

BFI Future Film Festival announces programme for landmark 10th edition 15-19 February at BFI Southbank



A decade after it began, the Festival will welcome back alumni to speak about how their careers have developed thanks to this unique and important event

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Masterclasses and keynotes from industry professionals including producers Rebecca O'Brien (*I, DANIEL BLAKE*) and Elhum Shakerifar (*A SYRIAN LOVE STORY*), cinematographer Ben Davies (*DOCTOR STRANGE*), editor Eddie Hamilton (*KINGSMAN*), directors Mania Akbari (*FROM TEHRAN TO LONDON*) and The Blaine Brothers (*NINA FOREVER*), music video director Grace Ladoja (*SKEPTA – SHUT DOWN*) and Women in Film and TV Chair Cassandra Sigsgaard
- BFI Future Film Festival Awards on Sun 19 Feb, with over £25,000 worth of prizes
- New Future Film Lab Award of £5000 and mentoring supported by Blackmagic Design
 - New 'Backstage' at the Festival hub
- Previous Winners and Festival alumni to speak at the festival about their career successes

Thursday 19 January 2017, London.

The most important film industry Festival for young filmmakers in the UK, the **BFI Future Film Festival** returns to **BFI Southbank** from **15-19 February** to celebrate its landmark 10th birthday, with tickets on sale now at www.bfi.org.uk/futurefilm. The Festival is open to **16-25** year olds, and aimed at those aspiring to develop careers in the film and creative industries. It is programmed around three key areas: **'Storytelling', 'Production and Craft Skills'** and **'The Business of Film'**, and offers young people a unique opportunity to obtain access to industry professionals alongside a wealth of talks, masterclasses and networking events. Festival highlights from this year's programme will include practical masterclasses, Q&As and keynotes with producer **Rebecca O'Brien** (*LOOKING FOR*

ERIC, I, DANIEL BLAKE), directors **The Blaine Brothers** (*NINA FOREVER*) and **Mania Akbari** (*FROM TEHRAN TO LONDON, 20 FINGERS*) and cinematographer **Ben Davies** (*DOCTOR STRANGE, GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY*).

Since its inception 10 years ago the BFI Future Film Festival has grown from a fledgling 2 day event with just a handful of workshops to become the UK's most important film industry Festival for young people. Over the past decade the Festival has nurtured up-and-coming UK talent who have gone on to great success both in the UK and internationally. Festival success stories include BAFTA-nominated director **Charlotte Regan** (who is also a BFI Film Academy graduate), whose short *STANDBY* is up for Best British Short at this year's BAFTAs; **Shola Amoo**, a long time Festival attendee whose debut feature *A MOVING IMAGE* played in the BFI London Film Festival in 2016; BIFA award-winning director **Rob Savage** whose latest short *DAWN OF THE DEAF* will play at this year's Sundance Film Festival; **Alex Shipman** another BFI Film Academy graduate and regular at BFI Future Film whose short documentary *BAM BAM* screened at the 9th BFI Future Film Festival and is now being developed into a feature film; and **Ross Hogg** and **Duncan Cowles** who after winning a BFI Raw Award in 2016 for their experimental short *ISABELLA*, also went on to win a Scottish BAFTA for the film. This year many of our past winners and Festival alumni will be returning as guest speakers who will discuss how the Festival has helped them on their journeys to become professional filmmakers.

This year the Festival is delighted to welcome its inaugural Headline Partner Blackmagic Design, one of the world's leading innovators and manufacturers of creative video technology. Blackmagic are supporting a number of special events across the Festival, powering our new 'Backstage' at the Future Film Festival space and presenting a brand new Future Film Lab Award in recognition of the best new talent at the Festival.

This year the Festival has received over 2,300 short film submissions by young filmmakers aged 16-25, the largest ever number since the Festival launched in 2007. 57 films have been selected for screening over the course of the Festival, with more than £25,000 worth of prizes set to be given to some of the most exciting emerging young filmmaking talent at the **Future Film Festival Awards** ceremony on **Sunday 19 February**. This will include the new **Future Film Lab Award**, supported by Blackmagic Design, which will include £5,000 towards a new film project as well as access to digital film cameras and software. In addition, the winner will also gain access to industry mentoring from writer, director and producer HaZ Dulull and his production company Sector 99.

The first day of the Festival on Wednesday 15 February is an industry day specifically for the filmmakers whose work has been selected to screen in the Festival; the day will offer bespoke mentoring and networking opportunities as well as the chance for them to screen their films to their peers. From Thursday 16 February – Sunday 19 February there are four days of public events and workshops to meet ever increasing demand, and offer attendees the chance to experience as much as possible. The Festival is open to everyone aged **16-25**, with ticket prices (from **£10** per day), kept to a minimum so that everyone has a chance to attend.

Each day of the Festival from Thursday 16 February onwards will be kicked off by an inspirational keynote speech from a woman working in the industry. The speakers will be *NINA FOREVER* Producer and WFTV Chair **Cassandra Sigsgaard**, **Grace Ladoja** the Director behind the music video for Skepta's *SHUT DOWN*, producer of *A SYRIAN LOVE STORY* **Elhum Shakerifar** and **May Abdalla** from immersive storytelling collective *Anagram*. These keynote speeches are presented in partnership with *Women in Film and TV* and the *BFI Film Academy* and are designed to provoke and inspire attendees before the day ahead.

Ticket holders will have access to our **'Backstage'** at the Future Film Festival space powered by Blackmagic Design. Speakers, award nominees, industry guests and audiences can come together to discuss and share ideas, network with fellow filmmakers, learn more about filmmaking skills, practice and technology from Blackmagic experts, get online to talk about what they've watched, heard or created over the 4 days and enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee. In addition, BFI NETWORK, which discovers, develops and provides support and funding for exciting film talent across the UK, will be hosting a networking drinks for all filmmakers with a short in the Festival.

BFI Future Film doesn't begin and end with the Festival. Once a month on a Saturday young people can attend a BFI Future Film event at BFI Southbank, and from April 2017 these will be called **Future Film Labs**, which will support young filmmakers aged 16-25 with an afternoon of practical advice and resources to help them make films and develop their careers. At every Future Film Lab there will be a mini masterclass from headline partner Blackmagic Design and the chance to get advice on filmmaking practice and technical workflows, as well as drop-in script surgeries with Euroscript, casting sessions with Young Actors Theatre Management, and crowd funding advice from Live Tree.

– ENDS –

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- **The BFI Future Film Festival takes place between 15-19 February 2017 at BFI Southbank**
- **Buy tickets and check out the full line up at www.bfi.org.uk/futurefilm**
- **BFI Raw Shorts take place on a monthly basis at BFI Southbank and will be known as Future Film Labs from April 2017**
- **More information: www.bfi.org.uk/futurefilm and www.facebook.com/bfifuturefilm**

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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 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 CBE.

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 - www.bfi.org.uk/southbank.

Young people aged 25 and under can buy last minute tickets for just £3, 45 minutes before the start of screenings and events, subject to availability - <http://www.bfi.org.uk/25-and-under>.

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.

About Blackmagic Design

Blackmagic Design creates the world's highest quality video editing products, digital film cameras, color correctors, video converters, video monitoring, routers, live production switchers, disk recorders, waveform monitors and real time film scanners for the feature film, post production and television broadcast industries. Blackmagic Design's DeckLink capture cards launched a revolution in quality and affordability in post production, while the company's Emmy™ award winning DaVinci color correction products have dominated the television and film industry since 1984. Blackmagic Design continues ground breaking innovations including 6G-SDI and 12G-SDI products and stereoscopic 3D and Ultra HD workflows. Founded by world leading post production editors and engineers, Blackmagic Design has offices in the USA, UK, Japan, Singapore and Australia. For more information, please go to www.blackmagicdesign.com.

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***** 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 / 2017 / February / Future Film Festival