



BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL LAUNCHES NEW DEDICATED FAMILY STRAND ALONGSIDE AN EDUCATION PROGRAMME WITH FREE SCREENINGS, WORKSHOPS AND TALKS

London – Tuesday 18 September 2012

The 56th BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express is delighted to announce its Education and Family programme which includes a rich selection of 15 FREE education film screenings, as well as special events, talks, workshops, and for the first time ever a dedicated families section. The films screening in the Education programme have all been carefully selected from the Festival programme and will be showing each morning at venues across London for schools, colleges and young people. Foreign language screenings will have subtitles read out by actors over headphones for our younger viewers to ensure that everyone has a chance to join in with the fun.

Clare Stewart, BFI Head of Exhibition and Festival Director said: “BFI London Film Festival has a great tradition of education programming and this year’s selection is diverse, entertaining and will provoke discussion and debate. We are also thrilled to be making the LFF more accessible to families with a dedicated section in this year’s programme for the first time.”

FAMILY FILMS AT THE BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

The festival will open on **Wednesday 10 October** with the European premiere of *Frankenweenie* (rated PG), directed by acclaimed filmmaker **Tim Burton**. *Frankenweenie* is a heart-warming tale about a boy and his dog, which will charm children and adults alike. This year’s **Family Gala** is an enchanting animation which tells the tale of an unlikely friendship between a bear and a mouse, *Ernest and Celestine* (recommended ages 6+). Also screening will be *Wolf Children* (recommended ages 8+), the latest anime from the director of *The Girl Who Leapt Through Time*. It tells the beguiling tale of Hana and her relationship with a wolf-man which results in two children, creating all sorts of difficult decisions for Hana and her unusual family. The family section will see further tales from the animal kingdom in the form of *The Great Bird Race* (recommended ages 8+), *Zarafa* (recommended all ages) and *Kauwboy* (recommended ages 8+), which recently won the first **Young Audience Award at the European Film Awards 2012**. These uplifting family films will tell stories featuring giraffes, birds and magical cows! *Legends of Valhalla – Thor* (recommended all ages) depicts the meeting between the legendary Thor and Crusher, a magical talking hammer. With great CGI, an absorbing script and plenty of humour, this 3D film proves

you don't need a vast budget to create heart-stopping family entertainment. ***Le Tableau*** (recommended ages 8+) is an inventive animation which explores exciting worlds through paintings, inspired by Matisse and Bonnard this highly original piece of work can be enjoyed by all. Finally, the Festival's annual array of wonderful short films ***Animated Shorts for Younger Audiences*** (recommended all ages) includes ***The Missing Meatballs***, ***The Boy in the Bubble*** and ***I Want to See Dwarfs***. Audiences of all ages will be captivated by the family films on offer throughout this year's festival.

FREE FILM SCREENINGS FOR 15 YEARS +

The Education programme for young people aged 15+ at this year's BFI London Film Festival is rich and varied and includes the latest films from visionary directors such as **Michael Winterbottom** (*Trishna*, *24 Hour Party People*) and **Michel Gondry** (*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *The Science of Sleep*), as well as award-winning directorial debuts fresh from the festival circuit. ***Everyday*** (Dir. Michael Winterbottom, 2012) tells the story of four children separated from their father (John Simm) and a wife (Shirley Henderson) separated from her husband. Filmed in a unique manner over a period of five years for just a few weeks at a time it very cleverly evokes the struggle of familial separation over a prolonged period of time. The Bronx set ***The We and the I*** (Dir. Michel Gondry, 2012) is a tale of teenage alienation and the struggle for social acceptance. It follows Teresa on her bus journey home, as she tries to re-connect with the other kids on the bus after a prolonged absence. Another film about social acceptance in high school in this year's education programme is ***After Lucia*** (Dir. Michel Franco, 2012). Winner of the *Un Certain Regard* award at Cannes Film Festival, it is an incredibly powerful and rewarding film about a young girl who falls victim to bullying. In ***Beasts of the Southern Wild*** (Dir. Behn Zeitlin, 2011) 6 year old Quvenzhané Wallis plays Hushpuppy, a child whose overactive imagination takes the viewer on a journey that encounters fierce creatures that emerge from melting polar ice caps. Already a hit at Sundance and Cannes, audiences will be transfixed by a sensational performance from Wallis as the little girl who lives in a post-Katrina Louisiana bayou. The title of the documentary ***The Central Park Five*** (Dirs. Ken Burns, David McMahon, Sarah Burns, 2012) refers to a group of five black and Latino youths who were arrested and charged with the rape and brutal attack on a white woman in Central Park in 1989. This rivetingly told documentary chronicles the aftermath of the attack, the convictions and the release of the group after a serial rapist came forward to confess to the crime many years later. ***The Central Park Five*** isn't afraid to question why a group of innocent black and Latino youths were victims of such a gross miscarriage of justice.

For a full list of the free films screening in the Education Programme, including those for younger audiences, please see the Notes to Editors.

TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

There are countless highlights to this year's programme of Education Talks and Workshops. The BFI London Film Festival is presenting, in association with **Disney** and **Principal Partner American Express**, ***The Art of Frankenweenie Exhibition***, which will take place from **17-21 October** next door to the BFI Southbank at **Southbank Centre's Festival Village**. From original sketches drawn by director Tim Burton, to extensive props, sets and puppets, the exhibition showcases the artistic detail and vision that has gone into bringing this heartwarming tale to the big screen. The

Education Programme offers exciting opportunities to experience guided tours of the exhibition and meet some of the talented people who made the film. However the excitement doesn't stop there – a series of workshops for **Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, Families and Children under 15**, and **Young People aged 15-25** will offer different activities such as creating a *Frankenweenie* character in a practical design workshop and creating a version of the wonders of Victor's attic in a practical set design workshop.

For budding young documentary filmmakers look no further than **BFI Future Film's *Watch My Doc*** and subsequent ***Marketing Workshop***, which will look at the best ways to market and distribute documentaries. From trailers to tweets, these events for 15-25s will feature top panels of filmmakers and marketeers, and will be a priceless source of information to aspiring doc makers. Also of interest to those who are enthusiastic about documentary filmmaking will be ***4-Day Second Light Pre-Production Documentary Lab***. Course participants will emerge from this invaluable 4 day lab with a clear overview of the different ways in which documentary films can be produced. The lab will be taught by experienced filmmakers alongside documentary makers with work in the LFF, via a combination of screenings, case studies, talks and practical workshops involving collaborative and independent activity. ***Words on Film*** in association with ***Sight & Sound*** will focus on film journalism, looking at how journalists write differently for print and online, for EMPIRE or for blogs. Participants will be able to meet a panel of high profile experts from a wide range of print and online and discover how they work. In addition, for those who think they have what it takes to be the next Mark Kermode, there is also the ***Young Journalist Competition*** which will give the winner a chance to do a real interview with a director during the London Film Festival. ***Sound + Image***, a series of events and workshops with ***Ideas Tap, Magnum*** and the ***British Library*** will focus on the invisible but powerful language of sound. These events will explore sound on screen with directors and sound designers who have films in the festival as well as looking at 'soundslides', which are a deceptively simple way of telling stories with sound and image. Attendees will even be able to put everything they learn in the events into practice in the ***Soundslide Workshop***; work in small groups to a demanding brief, including taking a series of photographs around the Southbank and editing them with sound.

THE FILM FESTIVAL PROJECT

Returning to the BFI London Film Festival once again is **The Film Festival Project**. Running in partnership with **FILMCLUB**, the project is a chance for schools around the UK to create a one-day film festival. The project includes special screenings and the chance to meet filmmakers, resources to help you plan and programme and lots of enthusiastic support from Festival Education and FILMCLUB staff.

FESTIVAL EDUCATION ON TOUR

Together with Film Education's **National Schools' Film Week**, Festival Education will be bringing a taste of the Festival for primary and secondary schools to regional cinemas, with five specially selected films including ***Great Expectations*** and ***Beasts of the Southern Wild***, all with Learning Resources. Full tour details and a list of

participating regional cinemas and schools will be announced in due course.
www.nationalschoolsfilmweek.org

THE FESTIVAL JURY PROJECT

For the second year Education Events at the BFI London Film Festival are inviting 10 young Londoners between the ages of 18-22 to apply to find out how a festival jury works. The project focuses on the 12 nominated films for the 2012 Sutherland Award for the Most Original and Innovative First Feature in the LFF, including *Eat Sleep Die* (Dir. Gabriela Pichler, 2012), *My Brother the Devil* (Dir. Sally El Hosaini, 2012) and *The Samurai That Night* (Dir. Masaaki Akahori, 2012). The Youth Jury will be chaired by **Michael Hayden, Festival Programmer**. After an introductory training/discussion session covering the role of the award, procedures for judging nominees and priorities to guide judging, the Youth Jury will view all twelve films and select their own award winner.

Corinna Downing and Lydia Penke Education Managers, LFF Education comment: "The Education team are proud to be collaborating with great partners including First Light, Filmclub, IdeasTap, DocHouse, Film's Cool and Film Education to offer such an exciting range of free or low cost education events, screenings and competitions for schools, students and young people in London and the UK. This would, of course, have not been possible without the diverse selection of films showing at the 56th BFI London Film Festival, and we look forward to welcoming you there!"

Justin Johnson Programme Advisor, Young Audiences enthuses about this year's family selection: "This year, families have their own designated section which is an exciting new development for the Festival. It is also undoubtedly one of the strongest years ever for animated titles and the selection will definitely attract an adult audience too. We have films from all over the world in the line-up and some of our foreign language screenings will have subtitles read out by actors over headphones to ensure that everyone has a chance to join in. Directors and actors will be present at screenings to meet the audience and answer their questions – so there really is something for everyone."

NOTES TO EDITORS

For further information please contact

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Tickets for the education programme can be requested online at www.bfi.org.uk/lff/education or on the phone directly with the education team on 020 7815 1344

Full list of FREE film screenings in the Education Programme:

Ernest and Celestine (Dir. Benjamin Renner, Vincent Patar & Stéphane Aubier, 2012, France/Belgium/Luxemburg, 79mins)

Once upon a time, when bears were in charge, mice struggled to survive and neither liked each other at all, an unlikely friendship was formed; Ernest, a lumbering big bear who loved to be a clown and musician, met tiny Celestine, a quick witted orphan mouse forced to run away when she couldn't fit in to what was expected in her underground world. They were so happy together but it wasn't to last for long! As soon as the other bears and mice found out they were angry and forced the pair to hide. A beautiful animation exploring themes of friendship, belonging and tolerance via an exciting adventure full of humour and imaginative detail, based on the popular children's books by Gabrielle Vincent.

In French with English subtitles read aloud via headphones.

For Primary Schools

Thu 11 Oct 10:00 NFT2

Zarafa (Dir. Rémi Bezançon & Jean-Christophe Lie, 2012, France, 78mins)

A little Sudanese boy called Maki, stolen from his family, escapes his captor and soon meets an orphaned baby giraffe. Maki and 'Zarafa', the Arabic word for giraffe, are taken under the wing of the kindly Hassan; soon they're off on an exciting journey taking them from the Sahara desert to the big city of Alexandria and from there, via swashbuckling pirates and magic cows, to Paris and a meeting with the King of France. Inspired by the true story of the first giraffe to arrive in France in 1827, this wonderful film offers a simple adventure filled with vivid characters and scenes as well as a unique introduction to slavery via Maki's life from child to man.

In French with English subtitles read aloud via headphones.

For primary school children age 7-11.

Fri 12 Oct 10:15 NFT2

Kauwboy (Dir. Boudewijn Koole, 2011, Netherlands, 81mins)

Friends come in many different shapes! Ten-year-old Jojo just lives with his dad Ronald, who works nights, as his mum is away. Jojo has an ok time at school: he's pretty good at sports and Yenthe is a girl who'd be his friend, but out of school he spends a lot of time alone in his imagination. One day he rescues a baby jackdaw and brings it home, being careful not to let his dad see as he's often not in a good mood and bringing a pet home could be the final straw. Jojo's fun playing with the baby bird gives him a feeling of happiness and responsibility until the truth of his family situation is revealed and he must learn to deal with reality. An insightful portrait of a family struggling with the truth, in which nature and human nature intertwine sensitively to examine life and death.

In Dutch with English subtitles read aloud via headphones.

For primary schools (Years 5/6) and secondary schools (Years 7-9).

Wed 17 Oct 10:15 NFT2

Beasts of the Southern Wild (Dir. Benh Zeitlin, 2011, USA, 93mins)

'Bathtub' is an imaginary area of Louisiana, so cut off from the surrounding area by a long wall of levees that its dirt-poor inhabitants live a wilder, gentler life, more in touch with nature and animals. Hushpuppy is a 6-year-old girl who has lived alone in a shack with her father, Wink, ever since her mother 'swam away'; it is the surrounding water, and the possibility of flood, that presents a real danger among other mythical threats beyond the boundaries of Bathtub, such as giant boar-like animals released from the Ice Age by eroding glaciers. At the core of this fable, a kind of Where The Wild Things Are

for grown-ups, is the power and solidity of the father and daughter's relationship amid the instability of their existence, and the image of a community united within a simpler way of life.

For age 15+

Thu 11 Oct 10:00 OWE2

The We and the I (Dir. Michel Gondry, 2012, USA, 103mins)

On the last day of term, a bunch of teenagers catch their bus home and talk amongst themselves. Nothing much to make a film about? Wrong! *The We and the I* is a funny, perceptive, moving and thought provoking look at human behaviour, from the bravado and stereotypes of the group down to the personal, real connections between individuals. The cast are non-professionals who workshopped the issues of friendship, peer pressure and family problems faced by young people with the director, bringing an immediacy and freshness to the film which gives it a sense of truth, via the bus journey itself, cuts to remembered experiences and stories and, of course, constant phone messaging.

For age 15+

Thu 11 Oct 10:00 Hackney Picturehouse

Tall as the Baobab Tree / Grand comme le Baobab (Dir. Jeremy Teicher, 2012, Senegal, 82mins)

In a remote village in Senegal, teenage Coumba and her little sister Debo are the first girls to leave and go to school in the big city; it's a whole new world, and their eyes are opened to the exciting possibilities the future may bring. But there is a drama at home, they must return, and before Coumba knows it she is setting out on a new adventure, to rescue 11-year-old Debo from an arranged marriage. Inspired by true stories, *Tall as the Baobab* stars villagers in roles mirroring their own lives, as tradition strongly resists the pull of modernity.

In Pulaar with subtitles.

For age 15+

Mon 15 Oct 10:30 Ritzy

The Central Park Five (Dirs. Ken Burns, David McMahon & Sarah Burns, 2012, USA, 119mins)

In 1989, Antron McCray, Kevin Richardson, Raymond Santana, Korey Wise, and Yusef Salaam went within days from being five ordinary 14-16 year olds to convicted criminals, when they were imprisoned for the rape of a young white woman in New York City. In interviews with the 'Central Park Five', their families and other key participants, the documentary illuminates how police, social institutions and the media undermined the rights of individuals they were designed to safeguard and protect, even after the conviction of the actual rapist; it was a time when the city was divided clearly by race and class, and in publicly seeking to clean up its image found it too easy to blame these innocent young men for society's ills.

For age 15+

Mon 15 Oct 10:15 Hackney Picturehouse

My Brother the Devil (Dir. Sally El Hosaini, 2012, UK, 111mins)

Rashid is cool; he's a boxer and drug runner in Hackney's gangland, and his younger brother Mo idolises him, doing his best to imitate his behaviour despite a natural lack of

ability. Their lives could have continued this way, balancing the energy of the street with the relative calm of their family life with their Egyptian immigrant parents, were it not for the swift succession of some stolen trainers, a violent gang death and a kiss. *My Brother the Devil* is a film about brothers which includes some of the conventions of gritty urban gang stories but is much more, exploring youth and identity on several levels, supported by camerawork, editing and score which reveal both inner feelings and the setting of east London in a new light.

For age 15+

Tue 16 Oct 10:00 OWE1

The Road: A Story of Life and Death (Dir. Marc Isaacs, 2012, UK, 75mins)

The latest film from acclaimed documentarian Marc Isaacs (*All White in Barking*; *Men of the City*) follows a main immigration route into the UK – the A5 – one of Britain’s longest and oldest roads, which starts at the Welsh ferry port of Holyhead and ends at London’s Marble Arch. Isaacs introduces a number of characters who live and work along the road, who have made their way to London from all over the world. There’s a young Irish woman who dreams of becoming a singer, who takes a job pulling pints in a pub in Cricklewood, serving the generations of Irish people who came over before her; a man from Kashmir working in a hotel, trying to earn enough money so his wife can join him; an elderly Jewish woman who fled Vienna when Hitler was in power; and a retired German air stewardess living with her estranged husband. A study of immigration that deliberately avoids being polemical or didactic, and featuring voices that generally remain unheard, *The Road* offers a fascinating and valuable insight into how life is for people who have come to this country from elsewhere.

For age 15+

Tue 16 Oct 10:15 NFT2

EVERYDAY (Dir. Michael Winterbottom, 2012, UK, 94mins)

Filmed in a semi-documentary style over a five-year period with a mix of professional and non-professional actors, *Everyday* is a sensitive, warm and thought provoking film about what happens to a young family in the time the husband/father is in prison for drug dealing. Ian lives one life behind bars, and another when his wife Karen and one or more of their four children visit. Karen manages to keep the kids and herself together as a single parent family, always getting back on the train for another long round trip when its time for the next visit. Over the five years of the sentence there are changes, temptations, the constant need to just keep on keeping on and, as Ian’s release approaches, decisions to be made by all about how to live with the new normality.

For age 15+

Wed 17 Oct 10:00 OWE2

10 + 10 (Dir. Hou Hsiao-Hsien and 19 others, 2011, Taiwan, 115mins)

A mini film festival in itself, this is the work of top 10 established film directors in Taiwan and 10 up and coming names, all contributing to an amazing evocation of Taiwanese society, culture and history. One newer name, Chung Mong-hong, offers a masterclass in shock value in his thriller *Reverberation*, where three bullies have their nasty comeuppance from their victim’s family; *La Belle Epoque* is an alternative approach to family, via the heartbreakingly beautiful story of a gift handed down through generations from the multi-award winning director Hou Hsiao-hsien. From genre pieces to near abstract, from nostalgia to biting comment on current social issues

and from stunning openings to clever twist endings, this extraordinary collection made to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Republic of China – another name for Taiwan – has something for everyone interested in finding out more about Taiwanese cinema. In Mandarin and Min-Nan with subtitles.

For age 15+

Wed 17 Oct 10:30 ICA

New British Shorts

Stories about friendship, loyalty, courage and fitting in from some of the most exciting new young British filmmakers, on stage to discuss their work with the audience. An exciting panel of directors, producers, cinematographers, writers, composers and cast from the four short films will be joining us at the Odeon West End to discuss their work.

Shoot Me! (Dir. Kate Hardie, 2012, UK, 13mins)

An actress has her picture taken for a charity ad campaign. What could possibly go wrong?

Flight of the Pompadour (Dir. Karan Kandhari, 2012, UK, 8mins)

It's all about the hair.

The Boy in the Bubble (Dir. Kealan O'Rourke, 2011, Ireland, 8mins)

A lonely boy, tired of the slings and arrows of love, sets out to protect himself forever.

Darklight (Dir. Richard Turley, 2011, UK, 25mins)

A mother's love, a mother's fear and a daughter's life.

For age 15+

Thu 18 Oct 10:00 OWE2

After Lucia / Después de Lucía (Dir. Michel Franco, 2012, Mexico, 99mins)

Lucia, mother to Alejandra and wife to Roberto, is dead. The pair move to Mexico City where they plan to start a new life and leave their grief behind, Roberto going straight into a new job as a chef and Alejandra starting in a new secondary school. She's soon making friends, hanging out with the cool kids who invite her to a house party where, soon after, everything shifts gear after phone footage of her drunk and having sex is posted on the internet. The bullying begins: from feeling ashamed and confused, Alejandra retreats into herself, not wanting to worry her father by telling him what is happening, even when the abuse and humiliation reach violent extremes. It's only when she disappears that the gang mentality fractures and her father becomes involved, uncovering the hidden feelings which had allowed it all to go on for too long.

In Spanish with subtitles.

For age 15+

Fri 19 Oct 10:00 OWE2

Horses of God / Les chevaux de Dieu (Director Nabil Ayouch, 2012, Morocco, 115mins)

On the outskirts of Casablanca, four boys grow up together in the slum of Sidi Moumen. They play football, they lark about and they argue, but the adult society around them will shape their destinies. The family of teenage Hamid and Yachine is a mess, and it's not long before Hamid, the main breadwinner, is imprisoned for 3 years for throwing a rock at a police car. Empowered by the Islamic fundamentalists he meets there, on his release he is quick to bring Yachine, Nabil and Fouad back together again with a new shared project: to train together as suicide bombers. A film based on the true story of a 2003 bombing in Casablanca, it sensitively explores how young people react to power and powerlessness and how this may contribute to the development of fanaticism.

In French with subtitles.

For age 15+

Fri 19 Oct 10:30 Ciné Lumière

Tickets for the families strand of the BFI London Film Festival can be purchased online at www.bfi.org.uk/lff in person at BFI Southbank, or on the telephone on 020 7928 3232. Tickets for members go on sale on 13 September, tickets for non-members go on sale on 24 September.

Screenings in the Families strand:

Ernest and Celestine / Ernest et Célestine (Dir. Benjamin Renner, Vincent Patar, Stéphane Aubier, 2012, France/Belgium/Luxemburg, 79mins)

Bears and mice never mix. It's always been that way until Ernest and Celestine become great friends.

Recommended ages 6+

Sun 21 Oct 3:30 OWE2

Animated Shorts for Younger Audiences (Various Directors, Total running time 85mins)

A selection of short animated films from around the world.

Recommended all ages

Sun 14 Oct 13:00 NFT2

The Great Bird Race / Fuglejagten (Dir. Christian Dyekjær, 2012, Denmark, 90mins)

Victor will stop at nothing to win the bird watching competition, even if it means lowering his moral standards.

Recommended ages 8+

Sun 14 Oct 15:30 NFT2

Kauwboy (Dir. Boudewijn Koole, 2011, Netherlands, 81mins)

Jojo turns to a young jackdaw for comfort when he finds none at home.

Recommended ages 8+

Sat 20 Oct 16:15 NFT2

Legends of Valhalla - Thor / Hetjur Valhallar - Þór (Dir. Óskar Jónasson, 2011, Iceland/Germany/Ireland, 85mins)

A young blacksmith acquires a magical hammer and finds himself at war with any army of giants.

Recommended all ages

Sat 20 Oct 12:30 Vue5

Le Tableau (Dir. Jean-François Laguionie, 2011, France/Belgium, 76mins)

The inhabitants of a piece of art begin a journey across other paintings in this animated triumph.

Recommended ages 8+

Sun 21 Oct 13:00 NFT2

Wolf Children / Ookami Kodomo no Ame to Yuki (Dir. Mamoru Hosoda, 2011, Japan, 117mins)

Single mother Hana must bring up her wolf children away from the prying eyes of the neighbours in this stunning anime.

Recommended ages 8+

Thu 11 Oct 12:45 Vue7

Sat 13 Oct 12:15 Vue7

Sun 14 Oct 13:00 Rich Mix

Zarafa (Dir. Rémi Bezançon, 2012, France, 78mins)

A giraffe makes an epic journey across the world in this animated tale.

Recommended all ages

Sat 13 Oct 15:30 NFT2

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 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.

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