

**Dates announced for**

**BFI Flare: London LGBT Film Festival**

**16<sup>th</sup> March – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

**Celebrating 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year**

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of BFI Flare: London LGBT Film Festival will take place at BFI Southbank from Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

The special 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary programme will be announced to both press and public at a briefing event at BFI Southbank on 18<sup>th</sup> February when the programming team will unveil this year's selection of the best in queer cinema from around the world. Press welcome by invitation.

During January 2016 some advance programme information will be available under embargo for long lead press. Please contact the press office for details.

The programming team is Jason Barker, Jay Bernard, Michael Blyth, Brian Robinson and Emma Smart led by Deputy Head of Festivals, Tricia Tuttle and Head of Festivals, Clare Stewart.

The 2015 festival continued a strong run of great audience attendance with over 23,500 admissions recorded over ten days. Highlights of the festival included director Justin Kelly's arrival for the Opening Night film I AM MICHAEL; other highlights included a standing ovation for the surprise appearance of Hollywood legend Tab Hunter for Jeffrey Schwarz's film TAB HUNTER CONFIDENTIAL; Flare programmer Emma Smart's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration WE LOVE XENA WARRIOR PRINCESS; seven drag performers on stage for the world premiere of Colin Rothbart's DRESSED AS A GIRL; the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary BFI IMAX screening of THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW; a mini-roller derby in honour of IN THE TURN a documentary about an international queer collective of rolling skating activists, Vagine Regime; and an appearance by five members of the original activist group Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners whose stories form the basis of the film PRIDE.

Among the many filmmakers in attendance at the 2015 festival were Stephen Belber (MATCH), Desiree Akhavan (APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR), Mark Christopher (54: THE DIRECTOR'S CUT), Carol Morley (THE FALLING), Patrik-Ian Polk (BLACKBIRD), Mikel Rueda (HIDDEN AWAY), Colette Bothof (SUMMER), Don Sickles (MALA MALA) and Ester Martin Bergsmark (SOMETHING MUST BREAK).

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of BFI Flare in 2016 will see an expanded industry programme, selected films on BFI Player VOD service, a series of special events and lots of surprises.

**PRESS CONTACTS:**

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**NOTES TO EDITORS****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

**Accenture and the BFI**

The festival is delighted to continue its long term relationship with Accenture and in 2016 we welcome them back as Principal Sponsor. We also look forward to welcoming back a number of other long term supporters to the Festival, to be announced.

Accenture has enjoyed a longstanding relationship with the BFI (British Film Institute) and was delighted to extend the connection to become An Official Partner of the BFI until 2016. Accenture is proud to continue as principal sponsor of BFI Flare: London LGBT Film festival and its on-going partnership with the festival demonstrates Accenture's longstanding commitment to supporting diversity. As an employer of choice for LGBT people, Accenture has been recognised in the new Stonewall programme, Stonewall Star Performers – recognising Accenture as one of eight UK organisations who have consistently demonstrated exemplary practice to support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender staff and who will lead the development of best practice in Britain and around the world.

Since 2012, Accenture has provided value-in-kind consulting to support the BFI fulfil its vision for the future. Most notably this involved the BFI's ambition to increase access to the BFI National Film and Television Archive and the BFI worked with Accenture experts on how a BFI branded Player could robustly serve a growing video-on-demand audience. More recently, Accenture has helped the BFI to explore and undertake measures that deliver energy, carbon and cost reductions, supporting its continued growth in a sustainable way. Going forward Accenture and the BFI will explore new digital solutions in order to enable more innovative and efficient capabilities that will benefit the film industry, staff, and audiences alike.

Accenture is delighted to continue to support the BFI and its vision for the future of UK film, including driving greater understanding, appreciation and access to film heritage in the UK.

<http://www.accenture.com/bfi>



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**About Accenture**

Accenture is a leading global professional services company, providing a broad range of services and solutions in strategy, consulting, digital, technology and operations. Combining unmatched experience and specialized skills across more than 40 industries and all business functions—underpinned by the world’s largest delivery network—Accenture works at the intersection of business and technology to help clients improve their performance and create sustainable value for their stakeholders. With approximately 373,000 people serving clients in more than 120 countries, Accenture drives innovation to improve the way the world works and lives. Visit us at [www.accenture.com](http://www.accenture.com).