



## **BFI APPOINTS TOM HOOPER TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

BFI Chair Greg Dyke announced today that Tom Hooper has been appointed to the BFI's Board of Governors. Director of the one of the most successful British films of all time – the commercial and critical global hit *The King's Speech* (2010), Tom joins the BFI as it develops a new era for film and sees some of the biggest changes in the film landscape for over a decade. *The King's Speech*, winner of 4 Academy Awards and 7 BAFTA's, was funded by the UK Film Council, whose funding responsibilities have transferred to the BFI.

**Greg Dyke** said *"The impact of Tom's work has been hugely significant for the British film industry and The King's Speech will undoubtedly go down in history as one of Britain's most successful films. We are absolutely delighted to have Tom join the BFI board. With a reputation as an outstanding collaborator, his knowledge, expertise and influence will be invaluable in helping us steer the new lead body for film towards an exciting future for British film."*

**Tom Hooper** said *"I'm really pleased to be joining the BFI board at such an exciting moment, a moment when the BFI is reinventing itself to be one of the leaders on film in Britain."*

Oxford-educated Tom started his career as a television director working on a succession of UK hits including *Byker Grove*, *Cold Feet*, *Love in a Cold Climate*, *Prime Suspect* and *Eastenders*. He went on to achieve huge success in the US at the Emmys and Golden Globes, with his TV film *Longford*, the mini-series *Elizabeth I*, starring Helen Mirren, and with *John Adams*, a nine-hour series for HBO about the American Revolution which won a record 13 Emmy's. Tom directed *Red Dust* (2004) a political drama starring Hilary Swank and Chiwetel Ejiofor and then went on to make *The Damned United* (2008), starring Michael Sheen. *The King's Speech* was Tom's third major feature.

Tom's appointment marks the final addition to the 15 strong BFI Board of Governors, which includes Josh Berger; Tessa Ross CBE; Beban Kidron; Lisbeth Savill; Matthew Justice; Rt. Hon James Purnell; Ashley Highfield; Cy Young; Peter

Foy; Professor Sir Howard Newby CBE; Shami Chakrabarti CBE; Sir Christopher Frayling; and David Thompson.

**PRESS CONTACTS:**

**Judy Wells, Head of Press and PR, BFI**

Email: [judy.wells@bfi.org.uk](mailto:judy.wells@bfi.org.uk)

**Nick Mason Pearson, Director of Press and Public Affairs, BFI**

Email: [nick.pearson@bfi.org.uk](mailto:nick.pearson@bfi.org.uk) or mob: 07968 747 879

**Notes to Editors**

**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

**Board of Governors**

The BFI is governed by a Board of 15 Governors subject to the terms and conditions set out in its Royal Charter and they are the trustees of the charity. The Chair of the Board of Governors is appointed, with the approval of the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, by the UK Film Council.

The BFI is a charity, not-for-profit and our policy is that these non-executive posts are unremunerated.

For more information about the role of BFI Governors see <http://www.bfi.org.uk/about/whoweare/governors/intro.html>

The recruitment process of Governors to the BFI Board fully follows the code of practice as laid out in the Nolan principles - [http://www.publicappointmentscommissioner.org/Code\\_of\\_Practice/e0908a66106.html](http://www.publicappointmentscommissioner.org/Code_of_Practice/e0908a66106.html)