

## Festive films at BFI Southbank this Christmas + Unique Yuletide gifts from BFI



### Festive films at BFI Southbank this Christmas

As the winter nights draw ever closer, **BFI Southbank** invites audiences in from the cold for a special programme of films perfect for the Christmas season; an extended run of the joyous ***Guys and Dolls*** (1955) will keep the winter blues at bay, while Christmas classics such as ***It's a Wonderful Life*** (1947) and ***Meet Me in St. Louis*** (1944) will provide fun for all the family. Plus, in a new monthly slot, BFI Southbank will offer audiences the opportunity to pick their favourite film under a theme related to the programme, this month: your favourite Christmas film. We will screen the film that gets the most votes over 100 (subject to availability in the UK), so audiences can have the chance to enjoy their own specially programmed Christmas night out.

**Puppets at Christmas: Celebrating Puppets with Attitude** will look at the long tradition of puppets on British television. Hosted by **Clementine the Living Fashion Doll**, our guide for the evening will introduce us to the puppet stars of yesterday with clips from the likes of: Pinky and Perky; Basil Brush; Mademoiselle Zizi; Topo Gigio; Lamb Chop and Lord Charles. Finally, for those of the opinion that '*Christmas, sir, is humbug*', a visit to BFI Southbank to see ***Scrooge*** (1951) is highly recommended to reinstall some vital Christmas cheer.

### Unique Christmas gifts from BFI

Ready your sleigh and ride off into a winter wonderland of cinema with the **BFI**, the home of all things film this Christmas. With our stellar gift ideas you'll find the perfect present for the film lovers in your life, from the esteemed cinephile to the blockbuster enthusiast. Share the magic of film with **BFI Membership**, the ultimate gift for all film fans, offering priority booking to events such as the BFI London Film Festival and exclusive member screenings. Ever dreamed you could take one giant leap for mankind and leave your footprint on the moon? Join the **Magnificent 700** and make your mark with your name immortalised on a plaque on your favourite seat in the BFI cinema. From sophisticated art-house to spectacular sci-fi why not find a treasure and bring the joy of film home with our eclectic range of **DVDs** or make a bold statement with a gift from our range of **iconic film posters**, available from the BFI Shop at BFI Southbank or online [www.bfi.org.uk/shop](http://www.bfi.org.uk/shop). For those who are looking to be truly unique, explore our personalised gifts from the BFI Printstore [www.bfi.mediastorehouse.com](http://www.bfi.mediastorehouse.com) and cherish them for seasons to come.

– ENDS –

**Press Contacts:**

**Tim Mosley** – Press Officer, BFI Southbank

[Tim.mosley@bfi.org.uk](mailto:Tim.mosley@bfi.org.uk) / 020 7957 8986

**Emma Hewitt** – Head of Press and PR (Acting)

[emma.hewitt@bfi.org.uk](mailto:emma.hewitt@bfi.org.uk) / 020 7173 3256

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**Festive screening**

**Puppets at Christmas Celebrating Puppets with Attitude**

*TRT 90min. Parental guidance advised, some material may be risqué*

A major feature of the 60s and 70s British TV schedules was the regular appearance of a host of beloved puppet entertainers. They could be glove puppets, marionettes or ventriloquist dummies, but the one thing they had in common was fully realised personalities that made them as memorable as any human performer. Join our host Clementine the Living Fashion Doll as she introduces us to the puppet stars of yesteryear, with clips including the likes of: Pinky and Perky; Basil Brush; Mademoiselle Zizi; Topo Gigio; Lamb Chop and Lord Charles.

**Tue 9 Dec 18:10 NFT1**

**It's a Wonderful Life**

*USA 1947. Dir Frank Capra. With James Stewart, Donna Reed, Henry Travers. 129min. Digital. U*

Stewart plays a troubled small-town family man whose sense of failure and moral despair leads him to contemplate suicide as Christmas approaches. An impish guardian angel (second class) appears, to show him how good his life has been and to steer him back to happiness. Beautifully crafted and acted, its humour and gentleness imbued at times with an almost Dickensian darkness, the film has achieved cult status as one of the most popular and enduring of all Christmas entertainments.

**Wed 17 Dec – Sun 28 Dec**

**Meet Me in St Louis**

*USA 1944. Dir Vincente Minnelli. With Judy Garland, Margaret O'Brien, Leon Ames. 113min. Digital. U*

'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas', sings Esther Smith (Garland) to her tearful little sister as they ponder the prospect of the family leaving behind their beloved St Louis to relocate in New York. Minnelli's great musical elegantly and eloquently expresses a warm nostalgia for a slower, gentler way of American life. A deceptively light script, fine performances and unforgettable musical numbers all contribute to the affectionate mood. A Christmas treat for all ages.

**Tue 16 Dec 18:20 Studio**

**Sun 21 Dec 15:40 Studio**

**Sun 28 Dec 14:50 NFT3**

**Audience Choice**

A new monthly opportunity for you to pick your favourite film under a theme related to the programme, this month: your favourite Christmas film. We've selected our favourite Christmas films below for you to vote for, or you can suggest your own film. We'll play the one that gets the most votes over 100 (subject to availability in the UK). Get voting, and get your friends voting, so that you can have your very own Christmas night out at BFI Southbank. Vote for: *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), *Gremlins* (1984), *Bad Santa* (2003), *Rare Exports* (2010)... or a film of your own choosing!

Find out more, and vote, at: [bfi.org.uk/audiencechoice](http://bfi.org.uk/audiencechoice) Voting closes Wed 12 Nov with the film announced Mon 17 Nov. Voters for the winning film will be contacted directly and receive a 48-hour priority booking period

**Sun 14 Dec 20:50 NFT1**

**Seniors' Archive Free Matinee:**

**Scrooge**

*UK 1951. Dir Brian Desmond-Hurst. With Alastair Sim, Jack Warner, Kathleen Harrison. 86min. U*

'Christmas, sir, is humbug,' utters Ebenezer Scrooge in Alastair Sim's (most would say definitive) portrayal of Charles Dickens' miserly businessman. Though joined by an impressive array of British acting talent, Sim dominates this festive classic, deftly switching between drama and comedy with ease. Introduced by Graham Rinaldi, film lecturer, writer and Alastair Sim fan. Free for over 60s (booking by phone or in person only), otherwise normal matinee price. See p37 for a Seniors' matinee of Guys and Dolls

**Mon 8 Dec 14:00 NFT1**  
**Mon 8 Dec 14:00 NFT1**

### **BFI MEMBERSHIP**

For those looking for the ultimate gift for film lovers, for just £45, a year long **BFI Membership** puts loved ones at the front of the queue for the hottest tickets in town including the BFI London Film Festival where you can experience the glamour of the red carpet first hand as well as exclusive access to special Members' events.

Buy a BFI Membership Gift Pack between 20 October – 31 December 2014 and get a BFI DVD absolutely free!

BFI Membership is the best way to enjoy special events, previews and screenings at BFI Southbank all year round, at the BFI London Film Festival and more. For £45 BFI Members enjoy:

- Priority booking for the BFI London Film Festival and BFI Southbank
- £1.50 off tickets at BFI Southbank and BFI IMAX
- No booking fees at BFI Southbank and BFI Festivals
- Free tickets to an exclusive events programme at BFI Southbank and BFI National Archive tours
- Monthly BFI Southbank Guide and BFI Festival brochures delivered to your door
- 10% off food and soft drinks at BFI Southbank.
- 15% off BFI player
- BFI Shop discounts including 15% off BFI DVDs' and Blue Rays

BFI Membership is available at the BFI Shop and online at [www.bfi.org.uk/shop](http://www.bfi.org.uk/shop)

### **BFI DVD AND BLU-RAY**

**For the serious film fan:** The Werner Herzog Collection (8 Blu-Ray)

Presented in two formats – an 8-disc Blu-ray box set and a 10-disc DVD box set – *The Werner Herzog Collection* contains 18 films by the visionary German filmmaking legend, and includes such classics of world cinema as *Nosferatu the Vampyre*, *Aguirre*, *Wrath of God* and *Fitzcarraldo*, as well as a number of Herzog's acclaimed, but rarely seen short films. Extensive extras include Jack Bond's long-unseen *South Bank Show* portrait of Herzog (1982), Les Blank's classics *Werner Herzog Eats His Shoe* (1980) and *Burden of Dreams* (1982), feature-length director commentaries, original trailers, stills galleries and an extensive contextualising booklet.

**For the armchair adventurer:** The Epic Of Everest / The Great White Silence (2 Dvd/2 Blu-Ray)

Exquisitely restored by the BFI National Archive, this captivating box set brings together two of the most inspirational and visually stunning silent films of the past century. *The Great White Silence* follows the extraordinary 1910 expedition of Captain Scott to the South Pole. *The Epic of Everest* documents George Mallory and Sandy Irvine's doomed attempt to reach the summit in 1924. Both films feature brilliant new scores by Ivor Novello Award-winning composer Simon Fisher Turner and are accompanied by a wide range of extra content including short films and introductions from curators who worked on each film's restoration.

**For the sci-fi aficionado:** Out Of the Unknown (7-Dvd)

The legendary BBC TV science-fiction anthology series comes to DVD for the very first time. In this comprehensive 7-DVD box set it compiles all 20 surviving episodes from series 1-4 of *Out of the Unknown* – first broadcast between 1965 and 1971 – with episodes written by such luminaries as John Wyndham, Isaac Asimov, J G Ballard, J B Priestley and Troy Kennedy Martin. Extras include fragments, audio and stills from missing episodes, commentaries and interviews.

The BFI's brilliantly diverse **DVD** collection of over 250 titles, with dozens of British films and rare documentary shorts, offers original and quality gift ideas for every generation and taste.

**BFI DVDs** are available from all DVD retailers and online, or from the BFI Shop Tel: 020 7815 1350 or [www.bfi.org.uk/shop](http://www.bfi.org.uk/shop)

### **BFI SHOP AND SCI-FI MERCHANDISE**

**BFI Shop** at BFI Southbank is the best film shop in the country, so drop in for Christmas shopping to choose from hundreds of DVDs, books, posters, toys, stationery – perfect gifts for film lover

**SCI-FI: DAYS OF FEAR AND WONDER Compendium**

Explore the other worlds, future visions and altered states of sci-fi film and television in this new compendium. 160 pages of lavishly illustrated new essays, written by many of the foremost authorities in the field.

£15 from the BFI Shop [bfi.org.uk/shop](http://bfi.org.uk/shop) or in store at the BFI Shop

### **THE MAGNIFICENT 700**

Name a BFI cinema seat & share your passion for film in London's home of cinema.

Take a starring role in The Magnificent 700 by naming one of BFI Southbank's magnificent 700 cinema seats. It's magnificent because not only will you get a personalised named seat in a world-class cinema, but you will also be supporting the BFI's charitable activities, from looking after one of the world's most significant collections of film and television, to providing film education for all, to supporting and enabling access to the widest choice of film possible.

For £700 you will receive an elegant name plaque on the back of your chosen BFI Southbank cinema seat for five years. *And* a limited edition enamel lapel badge and film postcard certificate to remind you just how magnificent you are. It's the perfect gift for your film-loving loved one.

Find out more and buy your gift here: [magnificent700@bfi.org.uk](mailto:magnificent700@bfi.org.uk)

### **BFI PRINTSTORE**

**BFI Printstore** gives you exclusive access to reproduction prints from the BFI National Archive's world-leading **Stills, Posters and Designs Collection** for an especially original gift. High quality copies from a huge range of iconic posters and stills can be bought in a variety of formats and sizes or incorporated onto a range of products including canvas prints, mugs, jigsaws, mouse mats and **over 1000 different iPhone Covers!**

There are stylish London Film Festival posters dating back to 1957; contemporary BFI Southbank season posters; classic Hollywood and European portraits from the 1920s and 30s; Academy Cinema posters; the magical art of Lotte Reiniger and stills from Mitchell and Kenyon, BFI Flipside and Free Cinema. The site also now has over 60 images from the newly acquired Children's Film Foundation collection.

Products range from a 7"x5" print for just £4.99 to a 40-inch box canvas print for £129.99. Products that can be personalised include mugs, t-shirts and jigsaws.

View the complete collection and order online:- <http://bfi.mediastorehouse.com>

### **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 £11.00, concs £8.50 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**