

New Trustees sought to lead the BFI

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The BFI is seeking to appoint five new Governors to its Board to help take it into a new era of film in Britain. This follows the Government's announcement late last year that the BFI is to become the lead strategic body for film and take on most of the responsibilities of the UK Film Council.

This is an important first step for the BFI as it transforms to integrate its new responsibilities for film in the UK, working with Government, the industry and national and regional partners to collaboratively develop a new strategy for film.

The BFI's Board consists of up to 15 trustees including the Chair and there are currently five vacancies. Applications are being invited from senior professionals in the film industry and this will include filmmakers and distribution executives as well as those with legal, finance, education and fundraising expertise. The BFI will be seeking to appoint new trustees from as wide a geographic spread as possible. The positions are unpaid. Amongst the vacancies is that of Deputy Chair who will also chair a Film Strategy Development Task Force.

Applications to join the Board close at noon, Monday 24 January 2011.

Further information including how to apply is available at

www.bfi.org.uk/go/trustees.

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Notes to Editors:

The BFI's current remit includes:

- creating and caring for the world's busiest and most significant film archive, which continues to be a rich source of inspiration for filmmakers at every stage of their career, as well as a valued research and education resource. It makes the collection available through its public programmes for the enjoyment of millions of people every year;
- BFI Southbank, BFI Imax and the BFI London Film Festival are all vibrant destinations which attract large audiences, often for films that would not otherwise be seen in the UK. The BFI Imax cinema is one of the most profitable commercial Imax operations in the world;
- the BFI is the most diverse distributor of film across the UK, bringing film to more than 600 venues (from multiplexes to film societies, enabling remote screenings from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland to metropolitan cities);
- the BFI is internationally renowned for its high quality releases of films that are commercially risky: it releases some 40 titles a year on DVD or Blu-ray and these include many titles from the BFI National Collection;
- The BFI reaches an audience of over 7.5 million in the UK every year.

From 1 April 2011 it is intended that as part of its new responsibilities the BFI will be the distributor of Lottery funds for UK film, it will take over responsibility for the work in support of tax credit certification of UK films, it will oversee the strategy and public funding to support film in the

devolved Nations and English Regions, it will drive audience development and education, and it will be the home for the MEDIA desk UK.

Current trustees are: Shami Chakrabarti, Greg Dyke, Chair (whose current term of office runs until at least 2012), Eric Fellner (term of office ends imminently), Peter Foy, Sir Christopher Frayling, Matthew Freud, Ashley Highfield, Caroline Michel (term of office ends imminently), Professor Sir Howard Newby, Tessa Ross, David Thompson (Member Governor), Peter Watson (term of office ends imminently), Cy Young (Member Governor).

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