



## **BFI THRILLER: WHO CAN YOU TRUST? BFI Southbank, Fri 20 Oct – Sun 31 Dec**

**Thursday 19 October 2017, London.**

This autumn the BFI is embarking on a suspense-filled UK-wide season **BFI THRILLER: WHO CAN YOU TRUST?**, running from **Friday 20 October – Sunday 31 December** at BFI Southbank, online on BFI Player, and at selected venues across the UK. The BFI today announces the BFI Southbank programme for December, with more films and events set to thrill audiences throughout the month. It will be divided into three main sections: **Can You Trust Them?**, **Can You Trust Her?** and **Big Thrill Double Bills**, consisting respectively of paranoia and conspiracy thrillers, thrillers in which femmes fatales and dangerous women reign, and double bills of perfectly paired nail-biters.

### **Can You Trust Her?**

Dark and dangerous women have always flourished in thrillers, and the season will take a closer look at the women in front of and behind the camera, from archetypal femmes fatales and powerful female detectives, to the women who have penned some of the best-loved stories of the genre. Classic film noirs screening in December include ***Out of the Past*** (Jacques Tourneur, 1947). Arguably the definitive film noir, this features Robert Mitchum at his best. He plays an ex-private eye trying to escape his past until former girlfriend Kathie (Jane Greer) and gangster Whit (Kirk Douglas) drag him into a world of double-crossing, revenge and murder. Henri-Georges Clouzot's masterful ***Les Diaboliques*** (Henri-Georges Clouzot, 1955) is a terrifying lesson in suspense storytelling, with a twist for the ages, in which the put-upon wife of a sadistic headmaster conspires with his mistress to get rid of him. ***One False Move*** (Carl Franklin, 1992) is a rollercoaster road movie that follows savvy LA cops on the trail of three criminals as they flee LA for a small Arkansas town. However, the tipped-off local sheriff (Bill Paxton) is ready for a showdown. Subtly tackling sexism and racism along the way, former actor Carl Franklin pulls off a superb, explosive directorial debut.

### **Can You Trust Them?**

From the disillusionment skulking in the shadows of post-war cinema of the 1940s to the ascendancy of conspiracy as a theme of 1970s film heightened by the Watergate Scandal, thrillers have typically expressed an underlying pessimism about the political establishment, the machinations of corporations and the social fabric binding us all together. **Can You Trust Them?** will include a selection of exciting conspiracy and paranoia thrillers including Hitchcock's masterful chase thriller ***The 39 Steps*** (Alfred Hitchcock, 1935), the enigmatic and suspenseful ***Kiss Me Deadly*** (Robert Aldrich, 1955), which channels Cold War paranoia, and the story of a young woman vilified for an alleged association with terrorism ***The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum*** (Volker Schlöndorff, Margarethe von Trotta, 1975). Also showing will be one of the finest American conspiracy thrillers of the 1970s ***Three Days of the Condor*** (Sydney Pollack, 1975), which was released in the wake of the trust-shattering Watergate scandal to critical acclaim.

### **Big Thrill Double Bills**

This selection of thrilling double bills will keep audiences on the edge of their seats. Adrenaline junkies should seek out a double bill of the Berlin-set thrillers *Run Lola Run* (Tom Tykwer, 1998) and *Victoria* (Sebastian Schipper, 2015). In *Run Lola Run* it's a race against time for Lola as she speeds through Berlin, trying to find 100,000 Deutschmarks in just 20 minutes if she's to prevent her boyfriend from robbing a bank in order to pay off the gangster he's indebted to. Made almost 20 years ago, it still feels modern and stylish, using a pulsating score, fast-paced editing and multiple narratives to frame an enthralling chase thriller. Headline grabbing upon release for its real-time single-take filming method, *Victoria* is a dazzling heist thriller that is more than just a gimmick. Ricocheting between engaging character moments, intoxicating club scenes and mind-bending twists and turns, Schipper's film capitalises on its unusual format to create an immersive ride through Victoria's chaotic night, as she's drawn into Berlin's criminal underworld. A Michael Mann double bill of *Manhunter* (Michael Mann, 1986), the first film to feature Thomas Harris' infamous Hannibal Lecter, and *Heat* (Michael Mann, 1995), which pits a tough cop (Al Pacino) against a criminal mastermind (Robert De Niro) will also screen in December. The BFI's popular **Philosophical Screens** series, exploring cinema through a philosophical lens, will look at the cinematic killers of thrillers such as *Manhunter* on Wednesday 6 December.

### **BFI Flare, Silent Cinema, Projecting the Archive and more**

Regular BFI Southbank programming strands will also reflect **BFI THRILLER**; these will include a **BFI FLARE** screening of The Wachowski's stylish and gruesome *Bound* (1996) and a **SILENT CINEMA** screening of *The Four Just Men* (George Ridgwell, 1921, with piano accompaniment), a gripping adaptation of Edgar Wallace's first major screenwriting success, featuring international political terrorists, ingenious murders and a ticking clock. It is a common misconception that femmes fatales are exclusively the terrain of US and French Noir, but a number of post-war British thrillers also featured cunning women. **PROJECTING THE ARCHIVE** screenings of *Dear Murderer* (Arthur Crabtree, 1947), *The Long Memory* (Robert Hamer, 1953), *Mine Own Executioner* (Anthony Kimmins, 1947) and *Obsession* (Edward Dmytryk, 1949), featuring vivacious vixens Greta Gynt, Elizabeth Sellars, Christine Norden and Sally Gray will show that in post-war Britain, beauty and talent were not on ration.

**– ENDS –**

### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

#### **Press Contacts:**

Liz Parkinson – Press Officer, BFI Southbank  
[liz.parkinson@bfi.org.uk](mailto:liz.parkinson@bfi.org.uk) / 020 7957 8918

Elizabeth Dunk – Press Office Assistant  
[elizabeth.dunk@bfi.org.uk](mailto:elizabeth.dunk@bfi.org.uk) / 020 7957 8986

### **SEASON LISTINGS (1 – 31 DECEMBER):**

#### **CAN YOU TRUST THEM?**

**You think they're out to get you? They are!**

A warped mirror for events in a recognisably real world as well as an adrenalin-fuelled thrill-ride, the thriller typically expresses an underlying pessimism about the political establishment, the machinations of corporations and the social fabric binding us all together. From the disillusionment skulking in the shadows of post-war cinema of the 1940s to the ascendancy of conspiracy as a theme of 1970s film heightened by the Watergate Scandal, filmmakers have revealed a world configured by fear and mistrust.

#### **The 39 Steps**

UK 1935. Dir Alfred Hitchcock. With Robert Donat, Madeleine Carroll, Lucie Mannheim, John Laurie. 86min. Digital. U

Hitchcock's masterful adaptation of John Buchan's novel remains the model for all chase thrillers. Richard Hannay (Donat) meets a mysterious stranger (Mannheim) who warns him of a sinister spy ring just before she is murdered. Now in danger himself, Hannay flees to Scotland to uncover the truth, enlisting the help of Pamela (Carroll) along the way. Exhilarating, gripping entertainment.

Also available on **BFIPLAYER**

**FRI 1 DEC 18:20 NFT1 / SAT 23 DEC 16:00 NFT2 / FRI 29 DEC 17:45 NFT3**

### **Kiss Me Deadly**

*USA 1955. Dir Robert Aldrich. With Ralph Meeker, Albert Dekker, Paul Stewart. 105min. 35mm. 12A*

Private detective Mike Hammer picks up a distraught runaway from a psychological asylum. This encounter leaves him at the centre of an international conspiracy, which he desperately tries to uncover while putting his own and his friends' lives on the line. Enigmatic and suspenseful from the first minute, Kiss Me Deadly channels Cold War paranoia, and culminates in a surprisingly haunting ending.

**SAT 2 DEC 15:30 NFT2 / FRI 8 DEC 18:15 NFT3**

### **The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum** Die verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum

*West Germany 1975. Dirs Volker Schlöndorff, Margarethe von Trotta. With Angela Winkler, Mario Adorf, Dieter Laser. 106min. Video. EST. 12A*

The story of a young woman vilified for an alleged association with terrorism, this Heinrich Böll adaptation offers a powerful example of an individual's defiance as they fall victim to a culture of fear. The film is unflinching in its exploration of media accountability and collective paranoia, the menace of state manipulation ringing as true today as it did 40 years ago.

**Part of HOME's States of Danger and Deceit: European Political Thrillers in the 1970s**

**TUE 12 DEC 18:15 NFT2 / SUN 17 DEC 19:45 NFT3**

### **Three Days of the Condor**

*USA 1975. Dir Sydney Pollack. With Robert Redford, Faye Dunaway, Cliff Robertson, Max von Sydow. 117min. 35mm. 15.*

One of the finest American conspiracy thrillers of the 1970s, this was released in the wake of the trust-shattering Watergate scandal. Redford is Joseph Turner, a CIA operative whose co-workers are murdered in what looks like an inside job. Caught in a cat-and-mouse game with his corrupt superiors, Turner enlists a photographer (Dunaway) to help him, and resolves to blow the whistle.

**SUN 3 DEC 19:50 NFT3 / FRI 15 DEC 18:00 NFT1**

### **CAN YOU TRUST HER?**

#### **Definitely deadlier than the male**

When she stepped from page to screen, the femme fatale came alive as the cinema's most seductive illusion. Beautiful, charming and mysterious, but possibly treacherous, she represents a paradoxical dilemma for thriller audiences in the 21st century. For while her characteristic duplicity is undeniably a product of deep-seated male anxieties about women and femininity – and yes, misogyny – who can resist the pleasure of seeing women cast aside their expected virtues of compassion and use all their wiles to destroy the men in their path?

### **Out of the Past (aka Build My Gallows High)**

*USA 1947. Dir Jacques Tourneur. With Robert Mitchum, Jane Greer, Kirk Douglas, Rhonda Fleming. 97min. 35mm. PG. From the collection of the Library of Congress*

Arguably the definitive film noir, this features Robert Mitchum at his best. He plays an ex-private eye trying to escape his past until former girlfriend Kathie (Greer) and gangster Whit (Douglas) drag him into a world of double-crossing, revenge and murder. First-rate performances, hypnotic cinematography and an intricate script make this a classic.

**SUN 3 DEC 15:15 NFT2 / WED 6 DEC 20:45 NFT3**

### **Les Diaboliques**

*France 1955. Dir Henri-Georges Clouzot. With Simone Signoret, Véra Clouzot, Paul Meurisse. 117min. Digital. EST. 12A*

The put-upon wife (Clouzot) of a sadistic headmaster conspires with his mistress (Signoret) to get rid of him. The two women get away with murder, but become increasingly paranoid when his corpse disappears. Clouzot's masterful film is a terrifying lesson in suspense storytelling, with a twist for the ages.

**SUN 10 DEC 17:40 NFT1 / FRI 22 DEC 20:30 NFT3 / SAT 30 DEC 20:20 NFT1**

### **One False Move**

USA 1992. Dir Carl Franklin. With Bill Paxton, Billy Bob Thornton, Cynda Williams, Michael Beach. 105min. 35mm. 18

This rollercoaster ride of a thriller-cum-road movie follows savvy LA cops on the trail of three criminals as they flee LA for a small Arkansas town. However, the tipped-off local sheriff (Paxton) is ready for a showdown. Subtly tackling sexism and racism along the way, former actor Carl Franklin pulls off a superb, explosive directorial debut.

**SUN 3 DEC 17:30 NFT2 / FRI 8 DEC 20:30 NFT3**

### **BIG THRILL DOUBLE BILLS**

**Double the thrill, twice the excitement**

#### **ADRENALINE DOUBLE**

**Run Lola Run** Lola Rennt

Germany 1998. Dir Tom Tywyker. With Franka Pontente, Moritz Bleibtreu, Herbert Knaup. 80min. 35mm. EST. 15

It's a race against time for Lola as she speeds through Berlin, trying to find 100,000 Deutschmarks in just 20 minutes if she's to prevent her boyfriend from robbing a bank in order to pay off the gangster he's now indebted to. Made almost 20 years ago, Run Lola Run still feels modern and stylish, using a pulsating score, fast-paced editing and multiple narratives to frame an enthralling chase thriller.

**SAT 2 DEC 18:20 NFT3 / WED 27 DEC 20:45 NFT3**

**+ Victoria**

Germany 2015. Dir Sebastian Schipper. With Laia Costa, Frederick Lau, Frank Rogowski. 138min. Digital. EST. 15

Headline grabbing upon release for its real-time single-take filming method, this dazzling heist thriller is more than just a gimmick. Ricocheting between engaging character moments, intoxicating club scenes and mind-bending twists and turns, Schipper's film capitalises on its unusual format to create an immersive ride through Victoria's chaotic night, as she's drawn into Berlin's criminal underworld.

**SAT 2 DEC 20:20 NFT3 / SAT 23 DEC 19:50 NFT3**

#### **MICHAEL MANN DOUBLE**

**Manhunter**

USA 1986. Dir Michael Mann. With William Peterson, Joan Allen, Kim Greist. 120min. Format tbc. 18.

Criminal profiler Will Graham (Petersen) comes out of retirement to assist in the capture of a vicious murderer dubbed 'The Tooth Fairy.' He reluctantly enlists the help of the infamous Dr Hannibal Lecktor (Cox), a killer he put away in the first place. Mann's stylish take on Thomas Harris' crime novel marked the resurgence of 'charming' serial killers in cinema.

**WED 6 DEC 18:20 NFT2 / SAT 9 DEC 16:15 NFT1**

**+ Heat**

USA 1995. Dir Michael Mann. With Al Pacino, Robert De Niro, Val Kilmer. 171min. Digital 4K. 15

Michael Mann's LA crime thriller pits a tough cop (Pacino) against a criminal mastermind (De Niro) who has one last heist up his sleeve before retirement. Their commitment to their chosen paths in life has resulted in one of them trying to avoid romance at all costs, while the other endures a loveless third marriage. The irresistible combination of the film's taut structure and a near-perfect acting masterclass from De Niro and Pacino makes Heat the perfect thriller.

**SAT 9 DEC 19:00 NFT1 / SUN 17 DEC 14:00 NFT3 / FRI 29 DEC 19:40 NFT3**

#### **Philosophical Screens: The Philosophy of Evil in 'Manhunter'**

TRT 70min

The latest event in our popular discussion series exploring cinema through a philosophical lens, will consider the 'exceptionality' of the cinematic killers that stalk thrillers such as Manhunter. Like Dr Lecktor, these killers are often not only exceptionally cruel, but endowed with superhuman strength and intelligence. Considering Nietzsche's superman concept, as well as ideas around animality and the gaze, film philosophers Lucy Bolton, John Ó Maoilearca and Catherine Wheatley will reflect on questions of evil, individual pathology and social prejudice in the thriller genre.

Free to ticket holders of Manhunter on Wed 6 Dec (must be booked via the box office due to limited capacity), otherwise £6.50

#### **BFI FLARE**

**Bound**

USA 1996. Dirs The Wachowskis. With Gina Gershon, Jennifer Tilly, Joe Pantoliano. 108min. 35mm. 18

The steamiest lesbian film of the '90s sees Gina Gershon as a handy plumber seducing a gangster's moll (Tilly) amid a perilous money-laundering caper. Typically Wachowski, the film drips with style and gruesome moments. You'll need to watch some of it between your fingers, but be grateful you still have all 10 by the end...

**MON 11 DEC 20:40 NFT3 / WED 27 DEC 18:20 NFT2**

### **PROJECTING THE ARCHIVE**

#### **Rediscovered British features**

**Dear Murderer** + intro by Simon McCallum, BFI Curator

*UK 1947. Dir Arthur Crabtree. With Greta Gynt, Eric Portman, Dennis Price. 94min. 35mm. PG*

Greta Gynt plays a faithless wife who seeks excitement with a string of lovers, driving her cuckolded husband (Portman) to desperate measures to get revenge. Critics remarked on Gynt's ability to combine 'beauty with Borgia-like habits,' and this drama of revenge shows off her talents to their best advantage. This feature debut of producer Betty Box earned her the nickname 'Bloodthirsty Box.'

Also available on **BFIPLAYER**

**TUE 12 DEC 18:20 NFT1**

**The Long Memory** + intro by Jo Botting, BFI National Archive Curator\*

*UK 1952. Dir Robert Hamer. With John Mills, Elizabeth Sellars, John McCallum, Eva Bergh. 92min. 35mm. PG*

Fay Lowther (Sellars) is forced to choose between her young beau (Mills) and her alcoholic father in this atmospheric noir directed and adapted by Robert Hamer. The film plays like Marcel Carné's *Le Quai des brumes* on a Kent estuary, as Mills' character is released from prison after 12 years and sets out to avenge himself on those who framed him.

**THU 7 DEC 18:10 NFT3 / MON 18 DEC 18:20 NFT1\***

#### **Obsession (aka The Hidden Room)**

*UK 1949. Dir Edward Dmytryk. With Robert Newton, Sally Gray, Naunton Wayne, Phil Brown. 98min. 35mm. PG*

Sally Gray is striking as the icy and aloof wife who assists the police inspector in hunting her missing lover, while suspecting that her husband is behind the disappearance. The release of the film was held up due to the trial of John George Haigh, the acid-bath murderer, which will give a clue to the nasty plan the betrayed husband cooks up.

**WED 27 DEC 18:10 NFT1**

### **SENIORS**

#### **Matinees and talks for the over 60s**

**Seniors' Archive Free Matinee: Mine Own Executioner**

*UK 1947. Dir Anthony Kimmins. With Burgess Meredith, Dulcie Gray, Michael Shepley. 104min. 35mm. 12A*

A lay psychiatrist in post-war London is enlisted to treat a fighter pilot deeply traumatised by his experiences in a prisoner-of-war camp. Adapted by BAFTA-winning author and screenwriter Nigel Balchin from his own novel, this story can also be seen as a devastating study of the effect of war on Britain's psyche.

Also available on **BFIPLAYER**

*Free for over-60s (booking by phone or in person only), otherwise normal matinee price.*

**MON 18 DEC 14:00 NFT1**

### **SILENT CINEMA**

#### **The best international restorations**

**The Four Just Men** + intro by Bryony Dixon, BFI National Archive

*UK 1921. Dir George Ridgwell. With Teddy Arundell, Cecil Humphreys, Owen Roughwood, George Bellamy. c73min. 35mm. With live piano accompaniment*

*The Four Just Men* is a gripping adaptation of Edgar Wallace's first major screenwriting success, featuring international political terrorists, ingenious murders and a ticking clock...Wallace's works spawned some 200 films and TV programmes. A Londoner of humble origins, he overcame a modest education to become a journalist and then an astonishingly prolific writer of ingenious thrillers, plays and film scripts – most famously *King Kong* (1933).

**SUN 3 DEC 16:00 NFT1**

### **EXPERIMENTA**

## Artist film and alternative moving image culture

### The Foreigner

USA 1978. Dir Amos Poe. With Eric Mitchell, Anya Phillips, Patti Astor. 91min. Digital

From the grimy, messed-up, strung-out, apocalyptic streets of New York at the end of the 1970s, we bring you two noir-ish, distinctly low-budget cinematic artefacts populated by punks and No Wave stars. European secret agent Max Menace arrives in the Big Apple and waits for his assignment, but nothing seems to turn out right (though he does get to meet Blondie's Debbie Harry and The Cramps).

### + Raw Nerves: A Lacanian Thriller

USA 1980. Dir Manuel DeLanda. With Lydia Lunch. 30min. Digital

The explosive, audacious, self-reflexive, bright, delirious, lurid optical colour effects and wipes threaten to truly overwhelm as a private dick and his narrator struggle to extricate themselves from a very strange and threatening situation.

Preserved by Anthology Film Archives with support from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the National Film Preservation Foundation

WED 13 DEC 20:30 NFT3

## EXHIBITIONS

### Who Can You Trust? The British Thriller

Drawn from the BFI National Archive's Special Collections, this exhibition explores the tactics and provocations that artists, designers, set photographers and scriptwriters employed to keep audiences on the edge of their seats – from 1940s British noir in *Brighton Rock* to the anxiety-ridden political thrillers of the 60s and 70s, such as *The Day of the Jackal*.

FRI 20 OCT – SUN 21 JAN MEZZANINE GALLERY

### 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.

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £12.10, concs £9.70 including Gift Aid donation. Members pay £2.00 less on any ticket - [www.bfi.org.uk/southbank](http://www.bfi.org.uk/southbank).

Young people aged 25 and under can buy last minute tickets for just £3, 45 minutes before the start of screenings and events, subject to availability - <http://www.bfi.org.uk/25-and-under>.

**Tickets for FREE screenings and events must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment**

### BFI Shop

The BFI Shop is stocked and staffed by BFI experts with over 1,200 book titles and 1,000 DVDs to choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI.

### The benugo bar & kitchen

Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo's décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. The place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

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

**A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) under BFI / BFI Thriller**