



PRESS RELEASE

07/45

Meet Ken Loach



BFI Southbank is delighted to host the UK première of Ken Loach's new film, ***It's a Free World*** (2007), followed by an on-stage Q&A with the director. Dedicating a weekend to Loach (14 – 15 September) to coincide with the release of a new DVD boxed-set of his films, we will screen five of his finest features. These titles present Loach's frank and empathic insights into the struggle of the British working-class.

The Loach weekend starts with a very rare screening of the made for TV feature, ***The Gamekeeper*** (1980). Collaborating again with **Barry Hines** who also wrote the script for *Kes* (1969), the film chronicles a year in the life of a gamekeeper employed on an aristocrat's estate. ***The Navigators*** (2001), another film made for TV, examines the negative effects of privatisation on a group of Yorkshire railway workers. ***My Name is Joe*** (1998) is one of Loach's finest and most powerful films. The film's star, **Peter Mullan**, won the **Best Actor** award at **Cannes** for his portrayal of an ex-alcoholic trying to re-build his life. ***Sweet Sixteen*** (2002) is a witty, yet touching, tale of how young lives are stifled by crime, poverty, and the lack of opportunities in urban Scotland. ***Ae Fond Kiss*** (2004) explores the many devastating obstacles faced in a relationship between an Irish music teacher and second generation Pakistani DJ. Loach's latest film, *It's a Free World*, looks at a side of modern British life many would prefer not to think about, questioning the cost of unchecked consumerism with a story as powerful as it is relevant to us all.

www.bfi.org.uk/loach

Event listings

Preview: *It's a Free World* + Ken Loach in Conversation

UK 2007 Dir Ken Loach With Kierston Wareing, Juliet Ellis, Leslaw Zurek 93min

When single mum Angie finds herself jobless, her ambitions and acumen kick in. With no money but endless energy she sets up a recruitment agency with her flatmate Rose, placing migrants from abroad in casual labour. But when does entrepreneurialism become exploitation? And does anyone care about the law, or indeed about anyone besides themselves? Written by Paul Laverty, Ken Loach's latest film looks at a side of modern British life many would prefer not to think about, questioning the cost of unchecked consumerism with a story as powerful as it is relevant to us all. Following the screening, we welcome Ken back to the BFI Southbank stage to discuss his new film and his career to date.

Thu 13 Sep 18:20 NFT1, tickets £14.75, concs £10.75

Courtesy of Sixteen Films

Film listings

The Gamekeeper

ATV 1980. With Phil Askham, Rita May. 80min.

Very rarely seen on the big screen, this TV film from a script by Barry Hines (*Kes*) chronicles a year in the life of a gamekeeper working on an aristocrat's estate in the north of England. Exploring his relationships with his boss, his family, his dog and the land itself, the film is a supremely subtle, deftly ironic study in conflicting allegiances.

Fri 14 Sep 18:30

The Navigators

UK-Ger-Sp-It-Fr 2001. With Joe Duttine, Venn Tracey, Steve Huison. 96min.15

Again made for TV, this concerns the effects of privatisation on a group of Yorkshire railmen working for British Rail. As cost-cutting takes its inevitable toll – both on the workers' camaraderie and on the safety of staff and customers alike – the film shifts steadily from good-natured comedy to something altogether darker and more sharply topical.

Fri 14 Sep 20:45

My Name Is Joe

UK 1998. With Louise Goodall, David Hayman, Gary Lewis. 105min. 15

One of Loach's very finest films, blessed with a fabulous performance from Peter Mullan as the recovering alcoholic warily embarking on a relationship with a health worker encountered through their mutual concern for a young couple troubled by debt and drug dependency. Funny, sexy, and finally extremely moving, it's an enormously insightful account of different responses to pressing social and ethical problems.

Sat 15 Sep 16:15, Sun 16 Sep 18:20

Sweet Sixteen

UK 2002. With Martin Compston, William Ruane. 106min

Hoping to buy a caravan and begin a better life when his junkie mum gets out of jail, 15-year-old Liam takes to dealing drugs around the estates, but soon finds he and his chaotic mate Pinball are attracting the attention of a local Mr Big... A witty, angry and very affecting tale of young Scottish lives stifled by crime, family strife, poverty and a dearth of opportunity.

Sat 15 Sep 18:30

Parent & Baby screening Tue 18 Sep 11:00

Ae Fond Kiss

UK 2004. With Atta Yaqub, Eva Birthistle. 104min. 15

An astute and timely Glasgow-set variation on the Romeo and Juliet theme, with the relationship between an Irish music teacher and a second-generation Pakistani DJ coming up against all manner of obstacles. Religion, race, tradition, modernity, age and gender clash in a poignant drama that speaks volumes about a multicultural post-9/11 world.

Sat 15 Sep 20:45

- Ends -

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Ken Loach DVD Collection will be released on 3 September 2007 by Sixteen Films. The collection reflects Ken's own choice of work and shows how true he has stayed to his storytelling subjects and directing style. Volume One includes: *Poor Cow*, *Kes*, *The Gamekeeper* (first time on DVD), *Riff-Raff*, *Raining Stones*, *Ladybird Ladybird*, *Bread and Roses* and *The Navigators*. Volume Two includes: *Cathy Come Home*, *Hidden Agenda*, *Land and Freedom*, *Carla's Song*, *My Name is Joe*, *Sweet Sixteen*, *Ae Fond Kiss* and *The Wind That Shakes The Barley*. Each volume is priced £59.99 RRP.

Special features across each stunningly packaged volume include director commentaries, making of features, two bonus disc director profile documentaries and two 16 page companion booklets with a personal introduction from Ken Loach.

For further information contact: Steven Pearson at Premier PR on 020 7292 6466 or email steven.pearson@premierpr.com

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.

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

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

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under

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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