

## June 2014 at BFI Southbank



### Dennis Potter, *The World Before The War*, A Century of Chinese Cinema, *Meltdown*, *Sheffield Doc/Fest*

- **Messages for Posterity: The Complete Dennis Potter, Part One** for the first time brings together the entire surviving canon of work by Britain's greatest television writer. This unique programme will mark the 20th anniversary of Potter's death and screens over two years, with Part Two concluding in June and July 2015. Highlights of Part One, which runs from June-July this year, include screenings of TV landmarks such as *Stand Up, Nigel Barton* (1965), *Brimstone and Treacle* (1976) and *Pennies from Heaven* (1978).
- **The War That Changed Everything: The World Before The War** is the first part of the BFI's major four year project to commemorate the Great War, this first instalment examines the period of change that led to the outbreak of **WWI** in 1914. This project will continue in 2016 and 2018, but begins with films including **Eric von Stroheim's** satire *The Wedding March* (1928), **Jean Renoir's** *French Cancan* (1954) and **Michael Haneke's** provocative *The White Ribbon* (2009), as well as an Extended Run of **Frank Borzage's** *A Farewell to Arms* (1932).
- **BFI Southbank** celebrates **A Century of Chinese Cinema** with the largest and most varied exploration of Chinese cinema ever to be held in the UK. A five-month season will showcase more than 80 films, from 'The Golden Age' of the 1930s and 40s, China's changing political climate, classic martial arts movies to cutting-edge contemporary titles. A highlight of this month's programme will be the UK-wide release and Extended Run at BFI Southbank of the BFI digital restoration of *Spring in a Small Town* (*Xiao Cheng zhi Chun*, 1948), by Fei-Mu, on **Friday 20 June**
- This year's **Meltdown** is curated by **Mo'Wax** founder **James Lavelle** and BFI Southbank is proudly screening his selection of accompanying films including the seminal graffiti and hip-hop *Wild Style* (1983) and **Dick Fontaine's** *Beat This! A Hip-hop History*
- Another returning festival is the **Sheffield Doc/Fest 2014** with highlights from this year's festival screening at BFI Southbank. The hotly anticipated *Pulp, A Film About Life, Death and Supermarkets* (2014), a behind-the-scenes account of the band's farewell concert, will preview on **Saturday 7 June** with a live satellite link to the opening night event in Sheffield attended by Pulp. Sheffield Doc/Fest announces its full programme on 8 May at BFI Southbank
- Further highlights in June include the continuation of our strands **Hollywood Babylon: Early Talkies Before the Censor** and **Mark Cousins Presents: The Cinema of Childhood**, plus

previews of the haunting *Lilting* (2014) - BFI Flare's opening gala – and *Camille Claudel 1915* (2012), starring **Juliette Binoche**

## **SEASONS:**

### **A Century of Chinese Cinema**

Commencing on 1 June and continuing until 7 October 2014, the **BFI** will present the largest and most comprehensive exploration of Chinese cinema from Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan ever to be undertaken in the UK. **A Century of Chinese Cinema** is programmed in partnership with **TIFF** as part of **Electric Shadows**, the Chinese term for film and the name of the BFI's extensive year-long programme of business, trade, creative and cultural collaborations with China. The season will showcase more than 80 films over the subsequent months, and there are some very exciting events and guests still to be announced. This wide-ranging celebration will also include screenings of classic Chinese films in key cities throughout the UK, a lavishly illustrated new BFI Compendium publication on the history of Chinese cinema, and digital content on the BFI Player of incredibly rare non-fiction films of China from 1901 to 1949 from the BFI National Archive.

*The Golden Age* of Chinese Cinema was defined by the classics of Shanghai cinema from the 1930s and 1940s. Some of the best known films of this era include *New Women* (*Xin Nüxung*, 1935) starring the 'Greta Garbo of China' **Ruan Lingyu** whose tragic early death at the age of 24 led her to become an icon of Chinese cinema, and the musical *Street Angel* (*Malu Tianshi*, 1937) portraying the daily struggles of Shanghai's underclasses. Regarded as the finest work from the first great era of Chinese filmmaking, the exquisite *Spring in a Small Town* (*Xiao Cheng zhi Chun*, 1948) was produced prior to the Communist takeover in China and subsequently long suppressed by the regime. It is now seen as a masterpiece and one of the greatest Chinese films ever made. The BFI will release the film in a new digital restoration in selected cinemas nationwide from **20 June**.

The victory of the Chinese Communist Party in 1949 marked the birth of a radically different nation. *A New China* follows the establishment of the People's Republic of China and the volatile years leading up to the Cultural Revolution in 1966. One of the major discoveries of this season is *Shangrao Concentration Camp* (*Shangrao Jizhongying*, 1951) set in the hellish confines of a Nationalist prison. Dubbed the 'Romeo and Juliet of the East', *The Love Eterne* (*Liang Shanbo yü Zhu Yuingtai*, 1963), a musical, sparked fanaticism amongst audiences and broke box-office records throughout Asia on its release; while *The Winter* (*Dong Nuan*, 1968) saw historical epic specialist **Li Han-Hsiang** create a profound, romantic drama that would go on to influence both Hou Hsiao-hsien and Ang Lee. This landmark season continues with *Swordsmen, Gangsters and Ghosts* in July, *New Waves* in August, and *New Directions* in September and early October.

**This programme was made possible through the co-operation of the China Film Archive, Chinese Taipei Film Archive and Hong Kong Film Archive**

**With the generous support of our season sponsors:**



**With special thanks to Cathay Pacific Airways**  
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**tiff.**

### **Messages for Posterity: The Complete Dennis Potter**

**Dennis Potter** (17 May 1935 – 7 June 1994) is generally acknowledged as Britain's greatest and most innovative TV writer. He produced a body of work specifically for television that redefined the TV drama, daring to challenge both commissioners' and viewers' perceptions of the format. **Ken Trodd**, who was Potter's producer for most of his career and who is assisting the BFI on the season says, 'what Dennis left is an enormous, daunting, inviting and revealing feast of brilliance.'

I'm still astonished by the freshness and originality of it all. Tune in, watch, and feel yourself grow!

This month BFI Southbank is proud to launch the definitive guide to Dennis Potter as for the first time ever we begin to screen the entire surviving canon of his work, from **6 June**, marking the 20th anniversary of his death. The catalogue of work is so vast that it will be screened in four parts, over two years, each focusing on a pertinent theme, beginning this month with '*Politics and Betrayal*.'

From the deeply personal Potter was able to create universal stories and his mantra to 'only connect' can be seen in the immediate and powerful impact his work had on the viewing public. For *Paper Roses* (ITV, 1971), Potter drew on his experiences as a Fleet Street journalist, tackling the tabloids, settling old scores and addressing the manufacturing of headlines, while his unsuccessful pursuit of a career in politics left him with inspiration for *Stand Up, Nigel Barton* and *Vote, Vote, Vote for Nigel Barton* (both BBC, 1965). Also screening will be *Saturday Night Theatre: Lay Down Your Arms* (ITV, 1980), in which a Private recruited for British Intelligence battles with the Establishment and challenges patriotism which ultimately leads to betrayal.

On **Thursday 26 June** Mark Ravenhill will offer his thoughts on the legacy of Potter following the documentary: *Close Up: Dennis Potter: Under the Skin* (BBC, 1998). Prior to this will be *Dennis Potter in Edinburgh + Panel Discussion on The Politics of Potter* on **Thursday 12 June**, when, amongst others, **Ken Trodd, Peter Flannery** and **Trevor Griffiths** will discuss the seminal MacTaggart Lecture titled 'Occupying Powers', that saw the writer vocalise damning views on Thatcher and the Murdoch Empire.

**Coming in July, part two of our Dennis Potter season: *The Outsider Inside*, featuring the complete *Pennies from Heaven* and *Brimstone & Treacle*; and in June 2015: *Faith and Redemption*, followed by *Sex & Death* in July**

### **The War That Changed Everything: The World Before The War**

This month marks the start of the BFI's major four year project to commemorate The Great War. The first instalment (with parts two and three to follow in June 2016 and June 2018) *The World Before the War* will look at life in the years before war broke out. The season will provide a broader context to the conflict through films such as *The Wedding March* (1928), a satire on the greed and hypocrisy of the Viennese bourgeoisie, *Liebelei* (1933), in which ill-starred love is declared between a young lieutenant and a musician's daughter and **Jean Renoir's *French Cancan*** (1954), a loving tribute to the Paris painted by his father. The season will also include screenings of key films depicting the period such as *The Winslow Boy* (1948), *Days of Heaven* (1978) and *The White Ribbon* (2009), as well as an Extended Run of **Frank Borzage's *A Farewell to Arms*** (1932), digitally restored for the centenary and re-released UK-Wide by the BFI.

In addition, a special additional programme will bring rare colour footage from Europe and Asia to The Middle East and Africa in **On the Eve of War: Around the World in 80 Films**. These silent films have been newly restored to share with modern audiences the thrills of globetrotting, like a latter-day Phileas Fogg, prior to 1914. Each compilation will be accompanied by a live piano score, and will transport viewers to a variety of locations: London, New York, Shanghai, Berlin and Paris, as well as remoter regions, where one may witness the site where Livingstone stayed in Victoria Falls during his legendary expedition, a day in the life of a rickshaw boy in Durban, or the camel routes of the Gobi desert in Mongolia and more. This programme will also be available on BFI Player.

In June 2016 **The Experience of War** will focus on feature films and actuality footage which show the realities of war on both sides, marking the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. In

2018 **After the War** will explore the cinema and actuality of the immediate post-war period and later film re-creations of the historical moment.



**- ENDS -**

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**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**FULL BFI SOUTHBANK EVENT LISTINGS FOR JUNE**

**PREVIEWS:**

**The Dirties + Q&A with Matt Johnson, Hosted by Adam Buxton**

USA 2013. Dir Matt Johnson. With Matt Johnson, Owen Williams, Pdraig Singal. 83min. Digital. 15.

Courtesy of Pulse Films

Movie-obsessed best friends Matt and Owen are the key targets for a group of bullies they call 'The Dirties.' When the pair are assigned a class project they set out to make their greatest cinematic epic yet – on the subject of revenge – but Matt's fantasies quickly spiral out of control, transforming *The Dirties* into a complex and riveting story of friendship, obsession and violence.

**Tue 3 June 18:30 NFT1 Tickets £11.50, concs £9 (Members pay £1.50 less)**

**Camille Claudel 1915**

France 2012. Dir Bruno Dumont. With Juliette Binoche, Jean-Luc Vincent. 95min. Digital.

Courtesy of Soda Pictures

Juliette Binoche captivates in this eponymous role of the brilliant sculptor and former protégée and mistress of Auguste Rodin, who was confined to a mental institute by her younger brother, poet Paul Claudel. The film focuses on three days in 1915, two years after Camille Claudel was admitted, and with a cast of real patients and their caregivers, director Bruno Dumont makes hyper-real the anguish of her arguably unnecessary imprisonment.

**Mon 16 June 18:00 NFT1 Tickets £16, concs £12 (Members pay £1.50 less)**

**BFI Flare presents: Preview: Lirting**

UK 2014 Dir Hong Khaou With Ben Whishaw, Cheng Pei Pei, Andrew Leung, Peter Bowles 86min Digital EST. Courtesy of Artificial Eye

Mourning the recent death of his lover Kai, Richard (Ben Whishaw) reaches out to Kai's mother Junn (Crouching Tiger's Cheng Pei Pei), a Chinese-Cambodian woman who has never learned English during her years in London. Kai was Junn's lifeline to the world, though he never came out to her. *Lirting* is a lyrical exploration of the pleasures and pains of communication, and a sophisticated portrait of a gay male relationship that goes beyond the first flushes of love to the heights and bittersweet depths of sharing a life with someone.

**Thu 19 June 20:45 NFT1 Tickets £16, concs £12 (Members pay £1.50 less)**

**Future Film**

Future Film is the BFI's exciting monthly programme of screenings, workshops, competitions and ticket offers for 15-25 year-olds

**Raw Shorts: Dimensions of Dialogue: How to Tell Your Story**

Join us this month as Raw Shorts looks at how writing, directing and editing come together to tell your story on film. Whether you're making documentaries, animations, music videos or drama, your approach

to narrative and structure will be fundamental to the success of your project. The event will begin with a panel discussion with directors, editors and writers who will investigate different techniques to visually tell your tale. You can then choose to attend either: a masterclass led by directors and editors who will discuss their approach to plot and structure; or a practical workshop with professional writers who take an in-depth look at writing and the importance of narrative. And if all that wasn't enough, at the end of the day our industry professionals will be on hand for you to discuss your work and ideas for the big screen.

**Sat 7 June 12:30 NFT3 Tickets just £6 (for 15-25 year olds only)**

### **A Century of Chinese Cinema: An Introduction to A Century of Chinese Cinema, with Noah Cowan**

Noah Cowan, the curator of this landmark season, joins us from the USA to give an overview of China's incredibly rich cinematic history. He will share his unique insight and personal highlights of June's films and special events, plus provide a taster of the months to come.

**Tue 17 June 18:10 NFT3 Tickets £6.50**

### **Course: A Century of Chinese Cinema**

Professor Chris Berry and Dr Victor Fan from the Department of Film Studies at King's College, London complement our major season on Chinese cinema with a course that identifies Chinese language cinema as one of the world's greatest film cultures. The richly illustrated lectures and screenings will cover topics from how the popularity of different stars illustrates changing ideas about gender, to Chinese musicals and opera films, independent cinema, the Hong Kong New Wave, and the extension of the moving image into the modern art world.

**Course fee £120.00 (£100 concs) 3 June - 5 Aug. Tuesdays 18:30 - 20:30 (10 sessions). Studio**

### **Seniors' Matinee: Piccadilly**

UK 1929. Dir E.A. Dupont. With Gilda Gray, Anna May Wong, Jameson Thomas. 92min. PG

Piccadilly is a sensational portrayal of 1920s decadence and east end deprivation. This stylish thriller ranks alongside the best of the silent period Asquith and Hitchcock, despite its stereotypical portrayal of anti-hero Shosho (Anna May Wong), a glamorous dancer at The Picadilly night club. The 1920s Chinese community were highly integrated with London life, contrary to their portrayal as exotic 'criminals' in British pulp fiction and the press of the day.

**Mon 2 June 14:00 NFT1 Free for over 60s, otherwise tickets available at normal matinee price**

### **Seniors' Free Talk: Highlights of Chinese Cinema**

Independent documentary filmmaker Wenlan Peng provides a glimpse at some of the treasures to be found in our A Century of Chinese cinema season, a special five-month programme of films at BFI Southbank. From the period of silent and early talkies, through post-war revolutionary cinema and beyond the cultural revolution, this talk will give film lovers a chance to better understand and appreciate a little-known and extraordinary film culture. With Wenlan Peng, Meridian Society

**Mon 2 June 11:00 - 13:00 NFT3**

Free for over 60s, otherwise tickets available at normal matinee price

### **UK Premiere: The Thief and the Cobbler: A Moment in Time + Richard Williams in Conversation**

USA 1992 (Workprint). Dir Richard Williams. With voices of Vincent Price, Kenneth Williams, Miriam Margolyes. 90min. Digital

The Thief and the Cobbler, made over 25 years and inspired by Middle Eastern folk tales and Persian miniatures, has become a legend in its own right for animation fans. It was unreleased in the UK, but released in two separate versions in the USA: The Princess and the Cobbler in 1993, and Arabian Knight in 1995. Neither version was sanctioned by its director and animator, Richard Williams, at the time. The film is now finally presented in its original 1992 version, and will screen from a new digital print in the company of its Oscar®-winning creator, who will talk about his career following our special presentation.

**Sun 1 June 15:45 NFT1 In Association with AMPAS**

### **Film Funday: Who Framed Roger Rabbit + Q&A with Richard Williams**

USA 1988. Dir Robert Zemeckis. With Bob Hoskins and voices of Kathleen Turner 104min. Digital. PG

It's 1947 in Toontown, near Hollywood, where cartoon characters live alongside humans. Eddie, a Private Eye, is called in by the head of the Maroon Cartoon Studios to do a job and ends up becoming embroiled in the dangerous lives of fun-loving Roger Rabbit and his wife Jessica (voiced by Kathleen Turner). This groundbreaking picture won two Oscars® for animation director Richard Williams.

**Sun 1 June 13:00 NFT1**

### **Funday Workshop**

Come along to our Who Framed Roger Rabbit Funday and be inspired by one of the greatest live action and animation features ever made. Learn the secrets of animation in our drop-in workshop, and create

your own story based on a cartoon character living in a human's world. With prizes for the best characters, plus craft stands and colouring projects, don't miss this opportunity to introduce the little people in your life to this classic film.

**Sun 1 June 11:00 Foyer** Free to ticket holders of *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*

### **Projecting the Archive: The Divided Heart**

UK 1954. Dir Charles Crichton. With Cornell Borchers, Yvonne Mitchell, Alexander Knox. 89min. PG

Although better known for his comedies, Ealing director Charles Crichton here delivers an intense tug-of-love drama. A Bavarian couple have been raising a war orphan as their own, but face a dilemma when the boy's true mother, a survivor of Auschwitz, is located and wishes to reclaim her child. Their rival claims are contested in a courtroom custody battle – switching the audience's sympathy with each successive flashback to the boy's past – which leads to a surprisingly tough and unsentimental judgement. This late contribution to Ealing's small collection of films examining the strains of war on children was shot mainly on location. For studio boss Michael Balcon it was one of the best films made at Ealing.

**Wed 4 June 18:30 NFT1** Introduced by an Archive curator

### **Anne Charlotte Robertson: Selections from the Five Year Diary**

TRT 80min

Anne Charlotte Robertson's Five Year Diary, begun in the early 1980s and running to over 38 hours of Super8 film, stands as one of the major works of diary filmmaking. The films are an intimate and exhaustively narrated chronicle of her daily life in Massachusetts and her battles with depression, paranoia, and borderline schizophrenia. Over the course of the Diary, Robertson unflinchingly documents nervous breakdowns and hospitalisations, her obsessive crush on Doctor Who actor Tom Baker, her battles with weight, the side effects of prescription medication and the death of her three-year-old niece Emily. Though often painfully raw and emotional, the diary is not entirely bleak, but leavened with self-awareness and humour. It becomes a redemptive form of self-therapy for Robertson, who ultimately tells 'the story of a mind's survival.' We present three reels from this seminal and epic work.

**Wed 11 June 20:30 NFT3** Introduced by Benjamin Cook, Director of LUX, and Bárbara Rodríguez Muñoz, Visual Arts Curator, Anxiety 2014

### **I Am The Gorgon: Bunny 'Striker' Lee and the Roots of Reggae**

UK 2013. Dir Diggory Kenrick. 86min. Digital

This documentary film about legendary producer Bunny 'Striker' Lee tells the story of Jamaican music through the life of one extraordinary man; from ska to rocksteady; dub to dancehall; from the backstreets of Kingston to the concert halls of the world. Lee worked with early pioneers such as Duke Reid and innovators such as Lee 'Scratch' Perry and Sly and Robbie, and his association with King Tubby in the 70s gave rise to the genre known as dub. Lee's story involves politics, arguments, gangs and guns as Jamaican music spread from the ghettos of Kingston to the furthest reaches of the globe. We hope to welcome director Diggory Kenrick and the film's narrator, musician Dennis Alcapone, for a discussion around what will be a unique and musical event

+ **Sound Business**

UK 1981. Dir Molly Dineen. 43min

Late, great Mikey Dread narrates this original footage of the mighty Coxsone Sound System in the early 1980s. We hope to welcome director Molly Dineen to introduce her film

**Sat 14 June 14:00 NFT1 Tickets £6.50**

### **James Lavelle's Meltdown**

This month BFI Southbank presents a selection of cinema curated by DJ, label boss, artist and producer James Lavelle. Throughout his career Lavelle has applied a strong aesthetic to all of his work with the innovative and iconic Mo Wax record label, and his own musical output is defined by a heightened cinematic sensibility. In Lavelle's film selections hip-hop and street culture are explored through the work of influential directors Dick Fontaine and Charlie Ahearn, including the UK Premiere of Ahearn's new documentary about photographer Jamel Shabazz. Lavelle's passion for science fiction is also manifest, including a special opportunity for BFI Members to see Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* in glorious 70mm. And Lavelle's long term artistic relationship with Jonathan Glazer is celebrated via a unique presentation of the director's recent tour de force *Under The Skin*, with a live performance of the acclaimed Mica Levi score. [www.bfi.org.uk/meltdown](http://www.bfi.org.uk/meltdown)

### **Beat This! A Hip-hop History**

UK 1984. Dir Dick Fontaine. Narrated by Imhotep Gary Byrd. 60min

Dick Fontaine's documentary *Beat This!* was one of the first in the UK to explore hip-hop culture. Originally commissioned by BBC Arena, the film explores the rise of a genre that would go on to become the most potent cultural phenomenon of the 20th century. There's plenty for enthusiasts to enjoy: footage of hip-hop legend Kool Herc chauffeuring a pair of monstrous speakers through the South Bronx in a Caddy drop-top; Afrika Bambaataa and the Soulsonic Force crashing Gotham's ozone on the last spaceship from Planet Rock; and The Cold Crush Brothers performing 'Heartbreakers' at the Danceteria in their wildest attire.

**Sat 14 June 16:00 NFT3**

### **Bombin' + Q&A with James Lavelle and Dick Fontaine**

UK 1987. Dir Dick Fontaine. 60min

*Bombin'* was first broadcast in 1987 on Channel 4 and followed *Beat This!* by looking at the influence of American hip-hop culture on the UK in the 80s, this time through the lens of graffiti and the subculture of tagging. The film offers fascinating contributions from Robert Del Naja (also known as 3D), and Goldie – artists who would go on to become two of the UK's most important musicians by playing a pivotal role in the evolution of British electronic music.

**Sat 14 June 18:15 NFT3**

### **Under the Skin**

UK 2013. Dir Jonathan Glazer. With Scarlett Johansson, Paul Brannigan. 108min. Digital. 15

Visually and aurally audacious, and as slippery in form as its central character, Jonathan Glazer's elliptical sci-fi is a brilliant amalgam of fantasy and reality. Shot in Scotland, with an outstanding, discordant string and synth score, Glazer has created an entirely distinctive film – both creepy and luminous in its metaphysical precision. Johansson is nothing short of spectacular as the alien creature who stalks human prey.

**Fri 20 June 20:20 NFT1**

### **Live Soundtrack Screening + Q&A with Jonathan Glazer Royal Festival Hall. 18 June**

A screening of Jonathan Glazer's modern masterpiece accompanied for the first time by a live performance of its astonishing score, written by Mica Levi of 'Micachu and the Shapes.'

For tickets visit: [meltdown.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://meltdown.southbankcentre.co.uk)

### **Sonic Cinema presents the UK Premiere of: Jamel Shabazz Street Photographer + Q&A with Charlie Ahearn**

USA 2013. Dir Charlie Ahearn. 121min

Sonic Cinema is excited to present the UK premiere of this documentary from celebrated hip-hop historian and director, Charlie Ahearn. As a teenage photographer in early 80s Brooklyn, Jamel Shabazz set out to document the then nascent hip-hop movement. Ahearn takes us on a modern day and very personal journey with Shabazz as he revisits old neighbourhoods and talks to friends and colleagues about life in New York, hip-hop culture and its 30-year history.

**Wed 18 June 18:10 NFT1 Tickets £16, concs £12 (Members pay £1.50 less)**

### **Wild Style**

USA 1983. Dir Charlie Ahearn. With 'Lee' George Quinones, Fab 5 Freddy, Patti Astor. 82min. 15

The now-legendary film *Wild Style* takes place in early 80s New York and centres around graffiti artist Zoro and his encounters with Virginia, an uptown journalist. Considered by many as the very first hip-hop feature film, *Wild Style* is a bombastic ride, featuring many of the scene's early innovators such as Fab Five Freddy and Grand Master Flash.

**Wed 18 June 21:00 NFT1**

### **Sheffield Doc/Fest 2014**

#### **Preview: Pulp + Satellite broadcast of Q&A with Florian Habicht and Jarvis Cocker**

UK 2014. Dir Florian Habicht. 93min. Digital. Courtesy of Soda Pictures

Florian Habicht first met members of the iconic band 'Pulp' during the 2012 BFI London Film Festival, where he invited them to watch his earlier film *Love Story*. With his latest film, Habicht offers a behind-the-scenes account of the band's emotional and triumphant farewell concert in Sheffield, and skilfully offsets dynamic concert footage with intimate interviews. By turns funny, life-affirming, moving and uplifting, *Pulp* is not only a portrait of one of the UK's most-loved bands, but of their home city of Sheffield.

**Sat 7 June 18:15 NFT1**

### **Discover Arab Cinema: Palestinian Cinema**

Defining identity does not get more complicated or imperative than in the Palestinian context. Yet the lack of a Palestinian state has not stopped its filmmakers being some of the most active and creative artists in the Arab region and its diaspora. This month we present some of the best recent work from Palestine, including multiple screenings of *Omar*, a film that won the Jury Prize in Un Certain Regard at Cannes and was nominated for an Oscar®.

Discover Arab Cinema is programmed by Mona Deeley in association with the Zenith Foundation




In Partnership with:



### **Omar**

Palestine 2013. Dir Hany Abu-Assad. With Adam Bakri, Leem Lubany, Iyad Hoorani. 96min. Digital. EST.

*Omar*, a young Palestinian activist, finds himself in a 'catch-22' situation: he's arrested by Israelis in the wake of a soldier's death and released on condition that he will inform on his friends. At the same time he has to deal with a love triangle, and fight to keep his childhood friendships alive in a dangerous climate of mistrust, providing a heady mix of political thriller and stormy romance. We hope to welcome the filmmakers for a Q&A, please check [bfi.org.uk](http://bfi.org.uk)

In partnership with: 

**Wed 4 June 18:10 NFT3 + Q&A, Tue 24 June 20:40 NFT2, Wed 25 June 18:10 NFT3,  
Fri 27 June 20:40 NFT2**

### **When I Saw You** *Lamma shoftak*

Palestine 2012. Dir Annemarie Jacir. With Mahmoud Asfa, Ruba Blal, Saleh Bakri. 93min. Digital. EST.

A New Wave Release

*When I Saw You* is set in Jordan in 1967, during an influx of refugees fleeing persecution in their native Palestine. Eleven-year-old Tarek is frustrated by being in a refugee camp, separated from his father and his home. He searches for a way out and stumbles upon a training camp for Palestinian 'freedom fighters.' The film revisits this era of secular Palestinian struggle for freedom and homeland in a time period that was still largely untainted by in-fighting.

**Fri 6-19 June Studio, Wed 11 June 20:40 NFT2, Fri 13 June 20:30 NFT3, Wed 18 June 20:40 NFT2**

### **Last Days in Jerusalem** *Tanathur*

Palestine 2011. Dir Tawfik Abu Wael. With Ali Badarni, Samir Hawa, Kais Nashif. 80min. Digital. EST.

A middle-class Palestinian couple revisit their relationships as they're poised to end an important chapter in their lives by emigrating to Paris. Their move is an attempt to mend their dysfunctional marriage and escape the tensions of life in Jerusalem. During their last days before departure they find themselves reconnecting with all that they intend to leave behind, and being honest with one another makes their exit all the more trying.

**Mon 9 June 20:50 NFT2, Sun 15 June 18:20 NFT2**

### **Divine Intervention** *Yadon ilaheyya*

Palestine 2002. Dir Elia Suleiman. With Elia Suleiman, Manal Khader, George Ibrahim. 93min. EST. 15

A middle-class neighbourhood in Palestine provides a surprising backdrop for a series of darkly-comic vignettes, each one showing the fractured relationships between the locals. When we're introduced to E.S (a virtually mute performance from the director himself), a man who arrives in the country to tend his ailing father, we discover the source of these surreal episodes. Suleiman's intelligent and creative film puts deadpan wit alongside a heart-wrenching love story (set at an Israeli-run checkpoint), yet underlying all of this is a deeper study of humanity.

**Mon 16 June 20:40 NFT2, Sun 22 June 18:20 NFT2**

### **Refugee Week: Some of the Palestinians + Q&A with Mamoun Hassan**

UK-Jordan-Ukraine 1976. Dir Mamoun Hassan. 55min

In 1974 the Head of BFI Production, Mamoun Hassan, left to pursue his filmmaking career and arrived in Beirut to take up an appointment as Head of Film Branch with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). His brief was to document services such as housing, education and health that the UNRWA offered the Palestinian refugees. The Lebanese civil war started soon after his arrival in Beirut and over the following 18 months of turmoil he directed and edited the documentary *Some of the Palestinians*, which was completed in 1976.

**Thu 19 June 15:00 NFT3**



### **A World Not Ours + Panel Discussion**

UK-Denmark-Lebanon-United Arab Emirates 2012. Dir Mahdi Fleifel. 93min. Arabic and English with EST  
An intimate and unusual documentary about three generations of exiles in a Palestinian refugee camp in Southern Lebanon, where more than 70,000 people have lived for over 60 years in one square kilometre. Personal recordings, family archives and historical footage create a sensitive and illuminating study of belonging, friendship, and family. The panel discussion will be chaired by Aine O'Brien (Co-Director of Counterpoints Arts), and will include film producer Patrick Campbell and Andrej Mahecic of UNHCR, Maya Sanbar (Co-Producer of *When I Saw You*, Associate Producer of *Time that Remains*) and Dr Haim Bresheeth from SOAS.

In partnership with: **COUNTERPOINTS ARTS**

**Thu 19 June 18:10 NFT3 Reception: 20:30 Blue Room**

### **Mark Cousins Presents: The Cinema of Childhood**

Films about childhood are amongst the most inspiring ever made. The second part of our season takes us on an adventure from Sweden, to Poland, Iran and Japan, to discover more of them. Often, kids in films are either little angels or devils, but in these movies we see far more: creativity, cunning, self-help, joy, abandon and passion: *The Cinema of Childhood* introduces us to films of great honesty and beauty.

*The Cinema of Childhood* is curated by Mark Cousins, presented by Filmhouse Edinburgh and supported by the BFI awarding funds from the National Lottery. The season continues in June, check [bfi.org.uk](http://bfi.org.uk) or [cinemaofchildhood.com](http://cinemaofchildhood.com) for details



### **Tomka and His Friends *Tomka dhe shokët e tij***

Albania 1977 Dir Dir Khanfise Keko With Sotiraq Çili, Pavlina Oça, 78min Digital EST 12A

When the Nazis occupy an Albanian village, Tomka and his gang are furious – because the Germans have set up camp on their football pitch. The local partisans recruit the boys to spy on the invaders. Who knew war could be this much fun? Khanfise Keko spins a classic adventure yarn, but in a style as raw and authentic as anything from the Italian neo-realists. This recently restored film has never been seen before in the UK, and is a rare discovery.

**Sat 7 June 16:00 NFT2, Wed 18 June 18:40 Studio**

### **Long Live The Republic *At' zije republika***

Czechoslovakia 1965. Dir Karel Kachyna. With Frank Argus, Josef Barta, 134min. Digital. EST. 12A

Set in Moravia towards the end of WWII, Karel Kachyna's forgotten masterpiece jumbles reality, memory and fantasy to capture the intensity of childhood in a war zone. Oldrich, the runt of his village, is beaten by his father and bullied by the other boys. But he has imagination and resilience on his side. As the Nazis retreat and the Red Army advances, he dodges the mayhem – taking his share of blows, but always managing to stay one step ahead. Darkly ironic and beautifully shot in epic widescreen, *Long Live The Republic* is a revelation.

**Wed 11 June 18:10 Studio, Thu 12 June 20:20 Studio, Fri 13 June 18:00 NFT2**

### **The Unseen *Nespatrené***

Czech Republic 1996. Dir Miroslav Janek. 53min. Digital. EST.

At a blind school in the Czech Republic, the children exuberantly show off their remarkable talents – as musicians, as radio announcers, as daredevil bike riders and, most extraordinarily, as photographers. Why take pictures of a world you can't see? To capture memories of course, which sighted people can then describe back to them. Miroslav Janek's documentary is a true eye-opener about the resilience, adaptability and creativity of children when faced with whatever challenge the world throws at them.

**Sun 22 June 15:50 NFT2, Thu 26 June 18:40 Studio Tickets £6.50**

### **Forbidden Games *Jeux interdits***

France 1952. Dir René Clément. With Brigitte Fossey, Georges Poujouly. 86min. Digital. EST. 12A

After the brutal massacre of a group of refugees fleeing Paris, a dazed little orphaned girl is left wandering the fields clutching her dead dog. She's adopted by a peasant boy who brings her into his eccentric family. René Clément's masterpiece blends tragedy and farce into a heartbreaking account of children caught in a war they can't possibly understand. *Forbidden Games* stands alongside *La Grande Illusion* as one of the greatest anti-war statements ever filmed, and it made Brigitte Fossey a star at the age of just five.

**Wed 25 June 20:40 NFT2 Introduced by Michael Lawrence, Sat 28 June 18:20 NFT2**

### **The King of Masks *Bian Lian***

China 1997. Dir Wu Tian-Ming. With Zhu Xu, Zhou Renying. 91min. Digital. EST. PG

An old illusionist in China needs an heir to pass on the secret of his mask tricks – so he buys himself a grandson from a needy peasant. But the child is hiding a secret. When the magician finds out there's hell to pay, and only pure bravery can save the day. A swooping emotional drama about a kid who wants to be loved, and an old man who learns how to open his heart.

**Thu 26 June 18:20 NFT2, Sat 28 June 16:00 NFT2**

### **Passport to Cinema: Hollywood Babylon: Early Talkies Before the Censor**

This is Hollywood unbound: our season from that strange period after the creation of a Production Code in 1930 and its actual enforcement in 1934. The third month in our season (which runs until July) includes two rarely-seen Marlene Dietrich vehicles, Rouben Mamoulian's *The Song of Songs* and *Blonde Venus* – the only Dietrich/von Sternberg collaboration set in the Depression-era. Also look out for *The Hounds of Zaroff* (aka *The Most Dangerous Game*) which comes from the same team (and the same sets) as *King Kong*. – Richard Combs, Tutor/Programmer, The National Film and Television School

### **Applause**

USA 1929 Dir Rouben Mamoulian With Helen Morgan, Joan Peers, Fuller Mellish Jr, 85min PG

Kitty Darling is a burlesque queen who sacrifices all to educate her daughter April – only to have April walk away from her wedding to perform as a burlesque dancer herself. Despite the risqué environment, censors found nothing to object to in the script except to a reference to call-girls being Catholics. In Rouben Mamoulian's feature debut the humanity of the story and the complex use of sound design marks it out as an early sound masterpiece.

**Mon 2 June 18:10 NFT2 Introduced by Geoff Andrew, Sat 7 June 20:40 NFT2**

### **The Smiling Lieutenant**

USA 1931. Dir Ernst Lubitsch. With Maurice Chevalier, Claudette Colbert, Miriam Hopkins. 93min. PG

Ernst Lubitsch and Paramount Pictures held the joint copyright on 1930s sophisticated sex comedy (the 'Lubitsch touch' was so successful that he was briefly made Paramount's Head of Production in 1935). In this romance – think Erich von Stroheim with laughs and music – Franz (Claudette Colbert) vies with Princess Anna (Miriam Hopkins) over a Lieutenant in the Austrian Royal Guard (Maurice Chevalier). 'Jazz up your lingerie,' advises Franz in one lyric of marital advice to Princess Anna.

**Mon 9 June 18:10 NFT2 Introduced by Nathalie Morris, Sat 14 June 20:40 NFT2**

### **The Hounds of Zaroff (aka The Most Dangerous Game)**

USA 1932. Dirs Irving Pichel, Ernest B. Schoedsack. With Joel McCrea, Fay Wray, Leslie Banks 63min. 12A

The philosophy of big game hunter Bob Rainsford – 'this world's divided into two kinds of people: the hunter and the hunted' – is about to be challenged when he's shipwrecked in a tropical paradise. The island's deranged Prospero is Count Zaroff (Lesley Banks), who believes that the ultimate sport is the hunting of man. Made just prior to *King Kong*, this is a taut, literate melodrama based on the sinister politics of the Übermensch.

**Mon 16 June 18:10 NFT2 Introduced by Dominic Power, Sun 22 June 20:40 NFT2**

### **Blonde Venus**

USA 1932. Dir Josef von Sternberg. With Marlene Dietrich, Herbert Marshall, Cary Grant, Dickie Moore. 97min. PG

Of the legendary sextet of movies which von Sternberg made with Marlene Dietrich at Paramount, *Blonde Venus* is the only one that depicts her within the everyday (Marlene as mother), and has a Depression-era setting. But when Helen Faraday (Dietrich) returns to showbiz as a cabaret performer to pay for her husband's medical care, she enters a world of corrupt glamour, and of trade and control based on money (cue Cary Grant's playboy character).

**Mon 23 June 18:10 NFT2 Introduced by Peter William Evans, Sat 28 June 16:15 NFT1**

### **The Song of Songs**

USA 1933. Dir Rouben Mamoulian. With Marlene Dietrich, Brian Aherne, Lionel Atwill. 89min. U

*The Song of Songs* marks a (temporary) break in the relationship between Dietrich and director Josef von Sternberg. Dietrich plays Lily Czepanek, an orphaned country girl who comes to Berlin and is caught between an artist (Brian Aherne) who cannot commit himself, and a ruthless aristocrat (Lionel Atwill) bent on possessing her. Rouben Mamoulian's erotic, psychological melodrama provides Dietrich with one of her most complex and satisfying roles.

**Sun 29 June 16:15 NFT1, Mon 30 June 18:10 NFT2 Introduced by Dominic Power**

### **BFI Member Exclusives Member Picks**

What's your go-to film? The one you'd watch over and over if stranded on a desert island? Share your choice with us, along with the reasons you never tire of watching it, and your chosen film could be the next Member Pick to be screened at BFI Southbank. Find out why Members suggested *The Passenger*, and share your passion for film at [bfi.org.uk/members](http://bfi.org.uk/members). Cinema Members can enter the ballot for up to two tickets, the first is free, the second at the Member discount price of £10 (concs £7.50). Apply before 12:00 on Fri 4 Apr at [bfi.org.uk/members](http://bfi.org.uk/members). A limited number of tickets have been set aside for Champion Members to priority book by telephone.

#### **The Big Lebowski**

USA-UK 1998 Dirs Joel and Ethan Coen With Jeff Bridges, John Goodman, Julianne Moore 117min Digital15  
In this glorious comedy from the Coen Brothers, slacker and avid bowler 'the Dude' Lebowski is mistaken for a millionaire and gets caught up in a crime caper involving kidnapping, blackmail and bowling. *The Big Lebowski* is a wry meditation on heroism and friendship, and a modern cult classic. 'I find myself laughing at something new every time I watch it. Amazing direction and performances with countless one-liners,' – Sean Wilkinson, BFI Cinema Member

**Wed 4 June 20:40 NFT1**

#### **BFI Screen Epiphany in partnership with American Express®**

Following in the footsteps of Alison Goldfrapp and Lisa Gunning, Grayson Perry, Cillian Murphy, Helen Mirren and Neil Marshall, a prominent figure from the arts will introduce a screening of a film that has inspired them. Cinema Members can apply for up to four tickets to this event, the first ticket is free

#### **James Lavelle Introduces 2001: A Space Odyssey**

USA-UK 1968. Dir Stanley Kubrick. With Keir Dullea, Gary Lockwood, William Sylvester. 141min. 70mm. U  
Meltdown curator James Lavelle introduces the film that inspired him. Kubrick's epic sci-fi puzzled many on its original release, including critics, but is now widely considered to be one of the greatest films ever made. Its philosophical contemplation of time and space is as impressive as its breath-taking visuals – especially when screened, as here, in a glorious 70mm restoration.

**Sun 22 June 15:00 NFT1**

**Kubrick's long-time collaborator and producer Jan Harlan will join James Lavelle on stage to discuss the film**



#### **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 £11.00, concs £8.50 Members pay £1.50 less on any ticket. Website [www.bfi.org.uk/southbank](http://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 Shop**

The BFI Shop 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](http://www.image.net) under BFI / BFI Southbank /June 2014**