

13/21

## Broadcasting the Arts: Television Looks at Film



**6 June 2013, London.** This July **BFI Southbank** will present screenings and events focusing on the various ways the small screen has reported on the people, places and products of the big screen. **Broadcasting the Arts: Television Looks at Film** will be a special season of TV programmes about cinema, from film review shows such as the BBC's **Film** series to epic long-form meditations on genres or studios such as **Cinema Europa** (BBC 1995) and **The Movies** (BBC 1967). Using rare footage from the BFI National Archive and beyond the season will include location reports from **Lawrence of Arabia** (BBC, Monitor), **Monty Python's Life of Brian** (BBC, The Pythons) and **Local Hero** (BBC Scotland), as well as interviews with **Orson Welles**, **Gene Kelly**, **John Ford** and many more. The centrepiece of the season will be a panel discussion on **Wednesday 17 July** chaired by film critic **Danny Leigh**, examining many of the issues explored by the season including television's current treatment of film.

Relations between cinema and the upstart medium of television were initially frosty, but broadcasters soon found diverse and imaginative ways to report on the art of the big screen. In the UK, when TV reported on the art of film, it did so in a number of ways; footage from the 1950s to the 1990s will screen in collective programmes demonstrating this. Over the years major film projects have attracted TV crews for location reports which now act as a valuable record of the production process. **The Location Report** will feature reports from the sets of *Lawrence of Arabia* (BBC, Monitor), *Monty Python's Life of Brian* (BBC, The Pythons), *Daleks' Invasion Earth 2150AD* (BBC, A Whole Scene Going) and many more. For many years TV offered a rare opportunity to meet filmmakers outside of the carefully controlled environs of the studio or the publicity junket. **The Interview: Both Sides of the Screen** will showcase rare and vintage interviews which demonstrate the unpredictable nature of such encounters, from the overly deferential (**Joan Crawford**) to the uncomfortable (**Meg Ryan**) to the wonderfully surreal (**Spike Milligan**).

**Cinema Magazines and Film Programmes** will look at how magazine-style film programmes have covered the medium; from the 1950s **Picture Parade** (BBC) to the 1970s **Clapperboard** (Granada). Meanwhile **Reviews** will be a special compilation of contemporary reviews of movies from programmes of various periods including **Release, Cinema, the Film series** and **Moviewatch**. With its ability to screen clips from the featured films, television was in a unique position not only to provide reviews but to offer a visual representation of the film which would sometimes attract (or repel) viewers regardless of what was said by the critic.

Occasionally TV would feature epic meditations on a whole genre or studio, for instance *Horror Europa* (BBC 2012) and *The RKO Story* (BBC 1987). **Kevin Brownlow** and **David Gill** delivered a masterclass in the long-form overview with their magnificent documentary series *Hollywood* (ITV 1980) which charted the history of the American silent film industry. Fifteen years later they turned their gaze on to the European cinema of the same period with another landmark production, a screening of which will be introduced by **Kevin Brownlow**. In ***The Music of Light***, their spotlight falls on France and in particular on the genius of **Abel Gance**. **David Thompson** has likewise made a number programmes on film for such Arts series as *Arena* (BBC), *Omnibus* (BBC) and *The South Bank Show* (ITV). Thompson will here discuss the art of the overview and introduce a screening of his edition of *Omnibus*, **Quentin Tarantino: Hollywood's Boy Wonder** (BBC, 1994) made as the mercurial director was releasing *Pulp Fiction*.

#### **Press Contacts:**

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

Ilona Cheshire – Press Officer, BFI Southbank  
[ilona.cheshire@bfi.org.uk](mailto:ilona.cheshire@bfi.org.uk) 020 7957 8986

#### **Screenings taking place in the season:**

##### **TV Looks at Film Panel Discussion**

Join film critic and TV presenter Danny Leigh and a panel of critics and industry figures in a discussion of various issues arising from the season. Illustrated with clips, the discussion is presented in collaboration with our colleagues at the BFI's *Sight & Sound* magazine. As Danny Leigh himself asks. 'Is TV's approach to film one informed by intelligence, adventure and fellow feeling? Or has it walked away from film forever?'

**Total running time c90min**

**Wed 17 July 18:10 NFT3**

##### **The Location Report**

Occasionally major film projects would attract TV crews for location reports which now act as a valuable record of the production process for some cherished titles. Tonight's compilation of such features includes: *Lawrence of Arabia* (BBC, Monitor), *Monty Python's Life of Brian* (BBC, The Pythons), *Daleks' Invasion Earth 2150AD* (BBC, A Whole Scene Going), *The Shining* (BBC, Arena), *Mishima* (C4, Visions), *Amarcord* (BBC, Film Night) and many more.

**Total running time c100min**

**Wed 3 July 20:45 NFT2**

##### **The Interview: Both Sides of the Screen**

For many years TV offered a rare opportunity to meet filmmakers outside of the carefully controlled environs of the studio or the publicity junket. Tonight's screening features rare and vintage interviews with film folk from various sources, demonstrating the

unpredictable nature of such encounters, from the overly deferential (Joan Crawford) to the uncomfortable (Meg Ryan) to the wonderfully surreal (Spike Milligan). Also featuring: Jayne Mansfield, Gene Kelly, Orson Welles, John Ford, René Clair, Harold Lloyd and other famous faces.

**Total running time c100min**

**Wed 10 July 18:30 NFT3**

### **Cinema Magazines and Film Programmes**

Complete editions from different decades looking at how magazine-style film programmes have covered the medium. From the 1950/60s *Picture Parade* (BBC); to the 1970s *Clapperboard* (Granada) including a report on the latest James Bond outing; and to the 1980/90s *Moving Pictures*.

**We are delighted that this presentation will be introduced by Paul Kerr, the series editor of *Moving Pictures***

**Tue 23 July 18:10 NFT3**

### **The Historic View Cinema Europe: The Other Hollywood: The Music of Light**

BBC 1995. Dir Kevin Brownlow, David Gill. 60min

Occasionally TV would feature epic – sometimes long-form – meditations on a whole genre/period/industry/studio/ territory: for instance *The Incredibly Strange Film Show* (C4 1988/89), *Horror Europa* (BBC 2012), *The RKO Story* (BBC 1987). Kevin Brownlow and David Gill delivered a masterclass in the long-form overview with their magnificent documentary series *Hollywood* (ITV 1980) which charted the history of the American silent film industry. Fifteen years later they turned their gaze on to the European cinema of the same period with another landmark production. In *The Music of Light*, their spotlight falls on France and in particular on the genius of Abel Gance.

+ *The Movies: The World of Josef von Sternberg* BBC 1967. Dir Barrie Gavin. With Josef von Sternberg, Kevin Brownlow. 40min

A portrait of Joseph von Sternberg from the BBC's landmark 1960s documentary series, *The Movies*.

**We are delighted that Kevin Brownlow will introduce these screenings**

**Fri 26 July 18:10 NFT2**

### **The Overview: Omnibus: Quentin Tarantino: Hollywood's Boy Wonder**

BBC 1994. Dir David Thompson. 60min

Arts series such as *Arena* (BBC), *Omnibus* (BBC) and *The South Bank Show* (ITV) occasionally gave over whole shows to concentrate on one film-related figure or theme. **David Thompson**, who has made more than a few such prestigious productions, will discuss the art of the overview and introduce a screening of his *Omnibus* on the mercurial director Quentin Tarantino, made as the Wunderkind was releasing his latest film *Pulp Fiction*.

**Wed 31 July 20:30 NFT3**

### **Reviews**

A special compilation of contemporary reviews of movies from programmes of various periods (Release, Cinema, Film 72 (onwards), Moviewatch, etc). With its ability to show clips from the featured films, television was in a unique position not only to provide reviews but to offer a visual representation of the film which would sometimes attract (or repel) to screen clips viewers regardless of what was said by the critic. Tonight's survey provides an opportunity to benefit from hindsight in gauging how our present views align (or otherwise) with those of an earlier time.

**Total running time 90min**

**Wed 17 July 20:30 NFT3**

### **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 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 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 £10.00, concs £6.75 Members pay £1.50 less on any ticket. Website [www.bfi.org.uk/southbank](http://www.bfi.org.uk/southbank)

**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 Southbank / July 2013**