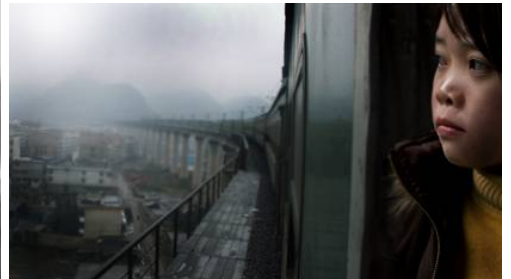


Refugees in Film at BFI Southbank



This June **BFI Southbank** offers an incisive look at the effects of displacement, refuge and migration with **Refuge in Films 2010**, a three-day festival marking Refugee Week presented by Refugee Youth and New Generation, and a panel discussion **From Casablanca to Calais: Exile on Celluloid**, hosted by Channel 4 newscaster **Samira Ahmed** in which a panel of filmmakers explore the reality and portrayal of exile in film, in partnership with Refugee Action and Brightwide.

Refuge in Films 2010 (19 – 20 June)

This festival will include screenings of **District 9** (2009), **Neil Blomkamp's** film about the segregation of aliens in Johannesburg, **Ajami** (2009), a powerful crime drama set in a tough Jaffa neighbourhood, populated with Jews, Arabs and Christians directed by **Scandar Copti** and **Yaron Shani**, as well as the UK premiere of **Lixin Fan's** award-winning documentary **Last Train Home** (2009). Interactive workshops and discussions will explore issues of being a refugee. The festival is produced by young Londoners originating from over 25 different countries who come together to curate, make films, lead discussions and host creative workshops. In addition to the key feature films, **Refuge in Films** present shorts and documentary films as well as a selection of short films produced by young refugees working with professional filmmakers.

From Casablanca to Calais: Exile on Celluloid (10 June)

From **Michael Curtiz's Casablanca** (1942) and **Robert Vas's Refuge England** (1959) to **Stephen Frears' Dirty Pretty Things** (2002) and **Michael Winterbottom's In This World** (2002), directors have dramatised and documented the journeys of people fleeing war and persecution and the difficulties they face rebuilding their lives far from home. The panel discussion will feature material from the BFI National Archive and examine the extent to which film can provide a window into the reality of refugees' lives. This panel will be chaired by Channel 4 newscaster **Samira Ahmed** and will include directors **Mat Whitecross** (*Road to Guantanamo, Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll, Moving to Mars*), **Stephen Frears** (*Dirty Pretty Things, My Beautiful Laundrette, Dangerous Liaisons, The Queen*), **Kenny Glenaan** (*Summer, Gas Attack, Yasmin*) and cultural commentators such as **Terence Wright**, Professor of Visual Arts at the University of Ulster.

Thought-provoking and informative, these screenings and events will provide a timely insight into the issues faced by refugees the world over.

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District 9

With stunning special effects and gritty realism, *District 9* plunges us into a world where the aliens have landed... only to be exiled to a slum on the fringes of Johannesburg. Now, one lone human discovers the mysterious secret of their extraterrestrial weapon technology. Hunted and hounded through the bizarre back alleys of an alien shantytown, he will discover what it means to be the ultimate outsider on your own planet.

South Africa-New Zealand 2009 Dir Neil Blomkamp With Sharlto Copley, Mandla Gaduka 111min 15

Sat 19 June 13:30 NFT2

Ajami

A powerful crime drama set in a tough Jaffa neighbourhood, populated with Jews, Arabs and Christians. Omar and his younger brother Nasri fear repercussions against their family when their uncle shoots a member of an influential criminal clan. They can end the vendetta by paying a substantial cash tribute to the offended family, and need to raise the money fast. This collaboration between Copti, a Palestinian, and Shani, an Israeli, uses a non-pro cast and a daring narrative structure to create an assured and authentic film of genuine class.

Israel-Germany 2009 Dir Scandar Copti & Yaron Shani With Fouad Habash, Shahir Kabaha 120min EST

Sat 19 June 15:50 NFT2

Last Train Home

An award-winning documentary that combines an extraordinary story with beautiful cinematography and a meticulous structure to explore the human experience within China's economic boom. Every year in China millions of migrant factory workers fight for space on overcrowded trains, trying to return home for the Spring Festival. The Zhangs have lived this way for 20 years but this time they travel with additional purpose: they must return their runaway teenage daughter to school so that she can avoid their plight.

Canada-China-UK 2009 Dir Lixin Fan 85min Mandarin with EST

Sun 20 June 16:00 NFT2

From Casablanca to Calais: Exile on Celluloid

Thu 10 June 20:45 NFT1 Tickets £5

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 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

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.

Refuge In Films

See the dedicated festival booklet, or go to www.refugeinfilms.org for further information

Online Refugee Week film festival

During Refugee Week, Brightwide will be hosting an online film festival of films documenting the experience of exile and the situations that compel people to become refugees.

The website will showcase some of the best in recent world cinema, such as *In This World*, *Welcome* and *No One Knows About Persian Cats*, and ensure that everyone can celebrate Refugee Week and do the 'Simple Act' of watching a movie about refugees from the comfort of their sofa.

The festival will be promoted through many of the cinemas up and down the UK that are organising Refugee Week screenings.

www.brightwide.com

Refugee Action



Refugee Action is an independent, national charity working to enable refugees to build new lives in the UK. They provide practical advice and assistance for newly arrived asylum seekers and long-term commitment to their settlement, and deal with some 40,000 enquiries from refugees and asylum seekers each year. As one of the country's leading agencies in the field, Refugee Action has 28 years' experience in pioneering innovative work in partnership with refugees.

www.refugee-action.org.uk

Brightwide

Brightwide is a new site featuring the best of social and political cinema, where you can watch films, learn more about the issues at their heart and take campaigning action, all in one place. Founded by Colin Firth and wife Livia in February 2010, Brightwide was inspired by the realisation that great films with issues at their heart have a unique ability to mobilise outrage and activist energy, an energy that too quickly dissipates after the credits have rolled. By linking people to causes through award winning films and by directly providing online audiences with opportunities to act and engage after the film has been streamed, Brightwide screens films that will make audiences want to change the world, and then shows them how.

www.brightwide.com

Refugee Week



Refugee Week (June 14 -20 2010) is a countrywide programme of events including concerts, film screenings, debates and exhibitions that celebrate the UK's history of providing sanctuary to people fleeing human rights abuses and their contribution to the UK.

Refugee Week is an initiative supported by charities including Amnesty International, The Children's Society, The Red Cross, Refugee Action and Oxfam.

Refugee Week seeks to raise awareness of the reasons refugees come to the UK and the reality of their lives here.

www.refugeeweek.org.uk

Simple Acts campaign

This year the Refugee Week partnership is running the Simple Acts campaign, which is about inspiring individuals to use small, everyday actions to change perceptions of refugees. It consists of 20 actions that can be done by anyone and that encourage us to learn about and interact with refugees.

The actions were chosen from ideas submitted from people across the UK, including Helen Fielding, Michael Bond and Michael Palin. The final list includes cooking a dish from another country, smiling at a stranger, and having a cup of tea with a refugee.

This year, people all over the UK are being encouraged to do one of the 20 Simple Acts that will make a big difference to how refugees are welcomed to our country. Every Simple Act – from learning a few words in another language to playing a game of football with local refugees – will be contributed to on an online total at www.simpleacts.org.uk so people can see what a big impact they are making collectively.

'Watch a movie about exile' is one of the Simple Acts.

*** 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 / June 2010