

January 2014 at BFI Southbank



GOTHIC concludes with *Part 4: Love is a Devil* including a re-release of *La Belle et la bête*, a season is dedicated to Buster Keaton and the Cinema of Today and LOCO London Comedy Film Festival returns to BFI Southbank

- The BFI blockbuster project *GOTHIC: The Dark Heart of Film* concludes at BFI Southbank this January with *Part 4: Love is a Devil*.
- *A Serious Man, A Modern World: Buster Keaton and the Cinema of Today* will be a two month season looking at not only Keaton's work, but also contemporary titles which can be described as 'Keatonesque'. **Part One** of the season will screen titles such as Keaton's *Sherlock Jr* (1924) and *The Navigator* (1924) as well work by **Jaques Tati** and **Woody Allen**. Keaton's masterpiece *The General* (1924) will also be screened on Extended Run as it returns to cinemas in a 4K restoration.
- **Extended Runs** will include the 4K restoration of *La Belle et la bête* (1946) and the continuation of *The Innocents* (1961) both released nationwide by the BFI, as well as Charles Laughton's *Night of the Hunter* (1955).
- Family fun at BFI Southbank in January includes a GOTHIC Film Funday screening of *The Amazing Mr Blunden* (1972) and a LOCO Slapstick Funday of Charlie Chaplin's *The Idle Class*.
- **Discover Arab Cinema** continues with a **Focus on Algeria**, and includes screenings of the first film from the Arab region to win the Palme d'or, *Chronicle of the Years of Fire* (1975).
- **LOCO London Comedy Film Festival** returns to BFI Southbank for the third time with a host of special screenings and events including the UK Premiere of Sophie Letourneur's *Les Coquillettes* (2012), the World Premiere of *Benny & Jolene* (2014) starring Craig Roberts and Charlotte Ritchie, and a preview of London Film Festival hit *We are the Best!* (2013).
- Previews of Martin Scorsese's hotly anticipated *The Wolf of Wall Street* (2013) starring Leonardo DiCaprio and another London Film Festival highlight, documentary filmmaker Matt Wolf's take on adolescence - *Teenage* (2013).
- BFI Southbank will also celebrate the 40th Birthday of *The Sweeney* with a special event dedicated to the cult TV show.

LEAD SEASONS AND EVENTS:

GOTHIC: THE DARK HEART OF FILM

The BFI's blockbuster project *GOTHIC: The Dark Heart of Film* concludes at BFI Southbank this January with *Part 4: Love is a Devil*. The Gothic melodramas of the Brontë sisters, Daphne Du

Maurier and Sheridan Le Fanu crystallised a form that put women's experience and passions centre-stage and infused them with a Gothic sensibility. Despite the tragic and sinister passions of the silent era displayed in such films as *Warning Shadows* (1923) and *The Phantom of the Opera* (1925), it took the sound era and the maturing 1940s taste for melodrama to provide the most memorable adaptations of the popular classics. William Wyler's *Wuthering Heights* (1939) starring a brooding Laurence Olivier as Heathcliffe, Hitchcock's mesmerising *Rebecca* (1940) and Thorold Dickinson's powerful Gothic melodrama *Gaslight* (1940) are some such examples. The season will also include a re-release of Cocteau's *La Belle et la bête* (1946), a spellbinding masterpiece recently described by Guillermo del Toro as 'the most perfect cinematic fable ever told'. Also screening will be four landmark BBC Television dramas which realise the full screen potential of the Gothic Romance novel. Screening in their entirety will be *Jane Eyre* (BBC, 1956), *Wuthering Heights* (BBC, 1962), *Rebecca* (BBC, 1979) and *The Dark Angel* (BBC, 1989). Moving away from classic literature, twisted and re-interpreted fairy-tales such as Neil Jordan's adaptation of Angela Carter's *The Company of Wolves* (1984) explore the desires and shadow sides of women, while the adaptation of Stephanie Meyer's *Twilight* (2008) has produced a Gothic heroine for a new generation in the form of Bella Swan. The timeless dark romance of the Gothic heroine is at the heart of *Love is a Devil* and screenings in January will be complemented with special events including *Tainted Love: Romance and its Shadow*, *The Gothic Heroine on TV* and *Playing in the Dark: Fairy Tale Cinema, Heroines and Danger*.

A SERIOUS MAN, A MODERN WORLD: BUSTER KEATON AND THE CINEMA OF TODAY

To tie in with the release of the 4K digital restoration of *The General* (1920), BFI Southbank will host a two month season dedicated to the comic ingenuity of **Buster Keaton**; the season will also include a number of films which bear stylist or thematic resemblance to Keaton's oeuvre. Part one of the season will include work by **Woody Allen**, the **Brothers Quay** and **Jacques Tati**. Buster Keaton was a magnificent screen comedian, arguably only rivalled by Charlie Chapin, and possessed comic invention and precision like no other. He was also a hugely imaginative director whose work – much of it ahead of its time in many ways – still feels extremely modern. It is therefore appropriate that this season will offer, as well as some of Keaton's finest films, a selection of films which can be deemed 'Keaton-esque'. Keaton films being screened will include *Sherlock Jr* (1924), *Our Hospitality* (1923), *Go West* (1925) and *The Navigator* (1924), while 'Keaton-esque' films include Woody Allen's *Zelig* (1983), Jacques Tati's *Playtime* (1967) and Aki Kaurismäki's *Take Care of Your Scarf, Tatjana* (1994).

LOCO LONDON COMEDY FILM FESTIVAL

The **LOCO London Comedy Film Festival** returns to BFI Southbank for the third time with a host of special screenings and events, lightening up London in the most miserable week of the year. 2014 is LOCO's biggest ever line-up, with more premieres, more venues, more director Q&As and more training for young filmmakers, including the third year of LOCO's popular Kickstart Your Comedy Career course. There are also more British films in the festival, including the world premiere of Jamie Adams' debut feature **Benny & Jolene** (2014) starring **Craig Roberts** and **Charlotte Ritchie**, this year's LOCO Discovery Awards, and a selection of the best new comedy shorts. Continuing its commitment to the best international comedy LOCO will also host the UK Premieres of Sophie Letourneur's *Les Coquillettes* (France, 2012) and Diederik Ebbinge's award-winning *Matterhorn* (Netherlands, 2013), as well as a preview of BFI London Film Festival hit *We are the Best!* (Sweden, 2013), proving that language is no barrier to laughter. One of comedy's most important roles is to poke fun at the powerful. So this year LOCO will be celebrating satirical comedy, with a full day of discussions and workshops, a newly-commissioned portrait exhibition of today's leading British satirists by artist Rachel King, and a special **50th Anniversary screening** of **Stanley Kubrick's *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*** (1964) with special guests including Kubrick's producer and brother-in-law **Jan Harlan**. The Festival closes with **21st Century**

Sketch, a celebration of the best in contemporary sketch comedy. For full details please visit www.locofilmfestival.com.

BFI SOUTHBANK EVENT LISTINGS FOR JANUARY:

Preview: The Wolf of Wall Street

USA 2013. Dir Martin Scorsese. With Leonardo DiCaprio, Jon Favreau, Matthew McConaughey, Jonah Hill. c165min. Digital. Cert tbc. Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Martin Scorsese directs the true story of New York stockbroker Jordan Belfort. Citing *Wall Street's* Gordon Gekko as a role model, Belfort leads a life of pure excess: adopting a monkey for the office, playing human darts with midgets, strapping thousands of dollars to the bodies of women for entertainment in the midst of multi-million dollar corrupt corporate deals. Morality goes out the window and the law seemingly can't touch him.

Tickets £15, concs £11.50 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Wed 15 Jan 19:50 NFT1

Preview: Teenage + Q&A with Jon Savage

USA 2013. Dir Matt Wolf. 78min. Digital. Courtesy of Soda Pictures

Matt Wolf follows his acclaimed documentary *Wild Combination: A Portrait of Arthur Russell* with this fresh look at the energy and angst of adolescence. Based on Jon Savage's book *Teenage: The Creation of Youth*, the film captures milestones in youth culture from some of the brightest and darkest moments of recent history. Skillfully constructed from stunning footage from the beginning of the 20th century up to the end of the 1940s, Wolf's film finds a thousand different ways to escape adult oppression and influence society, culture and politics.

Wed 22 Jan 18:30 NFT1

Continues in the Studio Fri 24 Jan – Thu 6 Feb

'Get your trousers on, you're nicked!': The Sweeney at 40

It was the roughest, toughest – sometimes the funniest – cop show of its day, a rollicking, barnstorming mix of fast cars, *femmes fatales*, felonies and fisticuffs summed up memorably by some wit as 'fags, slags, blags and Jags'. Reflecting the police's response to a deadlier form of organised crime, the Flying Squad (Sweeney Todd in rhyming slang) proved an effective inspiration for a fondly remembered show that introduced a great partnership in the shape of Regan (John Thaw) and Carter (Dennis Waterman). Forty years after the premise made its bow (in the one-off Armchair Cinema offering *Regan*), we can gauge the on-going legacy of *The Sweeney*, as elements of the series can be mirrored in the most popular recent cop series *Life on Mars* and *New Tricks*. Join us (and members of *The Sweeney* creative team) for a clip-filled celebration of the show that will attempt to uncover the secrets of the programme's success and reflect on the impact that the series continues to make.

Thu 9 Jan 18:20 NFT1

Seniors' Free Matinee: Break the News

UK 1938. Dir René Clair. With June Knight, Marta Labarr. 73min. PG

A hugely enjoyable, lavishly mounted comedy with the dream teaming of Jack Buchanan and Maurice Chevalier as partners in a song-and-dance double act who hatch a fake murder plot as a means of boosting their flagging profile. It all goes splendidly wrong of course... The farcical elements are handled with aplomb by director Clair, here making his second, and final, film in Britain, ensuring that the pace never flags, and a song by Cole Porter is an added bonus.

Introduction and discussion with Archive Fiction curator John Oliver Free to over-60s otherwise tickets available at normal matinee price

Mon 6 Jan 14:00 NFT1

Essential Experiments: The Sun and the Moon

UK 2007. Dir Stephen Dwoskin. 60min

A powerful, sexually intense retelling of the Beauty and the Beast story which centres on an old dark house, a brooding presence and two women's simultaneous fear and desire for otherness. Experimenting with sound,

mirrors and light, filmmaker Dwoskin (who also appears here) alludes to the surrealism of Man Ray and Jean Cocteau and transforms his home into a claustrophobic, haunting, mythic fairy-tale space.

We look forward to welcoming Maggie Jennings and other members of the cast and all female camera crew to discuss this and other films by the much-missed Stephen Dwoskin.

Thu 9 Jan 20:30 NFT3

Projecting the Archive: The Shuttered Room

UK 1966. Dir David Greene. With Gig Young, Carol Lynley, Flora Robson, Oliver Reed. 99min. 18

This atmospheric chiller takes little more than its title from the HP Lovecraft pastiche it's based on, which is greatly improved by the reworking. Susanna Whately (Lynley) returns to the remote island off the US east coast that she left as a child, intending to reclaim her inheritance. Despite warnings of supernatural goings-on, she and her husband have more to fear from the local rednecks, led by a sleazy Oliver Reed, than the secret that lurks in the shuttered room.

Introduced by film historian Jonathan Rigby

Tue 28 Jan 18:20 NFT1

Discover Arab Cinema: December Décembre

Algeria 1972. Dir Mohammad Lakhdar Hamina. With Michel Auclair, Geneviève Page, André Thorent, Julien Guïoma. 120min. EST.

The third feature from a key figure in the development of Algerian cinema and independent cinema in the Arab region, the film deals with the case of a French officer troubled by the violent acts of torture perpetrated by the French army against members of the FLN. A moving exploration of the moral dilemmas of a French army officer and an Algerian resistance leader, as the two embark on a battle of wills in an interrogation involving escalating levels of torture and murder.

Thu 2 Jan 18:00 NFT2

Sat 4 Jan 20:30 NFT2

Discover Arab Cinema: Chronicle of the Years of Fire Chronique des années de braise

Algeria 1975. Dir Mohammad Lakhdar Hamina. With Yorgo Voyagis, Mohammed Lakhdar Hamina, Leïla Shenna. 177min. EST.

The first film from the Arab region to win a Palme d'or, this beautifully shot epic chronicles, through the life of the lead character, the hardships suffered under French colonialism and the emerging resistance to occupation. A moving exploration of issues fundamental to Algeria and France and whose international resonance remains today, yet surprisingly little explored.

Tue 21 Jan 19:40 NFT2

Sat 25 Jan 14:30 NFT2

Discover Arab Cinema: Bab El Oued City

Algeria 1994. Dir Merzak Allouache. With Nadia Kaci, Mohamed Ourdache, Hassan Abidou. 93min. EST

Taking place in an impoverished neighbourhood in Algiers, the film follows the adventures of a young man after he tore down the loudspeaker of a neighbouring mosque when he could no longer stand its admonitions following its takeover by a local radical mob. It contains one of the clearest and most persuasive depictions of the recent rise of Islamic fundamentalism and shows a comprehensive cross section of contemporary urban Algerian life. The film played in Cannes, where it won the FIPRESCI Award.

Tue 7 Jan 18:30 NFT2

Sun 12 Jan 20:50 NFT2

Discover Arab Cinema: Homeland Né quelque part

France-Algeria 2012. Dir Mohamed Hamidi. With Tewfik Jallab, Jamel Debbouze, Fatsah Bouyahmed. 87min. EST. Digital

A young French-Algerian has to go to Algeria, his ancestral country which he has never visited before, to try to save his father's house. On his journey he is won over by the humour of the extraordinary characters he meets. Among them is his cousin, a quick-witted wheelerdealer who dreams of doing the reverse journey and making it to France. Newcomer Tewfik Jallab as the lead and popular French-Moroccan comedian Jamel Debbouze, as his crazy cousin, ensure a lively journey for all.

Tue 14 Jan 20:50 NFT2

Sat 18 Jan 18:20 NFT2

African Odysseys: The Stuart Hall Project + Panel

UK 2013. Dir John Akomfrah. 103min. Digital. 12A

Directed by John Akomfrah, founder of the Black Audio Collective, this recently acclaimed film boasts a remix of the innovative music of Miles Davis to score an intricate collage of archive footage featuring the life and thought of renowned cultural theorist and political activist, Stuart Hall. This special screening takes inspiration from the formal experiment of the filmmaker, the originality and challenge of Miles Davis and the political engagement of Stuart Hall. A panel of filmmakers, activists and provocateurs will consider the frontiers of political activism as subject for the emerging filmmakers, performers and musicians of today.

With special guests and discussion following the screening

Sat 11 Jan 14:00 NFT2

Centro Historico + Discussion with Víctor Erice and Pedro Costa

Portugal 2012. Dirs Víctor Erice, Pedro Costa, Manoel de Oliveira, Aki Kaurismäki. 80min. Digital. EST

Made to mark Guimarães's being made European Capital of Culture, this portmanteau film sees four major directors contributing four very different films about the northern Portuguese city, its culture and its history. Kaurismäki's bittersweet *Tavern Man* follows a forlorn bar-owner's attempts to stay in business; Costa's hallucinatory *Sweet Exorcism* explores issues of immigration and militarism in an encounter between a Cape Verdean and a ghostly soldier; Erice's tender and heart-rending *Broken Windows* revisits a community of workers that populated a now-closed textile mill; and de Oliveira's *The Conqueror Conquered* casts a wry comic eye at the current plight of Portugal's first king. Witty, touching and thought-provoking fare, the film will be followed by an on-stage discussion, hosted by Geoff Andrew, Senior Film Programmer at BFI Southbank, with two of the film's directors: Pedro Costa, best known here for *Casa de Lava*, *Ossos* and *Colossal Youth*, and Víctor Erice, famous for *The Spirit of the Beehive*, *The South* and *The Quince Tree Sun*.

Tickets £15, concs £11.50 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Sun 5 Jan 15:00 NFT1

BFI Future Film in association with London Short Film Festival and LOCO presents... Don't Make Me Laugh

Join us for a side-splitting selection of comedy shorts from open submission into the 2014 London Short Film Festival plus Q&A with some of the filmmakers.

And if you are making your own comedy shorts, join us afterwards for one of our workshops for just £2 more.

Sketch improv workshop – 15:30 Blue Room

Distributing your comedy short panel session 15:30 NFT3

Screening 13:00: Tickets £4 for young people aged 15-25.

Regular ticket price for over 25s. Plus £2 for each workshop

Sat 11 Jan 13:00 – 17:30 NFT3

GOTHIC Film Funday: The Amazing Mr Blunden + Q&A

UK 1972. Dir Lionel Jeffries. With Laurence Naismith, Lynn Frederick, Garry Miller, Rosalyn Landor, Madeline Smith. 99min. U

When the down-on-their-luck Allen family are given the opportunity to look after a country mansion by the mysterious Mr Blunden, they pack up their bags to start a new life. Rumours the house is haunted don't deter them and before long, they encounter young Sara and Georgie who lived in the house a century before.

We are delighted to welcome actors, Madeline Smith (Arabella Wickens) and Rosalyn Landor (Sara Latimer) for a Q&A after the screening.

Sun 19 Jan 13:30 NFT1

+ Funday workshop

Free to ticket-holders of the film

Sun 19 Jan 11:30 Foyer

LOCO Jr. presents: The Idle Class

USA 1921. Dir Charlie Chaplin. c30min. U

In Charlie Chaplin's *The Idle Class*, the Little Tramp causes chaos at a smart golf resort when he's mistaken for a wealthy businessman. With a live soundtrack from some of Britain's brightest young ragtime musicians. Plus **One Week** (1920), a mini-masterpiece about a young couple moving into a state-of-the-art DIY house starring and directed by Buster Keaton.

In association with The Lucky Dog Picturehouse. With School of Slapstick Funday in the Foyer, 11:00, free to ticket-holders of LOCO For more LOCO Jr. screenings please visit locofilmfestival.com.
Sun 26 Jan 13:00 NFT1

Press Contacts:

Liz Parkinson – Assistant Press Officer, BFI Southbank

liz.parkinson@bfi.org.uk / 020 7957 8918

Ilona Cheshire – Press Officer, BFI Southbank

ilona.cheshire@bfi.org.uk / 020 7957 8986

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 Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £11.00, concs £8.50 Members pay £1.50 less on any ticket. Website www.bfi.org.uk/southbank

Tickets for FREE screenings and events must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment

BFI Shop

The BFI Shop is stocked and staffed by BFI experts with over 1,200 book titles and 1,000 DVDs to choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI.

The benugo bar & kitchen

Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo's décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. The place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI / BFI Southbank / January 2014