

BFI BLACK STAR HIP HOP WEEKENDER:

STARRING ICE CUBE, RZA, TUPAC SHAKUR, QUEEN LATIFAH, ICE T, KID N PLAY AND MANY, MANY MORE

90S FILM CLASSICS, DJ SETS, & A FAMILY FUNDAY, 4-6 NOVEMBER 2016



Set It Off



Friday

BLACK STAR looks at Hip Hop stars turned big screen actors in classics including: *Boyz n the Hood*, *Set It Off*, *Friday*, *Juice*, *New Jack City*, *Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai*, *House Party* and *Gridlock'd*

London: Tuesday, 25 October, 2016 – As part of its **BLACK STAR** season, the UK's largest ever celebration of black actors in film and television, the BFI is bringing audiences back to the thrilling days when Hip Hop stars first made bold, successful moves into acting. **Presented by Sonic Cinema and in association with MOBO Film, the Hip Hop weekender will take place from 4 -6 November at the BFI Southbank in London and feature film screenings, DJ sets and a family funday.**

Screenings include 90s film classics, from the theatrical re-release of John Singleton's groundbreaking and Oscar®-nominated *Boyz n the Hood* (1991), starring Ice Cube, Cuba Gooding

Jr., Laurence Fishburne and Angela Bassett, to **Set It Off** (dir. F. Gary Gray, 1996), starring Queen Latifah, Jada Pinkett-Smith, Vivica A. Fox and Kimberly Elise; **Friday** (F. Gary Gray, 1995), starring Ice Cube, Nia Long, Chris Tucker and Bernie Mac; **New Jack City** (dir. Mario Van Peebles, 1991), starring Wesley Snipes, Ice-T and Chris Rock; **Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai** (dir. Jim Jarmusch, 1999), starring Forest Whitaker; **House Party** (dir. Reginald Hudin, 1990), starring Christopher Reid, Christopher Martin, Tisha Campbell-Martin and Martin Lawrence; **Juice** (dir. Ernest R. Dickerson, 1992) and **Gridlock'd** (dir. Vondie Curtis-Hall, 1997), both starring Tupac Shakur.

A Hip Hop weekend would not be complete without live music from a few of London's top DJs: **The Doctor's Orders**, Time Out's '*kings of the capital's Hip Hop scene*', join BFI Southbank to present a club night for adults on Friday, 4 November and a special morning club event called **FUN DMC**, for kids and parents on Sunday, 6 November. **WORK IT**, on the scene since 2008, will bring their 90s hip hop and RnB tracks to the BFI Southbank following the screenings on Saturday, 5 November.

BLACK STAR Family Funday, which will take place at the BFI Southbank on **Sunday, 6 November** will include a screening of Joe Pytka's **Space Jam** (1996), starring Michael Jordan, Bill Murray and Danny DeVito; and a **Daytime Block Party** with music from **The Doctor's Orders**, dancing and a chance for kids to master their basketballs skills with players from the **London School of Basketball**.

The **BFI's BLACK STAR season**, which will run until the end of the year, is the UK's biggest season of film and television dedicated to celebrating the range, versatility and power of black actors. The season's aim is to bring the work of black actors to a new generation of UK audiences, helping to reposition them and their performances in our collective memory.

BLACK STAR will be available to audiences everywhere in the UK; in cinemas including BFI Southbank, on BBC Television, on BFI DVD/Blu-ray and online via BFI Player from 17 October – 31 December.

The full BLACK STAR Hip Hop Weekender programme can be found here:
<https://whatson.bfi.org.uk/Online/hiphopweekender>

Boyz n the Hood (dir. John Singleton, 1991)

With Cuba Gooding Jr., Laurence Fishburne, Ice Cube, Angela Bassett

Synopsis: This seminal drama ushered in a new wave of exciting black filmmaking in the US. Remarkably, John Singleton was just 23 when he wrote and directed his thrilling debut, featuring Tre Styles (Gooding Jr), a young man struggling to navigate life in a community ravaged by police harassment, drug addiction, poverty and gang violence. Singleton's powerful story is intensified by a superb cast, including Angela Bassett and Laurence Fishburne as Tre's at-odds parents and rapper Ice Cube's charismatic screen debut as troubled gangbanger Doughboy. Today, with tension between black communities and the police in America at fever pitch, *Boyz n the Hood* feels every inch as urgent and important as it did upon its release a quarter of a century ago.

Set it Off (dir. F. Gary Gray, 1996)

With Queen Latifah, Jada Pinkett-Smith, Vivica A. Fox, Kimberly Elise

Synopsis: Twenty years ago, F. Gary Gray (*Friday, Straight Outta Compton*) put together an iconic quartet in Latifah, Pinkett-Smith, Fox and Elise, playing a tight-knit group who decide to rob banks to overcome financial hardship. Thrilling action sequences of these 'Robin

Hoods' taking matters into their own hands display an unapologetically subversive black female agency, spanning vulnerability, joy and solidarity.

Friday (dir. F. Gary Gray, 1995)

With Ice Cube, Chris Tucker, Nia Long, Bernie Mac

Synopsis: This hilarious stoner-buddy-movie was the first film that Ice Cube turned into a franchise, and he's since gained 26 producer credits. Craig and Smokey (Tucker's first starring role) need to come up with \$200 by 10pm to pay back a dealer for smoking his weed. In their quest to raise funds, the duo encounter the eccentric inhabitants of their neighbourhood, including the scandalous Pastor Clever, the brutish Deebo and the ill-fated Felisha.

Juice (dir. Ernest R. Dickerson)

With Tupac Shakur, Omar Epps, Kahil Kain, Jermain Hopkins, Queen Latifah

Synopsis: In this exhilarating drama, long-term Spike Lee collaborator Dickerson coaxes a riveting turn from Shakur in his feature acting debut. He plays one of four Harlem teens whose pursuit of the eponymous "juice" (respect and power) turns fatal when their mischief escalates. Unfolding against a bouncing Hip Hop soundtrack, Juice insightfully explores the conflicts of urban living, where notions of creativity and community clash with hyper-masculinity and systemic impoverishment.

New Jack City (dir. Mario Van Peebles)

With Wesley Snipes, Chris Rock, Ice T, Bill Nunn, Allen Payne

Synopsis: Just one year before Body Count rapper Ice-T released the incendiary song "Cop Killer", he shone in this swaggering thriller as an NYPD stalwart opposite Wesley Snipes' glowering narcotics tycoon Nino Brown. An intelligent critique of rampant Reagan-era capitalism, Van Peebles' Harlem-set cult classic encapsulates the unique sound and aesthetic of New Jack Swing, and boasts a striking early appearance from a young Chris Rock.

Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai (dir. Jim Jarmusch, 1999)

With Forest Whitaker, Isacch De Bankolé, Cliff Gorman

Synopsis: This surreal and stylish fable stars the imposing Forest Whitaker, a genuinely unique screen presence, as a self-taught samurai hitman who finds himself marked for death by the mafia. Blessed with stunning cinematography from Robby Müller and a brilliant original score from Wu-Tang Clan's RZA (who also cameos), this is an intoxicating and strangely moving fusion of gangsta, gangster and ninja worlds.

House Party (dir. Reginald Hudin, 1990)

With Christopher Reid, Christopher Martin, Tisha Campbell-Martin, Martin Lawrence, George Clinton)

Synopsis: Missing Play's party when the hottest girl in school will be there just isn't an option: with his dad and school bullies in pursuit, Kid risks it all and sneaks out. House Party is brimming with delightful teen movie tropes and boasts a now-iconic rap battle and dance-off. The adventures of Kid 'n Play immortalised the style and sound of 90s hip-hop.

Gridlock'd (dir. Vondie Curtis-Hall)

With Tupac Shakur, Thandie Newton, Tim Roth

Synopsis: This darkly comic indie explores Detroit's underbelly as it follows two musicians on the run from local police and gangsters when they decide to quit heroin after their bandmate overdoses. Tupac Shakur's talent, allure and beauty are etched on to every scene in this stylish underground treasure, while Newton and Roth sizzle and charm offering a real sense of the camaraderie amongst artists.

Space Jam (dir. Joe Pytka, 1996)

With Michael Jordan, Bill Murray and Danny DeVito

Synopsis: Be prepared for the most extraordinary basketball game of them all: the alien 'Monstars' vs the Looney Tunes, led by NBA star Michael Jordan. If the Looney Tunes lose, the evil owner of intergalactic theme park will keep them as his new attraction! Featuring Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and all the favourites, this mix of live action and animations is a blast. Hip Hop titans B-Real, Busta Rhymes, Coolio, LL Cool J, and Method Man combined for its memorable theme song "Hit 'Em High (The Monstars' Anthem)"

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***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI /BFI UK Publicity /BFI /BFI BLACK STAR /Hip Hop

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NOTES TO EDITORS

BFI BLACK STAR

BLACK STAR is the UK's biggest ever season of film and television dedicated to celebrating the range, versatility and power of black actors. BLACK STAR celebrates the relationship between stars and the audiences who love them, spotlighting great performances by black actors on screen from the earliest years of cinema through to the present day, whilst exploring why opportunities to shine on screen have been historically limited for black actors. BLACK STAR celebrates films that feature black actors in central roles, bringing their work to a new generation of UK audiences and helping to reposition them and their performances in our collective memory. BLACK STAR is currently taking place across the UK, at BFI Southbank, on BFI Player and on DVD.

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

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 CBE.

About MOBO

The MOBO Season calendar runs from 27th September to December. Other partners of the MOBO Season include: ITV, Live Nation, The Donmar Warehouse, UK Music, Mediacom, Havas, Saatchi & Saatchi, The British Library and The London Mayor's Office. www.mobo.com

The MOBO Awards were established in 1996 by Kanya King MBE to motivate, elevate and celebrate the outstanding achievements of artists in publically underappreciated genres, from soul and reggae to hip hop, grime and afrobeats. A pioneer in its field, MOBO is revered as a world-leading urban music brand that successfully champions diversity and inclusivity in music and broader cultural arenas.

Now in its 21st year, MOBO is not just an event – it is a movement. It strives to support emerging and independent talent and has backed some of our nation's most-loved artists down through the years from Amy Winehouse and Emeli Sande to Laura Mvula, Skepta and many more. Beyond the realms of music, MOBO pursues its mission to create more opportunities and platforms for talent in film, TV, fashion, art, sport and media that might otherwise go unnoticed.

A drive to deliver social and cultural change is embedded in the organisation's DNA. With a tried and tested talent development programme, a number of Executive Fellowships in the workplace and a host of annual training and educational opportunities for young people, MOBO influences the lives of hundreds of thousands of people every year. From chart-topping acts, grassroots artists to aspiring apprentices, MOBO is there to empower and nurture potential wherever it may come from.