



## Steve McQueen to receive BFI Fellowship at LFF Awards Ceremony

**Embargoed until 12:00midnight Tuesday 23 August**

**London - Wednesday 24 August 2016:** The BFI and BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express®, today announces that Steve McQueen, the visionary Turner Prize-winning video artist and Oscar®-winning producer, director and screenwriter will receive its highest accolade, the **BFI Fellowship**. The presentation will take place at the BFI London Film Festival's annual Awards Ceremony on Saturday 15 October at Banqueting House.

**Josh Berger CBE, Chair of the BFI**, said: "As winner of both the Turner Prize and an Academy Award®, Steve is pre-eminent in the world of film and the moving image. He is one of the most influential and important British artists of the past 25 years and his work, both short and long-form, has consistently explored the endurance of humanity - even when it is confronted by inhumane cruelty - with a poetry and visual style that he has made his own. We are thrilled that Steve is to become a BFI Fellow."

**Steve McQueen**, commented "I first walked into the BFI library and cinema 28 years ago. To think that I will now be a Fellow and honorary member, with such a distinguished list of people, is mind-blowing. I'm humbly honoured."

The BFI Fellowship is the highest accolade the BFI Board of Governors can bestow, and at this year's Festival it is awarded to Steve McQueen in recognition of his outstanding contribution to film culture, showcased in his range of artworks and three multi-award-winning features, *Hunger* (LFF 2008), *Shame* (LFF 2011) and *12 Years a Slave* (LFF 2013).

Each year at the LFF Awards Ceremony a BFI Fellowship is bestowed on a film luminary. Previous BFI Fellowships have been presented at the ceremony to Cate Blanchett in 2015, Stephen Frears in 2014, the late Sir Christopher Lee in 2013, Tim Burton and Helena Bonham Carter in 2012, and David Cronenberg & Ralph Fiennes in 2011. Most recently, in February this year, Hugh Grant was also awarded the BFI Fellowship.

Steve McQueen (born London 1969) is a British artist and filmmaker. In 1996 he was the recipient of an ICA Futures Award, in 1998 he won a DAAD artist's scholarship to Berlin and in 1999, as well as

exhibiting at the ICA and at the Kunsthalle in Zürich, he won the Turner Prize. In 2003, McQueen was appointed 'Official War Artist' for the Iraq war by the Imperial War Museum and produced the poignant and controversial project *Queen and Country*, which is still ongoing. He has exhibited at the Art Institute of Chicago, the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, The Museum of Modern Art, Documenta X and XI, and, as well as exhibiting in numerous Venice Biennales, he represented Britain in the Biennale in 2009. His work is held in museum collections around the world, and a retrospective of his work was recently exhibited at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Schaulager in Basel. He was awarded the OBE in 2002 and the CBE in 2011.

In 2008, McQueen's critically-acclaimed first feature, *Hunger*, won the Camera d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival and countless other international prizes. His second feature *Shame*, starring Michael Fassbender and Carey Mulligan, won two Best Film awards when it premiered at the Venice Film Festival in 2011, as well as winning Michael Fassbender the Volpi Cup for Best Actor. It is the second highest grossing NC-17-rated movie in US history. His third film, *12 Years A Slave*, was adapted from a memoir by Solomon Northup. Released in 2013, the film boasted a cast including Chiwetel Ejiofor, Lupita Nyong'o, Michael Fassbender and Brad Pitt. The film has received numerous prizes, most notably winning three Academy Awards including the award for Best Picture. McQueen is the first black director or producer to receive this honour.

Steve McQueen lives and works in Amsterdam and London.

## **PRESS CONTACTS**

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **About the BFI Fellowship**

The BFI Fellowship is awarded by the BFI Board of Governors and it is presented for outstanding achievement in film and television. Since 1983, a total of 82 Fellowships have been awarded – the full list is a roll-call of the leading lights of the world of film and television. 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, Helena Bonham Carter, Christopher Lee and Stephen Frears. 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, Al Pacino, and Mel Brooks.

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.

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### **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 is a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter.

The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger.

### **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 20 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). She has been BFI Head of Festivals and BFI London Film Festival Director since October 2011.

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