



**BFI PREMIERES RESTORED SILENT HITCHCOCK THE RING
WITH NEW LIVE JAZZ SCORE BY SOWETO KINCH**

13th July, Hackney Empire – a LOGOC London Festival 2012 event

March 23 2012 As part of the BFI's blockbuster summer project **The Genius of Hitchcock**, it is announced today that Hitchcock's early silent film **The Ring** (1927) will be premiered in its newly restored glory and brought to life with a live performance of a brand new score by **Soweto Kinch**. Award winning saxophonist, MC and rising star **Kinch** has been commissioned by the BFI to write the new score for this heavy-hitting boxing drama that helped inspire *The Artist* - according to its director Michel Hazanavicius. The film will be presented in its newly restored splendour at The Hackney Empire, a venue frequented by Hitchcock, on 13th July as part of the BFI's official involvement in the LOGOC London Festival 2012 celebrations.

Soweto joins a growing roster of British musical talent writing scores for the new silent Hitchcock restorations including Nitin Sawhney (*The Lodger* at The Barbican, July 21st) and Daniel Patrick Cohen (*The Pleasure Garden* at Wilton's Music Hall, June 28th & 29th).

Universally acknowledged as one of the world's greatest film-makers Alfred Hitchcock received critical and box office acclaim early in his career. **The Ring**, one of Hitchcock's earliest films, is a brilliantly paced melodrama set in the world of boxing. The director himself claimed that, after *The Lodger*, this is the next 'Hitchcock' picture. The story is a love triangle between a fairground boxer whose lover falls for the charms of a professional fighter and is told with a bold visual style. This is Hitchcock's one and only original screenplay but its neatness and economy confirmed him as Britain's leading filmmaker of his generation.

SOWETO KINCH

From a 2002 BBC Jazz Rising Star Award to a 2007 MOBO, a Mercury Music Prize nomination and headlining the 2011 London Jazz Festival, Soweto Kinch's ascent from young lion to a musician and composer at the top of his field has been both

swift and certain. Consistently defying expectations, his work brings together improvisational jazz with hip hop in a way that is witty, surprising and startlingly powerful.

With rave reviews for his recent live performances, recently described by The Guardian as 'a scalding display of post-Coleman alto-sax improvising, a virtuosic and intelligent exposition of political rap, and a visually riveting event into the bargain', Kinch's political conscience and hybrid musical performances are getting him noticed all over the world. Kinch will present a new jazz score for the world premiere of the BFI's new restoration of Alfred Hitchcock's **The Ring** (1927) at the Hackney Empire on Friday 13th July. Tickets priced from £10 go on sale today, 23rd March via www.bfi.org.uk/hitchcock & www.hackneyempire.co.uk. Early booking is advised.

Soweto Kinch said,

'One of the most exciting qualities of the project is that the potential audience for it is broad enough to not be pinned down to a single genre, but the themes and location in East London provide a wealth of inspiring sounds. The content of The Ring also makes it pertinent. It's depiction of a multi racial East End, blasé racism, and it's take on relationships make it a fascinating springboard for discussion. It will be great to be involved in rethinking the world around Alfred Hitchcock.'

Thanks to new advances in digital technology the BFI now has a narrow window of opportunity to bring the earliest surviving Hitchcock materials together and restore these great early films to show to new audiences. The BFI National Archive has so far raised over £1million pounds to support the restoration of Alfred Hitchcock's nine surviving silent films, made between 1925 – 1929. These new prints will be presented to the world from June to October 2012, as part of the BFI's Genius of Hitchcock project, encompassing a major retrospective at BFI Southbank showing all 57 surviving Hitchcock films plus a range of special events and guest appearances, an international touring programme and much more to be announced.

Events already announced include **The Pleasure Garden** (1926) at Wilton's Music Hall with a new score by **Daniel Patrick Cohen**, former student of the Royal Academy of Music (28 & 29 June) – sold out, returns only, tickets £25; and **Nitin Sawhney's** score to **The Lodger: A Tale of the London Fog** (1926) will have its world premiere performed by the London Symphony Orchestra at Barbican Hall (21 July) – limited tickets still available from £15.

Further announcements of other contemporary composers writing new scores for Hitchcock's silent films will follow.

Notes to editors:

Hitchcock's nine silent films

The Pleasure Garden (1926)
The Lodger: a Tale of the London Fog (1926)
The Ring (1927)
Downhill (1927)
Easy Virtue (1927)
Champagne (1928)
The Farmer's Wife (1928)
The Manxman (1929)
Blackmail(1929)

This project has been able to take place thanks to the generosity of some key organisations and companies and many individuals. Chief among the donors are The Film Foundation and the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, and the leading UK facilities house Deluxe where much of the digital restoration has been undertaken. There's still a chance for anyone who would like to ensure that these films are presented as widely as possible with our fund-raising site still able to accept donations via www.bfi.org.uk/saveafilm.

The Ring is courtesy of Studio Canal

PRESS CONTACTS

Judy Wells, Head of Press and PR, BFI

Tel: 020 7957 8918 or email: judy.wells@bfi.org.uk

Brian Robinson, Communications Manager, Archive and Heritage, BFI

Tel: 020 7957 8940 or email brian.robinson@bfi.org.uk

Notes to editors

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
- 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 Genius of Hitchcock

Alfred Hitchcock is the most influential and iconic British film director of all time, whose impact on modern cinema endures beyond that of any other motion picture artist. There are more books published about him than any other film-maker; more films are made in imitation of his style; while uniquely his impact can be felt as much in museums and galleries today as on cinema's biggest grossing box office hits. The BFI is celebrating and exploring the Genius of Hitchcock in 2012 with a major programme of screenings, public events, publishing and educational projects and online initiatives, designed to engage the widest possible audience with the work of this great film-maker.

Additional background information on Rescue the Hitchcock 9

Hitchcock's early films are among the finest achievements of British silent cinema. His subsequent films refined his techniques of stunning visual composition and richly cinematic storytelling linked to dramatic invention, which are uniquely Hitchcock.

The surviving nitrate materials for these films bear the marks of wear and tear over the decades. New digital techniques mean that the BFI's team of technical experts are now in a position to restore scratched and damaged original materials and produce much improved viewing copies.

Phase two of the restoration means we are actively seeking more funds for restoration and to enable us to produce these once in a lifetime events: from Hitchcock devotees, film lovers or anyone who cares about our cultural history. Even small amounts to help us reach our target and members of the public who would like to save an important and historic film can contribute by visiting www.bfi.org.uk/saveafilm.

BFI National Archive

The BFI National Archive was founded in 1935 and has grown to become the largest collection of film and television in the world with over 180,000 films and 750,000 television programmes. With specialist storage facilities in Warwickshire and Hertfordshire the archive also boasts significant collections of stills, posters and designs along with original scripts, press books and related ephemera. We are funded partly by OfCom as the official archive for ITV, Channel Four and Channel Five. We record a representative sample of television across Britain's terrestrial channels and are the official archive of moving image records of Parliament.

Soweto Kinch Biography

Soweto Kinch is a multi-award winning British jazz alto saxophonist, hip hop artist, rapper and MC. From a 2002 BBC Jazz Rising Star Award to a 2007 MOBO, a Mercury Music Prize nomination and headlining the 2011 London Jazz Festival, his ascent from young lion to a musician and composer at the top of his field has been both swift and certain. Consistently defying expectations, his work brings together improvisational jazz with hip hop in a way that is witty, surprising and startlingly powerful.

Born in London to a Barbadian father and British-Jamaican mother and raised in Handsworth, Birmingham Kinch began playing saxophone at the age of nine. After an early, informative meeting with virtuoso American trumpeter, Wynton Marsalis – who remains a mentor - he became passionate about jazz, first concentrating on piano and later on alto saxophone. In 2001 he established the Soweto Kinch Trio - with bassist Michael Olatuja and drummer Troy Miller. Early gigs included a support slot to Courtney Pine at the former Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in Birmingham before

guest slots at Royal Festival Hall and Cheltenham Jazz Festival and the first of a clutch of awards.

Across the intervening 10 years, Kinch has earned a host of 5 star reviews for his live performances. His 2010 London Jazz Festival performance at the Queen Elizabeth Hall confirmed his position as a major figure in the UK scene, as The Evening Standard's Jack Massarik described, 'it was hard to imagine stronger contemporary jazz being played anywhere else in the world.' With his 2007 and 3rd album, *The New Emancipation*, inspired by the 20th anniversary of the abolition of slavery, his 2012 concept album, *The Legend of Mike Smith*, (to be launched this autumn) will revolve around a contemporary exploration of the seven deadly sins.

There's no compromise in Kinch's music, which lurches from angular beats to gentle swing, from machine-gun rap to poetic introspection. He just assumes we're open-minded enough to follow his journey.

The Guardian

About the Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 Festival

The London 2012 [Cultural Olympiad](#) is the largest cultural celebration in the history of the modern Olympic and Paralympic Movements. Spread over four years, it is designed to give everyone in the UK a chance to be part of [London 2012](#) and inspire creativity across all forms of culture, especially among young people.

The culmination of the Cultural Olympiad will be the [London 2012 Festival](#), bringing leading artists from all over the world together from 21 June 2012 in this UK-wide festival – a chance for everyone to celebrate London 2012 through dance, music, theatre, the visual arts, film and digital innovation and leave a lasting legacy for the arts in this country. People can sign up at www.london2012.com/festival now to receive information.

Principal funders of the Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 Festival are [Arts Council England](#), [Legacy Trust UK](#) and the [Olympic Lottery Distributor](#). [BP](#) and [BT](#) are Premier Partners of the Cultural Olympiad and the London 2012 Festival. The [British Council](#) will support the international development of London 2012 Cultural Olympiad projects. [Panasonic](#) are the presenting partner of [Film Nation: Shorts](#).

For more details visit www.london2012.com/culture

About The Hackney Empire

Built in 1901 by legendary architect Frank Matcham, Hackney Empire has been providing quality entertainment for 110 years making it one of London's oldest and finest Victorian theatres. Since the turn of the last century, many global stars have graced the stage including Charlie Chaplin, Laurel & Hardy, Houdini and Louis Armstrong to name a few. Now it welcomes over 140,000 people a year to its glittering programme of musicals, family shows, contemporary and classical music, opera and off course the world-renowned pantomime. Situated in the heart of London's East End, the artists who play the Hackney Empire and its audiences reflect the diversity of the borough. Hackney Empire runs regular participatory activity for the local community and young people, including workshops; a community choir, talent competitions and much more. For more information or to get involved visit the website www.hackneyempire.co.uk

Hackney Empire, 291 Mare Street London E8 1EJ 020 8985 2424

About The Film Foundation

Since 1990, The Film Foundation (www.film-foundation.org), a non-profit organization established by Martin Scorsese, has been dedicated to protecting and preserving motion picture history by providing substantial annual support for preservation and restoration projects at the leading film archives. The foundation raises awareness of the urgent need to preserve films and has helped to save over

550 motion pictures. The Film Foundation is also teaching over 9 million middle and high school students how to “read” film through its unique educational curriculum, *The Story of Movies*. Joining Scorsese on the board of directors are: Woody Allen, Paul Thomas Anderson, Wes Anderson, Francis Ford Coppola, Clint Eastwood, Curtis Hanson, Peter Jackson, Ang Lee, George Lucas, Alexander Payne, Robert Redford and Steven Spielberg. The Film Foundation is aligned with the Directors Guild of America whose President and Secretary-Treasurer serve on the Foundation's board.

About PRS for Music Foundation

PRS for Music Foundation is the UK’s leading funder of new music across all genres. Since 2000 the Foundation has awarded over £14 million to more than 4,000 new music projects. Widely respected as an adventurous and proactive funding body, PRS for Music Foundation supports an exceptional range of new music activity by awarding grants and leading partnership programmes that support new music sector development.

Current flagship initiatives include Cultural Olympiad programme New Music 20x12, which supports the commissioning of 20 new pieces of music that will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and performed across the UK.

To find out more visit: www.prsformusicfoundation.com

***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting the BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI / BFI Southbank / archive and BFI National Archive