

BRITISH FILMS LEAD UK BOX OFFICE

- *British films lead the UK box office charts and take 32% of the market*
- *The Woman in Black is the biggest grossing UK independent film of 2012*
- *UK cinema admissions increased by almost 1 million to 172.5 million*
- *After a record-breaking 2011, overall film production spend dips, however infrastructure investment signals confidence in strong future performance*
- *Increased investment in independent British films*

LONDON – Thursday 31 January 2013. Independent figures published today by the BFI, the UK's lead organisation for film, reveal that audiences are continuing to show their love for film with cinema admissions and box office for 2012 showing an increase on the previous year.

The latest research data and market intelligence from the **BFI Research and Statistics Unit** which tracks business and cultural aspects of the UK film industry, shows that cinema admissions increased by 0.5% in 2012 to reach 172.5 million, the second highest level in history, bringing in over £1 billion at the box office.

British films from mainstream blockbusters such as *Skyfall* and *Prometheus* to independent British films such as *The Woman in Black*, *The Iron Lady*, *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* and *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* gave the UK a combined market share of 32% (22.9% for US studio-backed films, 9% for British independent films).

2012 was a spectacular, historic year for the UK with the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations gaining massive public attention and participation. Although the early summer marked an unsurprising downturn in cinema business, some of the weekend box office results during the national celebration period were

amongst the highest of the year. For example, the second weekend of the Olympic Games, including 'Super Saturday' produced the sixth highest weekend of the year for the cinema business. Films on release during that period included *Ted* and *The Dark Knight Rises*.

The Bond film *Skyfall*, most of which was filmed in the UK during 2012, was also the overall UK box office leader taking £102 million and still currently playing in cinemas. Other US-studio backed UK films (featuring British filmmakers, crew, studios, locations, etc), included *The Dark Knight Rises*, *Prometheus* and *War Horse*.

In addition to attracting audiences, these internationally successful British films also showcase British filmmaking expertise and the excellence of the UK's production services, facilities and crew. 2012 has also seen increased investment in UK production facilities with the opening of the new £100 million Warner Bros Leavesden Studios as well as the studio's investment in a world-renowned London sound studio. Pinewood Studios also opened its new Richard Attenborough Stage and is planning to double the capacity of the studios as well as investing directly in feature film projects.

2012's leading UK independent film release *The Woman in Black* became the fifth biggest independent UK film to be released with over £21 million at the UK box office, followed by *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* with £20.4 million, and *The Iron Lady* and *Nativity 2: Danger in the Manger!* earning more than £9 million each. Nine of the top 20 independent UK films were co-funded by the Lottery through the BFI's Film Fund: *The Woman in Black*, *The Iron Lady*, *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*, *Seven Psychopaths*, *StreetDance 2*, *Shame*, *Great Expectations*, *The Angels' Share* and *Shadow Dancer*.

Culture Minister Ed Vaizey said:

"2012 delivered some brilliant films, and the near record levels of cinema audiences resulted in remarkable box office takings of over £1 billion. The great facilities and skilled workforce in the UK, along with the Film Tax Relief, are continuing to attract British and international filmmakers, helping ensure that this

dynamic industry will continue to be an important vehicle for driving economic growth.”

Amanda Nevill, CEO of the BFI, comments: “The box office figures show that film is a vital part of the UK’s cultural life and as an industry it is making a significant contribution to the economy and to employment. Audiences are clearly going to see British films and the prominence of British films and talent during the awards season, is another good indicator of the creative success of the UK film industry.

It is encouraging for the UK to see an increase in investment in independently produced British films and British co-productions. Although there was a dip in inward investment in 2012, an upturn in the latter part of the year coupled with bullish private investment in response to global demand for our services and skills signals buoyancy and confidence in the future.”

The total investment in UK-based film production in 2012 was £927 million, a 29% drop on 2011’s record-breaking £1.29 billion. This total includes increased production investment for domestic UK productions and co-productions.

UK films accounted for £900 million of investment across 218 films. Within this figure there was an increase in the amount of investment in UK domestic films such as *Belle*, *Spike Island*, *The Invisible Woman* and *Les Misérables*, totalling £223.5 million, a 16% increase on 2011’s £192 million, although fewer films went into production – 159 compared to 238.¹ However, there is a time lag in obtaining information on all low and micro-budget activity in the UK until later in the year and therefore the overall number of productions for 2012 is likely to increase by the time that data is consolidated. The expenditure on co-productions where British film companies work with international partners to fund and make films such as *A Long Way Down*, *I Give It A Year* and *Long Walk To Freedom*, also saw an increase in production spend in the UK with £73 million from 38 films, an increase of 17% on 2011’s investment of £62.3 million.

International inward investment films which played a major part in achieving 2011's record-breaking year for production spend, saw a drop in the number of films being made and the amount of production spend which reflects a flattening out of global film production investment. In addition, the production spend on *Skyfall* was accounted for in 2011 although it filmed in the UK through to May.

A total of 26 films including *All You Need is Kill* for Warner Bros and starring Tom Cruise, *Red 2* for Lionsgate/Summit with Bruce Willis, *Jack Ryan* for Paramount with Chris Pine, *Fast and Furious 6* and *Kick Ass 2* both for Universal contributed £631 million compared to the 34 films in 2011 which spent £1 billion.

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Notes to editors:

¹ For example, in 2011 the recorded number of low budget productions increased by 27% between the publication of the full year statistics release in January and the publication of the 2012 Statistical Yearbook in July.

The UK box office in 2012

Annual UK cinema admissions increased by 0.5% to 172.5 million, the second highest total of the last decade. The gross value of those ticket sales was £1,099 million, up 6% on 2011. Nine of the top 20 independent UK films were co-funded by the Lottery through the BFI's Film Fund: *The Woman in Black*, *The Iron Lady*, *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*, *Seven Psychopaths*, *StreetDance 2*, *Shame*, *Great Expectations*, *The Angels' Share* and *Shadow Dancer*.

Table 1 - Top 20 films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2012

	Title	Country of origin	Box office	Distributor

			Gross (£m)	
1	Skyfall*	UK/USA	102.26	Sony Pictures
2	The Dark Knight Rises	UK/USA	56.26	Warner Bros
3	Marvel Avengers Assemble	USA	51.87	Walt Disney
4	The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*	NZ/USA	50.00	Warner Bros
5	The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2*	USA/Can	35.67	eOne Films
6	Ted	USA	30.42	Universal Pictures
7	Ice Age: Continental Drift	USA	30.26	20 th Century Fox
8	The Amazing Spider-Man	USA	25.94	Sony Pictures
9	Prometheus	UK/USA	24.75	20 th Century Fox
10	Life of Pi*	USA	24.15	20 th Century Fox
11	The Hunger Games	USA	24.05	Lions Gate
12	Taken 2	Fra	23.52	20th Century Fox
13	Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted*	USA	22.48	Paramount
14	Men In Black 3	USA	22.24	Sony Pictures
15	Brave*	USA	22.16	Walt Disney
16	The Woman in Black	UK/USA	21.33	Momentum
17	The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel	UK/USA	20.43	20 th Century Fox
18	War Horse	UK/USA	18.63	Walt Disney
19	American Pie: Reunion	USA	17.00	Universal Pictures
20	The Muppets	USA	16.82	Walt Disney

Source: Rentrak

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 20 January 2013.

Films with an asterisk (*) were still being exhibited on 20 January 2013.

UK and Republic of Ireland are a single “territory” for film distribution purposes.

Table 2 - Top 20 independent UK films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2012

	Title	Country of origin	Box office Gross (£m)	Distributor
1	The Woman in Black	UK/USA	21.33	Momentum
2	The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel	UK/USA	20.43	20 th Century Fox
3	The Iron Lady	UK	9.90	20 th Century Fox
4	Nativity 2: Danger in the Manger!*	UK	9.12	eOne Films
5	Salmon Fishing in the Yemen	UK	6.23	Lions Gate
6	The Sweeney	UK	4.49	eOne Films
7	Dredd 3D	UK/SA/USA	4.36	Entertainment
8	Seven Psychopaths*	UK	3.12	Momentum
9	StreetDance 2	UK/Ger/Ita	3.10	Vertigo Films
10	Keith Lemon: The Film	UK	2.91	Lions Gate
11	Shame	UK	2.04	Momentum
12	Great Expectations*	UK	2.02	Lions Gate
13	The Angels' Share	UK/Fra/Bel/Ita	1.93	eOne Films
14	Gambit	UK	1.27	Momentum
15	The Imposter	UK	1.13	Picturehouse/ Revolver
16	The Wedding Video	UK	1.08	Entertainment
17	Housefull 2	UK/Ind	0.99	Eros International
18	Marley	UK/Jam/USA	0.99	Universal
19	Coriolanus	UK	0.90	Lions Gate
20	Shadow Dancer	UK/Ire/Fra	0.80	Paramount

Source: Rentrak, BFI RSU analysis

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 20 January 2013.

Films with an asterisk (*) were still being exhibited on 20 January 2013.

UK and Republic of Ireland are a single “territory” for film distribution purposes.

Production in the UK in 2012

The total UK spend of features that started principal photography in 2012 was £927 million, down from 2011’s record-breaking £1,297 million. Co-productions contributed £73 million, up from £62.3 million in 2011, and domestic UK films £223.5 million, up from £192.4 million in 2011 and £202 million in 2010.

Table 1 - UK spend of features produced in the UK, 2008 - 2012, £ million

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Co-productions	51.5	38.5	74.6	62.3	73.2
Domestic UK features	235.7	249.5	201.6	192.4	223.5
Inward investment feature films	434.7	834.6	1,015.7	1,042.7	630.6
Total	721.9	1,122.7	1,291.9	1,297.4	927.3

Source: BFI

Data are rounded to the nearest £0.1m so may not sum exactly to the totals shown.

Films are allocated to the calendar year in which principal photography commenced.

Films at all budget levels are included in this analysis. For pre-2008 data restricted to films with budgets \geq £500,000 see the BFI 2012 Statistical Yearbook www.bfi.org.uk/statisticalyearbook2012.

Table 2 - Number of features produced in the UK, 2008 - 2012

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Co-productions	29	37	31	47	38
Domestic UK features	227	251	293	238	159
of which budgets \geq £500,000	83	88	79	82	65
of which budgets $<$ £500,000	144	163	214	156	94

Inward investment feature films	31	37	29	34	26
Total	287	325	353	319	223

Source: BFI

Inward Investment

UK and non-UK films

In 2012, UK films accounted for £900 million out of a total UK spend of £927 million, as shown in Table 3. This reflects the fact that most inward investment titles are UK-qualifying films.

Table 3 - UK spend of UK and non-UK features produced in the UK, 2008 - 2012, £ million

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Non-UK films	24.3	47.7	21.9	43.1	27.0
UK films	697.7	1,075.0	1,270.0	1,254.2	900.3
Total	721.9	1,122.7	1,291.9	1,297.4	927.3

Source: BFI

Data are rounded to the nearest £0.1m so may not sum exactly to the totals shown.

UK films are those that are certified as UK or are de facto UK films by virtue of being made in whole or part in the UK by UK production companies.

Non-UK films are films that are produced and financed by overseas companies and are not certified as UK films.

Table 4 shows the production numbers for UK and non-UK films over the period 2008-2012. In 2012, 218 of the 223 films tracked were UK films; 5 were non-UK films.

Table 4 - Number of UK and non-UK features produced in the UK, 2008 - 2011

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012

Non-UK films	15	25	6	5	5
UK films	272	300	347	304	218
Total	287	325	353	319	223

Source: BFI

See notes to Table 3.

Download the BFI Research and Statistics Unit releases covering the UK box office in 2012, film production in the UK in 2012, and British film certification in 2012 here: <http://www.bfi.org.uk/education-research/film-industry-statistics-research/official-statistics-release-calendar>

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 now 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.



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