



**BFI Sci-Fi event**  
**Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder: Book Launch + Discussion**  
**Tuesday 21 October**



London, Wednesday 15 October 2014. The BFI marks the publication of the latest BFI Compendium, *Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder*, with a book launch and panel discussion taking place on **Tuesday 21 October** at **BFI Southbank** as part of the BFI's major, UK-wide blockbuster, **Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder**

Sci-fi's popularity has all but eclipsed its intellectual origins, and it has often been critically marginalised as a populist, 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 an unsophisticated culture in thrall to spectacle, and fearful of technological change?

As the BFI's biggest ever blockbuster season launches, a distinguished panel, all of whom are contributors to the new Compendium publication – **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 discuss the genre's strengths and shortfalls, and advance the debate around the world's most popular film and television genre.

**Tue 21 Oct 18:10 NFT1**

### **About the book**

The *Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder* Compendium delves into the other worlds, future visions and altered states of sci-fi film and television. With 160 pages of lavishly illustrated new essays written by many of the foremost authorities in the field, including Kim Newman; Stephen Baxter; Alastair Reynolds; Matthew Sweet; Helen Lewis; John Clute; Roger Luckhurst; Adam Roberts, Adam Rutherford and Simon Ings. It is the essential companion to our Days of Fear and Wonder season.

- **Please see attached for a sample chapter**
- **Review copies are available on request.**
- **Interviews are available with the book's contributors**

### **Full list of contributors:**

**Laura Adams** (Space Operas) / **Stephen Baxter** (The Evolution of 2001:A Space Odyssey) / **Josephine Botting** (Fear and Fantasy: Women in sci-fi cinema) / **Mark Bould** (Inner Space) / **Ashley Clark** (Afrofuturism) / **John Clute** (The Cinema of Catastrophe) / **Bryony Dixon** (Silent Running: Early sci-fi cinema) / **Mark Fisher** (Future Shock) / **William Fowler** (Outer limits: Sci-fi and the Avant Garde) / **Ken Hollings** (Breathing the same air: Cold war sci-fi) / **Simon Ings** (Future Tech) / **Helen Lewis** (Visions of wonder) / **Roger Luckhurst** (Dancing with Darwin) / **Kevin Lyons** (Fandom) / **Sophie Mayer** (To the binary... and beyond) / **Kim Newman** (Unearthly strangers) / **John Oliver** (Alien nation: Aliens in British sci-fi cinema) / **Vic Pratt** (Cheap thrills: Sci-fi on a shoestring) / **Jonathan Rigby** (Springtime for Caliban?) / **Adam Roberts** (A brief history of Time Travel) / **Alastair Roberts** (To boldly go) / **Adam Rutherford** (Artificial Intelligences) / **Mark Salisbury** (Light and magic: the history of sci-fi special effects) / **Graham Sleight** (Between two worlds: Sci-fi literature and cinema) / **Matthew Sweet** (Home invasions: British TV Sci-fi) / **Marketa Uhlirova** (Clothes to come: Between sci-fi costume and fashion) / **Sherryl Vint** (Taking the blue pill: Virtual realities) / **George Watson** (The truth is out there) **Edited by James Bell**

*Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder* is the fourth BFI Compendium, following *39 Steps to the Genius of Hitchcock*, *Gothic: The Dark Heart of Film* and *Electric Shadows: A Century of Chinese Cinema*.

*Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder* is published on **Tue 21 Oct**

Buy from the BFI Shop at BFI Southbank for £15 (RRP £16.99), or visit: [bfi.org.uk/shop](http://bfi.org.uk/shop)

### **More information and interview requests::**

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### **Listings**

**Days of Fear and Wonder: Book Launch + Discussion**

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**Tickets £6.50**

**Tue 21 Oct 18:10 NFT3**

### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

#### **About the BFI**

The BFI is the lead organisation for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- 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

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £11.00, concs £8.50 Members pay £1.50 less on any ticket. Website [www.bfi.org.uk/southbank](http://www.bfi.org.uk/southbank)

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

#### **BFI Shop**

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

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

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

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

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

**A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) under BFI / Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder**