



Jeremy Thomas, photo credit: Anoush Abrar

JEREMY THOMAS DONATES PERSONAL COLLECTION TO THE BFI NATIONAL ARCHIVE

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The BFI is delighted to announce that Jeremy Thomas, one of the industry's most revered independent producers and founder of **Recorded Picture Company**, has made a significant donation from his working archive to the **BFI National Archive**. The archive spans Jeremy Thomas's remarkable career both as a producer and executive producer from his first film, *Mad Dog Morgan* (1976) by Philippe Mora, through to Ben Wheatley's *High Rise* (2015).

Consisting of both moving image and paper-based material this donation includes rare 35mm prints, scripts, production material and international posters from some of his most important and distinctive films such as Nicolas Roeg's *Bad Timing* (1978), Nagisa Ôshima's *Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence* (1983), Bernardo Bertolucci's 9-time Oscar®-winning *The Last Emperor* (1987), David Cronenberg's controversial adaptation of JG Ballard's *Crash* (1996) as well as Jonathan Glazer's landmark cult classic *Sexy Beast* (2000) and David Mackenzie's *Young Adam* (2003).

The Archive will continue to receive donations from Jeremy Thomas ongoing, and once fully catalogued the paper-based material will be collectively known as **The Jeremy Thomas Collection**. The donation also includes rare moving image material such as the original sound tapes by David Byrne and Ryuichi Sakamoto for their Oscar®-winning soundtrack for *The Last Emperor* as well as Thomas's 35mm print of the film, plus 35mm prints of *Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence*, Karel Reisz's final film, *Everybody Wins* (1990), adapted from Arthur Miller's script, Bernardo Bertolucci's adaptation of *The Sheltering Sky* (1990) and Jeremy Thomas's own film as director, *All The Little Animals* (1998), starring John Hurt and a young Christian Bale.

The donation gives us a fascinating insight into the pivotal role of a producer in shaping a filmmaker's vision and in particular highlights Jeremy Thomas's success in international

co-production, charting the development and production history across a number of high profile films including those made with his close friend and long-time creative collaborator Bernardo Bertolucci. There are creative materials across Jeremy Thomas's renowned epics with Bernardo Bertolucci including *The Last Emperor*, *The Sheltering Sky*, *Little Buddha* (1993), *Stealing Beauty* (1996) and *The Dreamers* (2003).

With a filmography that reads like a who's who of independent and world cinema, the donation features archive material from an extraordinary catalogue of films made by prominent directors including Stephen Frears, Terry Gilliam, David Mackenzie, Jonathan Glazer, Takeshi Kitano, Bob Rafelson, Jerzy Skolomowski, Takashi Miike and Richard Linklater.

In many cases this unique archive documents the history of a production from initial story and script drafts through to art department drawings, location work and production stills as well as marketing and press campaign materials. This previously unseen paper documentation helps to illustrate the producer's involvement in each stage of a film, from its original inception and development through to production and final release, foregrounding the care and level of detail given to nurturing new and emerging British talent.

Jeremy Thomas said, *"The BFI has been important to me since I was young, and a lot of my film education has been through preservation of things past which I enjoyed at the National Film Theatre. My affectionate involvement with the BFI culminated with my work as Chairman. I've decided to entrust my archives starting at the beginning of my career through to my recent work, and I intend for all my extensive material to eventually be together in the BFI National Archive. In the words of Cocteau: "There's no such thing as love; only proof of love."*

Heather Stewart, BFI Creative Director said, *"I couldn't be more thrilled that Jeremy is donating his personal collection, a history and expression of everything he has stood for as one of Britain's greatest producers, to the BFI. Jeremy has fought for film culture all of his working life, and as ex-Chair of the BFI he understands perfectly the critical role that the BFI's film, television and moving image archive plays in making sure that these key documents and many rare films are preserved for future generations to enjoy. It is a big step for him to take to let go of so many personal prints. I can't thank him enough for his generous spirit. The collection offers an amazing opportunity for students and researchers to understand more about how films are made, and is a real treasure trove for the BFI to use to illuminate and contextualize our public programme."*

Chair of the BFI for five years from 1993-1997, Jeremy Thomas was honoured with a BFI fellowship in 1998, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to film culture, and was the subject of a BFI Southbank retrospective in April 2014, 'Made in Britain', celebrating 40 years as a producer.

Jeremy Thomas's donation follows the recent move of **Recorded Picture Company** and **HanWay Films** offices from Soho to Notting Hill. His archive will join other significant personal collections held and preserved at the BFI National Archive John Paul Getty Jnr Conservation Centre in Berkhamsted. Once the donation process is complete and cataloguing is underway, it will be accessible to view by appointment through BFI Special Collections at the **BFI Reuben Library**.

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ABOUT THE BFI

The BFI is the UK's lead organisation for film, television and the moving image. It is a cultural charity that:

- Curates and presents the greatest international public programme of World Cinema for audiences; in cinemas, at festivals and online
- Cares for the BFI National Archive – the most significant film and television archive in the world
- Actively seeks out and supports the next generation of filmmakers
- Works with Government and industry to make the UK the most creatively exciting and prosperous place to make film internationally

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

ABOUT THE BFI NATIONAL ARCHIVE

The BFI National Archive was founded in 1935 and has grown to become the one of the largest and most important collections of film and television in the world with over 180,000 films and 750,000 television programmes. For over 80 years the BFI has been an international leader in film preservation and guardian of Britain's unparalleled film and TV heritage. The BFI is an innovator in presenting films to audiences in new and dynamic ways, from cinemas to film festivals, outdoor events to online video-on-demand. At the heart of all its activities is the BFI's central aim to ensure that everyone in the UK has access to the widest possible range of film and their own film heritage.

That heritage includes all-time great British directors Alfred Hitchcock, David Lean, Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger; and the rich vein of documentary filmmaking, in which Britain led the world, including the lyrical work of Humphrey Jennings. The archive also boasts a significant collection of filmmakers' papers as well as extensive stills, posters and production and costume designs along with original scripts, press books and related ephemera.

Expert teams undertake the time-consuming and complex task of restoring films at the BFI John Paul Getty Jr Conservation Centre in Hertfordshire. The BFI's most precious film materials are kept in optimum conditions in the world-leading Master Film Store in Warwickshire.

ABOUT RECORDED PICTURE COMPANY

Jeremy Thomas founded Recorded Picture Company in 1974, and has since produced many films, including Bernardo Bertolucci's nine-time Academy Award winner *The Last Emperor*. RPC's body of work is characterised by its intimate director relationships. Film greats such as Bernardo Bertolucci, Nicolas Roeg, David Cronenberg, Nagisa Oshima, Takashi Miike and Matteo Garrone, amongst others, have long-standing relationships with the company. RPC has also fostered a new generation of British film talent in Jonathan Glazer and David Mackenzie. RPC's recent releases include Takashi Miike's *BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL*, with Miike's *FIRST LOVE* and Matteo Garrone's *PINOCCHIO* upcoming.

ABOUT THE BFI REUBEN LIBRARY

BFI Southbank is home to the BFI Reuben Library which holds the world's largest collection of books, journals and digitised material about film, television and the moving image and welcomes 75,000 visitors a year. The library is free to access and hosts a year-round programme of talks and events.

'Not just for movie nerds - this huge collection of film and TV books, periodicals, scripts, stills and posters is full of inspiration for anyone involved in the creative arts' – Evening Standard Magazine

The BFI Reuben Library is open 10:30-19:00, Tuesday-Saturday.

ABOUT THE REUBEN FOUNDATION

The Reuben Foundation is a UK registered charity focused on making essential contributions to healthcare and education in the UK and worldwide. The Reuben Foundation launched the Reuben Scholarship Programme in association with the University of Oxford, University College London and ARK Schools, to assist bright students from disadvantaged backgrounds both to continue their education and see that attending university is an option very much open to them. The Reuben Foundation also created the 'Team London' volunteering scheme in partnership with the Mayor of London, which raised over 100,000 new volunteers for existing voluntary organisations in the capital, allowing them to work more effectively to improve quality of life, offer more opportunities to youth and help lower crime. Please visit www.reubenfoundation.com for more information.