

VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

The results!



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Bladerunner (1982, Ridley Scott), *Stalker* (1979, Andrei Tarkovsky), *Quadrophenia* (1979, Franc Roddam), *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962, David Lean), and *The Godfather* (1972, Francis Ford Coppola), have topped the BFI's 75th birthday **Visions for the Future** poll after a month of nationwide voting, debating and reflection in the media and online in the blogosphere.

Created specifically to generate a nationwide debate on the future of film, the BFI's Visions for the Future project was launched as part of its 75th birthday celebrations in September and has generated spirited discussions and reams of nominated films from the public and film commentators since. Almost 20,000 people participated, voting in ballot boxes across the UK and online through the BFI website and YouTube.

Also in the final top ten films for the future are *Pulp Fiction* (1995, Quentin Tarantino), *A Matter of Life and Death* (1946, Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger) *Billy Elliot* (2000, Stephen Daldry) *The Third Man* (1949, Carol Reed) and *The Women* (1939, George Cukor).

To start off the debate, the BFI initially asked 75 guest contributors from the worlds of film, television and current affairs to nominate which film they'd like to show to future generations, and the reasons for their choice. Contributors included Cate Blanchett, Russell Brand, Miranda Richardson, Stephen Frears, Martha Fiennes, Asif Kapadia, Kathy Lette, Simon Pegg and Sir Ben Kingsley and their contributions encompassed *L'Atalante*, *If....*, *Adulthood*, *Grizzly Man*, *Kes*, *The Leopard*, *Great Expectations* and *Do The Right Thing*.

Members of the public were then invited either to vote for one of the 75 nominations or to suggest their own film for the future. Hundreds of additional nominations have poured in, with suggestions ranging from *Caché*, *Waking Life*, *The English Patient*, *Fanny and Alexander*, *The Barbarian Invasions*, *400 Blows*, *American Beauty*, and *Taxi Driver* through to *Psycho*, *Tokyo Story*, *Vertigo*, *The Usual Suspects*, *Spirited Away*, *The Blair Witch Project* and *Rashomon*.

The top five choices will be screened at BFI Southbank from January 2009 with the aim to extend to various regional venues.

Excerpts from online commentators:

'The BFI has launched a nice little project called Visions for the Future... The results are really rather insightful. Obvious (albeit worthy) choices abound, from *The Wizard of Oz* to *The Third Man* to *Tokyo Story*. But there are a number of interesting left turns. As if there weren't enough reasons to like her already, Cate Blanchett proves her taste and intelligence by picking Andrei Tarkovsky's mind-blowing *Stalker* though she admits it took her three days to get through it. My favourite choice, however, is that of the brilliant playwright and screenwriter Patrick Marber – Powell and Pressburger's *The Red Shoes*, a

twisted, romantic and visually breathtaking fairytale that he economically describes as being “about wanting things too much and not getting them.”

‘This got me thinking about what film I would choose to share, and under what criteria – will my own favourites have much to say to people several generations down the line? Should a time-capsule choice be something from the present or the past? Something that shows the world as it is, or as it should be? The film that keeps coming to mind for me is *The Spirit of the Beehive* – a deceptively simple piece that speaks of childhood, of history and of cinema itself. I would like my great-grandchildren to see it, even if they don’t understand it. Selfish, I know – but that’s the joy of such lists.’

‘Tough Choice – Too many to choose from. [I’ve] been giving this much more thought and realised that this is a tough choice to make. There have been so many great films that have influenced me.’

‘My introduction to horror was via the excellent film *The Omen* which still to this day sends shivers down my spine. *The Shawshank Redemption* is one of the few films that translated so well from Stephen King’s books. A tale of when all hope is lost, and then a glimmer of light and that hope is in fact eternal... Whatever the top 75 ends up being, it will still not be enough. You can never pick the one ultimate film to sum up the last 75 years – which is good, as the power of films is just that, the ability to create debate..’

– ends –

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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.

Visions for the Future contributors

Juliette Binoche, Actor	<i>The Sacrifice</i> (1986) Dir. Andrei Tarkovsky
Miranda Richardson, Actor	<i>The Innocents</i> (1961) Dir. Jack Clayton
Melvyn Bragg, Writer/Broadcaster	<i>The Seventh Seal</i> (1957) Dir. Ingmar Bergman
Philip French, Journalist	<i>Singin’ in the Rain</i> (1952) Dir. Stanley Donen, Gene Kelly
Ashley Walters, Actor	<i>Adulthood</i> (2008) Dir. Noel Clarke
Jaime Winstone, Actor	<i>Quadrophenia</i> (1979) Dir. Franc Roddam
Diane Abbott, MP	<i>She’s Gotta Have It</i> (1986) Dir. Spike Lee
Leslie Hardcastle OBE, BFI Governor	<i>A Diary for Timothy</i> (1945) Dir. Humphrey Jennings
Martha Fiennes, Director	<i>Apocalypse Now</i> (1979) Dir. Francis Ford Coppola
Caroline Michel, Chief Executive PFD, BFI Governor	<i>The Leopard</i> (1963) Dir. Luchino Visconti
Lynda Myles, Writer/Producer	<i>L’Atalante</i> (1934) Dir. Jean Vigo
Margaret Hodge MBE MP	<i>A Matter of Life and Death</i> (1946) Dir. Emeric Pressburger, Michael Powell
Nitin Sawhney, Composer	<i>Pather Panchali</i> (1955) Dir. Satyajit Ray
Shami Chakrabarti CBE, Director of Liberty, BFI	<i>A Matter of Life and Death</i> (1946)

Governor	Dir. Emeric Pressburger, Michael Powell
Stephen Woolley, Producer	<i>Great Expectations</i> (1946) Dir. David Lean
Terence Davies, Director	<i>Kind Hearts and Coronets</i> (1949) Dir Robert Hamer
Tanya Seghatchian, Producer	<i>A Matter of Life and Death</i> (1946) Dir. Emeric Pressburger, Michael Powell
Michael Nyman, Composer	<i>Silent Light</i> (2007) Dir. Carlos Reygadas
Julien Temple, Director	<i>L'Atalante</i> (1934) Dir. Jean Vigo
Cate Blanchett, Actor	<i>Stalker</i> (1979) Dir. Andrei Tarkovsky
Simon Pegg, Actor	<i>Raising Arizona</i> (1987) Dir. Joel Coen
Mark Herbert, Producer	<i>Grizzly Man</i> (2005) Dir. Werner Herzog
Stewart Till, Chair UK Film Council	<i>If...</i> (1968) Dir. Lindsay Anderson
Leslie Phillips CBE OBE, Actor	<i>Empire of the Sun</i> (1987) Dir. Steven Spielberg
Adrian Wootton, CEO Film London	<i>The Third Man</i> (1949) Dir. Carol Reed
Thomas Hoegh, CEO Arts Alliance Media	<i>Lawrence of Arabia</i> (1962) Dir. David Lean
Joanna Hogg, Director	<i>Tokyo Story</i> (1953) Dir. Yasujiro Ozu
Bill Nighy, Actor	<i>Mississippi Burning</i> (1988) Dir. Alan Parker
Baz Bamigboye, Journalist	<i>The Godfather</i> (1972) Dir. Francis Ford Coppola
Nathalie Press, Actor	<i>The Wizard of Oz</i> (1939) Dir. Victor Fleming
Marc Boothe, Director -B3Media	<i>Do the Right Thing</i> (1989) Dir. Spike Lee
Frank Skinner, Comedian/Writer	<i>The Card</i> (1952) Dir. Ronald Neame
Noel Clarke, Writer/Director	<i>Pulp Fiction</i> (1994) Dir. Quentin Tarantino
Sir Roger Moore, Actor	<i>Lawrence of Arabia</i> (1962) Dir. David Lean
Barnaby Thompson, Head of Studio, Ealing Studios	<i>A Hard Day's Night</i> (1964) Dir. Richard Lester
David Arnold, Composer	<i>West Side Story</i> (1961) Dir. Jerome Robbins, Robert Wise
Lisa Ray, Actor	<i>8 ½</i> (1963) Dir. Federico Fellini
Tony Robinson, Actor	<i>Spartacus</i> (1960) Dir. Stanley Kubrick
Paul Burston, Journalist/Author	<i>The Life and Times of Harvey Milk</i> (1984) Dir. Rob Epstein
Sir Ben Kingsley, Actor	<i>Never Take No for an Answer</i> (1951) Dir. Maurice Cloche
David Morrissey, Actor	<i>Kes</i> (1969) Dir. Ken Loach
Sigur Ros, Musicians	<i>Valerie and Her Week of Wonders</i> (1970) Dir. Jaromil Jires
Matt Lucas, Comedian	<i>Billy Elliot</i> (2000) Dir. Stephen Daldry
Pierre Bismuth, Artist	<i>Night of the Masterpiece</i> (1963) Dir. Henry Krinkle
Trudie Styler, Producer/Actor	<i>Night of the Hunter</i> (1955) Dir. Charles Laughton
Amanda Nevill, Director BFI	<i>A Diary For Timothy</i> (1945) Dir. Humphrey Jennings
Nicholas Hytner, Artistic Director National Theatre	<i>The Band Wagon</i> (1953) Dir. Vincente Minnelli

Ken Loach, Director	<i>Closely Observed Trains</i> (1966) Dir. Jiri Menzel
Rebecca O'Brien, Producer	<i>The Battle of Algiers</i> (1966) Dir. Gillo Pontecorvo
Liz Rosenthal, Director - Power to the Pixel	<i>A Matter of Life and Death</i> (1946) Dir. Emeric Pressburger, Michael Powell
Greg Dyke, Chair BFI	<i>Cabaret</i> (1972) Dir. Bob Fosse
Asif Kapadia, Director	<i>Raging Bull</i> (1980) Dir. Martin Scorsese
James Christopher, Film Critic <i>The Times</i>	<i>Blade Runner</i> (1982) Dir. Ridley Scott
Paul Greengrass, Director	<i>The Battle of Algiers</i> (1966) Dir. Gillo Pontecorvo
Patrick Marber, Playwright/Screenwriter	<i>The Red Shoes</i> (1948) Dir. Emeric Pressburger, Michael Powell
Ken Russell, Director	<i>Metropolis</i> (1927) Dir. Fritz Lang
Sarah Waters, Writer	<i>A Star Is Born</i> (1954) Dir. George Cukor
Russell Brand, Actor/Comedian	<i>The Elephant Man</i> (1980) Dir. David Lynch
Stephen Frears, Director	<i>The Third Man</i> (1949) Dir. Carol Reed
John Woodward, CEO UK Film Council	<i>Once Upon a Time in America</i> (1984) Dir. Sergio Leone
David Mackenzie, Director	<i>L'Atalante</i> (1934) Dir. Jean Vigo
Chiwetel Ejiofor, Actor	<i>Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb</i> (1964) Dir. Stanley Kubrick
Lizzie Francke, Producer	<i>Vertigo</i> (1958) Dir. Alfred Hitchcock
Gurinder Chadha, Director	<i>Tokyo Story</i> (1953) Dir. Yasujiro Ozu
Jane Wright, General Manager, BBC Films	<i>Ryan's Daughter</i> (1970) Dir. David Lean
Max Minghella, Actor	<i>Friday Night Lights</i> (2004) Dir. Peter Berg
Jason Solomons, Journalist	<i>This is England</i> (2006) Dir. Shane Meadows
Phyllida Law, Actor	<i>Ivan the Terrible</i> (1944) Dir. Sergei M Eisenstein
Lord Puttnam, Producer	<i>Local Hero</i> (1983) Dir. Bill Forsyth
Harry Treadaway, Actor	<i>Ratcatcher</i> (1999) Dir. Lynne Ramsay
Jess Search, Chief Executive, Channel 4 British Documentary Film Foundation	<i>The Fog of War</i> (2003) Dir. Errol Morris
Mike Figgis, Director	<i>Bonnie and Clyde</i> (1967) Dir. Arthur Penn
Edgar Wright, Director	<i>Raising Arizona</i> (1987) Dir. Joel Coen
Kathy Lette, Author	<i>The Women</i> (1939) Dir. George Cukor
Alison Owen, Producer	<i>Back to the Future</i> (1985) Dir. Robert Zemeckis

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