



Another record-breaking New Year at BFI Southbank as it celebrates its BEST MONTH EVER

Once again **BFI Southbank** has broken box-office records and is celebrating its most successful month ever with its highest number of cinema viewers in January 2012. The winter chill couldn't keep audiences away from its unique programme of packed screenings, exclusive events and to watch films that can't be seen in any other cinemas: from **Dickens on Screen** and **Woody Allen** seasons to an extended run of **Jean Vigo's L'Atalante**, the first **London Comedy Film Festival** and the UK premiere of **Phyllida Lloyd's The Iron Lady**. January paid admissions reached a record 35,000 – an increase of 25% from January 2011 - while more than 180,000 visitors in total came to BFI Southbank, many of them stopping on their way for a drink or a bite to eat at benugo bar & kitchen, the new Drawing Room and The Riverfront, or to shop at the Filmstore. With these record results, BFI Southbank confirms its reputation as one of the best cultural hotspots in London.

Clare Stewart, Head of Exhibition BFI, said: "We are thrilled that 2012 has kicked-off with such brilliant results, indicating that audiences for great film are expanding and that film fans are, more than ever, seeking the big screen experience and diverse programming they can find at BFI Southbank."

Looking ahead, Spring at BFI Southbank is packed with even more exciting screenings and events, from the complete **David Lynch** retrospective and the continuing **Dickens on Screen**, presently screening, to the idiosyncratic genius of **Peter Cook** in March and the glorious Technicolor from **Vincente Minnelli** throughout April and May. June will bring a **Meltdown** programme to complement the annual music festival, and the eagerly anticipated celebrations for **The Genius of Alfred Hitchcock** will launch this Summer, when his entire body of work will screen over three months, accompanied by spectacular one-off screenings of his British silent films being held throughout London as part of the London 2012 Festival celebrations.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

About the BFI

The BFI is the nation's cultural organisation for film, keeping the breadth of voices in moving image culture alive and known. Through its venues, festivals, film releases and online, the BFI inspires people to understand and enjoy film culture, ensuring that everyone in the UK can see the broadest range and choice of films, otherwise not provided by commercial cinema. The BFI reaches an audience of over 7.5 million in the UK every year.

Booking information

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 £9.00, concs £6.65 Members pay £1.40 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 Filmstore

The BFI Filmstore 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 / February 2012