



BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

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in partnership with



Cate Blanchett to receive BFI Fellowship at LFF Awards Ceremony

TRUTH announced as Fellowship Special Presentation

London, Thursday 27 August 2015 - The BFI and BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express®, today announces that Cate Blanchett will receive its highest honour, the **BFI Fellowship**, at the BFI London Film Festival's annual Awards Ceremony on Saturday 17 October at Banqueting House.

TRUTH, starring Cate Blanchett and Robert Redford, will have its UK Premiere on the same night and, in honour of the award, is screening as the Fellowship Special Presentation film. Based on the book "Truth and Duty" by Mary Mapes, TRUTH tells the incredible story of Mary Mapes, an award-winning CBS News journalist and Dan Rather's *60 Minutes* producer and the risks she took to expose a story on the then President George W. Bush.

Greg Dyke, Chairman, BFI said '*Cate Blanchett is a compelling and brave actress whose mesmerising screen presence has captivated audiences since her earliest roles. We are absolutely delighted to honour her extraordinary talents with a BFI Fellowship at this year's LFF awards.*'

The BFI Fellowship is awarded to individuals in recognition of their outstanding contribution to film or television and Cate Blanchett's mesmerising screen presence has captivated audiences since her earliest roles. A fearless and subtle actress, she has the rare gift of seeming utterly to inhabit the characters she plays and has an amazing ability to convey complex layers of emotion to stunning effect. The diversity of her talent shines through in TRUTH where she gives another virtuosic performance as the fiercely bright Mary Mapes, a woman whose professional commitment to exposing 'the truth' is so great that she is prepared to risk her career and personal safety.

Blanchett is magnificent in Todd Haynes' *Carol* as an alluring woman trapped in a loveless marriage who falls for a young woman (Rooney Mara) working as a department store clerk in 50s Manhattan. Her performance in *Carol*, which has already been announced as the American Express Gala screening in this year's LFF on Wednesday 14 October, is entirely representative of a career in which she has made bold choices and excelled in vastly different parts, also typified by her Golden Globe-winning performance with the same director in *I'm Not There* in which she plays an incarnation of Bob Dylan.

Each year at the LFF Awards Ceremony a BFI Fellowship is bestowed on a film luminary. Previous BFI Fellowships have been presented at the ceremony to Stephen Frears in 2014, the late Sir Christopher Lee – given the honour by his friend Johnny Depp – in 2013, Tim Burton and Helena Bonham Carter in 2012 and Ralph Fiennes, who was presented his BFI Fellowship by friend Liam Neeson, in 2011. In the last year, Al Pacino and Mel Brooks were also awarded BFI Fellowships.

Cate Blanchett's career began in the theatre in her native Australia following her graduation from NIDA in 1992 when she scored notable successes in both contemporary plays such as *Top Girls*, *Kafka Dances* and *Sweet Phoebe* alongside key Shakespearean roles including Miranda in *The Tempest* and Ophelia in *Hamlet*. She quickly branched out into television and feature film winning her first Australian Film Institute Award in a supporting role for *Thank*

God He Met Lizzie in 1997 and nominated the year after for her lead performance, opposite Ralph Fiennes, in Gillian Armstrong's *Oscar and Lucinda*. She shot to world attention the following year as the magnificent Tudor Queen in *Elizabeth* (1998). Among her best known roles are key parts in *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (1998), *The Aviator* (2004), *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* (2008) and *Blue Jasmine* (2013). Blanchett can project the icy power of an indomitable monarch (*Elizabeth* and *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*), the carefree elegance of Katharine Hepburn (*The Aviator*) or the mental collapse of a failing socialite (*Blue Jasmine*) with equal and consummate ease.

She has appeared in international blockbusters such as *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy (2001 – 2003) and *The Hobbit* (2012 – 2014) as well as films on a more intimate scale such as *Charlotte Gray* (2001), *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou* (2004), and *Notes on a Scandal* (2006). Blanchett has already won two Academy Awards, three Screen Actors Guild Awards, three Golden Globe Awards and three British Academy Awards, and has received many other accolades and homers. Whilst excelling in her busy film career, she has also sustained her commitment to theatre with a range of highly-praised performances and as the Co-CEO and Artistic Director of Sydney Theatre Company from 2008-2013.

TRUTH, which screens as the Fellowship Special Presentation and is set for a UK cinema release in early 2016, is directed by James Vanderbilt, based on the book "Truth and Duty" by Mary Mapes, played in the film by Cate Blanchett who stars with Robert Redford as Dan Rather. The film chronicles the story Mapes and Rather uncovered that sitting US president, George W. Bush, may have been AWOL from the United States National Guard for over a year during the Vietnam War. When the story blew up in their face, the ensuing scandal ruined Dan Rather's career, nearly changed a US Presidential election, and almost took down all of CBS News in the process.

Press Contacts:

Judy Wells, Head of Press and PR, BFI (for BFI Fellowship)

Tel: 020 7957 8919 / 07984 180 501 or email: judy.wells@bfi.org.uk

Rupert Goodwin, Premier (for BFI London Film Festival)

Tel: 020 7292 8330 or email: rupert.goodwin@premiercomms.com / LFFPress@premiercomms.com

Note to Editors:

About the BFI Fellowship

The BFI Fellowship is awarded by the BFI Board of Governors and it is presented for outstanding achievement in film and television. Since 1983, a total of 80 Fellowships have been awarded – the full list is a roll-call of the leading lights of the world of film and television. The Fellowship of the BFI (British Film Institute) was created in 1983 to coincide with the BFI's 50th anniversary. On that occasion the British film industry gathered in the Guildhall for a televised event at which the first group of Fellows were created - Marcel Carné, David Lean, Michael Powell, Emeric Pressburger, Satyajit Ray and Orson Welles.

Since its creation, the BFI Fellowship has been awarded to key figures in British cinema including Peggy Ashcroft, Dirk Bogarde, Alec Guinness, Maggie Smith, Laurence Olivier, Vanessa Redgrave, Mike Leigh, Helena Bonham Carter, Christopher Lee and Stephen Frears. Also recognised have been such film industry luminaries as Jack Cardiff, Sydney Samuelson and Jeremy Thomas, and some of the giants of world cinema, including Michelangelo Antonioni, Abbas Kiarostami, Akira Kurosawa, Jeanne Moreau, Elem Klimov, Bernardo Bertolucci, Al Pacino, and most recently Mel Brooks.

The BFI Fellowship also celebrates achievement in the world of television with such names as Alan Yentob, Jeremy Isaacs, David Rose, Michael Parkinson, Lynda La Plante, Lord Bernstein and Verity Lambert all receiving the award.

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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 London Film Festival

BFI London Film Festival is Britain's leading film event and one of the world's best film festivals. It introduces the finest new British and international films to an expanding London and UK-wide audience and attracts significant international film industry participation. LFF is a compelling combination of red carpet glamour, friendly audiences and vibrant exchange. LFF provides an essential profiling opportunity for films seeking global success; promotes the careers of British and international filmmakers through its industry and awards programmes and positions London as the world's leading creative city.

Clare Stewart biography

Clare Stewart's twenty year programming career has encompassed leadership roles as Festival Director, Sydney Film Festival (2006-2011) and the inaugural Head of Film Programs at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image in Melbourne (2002-2006) as well as various roles at the Australian Film Institute (1996-2001), including Exhibition Manager, and programmer and Committee Member of the Melbourne Cinémathèque (1995-2002). She has been BFI Head of Cinemas and Festivals since October 2011.



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