



December 2011 at BFI Southbank



**Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance! & Aleksandr Sokurov continue,
Debbie Reynolds on-stage, Peter Kosminsky**

Featured Events

Highlights from our events calendar include:

- **Debbie Reynolds in Conversation** The dazzling Hollywood actress talks about her amazing career as a highlight of **Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance! The MGM Musical**
- In **2012** the bi-centenary of **Charles Dickens'** birth will be celebrated nationwide, with a three-month overview at BFI Southbank, starting in January. To launch this BFI Southbank will premiere **Armando Iannucci's** new adaptation of **The Mystery of Edwin Drood** and preview **Arena: Dickens on Film**
- A special **Family Funday** will see **Eddie Izzard** talk about the preview of **The Lost Christmas** (2011), an urban fairytale from the backstreets of Manchester
- Eerie, seasonal shockers will be free-to-view in the Mediatheques with **A Ghost Story for Christmas**
- Plus previews of **Sherlock, A Scandal In Belgravia**, with special guests **Steven Moffat, Mark Gatiss** and cast, **Mike Cahill's Another Earth** and **Puss in Boots (3D)**, when Shrek's cohort gets his own film. The innovative composer **Sir Peter Maxwell Davies** will appear in **Conversation** with **RAM Manson Ensemble** before a screening of **The Boy Friend** (1971), which will be introduced by **Ken Russell** and **Barbara Windsor**; **African Odysseys** presents **Bob Marley: The Making of a Legend** and **Kevin Macdonald** explores the use of archive material through the 40-year career of **Ernest Lindgren**, the first curator of the **BFI National Archive**

Major Seasons

- **Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance! The MGM Musical, Part Two**
The BFI homage to the delectable MGM Musical concludes with an array of titles from the 1950s, including **On the Town** (1949), **Kiss Me Kate 3D** (1953) and **High Society** (1956). **Debbie Reynolds** will provide rare insight into films that she starred in a special Q&A
- **Extended Run: Meet Me in St Louis** (Dir, Vincente Minnelli, 1944) **16 – 29 December**
A new digital restoration of one of the greatest MGM musicals will be on national release as a Christmas treat. **Judy Garland** was never lovelier, as she longs for 'The Boy Next Door'
- **Aleksandr Sokurov Part Two: St Petersburg to the world**

The second part of this complete retrospective begins with **Sokurov's** most widely seen and discussed film to date: **Russian Ark** (2002). His more recent films and documentaries will follow, with **Moloch** (1999), **Father and Son** (1999) and **Taurus** (2000). (Aleksandr Sokurov is winner of this year's **Golden Lion** at the Venice Film Festival, for his new feature **Faust**.)

- + **Confession, Aleksandr Sokurov** FREE screenings in the Project Space
Screening in five parts, *Confession* documents Russian troops on frontier duty aboard a Russian navy ship on arctic patrol
- **Extended Run: The Last Waltz** (Dir, Martin Scorsese, 1978) **02 – 15 December**
A new print of the first of Martin Scorsese's music documentaries is released; a superb record of The Band's final gig – at Bill Graham's fabled San Francisco hall, Winterland, in 1976. It is both a classic concert movie and an enduring monument to an amazingly fertile era in the history of rock
- **Peter Kosminsky**
Working in documentary, dramadocumentary and drama, **Peter Kosminsky** has made some of the most important and revelatory television during his 30-year career. He will discuss programmes such as **The Falklands War – The Untold Story (First Tuesday)** (1987), **No Child of Mine** (1997) and **White Oleander** (2002) in a rare live interview
- **Disney 50**
The big screen treats of Walt Disney Studio's animated features continues with: **Atlantis: The Lost Empire** (2001), **Lilo & Stitch** (2002) and **The Lion King** (1994)

Featured seasons at BFI Southbank:

Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance! MGM Musicals

The tribute to the golden age of Hollywood musicals will conclude with a glittering array of well-loved titles from the studio which boasted that it had 'More stars in it than the heavens'. With a focus on some of the 46 films made during lyricist-turned-producer Arthur Freed's time at the helm. Under the 'Freed Unit' some of the most memorable musicals came to life: **On the Town** (1949), the first musical to be shot on location, the incomparable **Singin' in the Rain** (1952), **The Bandwagon** (1953), **Seven Brides for Seven Brothers** (1954) and **It's Always Fair Weather** (1955). BFI Southbank will be honoured by the company of **Debbie Reynolds**, on 14 December, when she appears in conversation to talk about many of the musicals that she made. The curtain will fall on the season with a rare outing for **Ken Russell's The Boy Friend** (1971) – the last musical to be produced by Freed. Russell will be joined by **Barbara Windsor** to discuss the film; prior to this screening, **Sir Peter Maxwell Davies** will appear in conversation with the **RAM Manson Ensemble** for a live performance of music from the film.

KINO: Aleksandr Sokurov Part Two: St Petersburg to the world

The second part of this complete retrospective begins with **Sokurov's** most widely seen and discussed film to date: **Russian Ark** (2002). Shot in one breathtaking single track, through what is now the Hermitage museum, this film brought a greater international acclaim for Sokurov. Alongside his documentaries such as **A Retrospection of Leningrad (1957 – 1990)** (1990) and **Dolce** (1999), a focus on the widow of the controversial Japanese writer Toshio Shimao, his more recent films will follow, with **Moloch** (1999), a grotesquely comedic portrayal of Hitler with guests at his mountain retreat, **Father and Son** (1999), the counterpart to *Mother*, and **Alexandra** (2007).

Peter Kosminsky: Making Mischief

Peter Kosminsky has made some of the most important and revelatory television of the past three decades, working in documentary, drama and drama documentary. This month to mark his 30th year working in British television, BFI Southbank celebrates this controversial filmmaker's career with a season of screenings that will include opportunities to see a number of his early television documentaries such as **The Falklands War – The Untold Story** (1987) and

powerful dramas, **The Life & Death of Philip Knight** (1993) and **No Child of Mine** (1997). There will be an example of his film work with a screening of **White Oleander** (2002) as well as an on-stage interview with Kosminsky by broadcaster **Francine Stock** that will follow a screening of **New York – The Quiet Catastrophe** (1987) on Tuesday 13 December.

- End -

Previews and events at BFI Southbank:

Preview: Another Earth

USA 2011. Dir Mike Cahill. With Brit Marling. 92min. Digital. 12A Courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox
Rhoda, an aspiring astrophysicist searches the night sky for a discovery announced on the car radio, a duplicate planet. Distracted, she causes a tragic accident, leaving John, a composer, widowed and in a coma. Four years later, both removed from their previous lives, they begin a love affair, though Rhoda doesn't reveal their prior connection. When one of them is presented the opportunity to travel to this other Earth, will they take the chance at a new life?

Sat 3 Dec 21 21:00 NFT1

TV Preview: Sherlock, Ep1 – A Scandal In Belgravia + Q&A with Steven Moffat, Mark Gatiss and cast

BBC/Hartswood Films/Masterpiece. Director Paul McGuigan, Writer Steven Moffat. Producer Sue Vertue. With Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman. 90min

BBC One's much praised, multi-award winning drama *Sherlock* returns for a second series. The contemporary version of the Arthur Conan Doyle classic, co-created by Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss, caused a sensation last summer, delivering an audience of over 8 million viewers.

Thurs 8 Dec 18:15 NFT1 Tickets £9.50, concs £6.95 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Oklahomo!

Approximately 99 per cent of musicals are happy heterosexual stories starring female pin-ups and there simply aren't enough lesbians and gay men in the world to account for the viewing figures of *The Sound of Music*. So what is it about classic Hollywood musicals that makes them seem so gay? Is it the music, the men who made them, the millinery? With help from Judy Garland, Barbra Streisand and Seven Brothers (without their brides), critic and broadcaster David Benedict investigates the camp conundrum.

Sun 18 Dec 17:20 NFT1 Approximately 90min

Debbie Reynolds in Conversation

MGM star and Academy Award-winner Debbie Reynolds will take to the stage to discuss her life and career as a highlight to the final part of the Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance! season. Beginning her screen career in *Singin' In The Rain*, Reynolds went on to take wholesome roles in countless MGM musicals. Off screen, Reynolds has been instrumental in building a world renowned collection of Hollywood film memorabilia, which was famously sold at auction earlier this year.

Tickets £13, concs £9.75. Joint ticket available with *Singin' in the Rain* £20.70, concs £19.20 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Wed 14 Dec 18:30 NFT3

Sir Peter Maxwell Davies in Conversation + RAM Manson ensemble live

One of the world's leading composers, Peter Maxwell Davies worked on Ken Russell's 1971 **The Boy Friend**. This adaptation of Sandy Wilson's stage play, is both a loving exploration and parody of the original production, and a pastiche of the conventions of the English musicals of the 20's and 30's. Davies produced a remarkable reinterpretation of original numbers. Sir Peter Maxwell Davies will be joined on stage by Christopher Austin who will conduct the Manson Ensemble in a suite from *The Boy Friend*.

Joint ticket available with *The Boy Friend* at 20:10:50 £13, concs £9.75 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Fri 9 Dec 18:10 NFT1

DICKENS 2012

www.dickens2012.org



TV Preview: The Mystery of Edwin Drood + Q&A

BBC 2011. Dir Diarmuid Lawrence. Prod Lisa Osborne. Exec prods Anne Pivcevic (BBC), Rebecca Eaton (Masterpiece). With Matthew Rhys, Rory Kinnear, Tamzin Merchant, Alun Armstrong, Julia McKenzie. 60min.

A curtain raiser to our Dickens season, we are previewing Episode 1 of this BBC Two adaptation of Dickens' unfinished novel (here completed by Gwyneth Hughes). A psychological thriller about a choirmaster

(Jasper) and his obsession with 17-year-old Rosa, the drama sets the stage for a story of mental and moral decline as we discover how far Jasper will go in pursuit of the object of his desire.

Wed 7 Dec 18:20 NFT1

TV Preview: Arena: Dickens on Film + Q&A with Adrian Wootton

BBC 2011 Dir Anthony Wall. 60min

Part of the Dickens 200th Anniversary 2012 celebrations, *Dickens on Film* is a comprehensive exploration of Charles Dickens' contribution to the history of film and television. Using a wealth of archive footage of classic and less familiar adaptations from 1898 to the present day, this *Arena* film has revealing interviews with the creative talent involved in many versions of Dickens' works. Produced by the co-curator of the Dickens retrospective, Adrian Wootton, and written by fellow curator Michael Eaton.

Thu 15 Dec 18:20 NFT1

The Muppet Christmas Carol

USA 1992. Dir Brian Henson. With Michael Caine, Frank Oz, Steve Whitmaire. 85min

Scintillating family fun, as Dickens' ever-popular Christmas tale gets the full Muppet treatment. One of the most creatively and commercially successful of the Muppets' big-screen excursions, this manages to be faithful to the spirit of Dickens' work. Featuring some splendid set-pieces, including, of course, delightful musical moments, it also admirably recreates in proper Henson-style Ye Olde London. Inventive, affectionate and funny, with Michael Caine as an impressively horrible Ebenezer Scrooge.

Tue 27 Dec 16:15 NFT2 / Wed 28 Dec 16:00 NFT2

Seniors' Free Matinee: A Ghost Story for Christmas: M.R. James' A View From A Hill

UK 2005. Dir Luke Watson. 40min

+ The Signalman

UK 1976. Dir Lawrence Gordon Clark. 40min

Two adaptations of master storytellers. The screenings will introduce our new Mediatheque collection, 'A Ghost Story for Christmas' and will be presented by Mediatheque curator Simon McCallum.

This event is free for over-60s; otherwise tickets are available at normal matinee price

Mon 5 Dec 14:00 NFT1

Projecting the Archive:

The Great Game

UK 1952. Dir Maurice Elvey. With Diana Dors, James Hayter, Thora Hird. 80min. U

Take your seats for goals and glamour with dynamic Diana Dors in this rarely screened vintage comedy drama of 1950s football intrigue. When Joe Lawson (Hayter), manager of Burnville United, attempts to snatch a star player from another club, he finds himself embroiled in scandal. With soccer scenes shot at Griffin Park, home of Brentford F.C., the film features precious footage of many of their star players, not to mention fine performances by Hayter, Dors, Hird, and John Laurie.

Thu 8 Dec 18:30 NFT1 Introduced by Vic Pratt (Curator, BFI National Archive)

No Resting Place

UK 1951 Dir Paul Rotha. With Michael Gough, Eithne Dunne, Noel Purcell. 77min. PG

An accidental killing leads to a drama of retribution set against the lush Irish landscape in Paul Rotha's first fiction film. Michael Gough, who died earlier this year, plays Alec Kyle, a gypsy who finds himself pursued by a single minded Civic Guard determined to bring him to justice. Shooting entirely on location, photographer Wolfgang Suschitzky captures the beauty of the countryside, which contrasts with the harshness of life on the road. Rotha elicits sensitive performances.

Mon 12 Dec 18:20 NFT1 With an introduction by Renée Glynnne, the film's script supervisor

Ernest Lindgren Memorial Lecture: Kevin Macdonald on Sampling the Archive

Ernest Lindgren was the first Curator of what is now the BFI National Archive. Over a 40-year career he pioneered one of the world's greatest film collections, setting practices still observed by archives today. For this year's lecture we welcome filmmaker Kevin Macdonald who has moved between documentary and fiction throughout his career, with such films as *The Last King of Scotland* and *Touching the Void*. Macdonald will explore the creative possibilities and challenges inherent in the use of archive material.

Mon 5 Dec 18:30 NFT1 Joint ticket available with *Cobra Woman*. £13, concs £9.75

Annual Nitrate screening: Cobra Woman

USA 1944. Dir Robert Siodmak. With Maria Montez, Jon Hall, Sabu, Lon Chaney Jnr. 70min. PG

Pauline Kael nailed the charm of this camp South Seas drama: “a rumbling volcano, a pet chimp, ominous gong sounds, forest glade love scenes, human sacrifices, handmaidens in high-heeled pumps”. Montez, known as ‘the Queen of Technicolor’ for her role in exotic adventure yarns, was not much of an actor or dancer, but identified utterly with her role as a diva. Out of the BFI National Archive comes a dazzling original nitrate print. + **Reefers of Technicolor Island** (USA 1967. Dir Jack Smith. With Mario Montez. 20min)

Mon 5 Dec 20:45 NFT1

100 Years Ago – the year 1911

1911 was no idyllic post-Edwardian ‘Indian summer’: the first year of George V’s reign saw a battle between anarchists and police, continuing Suffragette protest and industrial unrest. In the film world newsreels and adventure series became regular fixtures on British screens. In this selection we’ll be looking at world events as well as what was going on in the UK cinema. A real gun battle drawing half of London’s East End, a feisty heroine saving the day and a trip to hell are just some of the treats on offer.

Wed 7 Dec 18:30 NFT2 Introduced by Bryony Dixon, Curator of silent film, BFI National Archive c90min

UnLOCKed Paris 1900

ITV 1964. 55min

The latest in our strand highlighting UK TV programmes, once thought lost but rediscovered within the archives of the Library of Congress. These Granada TV-adaptations are of two famous tales of sexual entanglement by master farceur Georges Feydeau, produced by Philip Mackie. In **The Ribadier System** (ITV 1964, Dir Silvio Narizzano), the adulterous M Ribadier (Alfred Marks) uses hypnotism on his wife (Adrienne Corri) in order to visit his mistress...

+ **Fashion for Ladies** (ITV 1964. Dir Silvio Narizzano 55min) in which a philanderer pursues a beautiful woman who is followed everywhere by her husband.

Tue 20 Dec 18:10 NFT3

Missing Believed Wiped: Section 1: Miscellany / Section 2: Music and More

After a spectacular year of Missing Believed Wiped specials showcasing last year’s LoC rediscoveries, the annual Missing Believed Wiped event returns for a new dip into the latest acquisitions. As per normal not all the content of the day is verified at the time of going to press, but we hope to show a recovered Dennis Potter play (*Thirty Minute Theatre: Emergency Ward 9*) from 1966 and an ITV variety show from 1978 featuring Peter Cook and Dudley Moore. As usual the first session will be a mixed bag, and the second will be dominated by recovered music footage from the 50s through to the 80s; and one thing we can promise is a special treat for sci-fi fans.

Part 1 – Sun 11 Dec 15:30 NFT1/ Part 2 – Sun 11 Dec 18:00 NFT1

Introduced by Dick Fiddy Joint tickets available £13, concs £9.95 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Captial Tales: Saloon Bar

UK 1940. Dir Walter Forde. With GordonHarker, Mervyn Johns, Elizabeth Allan, Joyce Barbour. 79min.

Christmas in a London boozier: customers are thin on the ground and the landlord’s wife is in labour upstairs. In the saloon bar the regulars have other worries: can they save an innocent man from the gallows by closing time? This hugely enjoyable Ealing comedy/whodunit – with smart, saucy dialogue by undersung giants Angus MacPhail and John Dighton – conjures a vivid sense of pre-war London.

+ **Christmas Under Fire** (UK 1941. Dir Harry Watt. 9min) Introduced by an Archive Curator

Wed 21 Dec 18:30 NFT1

The Flipside: Moondial

tx 10.2.88 - 16.3.88 Dir Colin Cant BBC Episodes 1 – 3 80min Episodes 4 – 6 77min

Stranded in the countryside with an aged relative, while her mum recuperates after a horiffic car accident, teenager Minty wanders the lonely gardens of the local manor house and quickly discovers that all is not what it seems. A strange sundial sends her spinning off to centuries past where, by the moon’s eerie light, she meets stable boy Tom and troubled Sarah, the ‘devil’s child’ who suffers the sadistic taunts of masked children and the evil Miss Vole. Can Minty rescue poor Sarah? Will her mother get better? Who is the sinister ghost-hunter Miss Raven and what does she want with the mysterious Moondial? All is revealed in this wintery, dreamlike and distinctly otherworldly children’s TV drama.

Sat 3 Dec 17:10 NFT2 Introduced by Will Fowler and Vic Pratt

African Odysseys: Bob Marley: The Making of a Legend

Dir Esther Anderson and Gian Godoy. 90min

An unusual insight into the original Rasta culture from Jamaican actress Esther Anderson. The documentary looks at the movement at its peak in the 70s and incorporates personal footage and historical and contemporary testimonies.

+ **Exodus: Finding Shelter** (Italy 2011. Dir Tommaso D'Elia and Silvia Bonanni. 55min. EST) A documentary following the fate of the Rototom Sunsplash, the largest Reggae festival in its search for new home

Sat 17 Dec 13:30 NFT1 Followed by a discussion Tickets £5.

Out at the Pictures:

Absolute Hell + Q&A with the director Anthony Page

BBC 1991. Dir Anthony Page. With Judi Dench, Francesca Annis, Bill Nighy, Charles Gray, Betty Marsden. 120min

This adaptation of Rodney Ackland's play (as produced by the National Theatre) boasts Judi Dench in excellent form as the owner of a Soho drinking club during, and just after, the war. The stunning cast includes Bill Nighy as a struggling scriptwriter who is always letting his boyfriend down by staying late at the club. His great hope is another club regular (Charles Gray), a film producer. Roving GIs, elderly bohemians and lesbians add to the dramatic mix in a splendidly queer evocation of old Soho.

Sat 10 Dec 15:00 NFT1

Saving Face

USA 2004. Dir Alice Wu. With Michelle Krusiec, Joan Chen, Lynn Chen. 98min. 15

Will, a brilliant surgeon meets Vivian a beautiful dancer. Dating would go smoothly if it weren't for the fact that Vivian is the daughter of Will's boss. And it doesn't help that Will's widowed 48-year-old mother, who doesn't know she is gay, turns up on her doorstep, pregnant and in need of a place to stay. Alice Wu's delightful dramedy exposes the tensions between first and second generation Chinese-American families.

Tue 20 Dec 20:40 NFT1, Fri 23 Dec 18:00 NFT2

Digitalis

Animate Projects presents a programme of artists' animations that subvert or confound our expectations of 'art' and the digital, including new commissions and a selection of works from this year's Animate OPEN: Digitalis online exhibition. The screening is followed by a discussion that will explore the ways in which artists are engaging with digital technologies and platforms. Films include the Animate OPEN prizewinners by James Lowne and Max Hatter, and Digitalis commissions by Adam Butcher, Lizzie Hughes and Matilda Tristram (supported by Jerwood Charitable Foundation)

Wed 14 Dec 18:10 NFT3

JERWOOD

Shorts_Amorpha

New silent films and new music, beyond the gallery and beyond the concert hall. We are pleased to welcome Luke Styles and a host of talented musicians and filmmakers to the BFI Southbank with a specially commissioned programme of music and moving image. *Shorts_Amorpha* brings together contemporary composers and filmmakers to exchange and collaborate within the genre of silent film, whilst tapping into the dynamic of the live cinema performance. Running time c65min

Thu 8 Dec 18:30 NFT3 www.ensembleamorph.com

Essential Experiments:

Counter-Culture UK

Screened in London at either the psychedelic club UFO, the Spontaneous Festival of Underground Film or at the Arts Lab, the works showing tonight occupied a significant place in the 1960s counter-culture as well as the then new cinematic avant-garde. Among the titles shown here are *Beyond Image*, which encourages sensory disorientation by looping and reversing a compelling riff by the Soft Machine, and the brilliant *Room (Double Take)* by Peter Gidal, which uses footage of drug-taking to deconstruct the formal aspects of film.

Thu 1 Dec 20:40 NFT3 Introduced by William Fowler

John Lathan

A key British artist of the post-war period, John Latham is best known for his painting and sculpture, but his conceptual interest in time, events and esoteric physics led him to experiment with film, particularly stop-frame animation. This programme features his recently restored early 1960s works, including *Unclassified Material* (1960), *Unedited Material from the Star* (1960) and *Talk Mr Bard* (1961) as well as the cosmological *Erth* (1971).

Tue 6 Dec 20:30 NFT3 Joint ticket available with Counter Culture UK £13, concs £9.75 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Filmarmalade presents: *Lehrstücke*, *Objet petit a* and *The Great Game*

For the third year running the Filmstore teams up with Filmarmalade to celebrate their 2011 DVD series. Filmarmalade is a publisher and DVD label specialising in contemporary artists' film and video works. We are proud to host the launch of Filmarmalade's latest batch: Mirza/Butler's *The Exception and the Rule*, Miranda Pennell's *Why Colonel Bunny Was Killed* and the world premiere screening of Adam Roberts' latest film *Remake*. The screening will be introduced by Gordon Shrigley and we hope to have the artists present.

Thu 1 Dec 18:30 NFT3 This event is supported by the IMT Gallery, London

The Cinema of Aleksandr Sokurov

The centrepiece event of our retrospective, this symposium brings together leading commentators on contemporary Russian cinema and culture to offer insights and perspectives on the man many consider to be Russia's greatest living filmmaker. We are delighted to welcome Prof Nancy Condee from Pittsburgh University, Prof Julian Graffy, Dr Birgit Beumers, Dr Emma Widdis, Dr Susan Larsen and season curator Prof Ian Christie. Presented in association with UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies and I B Tauris, publishers of the new book *'The Cinema of Alexander Sokurov'*.

Sat 3 Dec 10:00-17:30 NFT 3

The Future of DVD

In a one-of-a-kind panel discussion, hosted by video industry expert Tim Murray, representatives of the UK's leading specialist DVD publishers – Masters of Cinema, Second Run and BFI – explore the philosophies underpinning their work, consider the fate of DVD and Blu-ray and ask whether a future of instantly accessible digital content is utopia or myth. An essential event for anyone with an interest in the issues around how archive films find their widest possible audience, the event will conclude with a screening of the rare David Bailey short *GG Passion* (1966).

Thu 15 Dec 18:30 NFT3 Tickets £5

Passport to Cinema:



Point Blank

USA 1968 Dir. John Boorman, with Lee Marvin, Angie Dickinson, Keenan Wynn, Carroll O'Connor. 92min. 15
John Boorman's first US film is a dream of vengeance set against a dehumanised urban California. Walker (Lee Marvin) survives a point-blank shooting on Alcatraz Island. Back from the dead, he travels from San Francisco to Los Angeles and back again, looking for the money taken from him. With its time lapses and sudden narrative shifts, *Point Blank* brings a European sensibility to the American crime movie.

+ ***The Man with the Beautiful Eyes*** UK 1999 Dir Jonathan Hodgson 5min.

Fri 2 Dec 20:45 NFT2 Mon 5 Dec 18:10 NFT2* Sun 11 Dec 20:30 NFT3 *Introduced by Dominic Power

Playtime

France /Italy 1967 Dir. Jacques Tati, with Jacques Tati, Barbara Dennek, Jacqueline Lecomte, Henri Piccoli, 124min. U
Having taken ten years to prepare and make, *Playtime* is an epic comic creation based the simplest of ideas – the observation of a group of tourists travelling through a modern urban environment. Tati created a parallel city of glass and steel (nicknamed Tativille), designed to enable him to control every aspect of the filming. He set out to show the excesses of modern architecture, but paradoxically *Playtime's* dazzling visuals also show us its beauty.

Mon 12 Dec 18:10 NFT3* Thu 22 Dec 20:30 NFT3 *Introduced by Philip Kemp

Vertigo

USA 1958 Dir. Alfred Hitchcock, with James Stewart, Kim Novak, Barbara Bel Geddes, Tom Helmore 129min. 12A
Although critics and public were slow to understand the power of *Vertigo*, it stands today as one of Hitchcock's most powerful and personal films. A convoluted plot about an ex-cop hired by a college friend to shadow his troubled wife serves as the basis for a haunting study of obsession and memory set in a dream-like San Francisco.

Mon 19 Dec 18:10 NFT1* Tue 27 Dec 20:20 NFT1 Thu 29 Dec 20:30 NFT1*Introduced by Richard Combs

Disney 50:

Atlantis: The Lost Empire

USA 2001. Dirs Gary Trousdale, Kirk Wise. With voices of Michael J Fox, James Garner, Leonard Nimoy. 95min. U
Disney's first animated science fiction feature follows young Milo Thatch as he chases in his father's footsteps and tries to discover the lost underwater city of Atlantis. With a journal to decipher, a submarine to catch and a mechanical leviathan to escape from, the journey to the lost empire is anything

but easy. Disney's increasing use of CGI in their 2D animation is very apparent in this, the 41st film in the Disney 50. + **Merbabes** (1938, 9min)

Sat 3 Dec 15:00 NFT2 Fri 9 Dec 18:20 NFT2

Lilo & Stitch

USA 2002. Dir Dean DeBlois, Chris Sanders. With voices of Daveigh Chase, Chris Sanders, Ving Rhames. 85min. U
On a faraway planet, Dr Jookiba is jailed for creating an illegal genetic experiment. He knows it as Experiment 626. We know it as Stitch, a quirky, blue alien who is exiled to a desert but accidentally lands in Hawaii and befriends little Lilo who thinks he is a dog. She trains him by encouraging him to behave like her idol, Elvis Presley, and they become inseparable. However, the level of extra terrestrial activity in the area increases as Stitch's past catches up with him. + **Hawaiian Holiday** (1937, 8min)

Sat 10 Dec 14:00 NFT2 Wed 21 Dec 18:20 NFT2

The Lion King

USA 1994. Dir Roger Allers, Rob Minkoff, With voices of James Earl Jones, Jeremy Irons, Nathan Lane. 89min. U
Due to popular demand, we are pleased to present one of the most eagerly awaited of the contemporary Disney 50 titles in its original 2D format. Plus **Pluto's Christmas Tree** (1952, 7min) and **Sheep Dog** (1949, 7min)

Sun 18 Dec 15:00 NFT1 Wed 28 Dec 18:30 NFT1

Funday TV Preview: The Lost Christmas + Q&A

UK 2011. Dir John Hay. With Eddie Izzard, Jason Flemyng, Larry Mills, Geoffrey Palmer. 89min.

An urban fairytale from the backstreets of Manchester. It is Christmas Eve and everyone is getting ready for the big day; everyone that is, except Anthony, a strange, enigmatic being who wakes up in the street, not knowing where he is or what he's here to do. But Anthony has a remarkable ability: the power to find the lost... But is Anthony's ability real, or just an illusion?

Sun 11 Dec 13:00 NFT1 Preview courtesy of CBBC and Impact Film and Television.

Foyer Funday Lost Christmas Workshop

Come along to our December Funday and be swept away by the intoxicating combination of Christmas played out on the cinema screen. Make up your own Christmas themed stories and characters then turn them into animated movies with the help of our wintery backdrops. Create decorations to take home and hang on your trees, and why not enter our seasonal competition to try and win some special BFI presents. This Funday is not to be missed for all fans of Christmas – so wrap up warm, skate along to the BFI and make your Christmas go with a ho ho ho! **Free to ticket holders for the Funday Preview**

Sun 11 Dec 11:00

Preview: Puss in Boots (3D)

USA 2011 Dir Chris Miller. With voices of Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek, Billy Bob Thornton. cert tbc. Digital 3D.
Shrek's first spin-off allows us insight into the nursery rhyme world of the brave, swashbuckling feline, Puss in Boots in the years before he met Shrek and Donkey. Along with his sidekicks Humpty Dumpty and Kitty Softpaws, Puss must confront the dastardly Jack and Jill, a couple of treacherous outlaws with a deadly plan that threatens the world as we know it. Courtesy of Paramount Pictures UK.

Sun 4 Dec 16:15 NFT1

In the Studio:

This Our Still Life

UK 2011. Dir Andrew Kötting. With Eden Kötting, Leila McMillan. 57min. Digital

This new film by Kötting is a lovely portrait of the artist's disabled daughter as a young woman in their tumbledown Pyrenean farmhouse. Last seen in *Gallivant* (1996) as a plucky kid touring the coastline of Britain, Eden, now 23, is here shown painting still lifes and singing along to the radio as the seasons ebb and flow.

Les Enfants du paradis

France 1945 Dir Marcel Carné. With Arletty, Jean-Louis Barrault,. 190min. EST. Digital. PG. A BFI release

Set in Paris's theatrical district of the early 19th century, this rich, engrossing tale of rivalries and unrequited passion explores the crucial role played by different kinds of performance in all aspects of everyday life... but most especially in matters of the heart. The film is a breathtaking achievement on every front, from the superb cinematography to Carné's deft elaboration of the sheer genius of Jacques Prévert's script.

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy

UK-France 2011 Dir Tomas Alfredson With Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, Benedict Cumberbatch. 127min. Digital. 15

This 1970s-set Cold War story adapted from John Le Carré's best-selling novel is a gripping spy thriller in which retired espionage veteran George Smiley (Oldman) is drawn back into a life of intrigue following a

tip off that a Soviet mole is working among his former colleagues in the upper echelons of MI6. Though he finally narrows his search down to four suspects, his past history and friendships make it difficult to pinpoint the traitor. Oldman's performance is magnificent.

PRESS CONTACTS:

BFI Southbank:

Ilona Cheshire / Tim Mosley

Tel: 020 7957 8986 / 8918 or email: ilona.cheshire@bfi.org.uk / tim.mosley@bfi.org.uk

BFI IMAX/DVD:

Jill Reading

Tel 020 7957 4759 or email: jill.reading@bfi.org.uk

Head of Press and PR, BFI

Judy Wells

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

About the BFI

The BFI is the nation's cultural organisation for film, keeping the breadth of voices in moving image culture alive and known. Through its venues, festivals, film releases and online, the BFI inspires people to understand and enjoy film culture, ensuring that everyone in the UK can see the broadest range and choice of films, otherwise not provided by commercial cinema. The BFI reaches an audience of over 7.5 million in the UK every year.

Booking information

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 £9.50, concs £6.75 Members pay £1.50 less on any ticket. Website 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 Filmstore

The BFI Filmstore 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 under BFI / BFI Southbank /December 2011