



SCI-FI DAYS OF FEAR AND WONDER

Together with



Sci-Fi at BFI Southbank, December

Tuesday 28 October 2014, London

The BFI's biggest ever blockbuster season, *Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder* presented together with **O2** continues at **BFI Southbank** in December with a programme of screenings and events focusing on what happens when we make *Contact!*

SPECIAL EVENTS

Events highlights in December include **Star Wars Day** – Saturday 13 December will be dedicated to the mother of all Space Operas with screenings of the special editions of *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope* (1977), *Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back* (1980) and *Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi* (1983), with special guests to be announced in due course. Prizes will be given to audience members who dress to impress, and at the end of the night there will be a themed DJ set and space-inspired cocktails in benugo, which will be transformed into the BFI's very own Mos Eisley Cantina.

Ahead of the BFI's theatrical re-release in 2015, BFI Southbank will host a very special screening of *Blade Runner: The Final Cut* (1982) on Sunday 14 December, with audiences across the UK also able to see Ridley Scott's dystopian Sci-Fi masterpiece on the big screen that day, while **Alex Garland's** new film *Ex Machina* (2014) will preview on Tuesday 16 December followed by a Q&A with Garland and science advisor **Dr Adam Rutherford**. Music events will include the **Radiophonic Workshop Live** following a screening of *The Boy from Space* (BBC, 1971), for which they provided the music. BBC Radio 3's *The Sound of Cinema* will also make its way to BFI Southbank for a special edition with presenter **Matthew Sweet** and composer **Steven Price** (*Gravity*, *The World's End*, *Attack the Block*). The event will be followed by a screening of *Gravity* (2013), for which Price received an Academy Award for Best Original Score.

The BFI's regular *African Odysseys* programme will see a screening of *Destination: Planet Negro* (2013), a hilarious film that has the look and of a cult Sci-Fi flick, yet a humour that belies a sharply intelligent satire on race politics. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the film's director **Kevin Wilmott**. Further highlights will include a **Visual Effects Masterclass** with Oscar® and BAFTA award-winning visual effects supervisor **Paul Franklin**, a **BFI Flare** screening of *To Be Takei* (2014) about the original helmsman of the USS Enterprise George Takei, and a shorts programme curated by SCI-FI-LONDON.

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 conclude on December 1 with a screening of ***Sankofa*** (1993), the devastating tale of a black model who is transported back in time to a slavery plantation and a very special *In Conversation* event with Hip Hop pioneer **Afrika Bambaataa**.

CONTACT!

As the BFI Southbank programme turns its attention to making ***Contact!***, novelist **SF Said** will consider the rich variety of ways in which the alien has been imagined in Sci-Fi film and TV in a special talk ***The Alien and Me***. A number of the aliens under discussion will feature in our core programme for the month, with no less than twenty Sci-Fi films on offer, from classics of the genre, to lesser-known gems.

The 1950s was a golden age for Sci-Fi and the season will offer classics of the period including ***The Day the Earth Stood Still*** (1951), ***X: The Unknown*** (1956) and ***Forbidden Planet*** (1956); while this period was often pre-occupied with the Cold War, the latter fused Freud and *The Tempest* in order to turn the audiences' gaze to the enemy within. Literature and Sci-Fi often go hand in hand, and some of the most influential writers on the genre were British. **H.G.Wells** and **John Wyndham** are two of the best examples, and screening in the season will be the 1953 adaptation of Wells' ***War of the Worlds*** (1953) and the supremely eerie ***Village of the Damned*** (1960), based on Wyndham's novel *The Midwich Cuckoos*. Also screening will be the 1978 adaptation of ***Invasion of the Body Snatchers***, starring Donald Sutherland and Jeff Goldblum and based on novel *The Body Snatchers* by Jack Finney. After making his mark working on the visual effects for ***2001: A Space Odyssey*** (1968), which is re-released by the BFI on 28 November, Douglas Trumbull went on to direct ***Silent Running*** (1972); the atmospheric cult classic which features a magnificent performance from Bruce Dern will screen from a digitally re-mastered print during the season.

Small screen Sci-Fi adventures have often ended up on the big screen and the season will include three varied examples of this – the film version of Nigel Kneale's ***Quatermass and the Pit*** (1967) boasts one of the finest British scripts ever written, and will be introduced by film writer **Kim Newman**, whose **BFI Film Classic** on the film is published in conjunction with the season. Also screening will be ***Star Trek: The Motion Picture*** (1979), which arrived on the big screen ten years after the seminal series had ended, and ***Serenity*** (2005), the witty, fast-paced adventure sequel to Joss Whedon's 'space western' *Firefly*. Names such as Ridley Scott, Steven Spielberg and John Carpenter are synonymous with the genre, and some of their best loved films will screen during the season including ***Alien (Director's Cut)*** (1979), ***Close Encounters of the Third Kind*** (1977) and ***Dark***

Star (1974). Global visions of Sci-Fi in *Contact!* come in the form of Andrei Tarkovsky's masterful *Solaris* (1972) and Andrzej Zulawski's powerful *On the Silver Globe* (1988).

At a time when British Sci-Fi and the British VFX industry is thriving, we screen Gareth Edwards' thrilling Sci-Fi adventure *Monsters* (2010), which despite a meagre budget boasted stunning VFX, thanks in large part to Edwards' BAFTA-winning background in visual effects. Also screening will be the wildly funny and inventive *Attack the Block* (2011) helmed by comedian-turned-director **Joe Cornish**, who will join us for a Q&A following a screening of the film on Friday 12 December. The programme will also turn its attention to women in Sci-Fi with screenings of the highly underrated *Contact* (1997) starring Jodie Foster, *Friendship's Death* (1987), starring Tilda Swinton as a robot from another planet, and *Another Earth* (2011), a moving and refreshing independent Sci-Fi film starring Brit Marling as an aspiring astrophysicist who causes a tragic accident.

SCI-FI ON TELEVISION

The small screen adventures of *Blake's 7* will be celebrated in a special event on Friday 5 December, when we will welcome members of the cast and crew for an on-stage discussion, complemented by an eclectic collection of clips. Cast members **Paul Darrow** and **Michael Keating** are confirmed, and we hope to welcome further members of the cast and crew on the night. Also on the TV line-up will be a night dedicated to Professor Bernard Quatermass, and the myriad portrayals of this seminal character in *The Quatermass Experiment* (BBC, 1953), *Quatermass II* (1955), *Quatermass Experiment* (Hammer Films, 1955) and *Quatermass II* (Hammer Films, 1957). Plus *Play of the Month: The Devil's Eggshell* (1966), a production which has not been seen since its original transmission in 1966, and which has been specially restored by the BFI for this screening.

SCI-FI FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Sci-Fi for families continues with screenings of *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (1954), *Daleks – Invasion Earth 2150AD* (1966) and *The Glitterball* (1977). Often cited as a precursor to *ET*, *The Glitterball* was made by the Children's Film Foundation and directed by **Harley Cokeliss**, who will join us to introduce the screening.

– 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.

www.bfi.org.uk/sci-fi @BFI #BFISciFi

***** 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 DECEMBER

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 'De La Soul', 'A Tribe Called Quest' and 'The Jungle Brothers'), Bambaataa 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 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

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 NFT2

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. *Brother* offers a thought-provoking spin on the use of the black image in science fiction, and celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.

+Pumzi

South Africa-Kenya 2009. Dir Wanuri Kahiu. 21min

Kenya's first sci-fi film takes a dazzling trip into a post-apocalyptic world.

Wed 3 Dec 20:30 NFT3

The Alien and Me: SF Said on Extra-Terrestrials in Sci-fi Cinema & TV

Novelist SF Said considers the rich variety of ways in which the alien has been imagined in sci-fi film and TV, exploring how such depictions demonstrate how we manage – or embrace – difference. From the creeping terrors of the first Quatermass Experiment to loveable new friends like E.T., what do the different ways of representing alien life (as friend or foe, or as something in between) tell us about the society that fashioned them, and how do they contribute to our negotiation between the self and the ‘other’?

Tickets £6.50

Mon 1 Dec 18:30 BFI Reuben Library

2001: Designing a Space Odyssey, with Christopher Frayling

Christopher Frayling, cultural historian and acclaimed writer on film, explores the fascinating story behind the iconic design of Kubrick’s sci-fi masterpiece *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Wanting the designs to be based on credible predictions of the future, Kubrick recruited his design team from NASA – Harry Lange to design the spacehardware, and Fred Ordway as scientific advisor. The talk will include glimpses of Lange’s visionary designs, and draw on Frayling’s forthcoming book *The 2001 File: Harry Lange and the Design of the Landmark Science Fiction Film*.

Tickets £6.50

Tue 2 Dec 18:20 NFT1

Visual Effects Masterclass with Paul Franklin

The wonder of science fiction cinema is often found in the sheer awe inspiring on-screen visual effects, from space travel to alien worlds to alternate versions of reality and everything in between. Oscar® and BAFTA award-winning visual effects supervisor and co-founder of Double Negative – one of the UK’s leading visual effects houses – Paul Franklin (*Interstellar*, *Inception*, *Harry Potter*, *The Dark Knight Trilogy*) is joined by host Mark Salisbury to discuss what goes into creating these iconic sci-fi worlds.

Fri 5 Dec 20:45 NFT3

Epic Tales of Adventure in Space: Laura Adams on the Space Opera in Sci-fi Cinema

The space opera has it all. They are epic tales of good vs evil. Entire universes are created in these films, referencing myth, melodrama, Shakespeare, westerns and more. BFI Events Programmer Laura Adams explores why this originally maligned sub-genre – coined as a negative association with soap opera by its detractors – has had lasting big (and small) screen success, from *Star Wars* and *Serenity* to *Guardians of the Galaxy* via *Battlestar Galactica* and *Red Dwarf*.

Tickets £6.50

Mon 8 Dec 18:30 BFI Reuben Library

Blade Runner: The Final Cut

USA-Hong Kong-UK 1982. Dir Ridley Scott. With Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer, Daryl Hannah, Sean Young. 117min. Digital. 15

As part of Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder, here’s a rare opportunity to see *Blade Runner: The Final Cut* on the big screen, ahead of a nationwide BFI release in 2015. Perhaps more than any other film, Scott’s iconic sci-fi classic has gripped audiences and inspired passionate and fierce debate. Harrison Ford is exemplary as the world weary detective hunting down intelligent but murderous replicants amidst a neon-lit, rain-spattered future LA. SB

Sun 14 Dec 18:30 NFT1

Preview: Ex Machina + Q&A with Director Alex Garland and Scientific Advisor Adam Rutherford

USA-UK 2014. Dir Alex Garland. With Domhnall Gleeson, Oscar Isaac, Alicia Vikander. Digital. RT and Cert tbc. Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Caleb (Gleeson), a *wunderkind* young coder, wins the chance to stay at the mountain retreat of the CEO of the world’s largest internet company. At the facility he finds a beautiful woman, a robot with Artificial Intelligence, and uncovers plans for them. *Ex Machina* is a thoughtful and complex sci-fi from writer Alex Garland (*Dredd*, *28 Days Later*) in his directorial debut. LA

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

Tue 16 Dec 20:20 NFT1

BBC Radio 3's Sound of Cinema

Matthew Sweet presents an edition of Radio 3's film music programme, and is in conversation with British film composer Steven Price. Price is known for his work on films such as *Attack the Block*, *The World's End* and *Gravity*, for which he received an Academy Award for his breathtaking score. Together, they chart some of the seminal scores composed for British sci-fi movies, with a lavish array of aural illustrations.

This programme will be recorded for transmission on Sat 6 December as part of the BBC's reflection on the BFI's Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder Season.

Free to attend, but tickets should be booked in advance

Wed 3 Dec 16:30 NFT3

Gravity (3D) + Intro

USA-UK 2013. Dir Alfonso Cuarón. With George Clooney, Sandra Bullock. 91min. Digital 3D. PG

Dr Ryan Stone (Bullock) is on her first space mission under the command of astronaut Matt Kowalsky (Clooney) when, during a routine spacewalk, satellite debris crashes into their shuttle leaving the craft severely damaged and their means of communicating with Earth destroyed. *Gravity* is awesome in the dictionary-definition sense: 'inspiring an overwhelming feeling of reverence, admiration or fear.' Unfathomably beautiful and technically immaculate, Cuarón's space thriller is pure cinematic experience.

Introduced by Matthew Sweet and composer Steven Price

Wed 3 Dec 18:20 NFT3

The Boy From Space + Panel discussion and Q&A with The BBC Radiophonic Workshop

BBC 1971. Dirs Maddalena Fagandini, Pat Farrington, Jill Glindon Reed, Paul Willey. With Sylvestra Le Touzel, Colin Mayes, Stephen Garlick. 70min edit

To celebrate our BFI DVD release of the remastered and rarely seen *The Boy from Space* we present a specially edited 70min version of the series. Made by the BBC education department, *The Boy From Space* tells the story of two children who try to conceal an alien, and has since become legendary as one of the finest children's series ever made. The eerie nature of the show was greatly assisted by the music and audio effects supplied by the BBC Radiophonic Workshop. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with key Workshop figures Paddy Kingsland, Dr Dick Mills and Roger Limb, who provided the original music for this and many more TV series. We'll also screen clips of other rarely seen series that the BFI is releasing such as *The Changes* and *Out of The Unknown*, and our special guests will demonstrate their working methods and how they contributed to these unique productions.

Sat 6 Dec 13:00 NFT1

Sonic Cinema Presents:

Radiophonic Workshop Live

TRT 75min

Taking Days of Fear and Wonder as their theme, Radiophonic Workshop have created a unique set that highlights their seminal work in TV and radio and their influence on electronic music in the UK. Drawing on the principles of *musique concrète*, found sounds, early electronics, handmade synths and tape loops, the Workshop created the otherworldly soundtrack to many iconic shows, including *Horizon*, *Quatermass*, *The Hitchhiker's Guide...* and Delia Derbyshire's realisation of the iconic *Doctor Who* theme. Join us for a special evening of analogue history and frequencies from the future.

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

Sat 6 Dec 18:00 NFT1

Sonic Cinema and London Sinfonietta Present the World Premiere of Blue Touch Paper: Alternative Visions

TRT 60min

Sonic Cinema plays host to a meeting of sci-fi inspired new music and film. Five solo voyages into an audio-visual future have been written by emerging composers Luke Styles, Chris Mayo, Benjamin Oliver, Jacob-Thompson Bell and Deborah Pritchard. Each will be interpreted through films made by the students of the Performance Design and Practice course at Central Saint Martins, and accompanied live by the world renowned London Sinfonietta players.

Tickets £10.45

Wed 10 Dec 18:30 NFT3

Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope (special edition)

USA 1977. Dir George Lucas. With Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Alec Guinness. 125min. **U**

With this film George Lucas created a generation of film fans and continued to inspire and captivate with each new audience. When Princess Leia hides the blueprints to the Death Star in an R2D2 droid unit it leads farm boy Luke Skywalker, rogue Han Solo, the mysterious Ben Kenobi, droid C3PO and the wookiee Chewbacca on an epic adventure, taking in fantastic worlds, dangerous missions and a burgeoning romance. Join us to celebrate the story that started a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.

Sat 13 Dec 11:00 NFT1 (Star Wars Day)

Mon 15 Dec 17:45 NFT1

Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back (special edition)

USA 1980. Dir Irvin Kershner. With Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Billy Dee Williams. 127min. **U**

The epic adventure takes a darker turn as the Rebel Alliance is forced to scatter from the ice planet Hoth after an attack from Imperial forces. Luke trains under Jedi master Yoda on the swamp planet Dagobah, and Han Solo is betrayed by old friend Lando Calrissian in Cloud City. Darth Vader's link to Luke is dramatically revealed in a light sabre battle, leaving Luke with a choice to make between the Jedi force and the power of the Sith.

Sat 13 Dec 11:00 NFT1 (Star Wars Day)

Tue 16 Dec 17:45 NFT1

Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi (special edition)

USA 1983. Dir Richard Marquand. With Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Warwick Davis. 135min. **U**

Now a trained Jedi knight, Luke joins Leia and Lando in rescuing Han Solo from Jabba the Hut on Tatooine. The crew head to the forest planet Endor and meet the Ewoks, and together they must destroy the Imperial army's newer, stronger Death Star. Han becomes jealous of Luke and Leia's growing closeness and Luke reveals he has more family alive. The original trilogy ends with treetop celebrations, and paved the way for future stories to continue.

Sat 13 Dec 11:00 NFT1 (Star Wars Day)

Thu 18 Dec 20:20 NFT1

Sci-Fi-London Shorts Programme

SCI-FI-LONDON has curated a stellar programme of international short films as part of our Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder season. The shorts span time, space and everything in between, and include the premiere of a new short film by Tim Mackenzie-Smith called *Perfect State* – a sharp political satire, starring actor and comedian Miles Jupp. Short film is a brilliant medium for science fiction stories as it allows storytellers the chance to put across amazing ideas and themes that don't always stretch to 90 minutes or more. This collection shows a diverse range of styles and techniques that demonstrate the festival's message of 'where what if meets wtf.'

Fri 5 Dec 18:10 NFT3

The Birth of British Sci-Fi

With live piano accompaniment

Join us for an evening exploring early British silent sci-fi, from 1897 up to WWI. We screen the premieres of the latest BFI National Archive restorations: The Jules Verne-inspired fantasy *Pirates of 1920* (1911), and British cinema's first feature length sci-fi *A Message From Mars* (1913), restored as close as possible to its original length and complete with a suitably festive sci-fi Scrooge. Expect flying cars, futuristic airships, automatons and voyages to distant planets.

Introduced by BFI National Archive Curator, John Oliver

Tue 2 Dec 20:40 NFT2

Sun 7 Dec 16:10 NFT2

BFI Flare Presents: To Be Takei

USA 2014. Dir Jennifer M Kroot. 94min

George Takei is a pop culture phenomenon, gay icon, forthright activist and staunch advocate of all things *Star Trek*; but you don't have to be a Trekkie to enjoy Kroot's charming documentary about the original Enterprise helmsman. As we follow Takei and his long-time partner Brad on their busy schedule of personal appearances, Kroot draws out the fascinating story of Takei's life with compassion, insight and a great deal of humour.

Takei's positivity and enthusiasm for life is inspiring, and even at 76 he's not slowing down. Live long and prosper indeed!

Thu 11 Dec 18:20 NFT1

George and Mike Kuchar Ace Space Double Bill

TRT 83min

Films by the Kuchar brothers are an utter joy to behold. They mixed with the American avant-garde and yet were inspired by melodramas and B-movies of the most outrageous and extreme variety. Mike's campy, terrific early work *Sins Of The Fleshapoids* (1965), which screens in this programme, was a major influence on John Waters who said it 'really shows what an underground movie was.' We also screen *Orphans Of The Cosmos* (2009), made by George Kuchar and his students at the San Francisco Art Institute. Of his film George said 'this trip is short on funding but big in concept – it's really quite a ride, and looks like a million bucks for the vision impaired.' Don't miss these quietly sophisticated, subversive, very knowing, yet also very loving tributes to the sci-fi B-movies of yesteryear. *WF*

Introduced by William Fowler, Curator, BFI National Archive

Fri 19 Dec 20:30 NFT3

The Day the Earth Stood Still

USA 1951. Dir Robert Wise. With Michael Rennie, Patricia Neal, Sam Jaffe. 92min. Digital. U

The Day The Earth Stood Still, a thoughtful, visually striking take on first contact between mankind and aliens, was the first big budget sci-fi feature of the 50s. Despite early scenes of the US Army confronting a flying saucer and an indestructible robot, Wise's film is markedly less hawkish than its contemporaries. When compared to our more enlightened interstellar neighbours, we are seen as little more than squabbling children with the potential to spread destruction across the cosmos.

Wed 3 Dec 18:20 NFT2

Fri 5 Dec 20:40 NFT2

Sat 6 Dec 18:40 Studio

The War of the Worlds

USA 1953. Dir Byron Haskin. With Gene Barry, Ann Robinson, Les Tremayne. 85min. Digital. PG

H.G. Wells' seminal martian invasion novel was turned into one of the best sci-fi films of the 50s by producer George Pal. The setting may have changed from 1897 Woking to modern day California, and a romantic subplot added, yet the end result – with its stunning design, ravishing Technicolor photography and impressive Oscar®-winning special effects – remains one of the best of all Wells adaptations, and an abiding influence on future alien invasion films, not least *Independence Day*.

Sun 7 Dec 20:40 NFT3

Mon 8 Dec 18:20 NFT3

Wed 10 Dec 20:50 Studio

Fri 12 Dec 20:45 Studio

Forbidden Planet

USA 1956. Dir Fred M Wilcox. With Walter Pidgeon, Anne Francis, Leslie Nielsen, Robby the Robot. 98min. U

Brain boosters, the robot of your dreams, a subterranean alien machine city! Has an interstellar future ever looked so dazzling? A tale about space troopers investigating the remote planet Altair IV becomes a Modernist design extravaganza thanks to Eastman colour, Bebe and Louis Barron's 'electronic tonalities' and MGM's special effects. While most 1950s sci-fi was preoccupied with the Cold War, this fusion of Freud, *The Tempest* and outer space is about ideas, awe and the enemy within. *IS*

Thu 4 Dec 18:20 NFT2

Sun 7 Dec 20:30 NFT2

X: The Unknown

UK 1956. Dirs Leslie Norman, Joseph Walton. With Dean Jagger, Edward Chapman, Leo McKern. 80min. PG

An ancient horror emerges from deep beneath the remote Scottish moorland. Hungry for radioactivity, it causes havoc before heading for the biggest meal of its life: an atomic research establishment. Chief scientist Dr Adam Royston (Dean Jagger, leading a terrific cast) races to thwart the nightmarish creature. This fast-paced Hammer thriller is taut, tense, intelligent and chilling, with gorgeously horrid effects. Described by *The News Chronicle* as 'bowel-loosening,' *X The Unknown* is guaranteed to delight all *Quatermass* fans.

Thu 4 Dec 20:40 NFT2
Sun 7 Dec 18:20 NFT2

Village of the Damned

UK 1960. Dir Wolf Rilla. With Barbara Shelley, George Sanders, Martin Stephens. 75min. 12A

After its inhabitants suffer a mysterious blackout, the tiny English village of Midwich awakens to the gradual realisation that its rural sleepiness has been violated. Based on John Wyndham's classic novel, the film preserves the book's understated realism; the ordinariness of the setting and detail serves to increase the effectiveness of its otherworldly tale, and a creeping sense of unease flows into distinct eeriness as the impassive, flaxen-haired children reveal their true nature.

Thu 11 Dec 18:30 NFT2
Sat 13 Dec 20:40 NFT2

Quatermass and the Pit + Intro

UK 1967. Dir Roy Ward Baker. With James Donald, Andrew Keir, Barbara Shelley, Julian Glover. 77min. Digital. 12A

The film version of Nigel Kneale's third *Quatermass* story boasts one of the finest British scripts ever written. As boffins, army officers and politicians argue over a mysterious object – an unexploded Nazi bomb or a spacecraft? – unearthed at a London tube station, Kneale introduces and interweaves numerous narrative threads to intriguing and increasingly apocalyptic effect. The effects might have been more spectacular, but the devil is in the thematic detail.

** Introduced by author and film critic Kim Newman*

Mon 8 Dec 20:40 NFT2
Fri 12 Dec 18:20 NFT2*
Wed 17 Dec 20:40 NFT2

Solaris

USSR 1972. Dir Andrei Tarkovsky. With Natalya Bondarchuk, Donatas Banionis, Jüri Järvet. 166min. EST. PG

Kris Kelvin's trip to a troubled space station orbiting the remote planet Solaris brings him close to an endlessly changing and apparently sentient alien ocean with the power to manifest repressed memories and desires. Tarkovsky's mesmerising adaptation of Stanislaw Lem's portrayal of the sheer strangeness of extra-terrestrial contact, is a taut psychological drama reflecting on human relationships with flashes of cinematic brilliance and surprising undercurrents of humour.

Sun 21 Dec 19:45 NFT1
Tue 30 Dec 17:40 NFT1

Silent Running

USA 1972. Dir Douglas Trumbull. With Bruce Dern, Cliff Potts, Ron Rifkin. 89min. Digital. PG

Douglas Trumbull's atmospheric cult classic takes place across a set of stunningly realised spaceship-mounted geodesic greenhouses in orbit around Saturn and features a remarkable performance from Bruce Dern as an eco-warrior. Perhaps it's the Joan Baez soundtrack, the earnest eco message, or the three adorable 'drones,' Huey, Dewey, and Louie, that make the film continue to grow in people's affections and in filmic influence. Showing in a digitally re-mastered print.

Sun 7 Dec 18:10 Studio
Thu 11 Dec 18:10 NFT3
Sat 13 Dec 20:45 NFT3
Sun 14 Dec 20:20 NFT2

Dark Star

USA 1974. Dir John Carpenter. With Dan O'Bannon, Brian Narelle, Cal Kuniholm. 83min. Digital. PG

Twenty years into their mission to nuke unstable planets from the face of the galaxy, the crew of the *Dark Star* are fast approaching the end of their tethers. Resembling a bunch of 70s CalArts acid-victims, this (anti) heroic band of brothers bring an offbeat nihilism to space exploration that's an antidote to the wide-eyed wonder of space operas. Carpenter began his feature debut while at college, and you can tell, but he created a hugely influential sci-fi satire that's as much fun as surfing in space.

Fri 19 Dec 18:30 NFT2
Mon 22 Dec 20:40 NFT2

Sun 28 Dec 18:20 NFT2

Close Encounters of the Third Kind (Special Edition)

USA 1977. Dir Steven Spielberg. With Richard Dreyfuss, Teri Garr, Melinda Dillon, François Truffaut. 135min. **PG**
Spielberg's hugely successful and impressive account of an Indiana engineer's brush with aliens visiting the Earth in a UFO eschews the paranoia traditional to earlier invasion movies, opting instead for benevolent optimism and a childlike wonder at the enormity and beauty of the universe. That said, confusion, familial tensions and government cover-ups also come in to play, lending credibility and emotional substance to the stuff of speculative fantasy.

Mon 15 Dec 20:20 NFT1

Thu 18 Dec 17:40 NFT1

Invasion of the Body Snatchers

USA 1978. Dir Philip Kaufman. With Donald Sutherland, Jeff Goldblum, Brooke Adams, Leonard Nimoy. 115min. **15**

It all starts with a flower. San Francisco becomes the site of an insidious alien invasion after Elizabeth (Adams) brings home an unusual bloom. Much to her colleague Matthew's (Sutherland) horror, the plants are gradually seeding and growing cloned versions of nearby people, including their friend Jack (Goldblum) who joins them in their investigation. With the question of who remains and who's a double, everyone becomes a suspect. Featuring spectacular sound design, and the best dog-with-a-human-face you'll see on screen.

Mon 22 Dec 17:45 NFT3

Sat 27 Dec 20:40 NFT2

Alien (Director's Cut)

USA-UK 1979 (2003). Dir Ridley Scott. With Sigourney Weaver, Ian Holm, John Hurt, Veronica Cartwright. 115min. Digital. **15**

The *Alien* phenomenon began here, in a carefully paced thriller which opens with the crew of the Nostromo in stasis as they return to earth. Awoken by the ship's computer they're grudgingly sent to investigate a transmission of unknown origin. They discover a deadly alien species, and as the crew are picked off one by one Ripley takes her place as the ultimate sci-fi heroine. This iconic classic features designs from HR Geiger and a brilliant script by Dan O'Bannon (*Dark Star*).

Wed 10 Dec 18:00 NFT1

Fri 12 Dec 20:40 NFT1

Sun 14 Dec 16:10 NFT1

Star Trek: The Motion Picture

USA 1979. Dir Robert Wise. With William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, George Takei. 132min. **U**

When the Enterprise glided onto the big screen a decade had passed since the final episode of Gene Roddenberry's deeply impactful TV show had aired. Worth the wait? Yes; it moves slowly, with little for those expecting the action and knockabout fun that flavoured the TV show. But there are thoughtful moods, characters with charm and depth (Vulcan included!), and a beautiful SFX-engorged production thanks to the huge talents involved in its creation (Wise, Douglas Trumbull, Jerry Goldsmith *et al*). *RW*

Sat 20 Dec 20:20 NFT1

Mon 22 Dec 20:20 NFT1

On the Silver Globe Na srebrnym globie

Poland 1988. Dir Andrzej Zulawski. With Andrzej Seweryn, Jerzy Trela, Iwona Bielska. 166min. *EST*

On the Silver Globe looked set to become a philosophical sci-fi classic before production was shut down by a Culture Ministry apparatchik convinced that it was anti-Communist propaganda. This tale of a world colonised by the primitive descendants of human astronauts was adapted from Zulawski's great-uncle's Lunar Trilogy. The film was 'finished' years later with voice over plugging narrative gaps, and this unplanned fragmentation seems an integral part of what is already a powerfully hallucinatory experience.

Mon 15 Dec 19:50 NFT2

Sun 21 Dec 13:40 NFT3

Friendship's Death + Intro

UK 1987. Dir Peter Wollen. With Tilda Swinton, Bill Paterson, Patrick Bauchau. 75min. **15**

With a steady stream of imaginative ideas making up for a low budget, Wollen's droll film tells of a bizarre, brief encounter, in the war-torn Middle East in 1970, between a UK correspondent (Paterson) and a young woman (Swinton) claiming to be a robot sent to Earth on a peace mission. Terrific performances and a witty, insightful script that touches on all manner of human foibles ensure that the closed-in drama is both engrossing and, finally, surprisingly touching.

***Introduced by Laura Mulvey**

Tue 23 Dec 18:30 NFT2*

Mon 29 Dec 20:50 NFT2

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.

Mon 1 Dec 17:30 NFT2 (also screens in Nov)

Serenity

USA 2005. Dir Joss Whedon. With Nathan Fillion, Summer Glau, Gina Torres, Chiwetel Ejiofor. 119min. Digital. 15

'Space western' *Serenity* delivers to fans of Whedon's cult TV series *Firefly* and newcomers alike. Captain Mal Reynolds (Nathan Fillion) leads the crew of the *Serenity* across space, through the dangerous boundaries of Reaver territory, while evading an Alliance assassin (Chiwetel Ejiofor) whose target is the balletic crewmember River Tam (Summer Glau). *Serenity* provides fast paced adventure, witty dialogue and heart-warming characters that demand a place in sci-fi lore.

Tue 23 Dec 20:30 NFT3

Mon 29 Dec 20:30 NFT3

Monsters

UK 2010. Dir Gareth Edwards. With Scoot McNairy, Whitney Able. 94min. 12A

South America is a quarantined zone after alien life-forms crash land on earth, and this is where we find photographer Andrew (Scoot McNairy), who is tasked with escorting his boss's stranded daughter back into the safety of Central America. The pair begin a journey that is part romantic road movie (think *It Happened One Night*) and part sci-fi adventure, complete with stunning giant octopus-like creatures, which are included thanks to director Gareth Edwards' (*Godzilla*) BAFTA-winning background in visual effects.

Sun 21 Dec 20:40 NFT2

Tue 30 Dec 20:50 NFT1

Another Earth

USA 2011. Dir Mike Cahill. With Brit Marling, William Mapother, Matthew-Lee Erlbach. 92min. 12A

Rhoda, an aspiring astrophysicist, searches the night sky for a discovery announced on the car radio – a duplicate planet Earth. Distracted, she causes a tragic accident, leaving a man widowed and in a coma. Four years later, both removed from their previous lives, they begin a love affair – though Rhoda doesn't reveal their prior connection. When she's presented the opportunity to travel to this other Earth, is it a chance at a new life, or simply an escape? A moving and refreshing independent sci-fi drama.

Sat 20 Dec 18:40 NFT2

Sun 28 Dec 20:30 NFT2

Tue 30 Dec 20:40 NFT2

Attack the Block + Q&A with Director Joe Cornish*

UK 2011. Dir Joe Cornish. With John Boyega, Sammy Williams, Jodie Whittaker, Luke Treadaway, Nick Frost. 88min. 15

It's a normal evening on a South London council estate; Nurse Sam (Jodie Whittaker) is mugged on the way home by a teenage gang, posh boy Brewis (Luke Treadaway) visits his dealer, and some kids get attacked by vicious alien beasts who've crash landed in the local park. A sci-fi siege movie with comedy, horror, and plenty

of sociological discourse, this fantastic debut from director Joe Cornish follows Moses (John Boyega) and an unlikely group of survivors as they defend their urban home.

Fri 12 Dec 18:00 NFT3*

Sun 21 Dec 18:30 NFT2

Tue 30 Dec 18:10 NFT3

Blake's 7 + Panel Discussion

Dalek creator Terry Nation was also responsible for this fondly remembered slice of space opera featuring a gang of interplanetary rebels battling against a totalitarian empire. Renowned for its spiky mix of idiosyncratic characters, the series was tricky, complicated, sometimes witty and frequently dark, and it boasts one of the most controversial finales in TV history. Running for four series, *Blake's 7* has since become a cult classic. We screen an eclectic collection of specially chosen clips from various episodes, providing an unmissable opportunity for fans to revisit one of the best shows in the UK sci-fi pantheon.

Fri 5 Dec 18:00 NFT1

The Quatermass Experiment (Episodes 1 & 2)

BBC 1953. Dir Rudolph Cartier. With Reginald Tate. 2x 30min

Along with his laboratory assistants, Professor Bernard Quatermass anxiously awaits the return to Earth of his new rocket ship and its crew, who have become the first humans to travel into space. But things don't go according to plan...

+ Quatermass II (Episode 1)

BBC 1955. Dir Rudolph Cartier. With John Robinson. 1x 30min

Professor Bernard Quatermass of the British Experimental Rocket Group, also known as 'the rocket man,' is called in to investigate a meteorite.

Plus extracts: *Quatermass Experiment* (Hammer Films 1955) and *Quatermass II* (Hammer Films 1957).

Wed 17 Dec 18:20 NFT2

Play of the Month: The Devil's Eggshell

BBC 1966. Dir Gareth Davies. With Leonard Rossiter, Keith Barron, Bernard Hepton. 90min

This TV play stars Leonard Rossiter as the Prime Minister and Keith Barron as an idealistic scientist caught up in a web of conspiracy and intrigue when strange egg-shaped objects are discovered at the scenes of disasters all over the world. This production has not been seen since its original transmission in 1966, and the BFI has restored the archive copy especially for this screening.

Mon 22 Dec 18:30 NFT2

2001: A Space Odyssey

UK 1968. Dir Stanley Kubrick. With Keir Dullea, Gary Lockwood, William Sylvester. 141min. Digital. U. A BFI release 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 28 Dec