

## Ray Davies In Conversation at BFI Southbank



### The Meltdown Observer Talk with Julien Temple

**BFI Southbank** is delighted to present an exclusive interview with **Ray Davies**, by the acclaimed British director **Julien Temple**, as part of this year's **Meltdown** festival, on **Saturday 18 June**. The legendary frontman of the seminal 60s band The Kinks is the curator of the annual festival, held at the South Bank Centre. Following the on-stage event is a special Davies double bill of **The Flipside**, when he will introduce two television dramas in which he starred, demonstrating that there are many strings to his bow. Ray Davies will also select this month's **Screen Epiphany** – the exclusive monthly event for BFI members – and discuss his choice of **Costa-Gavras'** political thriller **Z** (1969).

As lead singer and songwriter of The Kinks, Ray Davies co-founded the band in 1964 and achieved international acclaim when their third single, *You Really Got Me*, reached the number one spot in the UK and the US top 10. Songs such as *Waterloo Sunset* and *Lola* are now deemed part of a defining soundtrack to the revolutionary decade, when London was arguably the coolest city in the world with a plethora of bands to support such a moniker. Since the official demise of The Kinks, Davies has continued to practise the art of music as a solo artist, has produced a number of documentaries and has succeeded as a writer of short stories, as well as his autobiography.

To complement the music programme of Meltdown, Julien Temple will discuss Ray Davies' career to date. Davies will then introduce two television plays that he starred in during the 70s: *Play for Today* **The Long-Distance Piano Player** (BBC 1970) and *Late Night Drama* **Starmaker** (ITV 1974). Each of these dramas feature re-workings of songs by The Kinks and screen in the BFI strand The Flipside.

## **Programme:**

### **Ray Davies & Julien Temple in Conversation**

From the garage rock of 'All Day and All of the Night' and 'You Really Got Me' to such beautifully observed songs as 'Dead End Street', 'Lola' and 'Dedicated Follower of Fashion', Ray Davies' work has been heralded by generations of artists like David Bowie, Blur, The Jam and Mumford & Sons. We're delighted to welcome him to the stage, along with influential filmmaker Julien Temple (who recently profiled him for television), to discuss his own relationship with cinema, and the films that have inspired him throughout his extraordinary career.

**Sat 18 June 16:00 NFT1** Tickets £13, concs £9.75 (Members pay £1.50 less)

### **The Flipside: Ray Davies on TV**

A rare chance to see two terrific musical dramas showcasing the genius of legendary Kinks songsmith Ray Davies.

#### **The Long-Distance Piano Player**

*Play for Today*. BBC 1970. Dir Philip Saville. With Lois Daine, Norman Rossington, James Hazeldine. 80min

Many hit singles down the line, Ray made his acting debut in this Alan Sharp-scripted BBC drama as a musician attempting to set a world record for non-stop piano playing. While his wife begs him to stop, his manager urges him to continue. Bittersweet and thought-provoking, the play features some excellent alternate versions of Kinks songs, and an unreleased Davies composition, never heard elsewhere.

#### **+ Starmaker**

*Late Night Drama*. ITV 1974. Dir Peter Plummer. With June Ritchie. 37min

As the 1970s progressed the Kinks grew ever more theatrical, with Ray writing a string of concept albums and stage shows for the group. *Starmaker*, one of the most ambitious and successful of these, saw Ray centre stage as The Star, an aloof rock god, who, searching for inspiration, submerges himself in the dreary day-to-day existence of Norman – a boring accountant. But, over the course of eight underrated Kinks tracks, he discovers that their lives are inextricably linked.

**Sat 18 June 18:30 NFT1** Introduced by Ray Davies

### **Screen Epiphanies** in Partnership with American Express: **Ray Davies introduces Z**

Each month a cultural luminary shares the film that has inspired their life and career with BFI Members and special guests. In June we are delighted to welcome legendary and award winning musician Ray Davies, best known as lead singer and songwriter for The Kinks, to introduce Costa-Gavras' 1969 political thriller *Z*.

**Tue 14 June 18:20 NFT1**



### **Meltdown**

Since 1993 some of the world most distinguished musicians have been the guest directors of Meltdown. From John Peel through to Massive Attack, via David Bowie, Patti Smith, Morrissey and more, Meltdown has given seminal artists the chance to pick their favourite artists to play and exhibit their work at Southbank Centre. The BFI has often invited these artists to present films that are resonant or relevant, and this year we are delighted to welcome Ray Davies in person.

– End –

## **PRESS CONTACT:**

### **BFI Southbank:**

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

## **Booking information**

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The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £9.00, concs £6.65 Members pay £1.40 less on any ticket. Website [www.bfi.org.uk/southbank](http://www.bfi.org.uk/southbank)

**Tickets for FREE screenings and events must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment**

### **BFI Filmstore**

The BFI Filmstore is stocked and staffed by BFI experts with over 1,200 book titles and 1,000 DVDs to choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI.

### **The benugo bar & kitchen**

Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo's décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. The place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

**\*\*\* PICTURE DESK \*\*\***

**A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) under BFI / BFI Southbank /June 2011**