



BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

8 – 19 October 2014

in partnership with



LEGENDARY BRITISH PRODUCER JEREMY THOMAS TO HEAD-UP LFF OFFICIAL COMPETITION JURY

With fellow jurors **Ahmad Abdalla, Scott Foundas, Sally Hawkins, James McAvoy and Lorna Tee**

Jurors for other competitive sections include:

James Corden, Finola Dwyer, Sophie Fiennes, Dexter Fletcher, Ian Hart, Hermione Norris and Luc Roeg

London – 23 September 2014: - The 58th BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express® announces the juries for this year's Festival, with BFI Fellow and former Chair Jeremy Thomas as Official Competition Jury President, with producer Luc Roeg, writer/director/producer Sophie Fiennes and producer Finola Dwyer presiding over the First Feature, Documentary and Best British Newcomer juries respectively.

The BFI London Film Festival's headline gala section presents high profile films in the lead-up to the awards season, while the Official Competition section provides an important platform for distinctive and inventive films to breakthrough in the UK and internationally. Last year's Best Film winner – Pawel Pawlikowski's *Ida* – is on this year's Academy Award® long-list for Best Foreign Language Feature and previous winners include *Rust & Bone*, *We Need to Talk About Kevin* and *A Prophet*.

This year's Official Competition Jury President is Jeremy Thomas, whose remarkable career as producer and executive producer spans Nicolas Roeg's *Bad Timing* (1978), Bernardo Bertolucci's multi-Oscar®-winning *The Last Emperor* (1987), David Cronenberg's *Crash* (1996), Wim Wender's *Pina* (2011) and Jim Jarmusch's *Only Lovers Left Alive* (2013). Thomas is a BFI Fellow and was the subject of a BFI Southbank retrospective in April celebrating 40 years of producing.

On Saturday 18 October at the annual Awards Ceremony, prizes will be presented for the Festival's competitive sections - The **Best Film Award** is presented to the winner of the **Official Competition**; the **Sutherland Award** is presented to the winner of the **First Feature Competition** and the **Grierson Award** is presented to the winning film in the **Documentary Competition**. Each of these sections is open to international and British films. In addition, the **Best British Newcomer Award** will be presented to the most accomplished and promising new acting, writing, directing or producing talent with no previous track record in feature films or television. The **BFI Fellowship**, awarded each year at the BFI London Film Festival Awards ceremony will be announced ahead of the Festival.

Official Competition

The **Best Film Award** recognises inspiring, inventive and distinctive filmmaking. The initial shortlist was selected by Festival Director Clare Stewart, together with the Festival programming team. **Jeremy Thomas** will preside over the jury comprising last year's **Best Film Award** nominee, **Ahmad Abdalla** (*Rags & Tatters* – LFF 2013), Golden Globe winner and Oscar® & BAFTA nominee **Sally Hawkins** (*Blue Jasmine*), film producer and programme advisor **Lorna Tee** (*Postcards from the Zoo*), the BAFTA-winning and Golden Globe-nominated **James McAvoy** (*X-Men: Days of Future Past*); and Chief Film Critic of Variety, **Scott Foundas**.

Jury members who will present work at the Festival are **Ahmad Abdalla**, whose film *DÉCOR* receives its World Premiere at Rich Mix on Sunday 12 October; **Sally Hawkins** who features in Morgan Matthews' debut feature *X + Y* which receives its European Premiere at the Odeon West End on Monday 13 October; and **James McAvoy** who stars

in THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ELEANOR RIGBY, newly added to the official LOVE section and receiving its UK Premiere at the Odeon West End on Friday 17 October, where McAvoy will be joined by writer/director Ned Benson.

The **Official Competition** selection is: Peter Ho-Sun Chan's DEAREST; Peter Strickland's THE DUKE OF BURGUNDY (European Premiere); Carol Morley's THE FALLING (World Premiere); Ana Lily Amirpour's A GIRL WALKS HOME ALONE AT NIGHT; Céline Sciamma's GIRLHOOD; Daniel Barber's THE KEEPING ROOM (European Premiere); Andrey Zvyagintsev's LEVIATHAN; François Ozon's THE NEW GIRLFRIEND; Christian Petzold's PHOENIX; Mohsen Makhmalbaf's THE PRESIDENT; Julius Avery's SON OF A GUN (European Premiere); and Abderrahmane Sissako's TIMBUKTU.

First Feature Competition

The **Sutherland Award** in the **First Feature Competition** has been recognising original and imaginative feature debut directing talent for decades. Presiding over the jury for this illustrious award is BAFTA-nominated producer **Luc Roeg** whose own film *We Need To Talk About Kevin* won the *Best Film Award* at the Festival in 2011. His fellow jurors are the actors **Ian Hart** (*The Bridge*) and **Hermione Norris** (*Spooks*), producer and president of production at EOne, **Xavier Marchand** and the director, cinematographer and writer, **Ben Rivers** (*Two Years at Sea* – LFF 2012).

The **First Feature Competition** selection is: Yann Demange's 71; Josephine Decker's BUTTER ON THE LATCH; Daniel Wolfe & Matthew Wolfe's CATCH ME DADDY; Zeresenay Berhane Mehari's DIFRET; Franco Lolli's GENTE DE BIEN; Guy Myhill's THE GOOB; Adityavikram Sengupta's LABOUR OF LOVE; Sudabeh Mortezaei's MACONDO; Debbie Tucker Green's SECOND COMING; Ester Martin Bergsmark's SOMETHING MUST BREAK; Naji Abu Nowar's THEEB; and Myroslav Slaboshpytskiy's THE TRIBE.

Documentary Competition

The **Grierson Award** in the **Documentary Competition**, presented in partnership with The Grierson Trust, recognises cinematic documentaries with integrity, originality, and social or cultural significance. The jury is presided over by director, writer and producer **Sophie Fiennes** (*The Perverts Guide To Ideology* - LFF 2012). She is joined by Emmy®-winner and BAFTA-nominated producer and director **Roy Ackerman** (*The House I Live In*), the Emmy®-winning producer and editor of Storyville **Nick Fraser**, Dogwoof's head of distribution **Oli Harbottle**, and the BAFTA-nominated filmmaker and screenwriter **Penny Woolcock** (*1 Day* – LFF 2009).

The **Documentary Competition** selection is: Nadav Schirman's THE GREEN PRINCE; Jean-François Caissy's GUIDELINES; Randall Wright's HOCKNEY (World Premiere); Jason Sussberg & David Alvarado's THE IMMORTALISTS (European Premiere); Ulrich Seidl's IN THE BASEMENT; Sergei Loznitsa's MAIDAN; Frederick Wiseman's NATIONAL GALLERY; Sabine Lubbe Bakker & Niels van Koevorden's NE ME QUITTE PAS; Edward Lovelace & James Hall's THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS; Ossama Mohammed & Wiam Simav Bedirxan's SILVERED WATER, SYRIA SELF-PORTRAIT; Debra Granik's STRAY DOG; and Lynette Wallworth's TENDER (European Premiere).

Best British Newcomer Award

The **Best British Newcomer Award** recognising new British talent is presented to the most promising writer, actor, producer or director with no previous track record in feature films or television. Jury president is the Oscar® and BAFTA-nominated film producer **Finola Dwyer** (*An Education*). Her jury consists of the celebrated writer and novelist **Monica Ali** (*Brick Lane*), the BAFTA-winning actor and writer **James Corden** (*Gavin & Stacey*), BAFTA-nominated director, actor and writer **Dexter Fletcher** (*Sunshine on Leith*), and the BAFTA-winning screenwriter **Matt Greenhalgh** (*Nowhere Boy* – LFF 2009).

The **Best British Newcomer** selection is: **Guy Myhill** – *Writer/Director* THE GOOB; **Florence Pugh** – *Supporting Actor* THE FALLING; **Sameena Jabeen Ahmed** – *Actor* CATCH ME DADDY; **Rebecca Johnson** – *Writer/Director* HONEYTRAP; **Taron Egerton** – *Actor* TESTAMENT OF YOUTH; **Daniel Wolfe & Matthew Wolfe** – *Writers/Directors* CATCH ME DADDY; **Alex Lawther** – *Supporting Actor* THE IMITATION GAME.

The BFI London Film Festival Awards will take place at Banqueting House on Saturday 18 October 2014.

For further press info about the 58th BFI London Film Festival:

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Film clips/trailers and Festival press releases and written materials please go to the below FTP:

<ftp://ftp.premiercomms.com> | Username: LFF_PRESS | Password: OWL86Y4m

Film images can be found at: www.image.net

BFI Press Office:

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Festival Information & Ticket Booking

Telephone Bookings: 020 7928 3232 between 09:30–20:30

Online: www.bfi.org.uk/lff

In person: BFI Southbank Office: 11:30–20:30

NB. Last minute tickets are available to be purchased on the day about 30 minutes prior to the screening at Festival venues

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 filmmakers in the UK
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of filmmakers and audiences

About the BFI London Film Festival

BFI London Film Festival 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 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.

Clare Stewart biography

Clare Stewart's nineteen year programming career has encompassed leadership roles as Festival Director, Sydney Film Festival (2006-2011) and the inaugural Head of Film Programs at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image in Melbourne (2002-2006) as well as various roles at the Australian Film Institute (1996-2001), including Exhibition Manager, and programmer and Committee Member of the Melbourne Cinémathèque (1995-2002).



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