



# BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

5 – 16 October 2016

in partnership with



## **BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2016 DATES AND MAJOR NEW INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT BRITISH FILMMAKERS WITH ANNUAL £50K BURSARY AWARD**

*The 60th BFI London Film Festival 5-16 October 2016*

*Feature and short film submissions now open*

**LONDON – Monday 15 February 2016:** The BFI London Film Festival in Partnership with American Express® today confirmed the dates for the BFI London Film Festival's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition which will take place at venues across the UK capital from **5-16 October 2016**.

In an exciting development for UK film, the 60<sup>th</sup> edition of the LFF will also see the launch, with the BFI and LFF's official Time Partner IWC Schaffhausen, of a significant new bursary award to support exceptional new and emerging UK filmmakers. **The IWC Schaffhausen Filmmakers Bursary Award in association with the BFI** is a **£50,000 award** to benefit an outstanding British writer, director, or writer/director whose first or second fiction feature film premieres at the BFI London Film Festival.

The IWC Schaffhausen Filmmakers Bursary Award in association with the BFI will be awarded annually, forming a key part of the LFF's commitment to UK film and those who drive its creative success and demonstrating the steadfast support of IWC Schaffhausen for British filmmaking.

The bursary award is designed to give the UK's brightest and best up-and-coming filmmakers the gift of time – a crucial element in the creative process. The recipient of the award will receive £50,000 from IWC Schaffhausen at a glittering dinner on the 4<sup>th</sup> October, the evening before the LFF's Opening Night. The award is given with no strings and no deliverables. Instead, it is designed to provide the chosen filmmaker with the freedom to develop – both themselves and their projects – ensuring their future success.

Writers, directors, and writer/directors who identify themselves as British and have a first or second fiction feature film premiering in Official Selection at the BFI London Film Festival will be eligible for the IWC Schaffhausen Filmmaker Bursary Award in association with the BFI. Eligible filmmakers will need to submit a 150 word biography, a filmography, a précis of the projects they are developing and a statement setting out how they would use the bursary award to help their future development in film.

All submissions will be assessed by a Shortlisting Panel that will include BFI London Film Festival Director, Clare Stewart, Director of the BFI Lottery Film Fund, Ben Roberts, and a further four senior executives representing the UK film industry, from development and production through to distribution and exhibition. The Shortlisting Panel will put forward three filmmakers for consideration, with the Decision Making Board – which will include BFI CEO, Amanda Nevill, IWC Schaffhausen CEO Georges Kern and a key representative of the UK film industry to be announced later in 2016 – deciding which filmmaker will benefit from this extraordinary opportunity.

**BFI CEO, Amanda Nevill said:** **BFI CEO, Amanda Nevill said:** “So much of what we do is made possible through great partnerships. The BFI London Film Festival is no different – without the support of our long-standing, Principal Partner, American Express®, and of course the fantastic filmmaking teams who trust us to showcase their remarkable work, the festival would not be possible. I am really excited about this brand new initiative in partnership with IWC Schaffhausen as it goes to the very heart of the BFI's determination to find and support tomorrow's filmmakers.”

**BFI London Film Festival Director, Clare Stewart and BFI Film Fund Director, Ben Roberts said:** “Film is a temporal medium and we are thrilled that IWC Schaffhausen's support will give outstanding

filmmakers the time they need to develop great new work. This bursary is significant and meaningful for the British industry and amplifies the impact of both the BFI London Film Festival and the BFI Film Fund in supporting and profiling new British talent.”

**IWC Schaffhausen CEO Georges Kern commented:** “We are delighted to offer our support to British filmmaking with the introduction of this bursary award. It is important to recognise the impact of rising talent within the film industry and offer emerging filmmakers the freedom and time to develop projects, thereby ensuring a successful future.”

Submissions for the 2016 BFI London Film Festival are now open. Feature and short films can be submitted through the BFI London Film Festival website at [www.bfi.org.uk/lff](http://www.bfi.org.uk/lff) with the final deadline for short films on 10 June and features on 17 June 2016.

Films entered through open submissions are eligible for Official Competition, Documentary Competition, First Feature Competition and Short Film Competition provided they meet the other criteria for these sections and with priority given to European and World Premieres. British-based first or second time directors or writers of fiction feature films which are otherwise eligible and which are entered through open submissions will have the opportunity to formally submit an application for the IWC Schaffhausen Filmmaker Bursary Award after the film is invited to the Festival.

The 2015 BFI London Film Festival opened with the European premiere of Sarah Gavron’s agenda-setting *Suffragette*, which kicked off a festival focusing on and celebrating strong women, including a keynote address from campaigner Geena Davis as part of the Global Symposium on Gender in Media, hosted by the LFF in collaboration with the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media and Women in Film and Television (WFTV). The festival closed with the European Premiere of Danny Boyle’s *Steve Jobs*, and saw 164,000 attendances across 568 screenings in 16 London venues and Opening and Closing night cinecasts to 45 venues across the UK.

The festival welcomed leading lights from across the international film industry in 2015, Acting talent supporting films at the Festival included: Carey Mulligan, Meryl Streep, Michael Fassbender, Kate

Winslet, Johnny Depp, Benedict Cumberbatch, Saoirse Ronan, Emory Cohen, Cate Blanchett, Rooney Mara, Tom Hiddleston, Sienna Miller, Elizabeth Moss, Mohammed Assaf, Maggie Smith, Alex Jennings, Alan Bennett, Rachel Weisz, Colin Farrell, Ben Foster, Chris O'Dowd, Brie Larson, Agyness Deyn, Peter Mullan, Bryan Cranston, Helen Mirren, John Goodman, Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje, Michael Caine and Harvey Keitel.

Directors presenting their work included Lenny Abrahamson, Hany Abu-Assad, Sean Baker, Mir-Jean Bou Chaaya, Danny Boyle, Esther May Campbell, Scott Cooper, John Crowley, Jonás Cuarón, Terence Davies, Stephen Frears, Cary Fukunaga, Sarah Gavron, Luca Guadagnino, Davis Guggenheim, Lucile Hadžihalilović, Todd Haynes, Nicholas Hytner, Yorgos Lanthimos, Guy Maddin, Deepa Mehta, László Nemes, Jerzy Skolimowski, Simon Stone, Ondi Timoner, Johnnie To, Athina Rachel Tsangari, James Vanderbilt, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Ben Wheatley and S. Graig Zahler.

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#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

##### **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 Greg Dyke.

### **The BFI London Film Festival**

BFI London Film Festival is Britain's leading film event and one of the world's best film festivals. It introduces the finest new British and international films to an expanding London and UK-wide audience and attracts significant international film industry participation. LFF is a compelling combination of red carpet glamour, friendly audiences and vibrant exchange. LFF provides an essential profiling opportunity for films seeking global success; promotes the careers of British and international filmmakers through its industry and awards programmes and positions London as the world's leading creative city.

### **Clare Stewart biography**

Clare Stewart's twenty year programming career has encompassed leadership roles as Festival Director, Sydney Film Festival (2006-2011) and the inaugural Head of Film Programs at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image in Melbourne (2002-2006) as well as various roles at the Australian Film Institute (1996-2001), including Exhibition Manager, and programmer and Committee Member of the Melbourne Cinémathèque (1995-2002). She has been BFI Head of Festivals since October 2011.



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### **IWC SCHAFFHAUSEN**

With a clear focus on technology and development, the Swiss watch manufacturer IWC Schaffhausen has been producing timepieces of lasting value since 1868. The company has gained an international reputation based on a passion for innovative solutions and technical ingenuity. One of the world's leading brands in the luxury watch segment, IWC crafts masterpieces of haute horlogerie at their finest, combining supreme precision with exclusive design. As an ecologically and socially responsible company, IWC is committed to sustainable production, supports institutions around the globe in their work with children and young people, and maintains partnerships with organizations dedicated to climate and environmental protection.