



BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

4 – 15 October 2017

in partnership with



BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2017 DATES

The 61st BFI London Film Festival 4 -15 October 2017

Feature and short film submissions now open

LONDON – 9am, Friday 10 February 2017: The BFI London Film Festival in Partnership with American Express® today confirmed the dates for the Festival's 61st anniversary edition which will take place at venues across the UK capital from **4 -15 October 2017**.

Submissions for the 2017 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. The final deadline for short films and features is 5pm, Monday 12 June 2017.

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.

The 60th anniversary edition of the Festival last October presented 397 features and short films and achieved a 16% audience increase with 195,595 admissions, including satellite screenings to UK-wide cinemas for the Opening Night gala of A UNITED KINGDOM and Werner Herzog's LO & BEHOLD (which was also presented, in a first for the Festival, as a virtual premiere). The Closing Night gala was the European premiere of Ben Wheatley's FREE FIRE. In total, the Festival presented 587 screenings at 16 venues across the capital.

More than 800 international and British filmmakers attended the Festival to support their films in the programme, ranging from major global superstars and many of the world's most established directors, to new talents making their first short film.

The Festival remains committed to agenda-setting debate on the future of the film industry, presenting the BFI Black Star Symposium which was launched with a powerful and rousing keynote from David Oyelowo, star of A UNITED KINGDOM and QUEEN OF KATWE.

2016's prestigious BFI Fellowship, presented at the Festival, recognised the extraordinary talents of British director Steve McQueen, and the Best Film was awarded to Kelly Reichardt's CERTAIN WOMEN.

In another first for the Festival, a 780 seat temporary cinema was built in London's iconic Victoria Embankment Gardens by the River Thames. This new venue attracted more than 22,000 attendances and provided a new home for the Festival's Official Competition premieres and Strand Gala presentations. The Festival also expanded its Headline Gala and Special Presentation sections.

The Festival welcomed leading lights from across the international film industry in 2016. Acting talent supporting films at the Festival included: David Oyelowo, Rosamund Pike, Laura Carmichael, Sam Riley, Cillian Murphy, Armie Hammer, Babou Cessay, Sasha Lane, Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner, Leonardo DiCaprio, Gabrielle Union, Marion Cotillard, Léa Seydoux, Ryan Gosling, Dev Patel, Nicole Kidman, Casey Affleck, Michelle Williams, Sigourney Weaver, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Lupita Nyong'o, Joely Richardson, Rhys Ifans, Eric Kofi-Abrefa, Gemma Arterton, Sam Claflin, Bill Nighy, Rachael Stirling, Isabelle Huppert, Naomie Harris, Trevante Rhodes, Janelle Monáe, Cynthia Nixon, Catherine Bailey, Ben Mendelsohn, Miles Teller and Aaron Eckhart.

Directors presenting their work included Amma Asante, Ben Wheatley, Andrea Arnold, Fisher Stevens, Nate Parker, Tom Ford, Damien Chazelle, Kenneth Lonergan, JA Bayona, Mira Nair, Oliver Stone, Mike Mitchell, Lone Scherfig, Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, Bertrand Bonello, Xavier Dolan, Maren Ade, Martin Koolhoven, Mohamed Diab, Paul Verhoeven, François Ozon, Ivan Sen, Mijke de Jong, Barry Jenkins, Terence Davies, Benedict Andrews and Makoto Shinkai.

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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 Josh Berger CBE.

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 21 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 and BFI London Film Festival Director since October 2011.



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