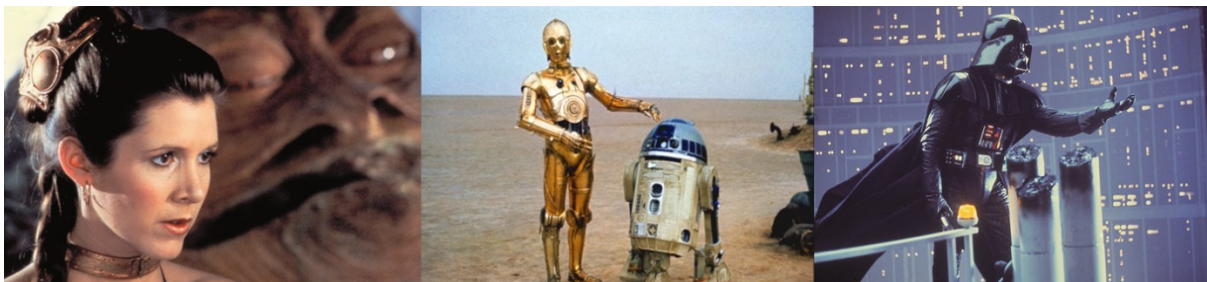


NEWS ALERT:
BFI celebrate Star Wars Day – Saturday 13 December



Tuesday 28 October 2014, London

As part of the BFI's three-month blockbuster season, *Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder* presented together with **O2**, the BFI will be celebrating **STAR WARS DAY** on **Saturday 13 December 2014**, with special guests to be announced in due course.

As the UK continues to play a major role in the production of JJ Abrams' forthcoming STAR WARS film, the BFI are taking audiences back to the very beginning with a very special day dedicated to the mother of all Space Operas. **STAR WARS DAY** on **Saturday 13 December 2014** will comprise of screenings of the special editions of *STAR WARS EPISODE IV: A NEW HOPE* (1977), *STAR WARS EPISODE V: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK* (1980) and *STAR WARS EPISODE VI: RETURN OF THE JEDI* (1983), plus special guests (TBA). Prizes will be given to audience members who dress to impress, and at the end of the night there will be a themed DJ set and space inspired cocktails in benugo, which will be transformed into the BFI's own Mos Eisley Cantina.

Throughout the Sci-Fi season fans will also be able to take a look behind the scenes with a unique exhibition. **ON-SET: STAR WARS EPISODE IV: A NEW HOPE (Until 4 Jan, BFI Southbank Atrium)** will provide a rare opportunity to see one of the treasures of the **BFI National Archive**: an original shooting script for *EPISODE IV: A NEW HOPE*. The script was donated to the BFI by the film's continuity supervisor Ann Skinner, and as such includes extensive shooting notes, deleted scenes and unique Polaroid photographs which give a fascinating insight into the making of the film. Never before seen pages and photographs from the script will be on display, exploring the style of the film as well as the highly-skilled work that that went into creating one of the most enduring and influential Sci-Fi films ever made.

– ENDS –

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope (special edition)

USA 1977. Dir George Lucas. With Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Alec Guinness. 125min. U

With this film George Lucas created a generation of film fans and continued to inspire and captivate with each new audience. When Princess Leia hides the blueprints to the Death Star in an R2D2 droid unit it leads farm boy Luke Skywalker, rogue Han Solo, the mysterious Ben Kenobi, droid C3PO and the wookiee Chewbacca on an epic adventure, taking in fantastic worlds, dangerous missions and a burgeoning romance. Join us to celebrate the story that started a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.

Sat 13 Dec 11:00 NFT1 (Star Wars Day)

Mon 15 Dec 17:45 NFT1

Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back (special edition)

USA 1980. Dir Irvin Kershner. With Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Billy Dee Williams. 127min. U

The epic adventure takes a darker turn as the Rebel Alliance is forced to scatter from the ice planet Hoth after an attack from Imperial forces. Luke trains under Jedi master Yoda on the swamp planet Dagobah, and Han Solo is betrayed by old friend Lando Calrissian in Cloud City. Darth Vader's link to Luke is dramatically revealed in a light sabre battle, leaving Luke with a choice to make between the Jedi force and the power of the Sith.

Sat 13 Dec 11:00 NFT1 (Star Wars Day)

Tue 16 Dec 17:45 NFT1

Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi (special edition)

USA 1983. Dir Richard Marquand. With Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Warwick Davis. 135min. U

Now a trained Jedi knight, Luke joins Leia and Lando in rescuing Han Solo from Jabba the Hut on Tatooine. The crew head to the forest planet Endor and meet the Ewoks, and together they must destroy the Imperial army's newer, stronger Death Star. Han becomes jealous of Luke and Leia's growing closeness and Luke reveals he has more family alive. The original trilogy ends with treetop celebrations, and paved the way for future stories to continue.

Sat 13 Dec 11:00 NFT1 (Star Wars Day)

Thu 18 Dec 20:20 NFT1

On-set: Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope

This exhibition provides a very special opportunity to see one of the treasures of the BFI National Archive: an original shooting script for *Episode IV: A New Hope*. The script was donated to the BFI by the film's continuity supervisor, and as such includes extensive shooting notes, deleted scenes and unique Polaroid photographs which give a fascinating insight into the making of the film. Selected pages and photographs from the script are on display, exploring the style of the film as well as the highly-skilled work that that went into creating one of the most enduring and influential sci-fi films ever made.

23 Oct – 4 Jan, Atrium

Press Contacts:

Liz Parkinson – Press Officer (Acting), BFI Southbank

liz.parkinson@bfi.org.uk / 020 7957 8918

Tim Mosley – Press Officer, BFI Southbank

tim.mosley@bfi.org.uk / 020 7957 8986

Emma Hewitt – Head of Press and PR (Acting)

emma.hewitt@bfi.org.uk / 020 7173 3256

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

SCI-FI: DAYS OF FEAR AND WONDER will be the BFI's biggest season to date, with over **1000** screenings of classic films and television programmes at over **200** locations across the UK. It includes a three-month programme at BFI Southbank, from **20 October until 31 December 2014**, with special events, guests and screenings right across the UK. With outdoor events at iconic British sites, classic Sci-Fi titles released into UK cinemas and on DVD and Blu-ray, 50+ films available online through BFI Player, a BFI Sci-Fi Compendium and much more, **SCI-FI: DAYS OF FEAR AND WONDER**, presented together with **02**, will celebrate cinema's most spectacular and visionary genre, exploring how the fear and wonder at its heart continues to inspire and enthrall in one of the largest and most ambitious Sci-Fi projects ever created.

www.bfi.org.uk/sci-fi @BFI #BFISciFi

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

A selection of images and clips for journalistic use in can be found at www.image.net under **BFI / Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder**