



BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

7 – 18 October 2015

in partnership with



AWARD WINNING DIRECTOR PAWEL PAWLIKOWSKI TO HEAD-UP LFF OFFICIAL COMPETITION JURY

With fellow jurors **Christine Vachon**, **Chiwetel Ejiofor**,
Kristin Scott Thomas and **Mabel Cheung**

LONDON – Tuesday 15 September 2015: The 59th BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express® announces this year's Official Competition Jury.

President of the Official Competition jury is three-time BAFTA winner and LFF Best Film (2013) prize winner **PAWEL PAWLIKOWSKI**, whose *IDA* garnered him both the BAFTA and Oscar® for Foreign Language Film. Previous credits include *Last Resort* and *My Summer of Love*.

CHRISTINE VACHON, whose film *CAROL* is this year's American Express® Gala and whose other producer credits include *Boys Don't Cry*, *Far From Heaven*, *Savage Grace*, *One Hour Photo*, *Velvet Goldmine*, *Happiness* and *Kids*. Her exec producer credits include *Still Alice* and *Nasty Baby* which also features in this year's Festival.

CHIWETEL EJIOFOR, the BAFTA-winning and Oscar® nominee whose broad range of acting credits include Steve McQueen's *12 Years a Slave*, Stephen Frears' *Dirty Pretty Things*, Richard Curtis' *Love Actually*, Alfonso Cuarón's *Children of Men*, Phillip Noyce's *Salt* and Ridley Scott's *The Martian*.

KRISTIN SCOTT THOMAS, the BAFTA-winning and Oscar® nominee whose many screen roles in both English and French language cinema include Nicolas Winding Refn's *Only God Forgives*, Sam Taylor-Johnson's *Nowhere Boy*, Catherine Corsini's *Leaving (Partir)*, Robert Altman's *Gosford Park* and Anthony Minghella's *The English Patient*.

MABEL CHEUNG, whose new film *A TALE OF THREE CITIES* – based on the romance between Jackie Chan's parents – has its European Premiere at LFF and whose previous directorial credits include *The Soong Sisters*, *An Autumn's Tale* and *The Illegal Immigrant* all of which were nominated for Best Director at the Hong Kong Film Awards.

Pawel Pawlikowski said: "It is an honour to be Jury President for the BFI London Film Festival this year especially as my last film *IDA* won the Best Film Award in 2013 at the very beginning of its journey."

On Saturday 17 October at the annual Awards Ceremony, prizes will be presented for the Festival's competitive sections - The **Best Film Award** is presented to the winner of the **Official Competition**; the **Sutherland Award** is presented to the winner of the **First Feature Competition** and the **Grierson Award** is presented in partnership with the Grierson Trust, to the winning film in the **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 of these sections is open to international and British films. As previously announced Cate Blanchett will receive the **BFI Fellowship**, awarded each year at the BFI London Film Festival Awards ceremony. Juries for the First Feature, Documentary and Short Film competitions will be announced shortly.

The **Best Film Award** recognises inspiring, inventive and distinctive filmmaking. The **Official Competition** films are selected by Festival Director Clare Stewart, together with the Festival programming team.

- 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)

The 59th BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express® runs from Wednesday 7 October-Sunday 18 October 2015. Full programme information at www.bfi.org.uk/lff

Press information about the 59th BFI London Film Festival:

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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.



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