



BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

8 – 19 October 2014

in partnership with



STEPHEN FREARS TO RECEIVE BFI FELLOWSHIP AT THE 58TH BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

London – 7 October 2014:- At this year's BFI London Film Festival annual Awards Ceremony one of Britain's finest directors Stephen Frears will receive a **BFI Fellowship** – the highest accolade the UK's lead organisation for film can bestow. The ceremony will take place on Saturday 18 October, at Banqueting House ahead of the close of the 58th BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express®.

A BFI Fellowship is awarded to individuals in recognition of their outstanding contribution to film or television.

BFI Chairman Greg Dyke said: *"Throughout his extraordinary career, Stephen has produced a body of work which never fails to surprise – from sweeping costume drama to powerful social realism, his films strike a perfect balance between drama, humour and pathos helping to make them a hit with audiences and critics alike. He is one of the UK's most important directors and we are thrilled to honour him."*

Stephen Frears said: *"I've spent much of my life in the cinema and quite a lot of it at BFI Southbank. I am thrilled by this Fellowship."*

Stephen Frears has always embraced a wide variety of styles, themes and genres. He made his name in TV drama, working almost exclusively for the small screen in the first 15 years of his career with some of Britain's finest writers, including David Hare, Alan Bennett, Tom Stoppard and Stephen Poliakoff. In the mid 1980s he turned to the cinema, shooting **The Hit** (1984), starring Terence Stamp, John Hurt and Tim Roth. The following year he made **My Beautiful Laundrette** for Channel 4, which crossed over to big-screen audiences and altered the course of his career. After directing its companion piece **Sammy And Rosie Get Laid** and the Joe Orton biopic **Prick Up Your Ears**, he began working in Hollywood, with **Dangerous Liaisons** and **The Grifters** (for which he was Oscar®-nominated) among his most notable titles.

Returning closer to home, he directed **The Snapper** and **The Van**, two Irish films based on Roddy Doyle stories and after a second spell of making American films (**The Hi-Lo Country**, **Accidental Hero** and **High Fidelity**) based himself largely in Britain. Frears showed his versatility with two vastly different movies: **Dirty Pretty Things**, a realistic account of immigrant life in London, and **Mrs. Henderson Presents**, a nostalgic backstage comedy-drama. For his 2006 film **The Queen** he was again nominated for an Oscar®. His subsequent films include **Chéri**, **Tamara Drewe** and **Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight**, produced by HBO. Frears' most recent film **Philomena** was the American Express Gala at the LFF 2013; starring Judi Dench and Steve Coogan, the film won a BAFTA, and was nominated for three others, along with three Golden Globe and four Oscar® nominations.

The BFI Fellowship will be presented at the annual Awards Ceremony of the BFI London Film Festival, which will see prizes presented for its competitive sections - The **Best Film Award** is presented to the winner of the **Official Competition**; the **Sutherland Award** is presented to the winner of the **First Feature Competition** and the **Grierson Award** is presented to the winning film in the **Documentary Competition**. Each of these sections is open to international and British films. In addition, the **Best British Newcomer Award** will be presented to the most accomplished and promising new acting, writing, directing or producing talent with little or no previous track record in feature films or television.

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Note to Editors:

The Fellowship of the BFI (British Film Institute) was created in 1983 to coincide with the BFI's 50th anniversary. On that occasion the British film industry gathered in the Guildhall for a televised event at which the first group of Fellows were created - Marcel Carné, David Lean, Michael Powell, Emeric Pressburger, Satyajit Ray and Orson Welles.

Since its creation, the BFI Fellowship has been awarded to key figures in British cinema including Peggy Ashcroft, Dirk Bogarde, Alec Guinness, Maggie Smith, Laurence Olivier, Vanessa Redgrave, Mike Leigh and Helena Bonham Carter. Also recognised have been such film industry luminaries as Jack Cardiff, Sydney Samuelson and Jeremy Thomas, and some of the giants of world cinema, including Michelangelo Antonioni, Abbas Kiarostami, Akira Kurosawa, Jeanne Moreau, Elem Klimov, Bernardo Bertolucci and most recently Al Pacino.

The BFI Fellowship also celebrates achievement in the world of television with such names as Alan Yentob, Jeremy Isaacs, David Rose, Michael Parkinson, Lynda La Plante, Lord Bernstein and Verity Lambert all receiving the award.

Since 1983 a total of 79 Fellowships have been awarded.

For further press info about the 58th BFI London Film Festival:

Press Accreditation & General Enquiries	lffpress@premiercomms.com	Tel: +44 20 7292 8330
Rupert Goodwin Senior Account Director	Rupert.goodwin@premiercomms.com	
Sam Ross Senior Publicist	Sam.ross@premiercomms.com	
Matty O'Riordan Senior Media Manager	Matty.oriordan@premiercomms.com	

Film clips/trailers and Festival press releases and written materials please go to the below FTP:

<ftp://ftp.premiercomms.com> | Username: LFF_PRESS | Password: OWL86Y4m

Film images can be found at: www.image.net

BFI Press Office:

Emma Hewitt, Head of Press & PR (Acting)
emma.hewitt@bfi.org.uk / Tel: +44 20 7173 3256
pressoffice@bfi.org.uk / Tel: +44 20 7957 4833

Festival Information & Ticket Booking

Telephone Bookings: 020 7928 3232 between 09:30–20:30

Online: www.bfi.org.uk/lff

In person: BFI Southbank Office: 11:30–20:30

NB. Last minute tickets are available to be purchased on the day about 30 minutes prior to the screening at Festival venues

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 filmmakers in the UK
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of filmmakers and audiences

About the BFI London Film Festival

BFI London Film Festival is Britain's leading film event and one of the world's best film festivals. It introduces the finest new British and international films to an expanding London and UK-wide audience and attracts significant international film industry participation. LFF is a compelling combination of red carpet glamour, friendly audiences and vibrant exchange. LFF provides an essential profiling opportunity for films seeking global success; promotes the careers of British and international filmmakers through its industry and awards programmes and positions London as the world's leading creative city.

Clare Stewart biography

Clare Stewart's nineteen year programming career has encompassed leadership roles as Festival Director, Sydney Film Festival (2006-2011) and the inaugural Head of Film Programs at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image in Melbourne (2002-2006) as well as various roles at the Australian Film Institute (1996-2001), including Exhibition Manager, and programmer and Committee Member of the Melbourne Cinémathèque (1995-2002).



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