

## **BFI appoints Isabel Davis to Head of International**

### ***Davis to lead BFI's integrated international strategy***

**LONDON – Tuesday 11 September 2012:** At last night's UK celebration event at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival – which features over 30 films with UK involvement in its official selection, including eight productions backed by the BFI Film Fund – the BFI (British Film Institute) announced that Isabel Davis is to take up a newly expanded role, Head of International.

Isabel's enhanced role reflects the BFI's new integrated international strategy, coordinating the full range of the organisation's activity from cultural exchange through to international co-production. Isabel will take a strategic overview of all international activity at the BFI and that of its funded external partners, including inward investment and film export activity and working across talent and skills, policy and strategy. She will be the BFI lead on international, working collaboratively with Government, the film industry in the UK and internationally, trade associations, and the BFI's partners.

Isabel remains a key part of the BFI Film Fund's editorial team with a specific focus on tracking high-calibre international filmmaking talent who might partner creatively with the UK, and exemplary UK projects with international co-production opportunities. She will continue to represent the UK's co-producing interests internationally, playing a key role in the negotiation of co-production treaties and maintaining and fostering co-production relationships with all of the UK's partner countries. She continues to report to Ben Roberts, Director of the BFI Film Fund, the UK's largest public film fund with a current budget of £18m per year, set to rise to £24m by 2017.

Amanda Nevill, CEO of the BFI, said: *“The BFI is hugely ambitious for British film on the international stage, and we fully understand the importance of focusing on this significant growth area for the benefit of UK PLC. Isabel has a thorough understanding of the international film arena and I know she will be a universally popular appointment to this important role.”*

Ben Roberts, Director of the BFI Film Fund, added: *“Isabel is an extremely well-liked and much respected executive in the international film community. She is a big asset for the BFI and the UK industry. Congratulations to her on this strengthened role that will help us deliver a fruitful international strategy on behalf of UK film.”*

Isabel Davis said: *“Bringing together the commercial and cultural interests of British film at the BFI has provided a unique opportunity to enhance our international profile across the cultural, creative and commercial spectrum. This is a fantastic chance to look afresh at UK film internationally and I look forward to working with our partners to achieve this.”*

Isabel transferred to the BFI in April 2011 after originally joining the UK Film Council in late 2006. As Senior Executive, International for the BFI Film Fund, Isabel has combined editorial duties with representing the UK’s co-producing interests internationally. She has led industry delegations to Brazil, India, Russia and Morocco as well as working closely with partners in France, Germany, Spain, Italy and many others, bringing together filmmakers and financiers.

Prior to joining the UK Film Council, Isabel was Head of Development at HomeRun Film Development, during which time she developed a slate of film projects and contributed to the development of the hit TV series *Doc Martin*. In 2004-5, Isabel produced the short film *You Can Run...*, directed by the acclaimed theatre director Lucy Bailey.

Before working in film, Isabel worked in various roles in theatre and the performing arts, including press, fundraising and general management. She holds a post graduate diploma in Arts Administration and an MA (Hons) in French Language and Literature.

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

**The eight BFI Film Fund-backed feature films in selection at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival are:**

### ***Berberian Sound Studio***

In this tense and moody psychological thriller, a timid British sound engineer begins to lose his grip on reality when he is hired to work for a flamboyant Italian horror director.

**Director:** Peter Strickland

**Producer:** Keith Griffiths, Mary Burke, Hans Geissendoerfer

**Production Company:** Illuminations Films, Warp X Production

**Principal Cast:** Toby Jones, Cosimo Fusco, Antonio Mancino, Fatma Mohamed, Salvatore Li Causi, Chiara D'Anna, Tonia Sotiropoulou

**Screenplay:** Peter Strickland

**Sales Agent:** The Match Factory

### ***Byzantium***

A pair of female vampires (Saoirse Ronan and Gemma Arterton) wreaks havoc on an unsuspecting English seaside community in this deliciously depraved supernatural drama from Academy Award® winner Neil Jordan.

**Director:** Neil Jordan

**Producer:** Stephen Woolley, Alan Moloney, Elizabeth Karlsen, William D. Johnson, Sam Englehardt

**Production Company:** Number 9 Films, Parallel Films

**Principal Cast:** Gemma Arterton, Saoirse Ronan, Sam Riley, Johnny Lee Miller, Daniel Mays, Caleb Landry Jones, Kate Ashfield, Maria Doyle Kennedy, Uri Gavriel, Thure Lindhardt

**Screenplay:** Moira Buffini

**Sales Agent:** WestEnd Films

### ***Ginger and Rosa***

As the Cold War meets the sexual revolution in 1960s London, the lifelong friendship of two teenage girls (Elle Fanning, Alice Englert) is shattered by ideological differences and personal betrayals. This new film from director Sally Potter (*Orlando*) also stars Annette Bening and Christina Hendricks.

**Director:** Sally Potter

**Producer:** Christopher Sheppard, Andrew Litvin

**Production Company:** Miso Film ApS, Adventure Pictures

**Principal Cast:** Timothy Spall, Alice Englert, Oliver Platt, Jodhi May, Alessandro Nivola, Christina Hedricks, Elle Fanning, Annette Bening

**Screenplay:** Sally Potter

**Sales Agent:** The Match Factory

### **Great Expectations**

An outstanding roster of British acting talent — including Ralph Fiennes, Helena Bonham Carter, Robbie Coltrane, Sally Hawkins, Jason Flemyng, Ewen Bremner — bring Charles Dickens' universe to life in this magnificent new screen version of the classic novel from director Mike Newell (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*).

**Director:** Mike Newell

**Producer:** Stephen Woolley, Elizabeth Karlsen, David Faigenblum, Emanuel Michael

**Production Company:** Number 9 Films

**Principal Cast:** Jeremy Irvine, Robbie Coltrane, Holliday Grainger, Helena Bonham Carter, Ralph Fiennes

**Screenplay:** David Nicholls

**Source Author:** Charles Dickens

**Sales Agent:** HanWay Films

### **LONDON – The Modern Babylon**

Director Julien Temple (*The Great Rock 'n' Roll Swindle*, *The Filth and the Fury*) surveys the past century of London's tumultuous history in this vibrant documentary.

**Director:** Julien Temple

**Producer:** Julien Temple, Amanda Temple, Stephen Malit

**Production Company:** Nitrate Film Limited

**Screenplay:** Julien Temple

**Sales Agent:** Ealing Metro International

### **The Pervert's Guide to Ideology**

Director Sophie Fiennes reunites with philosophical provocateur Slavoj Žižek for this follow-up to their hit *The Pervert's Guide to Cinema*, in which Žižek applies his inimitable and penetrating insights to films both famous and obscure as he interprets their overt and concealed meanings. Fiennes and Žižek will join us onstage following this world premiere screening.

**Director:** Sophie Fiennes

**Producer:** James Wilson, Martin Rosenbaum, Katie Holu, Sophie Fiennes

**Production Company:** P Guide Production Limited, Blinder Films

**Principal Cast:** Slavoj Zizek

**Screenplay:** Slavoj Zizek

**Sales Agent:** Doc & Film International

### **Seven Psychopaths**

A screenwriter (Colin Farrell) struggling to write a serial-killer script gets more real-life inspiration than he can handle when a dognapping scheme gone awry brings a galaxy of crazies to his doorstep. A top-notch cult-movie cast — including Christopher Walken, Sam Rockwell, Woody Harrelson, Tom Waits, Harry Dean Stanton — anchors this wacky, blood-spattered commentary on the psycho-killer thriller from the writer-director of *In Bruges*.

**Director:** Martin McDonagh

**Producer:** Graham Broadbent, Pete Czernin

**Production Company:** Blueprint Pictures

**Principal Cast:** Colin Farrell, Sam Rockwell, Woody Harrelson, Christopher Walken, Abbie Cornish, Olga Kurylenko, Gabourey Sidibe

**Screenplay:** Martin McDonagh

**Sales Agent:** HanWay Films

### ***Sightseers***

A pair of sad-sack lovers turns into a frumpy Bonnie and Clyde as their romantic getaway to the English countryside turns into a bloody killing spree, in this gleefully gory laugh riot from the director of the TIFF Midnight Madness favourite *Kill List*.

**Director:** Ben Wheatley

**Producer:** Nira Park, Claire Jones, Andy Starke

**Production Company:** Big Talk Pictures, Rook Films

**Principal Cast:** Alice Lowe, Steve Oram, Eileen Davies, Jonathan Aris, Richard Glover, Monica Dolan

**Screenplay:** Alice Lowe, Steve Oram

**Sales Agent:** Protagonist Pictures

**A further three UK films at Toronto received development support through the BFI Film Fund:**

### ***Hyde Park on the Hudson***

Bill Murray and Laura Linney star in the true story of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's relationship with his distant cousin and soon-to-be mistress Margaret Suckley, over a weekend at the president's country estate with the visiting King and Queen of England in 1939.

**Director:** Roger Michell

**Producer:** Kevin Loader, Roger Michell, David Aukin

**Production Co.:** Free Range Film/Daybreak Pictures

**Principal Cast:** Bill Murray, Laura Linney

**Screenplay:** Richard Nelson

**Sales Agent:** Focus Features

### ***Lore***

Left to fend for herself when her SS officer father is captured by the victorious Allies at the end of World War II, a fourteen-year-old German girl (striking newcomer Saskia Rosendahl) must lead her four siblings on a gruelling trek across the war-ravaged countryside — and must put her trust in the very person she was taught to hate.

**Director:** Cate Shortland

**Producer:** Karsten Stöter, Liz Watts, Paul Welsh, Benny Dreschel

**Production Co.:** Porchlight Films, Rohfilm, Edge City Films

**Principal Cast:** Saskia Rosendahl, Kai Malina, Nele Trebs, Ursina Lardi, Hans-Jochen Wagner, Mika Seidel, André Frid, Eva-Maria Hagen

**Screenplay:** Robin Mukherjee, Cate Shortland

**Source Author:** Rachel Seiffert

**Sales Agent:** Memento Films International

### ***Zaytoun***

An Israeli fighter pilot (Stephen Dorff) is shot down over Lebanon and must make his way across the war-torn country with the aid of an angry young Palestinian boy, in this gritty, moving drama from director Eran Riklis (*The Syrian Bride*).

**Director:** Eran Riklis

**Producer:** Gareth Unwin, Fred Ritzenberg

**Production Co.:** C/O Pathé, Bedlam Productions, Far Films Principal

**Cast:** Stephen Dorff, Abedallah El Akel, Alice Taglioni, Loai Nofi, Ali Suliman, Ashraf Barhom

**Screenplay:** Nader Rizq

**Sales Agent:** Pathé

### **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
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences