



BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

7 – 18 October 2015

in partnership with



🐦 @bfi #lff

THE 59TH BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AMERICAN EXPRESS® ANNOUNCES FULL 2015 PROGRAMME

Embargoed till 11.00am GMT, Tuesday 1 September 2015

London, Tuesday 1 September 2015: - The programme for the 59th BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express® launched today, with Festival Director Clare Stewart presenting this year's rich and diverse selection of films and events. BFI London Film Festival is Britain's leading film event and one of the world's oldest film festivals. It introduces the finest new British and international films to an expanding London and UK-wide audience. The Festival provides an essential platform for films seeking global success; and promotes the careers of British and international filmmakers through its industry and awards programmes. With this year's industry programme stronger than ever, offering international filmmakers and leaders a programme of insightful events covering every area of the film industry LFF positions London as the world's leading creative city.

The Festival will screen a total of 238 fiction and documentary features, including 16 World Premieres, 8 International Premieres, 40 European Premieres and 11 Archive films including 5 Restoration World Premieres.¹ There will also be screenings of 182 live action and animated shorts. A stellar line-up of directors, cast and crew are expected to take part in career interviews, ScreenTalks, Q&As and a new programme of Industry Talks: LFF Connects. The 59th BFI London Film Festival will run Wednesday 7 – Sunday 18 October 2015.

Taking place over 12 days, the Festival's screenings are at venues across the capital, from the West End cinemas – Vue West End and the iconic Odeon Leicester Square; central London venues – BFI Southbank, BFI IMAX, Picturehouse Central, the ICA, Curzon Mayfair, Curzon Soho, Cineworld Haymarket and Ciné Lumière; and local cinemas – Ritzy Brixton, Hackney Picturehouse, Curzon Chelsea, Vue Islington and Rich Mix. Additional screenings and events will take place at Tate Modern. Audiences across the UK can enjoy the Festival via simultaneous screenings in their local cinemas.

GALAS

OPENING & CLOSING NIGHT GALAS

The Festival opens with the European Premiere of *SUFFRAGETTE*, starring Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter, Anne-Marie Duff, Brendan Gleeson, Ben Whishaw and Meryl Streep. Director Sarah Gavron returns to the Festival for a third time with a film that tells the story of the ordinary British women at the turn of the last century who risked everything in the fight for equality and the right to vote.

¹ Figures correct as of 1 September 2015

Audiences around the UK will have the chance to enjoy a live cinecast from the Opening Night red carpet via satellite to cinemas across the UK, followed by an exclusive preview screening of SUFFRAGETTE. All the red carpet action will also be live-streamed on the BFI's YouTube channel, thanks to our partners at Pathé and Google.

The European Premiere of STEVE JOBS will close the Festival, directed by Danny Boyle whose films *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) and *127 Hours* (2010) previously closed the Festival. Based on Walter Isaacson's best-selling biography, the film takes us behind the scenes of the digital revolution to create a revealing portrait of the man at its epicentre. The film stars Michael Fassbender in the title role, Academy Award® winner Kate Winslet, Seth Rogen, Jeff Daniels, Michael Stuhlbarg and Katherine Waterston.

HEADLINE GALAS

Among the other highly anticipated Galas are the previously announced American Express Gala of Todd Haynes' CAROL, a beautiful 1950s romantic drama about a young woman working as a clerk in a department store who meets and falls in love with an alluring woman trapped in a loveless convenient marriage. The film stars Academy Award® winner Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara, who won the Best Actress Award at this year's Cannes Film Festival for her role in the film. The Accenture Gala is the European premiere of TRUMBO, directed by Jay Roach and starring Bryan Cranston in a cracking performance as Dalton Trumbo, the Hollywood screenwriter who was blacklisted after refusing to testify before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in 1947. Diane Lane, Helen Mirren, Elle Fanning, Louis C.K. and John Goodman round out the cast. We are delighted to welcome back Official Airline Partner to this year's Festival, Virgin Atlantic who will present Scott Cooper's chilling crime drama BLACK MASS starring Johnny Depp, Benedict Cumberbatch and Joel Edgerton. The May Fair Hotel Gala is the European Premiere of the stirring drama BROOKLYN starring Saoirse Ronan, Domhnall Gleeson and Emory Cohen, adapted for the screen by Nick Hornby from Colm Tóibín's best-selling novel about the exquisite pain of choosing between an Irish homeland and the new promise of America. The Centrepiece Gala supported by the Mayor of London is the European Premiere of director Nicholas Hytner's THE LADY IN THE VAN adapted from writer Alan Bennett's play and starring Maggie Smith, Alex Jennings, Jim Broadbent, Frances De La Tour and Roger Allam. The Festival Gala is Ben Wheatley's HIGH-RISE starring Tom Hiddleston as Dr. Robert Laing, a man who has just taken ownership of a luxurious apartment in this brilliant satire based on JG Ballard's classic novel. The Archive Gala is the World Premiere of the BFI National Archive restoration of SHOOTING STARS, directed by A.V. Bramble and Anthony Asquith (1928).

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

This year, the Festival introduces three Special Presentations, they are: the Experimenta Special Presentation, Guy Maddin and Evan Johnson's phantasmagoric opus THE FORBIDDEN ROOM which screens at BFI IMAX; the Documentary Special Presentation, Davis Guggenheim's HE NAMED ME MALALA an inspiring portrait of an incredibly brave and resilient young woman who carries a message of hope for women in the world; and the previously announced Fellowship Special Presentation of James Vanderbilt's TRUTH starring Cate Blanchett in honour of the actress receiving the BFI Fellowship at this year's LFF Awards Ceremony.

STRAND GALAS

The nine programme strands are each headlined with a gala, they are: the Love Gala, Luca Guadagnino's A BIGGER SPLASH; the Debate Gala, Stephen Frears' THE PROGRAM; the Dare Gala, Yorgos Lanthimos' THE LOBSTER; the Laugh Gala, Ondi Timoner's BRAND: A SECOND COMING (European Premiere); the Thrill Gala, Deepa Mehta's BEEBA BOYS (International Premiere); the Cult Gala, S. Craig Zahler's BONE TOMAHAWK (International Premiere); the Journey Gala, Hou Hsiao-Hsien's THE ASSASSIN; the Sonic Gala, Hany Abu-Assad's THE IDOL (European Premiere) and the Family Gala is Rob Letterman's GOOSEBUMPS (European Premiere).

AWARDS AND COMPETITIONS

The Best Film Award will again be handed out in Official Competition; the Sutherland Award in the First Feature Competition and the Grierson Award in Documentary Competition. This year there is also the newly introduced Short Film Award, presented to one of a shortlist of 12 films selected from across the programme. Each section is open to international and British films.

OFFICIAL COMPETITION

The **Official Competition** line-up, recognising inspiring, inventive and distinctive filmmaking, includes the following:

- Jerzy Skolimowski, 11 MINUTES
- Cary Fukunaga, BEASTS OF NO NATION
- Apichatpong Weerasethakul, CEMETERY OF SPLENDOUR
- Athina Rachel Tsangari, CHEVALIER
- Simon Stone, THE DAUGHTER
- Jonás Cuarón, DESIERTO (European Premiere)
- Lucile Hadžihalilović, EVOLUTION
- Johnnie To, OFFICE (European Premiere)
- Lenny Abrahamson, ROOM
- László Nemes, SON OF SAUL
- Terence Davies, SUNSET SONG
- Sean Baker, TANGERINE
- Mir-Jean Bou Chaaya, VERY BIG SHOT (European Premiere)

FIRST FEATURE COMPETITION

Titles in consideration for the **Sutherland Award** in the **First Feature Competition** recognising an original and imaginative directorial debut are:

- Mai Masri, 3000 NIGHTS (European Premiere)
- Eva Husson, BANG GANG (A MODERN LOVE STORY)
- Magnus von Horn, THE HERE AFTER
- Trey Edward Shults, KRISHA
- Yared Zeleke, LAMB
- Esther May Campbell, LIGHT YEARS
- Ariel Kleiman, PARTISAN
- Eugenio Canevari, PAULA
- Bentley Dean, Martin Butler, TANNA
- Piero Messina, THE WAIT
- Nitzan Gilady, WEDDING DOLL (European Premiere)
- Robert Eggers, THE WITCH

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

The **Grierson Award** in the **Documentary Competition** category recognises cinematic documentaries with integrity, originality, and social or cultural significance. This year the Festival is screening:

- João Pedro Plácido, (BE)LONGING
- Mor Loushy, CENSORED VOICES
- David Sington, THE FEAR OF 13 (World Premiere)
- Alexandria Bombach, Mo Scarpelli, FRAME BY FRAME (European Premiere)
- Alexander Sokurov, FRANCOFONIA
- Frederick Wiseman, IN JACKSON HEIGHTS
- Walter Salles, JIA ZHANGKE, A GUY FROM FENYANG
- Tomer Heymann, MR. GAGA (International Premiere)
- Patricio Guzmán, THE PEARL BUTTON
- Sarah Turner, PUBLIC HOUSE (World Premiere)
- Jennifer Peedom, SHERPA (European Premiere)
- Hanna Polak, SOMETHING BETTER TO COME

SHORT FILM AWARD

In its inaugural year, the **Short Film Award** recognises short form works with a unique cinematic voice and a confident handling of chosen theme and content. This year the Festival is screening:

- João Paulo Miranda Maria, COMMAND ACTION
- Till Nowak, DISSONANCE
- Nina Gantz, EDMOND
- Peter Tscherkassky, THE EXQUISITE CORPUS
- Mees Peijnenburg, A HOLE IN MY HEART
- An van Dienderen, LILI (International Premiere)
- Maïmouna Doucouré, MOTHER(S)
- Shai Heredia, Shumona Goel, AN OLD DOG'S DIARY (European Premiere)
- Caroline Bartleet, OPERATOR (World Premiere)
- Jörn Threlfall, OVER
- Vivienne Dick, RED MOON RISING (World Premiere)
- Ziya Demirel, TUESDAY

FILM GUESTS

Key filmmaking talent due to attend the Festival's gala and special presentation screenings include: Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham-Carter, Meryl Streep, Sarah Gavron, Michael Fassbender, Kate Winslet, Danny Boyle, Cate Blanchett, Rooney Mara, Todd Haynes, Bryan Cranston, Helen Mirren, Jay Roach, Benedict Cumberbatch, Scott Cooper, Saoirse Ronan, John Crowley, Nick Hornby, Colm Toibín, Maggie Smith, Alex Jennings, Nicholas Hytner, Alan Bennett, Tom Hiddleston, Ben Wheatley, Luca Guadagnino, Colin Farrell, Rachel Weisz, Yorgos Lanthimos, Ben Foster, Stephen

Frears, Ondi Timoner, Randeep Hooda, Deepa Mehta, S. Craig Zahler, Hany Abu-Assad, Guy Maddin and Davis Guggenheim.

Additional filmmaking talent attending for films in competition include: for **Official Competition**: Jerzy Skolimowski, Cary Fukunaga, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Athina Rachel Tsangari, Jonás Cuarón, Lucile Hadžihalilović, Lenny Abrahamson, Brie Larson, Terence Davies, László Nemes, Sean Baker; **First Feature Competition**: Mai Masri, Eva Husson, Magnus von Horn, Trey Edward Shults, Yared Zaleke, Esther May Campbell, Nitzan Gilady, Ariel Kleiman, Eugenio Canevari, Robert Eggers, Piero Messina; **Documentary Competition**: João Pedro Plácido, Mor Loushy, David Singleton, Walter Salles, Tomer Haymenn, Patricio Guzmán, Sarah Turner and Hanna Polak.

The Festival will announce its complete guest line-up for all sections in early October.

STRANDS / PATHWAYS

The Festival programme is organised into categories clustered around the themes of *Love, Debate, Dare, Laugh, Thrill, Cult, Journey, Sonic, Family* and *Experimenta* – an approach designed to help Festival-goers find the films that appeal the most to them and to open up the Festival for new audiences.

LOVE

Love is a complex and many splendoured thing. The Love Gala is Luca Guadagnino's feature *A BIGGER SPLASH* set on the volcanic, windswept Sicilian island of Pantelleria and starring Tilda Swinton as a rock star, Matthias Schoenaerts as her filmmaker lover, Ralph Fiennes as a cocky music producer and Dakota Johnson as his petulant, sexy daughter.

Other titles in this section include: Naomi Kawase's sweet, light and leisurely *AN*; Tom Geens' *COUPLE IN A HOLE*, about a couple living in an underground forest dwelling to be left alone to deal with their mysterious grief; *DEPARTURE*, Andrew Steggall's delicate first feature about longing, loneliness and nostalgia for a sense of family that may have never existed; Jacques Audiard's Palme d'Or-winner about a makeshift family trying to cement their bonds, *DHEEPAN*; the World Premiere of Biyi Bandele's *FIFTY*, a riveting exploration of love and lust, power and rivalry and seduction and infidelity in Lagos; the European Premiere of Maya Newell's documentary *GAYBY BABY*, following the lives of four Australian children whose parents all happen to be gay; Mark Cousins returns to LFF with his metaphysical essay film *I AM BELFAST*, Stig Björkman's documentary *INGRID BERGMAN – IN HER OWN WORDS*, a treasure trove of Bergman's never-before-seen home movies, personal letters and diary extracts alongside archive footage; Hirokazu Kore-eda's beautiful *OUR LITTLE SISTER*, focusing on the lives of four young women related through their late father in provincial Japan; the European Premiere of Mabel Cheung's sweeping Chinese epic based on the true story of Jackie Chan's parents *A TALE OF THREE CITIES* and Guillaume Nicloux's *VALLEY OF LOVE* starring Isabelle Huppert and Gérard Depardieu in a tale of love, loss, memory and the mystical.

DEBATE

Debate thrives on conversation, which is never more engaging than when the world outside the cinema is reflected back at us. This year's Debate Gala is Stephen Frears's *THE PROGRAM* starring Ben Foster as cyclist Lance Armstrong, charting his rise to near canonization and his subsequent fall from grace.

Other highlights in this section include: Pablo Larraín's *THE CLUB*, a mordant morality tale set in a sleepy Chilean coastal town, which won Berlin's Grand Jury Prize; *CHRONIC*, Michel Franco's uncompromising study of grief and isolation, featuring a revelatory performance by Tim Roth; brothers Tarzan and Arab Nasser's feature directorial debut, *DÉGRADÉ*, a smart drama that moves seamlessly between humour and despair, set in a women's hair salon in Gaza; the European Premiere of George Amponsah's intimate documentary *THE HARD STOP*, revealing the story of

Mark Duggan's friends and family following his death after being shot in a 'Hard Stop' police procedure in 2011; Jonas Carpignano's engrossing feature debut, *THE MEASURE OF A MAN* which won Vincent Lindon Best Actor at Cannes Film Festival, *MEDITERRANEA*, an ultra-topical tale of two young African men from Burkina Faso who, in search of a better life, make the difficult and dangerous trip across the Sahara desert and Mediterranean Sea to reach Italy; the drama *MUCH LOVED*, Nabil Ayouch's searing, no-holds-barred look at the world of prostitution in Morocco; David Evans' thought-provoking documentary *MY NAZI LEGACY*, which raises the harrowing question, 'What if your father was a Nazi?'; the World Premiere of John Dower's *MY SCIENTOLOGY MOVIE* which features Louis Theroux as he heads to Los Angeles to explore the Church of Scientology; Sebastián Silva's beguiling, seductive and confrontational *NASTY BABY*; *PAULINA*, Santiago Mitre's intelligent parable for contemporary Argentina, which won the Critics Week Grand Prize in Cannes; *TAKLUB*, Brillante Ma Mendoza's riveting ode to a Filipino city wrecked by a typhoon; and Jafar Panahi's latest film, *TAXI TEHRAN*, winner of the Golden Bear at this year's Berlinale and set and shot from inside a car.

DARE

Here you'll find films that are in your face, up-front and arresting, taking you out of and beyond your comfort zone. The Dare Gala is Yorgos Lanthimos' *THE LOBSTER* which stars Colin Farrell, Rachel Weisz, Olivia Coleman, John C. Reilly, Léa Sedoux and Ben Whishaw in a bleakly hilarious skewering of fundamentalist diktats and rituals that is also a tender plea for genuine intimacy amid society's self-imposed absurdities.

Other highlights in this strand include: Miguel Gomes' mixes fantasy, documentary, docu-fiction, Brechtian pantomime and echoes of MGM musical in the epic *ARABIAN NIGHTS*; the World Premiere of William Fairman and Max Gogarty's *CHEMSEX*, an unflinching, powerful documentary about the pleasures and perils associated with the 'chemsex' scene that's far more than a sensationalist exposé; the European Premiere of *CLOSET MONSTER*, Stephen Dunn's remarkable debut feature about an artistic, sexually confused teen who has conversations with his pet hamster, voiced by Isabella Rossellini; *THE ENDLESS RIVER* a devastating new film set in small-town South Africa from Oliver Hermanus, Diep Hoang Nguyen's beautiful debut, *FLAPPING IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE*, a wry, weird socially probing take on the teen pregnancy scenario that focuses on a girl whose escape from village life to pursue an urban education has her frozen in mid-flight; *LUCIFER*, Gust Van den Berghe's thrillingly cinematic tale of Lucifer as an angel who visits a Mexican village, filmed in 'Tondoscope' – a circular frame in the centre of the screen; the European premiere of *KOTHANODI* a compelling, unsettling fairytale from India; veteran Algerian director Merzak Allouache's gritty and delicate portrait of a drug addicted petty thief in *MADAME COURAGE*; Radu Muntean's excellent *ONE FLOOR BELOW*, which combines taut, low-key realism with incisive psychological and ethical insights in a drama centering on a man, his wife and a neighbor; and *QUEEN OF EARTH*, Alex Ross Perry's devilish study of mental breakdown and dysfunctional power dynamics between female best friends, starring Elisabeth Moss.

LAUGH

This year's *Laugh* strand encompasses richly diverse geography, subject matter and senses of humour, from gleeful to bittersweet and wickedly satirical. This year's Laugh Gala is the European Premiere of *BRAND: A SECOND COMING*, an energetic, complex and frequently hilarious documentary about Russell Brand directed by Ondi Timoner.

Other titles in this strand include: comic visionary Jaco Van Dormael's scabrously provocative, philosophically astute parable *THE BRAND NEW TESTAMENT*, which poses the question 'What if God were Belgian and a cantankerous, vindictive slob who runs the whole show from a dilapidated apartment in Brussels?'; the World Premiere of Chanya Button's debut feature *BURN BURN BURN* starring *Downton Abbey*'s Laura Carmichael, which takes the road trip buddy movie on its own smart, female-centric spin; Ali F. Mostafa's *FROM A TO B*, a 'dramedy' following three estranged childhood companions who embark on a road trip to commemorate the fifth anniversary of a friend's death and offers a new perspective on life in the Gulf and Middle East; Paul Weitz's *GRANDMA*, a supremely

enjoyable 'road movie' starring Lily Tomlin as the gloriously profane septuagenarian whose curt words and emotional armour can't quite mask her broken heart; Bao Nguyen's *Saturday Night Live* documentary LIVE FROM NEW YORK!; MEN AND CHICKEN, Anders Thomas Jensen's dark, twisted and extremely animalistic comedy as black as pitch, but with the sweetest heart, starring Mads Mikkelsen; Fernando León de Aranoa's black comedy A PERFECT DAY, a freewheeling tale centering on two veteran aid workers starring Benicio Del Toro and Tim Robbins; the International Premiere of Brendan Cowell's debut RUBEN GUTHRIE about an advertising exec trying to quit the booze, which spikes social observations with dark, wounded humour and the European Premiere of Japanese auteur/icon Takeshi Kitano's latest comedy, RYUZO AND HIS SEVEN HENCHMEN, about a group of elderly, retired Yakuza who reteam to take revenge on a younger rival gang.

THRILL

This year's *Thrill* strand features nerve-shredders that'll get your adrenalin pumping and will keep you on the edge of your seat. The Gala presentation for this strand is the International Premiere of Deepa Mehta's BEEBA BOYS, an energetic gangster movie that also explores South Asian family values set in Vancouver's Sikh immigrant badlands and starring Randeep Hooda.

Other highlights in this section include: the European Premiere of Choi Dong-hoon's colourful period bullet opera, ASSASSINATION; the European Premiere of Daniel Junge's thrill-a-minute BEING EVEL about the legendary daredevil Robert Craig 'Evel' Knievel; the European Premiere of David Farr's crafty and suspenseful study in paranoia, THE ONES BELOW starring David Morrissey and Clémence Poésy; Atom Egoyan's latest drama REMEMBER, offering a provocative study of the nature of evil as well as serving as a stark reminder of the atrocities of 20th century history, starring Christopher Plummer and Martin Landau; Gabriel Clarke and John McKenna's gripping documentary STEVE MCQUEEN: THE MAN & LE MANS, featuring unseen archive footage, contemporary interviews and previously unheard commentary from McQueen himself; Stephen Fingleton's thrilling, post-apocalyptic debut THE SURVIVALIST; Sebastian Schipper's exhilarating one-shot sensation, VICTORIA; and THE WAVE, Roar Uthaug's high-octane and nerve-shredding portrayal of a potential catastrophe.

CULT

In the *Cult* strand, the dark side is welcomed with outcasts and reprobates taking centre stage in this year's crop of films. The Cult Gala is the International Premiere of S. Craig Zahler's gloriously imaginative genre hybrid BONE TOMAHAWK starring Kurt Russell in a film with enough surprises to satisfy even the most jaded horror hounds and western fans.

Other highlights in this strand include: the World Premiere of Thierry Poiraud's DON'T GROW UP, a stylish and inventive film about a group of teens on an unnamed island who wake up to find their youth facility eerily abandoned; the World Premiere of Jon Spira's affectionate documentary ELSTREE 1976 about the bit performers who appeared in George Lucas' box office behemoth *Star Wars*; GHOST THEATER, the latest film from director Hideo Nakata, the forerunner of J-horror; GREEN ROOM, Jeremy Saulnier's latest exercise in edge of the seat suspense, starring Patrick Stewart, Imogen Poots and Anton Yelchin; returning for the third year running, Sion Sono screens LOVE AND PEACE, his tale of punk rock and talking turtles; and the fantastically prolific Takashi Miike's riotous, unruly gangster vampire concoction YAKUZA APOCALYPSE.

JOURNEY

Journey is all about the temporal voyage. This year's Journey Gala is Hou Hsiao-Hsien's breathtakingly elegant and mesmerizing first foray into wuxia (martial arts), THE ASSASSIN, which won him the Best Director prize at the Cannes

Film Festival this year. Hou Hsiao-Hsien is the subject of retrospective – **Also Like Life** – at BFI Southbank this month in the lead-up to the Festival and will participate in a career interview on Monday 14 September at BFI Southbank.

Other titles in this section include: Radu Jude’s vivid, Wallachian western *AFERIM!*, *COWBOYS*, the directorial debut of Jacques Audiard’s *A Prophet* and *Rust and Bone* co-writer Thomas Bidegain; the breathtaking ethnographic Colombian Amazon odyssey *EMBRACE OF THE SERPENT*; James Ponsoldt’s *THE END OF THE TOUR* starring Jason Segel as writer David Foster Wallace and Jesse Eisenberg as *Rolling Stone* journalist David Lipsky in this engrossing two-hander; Writer-Director Jayro Bustamante’s *IXCANUL VOLCANO*, the European Premiere Stevan Riley’s enthralling Marlon Brando documentary *LISTEN TO ME MARLON*; Jia Zhangke’s ambitious, astute and humane *MOUNTAINS MAY DEPART*; the European Premiere of Sylvia Chang’s often-ethereal magic-realist drama love story, *MURMUR OF THE HEARTS*; the European Premiere of *THE NEW CLASSMATE* about a single mum in India battling to ensure her daughter’s future; *SEMBÈNE!*, Samba Gadjigo and Jason Silverman’s incisive documentary on acclaimed African filmmaker Ousmane Sembène; Chloé Zhao’s *SONGS MY BROTHERS TAUGHT ME*; and Paolo Sorrentino’s deliciously bittersweet drama *YOUTH*, starring Michael Caine, Harvey Keitel, Rachel Weisz, Paul Dano and Jane Fonda.

SONIC

‘We are the music makers, and we are the dreamers of dreams’, so goes Arthur O’Shaughnessy’s 1873 poem *Ode*, and so goes this year’s *Sonic* strand. The Sonic Gala is the European Premiere of two-time Oscar-nominated director Hany Abu-Assad’s new film *THE IDOL*, based on the incredible true story of Mohammad Assaf, winner of ‘Arab Idol’.

Other highlights in this strand include: the World Premiere of Bernard MacMahon’s documentary *THE AMERICAN EPIC SESSIONS*, a haunting collision of past and present, presided over by the high priests of the great tradition of American music, Jack White and T Bone Burnett; the World Premiere of James Caddick and James Cronin’s documentary *ELEPHANT DAYS*, which charts The Maccabees creative process as they record their 4th album *Marks To Prove It* in an anonymous studio in Elephant and Castle; *JANIS: LITTLE GIRL BLUE*, Oscar-nominated director Amy Berg’s Janis Joplin documentary drawing on archival footage, contemporary interviews and the singer’s personal correspondences; punk filmmaker Khavn De La Cruz’s *RUINED HEART: ANOTHER LOVE STORY BETWEEN A CRIMINAL AND A WHORE*, an irreverent orgy of sex and crime with a banging soundtrack at its core; the International Premiere of Bobbito Garcia’s *STRETCH AND BOBBITO: RADIO THAT CHANGED LIVES*, a documentary about The Stretch Armstrong and Bobbito Show which broadcasted on New York’s WKCP radio in the 1990’s and featured unsigned at the time artists such as Jay Z, Nas and Eminem; and the European Premiere of *THEY WILL HAVE TO KILL US FIRST: MALIAN MUSIC IN EXILE*, Johanna Schwartz’s debut feature which intelligently captures the complexity and emotion of the life of musicians forced into exile and desperate to keep their music alive.

FAMILY

Showcasing films for the young, as well as the young at heart, this year’s *Family* section is a truly international affair, kicking off with the Family Gala, the European Premiere of Rob Letterman’s *GOOSEBUMPS*, featuring Jack Black.

Other highlights are *ADAMA* a deeply moving animation about the life of a young boy in West Africa in 1914; Mamoru Hosoda’s *THE BOY AND THE BEAST*, an exquisitely animated fable about a boy who has run away from home and is alone in the human world following the passing of his mother; Jury Feting’s *CELESTIAL CAMEL*, a fascinating and thrilling tale about a 12 year old herder whose father has sold a young colt who may be the fabled ‘celestial camel’; Academy Award® winner Gabriele Salvatores’ *THE INVISIBLE BOY*, a charming coming of age tale about a shy boy, picked on by his peers, who gets his wish to hide from the world when he discovers a Halloween outfit that makes him invisible; Alexandre Heboyan and Benoît Philippon’s hugely enjoyable CGI animated adventure *MUNE*, about a faun who lives in a faraway world; Studio Ghibli’s beautiful drama *WHEN MARNIE WAS*

THERE, directed by Hiromasa Yonebayashi; and the World Premiere of Tim Clague and Danny Stark's WHO KILLED NELSON NUTMEG?, featuring Bonnie Wright from the *Harry Potter* series.

There is a dedicated section for animated shorts for younger audiences which bring together eclectic, exciting and colourful films from all around the globe. English language and subtitled, suitable for all ages. Amongst the highlights of this year's 14 titles is director Sanjay Patel's SANJAY'S SUPER TEAM from Pixar.

EXPERIMENTA

Experimenta, the LFF showcase of experimental cinema and artist moving image is programmed in partnership with LUX for a third year and is supported by the Arts Council England. Focused on films and videos by artists, it aims to screen films that use the moving image to change the way we think of film and how it functions. The Experimenta Special Presentation is THE FORBIDDEN ROOM, a gleeful, hypnotic and totally deranged epic directed by Guy Maddin and Evan Johnson.

An extensive selection of work from across the world is presented including the World Premieres of William English's HEATED GLOVES and THE HOST, in which director Miranda Pennell delves deeper into her past and her late parents' involvement with the Anglo Iranian Oil Company (BP); Ben Rivers' THE SKY TREMBLES AND THE EARTH IS AFRAID AND THE TWO EYES ARE NOT BROTHERS, the feature element of Ben's current Artangel installation at BBC White City; EVENT FOR A STAGE by Tacita Dean, a filmed presentation of her live theatrical happening in collaboration with actor Stephen Dillane at the 2014 Sydney Biennial; the European Premiere of Omer Fast's REMAINDER, a London-set thriller adapted from Tom McCarthy's acclaimed novel of the same name; the European Premiere of INVENTION which highlights the possibilities of camera movement and the development of artistic apparatus and Kevin Jerome Everson's PARK LANES, set in an American bowling alley over the course of a day.

SHORTS

A hugely diverse range of original and exciting short films that will captivate audiences span the festival strands this year.

Films of Love and Devotion explores and attempts to explain the old adage that *the course of true love never did run smooth* with Rob Savage's ABSENCE starring Paul McGann as a grieving man and OFFLINE DATING, a documentary about a single man's search for love without the use of the internet. The *Last Man Standing is a Girl* programme explores the role of young women in society with GROOVE IS IN THE HEART, a tale of music and memory revealed through a school girl's mixtape and A GIRL'S DAY from German director Hannah Ziegler. *The Family at War* shorts attempts to show what families are really like and how we survive them with TAMARA by Sofia Safonova and VIDEO where we see Elaine having trouble balancing life between her teenage daughter and a secret evening job. *Funny How? How am I Funny?* explores the comedy in cultural misunderstanding with OTHRWISE ENGAGED and black comedy KUNG FURY. The *Fight or Flight* programme charts the human response to extreme situations and *Wild at Heart and Weird on Top* presents eleven shorts that explore the history of film. *In the Neighborhood* is human stories of love, death and life-changing moments and includes Oscar Hudson's LORD AND LIDL, where God unexpectedly shows up at the supermarket. *London Calling* is a selection of shorts from some of the capital's most exciting new filmmakers and is supported by Film London. *Sound Mirrors* features nine diverse shorts all on a musical theme and *Animated Shorts for Younger Audiences* bring together a mix of exciting stories from around the world to surprise and delight children and adults alike.

TREASURES

Treasures bring recently restored cinematic riches from archives around the world to the Festival in London. The previously announced Archive Gala is the World Premiere of the BFI National Archive restoration of A.V. Bramble and Anthony Asquith's silent film *SHOOTING STARS* (1928), presented with a new live score by John Altman, BAFTA and Emmy award-winning composer whose work includes *Titanic* and *Goldeneye*. Asquith's feature debut not only announced the arrival of a significant new director, it is an exuberant, joyful pastiche of the movie industry and is a fascinating behind-the-scenes glimpse and searing comment on the shallowness of the star system. The film restoration and new score is supported by a number of generous individuals, trusts and organisations.

A number of other major restorations will have their World Premieres at the Festival: Carol Reed's atmospheric Graham Greene adaptation of *OUR MAN IN HAVANA* (1959), set in Cuba at the start of the Cold War, makes timely viewing as US/Cuba relations thaw; Ken Russell's reworking of D.H. Lawrence scandalous classic *WOMEN IN LOVE* (1970) stars Oliver Reed, Alan Bates and Glenda Jackson and shows two couple's contrasting searches for love, and was restored by the BFI National Archive working alongside cinematographer Billy Williams; *A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS* (1966) is directed by Fred Zinnemann from a script by great British screenwriter, Robert Bolt from Bolt's play about Sir Thomas More, a perfect companion piece to *Wolf Hall*; Henry Fonda stars in the ripe-for-discovery *WARLOCK* (1959), a seething study of vengeance and repressed sexuality in a Utah mining outpost; and Bryan Forbes' *THE RAGING MOON* (1971) starring Malcolm McDowell and Nanette Newman in a tender story between two young people in wheelchairs which was ahead of its time in its attempts to change attitudes to disability.

From newsreels to comedy sketches, the 21 films that make up *MAKE MORE NOISE! SUFFRAGETTES IN FILM* (1934) are a historical accompaniment to our Opening Night film and a fascinating representation of women at the time that the battle for universal suffrage was being fought on the streets.

Martin Scorsese said of Ousmane Sembène's *BLACK GIRL* (1966): 'An astonishing movie – so ferocious, so haunting and so unlike anything we'd ever seen. 'Sembène's first feature, which tells the tragic story of Diouana, a young Senegalese women eager to find a better life, draws from the Nouvelle Vague, but the film's heart and soul is definitely African. It is the perfect companion to Samba Gadjigo's documentary *SEMBÈNE!*

And for a lighter-hearted but no less majestic cinema experience, George Sidney's breathlessly delightful *KISS ME KATE* (1953) brings the Cole Porter penned musical to screen, here in magnificent 3D.

Rock and roll hall-of-famer Leon Russell is the heart of an ineffable, joyous collage of mesmerising live performance and vérité realism in *A POEM IS A NAKED PERSON* (1974), filmed between 1972-1974 by director Les Blank. Previously unavailable theatrically in the four decades since it was made.

Other highlights include Mira Nair's Oscar-nominated debut feature *SALAAM BOMBAY!* (1988); the Holy Grail of silent comedy shorts, a previously-thought-lost Laurel and Hardy *THE BATTLE OF THE CENTURY* (1927), and Luchino Visconti's fully restored masterpiece *ROCCO AND HIS BROTHERS* (1960), starring Alain Delon in a grand emotional opus on imploding fraternal tensions.

Screen Talks

We are delighted to announce this year's programme of events will include Screen Talks with filmmaker **Todd Haynes**, actor Saoirse Ronan, casting director **Laura Rosenthal** and filmmakers **Jia Zhangke** and **Walter Salles**.

This year, the BFI warmly welcomes **Todd Haynes** to discuss his inspiring and critically acclaimed directing career. His latest film, the poignant *CAROL*, is screening as the American Express Gala in this year's LFF. A pioneer of the Queer Cinema Movement Todd Haynes' films explore the themes of identity and sexuality beginning with the controversial *SUPERSTAR: THE KAREN CARPENTER STORY*, the acclaimed *FAR FROM HEAVEN* and the Bob Dylan biopic *I'M NOT THERE* in more recent years. – Thursday 15 October

We are thrilled to welcome Casting Director **Laura Rosenthal** to lead a Screen Talk about the work of a casting director when taking a film from script to screen. Having worked with a number of ground-breaking directors, Laura Rosenthal's impressive credits include Paolo Sorrentino's *YOUTH*, *BUFFALO SOLDIERS*, starring Joaquin Phoenix, *THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE* and most recently *CAROL*, continuing her long-standing collaboration with Todd Haynes. – Saturday 10 October

Saoirse Ronan shines in The May Fair Hotel gala *BROOKLYN* in which she delivers a nuanced, mature performance that not only reinforces her acting credentials, it signals a new phase in her already impressive career. She received Academy and BAFTA Award nominations for her performance in Joe Wright's *Atonement* (2007), a BAFTA nomination for Peter Jackson's *The Lovely Bones* and has worked subsequently with directors the calibre of Wright, Peter Weir, Neil Jordan, Kevin MacDonald and Wes Anderson. – Sunday 11 October

Internationally-acclaimed Chinese director **Jia Zhangke** and the Academy and BAFTA award-winning **Walter Salles** will partner in a Screen Talk dedicated to discussing Salles' documentary *JIA ZHANGKE: A GUY FROM FENYANG* and their respective approaches to film making. Both established film makers, the documentary is a tribute from one artist to the other as well as a revealing look at Jia's life and work offering audiences a rare insight into the creative mind. – Thursday 8 October

LFF Connects

LFF Connects is a brand new series of thought-provoking high-impact talks intended to stimulate new collaborations and ideas by exploring both the future of film itself and how film engages with other creative industries including television, music, art, games and creative technology.

LFF Connects: Film – Friday 9 October

As previously announced, the inaugural LFF Connects will feature British filmmaker Christopher Nolan, internationally acclaimed for some of the most original, compelling and successful films in contemporary cinema (*Interstellar*, *Inception*, *The Dark Knight*, *Memento*), and Tacita Dean, lauded for her art work in film (and whose grand-scale Tate Modern exhibition *FILM* transfixed audiences).

Christopher Nolan and Tacita Dean are both passionate advocates within their fields for film – not simply as a technology – but as a medium that offers intrinsically rich and unique qualities needed by artists and filmmakers, as well as a hugely engaging experience for audiences. Moderated by BFI Creative Director Heather Stewart, the conversation about the future of film as a medium will also include Alexander Horwath, Director of the Austrian Film Museum.

More LFF Connects events will be announced in the lead-up to the Festival.

INDUSTRY & EDUCATION

The Festival offers a full benefits package for Industry delegates supported by The Mayor's Office and Film London. This year's industry programme includes the new LFF Connects strand, a Global Symposium on gender in media in partnership with the Geena Davis Institute and Women in Film & Television, talent development programme *NET.WORK@LFF* with Creative England, the launch of Screen International's UK Stars of Tomorrow 2015, a Foreign Language Oscar® panel with AMPAS, Press and Industry screenings at Picturehouse Central, the Digital Viewing Library, new delegate hubs, discounts at new partner venues and numerous networking opportunities with delegates and filmmakers. Visit www.bfi.org.uk/lff/professional-delegates for further details.

The also Festival offers an exciting Education programme, thanks to event partners and our funding contributors Arts Council England, the Film Music Foundation and IdeasTap. It includes films from the festival programme and special

events for schools, students and young people, plus the LFF Young Jury Project supported by the BFI Film Academy, all featuring a wide range of film industry professionals. It also includes student accreditation scheme, and the 'Film School Programme' presented in partnership with the National Film & Television School, London Film Academy, London Film School and Birkbeck College.

BFI PLAYER

The BFI London Film Festival experience can be enjoyed UK-wide on BFI Player, the BFI's VOD service, featuring a Festival digital channel showing regular red carpet action and film maker interviews. BFI London Film Festival content will be a key attraction in the range of services on BFI Player – at player.bfi.org.uk/

...ENDS...

For full LFF e-Press Pack

<ftp://ftp.premiercomms.com>

Username: LFF_PRESS

Password: OWL86Y4m

THE 59th BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL SPONSORS AND FUNDERS

We are delighted to welcome **American Express®** back for their sixth year as Principal Partner of the BFI London Film Festival.

We thank **DCMS** and are delighted to be supported directly by the **Mayor of London** through **Film London** as a funding contributor, alongside Creative England and **Creative Skillset**.

We are proud to continue to work with Main Sponsor **Accenture** who return to the Festival for a fourth year. **IWC Schaffhausen** and **Virgin Atlantic** both join us for their second year as Official Airline and Official Time Partner respectively and **The May Fair Hotel** return as the Festival's Official Hotel. For the first time this year we are thrilled to welcome **Giorgio Armani** as an Official Partner of the Festival.

We give heartfelt thanks to **Renault** our Official Car Partner and are pleased to see the return of **DJI**. For the first time this we are delighted to welcome two new festival sponsors, **O2** and **Plusnet**. **Piper Heidsieck** will also be joining the Festival for the first time as our Official Champagne.

We are delighted to welcome back **Arts Council England**, who are supporting the Festival's Experimenta strand and the Archive Gala, alongside **AIR Studios**, the **British Board of Film Classification**, the **Michael Marks Charitable Trust**, **PRS for Music Foundation**, and a number of individual donors.

A huge thank you goes to the Festival's generous in-kind Sponsors: returning photography sponsor **Getty Images**; cinema advertising partner **Digital Cinema Media**; Official Make Up brand **MAC Cosmetics**; Official Lager **Heineken** and Official Spirit, **Drambuie**. Additionally, we would like to welcome back **Premier** and **The Union**, as well as thanking **TV5 Monde**, **Green & Black's Organic chocolate**, **Exterion Media** (formerly CBS Outdoor), **The Hospital Club** and **Impact Distribution** for their continued support. We would also like to thank new sponsors **The Strand Dining Rooms**, **Century Soho** and **The Library**.

Cinema partners returning this year are **Odeon**, **Vue**, **Curzon**, **Picturehouse**, **Cineworld**, **ICA**, **Ciné Lumière** and **Rich Mix** and we are pleased to welcome **Tate Modern** as a venue partner this year.

We are delighted to welcome **Magic FM** as a new Broadcast Partner this year. Thanks also goes to returning Media Partners **Evening Standard**, **Time Out**, **Empire**, **Sight & Sound**, **Screen International**, **Variety**, **The Hollywood Reporter** and **Little White Lies** as well as valued Broadcast Partner **BBC London** for continuing to provide invaluable media support.

Finally, the Festival would like to thank returning sponsors **Christie** digital projectors, and the many embassies and cultural institutes who support the Festival by helping to bring in filmmakers to present their work.

Press information about the 59th BFI London Film Festival:

Press Accreditation & General Enquiries

lffpress@premiercomms.com

Tel: +44 20 7292 8330

Rupert Goodwin	Senior Account Director	Rupert.goodwin@premiercomms.com
Mia Farrell	Senior Publicist – Print	Mia.Farrell@premiercomms.com
Hannah Tatum	Senior Publicist – Broadcast	Hannah.Tatum@premiercomms.com
Sanam Jehanfard	Senior Publicist – Online	Sanam.jehanfard@premiercomms.com
Matty O’Riordan	Senior Media Manager	Matty.oriordan@premiercomms.com
Elizabeth Taylor	Festival Publicist	Elizabeth.taylor@premiercomms.com
Saffeya Shebli	Festival Publicist	Saffeya.shebli@premiercomms.com

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:

pressoffice@bfi.org.uk

Tel: +44 20 7957 4833

Festival Information & Ticket Booking

BFI Members’ priority booking opens 10.00am, 10 September - join at www.bfi.org.uk/join

Public booking opens 10.00am, 17 September

Telephone Bookings: 020 7928 3232 between 10:00 – 20:30

Online: www.bfi.org.uk/lff

In person: BFI Southbank Office: 11:00 – 20:30

Notes to Editors

About the BFI

The BFI is the lead organisation 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 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 twenty 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). She has been BFI Head of Cinemas and Festivals since October 2011.



The National Lottery[®]



**Department
for Culture
Media & Sport**

About American Express[®] Company

American Express is a diversified worldwide travel, financial and network services company founded in 1850. It is a leader in charge and credit cards, Travellers Cheques, travel and insurance products.

Through American Express Invites, Cardmembers have access to enriched experiences at some of the UK's most sought after entertainment events, including best seats, exclusive offers and early-on-sale tickets. The company has multi - year partnerships with a range of entertainment institutions including AEG, Live Nation, Ticketmaster, Somerset House, The British Film Institute and National Theatre.

For more detail on the enriched service American Express offers its Cardmembers, please visit www.amex.co.uk/potential or connect with AmericanExpressUK on Facebook or Twitter @AmexUK

With thanks to our sponsors,

Principal Partner



Supported by



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport



Main Sponsors



Official Partners

GIORGIO ARMANI



Sponsors



In Kind Sponsors



Morden & Lea



partners and funding contributors

Main Funding Contributors

MAYOR OF LONDON



Principal Media Partner



Media Partners



Broadcast & Radio Partners



Venue Partners



Funding Contributors & Cultural Partners



