

## **BFI FILM FUND SUPPORTED FILMS THROUGH NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDING SELECTED FOR THE 61<sup>ST</sup> BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL**

**31<sup>st</sup> August 2017, London**

The 61<sup>st</sup> BFI London Film Festival has selected 12 feature films that are supported by the BFI Film Fund with National Lottery funding and two shorts through BFI NETWORK - also National Lottery funded, in this year's programme. They include Opening Night film Andy Serkis's *Breathe*, Saul Dibbs's *Journey's End* and Lynne Ramsay's *You Were Never Really Here* - both Headline Galas and Clio Barnard's *Dark River* a Special Presentation. Andrew Haigh's *Lean on Pete* is in Official Competition, three films are selected for First Feature Competition; Daniel Kokotajlo's *Apostasy*, Michael Pearce's *Beast* and Rungano Nyoni's *I Am Not A Witch* and Lucy Cohen's *Kingdom of Us* is selected for the Documentary Competition.

**The full list is below:**

**BREATHE** (Opening Night Gala)

Director: Andy Serkis

Producer: Jonathan Cavendish

Screenwriter: William Nicholson

With Andrew Garfield, Claire Foy, Hugh Bonneville, Tom Hollander

UK Distribution: STXinternational

*UK 2017. 114min.*

**JOURNEY'S END** (Headline Gala)

Director: Saul Dibb

Producers: Guy de Beaujeu, Simon Reade

Screenwriter: Simon Reade

With Sam Claflin, Asa Butterfield, Toby Jones, Tom Sturridge, Stephen Graham, Paul Bettany

UK Distribution: Lionsgate

*UK 2017. 107min.*

**YOU WERE NEVER REALLY HERE** (Headline Gala)

Director / Screenwriter: Lynne Ramsay

Producer: Rosa Attab, Pascal Caucheteux, James Wilson, Lynne Ramsay

With Joaquin Phoenix, Ekaterina Samsonov, Alessandro Nivola, Alex Manette, John Doman, Judith Roberts

UK Distribution: STUDIOCANAL

*UK-USA-France 2017. 95min.*

**DARK RIVER** (Special Presentation)

Director / Screenwriter: Clio Barnard  
Producer: Tracy O’Riordan  
With Ruth Wilson, Mark Stanley, Esmé Creed-Miles, Joe Dempsie, Sean Bean  
UK Distribution: Arrow Films  
*UK 2017. 89min.*

**LEAN ON PETE** (Official Competition)  
Director / Screenwriter: Andrew Haigh  
Producer: Tristan Goligher  
With Charlie Plummer, Steve Buscemi, Chloë Sevigny  
UK Distribution: Curzon Artificial Eye  
*UK 2017. 121min.*

**APOSTASY** (First Feature Competition)  
Director / Screenwriter: Daniel Kokotajlo  
Producers: Marcie MacLellan, Andrea Cornwell  
With Siobhan Finneran, Sacha Parkinson, Molly Wright  
*UK 2017. 96min.*

**BEAST** (First Feature Competition)  
Director / Screenwriter: Michael Pearce  
Producer: Ivana MacKinnon, Lauren Dark, Kristian Brodie  
With Jessie Buckley, Johnny Flynn, Trystan Gravelle  
*UK 2017. 107min.*

**I AM NOT A WITCH** (First Feature Competition)  
Director / Screenwriter: Rungano Nyoni  
Producer: Emily Morgan, Juliette Grandmont, Titus Kreyenberg  
With Margaret Mulubwa, Henry Phiri, Nancy Mulilo  
UK Distribution: Curzon Artificial Eye  
*UK-France- Zambia 2017. 95min.*

**KINGDOM OF US** (Documentary Competition)  
Director: Lucy Cohen  
Producer: Julia Nottingham  
UK Distribution: Netflix  
*UK 2017. 109min.*

**JOURNEYMAN** (Love)  
Director/Screenwriter: Paddy Considine  
Producer: Diarmid Scrimshaw  
With Paddy Considine, Jodie Whittaker, Tony Pitts  
UK Distribution: STUDIOCANAL  
*UK 2017. 92min.*

**LEK AND THE DOGS** (Experimenta)

Director: Andrew Kötting

Producer: Nick Taussig, Paul Van Carter

With Xavier Tchili

*UK 2017. 90min.***ARCADIA** (Create)

Director/Screenplay: Paul Wright

Producer: John Archer

**BFI NETWORK FUNDED SHORTS IN COMPETITION****REAL GODS REQUIRE BLOOD** (Short Film Award Programme 1)

Director: Moin Hussain

Producer: Michelle Eastwood

Screenwriter: Tom Benn

**WREN BOYS** (Short Film Award Programme 1)

Director: Harry Lighton

Producers: Harry Lighton, John Fitzpatrick

Screenwriter: Sorcha Bacon

ENDS.

**PRESS CONTACTS:****Judy Wells, Head of Press and PR, BFI**Tel: 020 957 8919 / 07984 180 501 / email: [judy.wells@bfi.org.uk](mailto:judy.wells@bfi.org.uk)**Tina McFarling, PR Advisor, Corporate and Industry, BFI**Tel: +44 (0)7879 421 578 / [tina.mcfarling@bfi.org.uk](mailto:tina.mcfarling@bfi.org.uk)**Colette Geraghty, PR Advisor, Industry & Corporate, BFI**Tel: 020 7173 3256 / 07957 864 362 / email: [colette.geraghty@bfi.org.uk](mailto:colette.geraghty@bfi.org.uk)**About the BFI**

The BFI Film Fund supports world-class UK filmmaking from talent and film development, through to production, and audience development across exhibition, distribution and international sales. With over £50 million of National Lottery funding to invest each year, the BFI is the UK's largest public investor in film.

The BFI has supported eight features and one short film screening at the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival: Daniel Kokotajlo's *Apostasy*; Michael Pearce's *Beast*; Andy Serkis' *Breathe*, which will also have its European Premiere at the BFI London Film Festival; Clio Barnard's *Dark River*; Saul Dibb's *Journey's End*, Sophie Fiennes' *Grace Jones: Bloodlight And Bam!*; Andrew Haigh's *Lean on Pete* which also has its World Premiere in Competition at this year's Venice Film Festival; Haifaa Al-Mansour's *Mary Shelley*; and Dionne Edwards's short *We Love Moses*.

Highly anticipated films backed by the BFI include Lynne Ramsay's *You Were Never Really Here* which won Best Screenplay for Ramsay and Best Actor for Joaquin Phoenix at this year's Cannes Film Festival; Deborah Haywood's *Pin Cushion* opens the Critics' Week at Venice; Francis Lee's *God's Own Country*, winner of the Directing Award: World Cinema Dramatic at Sundance 2017 and the Michael Powell Award for Best British Feature Film at the Edinburgh International Film Festival; Rungano Nyoni's feature debut *I Am Not a Witch*, which premiered in the Cannes Directors' Fortnight; which opened this year's Sheffield Doc/Fest; Lucy Cohen's *Kingdom of Us*; Peter Mackie Burns' *Daphne*; Sky Neal and Kate McLarnon's *Even When I Fall*; Paddy Considine's *Journeyman*; Thomas Clay's *Fanny Lye Deliver'd*; Toby MacDonald's *Old Boys* and Amma Asante's *Where Hands Touch*. Recent successes include Ken Loach's Cannes Film Festival Palme d'Or and BAFTA winner *I, Daniel Blake*; Andrea Arnold's Cannes Jury Prize award-winning and BAFTA-nominated *American Honey*; Yorgos Lanthimos's 2017 Oscar®-winning *The Lobster*; Amma Asante's *A United Kingdom*; Ben Wheatley's *Free Fire*; Gurinder Chadha's *Viceroy's House*; and William Oldroyd's *Lady Macbeth* which had its World Premiere at Toronto International Film Festival 2016.

In prep and production are Tom Harper's *Country Music*; Joanna Hogg's *The Souvenir*; Annabel Jankel's *Tell it to the Bees*; Claire Denis's *High Life*, Mike Leigh's *Peterloo*; Idris Elba's *Yardie*; Tim Travers Hawkins' *XY Chelsea*; Brian Welsh's *Beats*; Nick Park's *Early Man*; Wash Westmoreland's *Colette*; Tinge Krishnan's *Been So Long*; Pawel Pawlikowski's *Cold War*; and Jim Hosking's *An Evening With Beverly Luff Linn*.

#### **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 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.