

BFI to celebrate legendary Woodfall Films' 60th Anniversary with BFI Southbank season, DVD/Blu-ray box sets and BFI Player collection



- Including films such as *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*, *Tom Jones* and *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner*; and featuring actors like Albert Finney, Rita Tushingham and Tom Courtenay
- Also coinciding with the season, will be a day celebrating Working-Class Heroes, with live events, Q&As and screenings on Saturday 14 April

'This is an astonishingly brilliant and consistent body of work from the greatest British filmmakers of their era. This was the British equivalent of the French new wave, and – in its own way – just as influential.'

SAM MENDES

'Tony Richardson was the first to show England as it was, from top to bottom.'

VANESSA REDGRAVE

'Real society was on the screen in a real way, in real stories and told with urgency.'

LIAM NEESON

Thursday 15 February 2018, London.

This spring the BFI will pay tribute to the ground-breaking British film company **Woodfall Films**. Woodfall revolutionised British cinema during the 1960s with a slate of iconic films such as *Look Back in Anger* (Tony Richardson, 1959) and *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner* (Tony Richardson, 1962). Today, many of these classics continue to influence and inspire filmmakers and filmmaking, actors, fashion, music and style. As the company reaches its 60th Anniversary in 2018, the BFI will launch **WOODFALL: A REVOLUTION IN BRITISH CINEMA**, a **month-long season at BFI Southbank beginning 2 April 2018**, incorporating screenings and special events. The celebrations continue with the release of **DVD and Blu-ray box sets on 28 May** that bring many of Woodfall's newly restored films to Blu-ray for the first time. Audiences UK-wide will also have the opportunity to watch online via **BFI Player** and for free in **BFI Mediatheques** around the country.

As the 1960s beckoned, a new mood swept through Britain. With anger mounting at an out-of-touch establishment, the era was reflected on screen by the rise of Woodfall Films. Founded in 1958 by director **Tony Richardson**, writer **John Osborne** and producer **Harry Saltzman**, the company pioneered the British new wave, defining an incendiary brand of social realism. *Look Back in Anger* (Tony Richardson, 1959), and *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* (Karel Reisz, 1960) spot-lit working-class life with unheard-of honesty. The same risk-taking spirit led the company to find a new generation of brilliant young actors, often from the regions, to star in their films, such as **Albert Finney**, **Tom Courtenay** and **Rita Tushingham**. The global blockbuster *Tom Jones* (Tony Richardson, 1963) expanded the Woodfall slate in an irreverent, colourful direction that helped define swinging London – further securing their extraordinary chapter in the history of British film. During its producing life, Woodfall was nominated for **126 awards**, including 49 BAFTAs, 6 from the Festival de Cannes and 11 Oscars, **winning 58**, including 12 BAFTAs, 4 at Cannes, 4 Golden Globes and 4 Oscars.

Alongside *Look Back in Anger* (Tony Richardson, 1959), *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* (Karel Reisz, 1960) and *Tom Jones* (Tony Richardson, 1963), the season will also include the following films (many of which are new restorations):

- *The Entertainer* (Tony Richardson, 1960) which stars Laurence Olivier as an ageing music-hall veteran
- *A Taste of Honey* (Tony Richardson, 1961), focusing on working-class women, with a script by Shelagh Delaney and Tony Richardson
- *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner* (Tony Richardson, 1962) starring Tom Courtenay
- *One Way Pendulum* (Peter Yates, 1964) with Eric Sykes, George Cole and Jonathan Miller
- *Girl with Green Eyes* (Desmond Davis, 1964) with Rita Tushingham and Lynn Redgrave
- *The Knack ... and How to Get It* (Richard Lester, 1965) which won the Palme d'Or at Cannes in 1965
- *Mademoiselle* (Tony Richardson, 1966) starring Jeanne Moreau
- *The Charge of the Light Brigade* (Tony Richardson, 1968) the pioneering war film, nominated for seven BAFTAs
- *Laughter in the Dark* (Tony Richardson, 1969) based on Vladimir Nabokov's 1933 novel
- *Hamlet* (Tony Richardson, 1969), with Anthony Hopkins as Claudius and Marianne Faithfull as Ophelia
- *Kes* (Ken Loach, 1969), the legendary adaptation of Barry Hines' novel *A Kestrel for a Knave*
- *The Hotel New Hampshire* (Tony Richardson, 1984) boundary pushing drama starring Jodie Foster, Rob Lowe, Beau Bridges and Nastassja Kinski.

Special events include **The Stories that Changed British Cinema**, a **panel discussion on Saturday 14 April with very special guests** to be confirmed. This takes place during *Working-Class Heroes*, a weekend of conversations and live events to celebrate working-class talent, which is a taster for a dedicated season later this year; more details of the weekend and the season will be announced in due course. There will also be talks; *Looks Like England: Design and Cinematography in Woodfall Films* and *Sounds Like England: Voice in Woodfall Films*, and a BFI Members Salon on *Look Back in Anger*, which will be on Extended Run at BFI Southbank and released in **selected cinemas UK-wide on 2 April** by Park Circus.

Shortly after the season, on **28 May 2018**, the BFI will release *Woodfall: A Revolution in British Cinema*, **8-disc DVD and Blu-ray box sets** featuring some of Woodfall's most revered films. Each set will include newly restored versions of *Look Back in Anger*, *The Entertainer*, *A Taste of Honey*, *Tom Jones*, (both the original theatrical release and the 1989 Director's Cut), *Girl with Green Eyes* and *The Knack...and How to Get It*. Also included will be the BFI's existing releases of the acclaimed *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* and *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner*. Both sets will feature an array of new and archival extras and an illustrated booklet with new writing on the films.

BFI Player will offer on demand seven films: *Look Back in Anger*, *A Taste of Honey*, *Girl with Green Eyes*, *Tom Jones* (Director's Cut), *The Entertainer*, *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner* and *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*. Three films, *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*, *A Taste of Honey* and *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner* will be viewable for free at BFI Mediatheques nationwide.

Full listings and film summaries can be seen here:

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/sites/bfi.org.uk/files/downloads/bfi-press-release-woodfall-season-listings-2018-02-15.pdf>

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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.

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.

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

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI / BFI Southbank / 2018 / April / Woodfall