

The BFI Loves Valentine's Day



Celebrate Valentine's Day at **BFI Southbank**, this February, when we present a weekend of star-crossed lovers, romantic interludes and clandestine meetings, in a selection of films to cater to every taste and curiosity.

If you would like to woo your companion with a tear-jerking classic come and see **Casablanca** (1942) or **Breakfast at Tiffany's** (1961), starring a Givenchy clad **Audrey Hepburn** - which will also screen in over 50 cinemas nationwide to mark the occasion. On general release will be **Max Ophüls' Letter to an Unknown Woman** (1948), a romantic fantasy about misplaced desire, with **Joan Fontaine** and **Louis Jourdan**. On a lighter note, the old-fashioned romantic comedies **Adam's Rib** (1949) and **Pat and Mike** (1952) have Valentine's screenings as part of our **Katherine Hepburn** and **Spencer Tracy** season.

Alternatively a less traditional musing on amorous relationships can be seen in **Christophe Honoré's** tribute to Jacques Demy with **Les Chansons d'amour** (2007), the tale of a ménage à trios, interrupted by tragedy; or the lesbian love story **I Can't Think Straight** (2008), where Tala must either confess her sexuality to her strict, Jordanian family or marry her fourth fiancée.

The Mediatheque has a delectable selection of films available to view, and the entire collection is free! **The Truth About Love** presents feature films and shorts from Valentine's programmes past and present, that include: an early outing from **Alfred Hitchcock** with **Rich and Strange** (1932), **The Love Test** (1935), a **Michael Powell** quota-quickie, **Suzie Gold** (2003), a comic tale of girl-meets-goy set in North London's Jewish community, and **Dog Years** (2005), a cute take on the love between one man and his best friend.

Alternatively, if you fancy a cosy night in, **BFI DVD** has plenty of suggestions for small-screen viewing. There's **Jacques Demy's** much loved **Les Demoiselles de Rochefort** (1967), a captivating celebration of life, starring **Gene Kelly** and **Catherine Deneuve**; **Visconti's The Leopard** (1963) which surely rates as one of the most sumptuously beautiful epics ever made; **The Fan** (1949), **Otto Preminger's** classic Hollywood comedy of manners that sparkles with wit; or for something completely different, **The Joy of Sex Education**, an intriguing and enlightening compilation of sex

education films spanning 60 years. BFI DVD and Blu-ray titles are available from all good retailers or see the full range and buy online at www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore.

And for a gift with a personal touch, you could specially choose a romantic print from the BFI's world-leading collection of posters and film stills. Hundreds of beautiful and eye-catching prints are available, such as posters advertising recent seasons at BFI Southbank, London Film Festival posters dating back to 1957, European and Hollywood portraits from the 1920s and 30s, the graphic Academy Cinema posters and more. You can choose your own size, from a 7"x5" print for just £4.99 to a 40-inch canvas for £129.99. View the complete collection and order online at www.bfi.org.uk/printstore

Or perhaps you wish to offer a perfect present to a special, film-lover in your life, and indulge your loved ones with a **BFI Gift Membership**, giving them a unique chance to get closer to the films they enjoy and the people who make them. Put them at the front of the queue for the hottest tickets in town and give them exclusive access to special Members' events. Take advantage of our **Valentines' Offer**, when you can save £5 for a limited period only. This exclusive pass to the world of film is available for only £35 until 28 February 2010. Available at BFI Filmstore and online at www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore

In association with:



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Breakfast at Tiffany's

Audrey Hepburn looks her iconographic best (dressed by Edith Head and Givenchy) and a young George Peppard cuts a handsome dash in a film full of timeless, sophisticated charm. Henry Mancini provided the musical score, and won a deserved Oscar for the classy ballad 'Moon River'.

USA 1961 Dir Blake Edwards With Patricia Neal, Mickey Rooney. 114min Digital PG

Sun 14 Feb 18:20 NFT1, Sat 20 Feb 18:10 NFT2

I Can't Think Straight

Tala, the daughter of prosperous Jordanian parents, is on her fourth engagement. As her wedding day approaches, she meets and falls for Leyla, a talented writer facing similar pressures of tradition from her South Asian parents. Will Tala go through with the wedding or find the strength to come out to her dragon of a mother?

UK 2008 Dir Shamim Sarif With Lisa Ray, Sheetal Sheth, Nina Wadia 81min 12A

Sun 14 Feb 16:30 NFT2

Les Chansons d'amour

Ismaël, Julie and Alice are blissfully exploring the joys of a *ménage à trois*, when their cosy set up is interrupted by an unexpected tragedy and the arrival of a sweet young man infatuated with Ismaël. Christophe Honoré's charming tribute to Jacques Demy is a playful revision of the classic French musical.

France 2007 Dir Christophe Honoré With Louis Garrel, Ludivine Sagnier, Chiara Mastroianni 95min EST 15

Sun 14 Feb 20:40 NFT2

Casablanca

This much-loved classic earned Humphrey Bogart his first Oscar nomination as Rick, the jaded owner of a nightclub that becomes a focal point for refugees fleeing Nazi-occupied Europe. The pairing of Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, as the woman he loved and lost in Paris, is inspired.

USA 1942 Dir Michael Curtiz 102min Digital U

Sun 14 Feb 20:45 NFT1, Wed 17 Feb 14:30 NFT2, Thu 18 Feb 20:30 NFT1

Extended Run: Letter From an Unknown Woman

About to leave the city in order to avoid a duel, concert pianist Stefan Brand receives and reads a letter from a woman he can no longer remember – Ilse, who first nurtured a crush on him as a schoolgirl neighbour and whose later encounters with him were considerably more intimate... Both the flashback structure and **Franz Planer's** long, sinuous camera movements trap the lovelorn heroine – **Joan Fontaine**, magnificent throughout – within a cruel cycle of obsessive longing born of romantic fantasy (in which regard **Louis Jourdan's** suave, slightly shallow beauty fits Brand perfectly). A wry meditation on memory, misplaced desire and the options open to women in patriarchal society, the film is at once darkly ironic and deeply moving.

USA 1948 Dir Max Ophüls With Joan Fontaine, Louis Jourdan, Mady Christians, Art Smith 87min U
New 35mm print / Digital in the Studio. A BFI release
Fri 12 Feb – Thurs 25 Feb (Studio 26 Feb – 17 March)

Adam's Rib

Judy Holliday faces a charge of attempted murder after shooting her worthless man. Hepburn's the defence lawyer, and husband Tracy (of course!) the prosecuting attorney, putting marital stability at stake as the arguments focus on sexual equality in this classic romantic comedy. Their affectionate, witty, utterly determined exchanges are the quintessence of the Hepburn-Tracy pairing, not surprising since the script was written by their (married) close friends Garson Kanin and Ruth Gordon.

USA 1949. Dir George Cukor. With Tom Ewell, David Wayne, Jean Hagen. 101min. U

Sun 14 Feb 16:10 NFT1

Pat and Mike

Although then 45-year-old Hepburn was rather over-age as the spirited wife who cocks a snook at her dull academic husband by succeeding in professional golf and tennis, she's still a perfect foil for Tracy's shady sports promoter, unsure how to handle this 'uppercruster'. Here he gets the broader comic role, and although the movie seems disarmingly casual, another sly Kanin-Gordon script displays the star duo to best advantage.

USA 1952. Dir George Cukor. With Aldo Ray, William Ching, Jim Backus. 95min. U

Sun 14 Feb 18:40 NFT2

FREE In the Mediatheque: The Truth About Love

Once again Valentine's Day is upon us, inspiring delight and dread. Starry-eyed romantics, sassy singletons and cynical Cupiddodgers are all reminded to join the Mediatheque's journey through the agony and ecstasy of love – a trip through lust, passion and desire with a good helping of infidelity, unrequited misery and even a spot of murder thrown in for good measure.

Can a relationship transcend the class barrier? Not in early 20s Britain, where poor little rich girl Mae Marsh lets her fondness for men in uniform lead to an indiscretion with the family chauffeur in lavish society drama **Flames of Passion** (1922). Golddigging cad Basil Rathbone hams it up a treat in Agatha Christie adaptation **Love from a Stranger** (1937), while **Suzie Gold** (2003), set in North London's Jewish community, is a comic tale of girl-meets-goy.

For a list of all titles currently available in the Mediatheque see www.bfi.org.uk/mediatheque

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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 £9.00, concs £6.65 Members pay £1.40 less on any ticket. Website www.bfi.org.uk/southbank

Tickets for ALL FREE screenings and events but must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment

A BFI Gift Membership includes:

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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 choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI.

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. The place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

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 *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI / BFI Southbank / February 2010