

LIONSGATE™



BFI PRESENTS: GREAT NEW BRITISH FILMS LIVE FROM BFI SOUTHBANK

LIONSGATE UK'S TESTAMENT OF YOUTH IS FIRST EVENT OF ITS KIND

SPECIAL PREVIEW + LIVE Q&A WITH DIRECTOR JAMES KENT, BARONESS SHIRLEY WILLIAMS & CAST

London, Monday 15 December, 2014: The BFI and Lionsgate UK announce today that they have joined forces to present a very special screening of the critically acclaimed **TESTAMENT OF YOUTH** ahead of its UK release date. The event is the first in a major new programme called **BFI Presents**, designed to help grow audiences for independent British films.

The **TESTAMENT OF YOUTH** event will be centred on London's iconic BFI Southbank on the evening of Monday 12 January, 2015, with audiences across the UK able to take part via a live satellite link that will see the event simultaneously beamed into around 400 cinemas nationwide.

The very special preview screening of the film will be introduced by Director James Kent and Producer Rosie Alison. Audiences will enjoy never-been-seen-before footage and exclusive behind-the-scenes material ahead of the film. Following the screening, Rosie and James will invite select cast members and Vera Brittain's daughter, Baroness Shirley Williams to take part in an on-stage Q&A. Questions will be thrown open, with audiences at BFI Southbank and in all participating cinemas across the UK encouraged to live tweet their questions using the dedicated hashtag for the event: #TestamentofYouthLive

TESTAMENT OF YOUTH, which was feted by critics and audiences alike following its world premiere at the BFI London Film Festival in October, is released in cinemas across the UK on Friday 16 January.

The 12 January special preview screening of **TESTAMENT OF YOUTH** is the first example of **BFI Presents**, an exciting new pilot project designed to give audiences exclusive access to great new British films and the people who made them – and to support the UK film industry by helping to help grow audiences for independent films.

BFI Presents will see event-driven preview screenings of high quality British independent and specialised films accompanied by Q&As with the filmmakers and exclusive behind-the-scenes content, all beamed live from BFI Southbank to audiences across the UK. In a busy marketplace and with an average of 13 films being released into cinemas each week, BFI Presents aims to help outstanding British independent and specialised films achieve greater visibility and reach wider audiences. The concept emerged from discussions with the UK's exhibition sector, in particular the large cinema chains, who are keen to work with the BFI to explore opportunities to expand audiences for UK film. The BFI will announce further BFI Presents screenings in the coming weeks.

Amanda Nevill, CEO of the BFI said: "Following inspiring conversations with our colleagues in the major cinema chains we're really excited to announce the very first BFI Presents, which we think offers a great opportunity to help grow audiences for fantastic films being made in the UK. We're thrilled to be working with our friends at Lionsgate, who hold such a key position in the UK's distribution landscape, who share this vision and are enthusiastic and supportive partners of BFI Presents. *Testament of Youth* is a beautiful

British film that we are all incredibly proud of, and we cannot wait to share it and exclusive insights from its extraordinary filmmaking team with audiences everywhere on 12 January.”

Lionsgate UK CEO Zygi Kamasa added: "We are always trying to find new ways of stimulating the appetite for British films, and are delighted Amanda Nevill and the BFI have partnered with us on this First of its kind event. We are incredibly proud of Testament of Youth, and the rich history of the memoirs written by Vera Brittain are a perfect platform to offer audiences more insight into the filmmaking process, and to have direct dialogue with those filmmakers. As a studio we feel that the introduction of the BFI's event programming will allow us to elevate the audiences that our British films will reach and hope this continues throughout 2015 across a variety of important and stimulating film events.”

Phil Clapp, CEO of the UK cinema trade body the Cinema Exhibitors' Association, added: "This is a welcome and exciting development which will have the support of many UK cinema operators. Some excellent UK independent films have in recent years struggled to get noticed amidst all the marketing noise around other releases. BFI Presents provides an opportunity for those films to find the audience they deserve. We congratulate the BFI on this new venture and look forward to helping to ensure its success.”

Tickets for the exclusive screening of TESTAMENT OF YOUTH will be available to buy directly from the box office of participating cinemas or online at www.testamentofyouthtickets.co.uk

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ABOUT TESTAMENT OF YOUTH – IN CINEMAS JANUARY 16th 2015

TESTAMENT OF YOUTH is a searing story of love, war and remembrance, based on the First World War memoir by Vera Brittain which became the classic testimony of that war from a woman's point of view. A powerful and passionate journey from youthful hopes and dreams to the edge of despair and back again; a film about young love, the futility of war and how to make sense of the darkest times.

Vera Brittain, irrepressible, intelligent and free-minded, overcomes the prejudices of her family and hometown to win a scholarship to Oxford. With everything to live for, she falls in love with her brother's close friend Roland Leighton as they go to University to pursue their literary dreams. But the First World War is looming and as the boys leave for the front Vera realises she cannot sit idly by as her peers fight for their country, so volunteers as a nurse. She works tirelessly, experiencing all the griefs of war, as one by one her fiancé, her brother and their closest friends are all killed and the pillars of her world shattered. But, an indefatigable spirit, Vera endures and returns to Oxford, irrevocably changed, yet determined to find a new purpose, which spurs her towards a redemptive act of remembrance.

ABOUT LIONSGATE UK

Lionsgate U.K. is the diversified U.K.-based filmed entertainment arm of Lionsgate (NYSE:LGF), the leading independent filmed entertainment studio. The company (formerly Redbus Film Distributors) was acquired by Lionsgate in October 2005 and has since established a reputation in the U.K. as a leading producer and distributor and acquirer of commercially successful and critically acclaimed product, recently releasing the record breaking blockbuster hit *"THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY pt1"*, British hit comedy *"WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAY"*, *"THE EXPENDABLES 3"*, *"LOCKE"* starring Tom Hardy, *"THE RAILWAY MAN"*, starring Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman and the BAFTA and ACADEMY AWARD nominated *'THE INVISIBLE WOMAN'* starring Ralph Fiennes and Felicity Jones. In 2013 the company's diverse slate included the second instalment of the blockbuster franchise *"THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE"* starring Jennifer Lawrence, Liam Hemsworth and Josh Hutcherson as well as Ariel Vromen's *'THE ICEMAN'*, Nicholas Winding Refn's *'ONLY GOD FORGIVES'* and Jon S. Baird's *"FILTH"* starring BIFA award winning James McAvoy. Upcoming 2015 releases include *"TESTAMENT OF YOUTH"* starring Alicia Vikander and Kit Harington, *"MORTDECAI"*, the Alan Rickman directed *"A LITTLE CHAOS"* and the last instalment of The Hunger Games franchise *"THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY pt2"*.

Its prestigious and prolific library of nearly 13,000 motion picture titles and television episodes – including *Mad Men*, *Anger Management*, *Nurse Jackie* and *Weeds* – is a valuable source of recurring revenue and a foundation for the growth of the Company's core businesses – film production and distribution, TV programming, home entertainment, family entertainment and video-on-demand content. The Lionsgate U.K. brand is synonymous with original, daring, quality entertainment in markets around the globe.

www.lionsgatefilms.co.uk

ABOUT 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

www.bfi.org.uk