



BFI PRESENTS
SHAKESPEARE
ON FILM

**BRITAIN'S BIGGEST EVER CELEBRATION OF
SHAKESPEARE ON FILM GETS EVEN BIGGER:
300 EVENTS NOW CONFIRMED ACROSS THE UK**

- **Kenneth Branagh to take part in Q&A, beamed live to cinemas UK-wide**
- **Over 300 screenings to take place across the length and breadth of the UK, marking the bard's quatercentenary year**
- **BFI Film Audience Network brings the most ambitious testament to Shakespeare's cinematic legacy, *BFI Presents: Shakespeare on Film*, to audiences across the UK**

www.bfi.org.uk/shakespeare #ShakespeareLives

London, 11 April 2016 – The **BFI Film Audience Network (FAN)** is proud to announce **BFI Presents: Shakespeare on Film**: a spectacular UK-wide series of **300** special screenings and events celebrating the enormous impact the playwright's life, work and legacy has had on cinema. The events will begin in April, coinciding with the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death on Saturday 23 April.

The project is led by **Film Hub London** working in partnership with the **BFI** and the **UK's eight other film Hubs**. *BFI Presents: Shakespeare on Film* will see multiplexes, independent cinemas, film clubs, pop-ups and community venues the length and breadth of the UK enticing audiences with a broad range of must-see filmic interpretations of Shakespeare's work and special events featuring leading cinematic lights.

From a Q&A with **Kenneth Branagh** beamed live to 70+ cinemas across the country from Belfast's Queen's Film Theatre, to spectacular screenings in castles, and silent films set to bold new scores from leading contemporary artists, *BFI Presents: Shakespeare on Film* promises a series of big screen revelations that will enthral and entertain everyone from dyed-in-the-wool bard aficionados to casual cinemagoers keen for a fresh new filmic experience. The programme will also contain a dedicated youth focus, including an 'in conversation' session with Kenneth Branagh and Adrian Wootton, Chief Executive of Film London and the British Film Commission, that will be filmed and used as an educational resource and *BFI Presents: Shakespeare on Film* elements incorporated as part of this year's Into Film Festival in November.

Kenneth Branagh, director, actor and patron of Film London's own Shakespeare on Screen initiative, said: "It's a real privilege to be returning with *Henry V* - the first Shakespeare feature I directed, to the Queen's Film Theatre in my home city, as part of this wonderful celebration of

Shakespeare's life, work and legacy on screen. The fact that Film London has organised the event to be beamed live to cinemas across the UK is particularly exciting."

Adrian Wootton, Chief Executive of Film London and the British Film Commission, said: "Shakespeare might have been a man of the theatre but his work offers endless possibilities to filmmakers. Somehow the power of his stories, characters, his all too human resonant and relevant themes of power, politics, family, romance, tragic conflict and joyous comedy, manages to transcend barriers of time and the English language such that specific cultural settings can be interpreted by filmmaking artists, in all different kinds of locations, contexts and languages. I am hugely grateful to the BFI and FAN for working in partnership with Film London to deliver this wealth of Shakespeare programming and activity around the whole of the UK."

Ben Luxford, BFI Head of UK Audiences, said: "Shakespeare's work is arguably at its most accessible through film, and the BFI Film Audience Network exists to make great cinema available to all – we're pleased to support this range of fantastic events that promise to bring the very best cinematic interpretations of Shakespeare's work to audiences right across the UK."

Highlights from the *BFI Presents: Shakespeare on Film* programme:

- **ACROSS THE UK:** *Henry V* screening + Kenneth Branagh Q&A (Broadcast live to Cinemas). Taking place at Belfast's Queen's Film Theatre, the Q&A and film will be beamed live to 70+ cinemas across the UK. (Film London in partnership with Queen's Film Theatre, supported by Pinewood Studios in association with Park Circus). This event forms part of Film London's international Shakespeare on Screen programme. Preceding the event, through his role as Into Film Northern Ireland Ambassador, Kenneth will also take part in a special educational event for young audiences in partnership with Into Film, which is supported by the BFI through Lottery funding.
- **AT MULTIPLE UK VENUES:** Live Cinema UK presents *Shakespeare Re:Scored*, wherein renowned contemporary artists provide specially-commissioned scores to *Play On! Shakespeare in Silent Film*, a new compilation from the BFI National Archive. (Film Hub North).
- **GLASGOW:** An exploration of 'the Scottish play' courtesy of Glasgow Film Theatre, with a series of outdoor screenings showcasing, amongst others, the Shakespeare interpretations of Roman Polanski and Orson Welles (Film Hub Scotland).
- **WALES:** Chapter partner with the British Council for family-friendly screenings, cult selections and discussions with academics and experts to examine Shakespeare's relationship with Wales, while Pontio offer a unique one-off cinematic experience of *Macbeth* (1964) in Welsh from the BBC archive. (Film Hub Wales).
- **BIRMINGHAM:** A sideways look at the bard as part of the tenth Flatpack Film Festival, incorporating spoken-word, animation and artists' film (Film Hub South West & West Midlands).
- **NOTTINGHAM:** A selection of must-see cinematic classics at Broadway Cinema, Nottingham (Film Hub Central East).
- **SHEFFIELD:** Sheffield's Showroom Cinema presents a specially curated season of the finest Shakespeare on film, including an adult education programme (Film Hub North).
- **LANCASHIRE:** Aunty Social CIC's incorporation of a filmic strand into the popular Fylde Coast Shakespeare Festival, which sees Shakespearian events taking place across the region in venues that range from piers to pubs (Film Hub North West Central).
- **BERKSHIRE:** South Hill Park's Shakespeare Un/Told, which offers a week-long programme of multimedia events exploring the playwright's work and legacy (Film Hub South East).

- **LONDON:** Shakespeare's Sister, an exploration of gender – both behind and in front of the camera – courtesy of Curzon. This discussion will include filmmakers, academics and the brains behind the Bechdel Test Fest (Film Hub London).

BFI FAN spans the length and breadth of the UK and connects cinemas, film archives, education organisations, community groups and others, to bring a wide range of films to audiences and help build interest in British independent and specialised film. BFI FAN members have fully embraced *BFI Presents: Shakespeare on Film*, creating a spectacular programme that promises to bring the bard's cinematic interpretations to UK audiences in bold, brave and exciting ways.

For more information about *BFI Presents: Shakespeare on Film*, visit www.bfi.org.uk/shakespeare

--ENDS--

For further press information, please contact:

Jill Reading – Press Officer, BFI Cultural Programme

020 7957 4759 / jill.reading@bfi.org.uk

Liz Parkinson – Press Officer, BFI Cultural Programme

020 7957 8918 / liz.parkinson@bfi.org.uk

Alex Deller – Senior Press & Communications Manager

020 7613 7682 / 07787 254 250 / alex.deller@filmlondon.org.uk

Notes for 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

About the BFI Film Audience Network

The BFI Film Audience Network (FAN) is a ground-breaking initiative that gives audiences across the UK the opportunity to see a diverse range of films in a cinema setting. For filmmakers, getting films onto cinema screens is a highly competitive business, particularly for specialised films which includes archive, documentary, independent and foreign language films. The BFI FAN aims to change this.

With £8.7 million of Lottery funding over four years (2013-2017) the BFI FAN works with cinema exhibitors, film festivals, educators, film societies, community venues, film archives and other organisations in their regions or nations to boost audiences for film across the UK.

The film hub partners which drive audience engagement across the UK comprise: Broadway Nottingham; Chapter, Cardiff; HOME, Manchester; Film London; Queen's Film Theatre, Belfast; Scottish Film; the University of Brighton; Showroom Sheffield; and Watershed, Bristol.

www.bfi.org.uk/FAN



About Film London

Film London is the capital's screen industries agency. We connect ideas, talent and finance to develop a pioneering creative culture in the city that delivers success in film, television, animation, games and beyond.

We work to sustain, promote and develop London as a global content production hub, support the development of the city's new and emerging filmmaking talent and invest in a diverse and rich film culture. Funded by the Mayor of London and the National Lottery through the BFI, we also receive support from Arts Council England and Creative Skillset.

Film London's activities include:

- Maintaining, strengthening and promoting London's position as world-class city to attract investment through film, television, animation and games
- Investing in local talent through a range of specialised production and training schemes
- Boosting employment and competitiveness in the capital's screen industries by delivering internationally facing business development events
- Maximising access to the capital's film culture by helping audiences discover film in all its diversity
- Promoting London through screen tourism

Film London also manages the British Film Commission (www.britishfilmcommission.org.uk) through a public/private partnership which is funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the BFI and UK Trade & Investment.

www.filmlondon.org.uk

[@Film_London](#)



About Film Hub London

Managed by Film London, Film Hub London aims to ensure audiences across the capital can discover film in all its diversity. With a broad and diverse membership of exhibitors and part of the nationwide BFI Film Audience Network (FAN), the Hub encourages small-scale exhibitors to take more risks and large-scale exhibitors to expand their scope. Working to boost audiences and expand the film culture offer in Greater London, the Hub's focus is outside the city centre and offers funding, training, screening programmes and audience research. Film Hub London is the lead Hub for BFI Presents: Shakespeare on Film. www.filmlondon.org.uk/filmhub



About the Queen's Film Theatre

The Queen's Film Theatre is a unique cultural venue, founded in 1968, with almost 50 years of experience of bringing a high quality film experience to Belfast audiences. The QFT is also a friendly, intimate cinema that values its audiences, as without their loyalty, support and interest in our programme, QFT would not be able to exist.

The QFT's longstanding vision and mission are:

Vision: To be a leading centre for film excellence and creativity that inspires, informs and entertains.

Mission: To provide a unique cinema experience and widen access to the best of film from around the world through a programme that actively encourages appreciation, enjoyment, debate and understanding.

For more information please see www.queensfilmtheatre.com

About Pinewood Studios Group

The Pinewood Studios Group is a leading provider of studio and related services to the global film and television industry. Synonymous with world class British and international productions, the impressive heritage of its UK-based Pinewood and Shepperton Studios date back to the early 20th Century and are home to some of the most successful feature films and TV shows ever made.

The facilities comprise the best quality sound stages, a globally unique underwater filming stage, a wealth of specialist production resources including 3D printing and lighting, state of the art TV studios, post production and digital content services. The studios also offer easy access to the world's most experienced crews as well as the expertise of hundreds of complementary media companies based at its Pinewood, Shepperton and Wales Media Hubs.

Renowned across the globe for excellence in its field, the Pinewood brand has been exported overseas to studios in Toronto, Canada; Atlanta, Georgia USA; Iskandar, Malaysia and the Dominican Republic, and in the UK, Pinewood Studio Wales, just outside Cardiff.

The Pinewood Group offers equity and debt financing to UK film and television production as part of its growing range of advisory services, representing media funds of both Isle of Man and Welsh Governments.

Recent film and TV productions that have used the Studios' facilities include, *SPECTRE* (Eon), *Avengers: Age of Ultron* (Marvel Entertainment) *Gravity* (Warner Bros); *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (Lucasfilm); *Guardians of the Galaxy* (Marvel Entertainment) Visit www.pinewoodgroup.com for more information.



About Into Film

Into Film is a UK-wide film and education organisation which puts film at the heart of children and young people's learning and personal development. The ambitious UK-wide programme provides 5-19 year olds, regardless of their background or ability, with opportunities to learn through film and about film, as well as learning about the film industry and careers within it. Into Film is supported by the BFI through Lottery funding, together with funding from the film industry and a number of other

sources, including in Northern Ireland Cinemagic and The Nerve Centre, with the support of Northern Ireland Screen. Into Film Ambassadors include Sir Kenneth Branagh, Eddie Redmayne, Naomie Harris and Michael Sheen. Into Film is supported by the BFI through National Lottery funding.

For further information about Into Film and to set up an Into Film Club for free access to thousands of films and resources visit www.intofilm.org

About Park Circus

With offices in UK, USA and France, Park Circus is an impassioned and dynamic international film sales and distribution company with years of experience helping audiences around the world experience classic films back on the big screen. Park Circus represents a number of high profile studios and independent producers, including Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Paramount Pictures, Sony Pictures Releasing International, Warner Bros. Pictures, Universal Pictures, ITV Studios, Miramax, Samuel Goldwyn Films, The Cohen Film Collection, Exclusive Media, STUDIOCANAL, Revolution Studios, Renown Pictures, Woodfall Films, Icon Film Distribution, Channel Four Television Corporation, and Walt Disney Studios Motions Pictures. Park Circus was the pioneer in making classic films available for Digital Cinema with 1,400 classic films now available for theatrical distribution in this format. Park Circus Limited is part of the Arts Alliance Limited group of companies.

www.parkcircus.com

