

January 2012 at BFI Southbank



Dickens on Screen, Woody Allen & the first London Comedy Film Festival

Major Seasons:

- Dickens on Screen**
Charles Dickens (1812-1870) is undoubtedly the greatest-ever English novelist, and as a key contribution to the worldwide celebrations of his 200th birthday – co-ordinated by Film London and The Charles Dickens Museum in partnership with the BFI – BFI Southbank will launch this comprehensive three-month survey of his works adapted for film and television
- Wise Cracks: The Comedies of Woody Allen**
 Woody Allen has also made his fair share of serious films, but since this month sees BFI Southbank celebrate the highlights of his peerless career as a writer-director of comedy films; with the inclusion of both **Zelig** (1983) and the **Oscar-winning Hannah and Her Sisters** (1986) on **Extended Run 30 December - 19 January**
- Extended Run: L'Atalante** (Dir, Jean Vigo, 1934) **20 January – 29 February**
 Funny, heart-rending, erotic, suspenseful, exhilaratingly inventive... Jean Vigo's only full-length feature satisfies on so many levels, it's no surprise it's widely regarded as one of the greatest films ever made

Featured Events

Highlights from our events calendar include:

- LoGo presents: The London Comedy Film Festival 26 – 29 January**
LoGo joins forces with **BFI Southbank** to present the first **London Comedy Film Festival**, with features previews, classics, masterclasses and special guests in celebration of the genre
- Plus previews of some of the best titles from the **BFI London Film Festival: Steve McQueen's Shame**, which will screen before a Q&A with the award-winning director, **Roman Polanski's Carnage**, **Alexander Payne's** dark comedy **The Descendants**, **Martha Marcy May Marlene**, starring **Elizabeth Olsen**, and **Ralph Fiennes** directorial debut of the Shakespeare epic **Coriolanus** (all made in 2011)

- Following its acclaimed premiere as the **London Film Festival Archive Gala** in 2011, **The First Born** (1928) will screen with a live score from **Stephen Horne**
- Legendary British director **Bryan Forbes** (*The L-Shaped Room*, *The Stepford Wives*) will be the recipient of a **BFI Fellowship Award**. The occasion will be marked by a screening of his directorial debut **Whistle Down the Wind** (1961) and an interview with Forbes himself
- The **Future Film Festival** returns for its ninth year, offering budding filmmakers the opportunity for their own work to be screened and to learn from leaders in the world of film
- The award-winning spoof science show **Look Around You** celebrates its 10th Anniversary with a special screening + Q&A with **Robert Popper** and **Peter Serafinowicz**, who will invite the audience to 'write that down in your copy books now'
- Film **Funday** will team up with **LoCo** for a Kings of Silent Comedy special, with a **Buster Keaton** and **Charlie Chaplin** double bill, followed by a School of Slapstick workshop

Featured seasons at BFI Southbank:

Dickens on Screen: Part One

Charles Dickens (1812-1870) is undoubtedly the greatest-ever English novelist. He is the most adapted novelist of all time, and every decade since the invention of cinema a new generation has interpreted his work for the screen. Dickens never lived to see the advent of cinema but some critics and filmmakers – notably DW Griffith and Sergei Eisenstein – have suggested that the brilliance of Dickens' descriptive abilities and his innovations in narrative in some sense 'invented' the language of film. As worldwide celebrations of the 200th anniversary of Dickens' birth commence, BFI Southbank will host the largest retrospective of his work on film and television ever staged. From rarely seen silent work, such as **David Copperfield** (1913) and **George Cukor's** version starring **WC Fields** in 1935, to the first sound adaptation from the US with **Great Expectations** (1930), alongside the classic UK *Great Expectations* (1946) by **David Lean**. **Jack Conway's** *A Tale of Two Cities* (1935), starring **Ronald Colman**, will feature alongside British adaptations of the same story such as the 1958 version starring **Dirk Bogarde**. And the 'Ealing noir' take on *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby* (1946), by **Alberto Cavalcanti**, will receive a rare screening. On 28th January there will be a day of **Adapting Dickens: A Television History**, making way for further well-loved adaptations for the smaller screen. This amazing season will continue throughout February and March.

DICKENS 2012

www.dickens2012.org

Wise Cracks: The Comedies of Woody Allen

BFI Southbank launches the New Year with an offering of thrills and laughter from **Woody Allen**, a most prolific filmmaker whose career as a director has spanned just over six decades and 40 feature films. A celebration of his classic comedies will screen throughout January, including **Extended Runs** of both **Zelig** (1983) and the multi-Oscar-winning **Hannah and Her Sisters** (1986). His career began by writing jokes in a local newspaper before progressing to stand-up comedy, then to writing for television and eventually screenwriting and appearing in films, until it was clear, to him, that he needed to direct films himself. The season starts with **Bananas** (1971) and the sci-fi **Sleeper** (1973), through the period pieces **Love and Death** (1975) and **A Midsummer Nights Sex Comedy** (1982), to more recent titles such as **Bullets Over Broadway** (1994), **Celebrity** (1998) and **Vicky Cristina Barcelona** (2008), plus the Allen classics **Annie Hall** (1977) and **Manhattan** (1979). The season concludes with a screenings of his most recent offering **Midnight in Paris** (2011), his biggest box office success yet.

INDEPENDENT

LoCo presents: The London Comedy Film Festival 26 – 29 January

Many of the world's most loved, most successful and most influential films are comedies, yet the genre is often overlooked at awards ceremonies - only four comedies have ever won the Academy Award for Best Picture. **LoCo** launched in 2010 to celebrate the craft of comedy and to

help build the careers of British comedy filmmakers. At the end of January LoCo joins forces with **BFI Southbank** to present the first **London Comedy Film Festival** with the **World Premiere** of **The Day Off**, the lost film starring **Tony Hancock** and written by **Ray Galton** and **Alan Simpson** who will appear in conversation, plus previews of **The Fairy** (*La Fée*, 2011) and **The Muppets** (2011) and the first **LoCo Hero** will be **Edgar Wright**, presenting a screening of **Shaun of the Dead**, with special guests...



- End -

Previews and events at BFI Southbank:

Preview: Shame + Steve McQueen in Conversation

UK 2011 Dir Steve McQueen With Michael Fassbender, Carey Mulligan 99min. Digital. Courtesy of Momentum Pictures

Brandon is in his thirties, living and working in New York. He's single, smart and attractive. He also has a compulsive sexual need that sees him caught up in a repetitive cycle of pick-ups, prostitutes and online encounters. Whether he's managing his sex life or it's managing him is open to question, but his world seems self-contained and ordered. However, when his wayward younger sister Sissy arrives at his apartment, Brandon's control starts to slip...

Tickets £13.75, concs £10.25 (Members pay £1.50 less) Wed 11 Jan 20:20 NFT1

Preview: Carnage

France-Germany-Spain-Poland 2011. Dir Roman Polanski. With Jodie Foster, Kate Winslet, Christoph Waltz, John C Reilly. 79min. Digital. 15 Courtesy of STUDIOCANAL

Polanski turns his attention to the satirical skewering of the hypocrisies of the middle classes with this crisp adaptation of playwright Yasmina Reza's *The God of Carnage*. Following a fight between their children, two New York couples come together to discuss the unfortunate event. As coffee and cobbler give way to hard liquor, surface niceties start to slip, the couples get to sniping, then to arguing and worse, and soon the fractures in their own relationships begin to show.

Wed 25 Jan 20:50 NFT1

Preview: Martha Marcy May Marlene

USA 2011 Dir Sean Durkin With Elizabeth Olsen, Hugh Dancy 101min Digital 15 Courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox First seen living in an isolated but seemingly idyllic commune in the Catskills, it's not long before Martha flees this extended family of sorts and takes refuge with her sister, their first contact in over two years. But, as days pass, Martha is troubled by recurring visions of the coercive nature of the commune and its charismatic but ruthless leader, and her paranoia and mental disarray makes her behaviour erratic, undermining her ability to re-enter 'normal' life. Blurred boundaries between past, present, memories and dreams leave Martha, and us, unsure as to what is real and what imagined.

Sat 28 Jan 20:45 NFT1

Preview: The Descendants

USA 2011. Dir Alexander Payne. With George Clooney, Shailene Woodley, Beau Bridges. 117min Digital 15 Courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox

Matt King looks like a man leading a charmed life. Living on Hawaii's Big Island, he has a law practice, a wife and family, and is the trustee of a large family plot of beautiful and valuable land. But when his thrill-seeking wife Elizabeth suffers a boating accident off Waikiki, he's faced with a massive wake-up call. Payne is a master of acutely-observed contradictions of life and emotion, finding biting humour in the irony of circumstance and human shortcomings.

Wed 18 Jan 20:40 NFT1

Preview: Coriolanus

UK 2011. Dir Ralph Fiennes. With Ralph Fiennes, Vanessa Redgrave. 122min. Digital. 15. Courtesy of Lionsgate UK
An impressive, muscular version of Shakespeare's sometimes overlooked play about power and political pragmatism. The setting – 'a place calling itself Rome' – is a recognisably modern Balkan warzone, and writer John Logan skilfully adapts the Bard's words for more contemporary phrasing. Fiennes takes the role of Coriolanus, the war hero turned politician whose abrasive and autocratic personality does not endear him to the masses. Striking a fine balance between action and political intrigue, *Coriolanus* is a clever contemporary adaptation, and a most accomplished debut.

Tue 17 Jan 18:15 NFT1

TV Preview: Line of Duty (Episode 1) + Q&A discussion with Jed Mercurio and cast members

BBC Two-World Productions 2011. Dir David Caffrey. With Lennie James, Vicky McClure, Gina McKee. 60min
From the writer of *Bodies*, Jed Mercurio, comes a thriller which takes a probing look at modern policing. Following a fatal shooting incident, Det Sgt Steve Arnott is transferred to a fictional anti-corruption unit. Alongside Det Con Kate Fletcher, he leads an investigation into alleged corruption by DCI Tony Gates. But Arnott is forced to question whether Gates is being made a scapegoat for a culture of institutionalised spin or is guilty of darker corruption.

Thu 5 Jan 20:15 NFT1

Projecting the Archive: The Green Cockatoo

UK 1937. Dir William Cameron Menzies (plus, uncredited, William K. Howard & Thornton Freeland). With John Mills, René Ray, Charles Oliver, Bruce Seton, Robert Newton. 65min. PG

A dynamic double-bill of oft-cited but rarely screened 1930s British crime B-pictures. From an original scenario by Graham Greene, *The Green Cockatoo* was recently heralded by *The Guardian's* Andrew Pulver as 'early British film noir'. It's a neat crime thriller about a girl who witnesses a murder, becomes a suspect herself, and gets mixed up with a sleazy Soho gangster (Mills). Compact, curious and fascinating, in its brief running time it touches upon many themes that would become noir staples.

+ The Ghost Camera

UK 1933. Dir Bernard Vorhaus. With Ida Lupino, Henry Kendall, John Mills. 68min. U

The Ghost Camera is an exciting, visually-striking collaboration between director Vorhaus and editor David Lean, overcoming the limitations of a tiny budget to produce a thoroughly entertaining murder mystery about a stolen diamond that's fast-moving and funny, with a fine performance from the splendidly dry, oh-so-British Henry Kendall.

Mon 9 Jan 18:00 NFT1 Introduction by Andrew Pulver, Film Editor of The Guardian

The Queen's Guards

UK 1961. Dir Michael Powell. With Daniel Massey, Raymond Massey, Robert Stephens, Ursula Jeans. 110min. U

This military tale, very rarely screened, is a smart about-turn from the provocation of *Peeping Tom*. In flashbacks from a Trooping the Colour ceremony, a familial drama is enacted as the younger son (Massey junior) tries to live up to the memory of his dead brother as tirelessly recalled by his father (Massey senior). Shot partially on NATO exercises in Libya, the film has the faintest echoes of *The Four Feathers*, and forms a strangely out-of-time coda to Powell's sequence of soldier yarns.

Mon 23 Jan 18:20 NFT1 Introduction by Ian Christie

Capital Tales: Wonderful London

UK 1924. Dir Harry Parkinson & Frank Miller. c75min. With live piano accompaniment

In two series and over 20 films the directors of *Wonderful London* captured some of the most evocative images of the capital in the mid-1920s. These simple travelogues contrasted different aspects of city life – East End and West End, poor and rich, natives and immigrants – and like a *Rough Guide to London* of 1924, they show some unknown nooks and crannies, the peculiarities of Londoners and things you can do in the capital for free. Cheaply produced, but told with wit and flair, the films offer a potent time capsule of a lost London. Six films from the series have been restored at the BFI National Archive, bringing back their original tints and tones.

Thu 5 Jan 18:20 NFT1 Introduced by curator Bryony Dixon

UnLOCKed: The Queen and the Welshman + Intro by Rosemary Anne Sisson

Theatre 625. BBC 1966. Dir Basil Coleman. With Dorothy Tutin, Derek Godfrey, Jeremy Brett. 90min

The Queen and the Welshman (first performed on stage in 1957 with a cast including Frank Finlay and Edward Woodward) tells the story of the romance between Queen Katherine (widow of Henry V) and Owen Tudor. It had already been adapted for radio before this *Theatre 625* version. Later, the play's author

Rosemary Anne Sisson became a prolific TV writer on both sides of the Atlantic, and was a major contributor to the classic ITV series *Upstairs Downstairs*.

Tue 24 Jan 18:10 NFT3 *We are delighted that this screening will be introduced by Ms Sisson*

Seniors' Free Matinee: Moon Over the Alley With introduction and discussion.

UK 1975. Dir Joseph Despins. 108min. Blu-ray. 15

A musical set in London to the melodies of Galt (*Hair*) MacDermot. Originally backed by BFI Production, its ensemble storytelling and blend of the tragic and the absurd in London's post-60s Notting Hill forms a unique slice of British underground filmmaking. Location shooting and a multicultural cast of actors and non-professionals contribute to a compelling portrait of a community in transition.

Mon 9 Jan 14:00 NFT1 *This screening is free for over-60s; otherwise tickets are available at normal matinee prices*

The Flipside: The Body Beneath

USA 1970. Dir Andy Milligan. With Gavin Reed, Jackie Skarvellis, Berwick Kaler. 76min

Breaking from relentless work on the NYC grindhouse circuit, gay trash-meister Andy Milligan flew to England in the late 60s to direct this brilliantly rough-and-ready, gory, camp romp about an ancient vampire who lives next to Highgate Cemetery. Desperate to reassert his bloodline, the stately, charismatic ghoul – who dresses as a Reverend – must find a young descendant, supply them with fresh blood and stage a wild, sabbat-like feast for vampire friends from around the world. Originally shot in and around the cemetery on scraps of 16mm stock, through a greased lens, then later blown up for 35mm release, the film boasts a bizarre colour drenched look which only enhances its peculiar dreamlike imagery.

+ 24 Hours: Highgate Vampire BBC 1970. 9min

Atmospherically shot in the dilapidated cemetery around the same time as the Milligan feature, this eerie, unsettling television news item reports on the infamous Highgate Vampire – and those who sought to lay it to rest.

Thu 26 Jan 20:45 NFT1 *Introduction by Archive curators William Fowler and Vic Pratt*

PASSPORT TO CINEMA:

Syndromes and a Century

Sang sattawat Thailand 2006. Dir Apichatpong Weerasethakul. 105min. EST. 15

Inspired by the experiences of the director's parents, who both worked as doctors in Thailand, *Syndromes and a Century* is set in two hospitals – one rural, one urban – at different points in time. Apichatpong has described it as 'a film about heart. It's not necessarily about love, it's more about memory. It's about feelings that have been forever etched in the heart'. Informed by a coherence that is poetic rather than logical, this is a unique, visionary film by one of this century's cinematic masters.

Sun 22 Jan 20:40 NFT2, Mon 23 Jan 18:10 NFT2*, Tue 24 Jan 20:30 NFT3 **Introduced by Jonathan Romney*
2001: A Space Odyssey

USA 1968. Dir Stanley Kubrick. With Keir Dullea, Gary Lockwood, William Sylvester. 141min. 70mm. U

One of cinema's undisputed landmarks, Kubrick's epic meditation on science, technology and the nature of humanity was like nothing that had gone before, and paved the way for much that has happened since. Symphonic in structure, and visualised on a grand scale, *2001* rewrote cinematic language, presenting its audiences with an enigmatic vision of man's past and future. The year 2001 has passed but Kubrick's *2001* remains timeless.

Sat 21 Jan 20:20 NFT1, Sun 29 Jan 20:15 NFT1, Mon 30 Jan 18:10 NFT1* **Introduced by Richard Combs*



African Odysseys: Delwende

Switzerland-France-Burkina Faso 2005. Dir S Pierre Yaméogo. With Blandine Yaméogo, Claire Ilboudo. 90min. EST

The people of the village of Saana attribute the unexplained deaths of village children to the curse of a 'soul eater', a woman with occult and malignant powers.

+ The Witches of Gambaga

UK-Ghana 2010. Dir Yaba Badoe. 55min

An extraordinary story of a community of women banished for witchcraft in Northern Ghana.

Introduced by director Yaba Badoe and followed by discussion Tickets £5

Sat 21 Jan 14:00 NFT2

ESSENTIAL EXPERIEMENTS:

The Exterminating Angel

El Angel Exterminador Mexico 1962. Dir Luis Buñuel. With Silvia Pinal, Enrique Rambal. 93min. EST. 12A
Buñuel's ferocious satire sees a group of high society guests at a dinner party become inexplicably trapped within their lavish mansion, gradually becoming prey to hysteria and barbarism as their mysterious plight intensifies. Made in the wake of the scandalous reception for *Viridiana* (1961), Buñuel reprises his earlier experimentalism, embracing non-linear repetitions, inconsistencies and contradictions to undermine the narrative coherence of bourgeois civilisation.

Mon 16 Jan 18:10 NFT3 *Introduced by scholar and art critic Filipa Ramos*

Wavelength

Canada 1967. Dir Michael Snow. 45min

One of the most intense experiences that modern cinema has to offer, *Wavelength* is a structuralist masterpiece that revolutionised the international avant-garde. Canadian artist Michael Snow described the work as 'a summation of my nervous system, religious inklings and aesthetic ideas', and this minimalist 45-minute zoom across an apparently empty loft space, accompanied by a rising sine wave, is haunted by a rich array of possible meanings.

Tue 31 Jan 18:10 NFT3 *With an extended introduction*



Raban / Dickens: The Houseless Shadow

UK 2011. Dir William Raban. 21min. Digital

+ Thames Film

UK 1986. Dir William Raban. 66min

Having recently entrusted a significant number of his works to the BFI National Archive, film artist and experimental documentarian William Raban presents his latest production: a powerful and involving portrait of contemporary, nocturnal London. Reading from the haunting *Night Walks* text penned by an insomniac Charles Dickens, and shooting on the street in the early hours, Raban collides the past with the present and reflects on the relationships between architecture, imperial power and the less tangible forces of capitalism. Raban's first film to be shot on HD, *The Houseless Shadow* has an unusual, distinctly uncanny quality. Plus Raban's celebrated *Thames Film* which deftly juxtaposes 18th-century travel writing, read by John Hurt, with archival prints, paintings and images shot from the vantage point of a low-level boat, as it travels down the history-infused river.

Tue 31 Jan 20:30 NFT3 *We look forward to welcoming William Raban for a Q&A*



OUT AT THE PICTURES:

Higher Learning

USA 1995. Dir John Singleton. With Kristy Swanson, Jennifer Connolly, Omar Epps. 128min. 15

Focusing on a diverse group of students whose paths intersect with tragic results, Singleton's realistic, multi-layered film vividly portrays the trepidation and excitement of college life. Party girl Kristy finds her life and sexuality thrown into question after falling victim to a sexual assault whilst drunk at a frat party. Fleeing her popular friends and turning to the women's group on campus for support, she meets the beautiful Taryn who awakens in her feelings she initially tries to fight. As the two women explore their growing friendship, the class and racial tensions amongst the students reach fever pitch...

Tue 3 Jan 18:10 NFT2, Sat 7 Jan 20:30 NFT3

Wild Combination: A Portrait of Arthur Russell

USA 2008 Dir Matt Wolf. 70min

This beautiful documentary celebrates the life and work of avant-garde musician Arthur Russell. A prolific creator of experimental music, he has only in recent years been rediscovered since his death from Aids in 1992. His collaborations with Allen Ginsberg and Philip Glass, and a love of music which combined serial patterns with dance rhythms, reflect the extraordinary cultural explosion of 1970s New York. An absorbing portrait of a troubled talent.

Thu 19 Jan 20:40 NFT2, Sun 22 Jan 18:30 NFT2

BFI FELLOWSHIP: Award to Bryan Forbes + Whistle Down the Wind

UK 1961. Dir Bryan Forbes. With Bernard Lee, Alan Bates, Norman Bird, Hayley Mills. 99min. PG. New print

Bryan Forbes' directorial debut is one of his best-loved films: a wonderfully evocative portrait of the innocence of childhood seen through the eyes of three Yorkshire children. An escaped and injured man (Alan Bates in a breakthrough role) is discovered hiding in their barn. The children believe that the man is the reincarnation of Jesus Christ, and events take on a strange and compelling momentum. Legendary

director Bryan Forbes will receive the BFI's highest honour in a post-screening interview as part of this Fellowship evening. Forbes has excelled as a director, but has also created memorable roles as an actor, been acclaimed for his screenplays and worked as a producer on some key British films. Among his most enduring works as director are *The L-Shaped Room* (1962) *Séance on a Wet Afternoon* (1964), *King Rat* (1965) and *The Stepford Wives* (1975).

Tue 24 Jan 18:20 NFT1

Look Around You: 10th Anniversary Screening + Q&A with Robert Popper and Peter Serafinowicz

It's ten years since Robert Popper and Peter Serafinowicz's award-winning spoof science shows – *Look Around You* – hit BBC2. Described by *Simpsons* creator Matt Groening as 'one of the funniest shows I've ever seen', *Look Around You* was like nothing you'd ever seen before – or since. With its odd mix of pseudo experiments (ants building an igloo; ghosts working with powdered calcium), nonsense words and trippy, radiophonic-style music composed by Robert and Peter, the show gained a massive cult following in the UK and US alike. Robert, Peter and director Tim Kirkby will be screening all eight of the ten-minute films back-to-back, and will be taking to the stage for a Q&A. Robert and Peter will also be premiering their new short film made especially for the event.

Thu 12 Jan 20:30 NFT1

The First Born with live Stephen Horne score

UK 1928. Dir Miles Mander. With Miles Mander, Madeleine Carroll, John Loder, Margot Armand. 88min

Following its acclaimed premiere as the London Film Festival Archive Gala in 2011, we are delighted to present this major new BFI National Archive restoration with a live performance of the specially commissioned Stephen Horne score. The debut feature of the multi-talented and colourful Mander (sometime playwright, politician, aviator and sheep farmer!), *The First Born* is an adult tale of romance, jealousy, miscegenation and class. Remarkable in both its construction and style, there are moments clearly reminiscent of early Hitchcock, an influence in part explained by Mander's choice of co-writer, Alma Reville – Hitchcock's wife and closest collaborator.

Wed 25 Jan 18:30 NFT1 Stephen Horne will be joined on stage by Janey Miller and Martin Pyne

THE DISNEY 50:

Treasure Planet

USA 2002. Dir John Musker & Ron Clements. With voices of Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Emma Thompson 95min U

Space is the setting for this take on *Treasure Island*, as we follow the adventures of Jim Hawkins, who joins the crew of a space 'ship' and befriends a cyborg named John Silver on a quest to find Treasure Planet. Their journey across space includes mutiny, a battle with a supernova, a black hole and an encounter with a forgetful robot named B.E.N.

+ **Toy Tinkers** (1949, 8min)

Mon 2 Jan 15:30 NFT2, Sat 7 Jan 13:30 NFT2

Brother Bear

USA 2003. Dir Aaron Blaise & Robert Walker. With voices of Joaquin Phoenix, Jeremy Suarez, Rick Moranis 85min U

As punishment for killing a bear, young hunter Kenai is magically transformed into a bear himself, and forced to experience at first hand the realities of living as an animal in the wild. He discovers how he can reverse the spell but needs help from his young travelling companion, a cub named Koda. Many dangers face them on their journey but, Kenai learns many lessons about how to become a better person.

+ **Donald's Vacation** (1940, 8min).

Sat 14 Jan 14:00 NFT1, Sun 22 Jan 16:10 NFT2

Home on the Range

USA 2004. Dir Will Finn & John Sanford. With voices of Judi Dench, Cuba Gooding Jr, Steve Buscemi. 76min. U

A trio of dairy cows take on a notorious cattle rustler so that the bounty for his capture can be used to save Patch of Heaven farm, their home for many years. Despite a mixed critical response, *Home on the Range* struggled at the box office and 2D animation at Disney was effectively shelved for five years until John Lasseter's arrival and the release of *The Princess and the Frog*.

+ **Farmyard Symphony** (1933, 8min).

Sat 21 Jan 13:50 NFT3, Sun 29 Jan 16:10 NFT2

Chicken Little

USA 2005. Dir Mark Dindal. With voices of Zach Braff, Joan Cusack, Wallace Shawn. 81min. U

Chicken Little has a reputation for causing panic after an acorn lands on his head and he fears the sky is collapsing. When a real piece of sky lands, he stumbles across an alien plan to invade the town, but with

his past history, will anyone be prepared to believe him? Film number 46 in the Disney 50 saw a return to profit for the Studio's animation division.

+ **The Ugly Duckling** (1939, 9min)

Sun 15 Jan 16:00 NFT2, Sat 28 Jan 13:30 NFT1

Film Funday & LoCo present: Kings of Silent Comedy:

Sherlock Jr

USA 1924. Dir Buster Keaton. 45min. U. With live piano accompaniment

Our hero dreams of being a great detective. Wrongly accused of stealing his potential father-in-law's watch, he dreams about solving the crime. One of the all-time great comedy films.

+ **The Champion**

USA 1915. Dir Charlie Chaplin. 33min. U. With live piano accompaniment

Charlie stumbles upon the corrupt world of boxing and plenty of slapstick fun ensues.

Sun 29 Jan 13:30 NFT1

Funday Workshop / LoCo's School of Slapstick FREE

Come along and immerse yourself in the world of silent comedy. Dress up and learn to walk like Charlie Chaplin. Make your own black and white storyboard telling us what sort of crazy slapstick adventures your silent movie stars would go on. Experiment with some ancient filmmaking equipment and have your photograph taken as a glamorous movie star. With the usual competitions and prizes at stake, this special workshop by LoCo is a must. We'll teach you all the cheeky tricks of the trade, then you can choose your own comedy costume and work with our cameraman to film your own funny scenes. Custard pies not included.

Sun 29 Jan 11:30 Foyer Suitable for ages 8-12. Find out more at www.schoolofslapstick.com



BFI Future Film, in association with the 9th London Short Film Festival, presents: The Youth of Today

A selection of short films themed around the subject of growing up and coming-of-age, selected from open submission into the 2012 London Short Film Festival. Following the programme there will be a Q&A session with some of the filmmakers whose work is screening, to offer an insight into the filmmakers' vision.

Sat 14 Jan 12:00 NFT3 Tickets £3

Short Film Masterclass

What's the point of short films? Are they calling cards for feature films, or just a good way to hone the craft of filmmaking? Are short films an art form in their own right? Our panel of experts answers these questions and more to help you make the most of your short-film career.

Sat 14 Jan 14:00 Blue Room Tickets £3 / Joint ticket available £5

These events are recommended for 15 to 25-year-olds

In the Studio:

Les Enfants du paradis

France 1945 Dir Marcel Carné. With Arletty, Jean-Louis Barrault,. 190min. EST. Digital. PG. A BFI release

Set in Paris's theatrical district of the early 19th century, this rich, engrossing tale of rivalries and unrequited passion explores the crucial role played by different kinds of performance in all aspects of everyday life... but most especially in matters of the heart. The film is a breathtaking achievement on every front, from the superb cinematography to Carné's deft elaboration of the sheer genius of Jacques Prévert's script.

Sun 1 Jan – Thu 5 Jan

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy

UK-France 2011 Dir Tomas Alfredson With Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, Benedict Cumberbatch. 127min. Digital. 15

This 1970s-set Cold War story adapted from John Le Carré's best-selling novel is a gripping spy thriller in which retired espionage veteran George Smiley (Oldman) is drawn back into a life of intrigue following a tip off that a Soviet mole is working among his former colleagues in the upper echelons of MI6. Though he finally narrows his search down to four suspects, his past history and friendships make it difficult to pinpoint the traitor. Oldman's performance is magnificent.

Sun 1 Jan – Sun 8 Jan

Despair Despair – Eine Reise ins Licht

W Germany-France 1978. Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Dirk Bogarde, 121min. English version. Digital Restoration. 15

Newly restored so that both Michael Ballhaus's cinematography and Peer Raben's score can dazzle once more, Fassbinder's English-language adaptation of Nabokov's novel boasts a sharp Tom Stoppard script and a superlative performance by Bogarde as Hermann Hermann, a prosperous Russian chocolate manufacturer who takes desperate, deadly measures in his attempts to deal with changes overtaking Berlin between the wars. A blistering account of a slide into insanity, both individual and societal.

Fri 6 Jan – Thu 19 Jan

A Useful Life *La vida útil*

Uruguay 2010. Director Federico Veiroj. With Manuel Martinez Carril, Paola Venditto. 70min. EST. Digital

Inspired partly by Veiroj's experiences working at the Montevideo and Madrid cinemateques, this lovely deadpan comedy-drama centres on a gentle, middle-aged movie buff (former critic Jorge Jelinek) who has for years been performing almost every task imaginable at the Cinemateca Uruguaya – an ailing institution (on screen, if not in reality) where notions of audience development are as antiquated as the technology. As the threat of closure looms, the cinephile has to rethink his ways... Beautifully shot in black and white, this wry, affectionate and subtle study of the cinema's relationship to life exudes charm from start to finish.

Fri 13 Jan – Thu 26 Jan

We Need To Talk About Kevin

UK-USA 2011. Dir Lynne Ramsay. With John C Reilly, Ezra Miller. 112min. Digital. 15

Lynne Ramsay's much-anticipated third feature, a compelling adaptation of Lionel Shriver's bestselling novel, centres on a mesmerising performance by Tilda Swinton as Eva, a mother coming to terms with the horrific actions of her teenage son. Through a series of flashbacks, Eva reflects on her difficulty bonding with Kevin and her role in nurturing him, as she tries to understand if she is responsible in some way for his disturbing behaviour. Visually striking and superbly acted, the film grips from its opening scene to its devastating denouement. **Winner Best Film, 55th BFI Film Festival in partnership with American Express**

Fri 20 – Tue 31 Jan

PRESS CONTACTS:

BFI Southbank:

Ilona Cheshire / Tim Mosley

Tel: 020 7957 8986 / 8918 or email: ilona.cheshire@bfi.org.uk / tim.mosley@bfi.org.uk

BFI IMAX/DVD:

Jill Reading

Tel 020 7957 4759 or email: jill.reading@bfi.org.uk

Head of Press and PR, BFI

Judy Wells

Tel: 020 7957 8919 or email: judy.wells@bfi.org.uk

About the BFI

The BFI is the nation's cultural organisation for film, keeping the breadth of voices in moving image culture alive and known. Through its venues, festivals, film releases and online, the BFI inspires people to understand and enjoy film culture, ensuring that everyone in the UK can see the broadest range and choice of films, otherwise not provided by commercial cinema. The BFI reaches an audience of over 7.5 million in the UK every year.

Booking information

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 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 10.00, concs £6.75 Members pay £1.50 less on any ticket. Website www.bfi.org.uk/southbank

Tickets for FREE screenings and events must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment

BFI Filmstore

The BFI Filmstore 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.

***** 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 /January 2012