



# LUMINOUS

CELEBRATING BRITISH FILM  
PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

in partnership with

IWC  
SCHAFFHAUSEN

**TILDA SWINTON JOINS STARS GATHERED TO CELEBRATE AN EVENING  
OF UK FILM AT BFI LUMINOUS FUNDRAISING GALA**

**£50K IWC SCHAFFHAUSEN FILMMAKER BURSARY AWARD IN  
ASSOCIATION WITH THE BFI AWARDED TO DANIEL KOKOTAJLO,  
WRITER/DIRECTOR OF APOSTASY**

**Over £460k raised for #BACKTHEFUTURE campaign, investing in the  
talent of tomorrow**

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE 23:15 Tuesday 3 October 2017, London:** Tonight, stars from the UK's film and television industries gathered in support of **BFI LUMINOUS**, the biennial fundraising gala presented in partnership with IWC Schaffhausen. LUMINOUS' special guest speaker **Oscar®-winning actor Tilda Swinton** was amongst a host of luminaries including **Tom Hiddleston, Sir Patrick Stewart, Florence Pugh, Hugh Laurie, Tuppence Middleton, Michelle Dockery, David Harewood, Romola Garai, Jeremy Irons, Stephen Fry, Baz Luhrmann, Wes Anderson, Terry Gilliam, Sarah Gavron, Ben Wheatley, Zawe Ashton, Joanne Froggatt, Joan Collins, Lord and Lady Fellowes, Gemma Chan, Katherine Waterston and Jason Watkins**, who came together to celebrate UK film, raise money to ensure young people from all backgrounds can engage with the medium, and champion new talent and emerging filmmaking voices.

The evening culminated in the award of the coveted **IWC Schaffhausen Filmmaker Bursary Award in Association with the BFI** to **Daniel Kokotajlo**, writer/director of **APOSTASY**, one of the UK's most exciting new filmmaking talents. At **£50,000**, it is unique and one of the largest prizes for the arts in the UK, offering talent at the beginning of their career the gift of time, allowing them to grow and develop.

A charity with education at its heart, the BFI is committed to embedding the love of film for the next generation, and tonight the industry congregated to celebrate and raise money to create new opportunities for young people. By bidding on exclusive, bespoke and money-can't-buy lots, guests at LUMINOUS raised **over £460,000** for **BACK THE FUTURE**, the BFI's new year-long campaign raising

vital funds for BFI Education to inspire young people from all backgrounds and from all over the UK to give them the chance to grow and succeed through film.

**LUMINOUS Guest Speaker Tilda Swinton** said: *“The BFI is not about profit motive or wealth creation. It’s about the voices of our next generations, inspired and encouraged and informed by ours and those before us – now over a hundred years’ worth of encouragement – to film the world around them, weave the shapes of their narratives and what they see through their own eyes, standing in their own shoes.*

*The BFI holds both the past and the future in the same gesture of reverence and respect: films getting made by inspired individuals need company, need context, need the embrace of knowing just how many ways there are to screw in a light bulb, skin a cat or prepare for battle. The archive builds the house: our filmmakers – past, present and future – light it up.”*

Daniel Kokotajlo was presented the Bursary by **IWC Schaffhausen CEO Christoph Grainger-Herr**, who selected the winning filmmaker with **Oscar®-winning director Tom Hooper** and **Amanda Nevill, CEO of the BFI**. He was shortlisted alongside **Rungano Nyoni** writer/director of **I AM NOT A WITCH** and **Michael Pearce** writer/director of **BEAST**. The three filmmakers were selected from the UK-based directors or writer/directors with their first or second film in Official Selection at the **BFI London Film Festival in Partnership with American Express®**.

**The Jury for the IWC Schaffhausen Filmmaker Bursary Award in Association with the BFI** commented: *“We were unanimously moved by Daniel’s compelling and extraordinarily powerful debut APOSTASY. We were very impressed with his delicate approach and skill at drawing in the audience and creating a subtle but incredibly affecting piece of work. We were also struck by his process – his commitment to research, lengthy workshopping and collaboration with his performers – something we felt that he would be able to develop with the benefit of this Bursary. We are excited to see where Daniel goes next and how this extremely distinctive and exciting new British filmmaking voice evolves.”*

**Daniel Kokotajlo, writer/director of APOSTASY** comments: *“Thank you for selecting the film; I come from a place where it would be a dream to win such an award and stand here. I know what it feels like to have very little, I know what it feels like when people are not listening, it’s been a difficult journey for me on APOSTASY but once I worked out what I wanted to say then people did start to listen. A big thanks to the BFI and IWC for believing in me and for seeing that I have some talent.”*

The star-studded gala was held in the Gothic splendour of London’s Guildhall, on the eve of the BFI London Film Festival. **Josh Berger, BFI Chair** and President & Managing Director, Warner Bros. Entertainment UK, Ireland and Spain, and **Amanda Nevill** hosted the evening, with **Jonathan Ross** returning as Master of Ceremonies. Guests were also treated to an intimate live performance by Birdy.

LUMINOUS’ charity auction was led by renowned Sotheby’s auctioneer Lord Dalmeny, comprising over 40 extraordinary lots including a personal tour with **Andy Serkis** of his **Imaginarium Studio**, an exclusive book reading by **David Walliams**, a private tour of the BFI National Archive with Martin Scorsese’s **Oscar®-winning editor Thelma Schoonmaker**, a set visit to BBC Drama **A Very English Scandal** starring **Hugh Grant** and a unique and limited edition **IWC Pilot’s Watch Spitfire Chronograph Edition ‘BFI London Film Festival’**. Ahead of the event, the lots were open to bidders all over the world online. The BACK THE FUTURE campaign continues throughout the year; donations can be made at [www.bfi.org.uk/backthefuture](http://www.bfi.org.uk/backthefuture).

**LUMINOUS guest and actor Sir Patrick Stewart, comments:** *“I’m here celebrating movies, the creative side of filmmaking and the contenders for this year’s Bursary. It is a brilliant innovation, it takes the pressure off people who are maybe developing their next project – developing a film is hard and mostly unpaid, so this Bursary is invaluable.”*

**LUMINOUS guest and actor David Harewood, commented:** *“It’s important for young filmmakers to get support. We have such incredible young talent in this country, with support from the BFI tis exciting for this emerging talent to show their work and rub shoulders with such luminaries from the filmmaking world here at LUMINOUS.”*

**BFI Chair, Josh Berger CBE, said:** *“We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our Headline Partner IWC Schaffhausen, without whom LUMINOUS nor the IWC Filmmaker Bursary would be possible. One of the most critical functions of the BFI is to safeguard and expand the future of our industry, and this event helps us achieve that by raising vital funds to nurture and inspire the next generation and to support filmmakers in telling the stories that matter to them.”*

**CEO of the BFI, Amanda Nevill CBE, comments:** *“Once again I am utterly blown away by the incredible support tonight from so many people in our industry who, like us, care passionately about inspiring and educating the next generation about film. We all agree that everyone, no matter where they live, whatever their background, should have the opportunity to learn about and engage with film. We owe a huge debt of thanks to all our guests and online bidders for helping us #BacktheFuture, and are equally grateful to our wonderful partners at IWC Schaffhausen for their ongoing partnership and our second Filmmaker Bursary Award. Choosing a winner was a virtually impossible task but Daniel Kokotajlo is an extraordinary new creative talent with a sensitive approach to filmmaking that shows a maturity beyond his years.”*

**CEO of IWC Schaffhausen Christoph Grainger-Herr comments:** *“With his debut **APOSTASY** Daniel Kokotajlo has created an immensely powerful, yet restrained and strikingly thought-provoking film. Apostasy portrays the philosophical struggle between religious and social norms on the one hand and the reality of modern life on the other. Through his work Daniel raises important questions at the heart of our society. We are proud to present the IWC Filmmaker Bursary Award in Association with the BFI to a winner who adds such originality and truth to his storytelling.”*

**-ENDS-**

**For media enquiries about BFI LUMINOUS please contact**

**Judy Wells, Head of Press and PR** [judy.wells@bfi.org.uk](mailto:judy.wells@bfi.org.uk) / 020 7957 8919

**Colette Geraghty, PR Advisor, Industry & Corporate** [colette.geraghty@bfi.org.uk](mailto:colette.geraghty@bfi.org.uk) 020 7173 3256 / 07957 864 362

**Elizabeth Dunk, Press Office Assistant** [elizabeth.dunk@bfi.org.uk](mailto:elizabeth.dunk@bfi.org.uk) 020 7957 8986 / 079 0133 1811

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**\*\*\* PICTURE DESK \*\*\***

A selection of images for journalistic use from the BFI LUMINOUS Gala can be accessed at:  
<http://dda-ftp.com/index.php/s/bATxIid4XeksE8Q>

**IWC Schaffhausen Filmmaker Bursary Award in Association with the BFI**

At £50,000, the Bursary is the most significant of its kind in the UK film industry, supporting exceptional new and emerging UK filmmakers. To be eligible for the Bursary a writer and/or director

must be UK-based and have their first or second film in Official Selection at the BFI London Film Festival in Partnership with American Express®.

The 2017 shortlist was selected by a panel of senior industry figures: Rose Garnett, Director of BBC Films, Sam Lavender, Deputy of Creative at Film4, Ben Roberts, Director of the BFI Film Fund, Clare Stewart, Director of the BFI London Film Festival, and Gaylene Gould, BFI Southbank's Head of Cinemas and Events.

A jury of Oscar®-winning director Tom Hooper, Amanda Nevill, CEO of the BFI and Christoph Grainger-Herr, CEO of IWC Schaffhausen, selected the winner.

**Winner of the 2017 IWC Schaffhausen Filmmaker Bursary Award in Association with the BFI is Daniel Kokotajlo**, writer/director of **APOSTASY** which will screen in LFF's First Feature Competition strand (UK Premiere) on Sunday 8 October at 6pm. Also screening on Tuesday 10 October at 3.15pm and Saturday 14 October at 12.45pm.

### **Daniel Kokotajlo**

Daniel Kokotajlo is a self-taught film director and writer. Born and raised by a Ukrainian-Italian family in Manchester, UK. His debut feature film, *APOSTASY*, is inspired by his own experiences growing up as a Jehovah's Witness in the north of England while attending art college. He learnt how to use a camera working as a cameraman at his local greyhound stadium. He is a recent alumnus of the Biennale Cinema College, EIFF Talent Lab, and Creative England's Talent Centre. He was selected as a Star of Tomorrow by Screen International in 2015.

### **APOSTASY**

*Dir-Scr Daniel Kokotajlo / Prod Marcie MacLellan, Andrea Cornwell / Starring Siobhan Finneran, Sacha Parkinson, Molly Wright*

*Written and directed by a former Jehovah's Witness, this gripping debut depicts a family struggling with a cruel choice: devotion to one another or to their faith.*

When you're a family raised in The Truth what comes first – devotion to the faith or to one another? 18 year-old Alex, her elder sister Luisa and their mother Ivanna live as part of a close-knit community of Jehovah's Witnesses in Manchester. Their contact with non-believers is largely limited to proselytising – Alex and Luisa spread the word amongst the local Pakistani community and their mother juggles missionary duties in the local town centre with an office job. But after mixing with her 'worldly' college friends, Luisa is found guilty of fornication by the church elders. Following her expulsion, Luisa's mother and sister are forced to ostracise her completely or be shunned themselves. Written and directed by a former Jehovah's Witness with a background in fine arts, *Apostasy* employs a precise visual style to evoke the quiet, internal world of religious believers who find themselves in, but not part of, our world.

### **FULL LIST OF LUMINOUS GALA CHAMPIONS 2017**

**John Boyega**  
**Sir Michael Caine**  
**Terence Davies**  
**Idris Elba**  
**Julian Fellowes**  
**Ralph Fiennes**  
**Colin Firth**  
**Romola Garai**  
**Terry Gilliam**

**Hugh Grant**  
**Paul Greengrass**  
**Tom Hiddleston**  
**Francis Lee**  
**Damian Lewis**  
**Gugu Mbatha-Raw**  
**Helen McCrory**  
**Steve McQueen**  
**Tuppence Middleton**

**Sienna Miller**  
**Peter Morgan**  
**David Morrissey**  
**David Oyelowo**  
**Rosamund Pike**  
**Florence Pugh**  
**Nicolas Roeg**

**Michael Sheen**  
**Thelma Schoonmaker**  
**Andy Serkis**  
**Jeremy Thomas**  
**David Walliams**  
**Ben Wheatley**  
**Edgar Wright**

### **LUMINOUS SPONSORS, PARTNERS AND CONTRIBUTORS**

All at the BFI express their sincere thanks to the many sponsors, partners, auction contributors and individuals who have helped make LUMINOUS possible: IWC for their vital support of the IWC Schaffhausen Filmmaker Bursary Award in association with the BFI and as headline sponsor of LUMINOUS, Auction partner Sotheby's and Media partner Vanity Fair. We are very grateful to Corniche Media, Elicap, RBC Wealth Management and Warner Bros. – our corporate table partners, and our Official Hospitality Partners: Fever-Tree, Gran Clos, Nyetimber, Pink Pepper Gin, Warner Music, as well as all our wonderful auction contributors.

### **LUMINOUS Committee:**

**Chair: Jonathan Ross**  
**Sofia Barattieri-Weinstein**  
**Tamara Beckwith**  
**Felicia Brocklebank**  
**Caroline Clarry**  
**Hani Farsi**  
**Amy Gardner**  
**Pia Getty**  
**Christoph Grainger-Herr**  
**Lisa Gregg**  
**Kathryn Greig**  
**Diane Kordas**

**Lynn Lewis**  
**Isabella Macpherson**  
**Cavan Mahony Linde**  
**Caroline Michel**  
**Ian Mill**  
**Geoffrey Moore**  
**Iliane Ogilvie Thompson**  
**Katrina Pavlos**  
**Joyce Reuben**  
**Anastasia Reznikovich**  
**Joana Schliemann**  
**Des Violaris**

### **BFI LUMINOUS**

The BFI's biennial fundraising gala, LUMINOUS in partnership with IWC Schaffhausen, is raising vital funds to support the BFI's work to inspire and nurture film's next generation. The BFI delivers specialist education and skills development programmes which work to discover and develop the filmmakers and film audiences of tomorrow and enable access to the very best opportunities, expertise, training and advice. At the heart of all the BFI's work is the BFI National Archive, one of the world's richest film and television collections and a unique and incredibly valued learning resource.

### **BACK THE FUTURE**

A year-long fundraising campaign, BACK THE FUTURE, aims to raise £1 million to ensure film's next generation is inspired and given opportunities to grow and succeed. The BFI drives the future of film in the UK and its role is to look forward and shape the film culture of tomorrow by investing in the passion of young people today. Everyone, everywhere, deserves the opportunity to enjoy, learn from, and take their place in film, in whatever way they choose. Delivering BFI Education is a serious commitment, our programmes require skilled leadership, specialist facilities and tailored programmes. As a charity, the BFI relies on its supporters to deliver this meaningful work, and ensuring young people across the UK have the BFI behind them, and know that for them, and for anyone, anything is possible.

### **The BFI London Film Festival**

BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express® is Britain's leading film event and one of the world's best film festivals. It introduces the finest new British and international films to an expanding London and UK-wide audience and attracts significant international film industry participation. LFF is a compelling

combination of diverse films, red carpet glamour, friendly audiences and vibrant exchange. LFF provides an essential profiling opportunity for films seeking global success; promotes the careers of British and international filmmakers through its industry and awards programmes and positions London as the world's leading creative city.

### **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.

### **IWC SCHAFFHAUSEN**

With a clear focus on technology and development, the Swiss watch manufacturer IWC Schaffhausen has been producing timepieces of lasting value since 1868. The company has gained an international reputation based on a passion for innovative solutions and technical ingenuity. One of the world's leading brands in the luxury watch segment, IWC crafts masterpieces of haute horlogerie at their finest, combining supreme precision with exclusive design. As an ecologically and socially responsible company, IWC is committed to sustainable production, supports institutions around the globe in their work with children and young people, and maintains partnerships with organizations dedicated to climate and environmental protection.