



PRESS RELEASE

07/08

BFI Southbank Programme Highlights 14th March – April 2007

The newly renovated **BFI Southbank** (Formerly NFT) opened its doors to the public on **Wednesday 14th March**, launching with a dazzling programme of classic and contemporary cinema and events. Visitors will have the chance to explore and enjoy film culture in many unique and exciting ways when they visit the space, with a range of exciting new and free facilities to explore moving image. Highlights include:

- **Terence Davies** - a season of imaginative and profoundly moving films from one of Britain's most acclaimed directors, including a special release of **Distant Voices, Still Lives**, restored by the **BFI National Archive**
- **Inspired by Shakespeare** - timeless storylines placed in a film context
- **Alejandro Jodorowsky** – a tribute to the master of the bizarre and surreal, plus a re-release of **El Topo** and an onstage interview on 13 April
- **Heroic Grace II: The Chinese Martial Arts Film** - the best martial arts films from the 70s and 80s, including 10 long-unseen titles from the vaults of the **Shaw Brothers**
- **Out of the Shadows: 50 Cinematic Masterpieces Part III** - the final instalment of our 'alternative top 50' season
- **Re-enactments** - important historical events recreated for the big screen, from the uprisings against the Tsar in **Battleship Potemkin** to Kurt Cobain's death in **Last Days**
- **Oberhausen on Tour 2007** - an award-winning selection of innovative shorts from one of the world's most famous and successful short film festivals
- **Mediatheque** – from the BFI National Archive: 100 films that explore what is **Essentially British** and the capital as seen through the eyes of film-makers in **London Calling**
- **Gallery** - London's first major venue dedicated to artists' film, video and new media, launches with Brooklyn-based artists Jennifer & Kevin McCoy and '**Tiny, Funny, Big and Sad**', plus the world première of **The Constant World**, commissioned by the **BFI**
- **Studio** – with state of the art digital projection and surround sound we present a special selection of digital titles including highlights from the Mediatheques

Terence Davies

In April **BFI Southbank** pays tribute to **Terence Davies**, one of Britain's most original and audacious film-makers. The season is a complete retrospective of films by this uncompromising poet of cinema, and includes a restored Special Release of the award-winning **Distant Voices, Still Lives** (1988). We are also delighted to welcome to the stage the exuberant Davies to discuss his career.

Davies drew inspiration from his own experiences and those of his family for his early work, and this season presents a very rare opportunity to see his first three autobiographical shorts, previously released as **The Terence Davies Trilogy**. After quietly revolutionising British cinema with films such as *Distant Voices...* and **The Long Day Closes** (1992), Davies went on to make two Anglo/American co-productions: **The Neon Bible**, starring **Gena Rowlands** (1995), and **The House of Mirth** (2000), based on **Edith Wharton's** novel. Featuring powerful performances from **Gillian Anderson** and **Eric Stoltz**, the film explores the destruction, by rumour and snobbery, of a young socialite in early 20th century New York. Davies' intensely emotional cinema and unique style confirms his status as a world-class film-maker.

www.bfi.org.uk/davies

Special Release: Distant Voices, Still Lives

Fri 20 April – Thurs 3 May

This poignant masterpiece has been restored by the BFI National Archive. Using a series of social gatherings drawn from family memories, Davies paints a vivid picture of working-class life for a family in Liverpool during the 40s and 50s.

UK 1988 With Freda Dowie, Pete Postlethwaite, Angela Walsh, Dean Williams, Lorraine Ashbourne. 84 mins cert 15 A BFI release

www.bfi.org.uk/distantvoices

Inspired by Shakespeare

Shakespeare has been a source of inspiration to film-makers for almost a century. This month we showcase 12 films that have utilised his enduring storylines in a more contemporary setting. We present Hamlet as a thriller in **The Bad Sleep Well** (1960), while Macbeth becomes a samurai in the Japanese period drama **Throne of Blood** (1957). Other adaptations in this season include the high-school teen film **10 Things I Hate About You** (1999), Broadway musical **West Side Story** (1961), and **Makibefo** (2000), a powerful adaptation of **Macbeth** using Madagascan villagers as the cast.

www.bfi.org.uk/shakespeare

Alejandro Jodorowsky

Alejandro Jodorowsky has described his films as the equivalent of psychedelic drugs. Born in Chile in 1929, of Jewish-Russian lineage, his career has taken the path of a playwright, theatre director, mime artist (he studied with **Marcel Marceau**) and novelist – including graphic-novel collaborations with **Moebius**. Jodorowsky's debut feature, **Fando y Lis** (*Tar Babies*, 1968), was banned in Mexico. He even received death threats for this bizarre, road trip that follows two lovers through the desert: the impotent Fando and his paraplegic partner, Lis. **The Holy Mountain** (*La montaña sagrada*, 1973) followed **El Topo** (1971) and was the scandal of Cannes that year. **John Lennon** advised the manager of Apple to fund the film about a Christ-like figure, played by Jodorowsky, seeking immortality. The film affirmed his cult status and although it was not released in the US it became an

underground hit in Europe. There will be the opportunity to hear about this fascinating director and more of his films when he will be interviewed in NFT1 on Friday 13th April.

www.bfi.org.uk/jodorowsky

Special Release: *El Topo*

Fri 6 – Thurs 19 April

El Topo (1971) is the controversial quasi-Spaghetti Western that began the Midnight Movie movement of the 70s. This newly restored print is the premiere cult film of them all, existing in a timeless zone between meditation and communion, horror and comedy, art and exploitation. Black leather-clad master gunfighter and cosmic mystic El Topo (writer-director-producer Jodorowsky) must defeat his legendary sharp-shooting rivals on a powerful quest for enlightenment. Mexico 1971 Dir Alejandro Jodorowsky With Alejandro Jodorowsky, Brontis Jodorowsky, Mara Lorenzio 124 mins, digital. Courtesy of Tartan Films

www.bfi.org.uk/eltopo

Heroic Grace Part II: The Chinese Martial Arts Film

BFI Southbank kick starts its programme with **Heroic Grace**, a collection of the best martial arts films from Hong Kong (courtesy of the **UCLA Film & Television Archive**). Focusing on the 70s and 80s, when the genre flourished, this is the first time British fans will be able to view many of these as the directors intended, on the big screen with no cuts or dubbing. As a highlight we're pleased to showcase ten unseen films from the **Shaw Brothers** archive, featuring work from Chinese greats including: **Zhang Che** (*New One Armed Swordsman*, 1971), **Chu Uan** (*The Magic Blade*, 1976) and the peerless **Lau Kar-Leung** (*My Young Auntie*, 1982). Other delights include the **Bruce Lee** classics **Way of the Dragon** and **Fist of Fury** (1972), and **Jackie Chan** in **Police Story** (1985). As expected, these films are packed with violence, murder and revenge; but they also have an elegance, style and physical prowess to them. Captivating and exuberant, this is compelling cinema.

www.bfi.org.uk/heroicgrace

Out of the Shadows: 50 Cinematic Masterpieces

As we launch our new-look venue we will consider the value of film as we present the final part of our season of some of the most innovative films ever made, in an 'alternative top 50' that seeks to challenge more conventional polls and 'all-time-best' lists.

The late **Robert Altman**'s masterpiece **Nashville** (1975) reminds us that he was probably the most original and daring American director's of his generation. From Czechoslovakia we present **Jan Svankmajer**'s animated and most surreal short **Dimensions of Dialogue** (*Možnosti Dialogu*, 1982), shown with the controversial **Empire of the Senses** (*Ai no corrida*, 1976), from Japan. **The Wind Will Carry Us** (*Bad Mara Khahad Bourd*, 1999) shows **Abbas Kiarostami** at his breathtaking best and **Vitor Erice**'s **The Quince Tree Sun** (*El Sol del Membrillo*, 1991) is a poignant meditation on art, nature, time and cinema. The short film **A Girl's Own Story** (1983) highlights the talent of **Jane Campion**, screened with **Claire Denis**' acclaimed adaptation of *Billy Budd*; **Beau Travail** (1998), starring **Denis Lavant**. We conclude the season with the stunning and stylish **In The Mood For Love** (2000) by Wong Kar-Wai.

www.bfi.org.uk/outoftheshadows

Re-enactments

This season explores the theme of re-enacting historical events in film. Since the advent of cinema directors have delved into the past for inspiration and have drawn upon deadly conflict and crime as a subject matter.

Political uprisings feature in many of the films: **Eisenstein's Battleship Potemkin** (1925) recounts the failed Tsarist revolution of 1905; and in **The Battle of Orgreave** (2002) **Mike Figgis** and **Turner Prize-winning Jeremy Deller** relive the riots of the miners strike during the 80s. Personal struggles are explored in **Carl Dreyer's** compelling and influential **The Passion of Joan of Arc** (1927), **Sidney Lumet** re-stages a legendary failed New York bank robbery in **Dog Day Afternoon** (1975); and **Gus Van Sant** documents the final hours of the rock legend **Kurt Cobain's** life in **Last Days** (2005). **After the Fact** is complemented by the event **Now (and Again)**, organised by UNREAL, in which artists, film-makers and writers discuss the contemporary trend of re-enactment in all aspects of art.

www.bfi.org.uk/reenactments



Oberhausen on Tour 2007

Every year the German city of Oberhausen is transformed as some of the world's most creative minds come together to showcase their work in Europe's groundbreaking short film festival. Many directors start out by making short films and Oberhausen has consistently uncovered the ones to watch. Six innovative programmes of shorts from the archive of the International Short Film Festival Oberhausen have toured 40 European cities before arriving at BFI Southbank for their British premiere. Award-winning shorts, music videos and artists' film and video works hit the big screen.

www.bfi.org.uk/oberhausen

Mediatheque

Log on at one of the Mediatheque's viewing stations and start enjoying highlights from the **BFI National Archive** - the world's greatest and most diverse collection of film and television. From home movies to feature films, documentaries to kids' TV, many titles have hardly been seen since their original release or broadcast - if at all. The Mediatheque is a place to make new discoveries and get re-acquainted with old favourites. New titles will be added every month. The Mediatheque's digitised collections will grow to provide an unrivalled portrait of Britain across the history of film and television - from **Blackfriars Bridge** (1896) to **Little Britain** (2004).

For further information please contact: brian.robinson@bfi.org.uk

Gallery

This month, the BFI opens a stunning new Gallery at the BFI Southbank, London's only major venue dedicated to artists' film, video and new media. This specialist space will host five, free exhibitions each year, and will showcase work from some of the most innovative artists working with moving-image today. The Gallery will launch with the highly anticipated, debut exhibition from celebrated duo **Jennifer & Kevin McCoy** entitled: **Tiny, Funny, Big and Sad** and will feature

the world première of **The Constant World** – perhaps the McCoys’ largest and most ambitious work to date, newly commissioned by the BFI.
For further information please contact: ilona.cheshire@bfi.org.uk



The Henry Moore
Foundation

Studio

An intimate space with the most exceptional digital screen and surround sound available. This is what digital cinema is all about and this is where visitors can discover something unexpected ranging from archive and contemporary film, video and television, talks and presentations plus community and education events. Along with a special selection of highlights from the Mediatheque, we will offer a selection of repertory screenings including: the award winning **Red Road** (2006), **Bamako** (2006) and **Singin' in the Rain** (1952).

Previews, interviews, events & learning:

21st London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

Now in its 21st year, the London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival brings cinema with a queer sensibility to the big screen in a two-week celluloid Mardi Gras. This year, as well as hundreds of films, our events programme will take you beyond the screen for thought provoking discussion and debate. Opening and closing nights in Leicester Square and Festival club nights in some of the capital's leading gay venues guarantee the whole city gets into festival mood.

For further information please contact: billy.wiz@bfi.org.uk or view the full programme at: www.llgff.org.uk

Preview: **This Is England + The Guardian Interview with Shane Meadows**

Mon 23 Apr 18:30 Tickets £14.75, concs £10.75

Followed by a free, Trojan Records club night

Growing up in the aftermath of the Falklands War, Shaun is in search of companionship and an identity when a gang of friendly skinheads adopts him. Then overtly racist Combo enters the fray, bringing Shaun into contact with some of the nastier political elements of the culture and the time. *This Is England* is being heralded as Shane Meadows' finest work to date. He will be in conversation after this preview – a taster for a retrospective of his work to screen here in May.

UK 2006 Dir Shane Meadows With Thomas Turgoose, Stephen Graham, Jo Hartley 100 mins
Courtesy of Optimum Releasing



Away from Her + Q&A with Julie Christie and Sarah Polley

Tue 24 Apr 18:20 Tickets £14.75, concs £10.75

After a long marriage Grant (**Gordon Pinsent**) and Fiona's (**Julie Christie**) commitment to one another seems unwavering, however, their relationship is put to the test as Fiona's memory begins to deteriorate and it becomes no longer possible for either of them to ignore the fact that Fiona is suffering from the onset of Alzheimers' Disease. Based on a short story by **Alice Munro**, *Away From Her* is a remarkably assured debut from Polley.

Canada 2006 Dir Sarah Polley With Michael Murphy, Olympia Dukakis, Kristen Thomson 110 mins.
Courtesy of Metrodome Distribution

Blindsight + Q&A with Lucy Walker

Mon 30 Apr 18:10 (joint ticket with Nitin Sawhney in Conversation: £12.50, concs £9.25)

With a breathtaking Himalayan backdrop and Nitin Sawhney's evocative score, *Blindsight* (shortlisted for this year's Feature Documentary Oscar) follows the gripping adventure of six blind Tibetan teenagers who set out to climb the north side of Mount Everest. Led by Erik Weißenmayer, the first blind man ever to reach the summit.

UK 2006 Dir Lucy Walker 104mins

The Shadow of Hiroshima + Tony Harrison in Conversation

Thu 5 Apr 18:10

This talk, with film clips and readings, is timed to coincide with the 70th birthday of Tony Harrison - Britain's leading film and theatre poet - and the release of a new collection of his film poetry by Faber & Faber. The interview will follow a screening of his acclaimed film, *The Shadow of Hiroshima*.

With thanks to Faber & Faber

Experimental Repetitions: Rod Dickinson and Tom McCarthy in Conversation

Thu 19 Apr 18:40

Over the past six years writer Tom McCarthy and artist Rod Dickinson have explored ideas of re-enactment in their work, often focusing on the way repetition is embedded in the memory of traumatic experiences. In this event they will talk about the crossover of their interests and practice.

Kevin McCoy in Conversation

Wed 14 Mar 18:00 Free but Booking essential

Join us for an exclusive evening event when artist Kevin McCoy will be interviewed by Chus Martinez (Director, Frankfurt Kunstverein) and Michael Connor (Head of Exhibitions). This is your chance to find out firsthand about the McCoy's new exhibition '*Tiny, Funny, Big and Sad*' and their long-standing multimedia collaboration.

Introducing the McCoy's

Sat 17 Mar 14:00 Free but Booking essential

An informal talk hosted by Michael Connor about the work of Jennifer and Kevin McCoy. He will speak about the current exhibition and the McCoy's early career as internet and VJ artists.

Terence Davies in Conversation

Fri 20 Apr 20:20 Joint ticket available with the Fri 20 Apr screening of *Distant Voices, Still Lives*: £14.75, concs £10.75

For the opening night of our special release of the digitally restored *Distant Voices, Still Lives*, Geoff Andrew welcomes to BFI Southbank Terence Davies, whose films are screened this month. A funny and insightful raconteur, Davies will discuss his films, his career, and anything else that happens to come into his head.

The Cinema of Ideas

Wed 11 Apr 18:40 Tickets £5, concs £4

The Independent Cinema Office hosts a new open forum to engage with issues in contemporary film culture in the UK. Anyone interested in cinema can join in the impassioned debate alongside established practitioners ranging across visual arts, literature, theatre and film.

For more information email: coi@independentcinemaoffice.org.uk

The Satyajit Ray Award: The Lives of Others

Wed 11 Apr 18:00

The prestigious Satyajit Ray Award is given annually to a first feature premiered at the London Film Festival, which best reflects the artistry and humanity of Ray's own work. A clear winner in 2006 is this exceptional debut by writer-director Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck. Set in East Berlin in the mid-80s, the film chronicles the secret surveillance by the state police of a successful playwright and his actress wife. This title

won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film last month. The director will be present to answer questions.

Germany 2006. Dir Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck With Martina Gedeck, Ulrich Mühe, 137 mins, cert 15 Courtesy of Lionsgate UK



Alejandro Jodorowsky in Conversation

Fri 13 Apr 20:45 Tickets: £12.50, concs £9.25, or joint ticket with Fri 13 Apr screening of El Topo: £14.75, concs £10.75

To compliment our season of his films this cult director will appear in an on-stage interview following a screening of his mystical western El Topo.

Sight & Sound presents Loose Canons

Thu 12 Apr 18:20

It is ironic that the demise of high culture is felt nowhere more keenly than among the cognoscenti of cinema. Film is the popular medium which transformed and democratised culture in the 20th century. The creation of a definitive canon of great films is one response to today's plethora of moving images. Joining Nick James to discuss this are filmmakers Olivier Assayas and Sally Potter, and cultural programmers Hannah McGill and Geoff Andrew.

Masterclass with Mike Figgis

Thu 19 Apr 18:15

On the eve of publication of his book Digital Filmmaking (Faber & Faber), Mike Figgis (*Leaving Las Vegas*, *Timecode*) takes to the stage to offer insight into how to get the very best from the latest affordable image-making technology.

Thinking of England: Heritage Screenings

This year, St George's Day comes just over a week before the 300th anniversary of the Act of Union between England and Scotland. Englishness without Britishness is like tea without milk, yet it's something more people are thinking about, across the country.

The answers aren't always clear, but some clues to this national identity, past, present and future, can be found in our film heritage. The accompanying programme is part of a London-wide series of events to mark this occasion.

In Search of Englishness

Sat 21 Apr 18:30

Joining us in search of their own cinematic visions of Albion are Billy Bragg, Jacques Peretti and ICA's Artistic Director, Ekow Eshun.

For programme information go to: www.bfi.org.uk

Visual Rhythms:

BUG: the evolution of music video Thu 26 Apr 20:45

Music videos on the big screen in this premiere edition of the successor to Antenna

gettyimages®

Blacktronica TV Preview: Bob Marley's Exodus '77 (Arena) Fri 27 Apr 20:45

A new documentary about this seminal album from this legendary artist, followed by:

Blacktronica club night Fri 27 Apr 22:00 – 01:30, Free

Blacktronica



Trojan Records free club night Mon 23 Apr 22:00 – 00:30

A special evening to mark the 40th anniversary of this highly regarded record label and to coincide with the release of 'This Is England'

Nitin Sawhney in Conversation

Mon 30 Apr 20:45

The first in our 'Music and Film' series, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the record label V2

Time to Think:

Cinerama Adventure

Tue 20 Mar 18:10

Introduced by director David Strohmaier and producer Randy Gitsch, who will take part in a Q&A afterwards.

Installation 2007fps

13 -17 March, running from 16:30 – 20:30

Timescan is an ambitious installation by **D-Fuse** and **Illustrious**, to be projected on Theatre Avenue (opposite the main entrance to BFI Southbank).

Courses: London Views and Screening Britain

Screening Britain begins Tue 24 Apr, 18:30 – 20:30, ten sessions

London Views begins Wed 25 Apr, 18:30 – 20:30, ten sessions

All material will be available to view outside course hours in the Mediatheque. For further information or to book a place please contact Miriam Kassim-Ali: m.kassim-ali@bbk.ac.uk

Total Recall: From the Archive

Total Recall is a monthly presentation of recent work by the BFI National Archive, reflecting the extraordinary diversity of our collections. Each event will be introduced by a curator or a guest speaker who gives an insight into the films chosen and their significance to the Archive.

Penny Points to Paradise + Orders Are Orders

Fri 20 Apr 17:30

The Optimists of Nine Elms

Tue 10 Apr 17:50, Fri 13 Apr 18:15

Screening on Tue 10 Apr introduced by the director Anthony Simmons.

Joint ticket (with Penny Points to Paradise and Orders Are Orders) available for Tue 10 Apr screenings only: £12.50, concs £9.25

Movie Magic: Especially for Kids

King Kong (1933), Sat 14 Apr 13:20

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Sat 7 Apr 13:30

The Cave of the Yellow Dog, Sat 28 Apr 13:40

The Railway Children, Sat 21 Apr 12:10 Tickets £1

What is the Future Film Institute?

Young people take over! From March a group of young people, known as the Future Film Institute, will be programming screenings, events and film-making projects for other young people. If you are interested in getting involved email learning@bfi.org.uk

Due to our funding situation, restrictions apply. The first event from the Future Film Institute takes place on **Wednesday 14 March**.

- Ends -

Press contacts: Colette Geraghty, Ian Cuthbert or Ilona Cheshire

Tel: 020 7957 8919 / 8918 / 8986 or email: firstname.lastname@bfi.org.uk

Booking information

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £8.60, concs. £6.25. Members pay £1 less on any ticket. Website www.bfi.org.uk/nft

Notes to Editors

Please note that as of 14th March 2007 the NFT will be known as BFI Southbank. Please direct all listings information to the new venue's name.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

***** PICTURE DESK ALERT *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting National Film Theatre screenings can be found at www.image.net under British Film Institute / NFT / March - April 2007

If further images are required contact BFI Stills, Posters & Designs.

For information and prices e-mail stills.films@bfi.org.uk or phone 020 7957 4797