

BFI Southbank celebrates *Spitting Image* at 30, with a preview of a new BBC Arena documentary, plus Q&As with special guests

Onstage talent includes: Creators Peter Fluck, Roger Law and Producer John Lloyd; Impressionists Steve Nallon and Harry Enfield and writer Ian Hislop; Politicians the show satirised, Lord Roy Hattersley and Lord David Steel



29 January 2014, London

On February 27 2014 **BFI Southbank** will celebrate the 30th anniversary of one of the most innovative and daring television programmes ever conceived; *Spitting Image* was first broadcast on 26 February 1984 and was a TV satire with a difference. The BFI is bringing together *Spitting Image* impressionists, writers and those politicians the show so lampooned including **Lord Roy Hattersley** and **Lord David Steel** in a very special one off event *Spitting Image: A 30th Anniversary Celebration*. Also screening as part of the evening will be *Arena: Whatever Happened To Spitting Image?*, a new BBC Four documentary directed by **Anthony Wall**, which will be followed by a **Q&A** with the director and the creators of *Spitting Image*.

From 1984 – 1996 *Spitting Image* used latex puppets to mercilessly caricature the great and good, from Margaret Thatcher, Ronald Reagan and The Queen to Mick Jagger, Alan Bennett and Arnold Schwarzenegger, no one was safe. *Spitting Image: A 30th Anniversary Celebration* will offer a chance to hear from a panel of well known writers and performers who gave the show its satirical edge, daring to produce outrageously risky material that ridiculed the establishment, to increasing public popularity. These panellists will include **Harry Enfield**, **Ian Hislop**, **Kate Robbins**, **Rob Grant**, **Richard Holloway** and the voice of Margaret Thatcher **Steve Nallon** as well as the shows creators **Fluck & Law**. They will be onstage with some of the politicians they impersonated including **Lord Roy Hattersley** and **Lord David Steel**, who will discuss the effect their puppet personas had on their careers. The event will use clips to examine the show's controversial impact at the time and its lasting legacy, and reveal behind-the-scenes secrets of the performers, puppeteers, writers and directors.

The evening will also include a special preview screening of **BBC4's *Arena: Whatever Happened To Spitting Image?***, directed by **Anthony Wall**, with contributions from creators **Peter Fluck** and **Roger Law** and comedy supremo, producer **John Lloyd**. The screening will be followed by a **Q&A** with Anthony Wall and these creative minds behind the show. Revealing the extraordinary technical

achievement of the series, *Arena* meets the caricaturists, puppet-mould makers, designers, puppeteers, impressionists, writers and directors who worked tirelessly to ensure the show landed its weekly jibes and punches at the politicians, royals and celebrities of the day. And, tracing its journey to our television screens, through 12 years of huge audience figures and weekly controversy to its eventual demise, BBC Arena will ask what *Spitting Image* got right, where it went wrong and whether its absence over the last 17 years has left a hole in the schedules that has yet to be filled by modern broadcasting.

Event Listings: Spitting Image at 30

TV Preview: Arena: Whatever Happened To Spitting Image? + Q&A

BBC 2014. Dir Anthony Wall. 60min

Thirty years ago Roger Law and Peter Fluck were happily ensconced in a converted Temperance Hall in Cambridge making cruelly funny plasticine caricatures. These models were photographed and presented to the world in print under the anonymous byline 'Luck & Flaw.' Unlike a drawing, the caricatures looked like they might move and, Geppetto-style, they did. Law and Fluck, with co-conspirator, TV comedy supremo John Lloyd, unleashed one of the most shocking and hilarious TV series ever. Now, BBC Four's flagship arts documentary series tells the story of *Spitting Image*.

Followed by a Q&A with Peter Fluck, Roger Law, John Lloyd, Anthony Wall

Thu 27 Feb 18:10 NFT1

Spitting Image: A 30th Anniversary Celebration + Q&A

We're delighted to host a panel of well known writers and performers who gave the show its satirical edge and who became household names in the process, alongside some of their victims – politicians and celebrities – who will discuss the effect their puppet personas had on their careers. Using illustrative clips, we examine the show's controversial impact at the time and its lasting legacy, and reveal behind-the-scenes secrets of the performers, puppeteers, writers and directors. So, in the words of one famous crew member: 'puppets up, loves – wave those dollies in the air!'

Panellists include Steve Nallon, Lord Roy Hattersley, Lord David Steel, Harry Enfield, Kate Robbins, Rob Grant, Ian Hislop, Jon Blair, Charles Denton, Richard Holloway, Steve Bendelack, Peter Fluck, Roger Law, John Lloyd

TRT: 120min

Thu 27 Feb 20:45 NFT1

Joint event ticket available £15, concs £11.50 (Members pay £1.50 less)

Press Contacts:

Liz Parkinson – Assistant Press Officer, BFI Southbank

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

Ilona Cheshire – Press Officer, BFI Southbank

ilona.cheshire@bfi.org.uk / 020 7957 8986

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

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

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 under BFI / BFI Southbank / February 2014 / Events