

## **BFI Sci-Fi event: Afrika Bambaataa in Conversation with Don Letts**



LONDON, Friday 12 September 2014: **BFI Southbank** is delighted to announce it will welcome world renowned Hip Hop pioneer **Afrika Bambaataa** to the stage on 1 December for a very special 'in conversation' event hosted by filmmaker and musician **Don Letts**. Forming part of the BFI's major, UK-wide blockbuster project **Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder**, presented together with **O2**, the event is a centrepiece of *Inside Afrofuturism*, a dedicated programme of work celebrating black visions of Sci-Fi, which will take place at **BFI Southbank** throughout November.

Affectionately known as '**The Godfather**' of Hip Hop culture, Bambaataa developed the electro-funk sound with '**Planet Rock**,' the 1982 Hip Hop track that infused 808 beats with a techno-pop futurism inspired by German electronic pioneers Kraftwerk. Combining wrap-around sunglasses with Egyptian and Native American headgear, Bambaataa's unique look perfectly matches the 'outer space' vibe of the sound he created. A seminal Bronx DJ during the 70s, Bambaataa is one of the three main originators of breakbeat DJing.

Through his **Universal Zulu Nation** collective – which includes De La Soul, A Tribe Called Quest and The Jungle Brothers – Bambaataa has helped spread black consciousness and Hip Hop culture throughout the world with a message of peace, unity, love and having fun. The BFI's In Conversation event with Afrika Bambaataa **celebrates the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hip Hop**, which according to the Universal Zulu Nation was officially born in New York on November 12, 1974.

**Afrika Bambaataa comments:** *“In The Name of The Supreme Force. Who is The Source, Whom is called by many Names.*

*“I Afrika Bambaataa am looking forward to come Shine the Light of The Stars, The Heartbeat of Earth, The Sound of The Musical Universe Landing in The United Kingdom , of standing on the Science of Life For the People of Earth and to celebrate The 40th Anniversary of Hip Hop Culture and The 41st Anniversary of The Universal Zulu Nation in Harmony with BFI.*

*In Peace, Unity, Love and Having Fun with Positivity Reactions”*

Exploring his life and work, **Bambaataa** will discuss Afrofuturism, film, music and more.

#### **Event Listings:**

**Afrika Bambaataa in Conversation, Hosted by Don Letts**

**Mon 1 Dec 18:20 NFT1**



zulunation.co.uk

#### **For interview and ticket requests please contact:**

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#### **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
- 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 generations

**SCI-FI: DAYS OF FEAR AND WONDER** will be the BFI's biggest season to date, with over **1000** screenings of classic films and television programmes at over **200** locations across the UK. It includes a three-month programme at BFI Southbank, from **20 October until 31 December 2014**, with special events, guests and screenings right across the UK. With outdoor events at iconic British sites, classic Sci-Fi titles released into UK cinemas and on DVD and Blu-ray, 50+ films available online through BFI Player, a BFI Sci-Fi Compendium and much more, **SCI-FI: DAYS OF FEAR AND WONDER**, presented together with **02**, will celebrate cinema's most spectacular and visionary genre, exploring how the fear and wonder at its heart continues to inspire and enthrall in one of the largest and most ambitious Sci-Fi projects ever created.

[www.bfi.org.uk/sci-fi](http://www.bfi.org.uk/sci-fi) @BFI #BFISciFi

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

**A selection of images and clips for journalistic use in can be found at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) under  
BFI / Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder**