



# BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

4 – 15 October 2017

in partnership with



EUROPEAN PREMIERE OF

## BREATHE

TO OPEN THE 61ST BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

NEW OFFICIAL TRAILER AND POSTER RELEASED



Andrew Garfield and Claire Foy star in Andy Serkis' *BREATHE*, STXInternational.

Embargoed until 9.30am GMT, Thursday 29 June, 2017

**LONDON – Thursday 29 June, 2017:** The 61st BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express® is delighted to announce that this year's Opening Night gala will be Andy Serkis' feature directorial debut, *BREATHE*. Based on the true story of Robin Cavendish, *BREATHE* is a heart-warming and highly emotional celebration of bravery and human possibility, a love story about living every breath as though it's your last. The film stars Andrew Garfield (*Hacksaw Ridge*) as Cavendish and Claire Foy (*The Crown*) as his wife Diana.

*BREATHE* will receive its European premiere on Wednesday 4 October at the Odeon Leicester Square. Director Andy Serkis, producer Jonathan Cavendish and lead actors Andrew Garfield and Claire Foy are expected to attend along with other members of the cast and crew. There will be a live cinecast of all the excitement from Leicester Square and simultaneous screenings taking place at cinemas across the UK.

From a script by twice Academy Award-nominated screenwriter William Nicholson (*Everest*, *Les Misérables* and *Gladiator*), Andy Serkis (globally known for his performances including, *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*) delivers a hugely impressive directorial debut with this inspirational true story of love without limits. Adventurous and charismatic, Robin Cavendish has his whole life ahead of him when he is paralysed by polio whilst in Africa and given just months to live. Against all advice, Robin's wife Diana brings him home from hospital where her devotion and witty determination inspire him to lead a long and fulfilled life. Together they refuse to be limited by expectations, dazzling others with their humour, courage and lust for life.

**Clare Stewart, BFI London Film Festival Director**, says: "We are proud to be opening the 61st BFI London Film Festival with a film that is a beacon for remarkable British talent: the directorial debut of Andy Serkis, compelling performances from a stellar cast led by Andrew Garfield and Claire Foy, and a story of universal resonance that is also deeply personal for producer Jonathan Cavendish. *BREATHE* is not only an inspirational love story, it is also a film about two truly indomitable spirits who defy the odds and the sceptics to pave the way for change."

**BREATHE Director Andy Serkis** comments: "On behalf of the cast and crew of *Breathe*, we are absolutely thrilled and deeply honoured to be the Opening Gala performance in this year's incredibly richly diverse and world-class BFI London Film Festival. *Breathe* is a deeply personal story to all of us at The Imaginarium and to have the European premiere of my directorial debut in London, my hometown, is beyond my wildest dreams."

The film's supporting cast members include Hugh Bonneville (*Paddington*) and Tom Hollander (*The Night Manager*) as Robin's devoted, long-time friends. Stephen Mangan (*Rush*) and acting legend Dame Diana Rigg (*Game of Thrones*, the original *The Avengers*) complete the cast, with a soundtrack by the acclaimed composer Nitin Sawhney. The film is produced for The Imaginarium Studios by Jonathan Cavendish (*Bridget Jones's Diary*), upon whose parents' story the film is based. Financing is from Silver Reel, BBC Films and the BFI, brokered by Embankment Films.

STXinternational release the film across the UK and Ireland on 27 October.

The brand new trailer and teaser poster for *Breathe* are available below.



The 61st BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express® takes place from Wednesday 4 October-Sunday 15 October 2017. The full Festival programme will be announced on Thursday 31 August 2017.

- Ends-

## **BREATHE Assets**

**UK Trailer is available via:** <https://youtu.be/dqpfds0SkZs>

**Download link:**

[http://panthercdn.dmsukltd.com/pan3/stx\\_entertainment/breathe/panther/breathe\\_trailer\\_hd-1080.mov](http://panthercdn.dmsukltd.com/pan3/stx_entertainment/breathe/panther/breathe_trailer_hd-1080.mov)

**Film Assets and teaser poster for Breathe:**

<https://panther4.dmsukltd.com/stx-entertainment>

(User: guest.pol@dmsukltd.com / Password: Letmein1)

**For further press information and general enquiries about the 61<sup>st</sup> BFI London Film Festival**

*Please note separate DDA and Four Colman Getty details for the BFI LFF sections:*

**OPENING/CLOSING AND HEADLINE GALAS, SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS and ASSOCIATED SCREEN TALKS:**

DDA Email: [LFFPress@ddapr.com](mailto:LFFPress@ddapr.com) | Tel: +44 +207 932 9800

Head of Press: Kate Hudson Festival Publicity Assistant: Yasmin Purves

**For Opening Night Red Carpet Media Enquiries:**

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**ACCREDITATION TO THE FESTIVAL, MAIN FESTIVAL PROGRAMME AND STRAND GALAS, LFF AWARDS and EVENTS:**

Four Colman Getty Email: [LFF@fourcommunications.com](mailto:LFF@fourcommunications.com) | Tel: + 44 20 3697 4262

Project Lead: Matt Railton Title PR Lead: Jon Rushton

## **GENERAL ENQUIRIES**

61<sup>st</sup> BFI London Film Festival enquiries

BFI London Film Festival PR Manager: Mia Farrell

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**For further details on the UK release of BREATHE**

PREMIER - Christelle Randall, Elizabeth Taylor and Oliver Lavery, Email:

firstname.surname@premiercomms.com, Tel +44 207 292 8330

## **Festival Information & Ticket Booking**

BFI Members' priority booking opens 10.00am, 7 September - join at [www.bfi.org.uk/join](http://www.bfi.org.uk/join)

Public booking opens 10.00am, 14 September

Telephone Bookings: 020 7928 3232 between 10:00 – 20:30

Online: [www.bfi.org.uk/lff](http://www.bfi.org.uk/lff)

In person: BFI Southbank Office: 10:00 – 20:30

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **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 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 Josh Berger.

### **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 diverse films, 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 21 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 Festivals and BFI London Film Festival Director since October 2011.



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