



BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

7 – 18 October 2015

in partnership with



EUROPEAN PREMIERE OF SUFFRAGETTE

TO OPEN THE 59TH BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL



Carey Mulligan as 'Maud' in SUFFRAGETTE, Pathé

**PATHÉ RELEASES THE NEW OFFICIAL UK TRAILER
- AVAILABLE VIA YOUTUBE AND TO DOWNLOAD**

Embargoed until 2.00pm GMT Wednesday 3 June 2015

LONDON, Wednesday 3 June 2015: The 59th BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express® is delighted to announce that this year's Opening Night film will be SUFFRAGETTE, the first feature film to tell the story of the ordinary British women at the turn of the last century who risked everything in the fight for equality and the right to vote.

The film will receive its European premiere on Wednesday 7 October at the Odeon Leicester Square, attended by the filmmakers and stellar cast (including Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter and Meryl Streep), with a live cinecast from the red carpet and simultaneous screenings taking place at cinemas across the UK.

The film stars Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter, Brendan Gleeson, Anne-Marie Duff, Ben Whishaw and Meryl Streep. It is directed by LFF alumna Sarah Gavron, who returns to the Festival for a third time, reteaming with her *Brick Lane* screenwriter Abi Morgan (*The Iron Lady*). SUFFRAGETTE is produced by Faye Ward and Alison Owen (*Saving Mr. Banks*, LFF Closing Night film, 2013).

SUFFRAGETTE is an intense drama that tracks the story of the foot soldiers of the early feminist movement as they fought for the right to vote, women who were forced underground to pursue a dangerous game of cat-and-mouse with an increasingly brutal State. These women were not primarily from the genteel educated classes, they were working women who had seen peaceful protest achieve nothing. Radicalised and turning to violence as the only route to change, they were willing to lose everything in their fight for equality - their jobs, their homes, their children and their lives. The character of Maud, played by Carey Mulligan, is one such foot soldier. The story of her fight for dignity is both heart-breaking and inspirational.

Clare Stewart, BFI London Film Festival Director, says: *"We are proud to announce that the much anticipated SUFFRAGETTE will be this year's BFI London Film Festival Opening Night gala. SUFFRAGETTE is an urgent and compelling film – made by British women, about British women who changed the course of history and it is, quite simply, a film that everyone must see."*

Faye Ward and Alison Owen, Producers comment: *"SUFFRAGETTE is a film of struggle, a film of rage, but above all a film of passion. The women in our film are British women, London women, so it feels right for us to present our film at BFI London Film Festival. The Suffragettes would have felt very much at home here, surrounded by the energy, determination, hard work and inspiration that goes into both the Festival and the films that screen here."*

The film is produced by Ruby Films for Pathé, Film4 and the BFI in association with Redgill Productions and with the participation of Canal+ and Cine-Cinema. Executive Producers are Cameron McCracken, Tessa Ross, Rose Garnett, Nik Bower, James Schamus and Teresa Moneo. Christopher Collins was the lead executive for the BFI. Pathé UK release the film in cinemas nationwide on 30 October, 2015.

The 59th BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express® runs from Wednesday 7 October-Sunday 18 October 2015. The full programme for the Festival will be announced on Tuesday 1 September 2015.

SUFFRAGETTE Assets

UK Trailer is available via:

YouTube for Embed - <https://youtu.be/-dVtVekGbjE>

Download (Online) - <http://ferefdownloadcentre.co.uk/Suffragette/SuffragetteOfficialUKTrailer.zip>

Panther (Broadcast) - <https://panther4.dmsukltd.com>

Images are available on www.image.net

For further press information about the 59th BFI London Film Festival

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Festival Information & Ticket Booking

BFI Members' priority booking opens 10.00am, 10 September - join at www.bfi.org.uk/join

Public booking opens 10.00am, 17 September

Telephone Bookings: 020 7928 3232 between 10:00 – 20:30

Online: www.bfi.org.uk/lff

In person: BFI Southbank Office: 11:00 – 20:30

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 London Film Festival

BFI London Film Festival is an iconic international film festival that supports London's position as the world's leading creative city. It presents the best new British and international films to an expanding London and UK-wide audience. It provides career-enabling opportunities for British and international filmmakers through its industry and awards programmes.

Clare Stewart biography

Clare Stewart's twenty 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 Cinemas and Festivals since October 2011.



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