

## **BFI Musicals! The Greatest Show on Screen October 2019 – January 2020**

**Wednesday 10 July 2019, London.**

The BFI today releases an early sneak-peek at the UK's greatest ever season celebrating the film musical, which will be singing and dancing its way into cinemas and venues across the UK from **October 2019 to January 2020**. **BFI MUSICALS! THE GREATEST SHOW ON SCREEN** will celebrate the joyful, emotional, shared experience of watching film musicals; with the biggest stars, the most iconic scenes and the best-loved song and dance numbers back on the big screen. **BFI MUSICALS!** will feature a major season at **BFI Southbank**, hundreds of screenings and events at venues across the UK programmed in partnership with the **BFI Film Audience Network** (BFI FAN) and the **Independent Cinema Office** (ICO), BFI UK-wide re-releases of classic musicals including *Singin' in the Rain* (Stanley Donen, Gene Kelly, 1952), **BFI DVD** and **Blu-ray** releases of *Yentl* (Barbra Streisand, 1983), *Hair* (Miloš Forman, 1979) and *Les demoiselles de Rochefort* (Jacques Demy, 1967), and musical collections on the BFI's VOD service **BFI Player**.

**Robin Baker, Head Curator, BFI National Archive and BFI Musicals! Programmer** said: *"Following the blockbuster successes of La La Land and The Greatest Showman, movie musicals are hitting a chord with audiences everywhere and the BFI will celebrate the very best of them together with rediscoveries and surprises. We'll celebrate the biggest stars - from Judy Garland to Barbra Streisand - together with the composers who get our feet tapping, choreographers who make us want to dance in the aisles and the directors who have turned movie musicals into sublime art. Audiences flock to musicals in troubled times – from Depression-era hits like 42<sup>nd</sup> Street to the masterpieces made by MGM's Freed Film Unit during and after WW2. So it's no surprise that the big screen musical is enjoying its biggest success for decades. What better way to escape from our uncertain times than by immersing yourself in the emotional, hairs-on-the-back-of-your-arms-raising joy of the film musical? Forget your troubles, come on get happy!"*

**The full programme will be announced at a spectacular launch event at BFI Southbank on Tuesday 10 September, 6.20pm.**

**BFI MUSICALS! THE GREATEST SHOW ON SCREEN** will include:

- A major programme at **BFI Southbank** running from **October until the end of the year**, featuring celebrations of the greatest stars, directors, composers and choreographers, with screenings, one-off events, onstage guests and more
- **BFI theatrical re-releases** including the epitome of motion-picture perfection, *Singin' in the Rain* (Stanley Donen, Gene Kelly, 1952), back in cinemas across the UK on **Friday 18 October**
- Hundreds of events and screenings across the UK, from Chester and Bristol to Glasgow and Birmingham, programmed in partnership with the **BFI Film Audience Network** (BFI FAN). Working with partners such as We Are Parable, Compass Presents, Birds Eye View and Live Cinema UK, the programme will include national tours dedicated to **Barbra Streisand** and **The Art of the Black Visual Album**
- The **Independent Cinema Office** (ICO) will present a touring programme of 12 musical films, from Hollywood classics to international musicals and singalonga titles, enabling cinemas and community venues far and wide to book screenings and take part in BFI Musicals!
- **BFI DVD** and **Blu-ray** releases:
  - Barbra Streisand's directorial debut *Yentl* (1983) will get a UK Blu-ray premiere release on **18 November**; the Blu-ray release will be packed with extras, including newly commissioned interviews, offering audiences a chance to re-appraise this forgotten film based on a story by Isaac Bashevis Singer
  - On **4 November** there will be a BFI Blu-ray release of the sublime *Les demoiselles de Rochefort* (1967), directed by Jacques Demy, and an undeniable influence on *La La Land*. The film features an all-star cast led by real-life sisters Catherine Deneuve and Françoise Dorléac, alongside Gene Kelly, Michel Piccoli and George Chakiris

- To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of *Hair* (1979), Milos Forman’s joyful anti-Vietnam War musical featuring choreography by Twyla Tharp, the BFI will release a dual format edition (including the UK Blu-ray premiere) on **28 October**
- **Musicals** will also get a big showcase on **BFI Player**, making highlights from the season available on VOD nationwide. The collection will include classics such as *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (Stanley Donen, 1954), *Meet Me in St. Louis* (Vincente Minnelli, 1944) and *An American in Paris* (Vincente Minnelli, 1951), British musicals including the extravagant works of Ken Russell. Cult, and horror and LGBTQ+ musicals *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (John Cameron Mitchell, 2001) and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Frank Oz, 1986).
- The **Mediatheque** at **BFI Southbank** will offer a new extensive free to view collection of TV documentaries from the past 50 years – most unavailable to view elsewhere – exploring the making of our favourite musicals and profiling star writers, choreographers and performers.
- There will be a strand dedicated to **BFI Musicals** in the [Into Film Festival](#) (6-22 November)

#BFIMusicals

[www.bfi.org.uk/musicals](http://www.bfi.org.uk/musicals)

[www.bfimusicals.co.uk](http://www.bfimusicals.co.uk)

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#### **About the BFI**

The BFI is the UK’s lead organisation for film, television and the moving image. It is a cultural charity that:

- Curates and presents the greatest international public programme of World Cinema for audiences; in cinemas, at festivals and online
- Cares for the BFI National Archive – the most significant film and television archive in the world
- Actively seeks out and supports the next generation of filmmakers
- Works with Government and industry to make the UK the most creatively exciting and prosperous place to make film internationally

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

#### **About the BFI Film Audience Network**

Supported by National Lottery funding, the BFI Film Audience Network (FAN), is central to the BFI’s aim to ensure the greatest choice of film is available for everyone. Established in 2012 to build wider and more diverse UK cinema audiences for British and international film, FAN is a unique, UK-wide collaboration made up of eight Hubs managed by leading film organisations and venues strategically placed around the country. FAN also supports talent development with BFI NETWORK Talent Executives in each of the English Hubs, with a mission to discover and support talented writers, directors and producers at the start of their careers.

BFI Musicals! is a celebration of musicals on screen, led by BFI, the Independent Cinema Office and Film Hub Midlands on behalf of the BFI Film Audience network, supported by funds from the National Lottery.



Independent  
Cinema  
Office

\*\*\* PICTURE DESK \*\*\*

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank can be found via the link below:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/av0g17iioimr5wp/AACmgr03qxb1g0o5Uo-a6uRja?dl=0>

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