directors presenting their work across the programme.

Over 12,000 people across the UK attended simultaneous screenings of

Opening Night film THE IMITATION GAME, the Closing Night film FURY, and the Documentary Special Presentation of CITIZENFOUR

LLF first – Opening Night red carpet action live streamed online, viewed by over 16,000 fans

Industry leader Jeffrey Katzenberg delivered the Festival's Keynote address as part of the LFF celebrations of the 20th anniversary of DreamWorks Animation Studios

The Surprise Film was a real treat to cinema lovers with the highly anticipated BIRDMAN, directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu

London – Sunday 19 October 2014: The 58th BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express®, closed tonight with the European Premiere FURY and announced the highest ever attendance in the Festival's illustrious history, with a 163,300¹ audience turnout, and an additional UK-Wide audience of over 12,000².

Festival Director Clare Stewart has offered audiences a rich and diverse selection of films and events introducing the finest new British and international films to an expanding London and UK-wide audience. The Festival screened a total of 248 fiction and documentary features, including 18 World Premieres, 9 International Premieres, 35 European Premieres and 19 Archive films, and screenings of 148 live action and animated shorts, all from 70 countries.

The Festival welcomed 772³ filmmaker guests⁴ over half of which came from international territories. Industry screenings and events were attended by 1107 industry delegates and 906 press delegates. The Festival is essential in promoting London as the world's leading creative city.

Opening and Closing Night both received simultaneous screenings to 50 cinemas collectively across the country, with the red carpet action shown via satellite link, as part of the Festival's ongoing commitment to put the UK audience at the heart of the Festival-going experience. This year for the first time Opening Night was live streamed online for fans everywhere, with over 16,500 views on the day. In addition there were 70 nationwide screenings of the Documentary Special Feature of CITIZENFOUR.

The 12 day Festival's screenings took place at venues across the capital, from the West End cinemas – Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon West End and Vue West End; central London venues – BFI Southbank, Odeon Covent Garden, the ICA, Curzon Mayfair, Curzon Soho and Ciné Lumière; and local cinemas – Ritzy Brixton, Hackney Picturehouse, Vue Islington and Rich Mix. Additional screenings and events took place at the Odeon BFI IMAX, Empire Leicester Square, Curzon Chelsea and Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Last night the **BFI London Film Festival Awards** were held at Banqueting House, introduced by BFI Chairman Greg Dyke and hosted by Ben Miller. The *Best Film* award in Official Competition went to Andrey Zvyagintsev for LEVIATHAN; with a jury commendation for Celine Sciamma's GIRLHOOD. The long-standing *Sutherland Award* for the First Feature Competition was presented to Myroslav Slaboshpytskiy, for THE TRIBE; with a jury commendation for Naji Abu Nowar's THEEB. The winner of the *Grierson Award* in the Documentary Competition was Ossama Mohammed & Wiam Simav Bedirxan, directors of SILVERED WATER, SYRIA SELF PORTRAIT. The Best British Newcomer award went to Sameena Jabeen Ahmed, the lead actor in CATCH ME DADDY. At the Awards ceremony British director Stephen Frears received a BFI Fellowship, presented by Sir David Hare; the fellowship is the highest accolade the BFI can bestow.

Screen Talks took place with Bennett Miller director of FOXCATCHER the American Express Gala; and the director Abderrahmane Sissako director of TIMBUKTU which appeared in the LFF official Competition. **Masterclasses** were

¹151,000 in 2013, 149,000 in 2012

²at nationwide screenings of Opening Night film THE IMITATION GAME, Closing Night film FURY and CITIZENFOUR

³670 filmmaker guests in 2013

⁴comprising directors, cast and production HOD's, and not all accredited filmmakers

given by production designer Maria Djurkovic and director Frederick Wiseman, DreamWorks Animation Chief Technology Officer Lincoln Wallen. While producer Bonnie Arnold, director Dean DeBlois and author Cressida Cowell participated in a special family presentation.

Industry Programme Highlights

- Jeffrey Katzenberg, CEO and Co-founder of DreamWorks Animation was the focus of the **Industry Keynote** hosted by Clare Stewart, as part of the LFF celebrations in honour of the 20th anniversary of the animation powerhouse.
- **In Conversation** events were held with newly awarded BFI Fellow director Stephen Frears who discussed his enduring career with Variety's chief film critic Scott Foundas; Bruna Papandrea, producer of WILD; and British filmmaker Peter Strickland and co-director Nick Fenton.
- **Talking Point** panel discussions included in partnership with The Hollywood Reporter a talk with Jamie Schwartz President, International Marketing at The Weinstein Company, Jon Rushton Group Head of Publicity at Curzon and Carola Ash the director of the Europe at the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences; and a roundtable session about the challenges and opportunities of broadening diversity in the UK film industry hosted by Ed Vaizey, Creative Industries Minister, and Ben Roberts, Director of the BFI Film Fund.
- NET.WORK@LFF in partnership with Creative England saw emerging British talent participate at events with Festival visitors producer Teddy Schwartzman, writer/director David Robert Mitchell, UTA talent agent Bec Smith, director Susanne Bier, financier Claudia Bluemhuber and producer Sisse Graum Jørgensen.
- Screen International's UK Stars of Tomorrow partnered with the LFF and the British Council for the first time this year to create an opportunity for rising stars to meet and greet key players from the international film industry, Aimee Ffion Edwards, Aisling Franciosi and Maisie Williams where among the actors to attend.

This year's Industry offering also included an extensive screening programme – with over 13,000 attendances at 154 Press & Industry screenings, this year held at the Odeon Covent Garden. Buyers & Seller screenings, a new Digital Viewing Library and Delegate Centre were also this year based at the BFI Headquarters in Stephen Street.

The LFF **Education** team continued to work with expert partners, including The BFI Film Academy, The London Film School and the National Film and Television School to deliver a series of events and workshops for film students aspiring to make it in the industry. The programme offered over 4,400 students a look behind the scenes - from following the production processes of MR. TURNER and '71 with key members of the crew, to looking inside the Digital FX industry and even being part of a festival jury with The Festival Young Jury project.

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Film clips/trailers and Festival press releases and written materials please go to the below FTP:

<ftp://ftp.premiercomms.com> | Username: LFF_PRESS | Password: OWL86Y4m

Film images can be found at: www.image.net

BFI Press Office:

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

About 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 nineteen 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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