



# LUMINOUS

CELEBRATING BRITISH FILM  
PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

in partnership with

**IWC**  
SCHAFFHAUSEN

## **BFI ANNOUNCES FUNDRAISING GALA LUMINOUS WITH GUEST SPEAKER TILDA SWINTON**

***Oscar®-winning director Tom Hooper joins jury for second  
IWC Schaffhausen Filmmaker Bursary Award in association with the BFI***

***£50,000 Award presented at LUMINOUS on 3 October 2017***

**LONDON Embargoed until 9:00am, Wednesday 19 July 2017:** On 3 October 2017, BFI LUMINOUS in partnership with IWC Schaffhausen, will see the most celebrated figures in the world of film and television come together to raise funds for the BFI - the lead cultural organisation and charity at the heart of their industry.

Hosted by BFI Chair Josh Berger and BFI CEO Amanda Nevill and presented by Jonathan Ross, LUMINOUS will be at London's Guildhall and welcomes **Tilda Swinton** as a special guest speaker. The second IWC Schaffhausen Filmmaker Bursary Award in association with the BFI, will be awarded at the event, with director **Tom Hooper** joining the judging panel with Amanda Nevill and IWC CEO Christoph Grainger-Herr. At £50,000, the Bursary is the most significant of its kind in the UK film industry, supporting exceptional new and emerging UK filmmakers in Official Selection at the BFI London Film Festival in Partnership with American Express®.

LUMINOUS 2017 will raise vital funds for the BFI to develop its work in film education, using the BFI National Archive, one of the world's richest film collections and a unique resource, to teach and inspire the next generation of film talent. A biennial gala, LUMINOUS takes place on the eve of the Opening Night of the BFI London Film Festival (LFF). The evening will include an auction of unrivalled film experiences and prizes, open for public bidding in September. Tickets for LUMINOUS are currently on sale at [www.bfi.org.uk/luminous](http://www.bfi.org.uk/luminous).

The 2015 Gala raised over **£430,000** for the BFI National Archive, with stars including Tom Hiddleston, the late Sir John Hurt, Steve Coogan, Anna Friel, Lily Cole, Geena Davis, Dame Joan Collins, Natascha McElhone, Terry Gilliam, Jonathan Pryce, Jenna Coleman and Julian Fellowes attending and offering their support. Funds raised enabled the restoration and re-release of powerful and culturally important films, including Abel Gance's *Napoleon* (1927) and Franz Otsen's *Shiraz* (1928). The latter premieres as this year's LFF Archive Gala (14 October), an event co-produced by BFI and Barbican, with a newly commissioned score performed live by multiple Grammy®-nominated Indian composer and musician Anoushka Shankar.

**BFI CEO Amanda Nevill said:** *"The support for LUMINOUS has been incredible, allowing us, as a charity, to undertake work which otherwise would be impossible. I'm delighted that this year we are raising funds for the BFI's specialist film education activity. LUMINOUS celebrates the vital role the BFI National Archive plays in preserving our film culture and our work inspiring the next generation of filmmakers. I'm thrilled to welcome Tilda as our guest speaker and grateful to the gala's dedicated Chair Jonathan Ross and committee members, our ambassadors and of course our headline sponsor IWC Schaffhausen. It is fantastic to bring together IWC's generosity and the LFF to offer this unique Bursary for the second year, a partnership which enables us to provide an extraordinary opportunity for an emerging filmmaker."*

**Christoph Grainger-Herr, CEO of IWC Schaffhausen commented:** *"IWC is proud to support British filmmaking with the IWC Schaffhausen Filmmaker Bursary Award in association with the BFI, for the second time this year. We recognize the importance of up-and-coming talents for the film industry, and we are delighted that this award gives emerging filmmakers the freedom and time they need to develop their projects."*

LUMINOUS 2017 will see the presentation of the £50,000 Bursary to an emerging UK-based writer and/or director premiering their first or second feature at the LFF. Tom Hooper, on the jury with Amanda Nevill and Christoph Grainger-Herr, will select a winner from a shortlist of three filmmakers. A panel made up of industry heavy weights, alongside Clare Stewart, Director of the BFI London Film Festival and Ben Roberts, Director of the BFI Film Fund, will shortlist from the first or second features from UK filmmakers screening in the Festival.

**Oscar-winning Director Tom Hooper, said:** *"This Bursary provides up and coming filmmakers with an incredible and unique opportunity, and it is an honour to be part of the jury selecting the winner. Forging a career in this industry can be tough, and receiving a no strings attached investment gives a fledgling filmmaker the time and space to develop their voice and allow their creativity to truly flourish."*

The Bursary is designed to give the UK's brightest and best up-and-coming filmmakers the gift of time – a crucial element in the creative process. Supporting talent at the beginning of their career, it aims to bring them financial stability, allowing them to develop their creativity and focus on future projects without the pressure of deadlines or the distraction of taking paid work – a precious and extremely rare opportunity for a filmmaker.

**Hope Dickson Leach** won the inaugural Bursary for *The Levelling*, her debut feature which was released in May to critical acclaim following its world premiere at the BFI London Film Festival in 2016. Explaining the extraordinary opportunity the Bursary provided her with, Dickson Leach said: *“This last year has been a wild ride. Promoting my debut film as well as exploring future opportunities is all-encompassing, and having the time to invest in this has truly been a privilege. Winning the Bursary not only made it possible for me to make the most of this crucial moment in my career, but also raised my profile. Over the year I have worked hard to find the projects that most excite me and will provide that important step forward for my second feature, and feel lucky to be developing several as a result. I have also had time to work with my colleagues at Raising Films, the campaigning initiative I co-founded for parents and carers in the film industry. The Bursary is a unique opportunity for British filmmakers – the gift of time is surely the most precious thing any filmmaker can receive, and I can say without doubt that it has allowed me to make the most of this critical year in my life.”*

As the funding environment for arts organisations remains challenging, LUMINOUS is at the heart of the BFI's ambitious fundraising strategy to ensure the UK's rich heritage of film and television is protected and the talent of tomorrow are inspired and given opportunities to thrive.

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### LUMINOUS

The BFI's biennial fundraising gala, LUMINOUS in partnership with IWC Schaffhausen, is raising vital funds for the BFI to inspire and nurture the next generation of film talent. The BFI delivers specialist education and skills development programmes which work to discover and develop the filmmakers of tomorrow and enable access to the very best opportunities, training and advice to enter the industry. At the heart of all the BFI's work is the BFI National Archive, one of the world's richest film and television collections and a unique and incredibly valued resource for new and emerging talent.

Tickets and tables for LUMINOUS are currently on sale. Applications at: [www.bfi.org.uk/luminous](http://www.bfi.org.uk/luminous).

### IWC Schaffhausen Filmmaker Bursary Award in association with the BFI

The IWC Schaffhausen Filmmaker Bursary Award in association with the BFI is awarded annually, forming a key part of the BFI London Film Festival's commitment to UK film and those who drive its creative success and demonstrating the steadfast support of IWC Schaffhausen for British filmmaking.

Writers, directors, and writer/directors who identify themselves as British and have a first or second fiction feature film premiering in Official Selection at the LFF are eligible for the Award. Filmmakers need to submit a 150 word biography, a filmography, a précis of the projects they are developing and a statement setting out how they would use the bursary award to help their future development in film.

A unique partnership that unlocks direct philanthropic support for UK creativity and the future of British film, it was created by the Swiss luxury watch manufacturer and experts from the BFI. The Bursary follows a long tradition of IWC Schaffhausen's commitment to and support of the film industry – evidenced by its established partnerships with the Tribeca Film Festival, the Dubai International Film Festival, Zurich Film Festival, the Beijing International Film Festival and the Singapore International Film Festival. IWC Schaffhausen has been a sponsor of the BFI and the Official Time Partner of the BFI London Film Festival since 2014.

### 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 diverse films, 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.

### 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 is a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter.

The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

## **IWC SCHAFFHAUSEN**

With a clear focus on technology and development, the Swiss watch manufacturer IWC Schaffhausen has been producing timepieces of lasting value since 1868. The company has gained an international reputation based on a passion for innovative solutions and technical ingenuity. One of the world's leading brands in the luxury watch segment, IWC crafts masterpieces of haute horlogerie at their finest, combining supreme precision with exclusive design. As an ecologically and socially responsible company, IWC is committed to sustainable production, supports institutions around the globe in their work with children and young people, and maintains partnerships with organizations dedicated to climate and environmental protection.

## **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](http://www.amex.co.uk/potential) or connect with AmericanExpressUK on Facebook or Twitter @AmexUK



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