



PRESS RELEASE

09/19 5 March 2009

Ridley Scott in Conversation

BFI celebrates the work of the legendary British director and producer

We are delighted to welcome **Sir Ridley Scott**, one of Britain's most celebrated directors, to the stage on Saturday 21 March, to discuss and celebrate his career so far. Director of films such as *Thelma & Louise* (1991), *Gladiator* (2000), and *American Gangster* (2007), Scott's first film, *Boy and Bicycle* (1965), was made with the help of the **BFI Experimental Film Fund** and his career famously began in advertising alongside other future film-makers. This led to his debut feature film *The Duellists* (1977), which won him a Special Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, while he received universal acclaim two years later with *Alien* (1979), another classic in the sci-fi genre.

The day celebrates the culmination of the BFI's 75th birthday **Visions for the Future** poll, with a special screening of the winning film *Blade Runner* (1982) and a whole day of screenings, book-signings and special guests at **BFI Southbank**. The day culminates with this special Q&A with Ridley Scott.

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. More than 20,000 people participated, voting in ballot boxes across the UK and online through the BFI website and YouTube.

Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner* was nominated by **James Christopher**, film critic of *The Times*: '*Blade Runner* is magnificent cinema. It's a big and broody sci-fi thriller that is impossible to swallow in one gulp. The extraordinary shots of a toxic neon city where the sun refuses to shine harp back to vintage masterpieces like **Fritz Lang's** *Metropolis*, and yet they are glistening visions of a bleak and potentially real future. Therein lies the film's timeless grip. Ridley Scott has famously spent 25 years tinkering with this shattered thriller, yet its mysteries are as elusive as ever. Does Harrison Ford dream of electric sheep? The troubling story about glamorous, seemingly indestructible, renegade robots who want what we have – the right to determine their identity – fingers elemental and topical fears. This is a film that will forever challenge the status quo.'

Programme:

On the Edge of Blade Runner + Panel Discussion

Channel 4 2000. Dir Andrew Abbot. 52min

An in-depth examination of one of the most iconic sci-fi films of all time – written and presented by Mark Kermode, and featuring interviews with Rutger Hauer, Ridley Scott and Daryl Hannah among others – this provides a fascinating insight into the film's production and is famed for finally settling the fierce debate that surrounded the plot twist for almost 20 years. Following the screening we host a panel discussion with special guests, including the producer of *Blade Runner*, **Michael Deeley**, writers **Will Brooker** and **Paul M Sammon**, and the director of *On the Edge of Blade Runner*, **Andrew Abbot**.

Sat 21 Mar 13:50 NFT1

Tickets £8.60, concs £6.25 (Members pay £1 less)

Blade Runner: The Final Cut + Q&A with Rutger Hauer

USA 1982/2007. Dir Ridley Scott. 117min. 15.

Sat 21 Mar 17:00 NFT1

Tickets £8.60, concs £6.25 (Members pay £1 less)

Ridley Scott in Conversation
Sat 21 Mar 20.45 NFT1
Tickets £12.50, concs £9.25 (Members pay £1 less)

Tickets go on sale to BFI Members on 9 March and to non-Members on 16 March

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

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 for these events are £12.50, concs £9.25 Members pay £1 less on any ticket. Website www.bfi.org.uk/southbank

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***** PICTURE DESK *****

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