

**BFI BOOSTS FILM RESEARCH & STATISTICS IN THE UK
WITH NEW £4M FUND**

Now seeking delivery partner

- **BFI Film Research & Statistics Fund marks over £2.5m additional funding for collection and analysis of film research and statistics, to benefit industry, policy-makers and public**
- **New funds will increase and improve quality and impact of research, knowledge and analysis, widening access to information in new and innovative ways**
- **Fund delivers on commitment in BFI *Film Forever* plan and recommendations in the Government's Film Policy Review**

London, Monday 7 October 2013: The BFI today announces its new Film Research & Statistics Fund, supported by £4 million of Lottery funding until 2017. Up to date research and knowledge is crucial to future-proofing UK film and informing the development of new business models and well informed cultural practice that will help support the continued success of the sector. The new fund is an uplift in excess of £2.5m on previous funding available, and will see an increase in the quality and impact of film research, knowledge and analysis, which will be published in new and innovative ways for the benefit of the film industry, policy-makers, academia and the general public.

The BFI has begun the search for a partner to deliver a comprehensive research and statistics programme, providing quantitative and qualitative analysis of film and supporting an ambitious programme which will:

- Address a series of key research priorities for film, from analysing the impact of digital technologies throughout the film value chain, examining and testing new

business models for the production and distribution of film, through to increasing understanding of the wider cultural and educational impacts of film;

- Develop the current activities and resources of the BFI's Research and Statistics Unit (RSU);
- Increase and improve the quality and impact of film research, knowledge and statistical analysis;
- Provide opportunities for further collaboration and partnership between public policy, industry, academia and the wider film sector; and
- Make statistics and research findings widely available in user-friendly and innovative ways.

Tim Cagney, Deputy CEO of the BFI, comments: *"This is an exciting step forward which will herald a step change in the level of research and statistics available for the entire film sector. We're looking for innovation, partnership and expertise. Our substantial investment in this vital area, alongside additional funding from the successful partner organisation, will increase the level of robust information and data available and provide a crucial evidence base for film policy-makers and industry. Today's announcement further demonstrates the BFI's steadfast commitment to delivering on Film Forever and addressing the recommendations of the Government's Film Policy Review."*

Further information

The successful applicant will plan, design and implement a research and statistics programme for film through to the end of March 2017, and will boost the BFI Lottery funding by committing partnership funding of at least 20% in the first year, with an increase in subsequent years.

The BFI is looking for an applicant to: deliver a research programme that offers excellent value for money and addresses the strategic priorities set out in *Film Forever*; deliver the core outputs of the BFI's RSU, including the BFI Statistical Yearbook and the BFI's official statistical releases on UK film; and ensure findings are widely available for the benefit of all.

A Research & Statistics Advisory Committee will be established to ensure the Research Fund's priorities match the needs of UK Film. Committee members will be experts drawn

from across the cultural, educational and industrial elements of the film sector and will include representatives from the BFI.

Today's launch sees the BFI is delivering on the commitment detailed in its five year plan, *Film Forever* to establish dedicated funds to support research into the UK film industry and the cultural and economic value of film. This commitment echoed recommendations in the Government's Film Policy Review, which called for the BFI to establish a 'Research and Knowledge' function for the benefit of the public, the BFI, Government, industry, academia and all other stakeholders in film.

The closing date for applications is 25 November 2013. More information, including eligibility criteria and application guidelines and forms, can be found here:

www.bfi.org.uk/researchfund

– Ends –

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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
- 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 Greg Dyke.

www.bfi.org.uk

