



**BFI FLARE: LONDON LGBTQ+ FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES INDUSTRY  
PROGRAMME & TALENT GUESTS AT BFI SOUTHBANK**

**KEY SPEAKERS INCLUDE TOMER HEYMANN, PRATIBHA PARMAR, KRISTIENE  
CLARKE & SAVANNAH KNOOP**

**TERENCE STAMP TO ATTEND FOR 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SCREENING OF  
PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT  
21<sup>ST</sup> – 31<sup>ST</sup> March 2019**

**London, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019:** BFI Flare: London LGBTQ+ Film Festival is pleased to announce its 2019 Industry Programme, offering a varied slate of pressing topical industry-focussed discussions with guests including emerging talents and established industry professionals.

The Industry Programme will include events covering topics such as representation of queer youth in film today, the sensitivities and politics of telling 'true' queer stories and crowdfunding as a popular method of financing LGBTQ+ films. In addition, Savannah Knoop, co- screenwriter and subject of BFI Flare's Closing Night film JT LEROY, will conduct a reading from the new edition of their memoir *Girl, Boy, Girl* upon which the film was based at special event that will also be available for public booking

BFI Flare's 2019 industry partners include BFI NETWORK, Directors UK, Forever Young Film Club and Spotlight.

BFI Flare will also host, The Makers, a series of one-to-one interviews with individuals who have made a major contribution to LGBTQ+ film and television throughout their career. This series returns in 2019 with award-winning documentary filmmaker Tomer Heymann (*Jonathan Agassi Saved My Life, Who's Gonna Love Me Now?*), activist and filmmaker, Pratibha Parmar (*Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth, Warrior Marks*) and director and producer Kristiene Clarke (*Give Stigma The Index Finger, The Truth About Gay Sex, Sex Change: Shock! Horror! Probe!*).

A full list of the Industry Programme events are as follows:

*Events are open to all delegates of the Festival only, unless otherwise specified*

**The Makers**

*All in The Studio 15:30 - 16:30*

Friday 22 - **Tomer Heymann**

Tuesday 26 - **Pratibha Parmar**

Wednesday 27 - Kristiene Clarke

**Friday 22 March: Finding the Words, with BFI NETWORK**

**BFI Flare Delegates Centre 13.30 – 14.30**

The 'coming out' story may be a staple of LGBTQ+ filmmaking, but it's also constantly being reinvented. We're seeing new filmmakers reframe, subvert and reimagine the notion of coming out onscreen. Our panel of filmmakers join BFI NETWORK to discuss their various approaches to the subject, the importance of intersectional & non-binary identities in their work and finding your voice as a new filmmaker.

BFI NETWORK exists to discover and support talented writers, directors and producers at the start of their careers. We collaborate with film organisations and leading cultural venues across the UK to offer a range of funding and professional development opportunities.

**Monday 25 March: Producing with Purpose**

**BFI Flare Delegates Centre 13.30 – 14.30**

The role of the producer is often a mystery to those outside the film industry, and even to those in the know, producers are often viewed merely as facilitators. In this masterclass, our panel of producers will explore the role of the producer as a creative, and examine how producers who are committed to telling a range of LGBTQ+ stories can achieve success with a slate of filmmakers.

Speakers include:

Sorcha Bacon (*Sparrow, Wren Boys, Sunday Morning Coming Down, Nightstand*)

Stuart Condy (*My Loneliness is Killing Me, None of the Above, Where We Are Now, Take Your Partners*)

Cecilia Fruguiele (*Appropriate Behaviour, The Miseducation of Cameron Post, Rufus Stone*)

Moderator:

Mary Burke, Senior Development & Production Executive, BFI Film Fund (*God's Own Country, Queerama, Colette, Chelsea XY*)

**Tuesday 26 March: Standing out from the Crowd(fund)**

**BFI Flare Delegates Centre 13.30 – 14.30**

Crowdfunding is becoming an increasingly popular method of funding LGBTQ+ films. Whether seeking full, partial or completion funding, many filmmakers are turning to platforms like Kickstarter and Indiegogo as a way to connect with audiences and fund ambitious projects. But with so many campaigns launching every week, how can filmmakers develop a plan that will help their project rise to the top? Join our panel of filmmakers who have successfully crowdfunded work in this year's Festival to learn the dos, the don'ts, and how to stand out from the crowd.

Speakers include:

Gregor Schmindinger (writer/director, *Nevrland*)

Emmalie El Fadli (writer/director, *The Date*)

**Wednesday 27 March: Young Adult: Queer Teens on Screen, with Forever Young Film Club**

**BFI Flare Delegates Centre 13.30 – 14.30**

Stories for and about young LGBTQ+ people have become increasingly popular in recent years. However audiences and the film industry haven't always loved them. In *Young Adult*, our panel will explore the good, bad and ugly of queer youth representation, the progress that is currently taking place, and how much further we still have to go.

This panel will be hosted by Forever Young Film Club, a programming collective dedicated to celebrating and reappraising coming of age and teen films.

Speakers include: Laurie Nunn, creator of Netflix's *Sex Education*.

**Thursday 28 March: In Search of the Truth: Filming Queer Biographies, with Directors UK**

**BFI Flare Delegates Centre 13.30 – 14.30**

From *Boys Don't Cry* to *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Milk* to *Monster*, films about real-life LGBTQ+ people are a tried and tested hit with audiences. But while we may find figures whose lived experiences jump ready-made for screen from the pages of history, bringing their stories to life can be a complex process. This panel seeks to examine the intricacies of telling 'true' queer stories, from the legalities of who owns a person's history, to the ethical dilemma of applying contemporary understandings of gender and sexuality to historical figures.

Speakers include:

Elizabeth Karlsen (Producer, *Colette*)  
Chanya Button (Director/Co-Writer, *Vita & Virginia*)  
Robert Anderson Clift (Director, *Making Montgomery Clift*)  
Hillary Demmon (Director, *Making Montgomery Clift*)  
Melissa Fish (Founder, Paper & Chain)

Moderator:

Ben Roberts (Deputy CEO, BFI)

**Friday 29 March: Casting Case Studies, with Spotlight**

**BFI Flare Delegates Centre 13.30 – 14.30**

In recent years, the casting of LGBTQ+ films and characters has been re-examined. A movement towards increasing representation and inclusion on screen is growing in urgency, and many filmmakers and Casting Directors are working hard to create opportunities for LGBTQ+ actors. Putting these ambition into practice, however, is not always easy. Our panel of filmmakers and Casting Directors join is to discuss the casting of their own projects, and the often complex journey of casting inclusively.

Speakers include:

Heather Basten (Casting Director, *Batty Boy*, *Treacle*)  
Jack Casey (Producer, *Marco*)  
Christopher Manning (Writer/director, *Isha*)

**Sunday 31 March: Savannah Knoop In-Conversation**

**13:30 BFI Reuben Library**

***Tickets are free with booking opening to public on Thurs 22, via calling the BFI box office (020 7928 3232) or in person only***

In celebration of BFI Flare's closing night film selection, JT LEROY, we are thrilled to welcome Savannah Knoop to the BFI Reuben Library for a Q&A session and reading from *Girl, Boy, Girl*. Knoop's memoir - now adapted for the screen by Knoop and director Justin Kelly - tells of their experience portraying Laura Albert's pseudonymous JT LeRoy in what is now regarded as the most famous literary hoax of all time. Get the inside scoop before you catch Kristen Stewart portraying Savannah on screen!

## **Festival Attending Talent**

Over 50 filmmakers and talent are confirmed to attend BFI Flare including Opening Night director of VITA & VIRGINIA Chanya Button, Closing Night JT LEROY director Justin Kelly and Tomer Heymann, director of the BFI Flare Centrepiece screening JONATHAN AGASSI SAVED MY LIFE. Filmmakers and acting talent also in attendance will include Terence Stamp in support of the fabulous 25th anniversary screening of the Oscar-winning classic THE ADVENTURES OF PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT, Annabel Jankel (TELL IT TO THE BEES), Frédéric Tcheng (HALSTON), Doug Spearman (FROM ZERO TO I LOVE YOU), Fiona Dawson (TRANSMILITARY), Deborah Abate (NO BOX FOR ME. AN INTERSEX STORY), Rodney Evans (VISION PORTRAITS) and Li Cheng (JOSE), amongst others.

## **Press & Industry Screenings**

We are delighted to offer a schedule of Press & Industry Screenings throughout the Festival for the following titles: VITA & VIRGINIA, JONATHAN AGASSI SAVED MY LIFE, TELL IT TO THE BEES, GIANT LITTLE ONES, SUNBURN, TUCKED, HALSTON and JT LEROY.

For further details about Press and Industry accreditation and the full programme, please go to: [www.bfi.org.uk/flare](http://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, BFI Festivals Director.

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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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Festivals Director, Tricia Tuttle.

The full programme of BFI Flare: London LGBTQ+ Film Festival will include 53 feature films, an expanded industry programme, selected films on BFI Player VOD service, a series of special events and archive screenings. fiveFilms4freedom will see Flare offer five LGBT short films for free across the world and promoted through the British Council's global networks. The full programme will be available on 20<sup>th</sup> February. The festival runs 21<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> March [www.bfi.org.uk/Flare](http://www.bfi.org.uk/Flare)

## **About the BFI**

The BFI is the UK's lead organisation for film, television and the moving image. It is a cultural charity that:

- Curates and presents the greatest international public programme of World Cinema for audiences; in cinemas, at festivals and online
- Cares for the BFI National Archive – the most significant film and television archive in the world
- Actively seeks out and supports the next generation of filmmakers
- Works with Government and Industry to make the UK the most creatively exciting and prosperous place to make film internationally

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 2019 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 back Pureland Foundation as our Main Supporter for the second year. Such significant and continued support we could not value more highly. 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 celebrate an amazing tenth year accommodating the Festival's special guests. We are thrilled to announce Mishcon de Reya and Amazon Prime Video who this year both join as new Official Partners. We would also like to thank our returning special screening sponsors, the Interbank LGBT Forum for their continued support of the Festival and we're particularly delighted to see a few new organisations supporting amongst their number. 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, Dalston's Soda, Konditor & Cook, Maltsmiths and Pink Pepper Gin, and lastly, but by no means least, our other hugely important Funding Contributors, Venue Partners and Community Partners.