



The Deep Blue Sea

Starring

Rachel Weisz,
Tom Hiddleston, Simon Russell Beale
to close
THE 55TH BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL



Embargoed till 9am Tuesday 30th August

London – 30 August. The 55th BFI London Film Festival, in partnership with American Express, is proud to announce that this year's Festival will close on Thursday 27 October with the UK premiere of ***The Deep Blue Sea***, adapted and directed by Terence Davies (*Distant Voices, Still Lives*) marking his return to fiction feature making following his much loved documentary *Of Time and the City*. *The Deep Blue Sea* stars Rachel Weisz, Tom Hiddleston and Simon Russell Beale.

Hester Collyer (Academy Award® winner Rachel Weisz) leads a privileged life in 1950s London as the beautiful wife of high court judge Sir William Collyer (Simon Russell Beale). To the shock of those around her, she walks out on her marriage to

move in with young ex-RAF pilot, Freddie Page (Tom Hiddleston), with whom she has fallen passionately in love.

Set in post-war Britain, this deeply moving story is an adaptation of Terence Rattigan's classic play, *The Deep Blue Sea* is a study of forbidden love, suppressed desire, and the fear of loneliness. Stuck between the devil and the deep blue sea, what – or whom – should Hester choose?

Sandra Hebron, the Festival's Artistic Director comments: *"It's a great pleasure to be able to close the Festival with this exquisite new feature from one of our most cherished directors. Terence Davies is a film maker who the BFI has supported from the very beginnings of his career, and in Terence Rattigan's centenary year, this beautifully directed and acted film is the perfect closing night film."*

On having the film's UK premiere at the Festival, producers Sean O'Connor and Kate Ogborn comment: *"We are deeply honoured and hugely thrilled for *The Deep Blue Sea* to be screened as the Closing Night Gala at this year's BFI London Film Festival. It's very much a London-based film, so it feels just right for the film's first UK outing to be at this wonderful festival. It's a particular pleasure for us to introduce a new film by Terence Davis - returning to the period and themes of his most celebrated work. All in all, for many reasons, it feels like coming home."*

Director **Terence Davies** adds: *"As a British filmmaker, to get into the BFI London Film Festival at all is bliss - to get a Closing Night film is sheer heaven! The Festival is now, rightly, seen as one of the major European and World Film Festivals; championing not only British but World cinema."*

The Deep Blue Sea opens in UK cinemas on 25th November.

UK Film Council and Film4 in association with Protagonist Pictures, Lip Sync Productions and Artificial Eye present a Camberwell/ Fly Film Production.

Produced by Sean O'Connor and Kate Ogborn. Executive produced by Katherine Butler, Lisa Marie Russo, Peter Hampden and Norman Merry.

The full programme for The 55th BFI London Film Festival will be announced at the Press Launch on Wednesday 7th September. RSVP for more information lffrsvp@premierpr.com.

The Festival runs from 12-27 October 2011.

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For further press information about The 55th BFI London Film Festival please contact:

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Images for The Deep Blue Sea available on www.image.net

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

www.bfi.org.uk
www.bfi.org.uk/lff

The BFI London Film Festival champions creativity, originality, vision and imagination by annually showcasing the best of contemporary world cinema, documentaries, shorts, animation and experimental film. The BFI London Film Festival is a highly regarded and anticipated event in Europe's cultural calendar, attracting leading international filmmakers, industry professionals and the media together with large public audiences to London for a two week showcase of the best in contemporary world cinema.

Last year's Festival hosted 201 feature films and 112 short films from 68 countries including 34 world premieres. There were 629 filmmakers in attendance, drawing the highest ever audience attendance of over 132,000 filmgoers. The Festival opened with the European Premiere of NEVER LET ME GO and closed with the European Premiere of 127 HOURS.



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The company has multi - year partnerships with a range of entertainment institutions including AEG Live, Ticketmaster, Live Nation and the British Film Institute. For full details, or to sign up to receive the free eNewsletters visit www.amex.co.uk/access