



**CHARIOTS OF FIRE REIGNITED AT UK CINEMAS
WITH BFI SUPPORT**

***Twentieth Century Fox brings classic film to over 100 cinema screens
nationwide thanks to BFI Funding***

London March 23rd 2012 For the first time in a generation audiences across the UK will have the opportunity to enjoy Hugh Hudson and Lord Puttnam's internationally acclaimed, multi Oscar®-winning Olympic drama, *Chariots of Fire* on the big screen as an official part of the London 2012 Festival celebrations.

In a week when Lord Puttnam of Queensgate has called for more support for P&A funding across the film industry the BFI announces Lottery funding through its P&A (Prints and Advertising) Fund to bring *Chariots of Fire* to cinemas up and down the UK from Friday 13 July - just two weeks before the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics. The BFI has provided Lottery funding of £150k through its Prints and Advertising (P&A) Fund to support the 2012 theatrical release of *Chariots of Fire*. The BFI's funding is specifically aimed at broadening the release of the film, to give audiences across the nations and regions of the UK the opportunity to see *Chariots of Fire* on the big screen in celebration of Britain's filmmaking and sporting achievements.

Twentieth Century Fox are working closely with the filmmakers to bring *Chariots of Fire* back to cinema screens. With a stunning new digitally re-mastered print, the iconic British film promises to dazzle on the big screen once again. The timeless story of athletic achievement and battling against the odds will prove particularly resonant as

sporting fever sweeps Britain in the run up to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Producer Lord Puttnam of Queensgate CBE said: *“Chariots of Fire is about guts, determination and belief. Just as the film succeeded in raising spirits and aspirations thirty years ago, I believe it could deliver exactly the same message today. At the heart of the film is the quest for Olympic glory, and I find hard to imagine anything more likely to resonate throughout the country this summer.”*

Director Hugh Hudson said: *"Discretion, loyalty and self-sacrifice, questions of faith and refusal to compromise, standing for one's beliefs, achieving something for the sake of it, with passion, and not just for fame or financial gain, are even more vital and relevant today. Chariots is about these issues."*

BFI CEO Amanda Nevill said: *“We’re delighted that BFI funding will help bring Chariots of Fire to UK audiences this summer, widening the film’s reach outside London and supporting a series of exciting events that will bring together and celebrate British achievements in film and sport. In such a culturally significant year and as Britain prepares to host the world’s biggest sporting event, this film offers a real opportunity for audiences UK-wide to embrace the Olympic spirit.”*

Cameron Saunders, Managing Director, UK Theatrical at Twentieth Century Fox UK, said: *"Thanks to the BFI's support audiences throughout the UK will be able to make Chariots of Fire their first Olympic experience of the summer. I challenge anyone not to be extraordinarily excited about London 2012 having enjoyed this most iconic Olympic film on the big screen."*

Chariots of Fire tells the story of two very different men who compete as runners in the 1924 Paris Olympics: Eric Liddell is a devout Christian who believes that his athletic abilities are a gift from God, and that using that gift to its fullest extent - to win the gold medal - will be his way of glorifying God. Harold Abrahams is an English Jew, a student at Cambridge, who dreams of fame and of proving to his anti-Semitic fellow students, and to the world, that Jews are not inferior. Their motives are noble. Their commitment is total. Their integrity is unquestionable. They will both make personal sacrifices to achieve their goals. In the process, through all the obstacles and personal issues they conquer, they prove that striving for victory with such commitment and lofty goals is, perhaps, its own reward. Based on a true story, *Chariots of Fire* was the winner of four

Academy Awards®, including Best Picture and Best Original Screenplay, in addition to receiving nominations for three more.

PRESS CONTACTS:

Judy Wells, Head of Press and PR, BFI

Tel: 020 7957 8919/ 07984 180501 or email: judy.wells@bfi.org.uk

BFI - Emma Hewitt, Press Officer (Corporate and Industry)

Tel: 0207 173 3256/ 07584 264 618 or email: emma.hewitt@bfi.org.uk

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
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

About Twentieth Century Fox

Twentieth Century Fox International is a unit of Fox Filmed Entertainment, a segment of Fox Entertainment Group.

One of the world's largest producers and distributors of motion pictures, Fox Filmed Entertainment produces, acquires and distributes motion pictures throughout the world. These motion pictures are produced or acquired by the following units of FFE: Twentieth Century Fox, Fox 2000 Pictures, Fox Searchlight Pictures, Fox International Productions and Twentieth Century Fox Animation.

About the Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 Festival

The London 2012 [Cultural Olympiad](#) is the largest cultural celebration in the history of the modern Olympic and Paralympic Movements. Spread over four years, it is designed to give everyone in the UK a chance to be part of [London 2012](#) and inspire creativity across all forms of culture, especially among young people.

The culmination of the Cultural Olympiad will be the [London 2012 Festival](#), bringing leading artists from all over the world together from 21 June 2012 in this UK-wide festival – a chance for everyone to celebrate London 2012 through dance, music, theatre, the visual arts, film and digital innovation and leave a lasting legacy for the arts in this country. People can sign up at www.london2012.com/festival now to receive information.

Principal funders of the Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 Festival are [Arts Council England](#), [Legacy Trust UK](#) and the [Olympic Lottery Distributor](#). [BP](#) and [BT](#) are Premier Partners of the Cultural Olympiad and the London 2012 Festival. The [British Council](#)

will support the international development of London 2012 Cultural Olympiad projects.
[Panasonic](#) are the presenting partner of [Film Nation: Shorts](#).