

BFI FILM AUDIENCE NETWORK READIES FOR AUTUMN LAUNCH AS UK-WIDE LEAD PARTNERS ARE NAMED

- ***Eight organisations to work with the BFI and regional partners to bring more specialised and independent British film to UK audiences in new and exciting ways.***

LONDON – 3rd September 2013

In a ground-breaking new deal for UK audiences the **BFI's Film Audience Network (BFI FAN)**, today takes a significant step forward as the BFI names eight lead partners (Film Hub Lead Organisations) appointed to help bring diverse and exciting films and events to audiences right across the UK.

Film-watching is one of the UK's most loved and important cultural activities, but many film fans cannot easily access a diverse range of films and BFI FAN aims to change this. BFI FAN brings film, education, community, exhibition, archive and events experts together to offer more choice and grow new audiences, particularly for specialised and independent British film – a key priority for the BFI, as set out in *Film Forever*, its five year plan for UK film.

The eight Film Hubs across the UK will work collaboratively with partner organisations in their local areas and, together with the BFI, will form a new Film Audience Network strategic leadership group to ensure a joined-up UK wide approach. The organisations leading the Film Hubs are: Broadway Nottingham and Cambridge Film Trust; Chapter, Cardiff; Cornerhouse, Manchester; Film London; QFT (Queen's Film Theatre), Belfast; Regional Screen Scotland; the University of Brighton; and Watershed, Bristol. The BFI will announce more partners in the coming months as BFI FAN's offer widens across the UK.

Amanda Nevill, CEO of the BFI comments:

'BFI FAN is an important and exciting new initiative that goes to the heart of the BFI's vision to bring a greater choice of film to audiences, no matter where they live in the UK. BFI FAN

enables a whole range of partners across the UK - already experts at understanding their local and regional audiences - to truly work together as a network to the benefit of audiences and film makers.'

The eight organisations named today will collectively receive BFI lottery funding of up to £7.5m over four years (2013-17) to bring new film experiences to UK audiences, no matter where they live.

Speaking on behalf of the eight Film Hubs, Ron Inglis, Chief Executive of Regional Screen Scotland said:

'The collaborative process that has led to the creation of BFI Film Audience Network has illustrated a huge appetite for change and improvement at grassroots level and we look forward to building on this. In ten years time, we want to look back on the setting-up of BFI FAN as a turning point for film culture in the UK: the start of a repositioning and understanding of the importance of film as a form of entertainment but as well as a way of engaging audiences in ideas, dialogue and debate about culture and society.'

The BFI's FAN funding will be used to support a range of audience development activities at a local, regional and cross-regional level, and the network will support major national celebrations of cinema across each of the Film Hub regions, with the ambition to stage some simultaneously. Film Hub activity will be tailored to local audiences and geography, and will include support for touring and archive programmes; pop-up's and live events; projects aimed at engaging the next generation of film fans and sector led skills training in areas such as programming, marketing, fundraising and technical delivery.

Through FAN, the BFI aims to unite a range of partners including cinema exhibitors, film festivals, educators, film societies, community venues, Regional Film Archives and others. BFI FAN will complement the BFI's film education initiatives to form a comprehensive new audience development strategy, as set out in the BFI's *Film Forever* five-year plan, to help put film at the centre of UK cultural life.

BFI FAN will commence activities in the autumn. Local and regional organisations who are keen to get involved should visit the BFI FAN website for more details www.bfi.org.uk/fan

Notes to editors:

The eight Film Hubs within BFI FAN awarded funding for four years (2013-17) are:

Film Hub Central East

Awarded up to £1,100,000

Led jointly by Broadway Nottingham & Cambridge Film Trust: Broadway Nottingham is one of the leading independent cinemas for cultural film in the UK. Cambridge Film Trust champions independent cinema and fosters film culture and education through its year-round programme culminating in the annual Cambridge Film Festival.

Film Hub Wales

Awarded up to £800,000

Led by Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff: Chapter is an ambitious, multi-art form cultural space based in Cardiff, Wales that presents and produces international art, performance and film alongside a dynamic social space.

Film Hub North West Central

Awarded up to £1,100,000

Led by Cornerhouse Manchester: Since opening in 1985 Cornerhouse has been bringing the best in UK and international cinema to Manchester and the North West through a programme of over 3,500 screenings per year, an extensive programme of engagement events and attracting large and committed audiences making it one of the UK's most successful independent cinemas.

Film Hub London

Awarded up to £800,000

Led by Film London: As the capital's film and media agency, Film London aims to ensure London has a thriving film sector that enriches the city's businesses and its people. The agency has a strong track record of supporting innovative exhibition and education initiatives, maximising access to the capital's film culture and helping audiences to discover film in all its diversity.

Film Hub Northern Ireland

Awarded up to £800,000

Led by QFT [Queen's Film Theatre], Belfast: For over 40 years QFT has been the only full-time cinema dedicated to showing specialised and non-mainstream film in Northern Ireland. The QFT shows almost 400 individual films from around the world each year and promotes film culture in all its diverse forms.

Film Hub Scotland

Awarded up to £800,000

Led by Regional Screen Scotland: Film Hub Scotland is a consortium consisting of Scotland's leading cultural cinemas and film festivals, and its cinema development agency Regional Screen Scotland. Collectively these organisations are the principal providers of specialist and independent cinema exhibition and programming in Scotland.

Film Hub South East

Awarded up to £900,000

Led by the University of Brighton, Film Hub SE is managed by a consortium of Brighton-based partners: Brighton & Hove City Council, Cinecity (curates and presents Brighton's annual film festival), Lighthouse (creative agency working at the intersection of the art, film and

education), Picturehouse Cinemas (UK's leading arthouse cinema) and Screen Archive South East (collecting, preserving, promoting and providing public access to screen heritage).

Film Hub South West & West Midlands

Awarded up to £1,200,000

Led by Watershed, Bristol: Watershed's ambition is to develop audiences' choice, engagement, understanding and enjoyment of the past, present and future of cinema. Watershed is a leading cross-artform venue and producer, sharing, developing and showcasing exemplary cultural ideas and talent.

Ends.

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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 is now 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 Greg Dyke.



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