

NEW BFI FILMOGRAPHY REVEALS COMPLETE STORY OF UK FILM 1911 – 2017

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- *New findings about women in UK feature film – percentage of women cast unchanged in over 100 years and less than 1% of films identified as having a majority female crew*
- *Queen Victoria, Sherlock Holmes and James Bond most featured characters*
- *Judi Dench is now the most prolific working female actor with the release of Victoria and Abdul this month*
- *Michael Caine is the most prolific working actor*
- *Kate Dickie revealed as the most credited female film actor of the current decade followed by Jodie Whittaker, the first female Doctor Who*
- *Jim Broadbent is the most credited actor of the current decade*
- *Brits make more films about war than sex, and more about Europe than Great Britain*
- *MAN is the most common word in film titles*
- *Gurinder Chadha and Sally Potter are the most prolific working female film directors and Ken Loach is the most prolific male*

London, Wednesday 20 September 2017 – Today the BFI launched the **BFI Filmography**, the world's first complete and accurate living record of UK cinema that means everyone – from film fans and industry professionals to researchers and students – can now search and explore British film history, for free. A treasure trove of new information, the BFI Filmography is an ever-expanding record that draws on credits from over **10,000 films**, from the first UK film released in cinemas in 1911 through to present day, and charts the **250,000 cast and crew** behind them.

There are 130 genres within the BFI Filmography, the largest of which is **Drama** with 3,710 films. Additionally, the numbers reveal that when it comes to film, laughter is nearly four times more popular with filmmakers than love, with 2,347 **Comedy** films versus 625 **Romance** films. More films are made about **War** than any other subject (582 films) and only 146 have **Sex** as a theme. The most featured characters are **Queen Victoria** and **James Bond**, who appear in 25 films, followed by **Sherlock Holmes** (24 films) and **James Bond** (21 films). UK filmmakers are also more interested in **Europe** than **Great Britain**, with 527 films having Europe as a subject, compared with 431 on Great Britain.

A look at the most credited actors reveals **Judi Dench** as the most prolific female actor working today, appearing in 41 films, followed by **Maggie Smith** with 40 films. The ever-changing taste of the public is highlighted by the actors that have appeared in the greatest number of films each decade. Horror film star **Peter Cushing** takes the top spot in the 70s, comedy star **Robbie Coltrane** has the most prolific actor position of the 80s, ultimate 'lad-actor' **Keith Allen** and actor **Sadie Frost** are the most prolific male and female actors of the 90s and classic drama actors **Michael Gambon** and **Jim Broadbent**, both starring in the *Harry Potter* franchise amongst other notable films, are revealed as having appeared in the most films of the 2000s and 2010s. The most prolific female actor of the current decade is **Kate Dickie** (*Red Road*), closely followed by **Doctor Who's Jodie Whittaker** and *Prevenge* writer, director and star **Alice Lowe**.

James Bond director **Lewis Gilbert**, also known for *Alfie*, *Educating Rita* and *Shirley Valentine* is the most prolific living director (33 films). He is followed by **Ken Loach** (27 films) whose first film was *Poor Cow* in 1968, closely followed by the acclaimed *Kes* and most recently, the 2016 Cannes Palme d'Or winner, *I, Daniel Blake*. 2017 saw **Gurinder Chadha** (*Bend It Like Beckham*) write, direct and produce *Viceroy's House*. Gurinder is the second most prolific female director ever, alongside **Sally Potter** (*Ginger & Rosa*, *Orlando*).

The BFI Filmography launches with new and revelatory findings about the gender imbalance in UK films, both in on-screen and off-screen roles. Carried out in partnership with innovation foundation Nesta, the findings show that women are still not accurately represented, and are more often cast in gender stereotypical unnamed roles (such as prostitutes, housekeepers and nurses). They also tend to have shorter careers and on average make fewer films than male actors. Behind the camera there have been some improvements in the gender balance, with the percentage of crew members who are women rising from 3% in 1913 to 34% in 2017. Conversely, in several departments, such as Photography and Music, women still comprise less than 10% of senior crew members.

Overall, under 1% of crews are majority female and only 7% since 2000. Documentary is the category most made by women post 1990 (31%), but is one of the genres that features women the least (26%).

Whilst the BFI Filmography launches with a detailed look at gender, it is the intention to continue to build on the data, to provide a greater understanding of representation on and off screen. Work towards this began in 2016, with the BFI Black Star research study finding that 59% of films released in the last 10 years did not include a single black actor.

Heather Stewart, BFI Creative Director, said "*With the creation of the BFI Filmography, with a complete data set from 1911 to the present day, we now know for the first time ever, exactly how many films have been made and released, when and by whom. At a time when the UK film industry is burgeoning, the BFI Filmography is an invaluable resource for anyone with an interest in film, providing evidence that can help inform policy, the future of the industry and its workforce.*"

Behind the camera

The BFI Filmography enables us to see the careers of the UK film workforce, spanning roles across all departments and charting individuals' paths across the decades.

A look at the data shows the films of **Ken Loach** collectively credit the most cast; 1,099 actors across all his films. Additionally, **Ridley Scott** (*Blade Runner*, *Alien*) credits the most crew members across all his UK feature films, with 2,332 people.

The BFI Filmography highlights the gender disparity of the film workforce, revealing that less than 1% of all films have had a majority female crew (23 out of more than 10,000). A closer analysis of specific roles shows only 4.5% of all UK films are directed by women, the most prolific female director being **Muriel Box** (*Rattle of a Simple Man*, *The Piper's Tune*) with 13 films compared to the most credited male director **Maurice Elvey** (*The Suicide Club*, *Love in a Wood*) with 151 films.

Looking back across the BFI Filmography, **Dinah Shurey** was the first woman to write, direct and produce, with *Carry On!* (1927). Senior crew roles remain dominated by men; in 2016 for instance, there were still only 10 films written, directed and produced by three different women. Out of all lead creative crew roles, female Directors of Photography are particularly under-represented – only 1.3% of UK films have a female Director of Photography – the most prolific is **Nina Kellgren** (*Young Soul Rebels*), with eight DoP credits.

The most credited person within the BFI Filmography is Scottish composer and conductor **Muir Matheson**, who worked on 379 films. Only four women have contributed to more than 100 films including orchestra contractor **Isobel Griffiths**, who worked on 194 films and script supervisor **Renée Glynn**, whose 111 crew credits include the classics *Brief Encounter*, *Room with a View* and *Yellow Submarine*. Renée also has three cast credits, taking her total to 114; one of these is due to when she appeared onscreen as herself, in **Jean-Luc Godard's** Rolling Stones film, *Sympathy for the Devil*.

On screen and casting

The most prolific actors across the BFI Filmography by decade, reveal the careers of well – known UK screen stars from old to new. **Jodie Whittaker**, the first female Doctor Who and star of *Attack the Block* and *St Trinian's*, is one of the most prolific female actors of the current decade (12 films), alongside **Kate Dickie** whose 13 films include *Red Road*, *Prometheus* and *The Witch* and **Alice Lowe** (12 films) who wrote, directed and starred in *Prevenge*. Less familiar names feature as the most prolific actors of all time – actor **Wally Patch** made 195 films over a 40-year career and female actor **Marianne Stone** made 162 films. Diving into the data further **Michael Caine** (70 films) is the most prolific actor working today.

The BFI Filmography shows that there has been little change in the role of women on screen. The percentage of women cast is the same today as in the early years of cinema. In 1913, 31% of all the cast in 51 films were female actors; of the films made in 2017 so far, the percentage of women cast is just 30% (71 films). Looking at films since 1990, there is a swing in the gender balance in casting on films with an all-female director and writer team, increasing the women on screen by nearly half, from 32% to 45%.

Further insights materialise in analysing unnamed characters and the gender of actors who play them. Stereotypes are dramatically evident, with 94% of all unnamed prostitutes played by female actors and the casting of male actors as drunks registering at 100% before 1985. Casting in more recent years shows some developments, with female actors cast in 10% of drunk character roles since 1985 and an increase in the casting of women as unnamed doctors from 3% to 15% for films made since 1985. However, starkly, this representation does not match reality in the UK today, where women make up 52% of NHS GPs¹. Additionally, these increases are not consistent across the professions, with a startling 0% of women cast as unnamed Police Inspectors or Police Sergeants, despite the current highest-ranking police officer in the UK being a woman, London Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick.

The complete picture over time

The BFI Filmography data shows the highs and lows of UK cinema, revealing the 1930s to be the most active decade, with 1,544 films released. The decade with the fewest films released is the 1980s, seeing an all-time low of just 468 feature films. 2015 saw the return of the golden age of cinema in the UK, with 232 films released, the highest annual output since the 1930s.

The development of the BFI Filmography was a major commitment in **BFI 2022** and with its launch, the UK is the first major filmmaking territory to make available the complete data of its feature film output. This resource complements the BFI National Archive (established in 1935), which holds one of the largest film collections in the world, and the ongoing work by the BFI to produce detailed credit information on every feature film ever released in the UK (begun in 1934). This unique resource furthers the opportunity for film enthusiasts to discover and view thousands of films from the archive, which are available online on BFI Player and through the recently revamped BFI Mediatheque at BFI Southbank and mediatheques UK-wide.

The BFI Filmography provides an exciting opportunity to develop research projects in partnership with relevant experts. A gender focused analysis of the BFI Filmography is an example of this collaboration, having been carried out in partnership with leading innovation foundation, Nesta. Today Nesta, who support innovation in the creative economy, arts and culture, published two articles containing a series of interactive data visualisations exploring the gender imbalance in UK film casts and crews, available via: <http://data-viz.nesta.org.uk/bfi-onscreen/index.html> and <http://data-viz.nesta.org.uk/bfi-offscreen/index.html>.

The BFI Filmography is constantly evolving, with new information being added as UK feature films are released in cinemas. It is available to the public via the BFI website from today. Infographics present the data in useful visual diagrams, with optional filters and search parameters revealing facts and discoveries that can be easily shared on Facebook and Twitter. It has been designed for the BFI by independent digital design studio MagneticNorth.

¹ UK's General Practitioner Register, July 2017

The BFI Filmography is available from today at: filmography.bfi.org.uk

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Filmography is constantly updated – stats are as of 17 September 2017

Most prolific actors of each decade 1960-2017

1960s	John le Mesurier 51 films	Marianne Stone 62 films
1970s	Peter Cushing 29 films	Marianne Stone 37 films
1980s	Robbie Coltrane 16 films	Liz Smith 14 films
1990s	Keith Allen 14 films	Sadie Frost 10 films
2000s	Michael Gambon 21 films	Shirley Henderson 18 films
2010s	Jim Broadbent, Michael Fassbender 21 films, 17 films	Kate Dickie, Jodie Whittaker 13 films, 12 films

Most prolific women actors (still working)

Judi Dench	41 films
Maggie Smith	40 films
Vanessa Redgrave	40 films
Sylvia Syms	38 films
Liz Fraser	37 films
Joan Collins	37 films
Honor Blackman	36 films
Jane Carr	34 films
Julie Walters	34 films
Helen Mirren	33 films

Most prolific male actors (still working in the 2010s)

Michael Caine	70 films (first in 1956, most recently in 2017)
Leslie Phillips	66 films (first in 1938, most recently in 2011)
Jim Broadbent	59 films (first in 1978, most recently in 2017)

Top 10 most featured characters in film

1. Queen Victoria 25 films
2. Sherlock Holmes 24 films

3. James Bond	21 films
4. Miss Money Penny	17 films
5. M	16 films
6. Q	15 films
7. Prince of Wales	13 films
8. Old Mother Riley	13 films
9. Queen Elizabeth	12 films
10. Felix Leiter	10 films
11. Henry VIII	8 films
12. Harry Potter	8 films

4 Characters women are MOST likely to play (when name/gender is unspecified)

Prostitute – 94% cast as women

Housekeeper – 91% cast as women

Nurse – 88% cast as women

Receptionist – 80% cast as women

4 Characters women are LEAST likely to play (when name/gender is unspecified)

Police Inspector – 0% cast as women

Police Sergeant – 0% cast as women

Steward – 0% cast as women

Taxi Driver – 0% cast as women

Most prolific women directors

Muriel Box	13 films
Christine Edzard	7 films
Gurinder Chadha	7 films
Sally Potter	7 films
Wendy Toyne	6 films
Mira Nair	6 films
Penny Woolcock	5 films
Beeban Kidron	5 films
Debbie Isitt	5 films
Mary McGuckian	5 films

Top 10 most popular genres

1. Drama
2. Comedy
3. Crime
4. Thriller
5. Romance
6. War
7. Horror
8. Musical
9. Action & Adventure
10. Documentary

Notes to editors

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 is a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter.

The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

Nesta

Nesta is a global innovation foundation. We back new ideas to tackle the big challenges of our time, making use of our knowledge, networks, funding and skills. We work in partnership with others, including governments, businesses and charities. We are a UK charity that works all over the world, supported by a financial endowment. To find out more visit www.nesta.org.uk. Nesta is a registered charity in England and Wales 1144091 and Scotland SC042833.

Magnetic North

Founded in 2000, magneticNorth is one of the UK's leading independent digital design studios with an award winning portfolio including collaborations with the BBC, Co-op Digital and Hull UK City of Culture.