

BFI PUBLISHES HALF-YEAR UK BOX OFFICE AND PRODUCTION STATISTICS

LONDON - Thursday 23 July 2015. UK cinemas have seen a surge in admissions totalling 83 million visits during the first half of the year, 10% higher than for the first half of last year. The market share of UK films which includes UK/US films such as *The Avengers: Age of Ultron* and *The Theory of Everything* and independent films such as *Shaun the Sheep Movie*, accounted for a 32% share of the total box office compared to 26.8% over the first half of 2014 and the highest since 2012.

The half-year statistics covering the first six months of 2015 at the UK box office and production activity in the UK have been released today by the BFI. The full year's statistics and analysis of the film sector will be published in January 2016.

Amanda Nevill, CEO of the BFI, said: "Today's half-year report shows that UK audiences are continuing to flock to the cinemas ensuring film continues to be a vibrant contributor to the economy. For the UK film industry, it is particularly encouraging to see the films made in the UK working with British talent and facilities achieve a strong share of the UK box office.

"Whilst the number of new films starting production in the first half of the year is fewer than over the same period last year, new films have yet to start shooting in the coming months and it will be the full year's overview which will give us a fuller picture on the production sector."

Leading the upturn in cinema business is *Jurassic World* which has grossed over £57 million to date at the box office followed by *The Avengers: Age of Ultron* (£48 million) which was made in the UK, and *Fast & Furious 7* (£38.5 million). The top 20 film rankings over the period also include UK/US productions *The Theory of Everything* (£21.5 million), *Cinderella* (£21 million), *Kingsman: The Secret Service* (£16.4 million), *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* (£15.6 million) and the UK/US/Canadian film *Into the Woods* (£9.9 million).

Leading the field amongst independent UK films at the box office is *Shaun the Sheep Movie* (£13.7 million), *Far From the Madding Crowd* (£6.1 million) and *The Woman in Black: Angel of Death* (£5 million).

A total of 358 films were released in cinemas in the UK and the Republic of Ireland grossing £591 million (up to 12 July) compared to £490 million from 342 films over the same period last year.

The first six months of the year has seen a spend of £594 million on film production in the UK across 79 films. Of this, inward investment films accounted for £518 million of spend across 21 feature films with domestic UK films (budgeted at £500,000 and above) contributing £56 million from 24 films. The spend on high-end TV production in the UK was £279 million across 30 productions including *Downton Abbey Series 6*, *Outland Season 2*, *War and Peace*, *Churchill's Secret*, *The Dresser*, *Endeavour Series 3* and *Jericho Series 1*.

The rolling year statistics give a broader view of production activity rather than shorter periods since the spend and production starts statistics for film production activity are determined by the date that films start filming.

The past 12 months (July 2014 to June 2015) have seen a total spend on production in the UK of £1.199 billion compared to £1.549 billion for the previous rolling 12 months (July 2013 to June 2014). Within this total inward investment accounted for £1.062 billion compared to £1.254 billion over the previous 12 months; domestic UK films (over £500,000) totalled £99.8 million compared to £216.3 million and co-productions £25.9 million compared to £60.8 million.

The BFI has also published the half-year for the number of films that received certification and which give an indication for the level of production in the UK in the months ahead as well as the spend of those productions in the UK. The rolling year statistics for 2015 show a stable picture on the number of films qualifying as UK and being produced - 105 productions - and an increase in the percentage of the budget of those films being actually spent in the UK (74%).

BFI Research and Statistics Unit special note:

Admissions data is supplied by the Cinema Advertising Association/Rentrak. Gross box office data is supplied by Rentrak.

Production data is supplied by the British Film Commission, Creative Skillset, UK film certification data, direct approaches to film producers and other sources.

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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 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 Greg Dyke.



About the British Film Commission

The British Film Commission (BFC) is the national body responsible for maximising and supporting the production of international feature films and high-end television in the UK. With offices in the UK and the US, the BFC provides free professional advice to help make productions in the UK a reality.

The BFC has commercial sponsors, who form the membership of the agency's innovative public/private partnership: Disney, Harbottle & Lewis, Pinewood Studios Group, Saffery Champness, Warner Bros. UK

and its UK-based film production operations, BBC Worldwide, Coutts, Double Negative, Elstree Studios, Framestore, MPC and Working Title Films.

The British Film Commission is managed by Film London through a public/private partnership funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport through the BFI, it also receives funding from UK Trade and Investment.

www.britishfilmcommission.org.uk

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