

Teenage Kicks: celebrating the teen on screen

Featuring the London Premiere of Charlie Lyne's *Beyond Clueless*
with a live score performed by 'Summer Camp'



Friday 27 June 2014, London

School might be out for summer, but throughout August **BFI Southbank** will be heading back to the classroom for lessons in teen angst, love and rebellion with *Teenage Kicks*, a month-long season dedicated to the teen on screen. From James Dean's rebellious leading man in *Rebel Without a Cause*, to John Hughes' infamous brat pack and the *Mean Girls* of the noughties, the teenager is firmly ensconced in cinema history. *Teenage Kicks* will look beyond the veneer of the 'brat pack' to showcase wildly varied portrayals of the teen, encouraging audiences – whether they're young or not so young – to reflect upon those 'in-between' years. The season will include screenings of cult hits such as *If...* (1968), *Heathers* (1988) and *Welcome to the Dollhouse* (1992) as well as films met with controversy on their original release including *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) and *Kids* (1996), and there will be talks and specially curated events as part of **BFI Future Film** to tie in with the season.

Taking place as part of the season will be a special *Sonic Cinema* screening of film critic **Charlie Lyne's** part essay film, part love letter to teen films, *Beyond Clueless* (2014), complete with a live score performed by pop duo 'Summer Camp' whose soundtrack for the film will be released on **Monday 4 August**. *Beyond Clueless* (2014) provides viewers with a whistle stop tour of teen films; first-time director **Charlie Lyne** combines an intricate collage of scenes from over 200 movies to explore and celebrate the world of the American teenager. Before reworking Jane Austen's *Emma* for the MTV generation in the form of *Clueless*, Amy Heckerling made her debut feature *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* (1982). The film was based on a *Rolling Stone* article by **Cameron Crowe** (*Almost Famous*, *Jerry Maguire*) about his experiences undercover at a Californian high school and boasted an ensemble cast of future stars including **Sean Penn**, **Jennifer Jason Leigh** and **Forrest Whitaker** (plus a blink and you'll miss him moment with **Nicholas Cage**).

Blackboard Jungle (1955) and *If...* (1968) both portrayed groups of unruly teens in school, the former telling the story of a war veteran (**Glenn Ford**) who, as a novice teacher in an inner-city school, must deal with a group of youths who have little respect for his authority, while in the latter, **Lindsay Anderson** directs **Malcolm McDowell** as a British boarding school student who leads a violent revolt against the establishment. **BFI Flare** will present two screenings during the season, **Gregg Araki's** *Nowhere* (1997) (a film the director described as 'a Beverly Hills 90210 episode on acid') and **Lukas Moodysson's** tender and funny *Show Me Love* (1999).

Two films in the season show how some directors have allowed teens a direct stake in their representation: *Thirteen* (2003) was co-written by its star **Nikki Reed**, and **Larry Clark** recruited 19

year-old **Harmony Korine** as scriptwriter on *Kids* (1996). Also screening will be cult hit *Heathers* (1988), which made stars out of **Winona Ryder** and **Christian Slater**. Veronica (Ryder), a reluctant member of the 'Heathers' clique at her high school, enters into a rebellious relationship with J.D (or Jason Dean – a not so subtle wink to the 'original' rebel without a cause James Dean); the film is a sharp-tongued satire on American teens that still feels fresh today. Also deserving of cult status is **Todd Solondz's** *Welcome to the Dollhouse* (1995) which tells the story of wildly unpopular 11 year-old Dawn (**Heather Matarazzo**), who is trying her best to survive impending adolescence, with mixed results.

The season will be complemented by specially curated talks and events including *The Global Teen*, a talk looking at depictions of youths in non-US cinema; *We Could Be Heroes*, a panel talk looking at the greatest teen heroes ever committed to celluloid; plus teen-related highlights from the BFI's Collections on display in the **BFI Reuben Library**. There will also be a number of events curated by **BFI Future Film**, including the **Teen Scene Filmmaking Challenge**, encouraging young filmmakers to submit two-page scripts, the best of which will be given production support including the use of kit and editing suites, tutor support, actors and the use of our specially built film set of a teenagers bedroom at BFI Southbank.

Media Partner:



– ENDS –

Press Contacts:

Liz Parkinson – Assistant Press Officer, BFI Southbank
liz.parkinson@bfi.org.uk / 020 7957 8918

Ilona Cheshire – Press Officer, BFI Southbank
ilona.cheshire@bfi.org.uk / 020 7957 8986

NOTES TO EDITORS:

SCREENING IN THE SEASON

London Premiere: Beyond Clueless + Live Score by 'Summer Camp'

UK 2014. Dir Charlie Lyne. Narrated by Fairuza Balk. RT and Cert TBC.

As part of our Teenage Kicks season, Sonic Cinema presents the London premiere of film critic Charlie Lyne's bold and stylish feature debut, with live music from critically acclaimed indie-pop duo 'Summer Camp.' Part documentary, part essay and part experimental driftwork, *Beyond Clueless* explores and celebrates the world of the American teenager, complete with its jocks, nerds, freaks, geeks, cheerleaders, angst, attitude and rebellion, as depicted by countless movies made in the wake of 1995's breakout success *Clueless*. Lyne combines an intricate collage of scenes from over 200 teen movies with hypnotic narration by cult teen star Fairuza Balk (*The Craft*) and sophisticated pop from 'Summer Camp,' to create a dreamlike and highly original cinematic experience.

Followed by a special DJ set in the benugo bar until late Tickets £16, concs £12 (Members pay £1.50 less)
Fri 8 Aug 20:45 NFT1

We Could Be Heroes

Quotable, achingly cool, familiarly damaged: teen film is populated by some truly iconic heroes who cheered us on through the trials of growing up. To mark the screeching sound of Teenage Kicks arriving at BFI Southbank this month, we welcome a panel of experts and superfans (including *Beyond Clueless* director

Charlie Lyne) to discuss the greatest teen heroes that cinema has given us, and to share their favourite film moments from our season and beyond.

Fri 1 Aug 18:10 NFT3

Blackboard Jungle

USA 1955. Dir Richard Brooks. With Glenn Ford, Sidney Poitier, Anne Francis. 97min. 12

A war veteran (Ford) faces a truly formidable challenge: as a novice teacher in an inner-city school he must deal with a bunch of unruly teens who have little respect for authority. While the 'social problem' narrative must ultimately correct the perversion of order, the unmistakable spirit of youthful anarchy in this 1950s film sung out to a ravenous and increasingly self-assured teen audience, as did the supposedly corrupting rock'n'roll score.

Sat 2 Aug 18:30 NFT3

Fri 8 Aug 18:20 NFT2

If...

UK 1968. Dir Lindsay Anderson. With Malcolm McDowell, David Wood, Richard Warwick. 111min. 15

Students at a British boarding school rise up in violent revolt against the old world order in this unique, anarchist fantasy. *If...* is a startlingly original satire that perfectly captures both the spirit of 1968 and the ascendant power of youth itself, which instinctively rejects an established authority that denies individual freedom and expression

Sun 3 Aug 20:40 NFT3

Wed 6 Aug 17:30 NFT2

Thu 7 Aug 15:00 NFT3

Carrie

USA 1976. Dir Brian De Palma. With Sissy Spacek, Piper Laurie, John Travolta. 98min. 18

The telekinetic Carrie (Spacek) is not the villain of Brian De Palma's vivid, operatic horror, but its tortured, tragic heroine. The real monsters here are Carrie's cruel peers who prey on her naivety, and her religious, zealot mother who encourages her to despise her own femininity. Scenes of taut tension and visual fireworks are punctured by moments of real compassion, revealing a tender human heart within this bloody parable of adolescence.

Fri 1 Aug 20:30 NFT3

Sat 2 Aug 20:40 NFT3

Tue 5 Aug 18:20 NFT3

Fast Times at Ridgemont High

USA 1982. Dir Amy Heckerling. With Sean Penn, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Judge Reinhold, Phoebe Cates. 90min. 15

Cameron Crowe's *Rolling Stone* article about his experiences undercover at a Californian high school provided the source material for Heckerling's film. It is far from a gritty *exposé* of teen life; it's a bawdy and undeniably fun romp through malls and high school corridors, with an ensemble cast of future stars slinging burgers, partying and making out. With great wit and verve, *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* effortlessly captures the flawed wisdom circulated by horny and insecure teenagers who are trying to figure out the rules of love.

Tue 12 Aug 18:20 NFT2

Sat 16 Aug 20:40 NFT2

To Our Loves À Nos Amours

France 1983. Dir Maurice Pialat. With Sandrine Bonnaire, Maurice Pialat, Christophe Odent. 95min. 15

As familial strife rages in her troubled family home, 15 year-old Suzanne experiments with love and sex, working her way through partners with cool abandon. What is it she seeks? Affection, freedom, pleasure? In a startling debut, Sandrine Bonnaire gives few clear answers, showing us only the wild, sensuous instincts of youth at work, and her revolt against the hypocritical, rotten institution of family.

***Presented with *I Am Dora*, followed by a salon discussion in the Blue Room**

Sun 10 Aug 18:20 NFT2*

Wed 13 Aug 18:20 NFT2

Sun 17 Aug 20:50 NFT3

BFI Flare Present: Show Me Love Fucking Åmål

Sweden 1999. Dir Lukas Moodysson. With Rebecka Liljeberg, Alexandra Dahlström, Erica Carlson. 87min. 15
Elin is beautiful, brash and popular, but desperate for excitement. Agnes is friendless and depressed, and secretly in love with Elin. Despite a few – truly lame – parties, their aching-boring, provincial hometown crushes both their spirits, and we root for romance to blossom. *Show Me Love* is a tender and funny portrait of teen angst and confusion, and it introduced Moodysson as a director with unique sensitivity to the sweet agonies of being young and in love.

Thu 14 Aug 15:00 NFT3

Fri 15 Aug 20:40 NFT2

Sun 17 Aug 18:20 NFT2

Heathers

USA 1988. Dir Michael Lehmann. With Winona Ryder, Christian Slater, Shannen Doherty. 103min. 15
'Dear Diary...This isn't just a spoke in my menstrual cycle!' raves Veronica (a star-making turn from Ryder) as she colludes with rebellious outsider JD (Slater) to dethrone the clique of mean girls that rule her school. *Heathers*, the sharp-tongued, brattish kid sister to the woolly earnestness of a John Hughes movie, is a hugely influential, caustic satire on American adolescent life that still feels fresh and genuinely incendiary today.

Wed 20 Aug 18:20 NFT2

Fri 22 Aug 20:50 NFT2

Kids

USA 1996. Dir Larry Clark. With Leo Fitzpatrick, Chloë Sevigny, Rosario Dawson. 87min.18
With its quasi-documentary aesthetic and a script by 19 year-old Harmony Korine, *Kids* claims authenticity as it depicts a normal day-in-the-life of a group of New York teens. The press were dutifully appalled by its grimy, exploitative feel, and panicked by its provocative content. Clark's most unsettling directorial decision is a refusal to pass moral judgement on the teenagers' reckless, pleasure-seeking behaviour – giving a feeling of uneasy precariousness as a new generation looms in the wings.

Thu 21 Aug 21:00 NFT3

Sun 24 Aug 18:20 NFT2

Thirteen

USA 2003. Dir Catherine Hardwicke. With Evan Rachel Wood, Holly Hunter, Nikki Reed. 18
Catherine Hardwicke, who went on to direct the teen-based fantasy *Twilight*, is behind this gritty, hothouse of a drama. An incandescent Evan Rachel Wood stars as Tracy, a 13 year-old who terrifies her family with her dramatic transition from pig-tailed, loving child to self-destructive, screeching teen. With a script co-written by Wood's young co-star Nikki Reed, *Thirteen* is not just a horror story for parents, but a sympathetic portrayal of the overwhelming emotional turmoil that accompanies adolescence.

Tue 19 Aug 18:15 NFT3

Thu 21 Aug 15:00 NFT2

Sat 23 Aug 20:40 NFT2

Welcome to the Dollhouse

USA 1995. Dir Todd Solondz. With Heather Matarazzo, Christina Brucato, Victoria Davis. 88min. 15
Dawn Wiener is a wildly unpopular, awkward and dowdy 11 year-old who is trying to step into big-girl shoes but is constantly beaten down by the cruel brutality of middle-school. In typical fashion, Solondz crafts a horrific and savagely funny portrait of suburbia, filled with hypocrisy and everyday cruelty. We root for Dawn, who strives to hold onto her dignity as the sun rises over what promises to be a nasty adolescence, and we laugh lest we cry.

Tue 26 Aug 18:20 NFT2

Thu 28 Aug 15:00 NFT3

Sat 30 Aug 20:40 NFT2

BFI Flare Present: Nowhere

USA 1997. Dir Gregg Araki. With James Duval, Rachel True, Nathan Bexton, Christina Applegate. 78min. 18

The final part of Araki's 'teen apocalypse' trilogy gives us a day in the life of a bunch of queer, hip teenagers with names like Dark, Tru and Lucifer. They occupy a deranged day-glo version of LA where lizard men and valley girls rub shoulders. Packed with eye-popping visuals, a killer soundtrack and some formidable fashion choices, this is arthouse for an MTV generation, or rather - in the words of the director - 'a Beverly Hills 90210 episode on acid.'

Wed 27 Aug 18:00 NFT2

Mon 25 Aug 20:30 NFT3

Margaret

USA 2011. Dir Kenneth Lonergan. With Anna Paquin, Matt Damon, Mark Ruffalo. 186min. 15

Witnessing a horrific traffic accident plunges a forthright Manhattan schoolgirl into the dizzying moral complexities of the adult world – as if the travails of growing up weren't tough enough! Filmed in 2006, the protracted production history and lengthy runtime of *Margaret* might suggest an indulgent mess, but Lonergan's fusion of post-9/11 anxiety with adolescent neurosis, disorientation, and hormonal chaos is a nuanced and dazzling achievement.

Sat 30 Aug 15:10 NFT3

Sun 31 Aug 20:00 NFT3

The Global Teen

The teenager surfed high on the waves of Hollywood cinema's dominance in the 20th century, spreading a particular brand of American youth culture across the world. Do depictions of youth in non-US cinema offer alternative models of how to be a 'teen'? Or, in a globalised culture, is the teen now an international (and uniform) identity? Through short presentations and in-depth discussion, a panel of experts – Michael Lawrence, Emma Wilson and Sarah Wright – will explore these complex issues.

Mon 18 Aug 18:30 BFI Reuben Library

Future Film Events

Filmmaking in the Atrium

We've been working with production design students from Wimbledon College of Arts to create a working film set in our Atrium space during August. Each week the set will represent the bedroom of a different teenage character – from a contemporary Californian socialite to a 70's punk – and we'll be giving young filmmakers the opportunity to create and film short scenes based on these different characters. Head to www.bfi.org.uk/futurefilm or www.ideastap.com/bfi for more info on our **Teen Scene Challenge**. And you can join us and other young film fans for our free Future Film Socials, where we'll be discussing films from the Teenage Kicks season every Thursday throughout August at 17:00 in the Atrium. We'll also be using the atrium space to run practical filmmaking courses:

Tue 5 Aug 11:00:

DIY Cinematography (followed by a screening of *Carrie*)

Wed 13 Aug 11:00:

Directing Actors (followed by a screening of *To Our Loves*)

Tue 19 Aug 11:00:

Writing Naturalistic Dialogue (followed by a screening of *Thirteen*)

Wed 27 Aug 11:00:

DIY Costume and Production Design (followed by a screening of *Nowhere*)

Tickets just £6 (or bring a mate for £10). 15-25 year-olds only

Youth Media Summit

The Youth Media Summit 2014 is led by Youth Media Agency in partnership with BFI. This high profile event will bring 450 young editors, founders and broadcasters of radio, magazines and online content together with mainstream media and brands. This summit will connect the next generation of media producers, expose the power of youth media, share content, help develop skills and knowledge and provide peer to peer inspiration. The one day programme is packed with panel discussions, masterclasses and keynote speeches by Lord Putnam, Channel 4, ITV, SKY, BBC, Facebook, YouTube, Timeout, DCMS.

For more info please email events@youthmediaagency.org.uk

Wed 6 Aug 11:00 – 17:00 NFT1

Riots Revisited

Through a series of powerful films and discussion, we mark the three year anniversary of the UK riots and we'll take you on a journey through the events that sent the UK into turmoil. We'll examine why the riots happened, why so many young people were either involved or blamed for them, and what can be done to prevent rioting returning to our UK streets. There will be a specific focus on the role of the media during and after the riots, and how film has tried to tell the story of the riots since.

Please email info@latimergroup.org to book your free place

Presented in partnership with: LATIMER GROUPS

Fri 15 Aug 11:00 – 17:00 NFT3

Highlights from Our Collection: Teenage Kicks

'Strictly speaking, American motion pictures today are not a mass medium,' writes Thomas Doherty in the opening to his book 'Teenagers and Teenpics'. 'As any multiplex marquee attests, theatrical movies cater primarily to one segment of the entertainment audience: teenagers. Without the support of the teenage audience, few theatrical movies break even, fewer still become hits, and none become blockbusters. In America, movies reflect teenage, not mass – and definitely not adult – tastes.' Enjoy the summer break with the BFI's Teenage Kicks season, and our accompanying display. Books quickly to-hand include: 'Generation Multiplex'; 'The Road to Romance and Ruin: Teen Films and Youth Culture'; 'Rebels & Chicks'; 'Pretty in Pink: The Golden Age of Teenage Movies'; and 'The I Was a Teenage Juvenile Delinquent Rock n' Roll Horror Beach Party Movie Book: A Complete Guide to the Teen Exploitation Film 1954-1969.' And from the BFI Film Classics series, Mark Sinker provides a detailed study of Lindsay Anderson's rabble-rousing film *If...*

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 Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £11.00, concs £8.50 Members pay £1.50 less on any ticket. Website www.bfi.org.uk/southbank

Tickets for FREE screenings and events must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment

BFI Shop

The BFI Shop is stocked and staffed by BFI experts with over 1,200 book titles and 1,000 DVDs to choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI.

The benugo bar & kitchen

Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo's décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. The place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI / BFI Southbank / August 2014 / Teenage Kicks