

BFI APPOINTS TWO NEW GOVERNORS TO BOARD

ALISON CORNWELL and TIM RICHARDS

Thursday 20 June 2013 The BFI is pleased to announce the appointment of two new members to its Governing Board, Alison Cornwell and Tim Richards. Both will attend their first BFI Board meeting on 26 June 2013.

Greg Dyke, Chair, BFI said, *“I’m very pleased to have secured two very talented individuals to the BFI Board. Alison and Tim are leaders in their field and bring distinct qualities and experience that will strengthen and complement our existing Board. Both also have a strong track record in film and television and their sharp business acumen and sector perspective is known and respected across the film industry in the UK and internationally. Alison and Tim will help the BFI realise its ambitions and steer a path through the challenges it faces , particularly in the changing landscape of distribution and exhibition.”*

Alison Cornwell is a finance executive with extensive film, television and broadcasting experience gained with major USA studios and with independent companies. She qualified as a chartered accountant in 1990 and spent 5 years in corporate finance before joining Disney’s International TV business. Here she was involved in the launch and management of 40 TV channels across Europe, Asia and Latin America and oversaw significant growth in Disney’s TV licensing business and in its portfolio of investments in third party broadcasters. She was a non-executive director of GMTV, in which Disney had a shareholding, from 2002 to 2005.

In 2005 Alison left Disney to become CFO of private equity backed Sparrowhawk Media which acquired the international assets of Crown Media Holdings. The business expanded and was sold to NBC Universal at the end of 2007 at a substantial profit.

Since 2008 Alison has been CFO of Alliance Films, another private equity venture, involved in film distribution in Canada, UK and Spain. Following various successes including the acquisition of Maple Pictures from Lionsgate and the financing of movies such as *Insidious* and *The Woman In Black*,

Alliance's owners decided to sell the business. Alison led the exit process which concluded in a successful sale and she is currently working with the new owners.

Tim Richards is the founder and CEO of Vue Entertainment, a leading cinema exhibition company with over 145 state-of-the-art cinemas in the UK, Ireland, Denmark, Germany, Taiwan, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Portugal. On June 10 it was announced that Vue Entertainment has been acquired by two Canadian investment groups, with Tim retaining a substantial equity stake and continuing to manage the business.

Tim has 23 years of experience in international cinema exhibition covering four continents and in non-executive and board positions for many British film organisations, including Creative Skillset, the Cinema Exhibitors Association (CEA), the International Union of Cinemas (UNIC), BAFTA, British Screen Advisory Council (BSAC) and the Film Business Academy at Cass Business School. Tim was a panel member of Lord Smith's Film Policy Review in 2010. Before entering the entertainment industry, Tim was a Wall Street lawyer engaged in international finance and cross-border mergers and acquisitions while based in London and New York.

The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Greg Dyke and the other Governors are: Josh Berger CBE, Ashley Highfield, Tom Hooper, Matthew Justice, Peter Kosminsky, Libby Savill (Deputy Chair), Cy Young, Pat Butler, Charles Cecil MBE and Baroness Oona King.

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Notes to Editors

The BFI is governed by a Board of up to 15 Governors subject to the BFI's Royal Charter. The Chair of the Board of Governors is appointed by the Governing Body, with the approval of the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport.

The BFI is a charity, the Governors are also the trustees of the Charity. BFI policy is that these non-executive posts are unremunerated.

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