

BFI ANNOUNCES HARRIET FINNEY AS DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LONDON – Friday 28 July 2017: Harriet Finney has been appointed Director of External Affairs at the BFI, joining the BFI’s Executive Board on September 15 2017. Harriet will lead on the significant policy, strategy and public affairs priorities of the BFI as set out in BFI2022, the organization’s five year plan for film. Reflecting the BFI’s lead role for the screen industries these include a new international strategy to support continued growth as well as navigating a smooth Brexit for the sector, delivering the new skills strategy, a major commitment to diversity and inclusion with the aim of the BFI Diversity Standards being adopted by the industry and a significant commitment to devolving more funding and decision making across the regions, particularly through focused support for the dynamic and burgeoning film and moving image Clusters in addition to London.

Harriet will report into BFI CEO Amanda Nevill with her department covering Film Policy, Creative Europe Desk UK, Diversity and Inclusion, the BFI Research and Statistics Unit, BFI Certification Unit and Corporate Communications & Public Affairs.

Harriet joins the BFI from the Creative Industries Federation, where she was Deputy CEO from September 2016, having joined as Policy Director in July 2015 shortly after the organisation was formed. Alongside her experience leading the Federation’s influential policy and research team, and developing a strong network of contacts across Westminster, Harriet also brings a keen understanding of the potential impact of Brexit on the creative and cultural sector, having led on the Federation’s post referendum Brexit Report. With insight into the broader challenges and opportunities currently facing the creative industries, Harriet recently worked closely with Government and sector partners on the forthcoming Industrial Strategy, in which the creative industries have been recognised as a key strategic sector. Working across issues such as skills, diversity, public funding, soft power, regional development and export – from her time in both the public and private sectors – Harriet will support the BFI to strengthen and build engagement with its key stakeholders.

Harriet also played an active role in building the membership base of the Federation, which has seen phenomenal growth in the past two years, and has now reached over 1,000 members across the UK.

Harriet Finney said: *“I’m delighted to be joining the BFI in September at this critical moment in*

the evolution of the UK's film industry. I'm very much looking forward to working closely with colleagues at the BFI, stakeholders across the screen industries, government and the wider creative and cultural sector to secure the best possible conditions for the continued success of British filmmaking – both domestically and abroad.

A key priority for the coming period will be working with partners to secure a positive outcome for the sector as we move towards leaving the EU. I also look forward to supporting the delivery of the BFI's commitments to skills, diversity, audience development and regional rebalancing as set out in the BFI 2022 strategy."

BFI CEO, Amanda Nevill said: *"Harriet brings a wealth of experience to the BFI – across policy, Government affairs and corporate communications. This role is crucial to ensuring the BFI and the industry works together with Government to identify opportunities at home and abroad, and to be front and centre of realising them. At a time when our industry is undergoing significant change, Harriet has the knowledge and expertise to address the big issues facing film and the wider screen industries."*

Harriet has already been involved in reviewing the roles and priorities of her team and the recruitment of the BFI's Head of the Research and Statistics Unit, which is currently being advertised on bfi.org.uk/about-bfi/job-opportunities. The position is available from October 2017.

Harriet has joined the BFI from the Creative Industries Federation, where she was Deputy CEO and Policy Director. A national membership organisation for all the UK's creative industries, cultural education and arts, CIF works to ensure the creative industries are central to political, economic and social decision-making. Prior to this role, Harriet held senior positions at the Music Publishers Association and Chrysalis Group PLC.

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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



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- 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.