

**HRH DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE PRESENTS**  
**EARLIEST FILM OF SHANGHAI ON RECORD TO CHINA:**  
***NANKIN ROAD, SHANGHAI (1901)***

**LONDON–SHANGHAI Embargoed until 1800 Shanghai /1000 GMT 3 March 2015**

Today HRH Duke of Cambridge presented one of the first films of China to survive anywhere in the world, *Nankin Road, Shanghai (1901)* from the BFI National Archive, to Mr Ren Zhonglun, Chairman and President of Shanghai Film Group Co. Ltd. with Mr Miao Xiaotian, President of the China Film Corporation, on behalf of China. The film can was handed to Mr Ren and Mr Miao at the Shanghai premier of British film *Paddington* during the GREAT Festival of Creativity, Shanghai. The BFI's Head Curator Robin Baker is presenting *Nankin Road, Shanghai* - a portrait of what is still Shanghai's busiest shopping street and now known as Nanjing Road - and other rarely seen early films of China from the BFI National Archive during the festival.

The presentations are part of a journey of cultural and industrial exchange between the BFI and China including hugely successful presentations across China in 2013 of the BFI's restorations of Alfred Hitchcock' early silent films and a year-long programme of activity with China in 2014: *Electric Shadows*. A landmark film Co-Production Treaty between China and the UK was announced this morning in Shanghai.

Amanda Nevill, BFI CEO said '*We thank HRH The Duke of Cambridge for presenting this gift to China. This rare, carefully restored archive film from the BFI National Archive shines a light on a moment in China's history - captured on film. It is especially symbolic to present this to Chinese audiences as the UK's cultural handshake with China and affirms our commitment to a long term relationship of collaboration between our nations, forging industrial links and deepening cultural understanding.*'

*Nankin Road, Shanghai* (1901) is one of the earliest films of China to survive anywhere in the world. Preserved by and recently digitised by the BFI National Archive, the film is an extraordinary window into the cosmopolitan heart of Shanghai's International Settlement and a record of the hustle and bustle of city life along Nanjing Road (南京路) 115 years ago. *Nankin Road, Shanghai* is the only film known to survive from a series of about 40 titles made in China by British war correspondent Joe Rosenthal during his coverage of the Boxer Uprising.

The BFI looks after one of the world's oldest, largest and most important collections of films and TV ranging from the birth of cinema in 1895 right up to the present. One of the treasures within the collection are about 100 films that were shot in China from 1900 to 1949 by British and other European filmmakers. Robin Baker will also present a selection of these rare early films during the GREAT Festival and the BFI intends to make these films available across China in the coming years. These include:

- Travelogue shots of Huangpu river, Shanghai, in 1908
- The Bund headquarters of most of the major financial institutions, shot in Shanghai in the mid-1940s
- Amateur footage of war in Shanghai in 1937, captures the onslaught against the city and its residents by the Japanese army and airforce
- Topical Budget newsreels - filmed in Shanghai at the beginning of April 1927, in the days before the Shanghai Massacre of 12 April
- Shanghai's Coney Island - 1929 showing the newly-opened Great World Amusement Park
- Shanghai Street Scenes - 1936, made by the British writer Lady Dorothea Hosie
- Refugees in Shanghai – 1945 shows the humanitarian work undertaken in camps in the Xujiahui district in the SW of the city, in the aftermath of WWII

### **Notes to Editors**

Amanda Nevill, CEO, BFI and Robin Baker, Head Curator, BFI are available for interview upon request.

*Nankin Road, Shanghai* can be downloaded for media broadcast upon request. Please email: [lucy.aronica@bfi.org.uk](mailto:lucy.aronica@bfi.org.uk)

Images are available via [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) under BFI / BFI National Archive / Nankin Road

### **About Nankin Road's director Joseph Rosenthal**

Joseph Rosenthal was born to Jewish parents in Whitechapel in East London, 7 April 1864. He took up trade as a pharmaceutical chemist, and turned to photography in the 1890s. Rosenthal joined Maguire & Baucus in 1896, and after proving himself an adept technician he was promoted to head of staff a year later. After pioneer producer Charles Urban reformed Maguire & Baucus as the Warwick Trading Company in 1898, Rosenthal began to work for him as a cinematographer. He rose to fame as a war correspondent, shooting a series of celebrated films of the Boer War. In 1900 Rosenthal was dispatched to China to cover the Boxer Uprising.

### **About *Nankin Road, Shanghai***

The film was shot in the autumn of 1900, and released in the UK by the Warwick Trading Co. Ltd in 1901. An original 1901 black & white positive print of the film is preserved in the BFI National Archive. The 74ft roll of nitrate film runs to just over a minute.

### **About The BFI's China programme *Electric Shadows***

In 2014 the BFI launched its Electric Shadows programme (the Chinese term for movies: 电影“diànyǐng”) and a year of unprecedented film collaboration with China, both cultural and industrial. The BFI continues to work alongside a range of key strategic partners throughout the year including the British Council, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, UKTI and the government's GREAT Campaign. A selection of films featuring Shanghai can be viewed now on BFI Player at <http://player.bfi.org.uk/collections/china-on-film/shanghai-pearl-of-the-orient/>

The BFI's early films of China have been recently been digitised with National Lottery funding through the Unlocking Film Heritage programme. Unlocking Film Heritage is a

project with the ambition to digitise 10,000 titles from the BFI National Archive and make them available to the public.

– Ends –

**For media enquiries and interview requests please contact**

**SHANGHAI**

**Fiona Cookson, Director of External Affairs, BFI**

[Fiona.cookson@bfi.org.uk](mailto:Fiona.cookson@bfi.org.uk) / [fionacookson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fionacookson@yahoo.co.uk)

Tel +44 7881240998

**LONDON**

**Judy Wells, Head of Press and PR, BFI**

[judy.wells@bfi.org.uk](mailto:judy.wells@bfi.org.uk) Tel: +44 (0)20 7957 8919 / 07984180501

### **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.



### **About The GREAT Festival of Creativity**

The GREAT Festival is being delivered in partnership with private sector organisations including HSBC, BBC Worldwide, Jaguar Land Rover, PWC, IHG, British Airways and De Montfort University. It will run in the Long Museum, Shanghai from 2-4 March 2015.

The GREAT Britain campaign is the Government's most ambitious international marketing campaign ever and showcases the very best of what Britain has to offer in order to encourage the world to visit, study and do business with the UK.

The GREAT Britain campaign has delivered a direct return to the economy of over £1bn since its launch and is now active in 144 countries. Unifying the international growth promotion efforts of UK Trade & Investment, VisitBritain, British Council, FCO and a number of other departments, GREAT aims to deliver significant and long-term increases in trade, tourism, education and inward investment in support of HMG's prosperity and growth agenda.

**Twitter:** @GREATFestivals #GREATFestivals

**For more information on The GREAT Festival of Creativity visit:**

[www.greatfestivalofcreativity.co.uk](http://www.greatfestivalofcreativity.co.uk)

**For more information on the GREAT Britain Campaign visit:** [www.greatbritaincampaign.com](http://www.greatbritaincampaign.com)

**UK Trade and Investment (UKTI)** is the Government Department that helps UK-based companies succeed in the global economy. We also help overseas companies bring their high quality investment to the UK's economy – acknowledged as Europe's best place from which to succeed in global business. UKTI offers expertise and contacts through its extensive network of specialists in the UK, and in British embassies and other diplomatic offices around the world. We provide companies with the tools they require to be competitive on the world stage. For more information on UKTI, visit [www.gov.uk/ukti](http://www.gov.uk/ukti).