



Indefatigable BFI information staff in the 1960s

## **BFI PRESS RELEASE**

29 July 2008

# **Celebrating 75 years of the BFI!**

In September the BFI will be 75 – and with a ground-breaking history and great plans for the future, there's plenty to celebrate. Throughout the month we'll surprise and delight audiences and guests of all ages with a bumper programme.

Film is the most important art form of the 21st century and since its early days the BFI has championed cinema which has the power to change lives, to reveal different visions and voices and to challenge our understanding of the world and our place in it.

The next 75 years promise to be just as exciting. The BFI not only protects and promotes the extraordinary collections of film and television in the BFI National Archive, but through digital distribution we are also developing new platforms to bring moving image culture to many more people.

We are as passionate as ever about our film and television heritage, about education, film literacy, film festivals, world cinema, making connections – and having fun too. So for our 75th we've taken all these interests, missions and passions to reflect on where we've come from and also where we're headed. With a month of special programming, events, debates and surprises at BFI Southbank, offerings around the UK, online, DVDs, regional partnerships and touring programmes, there'll be something for everyone and plenty to celebrate.

### **The Time Machine**

Our 75th centrepiece season at BFI Southbank, *The Time Machine* examines cinema's unique relationship to time with a stunning selection of films spanning nine decades and featuring extended runs of the Powell and Pressburger classic *A Matter of Life and Death*, Terrence Malick's *Badlands* and Eric Rohmer's latest, *The Romance of Astrea and Celadon*.

Plus: the second part of the Clint Eastwood season, the early films of Charlie Chaplin, highlights from the British Silent Film Festival, the launch of Crime Scene 2008, and a plethora of special previews including the award-winning *Unrelated* followed by a Q+A with director Joanna Hogg.

### **Jubilations**

An exhibition of paintings by the great French actress Juliette Binoche, along with a tribute season of her films and an on-stage *Guardian* interview. The world premiere of this particular exhibition ties in with the premiere of her new dance piece *In-I* at the National Theatre.

### **Gallery**

*The All Seeing Eye* – a mesmerising video installation by the hugely inventive French duo Pierre Bismuth and Michel Gondry, celebrated for their Oscar-winning film *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*.

### **The BFI Birthday Weekender**

The birthday party kicks off on Thursday 25 September with a gala event celebrating the BFI story with contributions from special guests. *Back to the Future* the next day sees the BFI teaming with the AV Social to present an eye-popping evening of electronic music and live visuals that will hint at the future possibilities of cinema. On Saturday we'll be collaborating with The Big Chill festival to present stunning live performances that combine archive film and live music to create new forms and explore the themes of memory and time. Featured artists include The Light Surgeons, D-Fuse, Exceeda, Future Loop Foundation and VJ Anyone.

The Weekender also features all-night screenings of time-travel classics at BFI IMAX; free screenings of Mitchell & Kenyon's glorious early cinema experiments with live scores; pop-up talks around the venue on the future of cinema by some well-known guests; a special 75th-birthday edition of the ever-popular BFI Film Quiz; the return of the White Coffin Club nostalgia night; and photos to take home in association with HP Printers. Plus, of course, our regular programmes to enjoy over the weekend.

### **Family Fun Day: Charlie Chaplin Workshop – Sunday 28 September**

There's plenty for families to enjoy over the Birthday Weekender too. Join our slapstick Charlie Chaplin workshop, practice your funny walk and have it filmed, or try your hand at making a Charlie Chaplin badge to take away with you. Plus our usual Movie Magic features for younger audiences continue throughout the month.

### **BFI Mediatheque**

The Mediatheque is celebrating with a special programme of 75 BFI Production films from 1952–2000 charting the BFI's remarkable legacy of innovation in British cinema, all for free at BFI Southbank. Filmmakers include Sally Potter, Tony Scott, Margaret Tait, Karel Reisz and Tony Richardson.

We are particularly delighted to be part of the launch of the first BFI Mediatheque outside London at the new QUAD centre for art and film in Derby.

### **Double birthday!**

*Love Letters and Live Wires: Highlights from the GPO Film Unit* – nationwide screenings of some of the greatest short films from the GPO Film Unit newly restored by the BFI National Archive and The British Postal Museum & Archive to celebrate the renowned film unit's own 75th anniversary. These films are presented by the BFI in partnership with Royal Mail, The British Postal Museum & Archive and BT Heritage. This selection will also screen at BFI Southbank along with a complementary GPO Rarities programme.

### **DVDs**

The release of *Addressing the Nation* – the first of three BFI double-disc DVDs featuring highlights from the GPO Film Unit.

75 hugely reduced BFI DVDs for just £9.99 each for the whole of September including *The Leopard*, *The Seven Samurai*, *Carmen Jones*, *Bigger than Life*, *Radio On* and *Caravaggio*, plus special box set offers from selected retailers.

### **BFI 75 Downloads**

To celebrate the BFI's 75th anniversary you can download a fantastic selection of 75 short films for just 75 pence each throughout the whole of September. Choose from *Electric Edwardians* or lesbian & gay delights, the animations of Lotte Reiniger or Jan Svankmajer, British Transport Films or the early works of renowned directors such as Lindsay Anderson, Gurinder Chadha and Peter Greenaway.

**From the Collections...**

We dip into the BFI National Archive to bring you *The BFI at 75: Film Like Never Before* – fascinating and unusual artefacts on display on the Mezzanine level at BFI Southbank.

**The Studio**

*Cinema of Tomorrow* – free weekend screenings throughout September in the BFI Southbank Studio featuring double-bills of Free Cinema classics.

Plus: Special offers in the BFI Filmstore and a film-themed partnership with Harrods.

To find out more about the BFI's special 75th programmes, free events and cultural extravaganzas visit [www.bfi.org.uk/75](http://www.bfi.org.uk/75).

Date for your Diary: We'll launch the BFI's birthday at a press event on Tuesday 2 September when we'll also have a special announcement for you.

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**[www.bfi.org.uk/75](http://www.bfi.org.uk/75)**

**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.