



SCI-FI
DAYS OF FEAR
AND WONDER

Together with



Sci-Fi at BFI Southbank, October - November

Tuesday 23 September 2014, London

The BFI's three-month blockbuster season, *Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder* presented together with **O2** will be touching down at **BFI Southbank** this autumn with an out of this world programme of screenings and events. *Sci-Fi* will celebrate cinema'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!*

SPECIAL EVENTS

Events highlights in October and November will include the **UK Premiere** of *Future Shock! – The Story of 2000AD* (2014), looking at the huge influence of the weekly British sci-fi comic; not only did *2000AD* introduce seminal creators such as Alan Moore (*Watchmen*) to the comics world, it also spawned two *Judge Dredd* films and has been a launch pad for numerous artists and writers who also contribute to the documentary including Neil Gaiman, Pat Mills and John Wagner. The BFI is delighted to welcome award-winning author **William Gibson**, credited with the creating the term 'cyberspace' and a key influence on Sci-Fi film culture, who will take to the stage for a **Keynote Talk on Science Fiction in Cinema**.

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 officially shown up on our detection systems, they regularly manifest in our cinemas. BFI Southbank will mark the **40th anniversary of the Arecibo Message** with a special event with **Dr Adam Rutherford** and **Professor Brian Cox**, which will be followed by a screening of the highly underrated Sci-Fi thriller *Contact* (1997).

On **Tuesday 21 October** BFI Southbank will host a very special book launch to mark the publication of the latest **BFI compendium**, as well as nine new **BFI Film Classics** dedicated to Sci-Fi films. The launch will see a panel of contributors including **Mark Fisher** (author of *Capitalist Realism*), **Helen Lewis** (deputy editor, *New Statesman*), **Roger Luckhurst** (author of the BFI Classic on *Alien*) and the BFI's own **Laura Adams**, come together to discuss the state of Sci-Fi, in particular whether the popularity of the genre has overshadowed its intellectual origins.

Music is a planet-size part of almost all great Sci-Fi films and will play a major part of *Days of Fear and Wonder* this autumn. BFI Southbank's regular **Sonic Cinema** strand will draw of the tradition of electronic music in science fiction and the genre's preoccupation with time in a special event on **Friday 21 November**. Expect an expertly curated series of live audio-visual performances navigating bass rumbles, glitches, beats and bleeps in a dazzling cinematic voyage. The season wouldn't be complete without an appearance from Yoda; the BFI have teamed up with one of the world's finest

manipulators of music and moving image to embark on a cut, paste, scratch and mix odyssey into science fiction. The **World Premiere** of **DJ Yoda Goes to the Sci-Fi Movies** will boldly take audiences where no audience has gone before. The season will also see the **World Premiere** of **Evidence of Time Travel** with a remarkable audio-visual performance led by **John Foxx** and **Steve D'Agostino**, with haunting visuals by **Karborn**. Songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, producer and composer **Charlotte Hatherley** will be performing her heart-pounding soundtrack to **The Last Man** (2014) ; this post-apocalyptic short film – written and directed by Gavin Rothery, known for his visual effects work on Duncan Jones' *Moon* – follows a lone soldier as he journeys through a haunting wasteland, desperately searching for signs of life.

Further special events will include a look back at **The Hunger Games** (2012) and **The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (2013), before a screening of the brand new instalment in the series **The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1** (2014), which will screen on the day of its UK release, 22 November. There will also be a screening of **Shane Carruth's** remarkable debut feature **Primer** (2004), followed by a **Q&A** with the director. Meanwhile, exclusively for BFI Members, award-winning author **Michel Faber** (*Under the Skin*, *Crimson Petal and the White*) will introduce a screening of British Sci-Fi film **The Final Programme** (1973) as part of the **BFI Screen Epiphanies** series, in partnership with **American Express**®. As part of BFI Southbank's dedicated **Inside Afrofuturism** focus there will 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**.

To mark the re-release and **Extended Run** of Stanley Kubrick's masterpiece **2001: A Space Odyssey** (released in cinemas across the UK on Friday 28 November) **BFI Southbank** will host a panel discussion, recorded for BBC Radio 3's *Free Thinking*. Hosted by **Dr Matthew Sweet**, the panel will feature stars of the film **Keir Dullea** and **Gary Lockwood**, plus **Professor Brian Cox** and **Sir Christopher Frayling**. The panel will explore the film's potent and enduring influence on art, culture and science and will discuss how Kubrick created the ultimate 'fear and wonder' film. Also on **Extended Run** during the season will be the first of four screen adaptations of Jack Finney's classic story **Invasion of the Body Snatchers** (1956); one of the greatest of the many thrillers that played upon the paranoia of the Cold War era, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* is a genuinely unsettling blend of Sci-Fi and film noir.

The events programme will be complemented by a series of talks in the **BFI Reuben Library** with esteemed panellists exploring a variety of themes within Sci-Fi cinema. These will include **Architectural Visions of Sci-Fi Cinema**, **Robot Designs**, **Female Robots in Sci-Fi Cinema**, **Time Travel in Sci-Fi Cinema** and more.

EXHIBITIONS FROM THE BFI NATIONAL ARCHIVE

On-set: Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope (23 Oct – 4 Jan, BFI Southbank Atrium) will provide a very special opportunity to see one of the treasures of the **BFI National Archive**: an original shooting script for **Episode IV: A New Hope**. The script was donated to the BFI by the film's continuity supervisor Ann Skinner, and as such includes extensive shooting notes, deleted scenes and unique Polaroid photographs which give a fascinating insight into the making of the film. Selected pages and photographs from the script will be on display, exploring the style of the film as well as the highly-skilled work that went into creating one of the most enduring and influential Sci-Fi films ever made.

From scientists to spacesuits and androids to aliens, costume and make-up plays a key role in imagining tomorrow's world or life outside our solar system. Costume can also be a spectacular element in itself, with futuristic fabrics and designs being influenced by contemporary culture, fashion and technology, and in turn providing inspiration to audiences and the fashion industry.

Fashioning the Future: Costume and Sci-Fi (25 Sept – 11 Jan, BFI Southbank Mezzanine) will look at a century of on-screen Sci-Fi through original costume designs, photographs, posters and publicity material for films including *Metropolis*, *Things to Come*, *2001: A Space Odyssey* and *Blade Runner*.

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) 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 the 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, BFI Southbank will host a very special *In Conversation* event with Hip Hop pioneer **Afrika Bambaataa**.

TOMORROW'S WORLD

October's ***Tomorrow's World*** strand will be 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 such as ***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). November's edition of ***Projecting the Archive*** will be a rare screening of a humorous British curio; ***Once in a New Moon*** (1935) mixes science fiction with political satire in the story of a English coastal village that is sucked into outer space.

Another highlight of *Tomorrow's World* will be screenings of the **BFI National Archive's** new restoration of Val Guest's remarkable ***The Day the Earth Caught Fire*** (1961). Shot on location in London and boasting a fast paced wise-cracking script to rival *His Girl Friday*, this is an undiscovered gem that deserves reappraisal. Also screening will be George Lucas' debut feature ***THX1138*** (1971) in which the future is designed in minimalist clean white spaces, the populace is shaven-haired and sedated with drugs, and independent thought and physical intimacy is forbidden. Global visions of Sci-Fi come in the form of Jean-Luc Godard's noirish ***Alphaville*** (1965), Andrei Tarkovsky's masterful ***Stalker*** (1979) and Czech animator Karel Zeman's ***The Fabulous World of Jules Verne*** (1958). The *Tomorrow's World* film programme is completed by ***Planet of the Apes*** (1968), the first in a franchise that is currently in the midst of a blockbuster revival; Joseph Losey's ***The Damned*** (1963) and the mildly absurdist ***A Boy and His Dog*** (1975).

ALTERED STATES

November sees the season move on to the theme of ***Altered States***. With 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 what scientific experimentation might look like. Made only 36 years after HG Wells wrote his classic book, James Whale's production of ***The Invisible Man*** is undoubtedly the strongest. This story of a scientist who accidentally discovers how

to make himself invisible will play in a double bill alongside *The Man Who Changed His Mind* (1936) starring Boris Karloff as a mildly-deranged scientist who goes completely off the rails when his experiments graduate from chimpanzees to humans. Body horror and the grotesque will be on offer with David Cronenberg's update of *The Fly* (1986), one of his most disturbing films *The Brood* (1979), and the low-budget Japanese cyberpunk film *Tetsuo: The Iron Man* (1989).

80s classics *The Terminator* (1984) and *Dune* (1984) will both screen during *Altered States*. In the former, James Cameron created a Sci-Fi legacy, not only in the form of a terrifying time-travelling cyborg, but also in one of the genre's most kick-ass heroines Sarah Connor. While David Lynch's *Dune* may have been somewhat reviled by critics upon its release, opinion has shifted considerably since then, and it's no longer seen as a folly, but a singular vision of an alien future.

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (2004) foregrounds what most Sci-Fi cinema overlooks: raw emotion. Michel Gondry's romance about two lovers who erase their memories of each other after a bad break-up offers one of cinema's most devastating and poignant ruminations on memory and heartbreak. Also somewhat rare in Sci-Fi film is the female director, however Oscar-winning Kathryn Bigelow bucks the trend with her Sci-Fi noir *Strange Days* (1995) in which Ralph Fiennes finds himself at the centre of a police conspiracy in a pre-millennium LA. Perhaps not best known for their ventures in Sci-Fi cinema are directors Alain Renais and John Boorman. Renais was always a master of the figurative 'time travel' film, but in *Je t'aime, je t'aime* (1968) he married his sensibility to a literal tale of travelling through time, while Boorman's *Zardoz* (1974) was a spectacular flop starring a loin-cloth clad Sean Connery which has grown in cult stature ever since its release. The *Altered States* programme is completed by the Oscar-winning *Fantastic Voyage* (1966), *Demon Seed* (1977) starring Julie Christie and the strand's namesake, Ken Russell's *Altered States* (1986).

SCI-FI ON TELEVISION

Sci-Fi on television will also be celebrated throughout *Days of Fear and Wonder*. 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. Also being released on BFI DVD and screening as part of the season will be the BBC's hugely controversial production of *1984* (1954) starring Peter Cushing. The TV line-up in for October-November will be completed by a number of ground-breaking BBC plays including *Bright Eyes* (1982), *The Remainder Man* (1982), *Doomwatch: Tomorrow the Rat* (1970) and *Fable* (1965). Plus Philip Saville will join us for a discussion following a screening of *The Cloning of Joanna May* (1992), in which he directed Patricia Hodge, Brian Cox and Peter Capaldi.

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 of the series will be followed by a Q&A with producers John Das and Ben Southwell, and presenter Dominic Sandbrook. This landmark series boasts some extraordinary contributors from cinema, TV and literature, including: Rutger Hauer; Zoe Saldana; Richard Dreyfuss; Nichelle Nichols; John Carpenter; Edward James Olmos; David Tennant; Neil Gaiman; Ursula K. Le Guin and William Gibson.

The BFI Mediatheque will also celebrate the huge contribution of British television to the genre with a mind-bending new collection. Viewers will be able to choose from a selection of seminal TV plays, episodes of much-loved serials and fascinating documentaries exploring the season's three themes, with many titles unavailable to view elsewhere in the season or on DVD.

QUEER SCI-FI

BFI Flare will present a series of screenings and events as part of *Days of Fear and Wonder*. In collaboration with Club Des Femmes, the queer/feminist activist film club and network, the BFI will reunite the creative team behind the controversial, transgender cyber-punk splatter film ***Dandy Dust*** (1998). We will welcome director and star **Hans Scheirl** – along with other cast members and co-creators – for a post-screening **Q&A**. Also screening will be a lo-fi slice of punk Sci-Fi ***Liquid Sky*** (1982); Aliens land on the roof of a drug dealer's New York apartment block (whose inhabitants include lesbian Margaret and gay Jimmy, both played by Anne Carlisle), looking to feed their own addiction to a chemical produced by the human brain during sex. The season would be incomplete without screenings of the iconic ***Barbarella*** (1968), whose exploits have become the stuff of pop legend, as have her inspired outfits by Paco Rabanne. Finally, BFI Flare programmer **Emma Smart** will host a panel talk celebrating Sci-Fi's ground-breaking representation of LGBT characters on television in ***Days of Fear and Wonder: Queer Sci-Fi TV***, delving into the gender-bending, polymorphously perverse universe of Sci-Fi TV.

SCI-FI FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Sci-Fi for families will consist of screenings of classic films including ***The Black Hole*** (1979); hot on the heels of *Star Wars* and a host of other Sci-Fi blockbusters, Disney threw its hat into the ring with this its first PG-rated title. Also screening will be a film often hailed as one of the greatest family films of all time, ***E.T. the Extra Terrestrial*** (1982), which 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. November's **Family Funday** will be dedicated to ***Flash Gordon*** (1980), in which the popular comic strip character bounds on to the screen to heroically save the Earth from Ming the Merciless, all to a *Queen* soundtrack. We will welcome director **Mike Hodges** to the stage following the film, and there will be a dedicated Funday workshop too.

Aspiring filmmakers will be able to delve into the thrilling world of Sci-Fi at our week-long, action-packed **Sci-Fi Filmmaking Workshops**, which will cover everything from acting to special effects; aimed at young people aged 8-14 there will be a daily screening of a Sci-Fi film at the end of each day. Meanwhile, **Little Ones' Sci-Fi Messy Time** will keep children up to age 7 entertained; there will be animation fun aplenty with rockets, spaceships and aliens. 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.

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

– ENDS –

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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

SCI-FI: DAYS OF FEAR AND WONDER will be the BFI's biggest season to date, with over **1000** screenings of classic films and television programmes at over **200** locations across the UK. It includes a three-month programme at BFI Southbank, from **20 October until 31 December 2014**, with special events, guests and screenings right across the UK. With outdoor events at iconic British sites, classic Sci-Fi titles released into UK cinemas and on DVD and Blu-ray, 50+ films available online through BFI Player, a BFI Sci-Fi Compendium and much more, **SCI-FI: DAYS OF FEAR AND WONDER**, presented together with **02**, will celebrate cinema's most spectacular and visionary genre, exploring how the fear and wonder at its heart continues to inspire and enthrall in one of the largest and most ambitious Sci-Fi projects ever created.

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***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images and clips for journalistic use in can be found at www.image.net under BFI / Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder

SCI-FI: DAYS OF FEAR AND WONDER LISTINGS FOR OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER

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

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 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

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

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

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

Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder in the BFI Reuben Library

To coincide with the BFI's major season, the library boldly goes where no-one has gone before with a specially-curated display of material from our collections, and an enlightening series of talks that explore the wondrous world of science fiction. Browse through BFI Classics and find out more about your favourite sci-fi films such as *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and *Things to Come* or delve into the sounds and music so important to the genre in Phillip Hayward's *Off the Planet*. Then come along to one of our illustrated talks on Mondays at 18:30 throughout the season and discover strange new worlds with us and our amazing guest speakers. There's something for everyone this autumn in the BFI Reuben Library.

Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder at BFI IMAX

As part of our out-of-this-world sci-fi season we present special IMAX screenings of iconic titles:

Avatar (2009, Dir James Cameron) Mon 3 Nov 22:00

Inception (2010, Dir Christopher Nolan) Tue 4 Nov 22:00

Gravity (2013, Dir Alfonso Cuarón) Wed 5 Nov 22:00

Days of Fear and Wonder: Book Launch + Discussion

Sci-fi's popularity has all but eclipsed its intellectual origins, and it's often critically marginalised as an SFX-heavy opiate for the masses. Can the genre's visionary utopias and dark dystopias expand our artistic and political imaginations? Or do they incubate a culture in thrall to spectacle, and fearful of technological change? As we launch our blockbuster season, the latest BFI Compendium publication and nine new BFI Film Classics, our distinguished panel – Laura Adams (BFI), Mark Fisher (author of *Capitalist Realism*), Helen Lewis (deputy editor, *New Statesman*), and Roger Luckhurst (author of the BFI Classic on *Alien*) – will advance the debate!

Tickets £6.50

Tue 21 Oct 18:10 NFT3

UK Premiere: Future Shock! The Story of 2000AD + Q&A

UK 2014. Dir Paul Goodwin. RT, Cert tbc

Weekly British sci-fi comic *2000AD*'s far-reaching influence on pop culture is explored in this documentary – a film for those who are already fans, and those who don't know they are yet. Not only did *2000AD* introduce seminal creators such as Alan Moore (*Watchmen*) and Grant Morrison (*All-Star Superman*) to the comics world, it also spawned two *Judge Dredd* films and has been a launch pad for artists and writers such as documentary contributors Pat Mills, John Wagner, Dave Gibbons, Kevin O'Neill, Neil Gaiman and Brian Bolland.

We welcome the filmmakers for a Q&A following the screening

Tue 28 Oct 20:15 NFT1

Welcome to the Future, with Mark Brake

Need a guide for the vast and spectacular universe of sci-fi, as we begin our journey into Days of Fear and Wonder? Meet cultural historian Mark Brake (author of *Alien Life Imagined*), who will give an energetic and richly-illustrated talk that not only sketches the scope of sci-fi cinema (from monsters to machines, and journeys through space and time), but illuminates some of the profound and complex issues that are the bread and butter of this magnificent 'genre of ideas.' *DE*

Wed 29 Oct 18:15 NFT3

The Hunger Games

USA 2012. Dir Gary Ross. With Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Donald Sutherland. 143min. Digital. 12A

Every year, two district representatives are selected by lottery to take part in the annual Hunger Games – a battle to the death (staged as a reminder of the wars that came before) where the victor wins food rights for their family. Katniss Everdeen and her district team mate Peeta must learn how to play the system and fight against all the odds to survive. Based on the best-selling trilogy by Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games* introduced Katniss as the future dystopian poster girl for a generation.

Joint ticket available with The Hunger Games: Catching Fire £16, concs £12 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Sun 16 Nov 17:15 NFT3

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire

USA 2013. Dir Francis Lawrence. With Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Woody Harrelson. 146min. Digital. 12A

Katniss Everdeen is 'the girl on fire' after winning the annual Hunger Games. Watched closely by President Snow (Donald Sutherland), Katniss must pretend to be a grateful contestant in order to protect her loved ones. When previous winners are unwillingly entered into the Games once more, Katniss and Peeta must decide who to trust in the arena, while the supposedly perfect society of Panem is brought into question amidst the stirring of rebellion.

Joint ticket available with The Hunger Games £16, concs £12 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Sun 16 Nov 20:10 NFT3

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1

USA 2014. Dir Francis Lawrence. With Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Julianne Moore. RT and cert TBC. Courtesy of Lionsgate

The third, eagerly-awaited instalment of the thrilling Hunger Games series sees Katniss Everdeen become the 'Mockingjay' – a reluctant figurehead for the districts' rebellion, while adjusting to a new life outside of President Snow's control. Separated from Peeta, who is being held captive by the Capitol, Katniss is encouraged to stay out of the fighting and concentrate on propaganda, but how long will it be before she defies these new constraints?

Thu 20 Nov 20:20 NFT1

William Gibson Keynote Talk: Science Fiction in cinema

Author William Gibson – winner of Hugo, Nebula and Philip K Dick awards – is credited with the creating the term 'cyberspace.' With future tech and noirish, computer interface-led societies at the forefront of his novels, Gibson's influence on film culture is clear; without *Neuromancer* there would be no *The Matrix*. We're pleased to welcome Gibson to the BFI stage to explore the sci-fi genre in all its wonder.

William Gibson will be signing copies of his new novel The Peripheral in the BFI Shop following this event

Wed 26 Nov 18:20 NFT1

2001: A Space Odyssey: Special Panel Discussion with Keir Dullea and Gary Lockwood

To mark the UK-wide BFI rerelease of Stanley Kubrick's iconic *2001: A Space Odyssey*, we present a very special discussion exploring and celebrating its potent and enduring influence on art, culture and science. Celebrated for its breathtaking beauty, dazzling visual effects and powerful use of music, Kubrick's film proposed a new kind of pure cinema, set a new benchmark for the aesthetic of sci-fi films and challenged audiences to contemplate its meaning; Kubrick had created the ultimate 'fear and wonder' film. Writer, journalist, and BBC broadcaster Matthew Sweet welcomes to the stage a stellar panel including the film's two stars Keir Dullea and Gary Lockwood, Professor Brian Cox and Sir Christopher Frayling to discuss these themes and more.

Being recorded for broadcast on Free Thinking, BBC Radio 3's flagship arts and ideas programme

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

Sun 30 Nov 15:00 NFT1

BFI Flare Presents: Dandy Dust + Q&A

UK-Austria 1998. Dir Hans Scheirl. With Hans Scheirl, Leonora Rogers-Wright, Tres Trash Temperilli. 94min. 18

In collaboration with Club Des Femmes, the queer/feminist activist film club and network, we reunite the creative team behind the controversial, transgender cyber-punk splatter film of the 90s. *Dandy Dust* was revolutionary in its representation of post-gender identities and its exposing of institutionalised masculinity as drag, and uncompromising in its playful experimentation with genre and narrative hybrids, manga-like *mise-en-scène* and fluid characterisation. Join Dandy, Cyniborg, Sir Sidor and Spidercuntboy to relive the film's subversive alchemy of turning sperm to dust as we welcome director and star Hans Scheirl – along with other cast members and co-creators – for a post-screening Q&A.

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

Tue 18 Nov 20:20 NFT3

World Premiere: DJ Yoda Goes to the Sci-Fi Movies

The BFI have teamed up with one of the world's finest manipulators of music and moving image to embark on a cut, paste, scratch and mix odyssey into science fiction. Once described by *Q* magazine as 'one of ten DJs to see before you die', DJ Yoda pioneered a new art form when he used his virtuoso turntable skills to sample film and TV to create intricate and highly-entertaining audiovisual collages. Join us, as Captain Yoda boldly takes us where no audience has gone before!

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

Sat 15 Nov 19:00 NFT1

Sat 15 Nov 21:00 NFT1

Sonic Cinema Presents...

Drawing on the tradition of electronic music in science fiction and the genre's preoccupation with time, on Fri 21 Nov we present an evening of musical and temporal dissonance – a specially curated series of live audiovisual performances which explore the theme of 'Days of Fear and Wonder.' Expect to navigate bass rumbles, glitches, beats and bleeps during this cinematic voyage into an unknown dystopian future. For those of you curious enough to cross the final frontier, DJ Jonny Trunk will be hosting a special sci-fi club night in the benugo bar from 10pm 'til late.

Curated by Stuart Brown and Tim Stevens

UK Premiere: Paul Prudence: Cyclotone II

Paul Prudence is an audiovisual artist working with algorithmic and generative environments, and his work focuses on the ways in which sound, space and form can be cross-wired to create live cinematic experiences. In this UK premiere, *Cyclotone II* takes conceptual cues from science, particle accelerators, aspects of space exploration and four-dimensional space. Future-proof sonic space helmets recommended.

+ World Premiere: John Foxx, Steve D'Agostino and Karborn: Evidence of Time Travel

We're excited to present the world premiere of this new audiovisual performance led by John Foxx, a formidable talent and one of the UK's most influential figures in electronic music. A unique investigation of the terrors and pleasures of temporal displacement, *Evidence of Time Travel* combines the sinister sonic architecture of Foxx and D'Agostino with Karborn's haunting visuals. Join us as we're thrust into an immersive, uniquely disturbing sci-fi future.

Tickets £16, concs £12. Joint ticket available with The Last Man event £24, concs £16 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Fri 21 Nov 19:00 NFT1

The Last Man With Live Score by Charlotte Hatherley

UK 2014. Dir Gavin Rothery. With Richard Glover. 21min

This post-apocalyptic short film – written and directed by Gavin Rothery, known for his visual effects work on Duncan Jones' *Moon* – follows a lone soldier as he journeys through a haunting wasteland, desperately searching for signs of life. Songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, producer and composer Charlotte Hatherley will be performing a live version of her heart-pounding soundtrack to the film.

+ World Premiere: Gandahar with Live Score by Roly Porter and Kuedo

France 1988. Dir René Laloux. With the voices of Glenn Close, Christopher Plummer, Pierre-Marie Escourrou. 83min

The BFI has reunited two of the UK's most exciting composers to present a specially-commissioned live reescore of an extraordinary 80's sci-fi animation, directed by the French surrealist animator René Laloux. Roly Porter and Kuedo came to prominence under the moniker 'Vex'd,' with their post-rave dystopian electronica. Since 2010 they developed solo projects that, while very different in tone, shared themes of sci-fi.

Tickets £16, concs £12. Joint ticket available with Cyclotone II £24, concs £16 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Fri 21 Nov 21:15 NFT1

Time Travel and the Interzone City

Futuristic cities are a staple of sci-fi cinema but how do artists craft wholly different worlds and spaces without the resources of a large crew and an enormous budget? Tonight we present a series of recent innovative films that sing to a different sheet, titles that conjure alternative realities by colliding evocations of the past and the future, and by exploring austere urban landscapes – from the building sites of Dakar and the shiny architecture of Beijing to a demolished Dublin housing estate and a ghost city in Armenia. Some works delight in lo-fi special effects and the warping of traditional sci-fi narratives, while others offer more ruminative visual essays on the political potential of the mysterious and semi-fictional. Welcome to the interzone city.

Now Wait for Last Year.

UK 2007. Dir Rachel Reupke. 9min

Around.

UK 2007. Dir Adam Chodzko. 14min

Superpower – Dakar Chapter.

Sengal-UK 2004. Dir Mark Aerial Waller. 13min

Remnants of the Future.

UK 2012. Dir Uriel Orlow. 21min

The programme will be followed by a discussion with the filmmakers about science fiction and artists' film

Wed 29 Oct 20:30 NFT3

Building Brave New Worlds: The Architectural Visions of Sci-Fi Cinema

When Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas said 'the most important thing about architecture is arriving in new worlds, rather than returning to old ones', one may wonder if he had the spectacular urban visions of sci-fi cinema in mind. In sci-fi, directors are able to construct entire universes and, crucially, test how they function. Films like *Metropolis* and *Blade Runner* offer the opportunity to both critically reflect on our contemporary environments and to explore possibilities for the future of our cities. Through presentations, screenings and discussions with experts and practitioners drawn from a range of fields, this Study Day explores the fertile two-way traffic of ideas between sci-fi cinema and architecture, urbanism and planning. With a keynote address from Nic Clear (University of Greenwich), and presentations from film scholar Will Brooker, architect Amy Butt and writer Richard Martin (author of *The Architecture of David Lynch*), with more speakers to be announced. Plus the films of Larissa Sansour and Kibwe Tavares.

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

Sat 1 Nov 11:00 – 17:00 NFT3

Metropolis

Germany 1927. Dir Fritz Lang. With Alfred Abel, Gustav Fröhlich, Rudolf Klein-Rogge. 147min. Digital. PG

Fritz Lang's expressionist dystopia is one of the first science fiction feature films, and is considered the most influential. Ridley Scott, George Lucas and Terry Gilliam are all indebted to Lang's audacious futuristic vision of

gleaming high-rises atop an industrial underworld, while the film's iconic fembot has inspired musicians and fashion designers alike. Lang's tale of urban segregation is as timely as ever, while the film's pioneering special effects continue to dazzle today.

We'll be screening the 2010 restoration containing newly-discovered footage *

Introduced by Heather Stewart

Mon 20 Oct 17:50 NFT1*

Sat 25 Oct 17:15 NFT1

High Treason (silent version)

UK 1929. Dir Maurice Elvey. With Jameson Thomas, Benita Hume, Basil Gill. c82min. With live piano accompaniment

A futuristic London, rendered through lavish (for the period) special effects, provides the spectacular setting for British cinema's answer to *Metropolis*. When avaricious financiers and arms manufacturers attempt to foment war between the world's dominant power blocs (not least by blowing up the Channel Tunnel), only the Peace League (and Benita Hume in a stunning dress) can prevent the world from slipping into oblivion. A highpoint of British silent cinema.

Introduced by John Oliver Joint ticket available with the sound version £16, concs £12 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Thu 6 Nov 18:20 NFT2

High Treason (sound version)

UK 1929. Dir Maurice Elvey. With Jameson Thomas, Benita Hume, Basil Gill. 67min

Produced when cinemas were on the point of converting to sound, *High Treason* was consequently shot in two versions. The sound version had been thought lost for many years until a print of the US release was discovered in 2005, and preserved by the US Library of Congress in 2010. This will be the first UK screening of this new print, and, quite probably, the first time the sound version has been seen in this country since the film's original release.

Introduced by John Oliver Joint ticket available with the silent version £16, concs £12 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Thu 6 Nov 20:40 NFT2

Things to Come

UK 1936. Dir William Cameron Menzies. With Raymond Massey, Edward Chapman, Ralph Richardson, Margaretta Scott. 100min. Digital. PG

H.G. Wells himself worked on adapting his vast, labyrinthine novel into this ambitious and expensively-mounted production. *Things to Come* details the fortunes of two families from 1940, when the world is first engulfed in a war that nearly wipes out humanity, to the year 2036, where advances in technology have turned man's attention to conquering outer space. Sir Arthur Bliss' monumental score crowns a major British achievement.

**** Introduced by John Oliver***

Tue 21 Oct 18:20 NFT2

Thu 23 Oct 20:30 NFT2*

Sat 25 Oct 16:20 Studio

Wed 29 Oct 20:40 NFT2

Robots in Cinema and Robot Design Today

The robot in sci-fi cinema is often a sinister presence, but where does this fear of robots come from, and is it justified? With human qualities increasingly being applied to technology, how should we react to the fast-approaching reality of robots in our lives – with fear, or with wonder? A panel of experts consider iconic cinematic robots in light of modern technology, and discuss some of the ethical dilemmas (so vividly explored by filmmakers) facing the field of robotics.

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

Tue 11 Nov 18:00 NFT2

The Fabulous World of Jules Verne (aka The Deadly Invention)

Czechoslovakia 1958. Dir Karel Zeman. With Lubor Tokos, Arnost Navrátil, Miroslav Holub. 83min. EST. U

Jules Verne's 'futuristic' stories have proved a source for filmmakers since Georges Méliès, but few have captured their adventure and wonder as singularly as Czech animator Karel Zeman, whose admirers include Tim Burton and Terry Gilliam. Zeman inventively combines live-action, animation, puppetry and more to transport us to the undersea lair of the scheming Count Artigas (Tokos), who plans to build a world-conquering deadly weapon.

Sun 26 Oct 16:15 NFT1

Thu 30 Oct 20:40 NFT3

The Day the Earth Caught Fire

UK 1961. Dir Val Guest. With Edward Judd, Janet Munro, Leo McKern. 98min. Digital. PG

Former golden boy of the *Daily Express* newsroom, Peter Stenning (Judd) is managing a messy divorce and battling the booze when he breaks *the* Cold War story: nuclear testing has knocked the Earth off its axis, tipping it towards the sun. Guest's apocalyptic thriller sizzles with a BAFTA-winning screenplay, fantastically sweaty (occasionally sexy) performances, and a vision of end-of-days London that really burns.

*** Introduced by John Oliver**

BFI National Archive restoration generously supported by Simon W. Hessel

Tue 21 Oct 20:45 NFT1*

Sat 25 Oct 18:40 Studio

Mon 27 Oct 18:00 NFT1

Thu 30 Oct 20:45 NFT1

The Damned

UK-USA 1963. Dir Joseph Losey. With MacDonald Carey, Shirley Ann Field, Viveca Lindfors, Oliver Reed. 96min. 12A

While Losey expressed no love for sci-fi, he nevertheless created one of British cinema's finest – and most chilling – films in the genre. With nuclear war seen as inevitable, the British military are conducting experimental research into the rearing of irradiated children equipped to survive the forthcoming apocalypse. Hammer, displeased with the results, only released the film in a cut version after a two year hiatus, but it's screening here in Columbia's restoration with the cut footage reinstated.

*** Introduced by John Oliver**

Sat 25 Oct 20:30 NFT3

Tue 28 Oct 18:10 NFT3

Alphaville

France-Italy 1965. Dir Jean-Luc Godard. With Eddie Constantine, Howard Vernon, Anna Karina. 99min. Digital. 12A

Godard's vision of a future involving intergalactic travel is imbued with the mood of film noir, with Raoul Coutard's black and white camerawork turning 60's Paris into a labyrinthine, loveless metropolis of glistening hard surfaces. When agent Caution (Constantine) arrives to try and destroy the computer controlling Alphaville, he enlists the help of its dictatorial creator's beautiful daughter (Karina). Pulp poetry mixes with political and philosophical musings to mesmerising effect.

Wed 22 Oct 20:45 NFT1

Fri 24 Oct 18:30 NFT1

Planet of the Apes

USA 1968. Dir Franklin J Schaffner. With Charlton Heston, Roddy McDowall, Kim Hunter. 112min. Digital. PG

Schaffner's film was released in the same year as *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and apes and evolution are also central plot elements in this striking adaptation of Pierre Boullé's celebrated novel. The survivors of a spacecraft that has crashed on an unknown and seemingly desolate planet begin the search for habitable land, and discover that their position in the evolutionary chain has irrevocably changed. A seminal sci-fi film of the 1960s, with John Chambers deservedly winning an Oscar® for his remarkable ape make-up designs.

Thu 23 Oct 20:45 NFT1

Sun 26 Oct 18:30 NFT1

Barbarella

France-Italy 1968. Dir Roger Vadim. With Jane Fonda, John Phillip Law, Anita Pallenberg. 98min. Digital. 15

Barbarella is dispatched to recover the renegade earthling Durand-Durand and his deadly 'positronic ray' but

crash-lands her fur-lined spaceship. The ensuing series of brightly sexualised encounters – with Anita Pallenberg’s black queen, the rebel Dildano, and the Excessive Machine – have become the stuff of pop legend, as have her inspired outfits by Paco Rabanne. Plus *An Evening in Space* (2014. Dir David La Chapelle. 12min). A music video that sees Daphne Guinness anointed as heir to the original Queen of the Galaxy.

Fri 24 Oct 20:45 NFT1

Sun 26 Oct 20:45 NFT1

Wed 29 Oct 18:00 NFT1

Gays of Fear and Wonder: Queer Sci-Fi TV

Is the future queer? Do aliens have gender? Sci-fi offers tantalising opportunities to radically re-draw the parameters of gender and sexuality. But it has been TV, not cinema, that has used the freedom of the genre most effectively. With presentations, clips and a panel of experts, including Stacey Abbott, Lorna Jowett, we celebrate TV’s groundbreaking LGBT characters, queer icons and slashfiction. Join us to boldly go into the gender-bending, polymorphously perverse universe of sci-fi TV.

Chaired by BFI Flare programmer Emma Smart

Tue 25 Nov 18:30 NFT3

A Clockwork Orange

USA-UK 1971. Dir Stanley Kubrick. With Malcolm McDowell, Patrick Magee, Michael Bates. 136min. Digital. 18 Kubrick’s disturbing and surreal vision of the near future seems more relevant than ever four decades on. Malcolm McDowell is mesmerising as Alex, whose teenage rampage makes him ideal for a government experiment in behavioural modification. But if we’re simply programmed to not do bad things can that still make us good people? A potent meditation on personal responsibility and free will, *A Clockwork Orange* caused outrage on its release, and remains as unsettling today as it did in 1971.

Sat 25 Oct 20:10 NFT1

Sun 2 Nov 20:15 NFT1

THX 1138

USA 1971. Dir George Lucas. With Robert Duvall, Maggie McOmie, Donald Pleasence, Don Pedro Colley. 85min. 12A

In this debut feature from George Lucas (*Star Wars*), the future is designed in minimalist clean white spaces, the populace is shaven-haired and sedated with drugs, and independent thought and physical intimacy is forbidden. THX 1138’s female roommate seeks to change her life, and alters THX 1138’s drug dosage. A work-driven consumer society where people are told via hologram to ‘buy more now, buy and be happy,’ is one that the now clear-minded THX 1138 must escape from.

Sat 8 Nov 20:30 NFT3

Thu 13 Nov 18:00 NFT1

A Boy and His Dog

USA 1975. Dir LQ Jones. With Don Johnson, Jason Robards, Susanne Benton. 91min. 18

A Boy and His Dog is a smart, mildly absurdist post-apocalyptic provocation on sex, survival and ‘society,’ adapted from a cycle of short stories by Harlan Ellison. In 2024, with the USA ravaged by World War IV, 18 year-old ‘survivor’ Vic and his telepathic dog hunt sex and food across the mutant-strewn mudflats, under which the civilizations of Arizona lie buried. Underground, however, society is being rebuilt, and there are plans in place for Vic.

Wed 22 Oct 18:30 NFT1

Sun 26 Oct 20:30 NFT3

Stalker

Soviet Union 1979. Dir Andrei Tarkovsky. With Alisa Freyndlikh, Aleksandr Kaydanovskiy, Anatoliy Solonitsyn. 161min. EST. PG

Three men – the Writer, the Professor and the Stalker who leads them – travel through a degraded industrial landscape into the Forbidden Zone, which a mysterious extra-terrestrial event has rendered uninhabitable. It’s said the mysterious room at its centre can grant one’s deepest desires... Tarkovsky’s film, mesmerising in its portrayal of decay and desperation and rich with allegorical suggestion and spiritual significance, is an unforgettably intense experience.

Mon 27 Oct 20:00 NFT1

Sat 1 Nov 16:50 NFT1

Mad Max 2

Australia 1981. Dir George Miller. With Mel Gibson, Bruce Spence, Michael Preston. 95min. Digital. 18

Mad Max 2 is essentially a violent, petrol-fuelled Ozploitation western, where Mel Gibson's burnt-out drifter wanders out of the desert and cuts a deal with an embattled group of survivors to protect their precious cache of fuel from The Humungus and his sadistic gang of biker punks. George Miller's lean, mean sequel to *Mad Max* is a hyperkinetic delight, which consolidated Gibson's position as an international star, and provided the inspiration for countless low budget post-apocalyptic thrillers.

Fri 31 Oct 20:45 NFT1

Sun 2 Nov 18:00 NFT1

Brazil

UK 1985. Dir Terry Gilliam. With Jonathan Pryce, Robert De Niro. 142min. 15

In Terry Gilliam's distinctly British 'retro-futurist' take on George Orwell's nightmare prophecy, omniscient state bureaucracy runs mad. The film follows low-level technocrat and fantasist Sam Lowry (Pryce) as he attempts to rectify an administrative error that has seen an innocent man arrested while the real 'enemy,' Tuttle (De Niro), roams free. All the while, Lowry pursues Jill (Kim Greist), the girl of his dreams. The visual invention, social commentary and dark wit of *Brazil* still astonishes, in what may well be Gilliam's masterpiece.

*** Introduced by author Paul McAuley**

Wed 29 Oct 20:15 NFT1

Sat 1 Nov 20:00 NFT1

Mon 3 Nov 17:50 NFT1*

Akira

Japan 1988. Dir Katsuhiro Otomo. 125min. Digital. EST. 15

Though it's credited as the film that broke Japanese anime in the west, the shadow cast by the cyberpunkish *Akira* extends across onscreen sci-fi from *The Matrix* to *The Dark Knight* and beyond. Set in the post-apocalypse city of neo-Tokyo, it centres on a biker gang led by Kaneda, and the danger posed by his best friend Tetsuo, whose psychic powers could rouse the imprisoned Akira (the cause of old Tokyo's destruction). Rumours of a live-action Hollywood remake persist, but it's hard to see how anything could match the still exhilarating original.

Sat 1 Nov 18:00 NFT2

Wed 5 Nov 20:30 NFT1

'I'd rather be a cyborg than a Goddess': Sophie Mayer on Female Robots in Sci-Fi Cinema

From Fritz Lang's false Maria robot in *Metropolis* to Joss Whedon's government built assassin River Tam in *Serenity*, female cyborgs and 'programmed' women have been the most prominent female faces in sci-fi, and have provided a potent metaphor for feminist criticism (most famously in Donna Haraway's essay 'A Cyborg Manifesto'). Join us as writer and critic Sophie Mayer examines woman rebelling against programming in sci-fi cinema – from the literal robots of *Blade Runner* to the oppressed drones in *A Handmaid's Tale*.

Tickets £6.50

Mon 10 Nov 18:30 BFI Reuben Library

The Handmaid's Tale

USA-Germany 1990. Dir Volker Schlöndorff. With Natasha Richardson, Faye Dunaway, Aidan Quinn. 109min. 15

Harold Pinter originally adapted Margaret Atwood's admonitory novel of sexual politics, religious repression and state-sanctioned violence for Karel Reisz, but when pre-production dragged on, Reisz dropped out and Schlöndorff stepped in. Natasha Richardson stars as a Handmaid, a fertile female dissident in a world largely rendered sterile by pollution, who is forced into slavery under the Commander (Robert Duvall).

*** Introduced by Sophie Mayer**

Sun 2 Nov 20:40 NFT2

Fri 7 Nov 18:20 NFT2

Mon 10 Nov 20:30 NFT2*

Time Cameras and Cine Machines: Adam Roberts on Time Travel in Sci-Fi Cinema

Time travel is a key narrative trope in sci-fi, but can we actually think of all cinema, on a fundamental level, as a time machine? Film jumps between distant moments, speeds up and slows down time, and can even run time backwards. In this illustrated talk, acclaimed science-fiction author Adam Roberts explores how time travel narratives (from Chris Marker's *La Jetée* to James Cameron's *The Terminator*) foreground these universal qualities of film.

Tickets £6.50

Mon 3 Nov 18:30 BFI Reuben Library

Primer + Q&A with Director Shane Carruth**

USA 2004. Dir Shane Carruth. With Shane Carruth, David Sullivan, Casey Gooden. 77min. 12A

In this remarkable debut feature from Shane Carruth (*Upstream Colour*) two members of a group of tech entrepreneurs discover an unexpected side-effect of the system-check device they've created – objects placed within it are time travelling. Building a larger version for human testing, they continue to work in secret, but who entered the device first and who is controlling it? Complex and cerebral, *Primer* engages the audience in extreme concentration, asking not how is this happening, but when?

*** Introduced by Laura Adams**

Mon 3 Nov 20:45 NFT1*

Mon 10 Nov 18:20 NFT1**

Preview: Tomorrow's Worlds + Panel Discussion and Q&A

BBC 2014. Dir Ben Southwell. Produced by John Das, Ben Southwell. 70min

In a landmark new BBC Two series, historian and author Dominic Sandbrook explores the history of science fiction. Focusing on four major themes – space, invasion, robots and time – Sandbrook shows how the genre has been a revealing window onto our dreams and our nightmares. The series features interviews with leading figures from cinema, TV and literature, including: Rutger Hauer; Zoe Saldana; Richard Dreyfuss; Nichelle Nichols; John Carpenter; Edward James Olmos; David Tennant; Steven Moffat; Neil Gaiman; Ursula K. Le Guin and William Gibson. This preview screening includes a specially prepared presentation showcasing the opening episode 'Space', and highlights from the rest of the series.

We're delighted to welcome to the BFI stage producers John Das and Ben Southwell, and presenter Dominic Sandbrook

Wed 12 Nov 18:15 NFT1

Out of this World: Little Lost Robot

ABC 1962. Dir Guy Verney. With Maxine Audley, Clifford Evans, Murray Hayne, Gerard Flood. 52min

To celebrate the BFI DVD release of these two famous 1960s series, we present an episode from each – both adapted from stories by Isaac Asimov – which shows how the earlier series influenced the later. Introduced by Boris Karloff, *Little Lost Robot* is adapted by Leo Lehman and was script edited by Irene Shubik, who went on to produce *Out of the Unknown*. It's set in 2019 when mankind has created a race of highly intelligent robots to serve their every need. When one of these robots has the 'prime directive' (not to harm a human) removed there are dire consequences.

+ Out of the Unknown: The Dead Past + Panel Discussion and Q&A

BBC 1965. Dir John Gorrie. With George Benson, James Maxwell, Willoughby Goddard, David Langton. 60min

In *The Dead Past* an historian becomes convinced that the state is suppressing a time machine and persuades a young scientist to build one. Their success results in unforeseen consequences that raise moral questions about how far the state should be allowed to protect mankind from its own baser instincts.

Followed by a panel discussion and Q&A featuring author Mark Ward, director John Gorrie and SFX sound engineer Brian Hodgson.

Sun 2 Nov 15:00 NFT3

1984

BBC 1954. Dir Rudolph Cartier. With Peter Cushing, Yvonne Mitchell, André Morell. 120min

Finally being released on DVD by the BFI, this important drama – along with Nigel Kneale's *Quatermass* serial the year before – marked the birth of modern-day, adult sci-fi on TV. This production was hugely controversial due to its horrific themes, made more potent by fantastic performances under the direction of one of the BBC's most gifted directors. Kneale's version of Orwell's chilling novel only survives *because* of the furore surrounding its initial transmission, which led to the telerecording of the second performance a few days later; a valuable record of an astonishing televisual *tour de force*.

Thu 23 Oct 18:00 NFT3

Theatre 625: The World of George Orwell: 1984

BBC 1965. Dir Christopher Morahan. With David Buck, Jane Merrow. 110min

Absent from the British TV archives for over 40 years, this BBC version of *1984* from the 60s was found at the US Library of Congress in 2012. *Theatre 625* began a few weeks after the launch of BBC Two, and was a flagship anthology series designed to feature adaptations with depth and resonance. In its second year it ran a trilogy of dramas under the title *The World of George Orwell*, the third of which was this new version of *1984*. Nigel Kneale made amendments to his script to reflect developments in the years since the original, and director Morahan incorporated contemporary motifs into the production as the real 1984 loomed ever closer. Note: this copy – sadly – is incomplete with a ten-minute section missing from the middle.

+ Kim Newman Discusses The Legacy of Nigel Kneale

Nigel Kneale was the godfather of UK sci-fi TV. A clever, humanitarian, visionary writer whose ideas mixed ancient horrors with contemporary science to create a uniquely British phenomenon. After this screening, horror writer and film reviewer Kim Newman will give us his insights into what made Kneale so special.

Sun 26 Oct 15:00 NFT3

Play for Tomorrow: Bright Eyes + Panel Discussion and Q&A

BBC 1982. Dir Peter Duffell. With Robin Ellis, Sarah Berger, Kate Harper. 60min

Sci-fi on British TV, lacking the big budgets required for special effects, was forced to concentrate instead on psychology, sociology and speculative fictions about how society might develop in the future. In the process, it produced some fascinating and prescient plays – none more so than in *The Play for Tomorrow* series, which aimed to show different versions of how society might develop. In *Bright Eyes*, by Peter Prince, Britain is now a part of a European federal super-state and is at war with the Middle East! It's a version of the future that hits home more forcibly now than it did in 1982, and which shows how the best science fiction can be as much about our contemporary society as it is about the future.

Followed by a Q&A and a panel discussion looking at a range of key TV plays and sci-fi strands that re-imagined future societies, utopias and dystopias.

Thu 30 Oct 18:10 NFT3

Play for Today: The Remainder Man

BBC 1982. Dir Richard Wilson. With Sheila Hancock, Antony Brown, Nick Reding, Valerie Whittington. 60min

Philip Martin's *The Remainder Man* sees Jack, an ex-copper, incarcerate his entire family in the nuclear bunker he's built for when disaster strikes. Family tensions are seen to more effectively destroy this family than any nuclear bomb ever could. A brilliant metaphor for the destructive nature of fear itself, the play ends with an effective twist in the tale.

+ Saturday Night Theatre: Salve Regina

ITV 1969. Dir David Saire. With Miriam Karlin, Glenda Jackson, Al Mancini, Graham Crowden. 25min

Salve Regina is adult TV sci-fi at its most cutting-edge. Written by Edward Bowman, it won first prize in *The Observer* plays competition for 1969. A young Glenda Jackson stars in this surreal, Kafkaesque and brutal play about the disintegration of society's rules once you're the only surviving remnants of humanity after an apocalyptic war.

Tue 28 Oct 20:40 NFT2

2001: A Space Odyssey

UK 1968. Dir Stanley Kubrick. With Keir Dullea, Gary Lockwood, William Sylvester. 141min. Digital. U. A BFI release

Philosophically ambitious, technically innovative and visually stunning, Stanley Kubrick's sci-fi epic is frequently cited in polls as one of the finest films ever made. Co-written by the director and novelist Arthur C Clarke, the film charts the progress of 'civilisation' through the influence of mysterious black monoliths on prehistoric apes developing their skills and, later, on astronauts involved in a secret mission to Jupiter. Characteristic of Kubrick's interest in evolution and artificial intelligence (most notably in the astronauts' battle of wits with troublesome computer HAL 2000), the film also displays his desire for technical perfection: Geoffrey Unsworth's camerawork, Douglas Trumbull's pioneering effects and the production design remain enormously impressive to this day. But what's perhaps most striking is the audacity of the measured, largely dialogue-free storytelling, with Kubrick allowing the judiciously chosen music (Ligeti, Khachaturian, the two Strausses) and

the crisp, balletic beauty of the images to work their spell. A cinematic milestone, and a huge influence on the development of the sci-fi genre.

Fri 28 Nov – Sun 30 Nov (Continues in Dec)

Invasion of the Body Snatchers

USA 1956. Dir Don Siegel. With Kevin McCarthy, Dana Wynter, Larry Gates, Carolyn Jones. 80min. Digital. PG. A Park Circus release

The first and most powerful of four screen adaptations of Jack Finney's story is also the greatest of the many sci-fi thrillers that played upon the paranoia of the Cold War era. When Dr Miles Bennell (Kevin McCarthy) returns home to Santa Mira, he's visited by several patients insisting their loved ones have somehow changed: are not, even, who they appear to be. Initially dismissing the claims as delusional, he soon comes to suspect that the problem may be more serious than a contagious hysteria – and considerably more dangerous. Working from a taut but resonant script by Daniel Mainwaring (who also wrote *Out of the Past*), Don Siegel directs with the brisk, no-nonsense intelligence and visual flair that made his later films with Clint Eastwood so impressive; he never overplays the story's allegorical aspects, so that it succeeds both as an anti-conformist fable and as a genuinely unsettling blend of sci-fi and film noir. The small town setting is especially effective: when you know almost everyone, and they *all* begin to seem a little strange, what do you do? A classic that still feels surprisingly modern, the film exerts the grip of a strangler.

Fri 31 Oct – Thu 13 Nov

Jet Propelled Cinema: How Psychedelia Infected Hollywood Sci-Fi

Mainstream cinema has frequently appropriated the dynamic innovations of the avant-garde. Many of the filmmakers from the West Coast art scene in this programme would later provide special effects for – or see their films influence – the likes of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *The Empire Strikes Back* and *The Right Stuff*. Tonight, however, we present their original and rawest psychedelic works; vivid, pulsing, multi-coloured, mind-blowing films from as far back as the 1950s. They changed how we saw outer space – and the metaphysical space within. The programme includes key classic titles such as: *Yantra* (Dir James Whitney); *Momentum* (Dir Jordan Belson); *7362* (Dir Pat O'Neill); *OffOn* (Dir Scott Bartlett), plus some very rarely-screened surprises. Join us for an interstellar excursion into new consciousness, space and the cybernetic imagination.

Introduced by Stuart Heaney and William Fowler

Tue 4 Nov 20:40 NFT3

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.

+ The Man Who Changed

His Mind

UK 1936. Dir Robert Stevenson. With Boris Karloff, John Loder, Anna Lee. 66min. Digital. U

With the visual design, subject matter and hiring of Boris Karloff, *The Man Who Changed His Mind* was clearly a British emulation of Universal's sci-fi and horror productions – and the end result was a fitting match to its Hollywood counterparts. When mocked by his peers, Karloff's previously only mildly-deranged scientist goes completely off the rails, and his experiments with a mind transferral machine graduate from chimpanzees to humans. A wittily-scripted treat.

Mon 27 Oct 14:30 NFT3*

Thu 30 Oct 14:30 NFT3*

Tue 4 Nov 20:10 NFT1

Sun 9 Nov 15:00 NFT3

***Family screening of *The Invisible Man* only**

Fantastic Voyage

USA 1966. Dir Richard Fleischer. With Stephen Boyd, Raquel Welch, Edmond O'Brien, Donald Pleasence. 100min. Digital. U

The Cold War meets science fiction when a group of American surgeons in a miniaturised submarine are injected into the blood stream of a defecting Czech scientist to enable them to travel to his brain to remove a

blood clot. But the miniaturisation comes with a catch – it has a 60-minute time limit. The clock is therefore ticking! Impressive Oscar®-winning art direction and special effects ensure that this voyage through the human body truly lives up to its title.

Fri 7 Nov 20:50 NFT1

Thu 20 Nov 18:00 NFT1

Seconds

USA 1966. Dir John Frankenheimer. With Rock Hudson, Salome Jens, John Randolph. 107min. Digital. 18

A banker, critically unhappy with his middle-of-the-road existence, is turned on to 'The Company,' a shadowy firm offering identity reboots and a second-life blissfully free of ageing responsibilities. *Seconds* is a film with impeccable credentials; a riding-high director of provocative, popular films; arguably the world's greatest cinematographer in James Wong Howe; Saul Bass' eye-popping credits and a career-best performance from Rock Hudson. This twisted, conspiratorial bio-tech sci-fi thriller has to be seen at least once a lifetime.

Sun 9 Nov 18:30 NFT1

Wed 12 Nov 20:50 NFT1

Je t'aime, je t'aime

France 1968. Dir Alain Resnais. With Claude Rich, Olga Georges-Picot, Anouk Ferjac. 94min. EST. PG

Alain Resnais was always a master of the figurative 'time travel' film, but in *Je t'aime, je t'aime* he married his sensibility to a literal tale of travelling through time. A hospital patient (Claude Rich) is entered into a mysterious scientific experiment whereby a person re-experiences a fragment from their past. Aided by Krzysztof Penderecki's choral score, Resnais' film probes the unreliability of memory, and suggests that, in the end, the human mind is the only conduit for time travel that we'll ever really need.

Fri 14 Nov 20:50 NFT3

Sat 15 Nov 20:45 NFT3

Zardoz

UK 1974. Dir John Boorman. With Sean Connery, Charlotte Rampling, John Alderton. 101min. 15

On a post-apocalyptic Earth a gun-toting Sean Connery (in loincloth, braces and thigh boots) prowls the wasteland as Zed, exterminator-serf of Zardoz, a flying stone head. Boorman's black comedy, sci-fi spectacular flopped on release, but its cult status has since grown. Does *Zardoz* reflect 'the poetic vision of a filmmaker who is a born mythologist,' as Alexander Walker claimed, or, as Roger Ebert declared, 'a future ruled by perpetually stoned set decorators'? You decide.

Print courtesy of IFI International/Irish Film Institute, Arts Council and Culture Ireland

Sat 15 Nov 16:00 NFT3

Thu 20 Nov 20:30 NFT3

Phase IV

USA 1975. Dir Saul Bass. With Nigel Davenport, Michael Murphy, Lynee Frederick. 84min + alternate ending. PG

The sole directorial effort of legendary graphic designer and title-sequence genius Saul Bass is a 70's sci-fi curio, which received fresh attention in 2012 upon discovery of the 'long-lost' psychedelic, closing montage sequence. *Phase IV* is a dazzling-looking, hypnotic film concerning highly-evolved ants who get their hive-mind on and reach out to the locals.

New 35mm print from the Academy Film Archive of the original theatrical release and digital alternate ending created for the Archive's collection, with thanks to Paramount Pictures and Jennifer Bass

Sun 23 Nov 18:00 NFT3

Thu 27 Nov 20:45 NFT2

Demon Seed

USA 1977. Dir Donald Cammell. With Julie Christie, Fritz Weaver, Gerrit Graham, Robert Vaughn. 94min. 15

Based upon Dean Koontz's best-selling novel, and directed by visionary Scottish filmmaker Donald Cammell, *Demon Seed* is a claustrophobic 'home-invasion' sci-fi thriller which sees Proteus IV (a temperamental sentient computer in the HAL 9000 mould) hijack the computer-controlled home of scientist Alex Harris (Fritz Weaver). Proteus (menacingly voiced by Robert Vaughn) traps and terrorises Harris' wife (Julie Christie) before revealing his disturbing intention: he plans to impregnate her.

*** Introduced by Roger Luckhurst**

Sun 16 Nov 18:30 NFT1

Mon 17 Nov 20:40 NFT3*

The Brood

Canada 1979. Dir David Cronenberg. With Oliver Reed, Samantha Eggar, Art Hindle. 92min. 18

One of David Cronenberg's most accomplished and disturbing films, *The Brood* explores body-horror through the prism of 'psychoplasemics': a fictional form of therapy, pioneered by the controversial Dr Hal Raglan (Oliver Reed) at the Somafree Institute, where disturbed patients release repressed psychological trauma through physiological changes in their bodies. Samantha Eggar costars as Raglan's star patient, who 'psychoplasimically' bears a brood of killer, half-human offspring.

*** Introduced by Jo Botting**

Sun 16 Nov 20:45 NFT1

Mon 17 Nov 18:20 NFT3*

Altered States

USA 1986. Dir Ken Russell. With William Hurt, Blair Brown, Charles Haid. 102min. 18

Experiments into sensory deprivation take an increasingly strange, dangerous, mind-and-body-altering turn when scientist Edward Jessup (William Hurt, making his screen debut) starts swallowing strongly hallucinatory Mexican root extracts before plunging into the flotation tank. Ken Russell's bizarre, visually exhilarating take on Paddy Chayefsky's novel alienated the writer, but the eye-popping end result – infused with some spectacular special effects – prompted *The Times*' Richard Corliss to enthuse that 'this one has everything... it opens at fever pitch and then starts soaring.'

Fri 7 Nov 20:40 NFT2

Sun 9 Nov 18:20 NFT2

Liquid Sky

USA 1982. Dir Slava Tsukerman. With Anne Carlisle, Paula E Sheppard, Bob Brady. 112min. 18

Aliens land on the roof of a drug dealer's New York apartment block (whose inhabitants include lesbian Margaret and gay Jimmy, both played by Anne Carlisle), looking to feed their own addiction to a chemical produced by the human brain during sex. Tsukerman turns a jaundiced eye on the Big Apple's early 80s fashion and club scenes, and finds their inhabitants to be even more alien than the extra-terrestrial visitors. This lo-fi slice of punk sci-fi is cited by music critic Simon Reynolds as a prime influence on the Electroclash club scene of the early 2000s.

Sat 15 Nov 18:10 NFT2

Sat 22 Nov 17:50 NFT3

Dune

USA 1984. Dir David Lynch. With Kyle MacLachlan, Virginia Madsen, Francesca Annis, Sting. 137min. 70mm. 15

After both Alejandro Jodorowsky's and Ridley Scott's attempts to film Frank Herbert's sprawling interplanetary romance stalled in pre-production, it was David Lynch who finally brought *Dune* to the big screen. A dark, brooding and baroque tale of political intrigue, esoteric religion and enormous sand worms, the film was unfairly reviled by critics upon its release. Opinion has shifted considerably since then, and it's no longer seen as a folly, but a singular vision of an alien future.

Thu 13 Nov 20:20 NFT1

Wed 26 Nov 20:20 NFT1

The Terminator

USA 1984. Dir James Cameron. With Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton, Michael Biehn. 107min. Digital. 15

Schwarzenegger's terrifying time-travelling cyborg stomps into 1980s LA from a war-torn future where 'the machine' has become self-aware, overthrown its fleshy master and instigated Nuclear Armageddon. He's come back for Sarah Connor (Linda Hamilton), the mother-to-be of the man who could be the saviour of humanity. *The Terminator* made unstoppable machines of both its star and director, and created a sci-fi legacy that's satisfyingly difficult to foretell from this taut, street-level actioner.

*** Introduced by Sherryl Vint**

Tue 28 Oct 18:00 NFT1

Sun 9 Nov 20:45 NFT1

Mon 24 Nov 20:40 NFT1

'More Beast Than Man': Roger Luckhurst on Sci-Fi Cinema and the 'Protean' Man

Ever since Darwin's rejection of human exception, and his assertion that man was a 'protean' creature of evolutionary change, the animal in man has haunted the imagination. In this illustrated talk, Roger Luckhurst (Birkbeck, University of London, author of the new BFI Film Classic on *Alien*) will explore the nightmarish instability of the human-as-species in sci-fi cinema; from the sinister experiments of Drs Jekyll and Moreau in the 30s, to the body horrors of *The Fly* and *The Thing* in the 80s, to modern CGI and SFX which explode the human form entirely.

Tickets £6.50

Mon 17 Nov 18:30 BFI Reuben Library

The Fly

USA-UK-Canada 1986. Dir David Cronenberg. With Jeff Goldblum, Geena Davis, John Getz. 96min. 18

An update of the 1958 classic, *The Fly* is a grisly meditation on the mutability of the human form. Critics at the time saw an AIDS allegory; Cronenberg instead viewed the film as a metaphor for the effects of ageing on a love affair. By casting the then real-life couple of Goldblum and Davis in the lead roles, he attained an emotional weight that had often been absent from his earlier work.

Fri 28 Nov 18:00 NFT1

Sun 30 Nov 18:20 NFT2

Tetsuo: The Iron Man

Japan 1989. Dir Shinya Tsukamoto. With Tomorowo Taguchi, Kei Fujiwara, Shinya Tsukamoto. 67min. Digital. 18

Shot with a single 16mm camera on a shoestring budget, Shinya Tsukamoto's wild tale of a businessman's agonising transformation into a walking scrap heap after carelessly hitting an unhinged metal fetishist with his car single-handedly defined the Japanese cyberpunk sub-genre. With dialogue kept to a minimum, Tetsuo's preoccupations are notably more physical than they are emotional, resulting in a jaggedly dehumanised vision of the future that is as visually inventive as it is wilfully grotesque.

Wed 19 Nov 20:30 NFT3

Fri 21 Nov 20:50 NFT2

Sat 22 Nov 16:00 NFT3

Thu 27 Nov 18:40 NFT2

Strange Days

USA 1995. Dir Kathryn Bigelow. With Ralph Fiennes, Angela Bassett, Juliette Lewis. 145min. 18

In pre-millennium LA the latest in black-market tech is the SQUID – headgear that commits consciousness to disc, recording what you see, think and feel. Re-live your favourite moments, or borrow someone else's, and go places ('It's all about the stuff you can't have'). 'Clips' dealer Lenny Nero (a delirious Ralph Fiennes) finds himself at the centre of a homicide and police conspiracy in Bigelow's intelligent and provocative sci-fi noir.

Sun 23 Nov 20:00 NFT3

Wed 26 Nov 17:50 NFT3

'More Human Than Human': Sherryl Vint on Posthumanism in Sci-Fi Cinema

Through exploring our relationships with aliens and androids, and by imagining the next stage of our evolution, sci-fi cinema is able to investigate what, precisely, makes us human. Or, indeed, what lies beyond the boundaries of this category – the *posthuman*. In this talk, Sherryl Vint (University of California, Riverside, and author of *Bodies of Tomorrow*) sketches the history of 'posthumanism' in the context of sci-fi cinema (from *Blade Runner* to *The Fly*), and looks at its profound implications on citizenship, biology and globalisation.

Tickets £6.50

Mon 24 Nov 18:30 BFI Reuben Library

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

2004 USA. Dir Michel Gondry. With Jim Carrey, Kate Winslet, Tom Wilkinson. 108min. Video. 15

This romance – about two lovers who erase their memories of each other after a bad break-up – foregrounds what most science fiction cinema overlooks: raw emotion. Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet triumph as the insular Joel and feisty Clementine, and Gondry's charmingly low-tech visual universe provides the perfect setting for

Charlie Kaufman's labyrinthine script. *Eternal Sunshine* offers one of cinema's most devastating and poignant ruminations on memory and heartbreak.

*** Introduced by Andrew M Butler**

Sun 23 Nov 16:00 NFT2

Tue 25 Nov 20:30 NFT2*

Doomwatch: Tomorrow the Rat

BBC 1970. Dir Terence Dudley. With John Paul, Robert Powell, Simon Oates. 50min

Doomwatch was a prescient series of eco-thrillers devised by Gerry Davis and Dr Kit Pedler. Each week the Doomwatch team – consisting of concerned scientists and field agents – would investigate something murky in the fringe world of modern science. This infamous episode concerns mutant rats with a taste for human flesh...

+ Doomwatch

UK 1972. Dir Peter Sasdy. With John Paul, Simon Oates, Ian Bannen, Judy Geeson. 91min

The feature film spin-off from the popular TV series added horror film shock tactics to the show's theme to create an atmospheric and absorbing eco-chiller.

We hope to welcome director Peter Sasdy to introduce this special screening, work permitting

Sat 15 Nov 15:20 NFT2

Doomwatch: Winter Angel

Channel 5 1999. Dir Roy Battersby. With Trevor Eve, Philip Stone, Amanda Ooms. 105min

There are shades of *Edge of Darkness* in this lively remake of the famous 70s series, with Philip Stone playing original Doomwatch head honcho Dr Quist. Trevor Eve plays the terrifyingly brilliant Neil Tannahil, who stumbles upon a deadly secret at an abandoned nuclear power station. Plus ***The Cult of Doomwatch*** (BBC 2006. Dir Angus Macyntyre. 30min). This BBC4 documentary explores the *Doomwatch* phenomenon through key clips and interviews with cast, creators and critics, who decipher its enduring popularity and cult appeal.

Wed 5 Nov 20:20 NFT2

The Cloning of Joanna May (Parts 1 and 2)

ITV 1992. Dir Philip Saville. With Patricia Hodge, Brian Cox, Peter Capaldi. 2 x 78min episodes

Boasting a fantastic cast, this future fable – adapted by Ted Whitehead from the novel by Fay Wheldon – demonstrates how subtle TV sci-fi can be. *The Cloning of Joanna May* is an urbane and witty comedy of manners that uses the central theme of cloning to explore gender politics and personal obsession. Moving from pathos to high camp, Cox and Hodge are magnificent as the lovers doomed to be forever intertwined.

We hope to welcome Director Philip Saville to introduce, work permitting

Tue 11 Nov 20:00 NFT2

The Wednesday Play: Fable

BBC 1965. Dir Christopher Morahan. With Thomas Baptiste, Carmen Munroe, Eileen Atkins. 75min

This searing race-reversal satire from writer John Hopkins sees England as an Apartheid state governed by a ruthless black dictator. Len and Joan are a white couple who are forcibly relocated and then ground down by the relentless machinery of the state. In *Fable* Hopkins criticised not only white liberal complacency, but media itself: several scenes witness the distortion of news in a black-run newsroom. *Fable* also provided strong roles for black actors (notably Thomas Baptiste, Barbara Assoon and Carmen Munroe) at a time when such opportunities were scarce.

Wed 19 Nov 18:10 NFT2

Born in Flames + Discussion

USA 1983. Dir Lizzie Borden. With Honey, Adele Bertei, Jean Satterfield. 80min. 15

Borden's dizzying, doc-style feminist sci-fi is set in New York ten years after a peaceful socialist revolution has rendered all men equal, leaving women to pick up the battle. It focuses on two feminist groups, each voicing their concerns via pirate radio. Tricky issues of class, racism and sexism are broached throughout with confidence and post-punk swagger. Plus ***Robots of Brixton*** (UK 2011. Kibwe Tavares. 6min). Tension erupts among a group of young robots attempting to survive the daily grind.

Followed by a discussion with Emma Dabiri, Jemma Desai and Sophie Mayer, chaired by Gaylene Gould

Fri 28 Nov 20:30 NFT3

Space Is the Place

USA 1974. Dir John Coney. With Sun Ra, Ray Johnson, Christopher Brooks. 85min. 18

The late, legendary avant-garde jazz musician and mystic Sun Ra – who would have celebrated his 100th birthday in May this year – starred in the movie version of his concept album 'Space Is the Place': his sole fiction film appearance. This kaleidoscopic, hugely entertaining adventure rejects a linear plot in favour of a mélange of interplanetary travel, sharp social commentary, goofy pseudo-Blaxploitation stylistics, and thrilling concert performance. Plus **Afronauts** (USA 2014. Dir Frances Bodomo. 13min). This stylish, brilliantly entertaining short is set on July 16 1969, when America is preparing to launch Apollo 11. Thousands of miles away, the Zambia Space Academy hopes to beat America to the moon. How will it end?

Sat 29 Nov 18:40 NFT3

Exploring Afrofuturism: The Last Angel of History + Panel Discussion

UK 1996. Dir John Akomfrah. With George Clinton, Derrick May, Ishmael Reed. 44min

Crafted by the influential British outfit Black Audio Film Collective, *The Last Angel of History* is a tantalising blend of sci-fi parable and essay film, where interviews with esteemed musicians, writers and cultural critics are interwoven with the fictional story of the time-travelling 'data thief.'

Following the screening, season curator Ashley Clark explores key ideas and issues associated with the ever-evolving Afrofuturist movement with academic Mark Bould, writer and musician Anthony Joseph and curator Zoe Whitley

Sun 30 Nov 15:15 NFT3

Ornette: Made in America

USA 1985. Dir Shirley Clarke. With Ornette Coleman, William S Burroughs, Don Cherry. 85min. Digital

Is it a bird? A plane? No, it's legendary free-form jazz musician Ornette Coleman floating through a charmingly analogue rendering of outer space, in this documentary by experimental filmmaker Shirley Clarke. NASA once asked Coleman to create some work to coincide with their new shuttle program, and this compelling film shows why. Thrilling performance excerpts, futuristic music videos and imaginative re-enactments of Coleman's childhood mingle to create an invigorating portrait of a unique artist and original thinker.

Sat 29 Nov 20:45 NFT3

The Brother from Another Planet

USA 1984. Dir John Sayles. With Joe Morton, Daryl Edwards, Rosanna Carter. 108min. 15

Sayles' witty urban spin on the runaway slave narrative features an expressive performance from Joe Morton as a mute, unnamed extraterrestrial who crash-lands in Harlem after a spaceship accident, and soon finds himself on the run from two mysterious white men. Stylishly shot by regular Spike Lee collaborator Ernest Dickerson, *Brother* offers a thought-provoking spin on the use of the black image in science fiction, and celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. Plus **Pumzi** (South Africa-Kenya 2009. Dir Wanuri Kahiu. 21min). Kenya's first science fiction film takes a dazzling trip into a post-apocalyptic world in which water has almost run out.

Sun 30 Nov 17:30 NFT3

Sankofa

USA 1993. Dir Haile Gerima. With Kofi Ghanaba, Oyafunmike Ogunlano, Alexandra Duah. 124min. 15

This blistering parable by Ethiopianborn, US-based director Haile Gerima unspools the story of a self-absorbed black American fashion model who, while on a photo shoot in Ghana, is spiritually transported back to a plantation in the antebellum south. Here, she experiences the physical and psychic horrors of slavery, and eventually the redemptive power of community and rebellion. *Sankofa* is a beautiful and disturbing Afrocentric interrogation of the past through a contemporary lens.

Introduced by Ashley Clark

Mon 1 Dec 20:20 NFT3

Afrika Bambaataa in Conversation, Hosted by Don Letts

Alongside Sun Ra and George Clinton, Afrika Bambaataa is one of the true Afrofuturist musical pioneers. He developed the electro-funk sound with 'Planet Rock,' the 1982 hip-hop track that infused 808 beats with a techno-pop futurism inspired by German electronic pioneers 'Kraftwerk.' Combining wrap-around sunglasses with Egyptian and native American headgear, Bambaataa rocked a look that perfectly matched the 'outer space' vibe of the new sound he'd created. He was a seminal Bronx DJ during the 70s, and – as one of the three main originators of breakbeat DJing – he became affectionately known as 'The Godfather' of Hip Hop

culture. Through his Universal Zulu Nation collective (which includes the likes of 'De La Soul', 'A Tribe Called Quest' and 'The Jungle Brothers'), he has helped spread black consciousness and Hip Hop culture throughout the world with a message of peace, unity, love and having fun. We're delighted to welcome this cultural icon to the BFI stage to discuss Afrofuturism, cinema, music and more with DJ, musician and filmmaker Don Letts.

Mon 1 Dec 18:20 NFT1

Displays from the BFI Archive's Collections:

Fashioning the Future: Costume and Sci-Fi

From scientists to spacesuits and androids to aliens, costume and make-up plays a key role in imagining tomorrow's world or life outside our solar system. Costume can also be a spectacular element in itself, with futuristic fabrics and designs being influenced by contemporary culture, fashion and technology, and in turn providing inspiration to audiences and the fashion industry. This display looks at a century of on-screen sci-fi through original costume designs, photographs, posters and publicity material for films including *Metropolis*, *Things to Come*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Blade Runner* and *Brazil*.

25 Sept – 11 Jan, Mezzanine

On-set: Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope

This exhibition provides a very special opportunity to see one of the treasures of the BFI National Archive: an original shooting script for *Episode IV: A New Hope*. The script was donated to the BFI by the film's continuity supervisor, and as such includes extensive shooting notes, deleted scenes and unique Polaroid photographs which give a fascinating insight into the making of the film. Selected pages and photographs from the script are on display, exploring the style of the film as well as the highly-skilled work that went into creating one of the most enduring and influential sci-fi films ever made.

23 Oct – 4 Jan, Atrium

Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder in the BFI Mediathque

Marking the launch of the BFI's biggest sci-fi season to date, this mind-bending new collection celebrates the huge contribution of British television to the science fiction genre. While British cinema was dabbling in sci-fi in the 1920s and even earlier, the small screen brought it into our living rooms – uncomfortably close to home in the combustible, post-war political climate. Choose from a selection of seminal TV plays, episodes of much-loved sci-fi serials or documentaries, exploring our three central themes: Tomorrow's World, Altered States and Contact! Many titles are unavailable to view elsewhere in the season or on DVD. Dystopian dreamers can also delve into our 'Book Group' collection dedicated to George Orwell's classic *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, which features all surviving film and TV adaptations of the novel, documentaries about the author and other rarities. Enjoy!