



# DANNY BOYLE'S 127 HOURS WILL CLOSE THE 54<sup>TH</sup> BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL



James Franco as Aron Ralston in 127 HOURS  
Photo credit: Chuck Zlotnick

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**London – Friday 13 August:** The 54th BFI London Film Festival, in partnership with American Express, is delighted to announce that the Closing Night film will be the European premiere of 127 HOURS on Thursday 28 October.

Danny Boyle's highly anticipated 127 HOURS stars Golden Globe winner James Franco (MILK). Boyle, the Academy Award® winning director of 2008's Best Picture, SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE is reunited with Academy Award® winning screenwriter Simon Beaufoy and Academy Award® winning producer Christian Colson. Warner Bros. Pictures UK will release 127 HOURS for Pathé in January 2011.

The filmmakers and stars, including Danny Boyle and James Franco, are expected to attend the red carpet. Boyle last attended the Festival in 2008 when the European

premiere of multiple award-winning SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE was also the Closing Night gala.

**127 HOURS** is the true story of mountain climber Aron Ralston's remarkable adventure to save himself after a falling boulder crashes on his arm and traps him in an isolated canyon in Utah. Over the next five days Ralston examines his life and survives the elements to finally discover he has the courage and the wherewithal to extricate himself by any means necessary, abseil a 65 foot rock face and hike over eight miles before he is finally rescued. **A visceral thrilling story that will take an audience on a never before experienced journey and prove what we can do when we choose life.**

**127 HOURS** is a Pathé, Fox Searchlight Pictures and Film4 presentation in association with Warner Bros. Pictures of a Cloud Eight/Decibel Films /Darlow Smithson production. The producers are Christian Colson, Danny Boyle and John Smithson with executive producers Francois Ivernel, Cameron McCracken, Tessa Ross, Lisa Maria Falcone, Bernie Bellew and John J. Kelly.

Sandra Hebron, the Festival's Artistic Director comments: "Having closed the festival with SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE in 2008, it is unprecedented for us to choose a Closing Night film from the same director only two years later. But **127 HOURS** was the obvious choice for us - with filmmaking as bold and adventurous as its subject matter, it confirms Danny Boyle as one of the World's finest and most visionary directors, and will be a very fitting close to the festival."

Danny Boyle comments, "I am honoured and delighted that **127 HOURS** has been selected to close the BFI London Film Festival. LFF played a vital role in the journey of SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE in 2008 and it's great to be bringing new work here and renewing a happy partnership. I can't wait to unveil the new film and I hope it provides a worthy climax to what will hopefully be two weeks of great movies for our city."

The full programme for The 54th BFI London Film Festival will be announced at the Press Launch on Wednesday 8 September.

The Festival runs from 13-28 October 2010. For more information: [www.bfi.org.uk/lff](http://www.bfi.org.uk/lff)

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **About the BFI**

The BFI is the nation's cultural organisation for film, keeping the breadth of voices in moving image culture alive and known. Through its venues, festivals, film releases and online, the BFI inspires people to understand and enjoy film culture, ensuring that everyone in the UK can see the broadest range and choice of films, otherwise not provided by commercial cinema. The BFI reaches an audience of over 7.5 million in the UK every year.

**The BFI London Film Festival** champions creativity, originality, vision and imagination by annually showcasing the best of contemporary world cinema, documentaries, shorts, animation and experimental film. The Festival is a highly regarded and anticipated event in Europe's cultural calendar, attracting leading international filmmakers, industry professionals and the media together with large public audiences to London for a two week celebration of cinema.

Last year's Festival hosted 193 feature films and 113 short films from 46 countries including 15 world premieres. There were 515 screenings and 553 filmmakers in attendance, drawing the highest ever audience attendance of over 130,000 filmgoers. The Festival opened with the World Premiere of FANTASTIC MR. FOX and closed with the World Premiere of NOWHERE BOY.

This year's Festival is in the second of a three-year Lottery funding partnership with the UK Film Council.

The BFI is a public body part funded by DCMS through the UK Film Council. For every £1 it receives in grant-in-aid, the BFI raises a further £1.50 through self-generated means.

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



### **About American Express**

American Express Company is a diversified worldwide travel, financial and network services company founded in 1850. It is a leader in charge and credit cards, Travellers Cheques, travel and insurance products.

American Express is a headline sponsor of the internationally recognised and respected London Film Festival, and supporter of the BFI's year-round cultural programme. The partnership builds on the company's heritage in film as founding sponsor of the Tribeca Film Festival and regular supporter of the Sundance Film Festival, and supports the BFI's own objective of making a wide choice of British and world cinema available in the UK.

The BFI is also part of American Express' Preferred Seating programme, enabling cardmembers to snap up some of the best seats at the hottest events, often before they go on sale to the general public. Cardmembers can look forward to getting closer to the stars, film-makers and films they love at London Film Festival, with priority tickets and best seats in the house at cinemas, meet-and-greets with celebrities as well as the acclaimed "Screen Epiphanies" events at the BFI.

### **About the UK Film Council**

- The UK Film Council – <http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/> – is the Government's lead agency for film in the UK, supporting the UK film industry, celebrating UK film culture and nurturing UK film talent at home and abroad.
- Since its creation in 2000, the UK Film Council has invested over £160m of Lottery funding into more than 900 films which have entertained over 200 million people and helped generate over £700 million at the box office worldwide, generating £5 for every £1 of Lottery money it has invested.

- Its support develops new filmmakers, funds ambitious new British films and gets a wider choice of films to audiences throughout the UK. It also invests in training British talent, promoting Britain as an international filmmaking location and raising the profile of British films abroad.
- Since 2000 the UK Film Council has funded such films as *Bend it like Beckham*, *Bright Star*, *The Constant Gardener*, *Fish Tank*, *Gosford Park*, *Happy-Go-Lucky*, *In the Loop*, *The Last King of Scotland*, *Man on Wire*, *Nowhere Boy*, *Red Road*, *St Trinian's*, *This is England*, *Touching the Void*, *Vera Drake*, *The Wind That Shakes the Barley* and *Streetdance 3D*, the UK's first 3D film.
- Upcoming films backed by the UK Film Council include Mike Leigh's *Another Year*, Stephen Frears's *Tamara Drewe*, Nigel Cole's *Made in Dagenham*, Joe Cornish's *Attack the Block*, Rowan Joffe's *Brighton Rock*, Lynne Ramsay's *We Need to Talk about Kevin*, Justin Chadwick's *The First Grader*, Tom Hooper's *The King's Speech*, Peter Mullan's *Neds* and Andrea Arnold's *Wuthering Heights*.
- Current UK Film Council funding initiatives include:
  - maintaining the UK's place as a production destination for internationally financed films, generating inward investment to the UK of £4.7bn over the past ten years;
  - the world's first Digital Screen Network, which has invested in 240 digital screens in cinemas across the UK, increasing film choice, bringing the 3D experience to a wider audience, and ensuring the UK has more digital cinemas than any other European country;
  - supporting over 200 film societies and independent regional film venues;
  - UK film festivals, including the BFI London Film Festival, the Edinburgh International Film Festival, and the Sheffield International Documentary Film Festival;
  - working with Skillset, the UK skills and training industry body for the creative industries, enabling almost 7,000 people to further their filmmaking careers;
  - giving over 20,000 young people the opportunity to get involved in filmmaking through First Light and Mediabox;
  - bringing FILMCLUB to thousands of schools, introducing new generations of children to the best of British and international cinema.
- The UK box office has grown by 62% since the UK Film Council was created (in 2009 it reached record levels of £944 million), with British films accounting for 23% of all UK cinema takings over the ten years to 2009.