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## **BFI Southbank to Open in 7 Days**

There are just seven days to go before the opening of London's newest and hottest cultural destination, **BFI Southbank**. When it opens to the public on **Wednesday 14 March 2007**, BFI Southbank will offer visitors a range of exciting new opportunities to experience and engage with the moving image.

In addition to its three world-renowned and existing cinemas, the newly rejuvenated and expanded venue includes a Mediatheque where, for the first time, and completely for free, visitors can sit and watch hundreds of hours of film and television from the BFI National Archive. The space has 14 bookable viewing stations and was designed by the internationally acclaimed architects, David Adjaye Associates.

A Gallery space will showcase leading UK and international artists' work with moving image and new media. The Gallery launches with a debut exhibition by the New-York pioneers of media art, Jennifer & Kevin McCoy, entitled: *Tiny, Funny, Big and Sad*.<sup>1</sup>

Visitors to BFI Southbank can discover something unexpected or attend talks, presentations and accredited adult learners' courses in the new, digitally-equipped Studio, while a Project space will host hands-on workshops and innovative drop-in sessions for families. Details of the Studio and Project space programmes will be posted on the BFI website – [www.bfi.org.uk/southbank](http://www.bfi.org.uk/southbank).

For those who are looking for gifts, who want to buy books or DVDs to complement their collections, or who are studying film, then the new BFI Filmstore will be a must to visit. Stocked and staffed by BFI experts, the new Filmstore has over 1,200 book titles and 1,000 DVDs for people to browse and choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI. All material on the reading lists for film courses at London universities will be carried and staff will be happy to advise on and order books if required. The Filmstore has been fashioned by the up and coming designer, Jethro Clunies-Ross. All proceeds from sales at the Filmstore will be re-invested in the work of the BFI.

The opening of BFI Southbank represents a major milestone as the BFI continues to open up the archive, showcase the full scope of its activities and create opportunities for broader communities to engage with film heritage. For the first time it has created a day-long destination where people can visit for an hour or two or for the whole day, watching films, trying their hand at the art of film-making, listening to the experiences of a world-class director or simply soaking up the atmosphere in the new café space by benugo.

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The BFI has a long-term aim to create a new, world-class centre for the celebration, exhibition and understanding of film, with the BFI National Archive at its heart. It will seek to redefine the way people engage with film and film heritage for entertainment, inspiration and learning and BFI Southbank will play a vital role in the achievement of this aim, serving as a 'rehearsal room' to test audience expectations and help inform planning for the new centre.

The redevelopment of BFI Southbank has been completed thanks to significant investment from a number of partners<sup>2</sup>, most notably the BFI's core funders, the DCMS and UK Film Council.

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<sup>1</sup> More information on the Mediatheque and the Gallery is available separately.

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**Notes to Editors:**

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.

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

**<sup>2</sup>Acknowledgements**

The BFI would like to thank the following for generously supporting BFI Southbank:



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