



BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

7 – 18 October 2015

in partnership with



59th BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2015 JURIES FOR

FIRST FEATURE COMPETITION, DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION AND SHORT FILM AWARD

Jurors include: Desiree Akhavan, Clio Barnard, James Kent, Allen Leech, Mark Cousins, Iain Forsyth & Jane Pollard, Daisy Jacobs, Shezad Dawood, Tom Green and Runa Islam

Jarvis Cocker will host the Annual Awards Ceremony

London – 23 September 2015: The 59th BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express® announces further jurors for this year's Festival, with director/screenwriter Desiree Akhavan, documentary filmmaker Mark Cousins and Academy Award® nominee and BAFTA-winner Daisy Jacobs (Best Short Animated Film for *The Bigger Picture*, 2014), joining previously announced Pawel Pawlikowski, presiding over the First Feature, Documentary, Short Film and Official Competition juries respectively. The full jury line-up is drawn from across the creative industries, including Fine Art, multidisciplinary artists and filmmakers, connecting with the Festival's commitment to expanding the future of film by building knowledge and understanding of film's engagement with other art forms, technologies and disciplines.

Musician and presenter Jarvis Cocker will this year host the annual Awards Ceremony on Saturday 17 October at Banqueting House. 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 in partnership with the Grierson Trust, to the winning film in the **Documentary Competition**. This year will see the inaugural presentation of the **Short Film Competition**; the **Best Short Film Award** recognises short form works with a unique cinematic voice and a confident handling of chosen theme and content, presented to one of a shortlist of 12 films selected from across the programme. Each of these sections is open to international and British films. The **BFI Fellowship**, awarded each year at the BFI London Film Festival Awards ceremony will be presented to Cate Blanchett.

Jarvis Cocker, Award Ceremony host said: *"Having served on the jury back in 2009, it is a great pleasure & honour to be invited back to host the 59th BFI London Film Festival Awards. This year's selection may very well be the most wide-ranging yet – I will be working on my pronunciation skills as we have films from over 38 countries in the competition. It is sure to be a very memorable evening – now, if only I could remember who I lent my dinner suit to..."*

First Feature Competition

The **Sutherland Award** for 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 director/screenwriter **Desiree Akhavan**, whose feature debut, *Appropriate Behaviour* featured in the *Love* strand last year. She is joined by BAFTA-nominated director and Fine Artist **Clio Barnard**, who won the **Sutherland Award** in 2010 for her feature debut *The Arbor*, **James Kent**, the director of last year's Centrepiece Gala supported by the Mayor of London, *Testament of Youth*, Irish actor **Allen Leech**, whose credits include last year's Opening film *The Imitation Game*, and chief film critic of The Times, **Kate Muir**.

The **First Feature Competition** selection is: Mai Masri for 3000 NIGHTS (European Premiere); Eva Husson for BANG GANG (A MODERN LOVE STORY); Magnus von Horn for THE HERE AFTER; Trey Edward Shults for KRISHA; Yared

Zelege for LAMB; Esther May Campbell for LIGHT YEARS; Ariel Kleiman for PARTISAN; Eugenio Canevari for PAULA; Bentley Dean & Martin Butler for TANNA; Piero Messina for THE WAIT; Nitzan Gilady for WEDDING DOLL (European Premiere) and Robert Eggers for THE WITCH.

Documentary Competition

The **Grierson Award** presented for the **Documentary Competition**, presented in partnership with The Grierson Trust, recognises cinematic documentaries with integrity, originality, and social or cultural significance. This year's jury is presided over by documentary filmmaker and ex-director of EIFF **Mark Cousins**, whose own love letter to his hometown I AM BELFAST appears in this year's *Love* strand (Oct 14 at Curzon Soho). Cousins' fellow jurors are documentary filmmaker **Brian Woods**, who since producing *The Dying Rooms* (1995) has won numerous BAFTA and Emmy awards, Guardian Head of Documentaries and previous deputy director of Sheffield DocFest, **Charlie Phillips**, Grierson trustee and documentary filmmaker **Alex Cooke**. Completing the jury are **Iain Forsyth & Jane Pollard**, London-based artists and filmmakers whose first documentary feature *20,000 Days on Earth*, won directing and editing awards at Sundance last year, as well as nominations for the Spirit Awards and BAFTA and the Douglas Hickox Award for Best Debut Director at the BIFAs.

The **Documentary Competition** selection is: João Pedro Plácido's (BE)LONGING; Mor Loushy's CENSORED VOICES; David Sington's THE FEAR OF 13 (World Premiere); Alexandria Bombach & Mo Scarpelli's FRAME BY FRAME (European Premiere); Alexander Sokurov's FRANCOFONIA; Frederick Wiseman's IN JACKSON HEIGHTS; Walter Salles' JIA ZHANGKE, A GUY FROM FENYANG; Tomer Heymann's MR. GAGA (International Premiere); Patricio Guzmán's THE PEARL BUTTON; Sarah Turner's PUBLIC HOUSE (World Premiere); Jennifer Peedom's SHERPA (European Premiere) and Hanna Polak's SOMETHING BETTER TO COME.

Short Film Competition

This year, the Festival has introduced a Short Film Competition as part of its overall commitment to supporting and developing filmmakers. With a long history of recognising and supporting new film talent through its short film programming, the Festival has previously screened early short works from filmmakers such as Andrea Arnold, Peter Strickland, Destiny Ekaragha and Sean Durkin.

The jury is presided over by Academy Award® nominee, **Daisy Jacobs** whose *The Bigger Picture* featured in last year's Festival and won the BAFTA for Best Short Animated Film, the multi-media conceptual artist and filmmaker **Shezad Dawood**, short film producer and Senior Film Programme Manager at British Council **Will Massa**, director **Tom Green**, whose *Monsters: Dark Continent* marked his feature debut at last year's Festival in the *Thrill* strand and British visual artist, filmmaker and Turner Prize nominee **Runa Islam**.

The nominated Short Films are: João Paulo Miranda Maria's COMMAND ACTION, Till Nowak's DISSONANCE; Nina Gantz's EDMOND; Peter Tscherkassky's THE EXQUISITE CORPUS; Mees Peijnenburg's A HOLE IN MY HEART; An van Dienderen's LILI (International Premiere); Maimouna Doucouré's MOTHER(S); Shai Heredia & Shumona Goel's AN OLD DOG'S DIARY (European Premiere); Caroline Bartleet's OPERATOR (European Premiere); Jörn Threlfall's OVER; Vivienne Dick's RED MOON RISING (World Premiere) and Ziya Demirel's TUESDAY.

Official Competition

The **Best Film Award** recognises inspiring, inventive and distinctive filmmaking, providing an important platform for films to break-through in the UK and internationally. The initial shortlist was drawn up by Festival Director Clare Stewart, together with the Festival programming team. As previously announced, President of the Official Competition jury is last year's winner **Pawel Pawlikowski**, whose *Ida* also garnered him both the BAFTA and Oscar® for Best Foreign Film. His jury comprises producer **Christine Vachon** (whose film CAROL is this year's American Express Gala), the BAFTA-winning and Oscar® & Golden Globe nominee **Chiwetel Ejiofor**, the BAFTA-winning and Oscar® nominee **Kristin Scott-Thomas**, and Chinese director and screenwriter **Mabel Cheung** whose A TALE OF THREE CITIES epic based on the lives of Jackie Chan's parents, features in this year's *Love* strand (Oct 15 at Cineworld Haymarket).

The **Official Competition** selection is: Jerzy Skolimowski's 11 MINUTES; Cary Fukunaga's BEASTS OF NO NATION; Apichapong Weerasethakul's CEMETARY OF SPLENDOUR; Athina Rachel Tsangari's CHEVALIER; Simon Stone's THE DAUGHTER ; Jonás Cuarón's DESIERTO (European Premiere); Lucile Hadžihalilovic's EVOLUTION; Johnnie To's OFFICE (European Premiere); Lenny Abrahamson's ROOM; László Nemes' SON OF SAUL; Terence Davies' SUNSET SONG; Sean Baker's TANGERINE and Mir-Jean Bou Chaaya's VERY BIG SHOT (European Premiere).

The BFI London Film Festival Awards will take place at Banqueting House on October 17 2015.

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Film clips/trailers, written materials and LFF press releases 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

BFI Members' priority booking opens 10.00am, 10 September - join at www.bfi.org.uk/join

Public booking opens 10.00am, 17 September

Telephone Bookings: 020 7928 3232 between 10:00 – 20:30

Online: www.bfi.org.uk/lff

In person: BFI Southbank Office: 11:00 – 20:30

Notes to Editors

About the BFI

The BFI is the lead organisation 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 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 twenty 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). She has been BFI Head of Cinemas and Festivals since October 2011.



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