

**BFI'S *NAPOLEON* WINS
'BEST ARCHIVE RESTORATION'
AT THE FOCAL INTERNATIONAL AWARDS 2017**



London, 26 May 2017 – The **BFI National Archive** is celebrating the announcement last night that *Napoleon* (Abel Gance, 1927) won **Best Archive Restoration** at the **FOCAL International Awards 2017**. The restoration of one of the world's greatest films, by the BFI National Archive and Photoplay Productions, was carried out at Dragon Digital and supervised by Kevin Brownlow (Photoplay Productions).

The culmination of a 50-year old project, the digital restoration gives audiences the chance to see the original tinting and toning in this legendary 5 ½ hour film.

Heather Stewart, Creative Director, BFI said: 'This Award is testament to the generations of staff at the BFI who have been involved in the restoration of this landmark film; to Kevin Brownlow who has championed it indefatigably and to Carl Davis who provided the amazing score. We are delighted to see all the hard work that went into this achievement being recognised by FOCAL.'

Napoleon was released theatrically by the BFI on 11 November 2016 to huge critical acclaim, followed by a BFI DVD/Blu-ray release ten days later. The DVD/Blu-ray ship-out to stores was reported to be one of the biggest ever for a silent film. *Napoleon* is also available to view via BFIPlayer.

The FOCAL International Awards celebrate achievement in the use of footage in all variety of genres, across all media platforms plus its restoration. Producers, filmmakers and other creative professionals who have used library footage in all variety of genre including a documentary, feature film plus any other form of production or across all media platforms over the last year submitted their work for consideration. FOCAL also recognises the researchers, technicians and producers that access, maintain and use this precious resource with Awards for best archive researcher, library and restoration work.

Picture shows members of BFI National Archive, Kevin Brownlow, Carl Davis and Dragon Digital

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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

The BFI is a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter.

The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.