



BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

7 – 18 October 2015

in partnership with



PRESS RELEASE: UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 10.00am Friday 28 August

59th BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES CHRISTOPHER NOLAN AND TACITA DEAN TO HEADLINE 'LFF CONNECTS'

- *New LFF Connects event series with a focus on film and the wider creative industries to lead with artist Tacita Dean and filmmaker Christopher Nolan*
- *BFI Creative Director Heather Stewart and Austrian Film Museum Director Alexander Horwath will join Nolan and Dean to discuss the implications facing film preservation for future generations*
- *New industry delegate services include Gold, Silver and Bronze passes and tailored Documentary and Discovery passes; accreditation now open*

LONDON – Friday 28 August 2015: The 59th BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express® announces **LFF Connects** – a brand new series of thought-provoking high-impact talks intended to stimulate new collaborations and ideas by exploring both the future of film itself and how film engages with other creative industries including television, music, art, games and creative technology.

British filmmaker **Christopher Nolan**, internationally acclaimed for some of the most original, compelling and successful films in contemporary cinema (*Interstellar, Inception, The Dark Knight, Memento*), and **Tacita Dean**, lauded for her art work in film (and whose grand-scale Tate Modern exhibition *FILM* transfixed audiences), will launch the new series of high profile talks on Friday 9 October at the BFI Southbank with a conversation that reframes the future of film.

Christopher Nolan and **Tacita Dean** are both passionate advocates within their fields for film – not simply as a technology – but as a medium that offers intrinsically rich and unique qualities needed by artists and filmmakers, as well as a hugely engaging experience for audiences. In the **LFF Connects Film** conversation moderated by BFI Creative Director **Heather Stewart** whose work in cultural programming is bringing new audiences and creative collaborators to film, Nolan and Dean will also explore the importance of seeing films projected *on film* as an essential part of our cultural experience, as well as the necessity of determining new archival and exhibition standards that secure film's future, and why the debate around film needs to change. They will also be joined in the discussion by **Alexander Horwath**, Director of the Austrian Film Museum who has written and spoken extensively about the importance of showing film as film and preservation, asking how can any cultural heritage remain intelligible when handed down to future generations without attention to its medium?

Tacita Dean says, “As an artist who makes and exhibits film for reasons indexical to the medium, I have had no choice but to fight to get film re-appreciated for what it is: a beautiful, robust and entirely different way of making and showing images in the gallery and in the cinema. Film has characteristics integral to its chemistry and internal discipline that form my work and I cannot be asked to separate the work from the medium that I used to make it. We need to keep the medium distinct from the technology; we need to keep the choice of film available for artists, filmmakers and audiences.”

Trailblazers from other creative fields who are having an impact on how we make and think about films will be announced in the coming weeks as LFF Connects headliners.

Clare Stewart, Festival Director, BFI London Film Festival, says: “This year we launch a new direction for the BFI London Film Festival’s industry engagement programme – building on the position of London as one of the world’s leading creative cities – with LFF Connects, a series of events designed to look at the future of film and its intersection with the wider creative industries. We could not hope to have a more dynamic, impactful launch than to bring together Christopher Nolan and Tacita Dean, two of the greatest creators working in film and art to discuss the future of film as a medium.”

A British artist based in Berlin, and recent artist in residence at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles, **Tacita Dean** is internationally renowned for her 16mm and 35mm films, as well as other works in various mediums, most notably her chalkboard drawings. She is a former Turner Prize nominee. In 2011, she made **FILM** for Tate Modern's Turbine Hall in London and is a founding member of savefilm.org.

Christopher Nolan is internationally recognised for being one of the most successful and innovative filmmakers working today, creating films that bridge blockbuster and art-house including *The Dark Knight* trilogy (2005, 2008, 2012), *Inception* (2010), *Interstellar* (2014), *The Prestige* (2006), *Insomnia* (2002) and *Memento* (2000).

Alexander Howath is the Director of the Austrian Film Museum in Vienna, formerly with the Vienna International Film Festival and author of books about Michael Haneke and Josef von Sternberg, Peter Tscherkassky and American Cinema amongst others.

Heather Stewart, the BFI’s Creative Director leads on the BFI’s cultural strategy and activities across the UK and worldwide including making the BFI National Archive – the biggest collection of film and television in the world – available to new generations; creating hugely successful programmes such as *Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder*, *The Genius of Hitchcock*, *GOTHIC* and *Britain on Film*; and forging ground-breaking cultural collaborations with international partners such as China.

LFF Connects Film with Tacita Dean, Christopher Nolan, Alexander Horwath and Heather Stewart will take place at the BFI Southbank on Friday 9 October.

The BFI London Film Festival would like to thank Tate for its collaboration on this project.

This year’s LFF programme will be announcing further events imminently that offer unique opportunities for industry professionals to engage in debate, explore important areas of policy key to growth, share knowledge, generate business opportunities and showcase talent.

In addition, this year's Festival is expanding services and facilities offered to industry delegates. A new suite of delegate passes is being introduced including **Gold (with year-round benefits)**, **Silver** and **Bronze** passes and tailored **Documentary** and **Discovery** passes.

Industry accreditation is now open – see www.bfi.org.uk/lff/professional-delegates for more details.

The film and public events programme for the 59th BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express® will be presented at the Odeon Leicester Square 10.00-11.00am on Tuesday 1 September 2015.



ENDS

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Notes to Editors

59th BFI London Film Festival / LFF Press Office

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About the BFI

The BFI is the lead organisation 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 London Film Festival

BFI London Film Festival is Britain's leading film event and one of the world's best film festivals. It introduces the finest new British and international films to an expanding London and UK-wide audience and attracts significant international film industry participation. LFF is a compelling combination of red carpet glamour, friendly audiences and vibrant exchange. LFF provides an essential profiling opportunity for films seeking global success; promotes the careers of British and international filmmakers through its industry and awards programmes and positions London as the world's leading creative city.

Clare Stewart biography

Clare Stewart's twenty year programming career has encompassed leadership roles as Festival Director, Sydney Film Festival (2006-2011) and the inaugural Head of Film Programs at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image in Melbourne (2002-2006) as well as various roles at the Australian Film Institute (1996-2001), including Exhibition Manager, and programmer and

Committee Member of the Melbourne Cinémathèque (1995-2002). She has been BFI Head of Cinemas and Festivals since October 2011.



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