



BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

7 – 18 October 2015

in partnership with



BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2015 DATES AND OPENS FOR FILM SUBMISSIONS

For immediate release 9 February 2015

The BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express® announced today that its 59th edition will run from 7-18 October 2015 at venues across the UK capital. Submissions for both Feature and Short Film also opened today.

Under the leadership of BFI's Head of Cinemas and Festivals, Clare Stewart, the LFF continues to build on the striking success of its recent editions with 2014 enjoying its biggest ever audience turn out with 163,000 festival goers – an increase of 7.5% on the previous year. Over 12,000 people across the UK also attended simultaneous screenings of *The Imitation Game*, *Fury* and *CITIZENFOUR*.

The 2014 Festival, which included 18 world premieres, 9 International and 35 European premieres, was widely regarded as an outstanding line-up. Many LFF 2014 gala presentations have emerged as the year's most celebrated films, including BAFTA and Oscar® nominated Best Films *Birdman* (Surprise Film), *The Imitation Game* and *Whiplash*. There are a total of 13 films with Oscar® nominations from the LFF 2014 programme and 7 BAFTA wins, cementing the Festival's strategic position in the Award season calendar and capitalising on the city's high population of BAFTA and AMPAS members.

The 2014 edition, which opened with the European Premiere of *The Imitation Game* and closed with the European Premiere of *Fury*, was presented across 20 screens in London, showing 248 fiction and documentary features from 70 countries, with 772 filmmakers attending to present their work.

The 2014 Festival featured red carpet arrivals of Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley and Morten Tyldum for *The Imitation Game*; Brad Pitt, Shia LaBeouf, Logan Lerman and David Ayer for *Fury*; Steve Carell, Sienna Miller and Bennett Miller for *Foxcatcher*; Timothy Spall and Mike Leigh for *Mr Turner*; Reese Witherspoon for *Wild*; J. K. Simmons, Miles Teller and Damien Chazelle for *Whiplash* and Jennifer Lawrence for *Serena*.

The Festival benefits from both the deep cultural heritage of the BFI and the strength of the UK market (the world's third largest market for film) as well as the desirability of the capital as a premiere location with its iconic Leicester Square cinemas and the cultural hub of the BFI Southbank.

Feature and short films for the 2014 edition can be submitted through the BFI London Film Festival website at www.bfi.org.uk/lff with the final deadline for shorts on 12 June 2015 and for features on 19 June 2015.

Attending the Berlinale for BFI London Film Festival are:

Clare Stewart, Head of Cinemas and Festivals
Tricia Tuttle, Deputy Head of Festivals
Michael Blyth, Festival Programmer
Kate Taylor, Festival Programmer

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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 London Film Festival

BFI London Film Festival is an iconic international film festival that supports London's position as the world's leading creative city. It presents the best new British and international films to an expanding London and UK-wide audience. It provides career-enabling opportunities for British and international filmmakers through its industry and awards programmes.

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 Cinemas and Festivals since October 2011.



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