

October/ November 2014 at BFI Southbank



Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder, Afrofuturism, Birth of the Method, Nuri Bilge Ceylan, Jacques Tati

Helen de Witt, Head of Cinemas, BFI said: “*Days of Fear and Wonder* at the BFI Southbank in October and November is an interstellar voyage across the cinematic galaxy, taking in Sci-Fi odysseys, time-travelling Archive classics and landing back on earth with one of the greatest contemporary directors.”

- The BFI’s three-month blockbuster season, *Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder* touches down at **BFI Southbank** this autumn with an out of this world programme of screenings and events. Highlights will include the **UK Premiere** of *Future Shock! – The Story of 2000AD*, looking at the huge influence of the weekly British sci-fi comic; a keynote talk from award-winning author **William Gibson**; an event to mark the 40th anniversary of the **Arecibo Message**, with **Dr Adam Rutherford** and **Professor Brian Cox**; live music events featuring **DJ Yoda**, **John Foxx**, **Steve D’Agostino** and **Charlotte Hatherley**; plus a film programme to satisfy Sci-Fi aficionados and novices alike.
- As part of *Sci-Fi, Inside Afrofuturism* will examine black visions of Sci-Fi, with films such as the legendary *Space is the Place* (1974) and *Born in Flames* (1983) both starring **Sun Ra**. There will also be a screening of **Terence Nance’s** *An Oversimplification of Her Beauty* (2012) followed by a **Skype Q&A** with the director. Plus, a very special *In Conversation* event with Hip Hop pioneer, **Afrika Bambaataa**.
- *Sci-Fi* extended runs will consist of the ever-eerie *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956) directed by **Don Siegel**, and **Stanley Kubrick’s** masterpiece *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968), presented in a stunning 4k digital restoration, and released in cinemas across the UK on **28 November**. To mark the release of the film **BFI Southbank** will also host a panel discussion, recorded for BBC Radio 3’s *Free Thinking*. Hosted by **Professor Matthew Sweet**, the panel will feature stars of the film **Keir Dullea** and **Gary Lockwood**, plus **Professor Brian Cox** and **Sir Christopher Frayling**.
- *Sci-Fi* for families will consist of screenings of classic films including *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* (1982), *The Black Hole* (1979), *The Invisible Man* (1933) and a **Family Funday** dedicated to *Flash Gordon* (1980). Plus there will be a **TV preview** of the new series of CBBC’s *Wizards Vs Aliens* (2014) followed by a Q&A with members of the crew.

- ***Birth of the Method: The Revolution in American Acting*** will be a season looking at the generation of actors who burst onto screens, both big and small, in the 1950s and will include powerful performances by actors such as **Marlon Brando**, **Paul Newman**, **Marilyn Monroe** and **Eva Marie Saint**. The season will also include a Q&A with director **Jack Garfein**, who directed ***The Strange One*** (1957) and ***Something Wild*** (1961), and launched the careers of actors such as **Ben Gazzara** and **Carroll Baker**.
- As **Nuri Bilge Ceylan's** visually breath-taking **Palme d'Or** winning ***Winter Sleep*** (2014) hits UK cinemas, **BFI Southbank** will dedicate a retrospective to the work of the Turkish director. Also screening alongside ***Winter Sleep*** will be previous Cannes prize-winners ***Distant*** (2002), ***Three Monkeys*** (2008) and ***Once Upon a Time in Anatolia*** (2011).
- Chaos-creator **Jacques Tati** returns to the **BFI Southbank** in new restorations of his beloved films including ***Les Vacances de M. Hulot*** (1952) and ***Mon Oncle*** (1958). This season also offers the chance to discover some of **Tati's** rarely seen shorts including ***Lively Sunday*** (1935) and ***Evening Classes*** (1967).
- Further extended runs in October and November consist of the **Palme d'Or** winning ***Winter Sleep*** (2014), a glorious BFI restoration of ***The Battles of Coronel and the Falkland Islands*** (1927) (which was also this year's LFF Archive Gala), and **Jacques Tati's** playful ***Playtime*** (1967).
- **Discover Arab Cinema** nears its conclusion with a focus on **Syria**; the selection of films screening reflect the exceptional aesthetics, originality, and experimental nature of Syrian cinema and will include ***Round Trip*** (2012), ***Aspirin and a Bullet*** (2011), ***Ladder to Damascus*** (2013) and a striking collection of short films.
- Further highlights include ***Black Poppies***, an illustrated talk looking at the role of Britain's black communities during the Great War, plus previews of the **Daniel Radcliffe** led ***Horns*** (2013), and **Jessica Hausner's *Amour Fou***, which will be followed by a Q&A with the director.

SCI-FI: DAYS OF FEAR AND WONDER

Beginning on **October 20** and running at **BFI Southbank** until the end of the year, **Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder** presented together with **02**, will celebrate cinema and television's most spectacular and visionary genre, exploring how the fear and wonder at its heart continues to inspire and enthrall. The season will be presented through three key themes: ***Tomorrow's World***, ***Altered States*** and ***Contact!***

The season begins in October with ***Tomorrow's World***, packed with 'what-ifs'; from bleak dystopias and post-apocalyptic wastelands, to futuristic mega-cities powered by advanced technology. Screenings will include silent masterpieces Fritz Lang's ***Metropolis*** (1927) and ***High Treason*** (1929) (which will also screen in its sound version); literary adaptations including ***Things to Come*** (1936), based on H.G. Wells' vast novel, and Volker Schlöndorff's ***A Handmade's Tale*** (1990) based on Margaret Atwood's award-winning work of speculative fiction; and cult futuristic favourites such as ***A Clockwork Orange*** (1971), ***Mad Max 2*** (1981), ***Brazil*** (1985) and ***Akira*** (1988). Also screening will be **Shane Carruth's** remarkable debut feature ***Primer*** (2004), which will be followed by a **Q&A** with the director. **BFI Flare** will present screenings of the iconic ***Barbarella*** (1968), as well as a talk celebrating Sci-Fi's ground-breaking representation of LGBT characters on television in ***Gays of Fear and Wonder: Queer Sci-Fi TV***. Special events in the ***Tomorrow's World*** strand will include a keynote talk with award-winning science fiction writer **William Gibson**, a panel discussion with the stars of ***2001: A Space Odyssey***, **Keir Dullea** and **Gary Lockwood**, music events such as ***DJ Yoda Goes to the***

Movies and the **World Premiere** of *Evidence of Time Travel* with music and visuals by **John Foxx**, **Steve D'Agostino** and **Karborn**; an event to mark the 40th anniversary of the **Arecibo Message**, with **Dr Adam Rutherford** and **Professor Brian Cox**; plus the brand new instalment in the *Hunger Games* series *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1* (2014) screening on the day of its UK release, 22 November.

November sees the season move on to the theme of **Altered States**. Featuring mad scientists, machines, mutants, and mind-altering trips, *Altered States* will explore the science fiction of 'inner space'; whether pushing the limits of the human body or bioengineering new futures for the species, many of the films screening in the strand owe much to the stomach-churning virtues of their special effects, and their ability to show us what the results of scientific experimentation might look like. Films on offer will include *The Terminator*, *The Fly* (1986) *Testuo: The Iron Man* (1989), *Fantastic Voyage* (1966), *The Invisible Man* (1933) and *Je t'aime, je t'aime* (1968). There will be a series of talks to accompany the strand including **More Beast Than Man** and **More Human Than Human**. In the former, **Roger Luckhurst** will explore the nightmarish instability of the human-as-species; from the sinister experiments of Jekyll and Moreau, to the body horrors of *The Fly* and *The Thing*, to modern CGI and SFX in Sci-Fi cinema. The latter will see **Sherryl Vint** look at the history of 'posthumanism' in the context of Sci-Fi cinema, from *Blade Runner* to *The Fly*.

Sci-Fi on television will be celebrated throughout the season. The godfather of Sci-Fi TV **Nigel Kneale** (*Quatermass*, *Theatre 625: The World of George Orwell: 1984*) will be discussed by **Kim Newman** in a talk about the visionary writer whose ideas mixed ancient horrors with contemporary science to create a uniquely British phenomenon. Kneale also paved the way for such remarkable series as *Out of this World* (1962) and *Out of the Unknown* (1965), both of which are being released on **BFI DVD** as part of the season, and play in a special double bill at **BFI Southbank**. There will also be a preview of the new BBC Two series *Tomorrow's World* (2014), in which presenter Dominic Sandbrook explores the history of science fiction. This special preview will be followed by a **Q&A** with producers **John Das** and **Ben Southwell**, and presenter **Dominic Sandbrook**.

The season continues in December with *Contact!*, a strand focusing on our desire to discover if we are alone in the universe.

INSIDE AFROFUTURISM

As part of *Sci-Fi*, BFI Southbank will host *Inside Afrofuturism*, a weekend devoted to exploring **Afrofuturism**, a phrase which has come to define works that engage with ideas around imagined possible future worlds from a black perspective. The *Inside Afrofuturism* weekend will include screenings of *Sankofa* (1993), the devastating tale of a black model who is transported back in time to a slavery plantation and *The Last Angel of History* (1996), John Akomfrah's blend of Sci-Fi parable and essay film. The latter will be followed by a panel discussion on this ever-evolving sub-genre with *Inside Afrofuturism* curator **Ashley Clark**, academic **Mark Bould**, writer and musician **Anthony Joseph** and curator **Zoe Whitley**. Also screening over the weekend will be *Space is the Place* (1974) and *Born in Flames* (1983) both starring legendary jazz artist **Sun Ra**, John Sayles' witty urban spin on the runaway slave narrative *The Brother from Another Planet* (1984) and the invigorating portrait of unique artist Ornette Coleman *Ornette: Made in America* (1985). There will also be a screening of **Terence Nance's** *An Oversimplification of Her Beauty* (2012) followed by a **Skype Q&A** with the director. Plus, a very special *In Conversation* event with Hip Hop pioneer **Afrika Bambaataa**.

BIRTH OF THE METHOD: THE REVOLUTION IN AMERICAN ACTING

Birth of the Method will be a season looking at the generation of actors who burst onto screens, both big and small, in the 1950s, igniting a revolution in screen acting that still resonates today. They were fuelled by the radical approaches to their craft that were being explored in the legendary

Actors Studio. Under the guidance of Lee Strasberg and other mentors like Elia Kazan and Jack Garfein, this new generation all practised (to differing degrees) the 'Method'. The season will include powerful performances by actors such as **Marlon Brando**, **Paul Newman**, **Marilyn Monroe** and **Eva Marie Saint** in classic films including ***On the Waterfront*** (1954), ***Bus Stop*** (1956) ***Fear Strikes Out*** (1957) and ***Wild River*** (1960). The season will also include a Q&A with director **Jack Garfein**, who directed ***The Strange One*** (1957) and ***Something Wild*** (1961), and launched the careers of actors such as **Ben Gazzara** and **Carroll Baker**.

NURI BILGE CEYLAN

Although his filmography only consists of seven feature films it is clear that Turkish director **Nuri Bilge Ceylan** is already a master of his craft. With works that have become renowned for their visual sophistication, Ceylan's use of digital technology has resulted in a look that is undoubtedly his own. The season will begin with ***The Small Town*** (1998) an account of a year in the life of a teenage girl and her family, set in a small Anatolian town; ***Clouds of May*** (2000) tells another story set in Anatolia, this time of a well-meaning but somewhat self-centred filmmaker visiting his family; ***Distant*** (2002) brought Ceylan his first prize at Cannes (winning the Cannes Grand Prix and the Best Actor prizes for both its leads), and is a wonderfully incisive study of the awkward realities of modern urban life, as experienced by a photographer living in Istanbul. Further Cannes prizes came for ***Three Monkeys*** (2008) and ***Once Upon a Time in Anatolia*** (2011), but it was this year that Ceylan finally took the top-prize, scooping the **Palme d'Or** for his latest film ***Winter Sleep*** (2014) which will screen on **Extended Run** as part of the season.

JACQUES TATI

Through October and November **BFI Southbank** will pay tribute to the work of comedic master **Jacques Tati** with a dedicated season of his films. The French actor/director armed with his pipe and trench coat, brought laughter and joy to audiences as the infamously oafish Monsieur Hulot, who first appeared in ***Les Vacances de M. Hulot*** (1952), before returning in ***Mon Oncle*** (1958), ***Playtime*** (1967) and ***Traffic*** (1970). The season will also bring four of Tati's shorts to the big screen offering audiences the chance to discover these largely unseen gems. Following the ups and downs of his career, personal life and subsequent death ***Les Films de Mon Oncle*** along with Tati's daughter have worked to restore Tati's films and bring them back into circulation in brand new prints worthy of one of the cinema's most cherished talents. The season, which will also include an **Extended Run** at **BFI Southbank** of ***Playtime***, will serve up laughs for the whole family.

– **ENDS** –

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

BFI SOUTHBANK EVENT LISTINGS FOR OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER

Amour Fou + Q&A with Jessica Hausner

Austria-Luxembourg-Germany 2014. Dir Jessica Hausner. With Christian Friedel, Birte Schnoink, Stephan Grossmann. 96min. Digital. Cert tbc. Courtesy of Arrow Films

Henriette, the gentle young wife of a Berlin businessman is propositioned by Heinrich, an idealist and poet who yearns to prove his capacity for love through the romance of a suicide pact. Having been snubbed by his cousin already, Heinrich is pleased when Henriette agrees to meet him in secret to deliver each other into love eternal in death. This carefully framed and quietly humorous period drama from Jessica Hausner (*Lourdes*) is a delight.

Tickets £16, concs £12 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Wed 5 Nov 18:00 NFT1

Horns

USA 2014. Dir Alexandre Aja. With Daniel Radcliffe, Juno Temple, Sabrina Carpenter. 123min. Digital. Cert tbc. Courtesy of Lionsgate

Ig Perrish (Daniel Radcliffe) is madly in love with Merrin (Juno Temple). When Merrin is brutally murdered, the local townspeople and Ig's own family are convinced he's the attacker after he confesses he was too drunk to recall the evening's events. Harassed and condemned without official conviction, Ig awakens one morning having sprouted mysterious horns, which seem to have the added side effect of encouraging all around him to reveal their darkest secrets.

Tickets £16, concs £12 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Mon 20 Oct 20:45 NFT1

The Arecibo Message at 40 with Dr Adam Rutherford and Professor Brian Cox

On 16 November 1974 an encoded radio message was transmitted into deep space by the Arecibo radio telescope in Puerto Rico, fusing together scientific and cultural essentials into a simple pictographic puzzle that any intelligent life form could decode. The dream of making contact with life beyond our solar system has inspired artists and scientists alike, but while aliens have never shown up (officially!) on our detection systems, they regularly manifest in our cinemas. In this realm of pure speculation, are scientists any better than artists at answering the question: is anybody out there?

Followed by an interval

+ Contact

USA 1997. Dir Robert Zemeckis. With Jodie Foster, Matthew McConaughey, Tom Skerritt. 150min. PG

A rare chance to see Robert Zemeckis and Carl Sagan's highly underrated sci-fi thriller, which positions itself at the intersection between science, politics and faith. On emerging from a wormhole, scientist Dr Ellie Arroway (Jodie Foster) gasps in wonder at a celestial spectacle: 'they should have sent a poet.' It's an interesting point to make – that science may uncover these wonders, but only art can communicate the feeling of comprehending them.

Fri 14 Nov 18:45 NFT1

Jack Garfein in Conversation

Czech-born Jack Garfein, a survivor of the Holocaust, emigrated to America and, in 1951, joined Elia Kazan's recently-formed Actors Studio as a gifted young drama director. He made two acclaimed films – *The Strange One* and *Something Wild* – and launched the careers of actors such as Ben Gazzara and Carroll Baker (whom he married) before returning to the theatre. At 84, Garfein still teaches acting in Paris and New York. Here, in conversation with film archivist, author, historian and programmer Clyde Jeavons, he will talk about the Method and the legendary talent it spawned.

Thu 27 Nov 18:20 NFT3

We Are the Giant + Q&A

USA-UK 2014. Dir Greg Barker. 88min. Digital. Some EST. 15

Directed by award-winning filmmaker Greg Barker, *We Are the Giant* tells the inspirational and gripping stories of six ordinary individuals who are transformed by the critical, moral and personal challenges they encounter when standing up for what they believe is right. With remarkable and candid access, the film reveals how each person – from different walks of life – makes painful choices that come to define themselves, and their struggles against a brutal regime determined to crush them into submission.

Followed by a panel discussion and Q&A with the filmmakers

Thu 30 Oct 18:20 NFT1

BAFTA Masterclass: Production Design with Stuart Craig

Stuart Craig OBE has received three Oscars® and two BAFTAs for his diverse film credits, which span over 30 years. Craig won his first BAFTA award and Oscar® nomination for his work on David Lynch's *The Elephant Man* in 1980. His other award-winning work includes *Ghandi*, *Dangerous Liaisons* and *The English Patient*. His most recent credits include all eight Harry Potter films (on which he spent ten years weaving his magic) and David Yates' *Tarzan*, due for release in 2016. We're very pleased to have Craig join us to impart some of his extensive knowledge and career tales.

Tickets £11.50, concs £9 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Tue 4 Nov 18:15 NFT3

TV Preview: Wizards Vs Aliens: The Secret of Room 12 + Q&A

CBBC 2014. Dir Mark Everest. With Scott Haran, Percelle Ascott, Annette Badland, Dan Starkey. 55min

Wizard Tom and best friend Benny think that with the Nekross gone life's going to get a whole lot easier, but students and teachers at Kings Park School start acting strangely, and the duo suspect alien activity centred on the mysterious Room 12. This new story from Season 3 of the hit CBBC show is presented here as part of our Sci-Fi season. We look forward to welcoming guests including writer/co-creator Phil Ford and producer Derek Ritchie to the BFI stage for a Q&A.

Sat 25 Oct 13:00 NFT1

The Invisible Man

USA 1933. Dir James Whale. With Claude Rains, Gloria Stewart. 71min. PG

Made only 36 years after HG Wells wrote his classic book, this production of *The Invisible Man* is undoubtedly the strongest. It tells the story of Dr Jack Griffin, a scientist who accidentally discovers how to make himself invisible. However, with madness and increasing instability as a side-effect, Dr Griffin becomes a danger to himself and those around him, and soon murder and mayhem surround him.

Mon 27 Oct 14:30 NFT3

Thu 30 Oct 14:30 NFT3

The Black Hole

USA 1979. Dir Gary Nelson. With Maximilian Schell, Anthony Perkins, Ernest Borgnine. 98min. PG

Hot on the heels of *Star Wars* and a host of other sci-fi blockbusters, Disney threw its hat into the ring with *The Black Hole*, its first PG-rated title. The USS Palomino is returning to Earth but changes course when it discovers a black hole and a long-lost space ship, the USS Cygnet. On board, things are not as they might first appear, and soon the crew find themselves in danger as the secrets of the Cygnet start to reveal themselves.

Tue 28 Oct 14:30 NFT2

Fri 31 Oct 14:30 NFT2

E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial

USA 1982. Dir Steven Spielberg. With Drew Barrymore, Henry Thomas, Peter Coyote. 115min. Digital. U

Often hailed as one of the greatest family films of all time, *E.T.* tells the story of an abandoned alien a long way from home who befriends Elliott, a young boy who tries to take him in as part of the family. With the government hot on his trail, E.T. must try to get back to his own kind, otherwise life under a microscope is the fate that awaits him. Spielberg's sci-fi masterpiece is beautifully made, and only the hardest-hearted could fail to shed a tear by the time the curtains close.

Wed 29 Oct 14:30 NFT2

Fri 31 Oct 18:15 NFT1

Sat 1 Nov 14:30 NFT1

Film Funday: Flash Gordon + Q&A with Mike Hodges

UK 1980. Dir Mike Hodges. With Sam J. Jones, Melody Anderson, Timothy Dalton, Max von Sydow. 115min. Digital. PG

Alex Raymond's popular comic strip character bounds on to the screen to heroically save the Earth from Ming the Merciless (Max von Sydow on splendid form), ruthless ruler of the planet Mongo. Mike Hodges directs with verve and wit, 'Queen' provide the memorable score and Fellini's frequent collaborator Danilo Donati provides costume and set designs that ravish the eye. And not forgetting a scene-stealing Brian Blessed with wings!

We are pleased to welcome director Mike Hodges for a Q&A

Sun 9 Nov 13:00 NFT1

Funday Workshop

Taking inspiration from *Flash Gordon's* larger-than-life characters and costumes, and one of the most fun adventures ever seen on the big screen, we'll stir up your child's imagination and help them create their very own heroes and villains. Our team of practitioners will help you bring their stories and ideas to colourful life through storyboarding and animation techniques. With the usual arts and crafts and prizes on offer, don't miss our *Flash Gordon* special!

Free to ticket holders of Flash Gordon

Sun 9 Nov 11:00 Foyer

Sci-Fi Filmmaking Workshops for 8-14 Year-olds

Delve into the thrilling world of sci-fi at our fun, action-packed workshops, which cover everything from acting to special effects!

Workshop ticket includes film screening. £24 per day, concs and siblings £15

Mon 27 Oct *The Invisible Man*

Tue 28 Oct *The Black Hole*

Wed 29 Oct *E.T.*

Thu 30 Oct *The Invisible Man*

Workshops: 10:00 – 14:00. Films end approx. 16:30. Film classifications: PG, adult tutors will be in attendance

Little Ones' Sci-Fi Messy Time

Come along to our sci-fi themed workshop for little ones (up to age 7) where we'll be having animation fun aplenty making rockets, spaceships and alien animations – with no mess for you to clear away afterwards!

£5 per ticket/siblings £4. Children must be accompanied by an adult

Fri 31 Oct 11:30 – 15:00

Raw Shorts: How to Frame Roger Rabbit – Animate Your Movies!

Raw Shorts takes a look at how animation can bring another dimension to your film, or stand alone in its own right. Filming through a lens has physical limitations on what you can put and do in front of a camera. Animation offers a way of letting your imagination run free and achieve scenes that would otherwise be impossible to shoot. Professional artists, animators and animation software experts will discuss the topic during an on-stage Q&A, followed by a choice of animation workshops and masterclasses on the most popular techniques of animation. At the end of the day you'll also have the chance to network with industry experts and fellow filmmakers and animators.

Tickets just £6, or bring a friend for £10 (for 15-25 year-olds only)

Sat 22 Nov 12:30 NFT3

Young Filmmakers for Development

The Young Filmmakers for Development day is part of 2014's We The Peoples film festival, a flagship youth programme now in its ninth year. The day showcases a selection of films created by young people around the themes of understanding, tolerance and peace. There will also be the live final of our #tweetapitch competition, offering you the chance to win a £500 filmmaking bursary with professional mentorship, plus workshops, discussions and awards for young filmmakers.

Sat 8 Nov, various venues, BFI Southbank

Seniors' Free Matinee: Bank Holiday + Introduction

UK 1938. Dir Carol Reed. With Margaret Lockwood, John Lodge, Hugh Williams, René Ray. 86min. U

Various characters go to the seaside for some bank holiday fun, including an unmarried couple (Lockwood and Williams) embarking on a risqué weekend; beauty queen contestant Miss Fulham (Ray), who's trying to enter the big league; and a middle-aged couple (the wonderful pairing of Kathleen Harrison and Wally Patch) with their brood of unruly children. *Bank Holiday* is a beautifully observed, superbly realised slice of British life that put Carol Reed on the map. Screening with an archive documentary short: *Knees Up Mother Brown* (UK 1964. Dir Peter Smith. 10min).

Introduced by John Oliver, Fiction Curator, plus we hope to welcome Peter Smith, director of 'Knees Up Mother Brown,' to introduce his film Free for over 60s, otherwise normal matinee price

Mon 10 Nov 14:00 NFT1

Free Seniors' Talk: Children of the Great War: an Audio-Visual Presentation by Simon Purins and Ivan Riches

Over the last 18 months Age Exchange interviewed 127 people, focussing on how families were affected by the 1914 – 1918 conflict, both then and across subsequent generations. Contributors shared moving personal histories passed down from within their families, which provided inspiration for a dual-screen film installation where engaging accounts by 13 participants of mixed ages played alongside imagery inspired by their stories, and Flanders landscapes.

Free for over 60s, otherwise normal matinee price

Fri 24 Oct 11:00 NFT3

Black Poppies

To commemorate the centenary of the First World War, and to coincide with the publishing of *Black Poppies – Britain's Black Community and the Great War* (The History Press), film historian Stephen Bourne considers the often under-recognised contribution of Britain's black community (including servicemen) to the conflict. From the music halls to the trenches, the talk will present photographs from *Black Poppies* as well as extracts from documentaries.

This event is free, but tickets must be booked in advance

Mon 17 Nov 14:00 – 15:00 Blue Room

Once in a New Moon

UK 1935. Dir Anthony Kimmins. With Eliot Makeham, René Ray, Derrick de Marnay, John Clements. 63min. U

To tie in with the BFI's Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder season, Projecting the Archive this month presents a rare screening of a humorous British curio – a 'quota quickie' that mixes science fiction with political satire. All seems peaceful in the quiet English coastal village of Shrimpton-on-Sea, but trouble is fast approaching. The local postmaster (and amateur astronomer) foretells disaster as a 'dead star' is heading towards Earth. And he is soon proved right when, one night, the village is sucked into outer space (with the aid of minimal effects of course) by the passing star. Shrimpton-on-Sea becomes Shrimpton-in-Space. However, this is all just a pretext for the film – adapted from a novel by Owen Rutter – to then examine British society's political divisions, as the villagers, despite their initial attempts to work together, soon split into two rival camps: the capitalist gentry and the socialist workers. Plus *Plenty of Time for Play* (UK 1935. Dir Alexandre Esway. 15min). A look at London life 1955-style, and the role of electricity in the future.

Introduced by John Oliver, BFI National Archive Curator

Tue 18 Nov 18:10 NFT3

Philosophical Screens: 'Cinema's Spectral Voyages': Three Crowns of a Sailor

Les trois couronnes du matelot France 1983. Dir Raoul Ruiz. With Jean-Bernard Guillard, Philippe Deplanche, Nadège Clair. 117min. EST. 15

In the latest edition of our series exploring the connections between philosophy and film, Michael Goddard (author of *Impossible Cartographies: The Cinema of Raoul Ruiz*) presents a screening of Ruiz's surreal fantasy, in which a sailor navigates dreamlike geographies, weaving wonderful stories. Following the screening, Goddard will be joined by John Mullarkey for a discussion on the rich and exciting ideas – both philosophical and artistic – in this unique film.

Wed 22 Oct 18:10 NFT3

An Oversimplification of Her Beauty + Skype Q&A with director Terence Nance

USA 2012. Dir Terence Nance. With Terence Nance, Namik Minter. 93min. Digital. 12A

This explosively creative debut feature charts the relationship between a man (Nance) and a young woman (Minter), as it teeters on the line between platonic and romantic. Weaving an alluring tapestry of live action, home video and Afrofuturistic animation, Nance explores the fantasies, memories and emotions of a single moment in time. Plus *Touch* (UK 2014. Dir Shola Amoo. 13min). A fractured, futuristic love story.

Sat 29 Nov 14:00 NFT2

Discover Arab Cinema

Syria

The present situation in Syria has impacted on what films we have been able to show in this programme. However, we're pleased to still be able to offer a much-deserved showcase of work that reflects the exceptional aesthetics, originality, and experimental nature of Syrian cinema. Ladder to Damascus, the latest feature by

Mohamad Malas, one of Syria's pioneer auteur directors, screens alongside films from up-and-coming directors, and three exceptional shorts which tell intimate, tender stories through a crushing, larger context. Discover Arab Cinema is programmed by Mona Deeley in association with the Zenith Foundation.

Round Trip

Syria-United Arab Emirates-Germany- France-Egypt 2012. Dir Meyar Al Roumi. With Ammar Haj Ahmad, Alexandra Kahwagi. 73min. Digital. EST

Souhaire is tired of having to steal moments alone with her lover Walid in his taxi. When she accepts a friend's invitation to visit her in Tehran, she and Walid take a train journey together and along the way discover some truths about their relationship. Meyar Al Roumi's beautifully-shot film has a restless quality, emphasised by the landscapes glimpsed through the train window and the soundtrack (by popular Lebanese music producer Zeid Hamdan), which underscores the love story's transition from hope to pessimism.

Tue 4 Nov 18:30 NFT2

Sat 8 Nov 20:40 NFT2

Aspirin and a Bullet Aspirin wa Rassasa

Syria 2011. Dir Ammar Al Beik. With Intissar Abo-Alzahab, Ammar Al Beik, Alisa Al Hasan. 125min. Digital. EST

This experimental and very personal film uses vignettes to explore the grey areas between the public and the private and reality and fiction. The director's friend tells stories of sexual encounters over a drink, while spouting French love song lyrics; Al Beik's mother sits for the film like a subject posing for their portrait; and the director discusses the nature of performance with his actress. These scenes are layered with excerpts from other films and clips of their directors (Bertolucci, Miike, Verhoeven) to intriguing effect.

Wed 12 Nov 18:10 NFT2

Sat 15 Nov 20:30 NFT2

Ladder to Damascus Soullam Ila Dimashk

Syria-Qatar-Lebanon 2013. Dir Mohamad Malas. With Gianna Aanid, Najla El Wa'za, Hussein Marii. 95min. Digital. EST

Ladder to Damascus marks the return to cinema of legendary Syrian filmmaker Mohamad Malas after almost a decade-long absence. Ghalia is inhabited by the soul of Zeina, a girl who drowned the day she was born. Haunted by Zeina's past life, Ghalia travels to Damascus to study acting. There she meets an aspiring filmmaker, fascinated by her duality, who finds her a place to live with other students, but soon the tumultuous events taking place in the streets encroach on their budding love affair.

Tue 18 Nov 18:30 NFT2

Sun 23 Nov 20:40 NFT2

Syrian Shorts Programme

TRT: 72min

The Sun's Incubator

Syria 2011. Dir Ammar Al Beik. 12min. EST

This short film juxtaposes the mundane with the enormity of the revolutionary events taking place in the Arab region. Intensely private, without being sentimental, it captures the birth of the director's own child, at a critical point in history.

+ Foam (Zabad)

Syria 2008. Dir Reem Ali. 43min. EST

A family struggles to come to terms with their experiences as political prisoners, and their lives after the death of their father. Despite this, *Foam* is a sensitive and multi-layered film, permeated with a surprising sense of lightness and humour – a reminder of how these sentiments reach us even in our darkest hours.

+ Before Vanishing

Syria 2005. Dir Joude Gorani. 14min

This documentary traces the path of the Barada river as it splits into seven branches between various homes in Damascus, creating a picture of its riverside inhabitants along the way. The Barada river (now a trickle of its former self) was named 'Golden River' by the ancient Greeks, and is credited for enabling Damascus to prosper since ancient times.

Tue 25 Nov 18:20 NFT2

Sat 29 Nov 20:40 NFT2

Passport to Cinema - Backstory: Filmmakers and Films That Shaped Them

Our season on filmmakers who first defined their view of cinema as critics or theorists continues with the 'poetics' of Lindsay Anderson. He wrote about (and interviewed) John Ford extensively, represented here by **She Wore a Yellow Ribbon**, and championed the Jean Vigo of **L'Atalante** and **Zéro de conduite** (the latter directly inspired Anderson's film *If...*). Our Jean-Luc Godard film, **Bande à part**, is backed by **Bigger Than Life** ('the cinema is Nicholas Ray' claimed Godard) and his less well-known enthusiasm for Ingmar Bergman (**Summer with Monika**). A trio of films exemplifying Paul Schrader's 'transcendental style in film' begins with his own **American Gigolo**.

She Wore a Yellow Ribbon

USA 1949. Dir John Ford. With John Wayne, Joanne Dru, John Agar, Ben Johnson. 103min. PG

Described by Lindsay Anderson as 'one continual visual delight', *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* is the middle film in Ford's Cavalry Trilogy. Here Ford lovingly depicts military life as an ideal community. At the heart of a story divided between love (two cavalymen are rivals for the affection of the commanding officer's niece) and war (a campaign against the Arapaho) is John Wayne's nuanced performance as an ageing soldier. Ford uses Technicolor to evoke one of his visual inspirations, painter Frederic Remington.

*** Introduced by Dominic Power**

Mon 20 Oct 18:10 NFT2*

Tue 21 Oct 20:30 NFT3

Fri 24 Oct 20:40 NFT2

L'Atalante

France 1934. Dir Jean Vigo. With Michel Simon, Dita Parlo, Jean Dasté. 89min. EST. PG

A double bill of Vigo's two most celebrated and best loved films. *L'Atalante* is Vigo's only feature-length film, a masterpiece, about love and loss between two inarticulate newlyweds travelling on a barge – itself a symbol both of confinement and freedom. Despite being eviscerated and retitled on its release, shortly before Vigo's death, *L'Atalante* has survived as one of the greatest evocations of the poetry of everyday life.

+ Zéro de conduite

France 1933. Dir Jean Vigo. With Jean Dasté, Gérard de Bédarieux, Louis Lefebvre. 40min. EST. PG

Zéro de conduite – banned for a decade in France – is Vigo's anarchic study of life in a repressive French boarding school (based on his own experience), which blends realistic observation with the poetic and the fantastic. Lindsay Anderson may have substituted machine guns for the less lethal missiles of Vigo's schoolboys at the climax of *If...*, but *Zéro de conduite*'s enduring anarchy remains one of cinema's true acts of subversion.

*** Introduced by Nathalie Morris**

Mon 27 Oct 18:10 NFT2*

Sat 1 Nov 20:30 NFT2

Bande à part

France 1964. Dir Jean-Luc Godard. With Anna Karina, Sami Frey, Claude Brasseur. 95min. EST. PG

Bande à part may be the last time Godard intermingled the B-thrillers he had loved as a critic with a down-on-the-streets picture of modern Parisian youth (a youth influenced by those same thrillers). You can start with either fiction or documentary, Godard said, but then 'you will inevitably find the other.' The three youngsters here (Anna Karina, Claude Brasseur and Sami Frey) are carefree when racing through the Louvre, but fatally naïve when they try to turn themselves into real gangsters.

*** Introduced by Richard Combs**

Sun 2 Nov 18:10 NFT2

Mon 3 Nov 18:10 NFT2*

Bigger Than Life

USA 1956. Dir Nicholas Ray. With James Mason, Barbara Rush, Walter Matthau. 95min. 12A

'There was theatre (Griffith), poetry (Murnau), painting (Rossellini), dance (Eisenstein), music (Renoir). Henceforth, there is cinema. And the cinema is Nicholas Ray.' This Godard gauntlet startled many, but it pointed the way to that thing called *mise-en-scène*. Ray's is vibrant in this CinemaScope drama about a schoolteacher (James Mason) deranged by cortisone treatment. It's all about the inner turmoil within 50s conformism, but Ray needed inner turmoil like he needed a camera.

*** Introduced by Philip Kemp**

Mon 10 Nov 18:10 NFT2*

Sat 15 Nov 18:30 NFT3

Summer with Monika Sommaren med Monika

Sweden 1953. Dir Ingmar Bergman. With Harriet Andersson, Lars Ekborg, Dagmar Ebbesen. 96min. EST. PG

In 1958, Godard called *Summer with Monika* 'the most original film by the most original of filmmakers, it is to the cinema of today what *The Birth of a Nation* was to the classical cinema.' The story of two teenagers escaping unhappy home lives in Stockholm to spend an idyllic summer by the sea has a hint of *Breathless*, and the easy eroticism of Harriet Andersson was a beacon for the New Wave (see Truffaut's *The 400 Blows*).

*** Introduced by Mark Le Fanu**

Mon 17 Nov 18:10 NFT2*

Sat 22 Nov 20:45 NFT2

American Gigolo

USA 1980. Dir Paul Schrader. With Richard Gere, Lauren Hutton, Hector Elizondo. 117min. 18

Schrader's third film as director was his first hit. A reworking of the themes of Robert Bresson's *Pickpocket*, set in the glossy milieu of Los Angeles at the turn of the 80s, this is Bresson with a Giorgio Moroder soundtrack, and the road to salvation begins with narcissism rather than larceny. Gere's high-end hustler is essentially an innocent, who glimpses redemption in a world that pays for its pleasures and fiercely protects its appearances.

*** Introduced by Richard Combs**

Sun 23 Nov 18:15 NFT2

Mon 24 Nov 18:10 NFT2*

Sun 30 Nov 20:40 NFT2

BFI Screen Epiphanies in partnership with American Express®

Michel Faber Introduces The Final Programme

UK 1973. Dir Robert Fuest. With Jon Finch, Jenny Runacre, Sterling Hayden, Derrick O'Connor. 89min. 15

Best-selling author Michel Faber (*Under the Skin*, *The Crimson Petal and the White*) presents the British sci-fi film *The Final Programme*. A billionaire physicist races across Europe – alongside a group of scientists led by the formidable femme fatale Miss Brunner – to find his late Nobel prize-winning father's mysterious 'final programme' – the designs for a flawless, self-replicating human being.

Michel Faber will be signing copies of his new novel *The Book of Strange New Things* in the BFI Shop following this event

Thu 23 Oct 18:10 NFT1

Member Picks - No Country for Old Men

USA 2007. Dirs Joel and Ethan Coen. With Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin. 122min. 15

A hunter stumbles upon two million dollars in the desert, and becomes hunted himself when a hit man is hired to recover the money. A dark, violent and deeply disquieting drama, from the inimitable Coen brothers.

Members can apply for up to two tickets, the first is free

Mon 24 Nov 18:15 NFT1