



# BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

8 – 19 October 2014

in partnership with



## THE IMITATION GAME EUROPEAN PREMIERE OPENS THE 58<sup>TH</sup> BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL



Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley, Matthew Beard, Matthew Goode and Allen Leech in *The Imitation Game*, STUDIOCANAL

***Embargoed until 3:00pm UK, Monday 21 July, 2014***

***London, 21 July, 2014:*** – The 58<sup>th</sup> BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express®, is delighted to announce that this year's Opening Night film will be *THE IMITATION GAME*, a dramatic portrayal of the life and work of Alan Turing, one of Britain's most extraordinary unsung heroes, and one of the world's greatest innovators.

The film will receive its European premiere on Wednesday 8 October at the Odeon Leicester Square with a live cinecast from the red carpet and simultaneous screenings taking place at cinemas across the UK. Stars **Benedict Cumberbatch** and **Keira Knightley**, and director **Morten Tyldum** are expected to attend the London event.

The pioneer of modern-day computing, Turing is credited with cracking the German Enigma code and the film is a nail-biting race against time by Turing and his brilliant team at Britain's top-secret code-breaking centre, Bletchley Park, during the darkest days of World War II. Turing, whose contributions and genius significantly shortened the war, saving thousands of lives, was the eventual victim of an unenlightened British establishment, but his work and legacy live on.

Clare Stewart, BFI London Film Festival Director, comments: *"We are thrilled to announce one of the most anticipated films of the year – THE IMITATION GAME – as this year's BFI London Film Festival Opening Night gala. Featuring extraordinary performances from the British talent in front of the camera and vividly directed by Morten Tyldum, THE IMITATION GAME does cinematic justice to Alan Turing's vision, determination and personal story as well as his enduring impact on British history and contemporary life."*

Director Morten Tyldum comments: *"I am thrilled to be returning to London to share THE IMITATION GAME with the audience of the BFI London Film Festival. The experience of directing this film has been so tremendously rewarding, and I am humbled to share Alan Turing's incredible story on Opening Night."*

Producer Teddy Schwarzman comments: “*We are truly honoured that THE IMITATION GAME will be opening the 58th BFI London Film Festival. The film, shot in various locations throughout England, tells the story of an incredibly gifted yet unsung British hero. We look forward to sharing this film with audiences across the country, and couldn't imagine our European Premiere anywhere but London.*”

THE IMITATION GAME stars Benedict Cumberbatch (*Star Trek Into Darkness*, TV's *Sherlock*) and Keira Knightley (*Atonement*) as close friend and fellow code-breaker Joan Clarke, alongside a top notch cast including Matthew Goode (*A Single Man*), Mark Strong (*Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*), Rory Kinnear (*Skyfall*), Charles Dance (*Gosford Park*, TV's *Game of Thrones*), Allen Leech (*In Fear*, TV's *Downton Abbey*) and Matthew Beard (*An Education*).

Norwegian filmmaker Morten Tyldum, 2012 BAFTA nominee for *Headhunters*, directs from a screenplay by Graham Moore, based on the book "Alan Turing: The Enigma" by Andrew Hodges. Black Bear Pictures' Teddy Schwarzman produces alongside Bristol Automotive's Nora Grossman and Ido Ostrowsky, with Moore as executive producer and Peter Heslop (*The King's Speech*) as co-producer. Behind-the-camera talent includes director of photography Óscar Faura (*The Impossible*), editor William Goldenberg (three time Oscar® nominee and winner for *Argo*), production designer Maria Djurkovic (BAFTA nominee *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*), costume designer Sammy Sheldon Differ (*Kick-Ass*), hair and make-up designer Ivana Primorac (six time BAFTA nominee including *Anna Karenina*), casting director Nina Gold (*Les Misérables*) and composer Alexandre Desplat (six time Oscar® nominee including *Argo*).

FILMNATION ENTERTAINMENT is overseeing international distribution. STUDIOCANAL release the film in UK cinemas on 14 November, 2014.

The 58<sup>th</sup> BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express runs from Wednesday 8 October-Sunday 19 October. The full programme for the Festival will be announced on Wednesday 3 September.

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For further press information about the 58<sup>th</sup> BFI London Film Festival:

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Images for THE IMITATION GAME are available on [www.picselect.com](http://www.picselect.com) & [www.studiocanal.co.uk/press](http://www.studiocanal.co.uk/press)

Trailer for THE IMITATION GAME is available to download and via YouTube (from 3:00pm, Monday 21 July)

Download link: [http://video.thinkjam.com/video/studiocanal/the\\_imitation\\_game/trailer/trailer\\_1080p.zip](http://video.thinkjam.com/video/studiocanal/the_imitation_game/trailer/trailer_1080p.zip)

YouTube link: <http://youtu.be/Fg85ggZSHMw>

Festival Information & Ticket Booking

BFI Members' priority booking opens 10.00am, 11 September - join at [www.bfi.org.uk/join](http://www.bfi.org.uk/join)

Public booking opens 10.00am, 18 September

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

Online: [www.bfi.org.uk/lff](http://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

### 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.

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### 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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