

GREG DYKE AWARDED BFI FELLOWSHIP

7.30PM, Thursday 11th February 2016

The BFI tonight presented outgoing Chairman Greg Dyke with its highest honour - the BFI Fellowship - for his outstanding contribution to television and film. The surprise award was given to Greg by Melvyn Bragg at an event in which Greg was introducing his personal Screen Epiphany *Cabaret* (dir. Bob Fosse, 1972) to a packed audience at BFI Southbank. Greg's illustrious career has spanned over 50 years and encompasses journalism, broadcasting, TV production, film and sport. Greg was Director General of the BBC and Chief Executive of both Pearson Television and LWT and has been Chairman of the BFI for 8 years, Chairman of the FA and European Theatre Group ATG and is Chancellor of York University.

Greg Dyke said *'Thank you to my friends at the BFI, we've had a great eight years together. We've faced lots of challenges but we're better now than ever and doing more than ever. It's a brilliant organisation and I'm overwhelmed by this BFI Fellowship award.'*

Lord David Puttnam said *'Greg Dyke is one of those unique people who, seemingly without effort, fills the gap between the private and public sectors; contributing his own special combination of forthright charm, humour, and steely determination to getting the right thing done, in the right way, and for the right reasons. In a world with too many challenges and too few of the people needed to meet them, Greg remains a one-of-a-kind national treasure.'*

Amanda Nevill, BFI CEO said *'Greg has had a profound influence upon modern television and popular culture and he has made a massive impact on so many other sectors from film to journalism and sport. I have huge admiration for Greg's energy, incisiveness and his ability to cut through to the core of every issue. Greg has led the BFI through one of the biggest changes in its history. His ambition and passion for the BFI National Archive, improving diversity, educational opportunities and our digital capabilities together with his determination to make the BFI UK-wide has been transformative. There's a good reason that Greg is one of the most popular men in the business and I feel very lucky to have had eight years of working with him. I am extremely grateful for his enormous contribution to the BFI and our industry and wish him all the very best for the future.'*

Greg started his career in journalism in the 1960's and subsequently attended York University to read Politics, graduating in 1974. Greg's TV career started as a researcher on The London Programme, quickly working his way up to becoming editor of The Six O'Clock Show (ITV) and subsequently - and famously - turning around ITV's ailing morning show TV-am with a new and very successful tabloid approach to programming. In 1984

Greg continued to make an impact as Director of Programmes at TVS, then LWT where he eventually became MD in 1989. In 1994 Greg became Chairman and Chief Executive of Pearson Television and built the company into the biggest non-US independent production company in the world, with a huge slate of TV drama and entertainment. Greg became Director General of the BBC in 2000, the first who had neither been to public school or Oxbridge to hold the position, and one of the most popular DG's with BBC staff of all time. Greg set about modernising the organisation, put a new focus on improving diversity and led the BBC's digital strategy - launching 4 new digital channels, five new digital radio stations, the BBC's first interactive television services, the start of Freeview and the growth of BBC Education.

Greg took over as BFI Chairman in 2008 and has successfully steered the BFI through one of the biggest evolutions in its history when the responsibilities of the UK Film Council were given to the BFI and subsequently launched its 5-year plan 'Film Forever' in 2012. Greg's ambition was also to make the BFI National Archive available to as wide an audience as possible – achieved through the launch of the BFI's VOD platform BFI Player in 2013. The BFI's Britain on Film project, launched last year on BFI Player, has meant 5.6 million people UK-wide have now viewed 1000's of newly digitised films from the BFI National Archive. Greg has also driven the BFI's educational and diversity agendas, believing passionately that film and the moving image are powerful educational tools that should be part of the curriculum. Greg launched the hugely successful BFI Film Academy in 2012, giving young people of all backgrounds, no matter where they live, the opportunity for a career in film. By the end of 2016 it will have supported over 3,000 15-19 year olds. The BFI also launched its Diversity Standards for all projects in receipt of Lottery funding in October 2015. Greg will leave his post at the BFI on 23rd February when he hands over the BFI Chairmanship to Josh Berger, President and Managing Director of, Warner Bros. Entertainment UK, Ireland and Spain.

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[Pictures of the event are available via Getty Images](#)

Note to Editors:

The Fellowship of the BFI (British Film Institute) was created in 1983 to coincide with the BFI's 50th anniversary. On that occasion the British film industry gathered in the Guildhall for a televised event at which the first group of Fellows were created - Marcel Carné, David Lean, Michael Powell, Emeric Pressburger, Satyajit Ray and Orson Welles.

Since its creation, the BFI Fellowship has been awarded to key figures in British cinema including Peggy Ashcroft, Dirk Bogarde, Alec Guinness, Maggie Smith, Laurence Olivier, Vanessa Redgrave, Mike Leigh and Helena Bonham Carter. Also recognised have been such film industry luminaries as Jack Cardiff, Sydney Samuelson and Jeremy Thomas, and some of the giants of world cinema, including Michelangelo Antonioni, Abbas Kiarostami, Akira Kurosawa, Jeanne Moreau, Elem Klimov and Bernardo Bertolucci.

The BFI Fellowship also celebrates achievement in the world of television with such names as Alan Yentob, Jeremy Isaacs, David Rose, Michael Parkinson, Lynda La Plante, Lord Bernstein and Verity Lambert all receiving the award.

Since 1983 a total of 78 Fellowships have been awarded.

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 Greg Dyke.