

BFI RESPONSE TO HENLEY REVIEW / TOM HOOPER SUPPORTS BFI'S FILM ACADEMIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Oscar-winning film director Tom Hooper said “*The inspiration to become a filmmaker and the opportunity to achieve it do not always go hand in hand, so it is great the BFI is giving young people an extra helping hand and budding film professionals the chance to develop their skills and talent. It is vital for the future of the British film industry that we nurture the next generations of creative, successful and internationally in-demand filmmakers.*”

The BFI (British Film Institute) applauds the approach of Darren Henley’s review that puts culture and the arts firmly into education, therefore making them central to the lives of young people. The BFI is delighted that film plays a significant part in the recommendations and that access to learning about culture should be available to all UK children and young people, regardless of their background and the BFI’s new film academies will contribute positively to this. Creative Britain is dependent on nurturing future generations and the BFI is very pleased to play a key role in the vision of the Henley Review.

BFI CEO Amanda Nevill said “*The arts are a fundamental part of a rounded and fulfilled life. Film in particular helps us to better understand the world and our place in it, to appreciate other cultures and other view points. Film is also at the root of one of our most vibrant, growing industries, so the recommendations in the review are an intelligent investment in our future.*”

The Government’s £3m investment in the new BFI film academy for young people will give talented 16-19-year-olds a unique experience to work and learn with film professionals which will build on the BFI’s existing education, talent and skills initiatives across the UK.

The academy will work with schools, colleges and industry to identify and develop young filmmakers and film professionals with exceptional levels of creative talent, technical skills, commitment and tenacity. The academy will operate a year-round programme on Saturdays and in the evenings in local and regional centres with around 5,000 young people. Up to 200 young people will then be selected for a pioneering elite residential filmmaking course. They will learn and develop the technical, curatorial, business and marketing skills necessary for a successful career in film.

The BFI looks forward to continuing to work closely with its partner organisations as part of the Cultural Education Partnership Group across the cultural sector to deliver

the vision of a rich offer for culture for all young people and to develop a number of the recommendations set out in the report.

The excitement and ambition of Darren Henley's Cultural Education Review is far reaching and the BFI warmly welcomes the support of both DCMS and DfE towards a commitment to cultural education and the film academies.

The BFI will be providing a more detailed response to the recommendation in The Henley Report in due course.

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Notes to Editors

ABOUT BFI EDUCATION

BFI Education and Learning exists to reach out to audiences new to specialist, independent, archive and art film and other forms of moving image media throughout the UK.

The Education and Learning team at the BFI aims to:

- Educate audiences about the historical, formal and geographical diversity of the moving image, while developing their critical and creative skills, and, where appropriate, training educators who work with audiences.
- Facilitate engagement with BFI programmes for our audiences - from the core to the marginal - through our cinemas, Mediatheque, Gallery, and online.
- Advocate for the moving image in education, and for education in film, through public debate, lobbying and campaigning, where possible backed by evidence from research which we either conduct, gather, or disseminate.
- Innovate by developing, trialling, and evaluating new ways of engaging audiences in education about film.
- Collaborate where possible with partners locally and nationally, in film, culture and education.

Above all BFI values experiences with film that are transformative: that is, that change people, ideas, and organisational approaches and practices.

BFI is a national advocate for film in the education sector and is the lead partner in the development of Film: 21st Century Literacy: A Strategy for Film Education Across the UK

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