

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

EUROPEAN PREMIERE

CLOSES THE 56TH BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL



Embargoed until 9.00am UK time -

London, Thursday 30 August: – The 56th BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express is delighted to announce that this year's Festival will close on Sunday 21 October with the European Premiere of GREAT EXPECTATIONS taking place at the Odeon Leicester Square, directed by acclaimed filmmaker Mike Newell, adapted by David Nicholls and starring Helena Bonham Carter, Ralph Fiennes and Jeremy Irvine as Pip, alongside an outstanding British cast.

Young orphan Pip is given a chance to rise from his humble beginnings thanks to a mysterious benefactor. Moving through London's class-ridden world as a gentleman, Pip uses his new-found position to pursue the beautiful Estella, a spoiled heiress he's loved since childhood. Yet the shocking truth behind this great fortune will have devastating consequences for everything he holds dear.

Starring an award-winning cast, including Helena Bonham Carter, Ralph Fiennes, Jeremy Irvine, Holliday Grainger, Robbie Coltrane, Ewen Bremner, Jason Flemyng, Sally Hawkins, David Walliams and Tamzin Outhwaite, this British tour de force is directed by the BAFTA-winning director of *Four Weddings and A Funeral* and *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, Mike Newell. Written for the big screen by David Nicholls, the acclaimed writer of the global best-seller *One Day*, this adaptation of Dickens' finest novel is produced

by award-winning partners at Number 9 Films, Elizabeth Karlsen and Stephen Woolley (*Made in Dagenham, How to Lose Friends & Alienate People, The Crying Game*). Producers for Unison Films are Emanuel Michael and David Faigenblum, and the film has been financed by BBC Films, the BFI Film Fund, Lipsync Productions, Unison Films and Hart/Lunsford Pictures.

The film will be released by Lionsgate on 30th November 2012 in the UK.

Clare Stewart, BFI Head of Exhibition comments on her first Closing Night choice as Festival Director:

“Visually ravishing and rippling with immediacy, this new adaptation of the classic novel, directed by Mike Newell provides a fitting conclusion to both the 56th BFI London Film Festival and London’s bicentenary celebrations of the life and work of Charles Dickens. David Nicholls’ splendid script has an acute respect for the complexities of Dickens’ original text and gives plenty of scope to the film’s rising stars – Jeremy Irvine (Pip) and Holliday Grainger (Estella) – along with some of the UK’s finest acting talent, including compelling performances from Ralph Fiennes as Magwitch and Helena Bonham Carter as Miss Havisham.”

Director Mike Newell adds:

“It’s a great honour to be invited to be the BFI London Film Festival’s Closing Night film. I’m proud that our new version of *Great Expectations* should be presented this year, the bi-centenary of Dickens’ birth. I’ve tried to make a film that is true to the theatrical vividness, energetic characters and high colour that he is loved for, while mining the deep seams of emotional cruelty and madness that underlie one of Dickens’ darkest-shadowed stories. I’ve tried to make a film for a young modern audience in which Pip and Estella’s fated love affair is shown through feelings and stresses that are of today and in a city that was, then, full of brawling energy, was unimaginably wealthy and very bad.”

Helena Bonham Carter, Ralph Fiennes and Mike Newell are expected to attend the Festival.

The 56th BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express runs from Wednesday 10 October-Sunday 21 October. The full programme for the Festival will be announced at the press launch on Wednesday 5 September at 10 for 10.30am at the Odeon Leicester Square.

The Festival announced its Opening Night film, the European Premiere of Tim Burton’s *FRANKENWEENIE*, last week and also previously announced its Archive Gala, the world Premiere of the new restoration of Alfred Hitchcock’s *THE MANXMAN*, which will conclude the BFI’s ‘The Genius of Hitchcock’ season currently screening at the BFI Southbank.

...ends...

For further press information about the 56th BFI London Film Festival:

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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 London Film Festival

BFI London Film Festival is an iconic international film festival that supports London's position as the world's leading creative city. It presents the best new British and international films to an expanding London and UK-wide audience. It provides career-enabling opportunities for British and international filmmakers through its industry and awards programmes.

Over its new 12 day duration, the Festival will give a concentrated burst of film across more boroughs of London than ever before. The cinema going axis between the major Leicester Square cinemas (Odeon West End, Vue West End, Odeon Leicester Square and Empire) and BFI Southbank is maintained and the Festival's reach is extended into 4 new London cinemas: the Hackney Picturehouse, the Renoir in Bloomsbury, Screen on the Green in Islington, and the Rich Mix in Shoreditch. The Festival continues to screen at the ICA and expands its use of Curzon Mayfair, the Ritzy in Brixton, and Cine Lumiere, Kensington which will all screen films for the full duration of the event.

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Clare Stewart biography

Clare Stewart's sixteen 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).



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About American Express

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company has multi - year partnerships with a range of entertainment institutions including AEG Live, Ticketmaster, Live Nation and the British Film Institute. For more information visit amex.co.uk/potential

About Lionsgate UK

Lionsgate U.K. is the diversified U.K.-based filmed entertainment arm of Lionsgate (NYSE:LGF), the leading independent filmed entertainment studio. The company (formerly Redbus Film Distributors) was acquired by Lionsgate in October 2005 and has since established a reputation in the U.K. as a leading producer and distributor and acquirer of commercially successful and critically acclaimed product, releasing the boxoffice smash hit *The Hunger Games* earlier this year, the critically acclaimed *Coriolanus* and *A Dangerous Method*, and *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*, starring Ewan McGregor and Emily Blunt.

Currently in cinemas in the UK is *Keith Lemon The Film*, Lionsgate UK's first major comedy feature starring Lemon and Kelly Brook, and *The Expendables 2*.

Upcoming releases include *Great Expectations* starring Ralph Fiennes and Helena Bonham Carter, *The Last Stand* starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, *Filth* starring James McAvoy and Jamie Bell, *The Railway Man*, starring Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman, *The Invisible Woman* starring Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas.

Its prestigious and prolific library of nearly 13,000 motion picture titles and television episodes – including *Mad Men*, *Nurse Jackie* and *Weeds* – is a valuable source of recurring revenue and a foundation for the growth of the Company's core businesses – film production and distribution, TV programming, home entertainment, family entertainment and video-on-demand content. The Lionsgate U.K. brand is synonymous with original, daring, quality entertainment in markets around the globe. www.lionsgatefilms.co.uk