



For immediate release

**FROM A DICKENS CLASSIC TO A 3D DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA -
BFI FILM FUND BACKS ARRAY OF NEW BRITISH FILMS**

Over £13.2m awarded to 20 feature films since 1 April 2011

***New, emerging and established UK film talent bring new British films to
audiences***

LONDON – **Tuesday 24 January 2012:** Since 1 April 2011, the BFI Film Fund has awarded 20 independent British feature film productions over £13.2m in Lottery funding, including five films by women directors and ten from first or second time filmmakers. The diversity of projects supported, from documentary to 3D, demonstrates that the UK’s biggest public film fund is supporting new and emerging, as well as established, UK film talent across a range of genres and budgets.

Films backed through the BFI Film Fund have garnered sixteen BAFTA nominations and three - *Shadow Dancer* directed by Academy Award® winner James Marsh, Jon Wright’s *Grabbers* and Andrea Arnold’s *Wuthering Heights* – are currently screening at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

As audiences flock to see the Film Fund-backed *The Iron Lady*, written by Abi Morgan, directed by Phyllida Lloyd and produced by Damian Jones, which has so far grossed over £7 million in the UK and received four BAFTA nominations, so the Film Fund’s latest investments promise further exciting films for audiences.

Amanda Nevill, CEO of the BFI said: “*We’re delighted to be part of such a wide range of dynamic new British films. One of the most exciting things*

about the BFI's Film Fund is that we can support talented new filmmakers making their first features, and help some of the UK's most well known and respected directors create ambitious, large scale films. This remarkable breadth of inspiring films offers such an exciting proposition for audiences, and this is just the beginning."

Supported projects include:

- **Great Expectations**, directed by Mike Newell (*Four Weddings and A Funeral* and *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*), adapted by David Nicholls (*One Day*) and featuring a high calibre ensemble cast including Helena Bonham Carter (*The King's Speech*), Ralph Fiennes (*Coriolanus*, which Fiennes also directed), Robbie Coltrane (*Bond*, *Harry Potter*) and newcomer Jeremy Irvine (*War Horse*). Set to be a jewel in the crown of the Charles Dickens double centenary year, the film is produced by Elizabeth Karlsen and Stephen Woolley from Number 9 Films
- *Sexy Beast* director Jonathan Glazer's highly anticipated **Under The Skin**. Starring Scarlett Johansson the film is produced by James Wilson (*Attack The Block*) and Nick Wechsler (*The Road*) and written by Walter Campbell and Glazer, adapted from Michel Faber's novel
- Mat Whitecross' (*Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll*) 'Madchester'-set, **Spike Island**. Produced by Fiona Neilson and Esther Douglas' company Fiesta Productions, *Spike Island* is written by Chris Coghill (*Weekender*) and stars Elliott Tittensor (*Shameless*), Matthew McNulty (*Misfits*, *The Arbor*) and Lesley Manville (*Ashes, Another Year*). A coming of age story, the film follows five teenage lads as they travel to see their idols The Stone Roses play their legendary 1990 gig at Spike Island
- Max Giwa and Dania Pasquini's **Streetdance 2 3D**, written by Jane English and produced by Allan Niblo and James Richardson for Vertigo Films, the follow up to *Streetdance 3D* - one of the most

successful independent British films of recent years and the first British film to be made in 3D. With landmark locations and featuring a spectacular fusion of dance styles, the film sees George Sampson return as cheeky chappie Eddie and dance troupe Flawless reprise their role as dance crew The Surge (UK release date 30 March 2012).

- **The Pervert's Guide to Ideology**, the new feature documentary from director Sophie Fiennes and philosopher Slavoj Zizek, which uses their inventive interpretations of cinema to examine the mechanisms that shape our beliefs and practices. The film is an official UK-Irish co-production, between P Guide Productions and Blinder Films, produced by James Wilson (*Under the Skin*), Martin Rosenbaum (*The Pervert's Guide to Cinema*), Blinder's Katie Holly (*One Hundred Mornings*) and Sophie Fiennes
- Inspirational sports drama, **Fast Girls**, which charts the rollercoaster journey of a British female sprint relay team. Starring Lenora Crichlow (*Being Human*), Lily James (*Clash of the Titans 2*) and Bradley Adams (*Merlin*), directed by award-winning young filmmaker Regan Hall (*3 Hours*) and produced by Damian Jones (*The Iron Lady*), the film is co-scripted by Noel Clarke (*Adulthood*, *Kidulthood*), Jay Basu and Roy Williams
- **Broken**, the directorial debut of acclaimed theatre director Rufus Norris, adapted for the screen by Mark O'Rowe (*Boy A*) from the novel by Daniel Clay, and produced by Dixie Linder (*The War Zone*), Nick Marston and Tally Garner (*Boy A*), and Bill Kenwright (*Chéri*). The film features a stellar cast including Tim Roth (*Pulp Fiction*), Cillian Murphy (*Inception*, *The Dark Knight*), Rory Kinnear (*Quantum of Solace*), Robert Emms (*War Horse*), Zana Marjanovic (*In the Land of Blood and Honey*), Bill Milner (*X-Men First Class*, *Son of Rambow*) and introduces to the screen Eloise Laurence

The BFI Film Fund works closely with writers, directors and producers to develop projects. Since 1 April the Fund has invested over £2.3m in the

development of 99 film projects, including Peter Ackroyd's *Dan Leno and the Limehouse Golem*, currently being adapted for the screen by Jane Goldman with Number 9 Films, and the latest project from Michael Powell award-winning director, Nick Whitfield, co-written with Rachel Tunnard, *The Dirty Little Book of Stolen Time*, which is being developed with Forward Films.

Feature film production awards approved since 1 April 2011 (most recent first):

Project Title	Director	Production company	Award Amount
<i>Last Days on Mars (aka The Animators)</i>	Ruairi Robinson	Qwerty Films Ltd	£1,000,000
<i>Blood (aka Conviction)</i>	Nick Murphy	Neal Street Productions and Red Production Company	£700,000
<i>Bomb</i>	Sally Potter	Adventure Pictures Ltd	£1,020,000
<i>Mister John</i>	Christine Molloy and Joe Lawlor	Desperate Optimists Productions Ltd.	£300,000
<i>Spike Island</i>	Mat Whitecross	Fiesta Productions	£900,000
<i>Smash and Grab: The Story of the Pink Panthers</i>	Havana Marking	Roast Beef Productions	£165,000
<i>This Is London</i>	Julien Temple	B&W Films Ltd	£355,000

Seven Psychopaths	Martin McDonagh	Blueprint Pictures	£1,057,500
Broken	Rufus Norris	Cuba Pictures Limited	£267,500
Fast Girls	Regan Hall	DJ Films	£630,000
Great Expectations	Mike Newell	Number 9 Films	£2,000,000
Sightseers	Ben Wheatley	Big Talk Pictures / Rook Films	£300,000
Swandown	Andrew Kötting	Fly Film Company	£215,750
Last Passenger	Omid Nooshin	NDF International	£428,000
The Story of Film: An Odyssey	Mark Cousins	Hopscotch Films	£185,000
Under The Skin	Jonathan Glazer	Modern Films Ltd.	£1,673,744
Welcome To The Punch	Eran Creevy	Beat Films Ltd	£500,000
StreetDance 2 3D	Max Giwa and Dania Pasquini	Vertigo Films	£500,000
The Pervert's Guide To Ideology	Sophie Fiennes	P Guide Productions and Blinder Films	£270,000

Shadow Dancer	James Marsh	Unanimous Entertainment and Element Films	£750,000
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Notes to Editors

About the BFI

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences