

## **BFI Celebrate Women in Film**



### **Announcing an exciting new range of programmes dedicated to women in front and behind the camera**

**Wednesday 8 March 2017, London** – Tonight **BFI Southbank** will mark **International Women's Day** with the **London Premiere** of the comedy *In Between* (Maysaloun Hamoud, 2016), about three Palestinian friends living in Israel. The occasion also sees the announcement of new BFI Southbank season *Girlfriends*, a focus on **black women directors**, including the release of the restored *Daughters of the Dust* (Julie Dash, 1991), and a series of films by Indian women directors as part of *BFI India on Film*. With a year round commitment to celebrate the representation of women and the achievements of women who work in film, the event also marks a year since BFI Southbank launched the *Woman with a Movie Camera* strand, which for the past 12 months has partnered with a range of women's organisation to showcase the best cinema created by, and about, women.

This September BFI Southbank will host *Girlfriends*, a one month season which put women's lives centre stage. The season traces female friendships on and off screen including *Dance, Girl, Dance* (Dorothy Arzner, 1940), *Daisies* (Věra Chytilová, 1966) and a special 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event of *Romy and Michele's High School Reunion* (David Mirkin, 1997). The season will look beyond stereotypes and shows women finding their way in the world and working together to create change. The films explore the complexities that come with female friendships and show that such representations are not a recent phenomenon, but stretch back to the early history of cinema.

This June BFI Southbank's regular *Deep Focus* season, programmed with **Sight & Sound** will present the black female experience through the lens of black female directors. This follows on from BFI **BLACK STAR** – the UK's biggest ever celebration of black screen actors – and will include the BFI theatrical and dual format edition Blu-Ray and DVD release of *Daughters of the Dust* (1991), Julie Dash's ground-breaking first feature and the first feature film by an African-American woman to be released in cinemas in the United States.

As part of **BFI India on Film**, in conjunction with UK India Year of Culture, the BFI Southbank will be introducing a showcase of female Indian directors with films such as *Firaaq* (Nandita Das, 2008), *A Death in the Gunj* (Konkona Sen Sharma, 2016), *Astu* (Sumitra Bhavé, Sunil Sukthankar, 2013) and *36 Chowringhee Lane* (Aparna Sen, 1981).

Currently running at BFI Southbank is a season dedicated to American-indie director **Kelly Reichardt**, whose latest film ***Certain Women*** (2016) is in cinemas and screening at BFI Southbank. Next month sees the start of ***Girls Like Us***, a six week season looking at the crucial role played by British women in World War Two, curated by **Stephen Woolley** the producer of ***Their Finest*** (Lone Scherfig, 2016).

The BFI's regular monthly strand of events, *Woman with a Movie Camera*, continues and upcoming events include a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Screening of ***Gas Food Lodging*** (1992) with director **Allison Anders** in attendance and a live recording of acclaimed podcast **CTRL ALT DEL**, hosted by **Emma Gannon**, with guest director **Alice Lowe** (*Prevenge, Sightseers*).

These activities align with the BFI's new strategy BFI 2022 which commits to drive forward the BFI's Diversity Standards to support greater diversity in the film industry and inform its funding decision making and year-round programming which celebrate the representation of women.

– End –

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

##### **Press Contacts:**

**Liz Parkinson – Press Officer, BFI Southbank**  
[liz.parkinson@bfi.org.uk](mailto:liz.parkinson@bfi.org.uk) / 020 7957 8918

**Elizabeth Dunk – Press Office Assistant**  
[Elizabeth.dunk@bfi.org.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.dunk@bfi.org.uk) / 020 7985 8986

##### **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 Josh Berger CBE.

Young people aged 25 and under can buy last minute tickets for just £3, 45 minutes before the start of screenings and events, subject to availability - <http://www.bfi.org.uk/25-and-under>.

##### **BFI Shop**

The BFI Shop is stocked and staffed by BFI experts with over 1,200 book titles and 1,000 DVDs to choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI.

**The benugo bar & kitchen**

Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo's décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. The place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.