



PRESS RELEASE

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July 2007

BFI Southbank Programme Highlights

- **Marlon Brando**
A selection of the best films from the career of this true screen icon, including a **Special Release** of *Last Tango in Paris* (1972)
- **Mikio Naruse**
A **Special Release** of *When A Woman Ascends the Stairs* (1960) introduces a season of films by this master of Japanese cinema
- **Ken Russell**
To coincide with his 80th birthday, a retrospective of Ken Russell's groundbreaking television work
- **Cinémathèque Française**
Highlights from this truly unique collection includes works from half-forgotten pioneers and contemporary 'outsiders'
- **Special Release** of *Daratt* (2006)
- **Previews and Events at BFI Southbank**

Marlon Brando

Marlon Brando (1924 – 2004) is one of the few actors who may truly be acknowledged as a screen icon. His acting style and off-screen persona earned him a reputation as not only one of the most interesting actors of his generation but one of the most influential – **James Dean**, **Paul Newman**, **Jack Nicholson** and **Johnny Depp** all cite him as key to their own styles of performance. This July BFI Southbank will host a season of the best films from his career, including a Special Release of the controversial **Last Tango in Paris** (1972), by **Bernardo Bertolucci**.

Brando was born in Nebraska to a bullying father and an alcoholic mother. His childhood was troubled and after being expelled from school he was sent to military school where he discovered a flair for drama. He then studied with **Stella Adler** and would re-define ‘method acting’. His screen debut was in **The Men** (1950), by **Fred Zinneman**, playing a wheelchair-bound war veteran adjusting to civilian life. In **Elia Kazan’s A Streetcar Named Desire** (1951) Brando reprised his Broadway role as Stanley Kowalski and received an **Oscar** nomination for doing so. He would go on to make both image and career defining roles starring in **The Wild One** (1953), **Joseph L Mankiewicz’s Julius Caesar** (1953), as Mark Anthony, **On the Waterfront** (1954), which reunited him with Kazan, and **Guys and Dolls** (1955), singing alongside **Frank Sinatra**.

During the 60s and 70s his personal life often overshadowed his career, but memorable performances, notably the Oscar-winning Don Corleone in **The Godfather** (1972) and Colonel Kurtz in **Apocalypse Now** (both directed by **Francis Ford Coppola**) recaptured the magnificence of Brando’s capabilities.

www.bfi.org.uk/brando

Special Release: Last Tango in Paris

Fri 13 – Thur 26 July

Its subject is the anguish of an expatriate American recovering from his wife’s unexplained suicide and finding solace in an anonymous sexual tryst with a young French bourgeoisie in an abandoned apartment. What still amazes today is not just the brutal language and sexual, but the film’s intense intimacy, the burnished photography of Vittorio Storaro and the soundtrack by Gato Barbieri.

France-Italy-USA 1972 Dir Bernardo Bertolucci With Marlon Brando, Maria Schneider

129min Courtesy of Park Circus

www.bfi.org.uk/lasttango

Mikio Naruse

There is no doubt that in the UK few cinema-goers have heard of **Mikio Naruse** (1905 – 1969) who is regarded as a master of cinema in Japan; ranking alongside **Mizoguchi** and **Ozu**, with admirers that include **Susan Sontag** and **Agnès Varda**; **Akira Kurosawa** noted Naruse as his favourite director. His films tend to be poetic and poignant portrayals of everyday people, often women, confined by their class or social standings and with an air of melodrama comparable to a restrained Douglas Sirk.

Apart from You (1933) is a typical example of Naruse’s work: two sisters work as geishas, one to support her alcoholic father and the other her teenage son who is

ashamed of her. The Kikue knows that she must do her utmost to save her younger sister from a similar fate to her own...**The Song Lantern** (1943) is set in the world of Noh theatre and tells of a young man seeking revenge on a legendary actor amidst exquisite chiaroscuro lighting. **Lightning** (1952) stars **Hideko Takamine**, Naruse's favourite actress who features in many of his titles. **Floating Clouds** (1955) will screen in a new print and may be seen as his masterpiece: wartime lovers, Yukiko (Takamine) and Tomioka, are reunited but Tomioka will not leave his wife. **Summer Clouds** (1958) is his first colour feature and examines traditional Japan challenged by modernity, and in **Yearning** (1964) Hideko Takamine stars as a war-widow supporting her family in this wonderfully crafted favourite of **Edward Yang**.

www.bfi.org.uk/naruse

Special Release: When A Woman Ascends the Stairs

(*Onna ga Kaidan o agaru toki*)

Fri 29 June – Thurs 12 July

Mikio Naruse's breathtaking film is shot in Scope, in dense, congested interiors. **Hideko Takamine** plays an 'ageing' Tokyo hostess, a widow trying to maintain her dignity amid the sleaze of the Ginza bar district. She remains faithful to the memory of her husband, and supports her mother, brother and his son, whilst dreaming of opening her own bar.

Japan 1960 Dir Mikio Naruse With Hideko Takamine, Masayuki Mori, Daisuke Kato 110min
New print EST PG A BFI release

www.bfi.org.uk/whenawoman

Special Event: The Auteur as Salaryman

Weds 4 July 18.00 NFT2

In this illustrated lecture, Professor Catherine Russell discusses Naruse's rich body of work, which has been largely ignored outside of his native Japan.

Naruse Open Forum FREE

Tue 31 Jul 18.15 Studio

A chance to review and discuss highlights from the season

With the support of the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation



Ken Russell

To coincide with his 80th birthday celebrations we present a season of work from the maverick British director **Ken Russell**. Although better known for his feature films, he learnt his craft in television in the 60s and produced some of the most groundbreaking work of the time; nearly all of which is screening here. As a highlight we're pleased to welcome Russell on-stage to discuss his illustrious career with Melvyn Bragg.

Russell's work is flamboyant and provocative, imaginative and occasionally indulgent, but never dull. He began his career at the **BBC** making arts-based programmes for **Monitor** and **Omnibus**, and made his name with **Elgar** (1962),

a biopic of the composer, and **The Debussy Film** (1965), both hailed as great television. Also screening is **Dante's Inferno** (1967), in which **Oliver Reed** delivers an excellent performance as the poet and painter **Dante Gabriel Rossetti** in this exploration into the agonies of artistic creation.

Other delights include the short: **The Light Fantastic** (1960) an amusing study into the various styles of dance, and more recent work including **Elgar- Fantasy on a Composer on a Bicycle** (2002), his second film on this topic. Russell went onto to achieve wider acclaim in the cinema, but it may be that the 60s were his artistically richest decade.

www.bfi.org.uk/russell

Special Event: Ken Russell & Melvyn Bragg in Conversation

Mon 16 July 20.45 NFT1

As the centrepiece of our tribute to his pioneering television work, Ken Russell has agreed to talk about his early career in television with Melvyn Bragg, who he has collaborated with throughout his career.

Special Event: Auteur of the Arts FREE

Wed 11 July 18:40 Studio

Michael Brooke presents a lavishly illustrated account of Russell's BBC Output from 1959 to 1970.

Cinémathèque Française

Since the charismatic **Henri Langlois** founded the **Cinémathèque Française** in 1936, its mission has been to collect cinematic curiosities and delights from around the world. This July **BFI Southbank** presents a selection of recent acquisitions from its eclectic and captivating vaults.

The season includes a restoration of **Jean Renoir's** debut feature: **The Whirlpool of Fate** (1924), starring his first wife, **Catherine Hessling**, this realist melodrama shows a young film-maker falling in love with the medium. **Philippe Garrel's Le Bleu des origines** (1979), is an intimate portrait of the two women in his life: model **Zouzou** and model turned rock star **Nico**. Kept as a private film before it was recently added to the Cinémathèque collection, this is a very rare screening of this intriguing and mysterious film. With **Once Upon a Time, the Nile** (1968-70) **Youssef Chahine** documents the building of the remarkable Aswan Dam. This version conflicted with the film sponsors' intended vision and they demanded parts to be re-shot with actors. It screens here in his controversial original cut. Other rarities include **Anthony Mann's Men in War** (1957) starring **Robert Ryan** in one of the performances of his career and **Olivier Assayas' Irma Vep** (1996), starring **Maggie Cheung**.

www.bfi.org.uk/cinematheque



Special Release: *Daratt* (2006)

Fri 27 Jul – Thu 9 Aug

Despite a post-civil war amnesty, young Atim is determined to avenge the murder of his father, in accordance with tradition and the wishes of his grandfather. But Nassara, a baker whom Atim suspects of the crime, not only offers the youth a job as his assistant but turns out to be a rather kindly and deeply religious man... Suspenseful and visually striking, Haroun's stark, taut study of obsession succeeds as a profoundly relevant and powerful parable for our times.

www.bfi.org.uk/daratt

France-Belgium-Chad 2006 Dir Mahamat-Saleh Haroun With Ali Bacha Barkaï 95min EST
Courtesy of Soda Pictures

Previews and Events at BFI Southbank

Out of the Archive - Total Recall

From the BFI's extraordinary archive


- **Celebrating the director and cinematographer Freddie Francis**
Paranoiac (1963) & **Cape Fear** (1991) Mon 23 Jul 18.10 & 20.20 NFT3
- **Course: London, Open City – Neo Realism at Southbank** Tue 17 Jul 14.45 & 18.15 Studio

A History of Artists' Film & Video in Britain:

Two further programmes in this five-month series, inspired by **David Curtis'** recently published book on the topic:

- **'8mm Poets' – Surrealists and New Romantics: 60s-70s** Sun 15 Jul 18.20 & Fri 20 Jul 20.40 NFT
- **Ambitious Narrative to Structural Film** Mon 2 Jul 18.30 & Thu 5 Jul 20.40 NFT 2

Events

- **London premiere screening: Proposal for an Unmade Film (Set in the future)** Tue 10 Jul 18.10 NFT3
- **Lynette Wallworth in Conversation** Tue 3 Jul 18.20 NFT2
- **BUG: The Evolution of Music Video** – returning for its second programme of the most extraordinary and brilliant music videos. Presented by **Adam Buxton** Thu 5 Jul 20.45 NFT 1
gettyimages®
- **Blacktronica Club Night FREE** Fri 27 Jul 22.00 Film Café
Blacktronica
Brought to you by  **GUINNESS** Foreign Extra Stout
- **Derek Jarman's Books FREE** – a chance to review Jarman's famous 'black notebooks' full of ideas and influences Sat 14 Jul 16.00 Studio

Out at the Pictures: A new monthly strand dedicated to lesbian and gay film-making:

- **Tick Tock Lullaby** (2006) Wed 11 Jul 20.50 & Thu 12 Jul 18.20 NFT2
- **Sunday Bloody Sunday** (1971) Tue 17 Jul 18.20 & Thu 19 Jul 17.45 NFT2
- **Generations of Love** **FREE** Thu 12 Jul 14.30 Studio
- **MAYOR OF LONDON**
- **The Cinema of Ideas: Secret Cinemas** **FREE** Wed 18 Jul 18.40 Studio

Movie Magic: Especially for kids

Preview: Tales from the Earthsea

Sat 28 Jul 14.40 NFT1

Ice Age (2003)

Sat 7 Jul 13.50 NFT3

Workshop: Lon don under siege!

Sat 14 Jul 11.50 Project space

Daleks – Invasion Earth 2150 AD

Sat 14 Jul NFT3 13:20 NFT3

Ask a Policeman (1938)

Sat 21 Jul 12:40 NFT3

BFI Saturday Matinee at the Odeon West End

Sat 23 June 10.30, Odeon West End

Screenings for adults with young children

Parent & Toddler Screening: Ice Age

Wed 11 Jul 11:00 NFT2

Parent & Baby Screening: Last Tango in Paris

Wed 25 Jul 11:00 NFT3

Flipside – Rock'n'roll suicide

This month we explore the turbulent nature of rock stardom. What does it feel like when success and the dream have been achieved, but the glamour fades and the realisation you've become part of the establishment sets in? These films reveal all...

Privilege (1967) + Forgotten Faces

Sat 29 Jul 17:50, Tue 31 Jul 17:40

Head (1968) + The Monkees Arrival and Press Conference (1967)

Wed 18 Jul 20:45; Sat 21 Jul 17:15

The Comeback (1977) + Fan Fever (People Are Talking) (1958)

Sun 22 Jul 20.40; Thu 26 Jul 18.10

That'll Be the Day (1973)

Sun 22 Jul 16.00; Mon 23 Jul 18.20

Stardust (1974)

Sun 22 Jul 18.10; Mon 23 Jul 20.40

Exhibitions On Tour & Mezzanine

BFI Southbank goes to Birmingham: at VIVID 20 Jun – 28 Jul

- **Jennifer & Kevin McCoy: Tiny, Funny, Big and Sad,**
- **Dream Spaces**
- **Building the Imaginary: 16 mm workshop**
- **Artefacts: Artists' Film and Video in Documents**
- **Fabric, Cut and Design**

Studio

Offers the chance to see **Shane Meadows' This is England (2006)**, the British classic **Odd Man Out (1946)**, **Black Gold (2006)** and **Ten Canoes (2006)**

Mediatheque

Huge and Cry (1946), **The Monster of Highgate Ponds (1961)**, **Daleks – Invasion Earth 2150 (1966)**, **Jemima + Johnny (1966)** and **Melody (aka S.W.A.L.K, 1970)**

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

Gallery

Lynette Wallworth – Hold: Vessel 2, 2007

Commissioned by the BFI, London, Produced by Forma, the UK debut of Australian artist **Lynette Wallworth's** groundbreaking installation

Touring produced by Forma, Supported by Arts Council England

For further information please contact: ilona.cheshire@bfi.org.uk



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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/southbank

NOTES TO EDITORS:

BFI Filmstore

The BFI Filmstore is stocked and staffed by BFI experts with over 1,200 book titles and 1,000 DVDs to browse and choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI.

For further information please contact: jill.reading@bfi.org.uk

The benugo bar & kitchen

Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo's décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. This is the place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

Please note our venue is now 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 BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI / BFI Southbank / July 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