BFI FLARE: LONDON LGBTQ+ FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES INDUSTRY PROGRAMME & TALENT GUESTS INCLUDING HUGH GRANT AND RUPERT EVERETT ON STAGE AT BFI SOUTHBANK AND KEY SPEAKERS ROBIN CAMPILLO, ELIZABETH KARLSEN & FRANCIS LEE

21st March – 1st April 2018

Tuesday 20th March – In 2018 the BFI Flare: London LGBTQ+ Film Festival Industry Programme returns with a bang with key speakers & high profile guests.

The Makers, BFI Flare's annual strand of in-conversation events with individuals who have made a significant contribution to LGBTQ+ representation in the mainstream, returns in 2018 with speakers Robin Campillo (writer / director of *120 BPM* and *Eastern Boys*), Elizabeth Karlsen (producer of *Carol*, *Colette*, *The Crying Game* and *Hollow Reed*) and recent BAFTA Nominee Francis Lee (writer / director of *God's Own Country*).

The Industry Programme will also include events Anatomy of an Episode: *The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story*, with writer / executive producer Tom Rob Smith joining the BFI to dissect the show's acclaimed fourth episode *House by the Lake*, and Casting a Wide Net, a panel on casting LGBTQ+ films and characters in partnership with Spotlight.

Further industry partners include BAFTA, BFI NETWORK, Directors UK, Random Acts, Women in Film & TV and TransLondon.

Over 40 filmmakers and talent are confirmed to attend including BFI Fellow Hugh Grant who will introduce *Maurice* on stage alongside co-star James Wilby, Rupert Everett (writer, director and star of *The Happy Prince*), Robin Campillo (*120 BPM*), Trudie Styler (*Freak Show*), Jason Barker (*A Deal with the Universe*), David Weissman (*Conversations with Gay Elders*), Tali Shalom-Ezer (*My Days of Mercy*), David Hoyle (*Uncle David 2*), Steve McLean & Harris Dickinson (*Postcards from London*), Liz Rohburgh (*Becks*) & James Crump (*Antonio Lopez 1970: Sex, Fashion and Disco*)

Press & Industry Screenings

We are delighted to offer a schedule of Press & Industry Screenings throughout the Festival for the following titles: *My Days of Mercy, Love, Scott, Uncle David 2, A Deal with the Universe, The Happy Prince, Postcards from London, Becks, Southern Pride and Hard Paint.*

For further details about Press and Industry accreditation and the full programme see www.bfi.org.uk/flare

BFI Flare: London LGBT Film Festival is programmed by Jay Bernard, Michael Blyth, Zorian Clayton, Brian Robinson and Emma Smart, led by Tricia Tuttle, Artistic Director, BFI Festivals.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

BFI Flare: London LGBTQ+ Film Festival is the UK's longest running LGBTQ+ film event. It began in 1986 as Gay's Own Pictures. By its 3rd edition it was tagged the London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival and since then has grown to become the largest LGBTQ+ film event in the UK, and its most anticipated. The Festival changed its name to BFI Flare in 2014 to reflect the increasing diversity of its films, filmmakers and audience. The festival is programmed by Jay Bernard, Michael Blyth, Zorian Clayton, Brian Robinson and Emma Smart, led by Artistic Director, Tricia Tuttle.

MY DAYS OF MERCY opens the Festival on Wednesday 21 March with POSTCARDS FROM LONDON closing the Festival on Saturday 31 March; BFI Flare will offer for an additional day in 2018 with 'Second Chance Sunday' on 1 April, featuring on-demand repeat screenings of audience favourites.

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 filmmakers 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.

BFI Flare Sponsors

In 2018 the Festival is delighted to introduce a number of new supporters and welcome back some of its most valued and enduring partners.

We are delighted to welcome Pureland Foundation as our Main Supporter for the first time this year. We could not deliver BFI Flare without the continuing support of the Department for Digital, Culture Media & Sport. American Airlines are flying back in to ensure we can continue to bring some of the very best talent to the UK. The May Fair Hotel returns for an amazing ninth successive year to accommodate the Festival's special guests, and Renault are back as our very valued car partner. We would also like to thank our returning special screening sponsors, the Interbank LGBT Forum for their continued support of the Festival. Sky join the Festival family and are supporting one of our fantastic films at the Festival and our BFI Flare programme throughout the year. And special thanks to our Media partners Attitude and Diva, and our Distribution Partner Impact. Similarly our sincere thanks go out to our new and returning in kind partners: Barefoot Wines, Beltane&Pop, Fever-Tree, Konditor & Cook and Pink Pepper Gin, and lastly, but by no means least, our other hugely important Funding Contributors, Venue Partners and Community Partners.