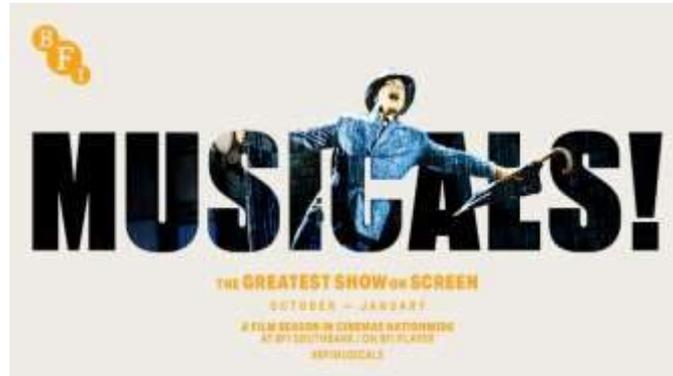


BFI MUSICALS! THE GREATEST SHOW ON SCREEN



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Interviews with BFI spokespeople and selected talent available on request via Liz Parkinson

PRESS RELEASE:

BFI unveils full programme for BFI MUSICALS! THE GREATEST SHOW ON SCREEN

Including BFI UK-wide re-releases of *Tommy*, *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* and ***Singin' in the Rain*** – across the UK from Oct '19 – Jan '20

Embargoed until 18:30, Tuesday 10 September 2019.

This evening the BFI revealed the programme for the UK's greatest ever season celebrating the film musical, at an all-singing, all-dancing event at **BFI Southbank** with special guests including actors **Petula Clark** and **Clarke Peters** and **Patricia Ward Kelly**, wife and biographer of Hollywood legend Gene Kelly. **BFI Musicals** will celebrate the greatest stars including **Gene Kelly**, **Barbra Streisand**, **Judy Garland** and **Doris Day**, and spotlight the directors and composers whose creativity was the driving force behind countless beloved musicals; from the virtuoso choreographer and director **Bob Fosse** (*Cabaret*, *Sweet Charity*) to the late great composer **Michel Legrand** (*Yentl*, *Les demoiselles de Rochefort*). The programme will also shine a light on the musicals which engage with socio-political themes, such as racism or the horrors of the Depression, as well as celebrate the films which provide audiences with escapism from political uncertainty and troubled times; from the Golden Age of Hollywood's box office boom during WW2 and in the post-war years, to the phenomenal successes of the latest musical films like ***The Lion King*** (Jon Favreau, 2019), which has already surpassed \$1.5 billion globally. From singalong screenings to Q&As and immersive events for the whole family, **BFI Musicals** is guaranteed to have the UK singing and dancing in the aisles this autumn.

Head Curator of the BFI National Archive, and BFI Musicals Programmer Robin Baker tonight revealed that the programme would span the length and breadth of the UK, with nationwide re-releases of Ken Russell's rock opera ***Tommy*** (1975), starring Roger Daltrey, Ann-Margret, Elton John, Oliver Reed and Tina Turner, and of Jacques Demy's Palme d'Or-winning ***The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*** (1964) starring Catherine Deneuve and Nino Castelnuovo. Alongside the previously announced BFI re-release of ***Singin' in the Rain*** (Gene Kelly, Stanley Donen, 1952), these re-releases will screen at venues across the UK, alongside a touring programme of 12 musicals presented by the ICO (Independent Cinema Office) and a major series of special events programmed in partnership with the BFI Film Audience Network (BFI FAN). Highlights of the UK-wide BFI FAN programme will include the ***Wizard of Oz*** (Victor Fleming, 1939) in **Belfast** Cathedral; an immersive screening of ***Brigadoon*** (Vincente Minnelli, 1954) in **Edinburgh**; ***Reframing Streisand***, a UK-wide film tour celebrating the iconic star; a series of aquatic themed musicals in and around **Belfast** harbour; and a Russian musicals season in **London**, **Bristol** and **Nottingham**. The full UK-wide programme will be revealed soon.

Special guests from the world of film, TV and musical theatre will take part in events throughout the season, with full line-ups being announced by individual cinemas soon. Guests confirmed for **BFI Southbank** so far include:

- **Imelda Staunton** (Theatre: *Gypsy*, *Follies*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Wizard of Oz*)
- **Patricia Ward Kelly** (Wife and biographer of Hollywood legend Gene Kelly)
- **Clarke Peters** (Theatre: *Five Guys Named Moe* (writer), *Guys and Dolls* (actor), TV: *The Wire*)
- **Kerry Ellis** (Theatre: *Wicked*, *We Will Rock You*)
- **Howard Schuman** (TV: *Rock Follies*)

While the movie musical never truly went away, the last few years have seen a major resurgence in the popularity of the genre, with ***La La Land*** (Damien Chazelle, 2016), ***The Greatest Showman*** (Michael Gracey, 2017) and ***Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again*** (Ol Parker, 2018) taking a combined global box office of more than \$1.25 billion, emulating the Golden Age of Hollywood, when MGM musicals ruled the box office. Meanwhile, Rupert Goold's forthcoming biopic ***Judy*** (2019) starring Renée Zellweger as **Judy Garland**, and TV series ***Fosse/Verdon***, which immortalises director and master choreographer **Bob Fosse** and Tony Award-winning actor and dancer **Gwen Verdon** also point to a renewed interest in the life and work of musical icons. As well as the recent success of the movie musical, theatre audiences continue to lap up musicals on stage, with revenue from the genre in London's West End increasing year on year by 15.4% in 2018 to just shy of £504 million. With stage successes being regularly developed into feature films – such as Tom Hooper's much talked-about ***Cats*** (2019) and next year's adaptations of Lin Manuel Miranda's ***In The Heights*** and British hit ***Everyone's Talking About Jamie*** – it's clear that the movie musical is here to stay.

BFI Musicals will explore the reasons for the current success of the movie musical, including the notion that it is the best form of escapism from the troubled times we are living in. The season will celebrate the greatest stars, directors, composers and choreographers, and look at the stories of the Hollywood, British and international musical. The season will also look to confirm the musical as a genre which, hidden beneath the glitz and glamour, speaks to audiences about profoundly serious subjects, from the hardship of the Depression and the insidiousness of racism to the fight for LGBTQ+ rights.

Robin Baker, Head Curator, BFI National Archive and BFI Musicals Programmer said: *“Welcome to the new golden age of the movie musical. Audiences flock to musicals in troubled times – from Busby Berkeley’s spectacular routines during the Depression to the masterpieces of MGM’s Freed Unit during WW2 – so it’s no surprise that the big screen musical is currently enjoying a major revival. We’re delighted to be bringing both classic musicals and rarities to cinemas across the UK in Britain’s biggest ever celebration of the musical. So, time to leave your woes behind and immerse yourself in the emotional, hairs-on-the-back-of-your-arms-raising joy brought to you on the big screen by Barbra Streisand, Gene Kelly, Doris Day, Bob Fosse, Judy Garland, Beyoncé and an all-singing, all-dancing cast of thousands.”*

BFI MUSICALS THE GREATEST SHOW ON SCREEN will be in cinemas and venues across the UK from **October 2019 to January 2020** and will celebrate the joyful, emotional, shared experience of watching film musicals; with the biggest stars, the most iconic scenes and the best-loved song and dance numbers on the big screen where they belong. **BFI MUSICALS** will include:

- A major season at **BFI Southbank**, with screenings and one-off events, immersive venue takeovers, a pop-up piano musicals bar, quiz nights and much more
- BFI UK-wide re-releases of *Singin’ in the Rain* (Gene Kelly, Stanley Donen, 1952), *Tommy* (Ken Russell, 1975) and *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (Jacques Demy, 1964)
- Hundreds of screenings and events at venues across the UK programmed in partnership with the **BFI Film Audience Network** (BFI FAN) and the **Independent Cinema Office** (ICO); details to be announced in full soon.
- **BFI home entertainment** releases of *Yentl* (Barbra Streisand, 1983) (Blu-ray), *Hair* (Miloš Forman, 1979) (Dual Format Edition) and *Les demoiselles de Rochefort* (Jacques Demy, 1967) (Blu-ray)
- A major musical collection on the BFI’s VOD service **BFI Player**
- 100 newly digitised musicals-themed TV programmes available to watch for free in the **BFI Mediatheque** at **BFI Southbank**

#BFIMusicals

Visit www.bfi.org.uk/musicals for more information and www.bfimusicals.co.uk for full UK-wide listings

– ENDS –

FULL PROGRAMME INFORMATION

THE GREATEST STARS, DIRECTORS AND COMPOSERS

GENE KELLY

BFI Musicals will celebrate the iconic talent of **Gene Kelly**, with screenings and events throughout the season at venues nationwide. A multi-talented dancer, choreographer, actor and director, Kelly is probably best-known for his work in the utterly joyous *Singin' in the Rain* (1952), which he co-directed with frequent collaborator Stanley Donen and starred in alongside Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor; few pinnacles of creativity are as outrageously enjoyable as this Technicolor love song to Hollywood. *Singin' in the Rain* will be re-released by the BFI in selected cinemas across the UK from **Friday 18 October**. The film will also be the centrepiece of two major events organised by events company **Compass Presents** in partnership with Tap Attack, Cirque Bijou, Christmas Spiegel tent and We The Curious. Expanded screenings of the film at **Liverpool Spiegel tent on Wednesday 11 December** and **Bristol Spiegel tent on Wednesday 18 December** will feature projection mapping and performance moments as characters escape the confines of the silver screen.

BFI Southbank will also welcome Gene Kelly's wife and biographer **Patricia Ward Kelly** onstage for a very special event on **Friday 25 October**, offering audiences a unique insight into the life of the Hollywood legend. Kelly brought astonishing grace and athleticism to the big screen, yet audiences know very little about him. **Gene Kelly: The Legacy – An Evening with Patricia Ward Kelly** will be an intimate portrait of this dynamic and innovative artist who created some of the most memorable and iconic scenes in film history. The BFI will also work in partnership with the **ADHD Foundation** and Patricia Ward Kelly to present a special Relaxed Screening of *Singin' in the Rain* for neurodiverse audiences, as well as displaying a bespoke version of the Foundation's [Umbrella Project](#) in BFI Southbank from **Friday 18 October** to mark the re-release of the film. More details of the partnership will be announced soon.

Other work by Gene Kelly screening in the season will include **An American in Paris** (Vincente Minnelli, 1951), starring Kelly and Leslie Caron, featuring an incredible 17 minute ballet sequence (choreographed by Kelly), which won 6 Oscars including Best Picture. With sequences gloriously shot on location in New York, **On the Town** (Gene Kelly, Stanley Donen, 1949) tells the story of three sailors who find romance while on 24-hour shore leave, and is a joy from start to finish. Kelly joins forces with Lucille Ball in the enjoyably absurd **Du Barry Was A Lady** (Roy Del Ruth, 1943), in which, thanks to a drugged drink, the world of a 1940s nightclub is transported to 17th century France. Abandon all logic – the film is about the stars, the eye-popping use of Technicolor and the great musical numbers, plus Kelly's turn as the Black Arrow is like a dry-run for *Singin' in the Rain*. Kelly's directing prowess is on full display with **Hello, Dolly!** (1969), the epic tale of lovable matchmaker Dolly Levi starring Barbra Streisand, Walter Matthau and Michael Crawford. The film will screen at BFI Southbank in a glorious 70mm print to celebrate its 50th Anniversary. The BFI will also release Jacques Demy's **Les demoiselles de Rochefort** (1967) on Blu-ray on **Monday 4 November**, in which Kelly stars alongside real-life sisters Catherine Deneuve and Françoise Dorléac. In addition, New Media Scotland will present immersive screenings in Edinburgh of **Brigadoon** (Vincente Minnelli, 1954), set in the mysterious titular village which only appears for one day each century. 'Atmosphere' screenings have become New Media Scotland's most popular events, re-imagining the concept of Atmospheric movie theatres from the 1920s and 30s to create new forms of immersive cinematic experience. Expect some smoke and mirrors before the bells and whistles, at screenings on **Friday 11 and Saturday 12 October** at Inspace, Edinburgh.

BARBRA STREISAND

The film musical has provided a platform for female stars and telling stories about women. By the time **Barbra Streisand** won an Academy Award for her big screen debut in **Funny Girl** (William Wyler, 1968), she'd had a career that included two Tony nominations, four Grammys and four TV specials. She was still only 26. The late 1960s was not the moment to establish a long career in a medium that was increasingly considered out of step with the times, but through sheer force of talent and personality, Streisand remains one of the definitive stars of the Hollywood musical. The season will include screenings of *Funny Girl*, which Streisand also originally starred in on Broadway, and **Hello, Dolly!** (Gene Kelly, 1969) which celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year, and will screen at BFI Southbank in a sumptuous 70mm print. Streisand's directorial debut **Yentl** (1983) will also get a UK Blu-ray premiere release on **18 November**. The Blu-ray will be packed with extras, including newly commissioned interviews, offering audiences a chance to reappraise this forgotten film, based on a story by Isaac Bashevis Singer. *Yentl* was a passion project for Streisand, which she co-wrote, produced, directed and starred in, and as well as the Blu-ray release it will be made available to venues across the UK for one-off big screen events as part of the ICO tour. Meanwhile, **Reframing**

Streisand will be a Reclaim the Frame event from Birds' Eye View, touring to cities including **London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Plymouth** and **Leeds** in November-December, celebrating Streisand's status as both superstar of stage and screen as well as powerhouse film producer/director and cultural icon. Audience favourites including ***A Star is Born*** (Frank Pierson, 1976), will be screened alongside talks by film historians, critics, LGBTQ+ activists and superfans, plus Drag King/Queen tribute acts, Barbra Beehive workshops, and Barbra-oke.

JUDY GARLAND

The season will feature the star power of the one and only **Judy Garland**, whose contribution to film musicals will be marked, 50 years since her death in 1969. Based on *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, L. Frank Baum's best-selling novel of 1900, ***The Wizard of Oz*** (Victor Fleming, 1939), which celebrates its 80th Anniversary this year, begins in the monochrome world of Kansas but bursts into colour when Dorothy's house, uprooted in a terrible tornado, lands in the surreal fairyland of Oz. Beloved by audiences of all ages, L. Frank Baum's world of Oz also inspired many other works including the award-winning stage musical ***Wicked*** (itself adapted from a novel of 1995). **Kerry Ellis**, who has played the lead role of Elphaba in both the West End and Broadway productions of *Wicked*, will introduce a screening of *The Wizard of Oz* on **Wednesday 4 December** at BFI Southbank. Audiences in **Belfast** will also be able to follow the yellow brick road to Oz at Cinemagic Festival, with a very special screening of the family favourite in the unique surroundings of Belfast Cathedral on **Wednesday 30 October**.

Also screening in BFI Musicals will be ***Meet Me in St. Louis*** (Vincente Minnelli, 1944), first released 75 years ago towards the end of the Second World War in December 1944. It was intended to be the ultimate feel-good movie, offering a joyous antidote to the harsh reality of the times. ***A Star is Born*** (George Cukor, 1954) stars Garland alongside James Mason in the second of four versions of *A Star is Born* that have been made to date, and marked a comeback of sorts for Garland, having not made a film since 1950. The result is perhaps Garland's greatest performance, irrefutable evidence of her skill as a dramatic actor. Further Judy Garland musicals including ***Girl Crazy*** (Busby Berkeley, Norman Taurog, 1943), ***Summer Stock*** (Charles Walters, 1950) and ***Till The Clouds Roll By*** (Richard Whorf, 1946) will also be available as part of the BFI Musicals collection on **BFI Player**.

DORIS DAY

The season will also celebrate the life and work of **Doris Day**, who died earlier this year, including a singalong version of whip-cracking western musical ***Calamity Jane*** (David Butler, 1953), which will tour to selected UK venues. BFI Southbank will host a **Doris Day Day** on **Saturday 7 December**, with a triple bill comprising the biopic of singing star and actress Ruth Etting, ***Love Me or Leave Me*** (Charles Vidor, 1955), Day's screen debut ***It's Magic aka Romance on the High Seas*** (Michael Curtiz, 1948), in a rare 35mm Technicolor print from the BFI National Archive, and the singalong version of *Calamity Jane*.

STANLEY DONEN

As well as celebrating the greatest stars, the season will also laud the greatest directors the genre has seen, including **Stanley Donen**, who died in February 2019; Donen was director and choreographer of some of the most beloved Hollywood musicals ever made, often in partnership with Gene Kelly. Kelly and Donen transformed the musical into pure cinema with ***Singin' in the Rain*** (Gene Kelly, Stanley Donen, 1952) as its highest point. They took ***On the Town*** (Stanley Donen, Gene Kelly, 1949) onto the real streets of New York and made musicals faster and brighter: their camera was more fluid, images more striking and their use of Technicolor always perfectly judged. As well as *Singin' in the Rain* and *On the Town* there will be screenings of Donen's ***Funny Face*** (1957) starring Audrey Hepburn as a girl who is 'discovered' in a book store and whisked off to Paris, where she's clad in Givenchy and taught to become a fashion model. There's a deeply rewarding emotional charm about *Funny Face* that is pure Donen, while Hepburn's movie-musical debut is a revelation.

BOB FOSSE

When 25-year-old dancer/uncredited choreographer **Bob Fosse** flew across the screen in ***Kiss Me Kate*** (George Sidney, 1953) he announced a unique talent that would transform the musical. Too often, however, his genius as a director has been overlooked. Fosse brought his agile camera deep into the action as bodies sweated and strained, fusing sensational dancing with audacious editing, while underlining his taste for the cynical, satirical, distorted and surreal. No wonder his work still feels so vital over 30 years since his death. The season will feature screenings of ***Cabaret*** (Bob Fosse, 1972) the most divinely decadent of all musicals, yet disarmingly resonant today. Fosse underlines the bigotry and brutality of Nazism in pre-war Berlin as seen through the naïve eyes of Kit Kat Klub star Sally Bowles, performed with full-throttled intensity and devastating emotion by Liza Minnelli. ***All That Jazz*** (Bob Fosse, 1979) is an impressive autobiographical film starring Roy Scheider as Joe Gideon, a self-absorbed, womanising, director-choreographer

genius whose relentless lifestyle leads to heart surgery. The film perfectly captures the stresses and heartbreak of back-stage life. Also screening, following its premiere at the **BFI London Film Festival**, is a brand new 50th Anniversary restoration of *Sweet Charity* (Bob Fosse, 1969). Fosse adapted his Broadway hit with such verve that it kicked new energy into the Hollywood musical. Shirley MacLaine is a delight as unlucky-in-love taxi dancer Charity, while Sammy Davis Jr revels in his scene as new-age guru Daddy. A screening of *Sweet Charity* at BFI Southbank on **Sunday 24 November** will be introduced by actor, performer and director **Clarke Peters**, who will talk about the film and its influence on his stage and screen career.

MICHEL LEGRAND

There will be an opportunity to see the work of the great composer **Michel Legrand**, who died in January 2019. The BFI will re-release Jacques Demy's sublime *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (1964), which took home the Palme d'Or in 1964, and features music by Legrand. *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, which will be re-released in selected cinemas on **Friday 6 December**, features sumptuous visuals of stars including Catherine Deneuve and Nino Castelnuovo, and proved to be a major influence on the movie musical, including on Damien Chazelle's Oscar-winning *La La Land* (2016). Also a major influence on *La La Land* was Demy's *Les demoiselles de Rochefort* (1967), which featured music by Michel Legrand. On **Monday 4 November** there will be a BFI Blu-ray release of the film, which features an all-star cast led by real-life sisters Catherine Deneuve and Françoise Dorléac, alongside Gene Kelly, Michel Piccoli and George Chakiris. Also out on BFI Blu-ray on **Monday 18 November** will be *Yentl* (Barbra Streisand, 1983). The release will be packed with extras, including newly commissioned interviews, offering audiences a chance to reappraise this forgotten film based on a story by Isaac Bashevis Singer and with music by Michel Legrand.

KEY STORIES

SOCIO-POLITICAL THEMES

Musicals are often branded as 'escapism', but many of the best engage with politics and the world around them head on. *Show Boat* (James Whale, 1936), *West Side Story* (Robert Wise, Jerome Robbins, 1961) and *Cabaret* (Bob Fosse, 1972) are all potent examples of the genre's exploration of race and racism, while *Hair* (Miloš Forman, 1979), is a joyful anti-Vietnam War musical featuring choreography by Twyla Tharp. The BFI will release a Dual Format Edition of *Hair* (the UK Blu-ray premiere) on **Monday 28 October**. Musicals like *42nd Street* (Lloyd Bacon, 1933) and *Gold Diggers of 1933* (Busby Berkeley, Mervyn LeRoy, 1933), were both made at the height of the Depression and were undoubtedly influenced by the troubled times of the period, with the latter building to an incredibly political conclusion that directly addresses the poor treatment of war veterans. A special event – **The Great Depression, Musicals and Hollywood's New Deal** – on **Monday 4 November** at BFI Southbank will explore this more fully. In addition, Storyhouse, **Chester** will present **Let's Face the Music...** a special movie weekender from **17-19 January 2020** celebrating the greatest Hollywood musical choreographers of the 1930s. The weekender will featuring the work of Busby Berkeley, Seymour Felix, Dave Gould and Hermes Pan and include immersive matinees, midnight martinis and dance, all of which will riff on the 1930s Art Deco features of the building, which was originally opened as an Odeon in 1936.

THE BRITISH MUSICAL

The programme will explore the impact of the British musical domestically and internationally with a focus on 1930s stars like Jessie Matthews and Gracie Fields in *Queen of Hearts* (Monty Banks, 1936) and *First a Girl* (Victor Saville, 1935). We'll also take a look at the very British export, the rock opera, including the cult phenomenon *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Jim Sharman, 1975) and Norman Jewison's *Jesus Christ Superstar* (1973), based on the hit stage musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. *Tommy* (1975), Ken Russell's bold take on The Who's ground-breaking 1969 album, will be re-released in selected cinemas UK-wide on **Friday 22 November**. This feverish feast of unrestrained imagination featuring an all-star cast including Roger Daltrey, Ann-Margret, Oliver Reed, Tina Turner and Elton John, is best enjoyed loud and large, on the big screen.

BFI Southbank will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Herbert Ross' *Goodbye, Mr. Chips* (1969) with a special screening on **Sunday 20 October**. Petula Clark gives one of her finest performances as a stage star who seduces a shy, stuffy school teacher, impeccably played by Peter O'Toole. Set in pre-WWII English suburbia – with a glorious detours to Naples and the Amalfi coast – Leslie Bricusse's musical, based on the classic James Hilton novel, is a beautiful picture postcard of a more genteel time. *Goodbye, Mr. Chips* will also be available in the BFI Musicals collection on **BFI Player**. Selected contemporary British musicals will have one-off screenings in the season, including *Sunshine on Leith* (Dexter Fletcher, 2013), which will be presented by LeithLate in **Leith, Edinburgh** in January 2020. The event will mark the centenary of the amalgamation of Leith with Edinburgh – an area that is still fiercely proud of its historically independent spirit – and take place in Leith Theatre, whose patrons include Irvine Welsh and none other than The

Proclaimers themselves! Also screening will be one of the most successful British musicals of all time – the six-time Oscar-winning *Oliver!* (Carol Reed, 1968). Based on Dickens' classic novel, *Oliver!* features a seemingly endless list of standout songs, from *Food, Glorious Food* and *Consider Yourself* to *Pick a Pocket or Two* and *I'd Do Anything*, so it's only right that the BFI will present singalong screenings of the film during the season.

CELEBRATING THE DIVERSITY OF THE FILM MUSICAL

The season will showcase the trajectory of the Black American Musical, including *Cabin in the Sky* (Vincente Minnelli, 1943), featuring an all-star, all-African-American cast, including Lena Horne, Ethel Waters, Eddie 'Rochester' Anderson and Louis Armstrong. Lena Horne is captivating in her first starring role, but at the film's warm heart is Ethel Waters who, like Horne, rarely got the parts she deserved. One of the earliest films in the entire programme is *Black and Tan* (Dudley Murphy, 1929), starring Fredi Washington and marking the first screen appearance for Duke Ellington. Also screening will be Spike Lee's *School Daze* (1988), based on his own experiences at a leading (historically) black college in Atlanta, and focusing on a politically active student at loggerheads with the leader of a rival fraternity. Jennifer Hudson's Academy Award-winning turn as Effie White in *Dreamgirls* (Bill Condon, 2006) is truly spectacular; the film adaptation of 1981 musical, loosely based on the story of Diana Ross and the Supremes, also stars Beyoncé Knowles, Eddie Murphy and Jamie Foxx. We Are Parable will present a season of screenings and events in cities including **London, Birmingham, Bristol and Manchester**, called **The Art of the Black Visual Album**, celebrating how Black musicians have embraced the visual album in their art, from Prince and Sampha to Kamasi Washington and Janelle Monae.

The impact of Jewish storytellers and performers on musicals cannot be overstated. From composers and lyricists such as Rogers and Hammerstein, Irving Berlin, Leonard Bernstein and George and Ira Gershwin, whose creativity was the driving force behind some of the best-loved musicals of all time, to one of the most influential producers of his day – Arthur Freed, the man who led the MGM Freed Film Unit to produce some of the best-loved musicals of all time, including *Singin' in the Rain* (Gene Kelly, Stanley Donen 1952), *Meet Me in St. Louis* (Vincente Minnelli, 1944) and *The Band Wagon* (Vincente Minnelli, 1953). Yet despite all this talent, it wasn't until Barbra Streisand starred in *Funny Girl* (William Wyler, 1968) that a Jewish star took centre stage in a major movie musical with a Jewish narrative, with its huge success paving the way for further big budget adaptations of Jewish stage musicals such as *Fiddler on the Roof* (Norman Jewison, 1971).

LGBTQ+ musicals like *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (John Cameron Mitchell, 2001) will screen during the season. *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, which screens in a new restoration, is an odyssey through the life of the "internationally ignored" Hedwig, a rock diva trying to reclaim the songs that her rock star ex-boyfriend stole from her and rose to fame with. This is the stuff that trailblazing cult musicals are made of – a great rock soundtrack, ultimate camp and real heart. In partnership with Make A Scene, Live Cinema UK will present two national film tours of Queer cinema classics plus bookable 'musical-only' karaoke and lip sync nights for cinemas to host. A national tour, with confirmed events so far in **Sheffield, Manchester and Belfast**, of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* and *Cabaret* (Bob Fosse, 1972) will take place between **October 2019 and January 2020**. Each screening will include a live performance element, hosted by Make a Scene Manchester and international performer and Trans drag icon Grace Oni Smith. On **World AIDS Day (Sunday 1 December)** there will be a special screening of the film adaptation of *Rent* (Chris Columbus, 2005). The much-loved musical tells the story of a group of struggling young artists in New York, some of whom are living with HIV/AIDS, and stars several of the original Broadway cast including Idina Menzel, Taye Diggs and Anthony Rapp. Also screening at BFI Southbank is a rare example of a British TV musical, the incredibly moving and prescient *Our Gay Wedding: The Musical* (Channel 4, 2014), transmitted to celebrate the legalisation of gay marriage. The events programme at BFI Southbank will delve deep into **Gender and Sexuality in Hollywood Musical**s with a discussion event that examines how gender and sexuality been portrayed in musical narratives, leading to rich queer readings of key films.

INTERNATIONAL MUSICALS

The film musical beyond Hollywood and the UK plays a vital part in the development of the genre, and the programme will include world cinema titles such as Japanese musical comedy *Singing Lovebirds* (Masahiro Makino, 1939). *Singing Lovebirds* will be part of a series of Japanese musicals screening at **Derby Quad** from **Thursday 7 – Saturday 9 November**, which will include films such as Macoto Tezuka's cult classic *The Legend of the Stardust Brothers* (1985), *Princess Raccoon* (Seijun Suzuki, 2005) starring Zhang Ziyi as the titular princess and Sion Sono's brilliantly bonkers rap musical *Tokyo Tribe* (2014). Indian musical melodrama *Pakeezah* (Kamal Amrohi, 1972) will be made available to venues across the UK as part of the ICO tour, while the gloriously romantic film *Mughal-e-Azam* (K Asif, 1960), about the love affair between a prince and dancer set to a soundtrack inspired by Indian classical and folk music, will screen at BFI Southbank. UK-wide events celebrating the best of Indian cinema will include a series of **Friday Night Bollywood**

events presented by **Victoria Park Productions** throughout November at the Mockingbird Cinema **Birmingham**. These include *Pakeezah*, *Sholay* (Ramesh Sippy, 1975) and *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* (Aditya Chopra, 1995). There will be a season celebrating poet and writer Javed Akhtar presented by Phizzical productions in **Coventry** with screenings including *Veer-Zaara* (Yash Chopra, 2004), and *Dil Dhahakne Do* (Zoya Akhtar, 2015), with the latter also screening at the Gateway Film Festival at The Undercroft in **Peterborough** on **Friday 15 November**.

Kino Klassika Foundation will present screenings of famous Soviet Stalin-era propaganda musical *Cossacks of the Kuban* (Ivan Pyryev, 1950) at BFI Southbank in October, as well as a season of Soviet and Russian musicals in **January 2020** at Ciné Lumière in **London**, Watershed Cinema in **Bristol**, Broadway Cinema in **Nottingham**, and selected venues UK-wide. The season in January will include *Cheryomushki* (Gerbert Rappaport, 1963), based on Shostakovich's operetta of the same name exploring housing shortages in Moscow in the 1950s; Soviet classic *Carnival Night* (Eldar Ryazanov, 1956); *Hipsters* (Valeriy Todorovskiy, 2008), an optimistic re-thinking of Soviet counter-culture of the 1950s; and *Leto* (2018), directed by recently detained director Kirill Serebryannikov, exemplifying a controversial new nostalgia towards the Perestroika spirit of freedom.

TECHNICOLOR RARITIES FROM THE BFI NATIONAL ARCHIVE

Continuing the BFI's commitment to showing film on film, BFI Southbank will host screenings of a number of Technicolor rarities from the 40s and 50s during the season, all showing on 35mm Technicolor dye transfer prints from the **BFI National Archive**, offering audiences a very rare opportunity to see these films projected on celluloid. Titles will include Doris Day's big screen debut *It's Magic* (Michael Curtiz, 1948); *I Love Melvin* (Don Weis, 1953) which reunited Donald O'Connor and Debbie Reynolds following *Singin' in the Rain*; and *The Belle of New York* (Charles Waters, 1952) starring Fred Astaire as a wealthy playboy in turn-of-the-century New York.

SINGALONGS, FAMILY SCREENINGS AND MUSICALS ON THE BIGGEST SCREEN IN BRITAIN AT BFI IMAX

Twenty years ago this year, BFI Southbank hosted the very first *Singalonga The Sound of Music* (Robert Wise, 1965), giving rise to the phenomenally popular Sing-a-long-a series. To celebrate the anniversary, the BFI will reunite the original team behind the event, including BFI Musicals programmer **Robin Baker**, **Briony Hanson** (now Director of Film at the British Council) and the original host **Ivan Cartwright** – aka Countess Candy von Trapp – and hopefully some of the audience too (including the winner of the best dressed nun competition, who was in fact, a real nun!). Further special singalong screenings will take place at BFI Southbank and selected UK-wide venues and will feature titles such as *Calamity Jane* (David Butler, 1953), *La La Land* (Damien Chazelle, 2016), *Oliver!* (Carol Reed, 1968), *Grease* (Randall Kleiser, 1978), *West Side Story* (Robert Wise, Jerome Robbins, 1961) and *The Little Mermaid* (John Musker, Ron Clements, 1989), with the latter being hosted by Ariel herself (on roller-skates!). Meanwhile the biggest screen in Britain, BFI IMAX, will also be home unique one-off screenings of *The Greatest Showman* (Michael Gracey, 2017), *My Fair Lady* (George Cukor, 1964) and *Guys and Dolls* (Joseph L Mankiewicz, 1955). Plus, there will be special family-friendly screenings at selected venues including BFI Southbank – from *Mary Poppins* (Robert Stevenson, 1964), *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* (Mel Stuart, 1971) and *Bugsy Malone* (Alan Parker, 1976) to *Aladdin* (Ron Clements, John Musker, 1992), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Ken Hughes, 1968) and *The Muppet Christmas Carol* (Brian Henson, 1992).

UK-WIDE EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BFI FILM AUDIENCE NETWORK (BFI FAN)

Hundreds of events and screenings across the UK, programmed in partnership with the **BFI Film Audience Network** (BFI FAN) will take place during the season; many of these are mentioned under their corresponding themes. The full UK-wide programme will be being announced soon, including details of Belfast Film Festival's **Ship Ahoy** season in November; a project which taps into the city's rich maritime heritage, the series will include musicals such as *Moana* (Ron Clements, John Musker, 2016), *Show Boat* (James Whale, 1936) and *Mamma Mia* (Phyllida Lloyd, 2008) screened in and around **Belfast** harbour.

INDEPENDENT CINEMA OFFICE (ICO) TOUR

The **Independent Cinema Office** (ICO) will present a touring programme of 12 musical films, from Hollywood classics to international musicals and singalong titles, enabling cinemas and community venues far and wide to book screenings and take part in BFI Musicals. The films touring to venues will include: *First a Girl* (Victor Saville, 1935), *Guys and Dolls* (Joseph L. Mankiewicz, 1955), *A Star is Born* (George Cukor, 1954), *Cabaret* (Bob Fosse, 1972) *Yentl* (Barbra Streisand, 1983), *Calamity Jane* (singalong version) (David Butler, 1953), *Top Hat* (Mark Sandrick, 1935), *Carousel* (Henry King, 1956), *Sweet Charity* (Bob Fosse, 1969), *Pakeezah* (Kamal Amrohi, 1972), *Cabin in the Sky* (Vincente Minnelli, 1943) and *Singing Lovebirds* (Masahiro Makito, 1939). Major seasons will take place at a number of key regional venues featuring films from the tour, including Chapter in **Cardiff** and GFT in **Glasgow**.

BFI PLAYER COLLECTION

BFI Musicals will also get a big showcase on **BFI Player**, making highlights from the season available on VOD nationwide. The collection will include classics such as *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (Stanley Donen, 1954) and *An American in Paris* (Vincente Minnelli, 1951), and British musicals including the extravagant works of Ken Russell such as *The Boy Friend* (1971). Also on BFI Player will be *Meet Me in St. Louis* (Vincente Minnelli, 1944), *Girl Crazy* (Busby Berkeley, Norman Taurog, 1943) and *Summer Stock* (Charles Walters, 1950), all starring Judy Garland, while cult, and LGBTQ+ titles will include *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (John Cameron Mitchell, 2001) and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Frank Oz, 1986). Also available will be *Million Dollar Mermaid* (Mervyn LeRoy, 1952) starring former swimmer Esther Williams, who starred in around a dozen MGM 'aqua-musicals' in the 1940s and 50s.

MEDIATHEQUE COLLECTION

The **Mediatheque** at **BFI Southbank** will be home to a major new collection of TV documentaries and other specially-digitised treats celebrating musicals of stage and screen, all free to view and mostly unavailable to view elsewhere. Relive West End performances of *Cabaret* (1994), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (2013) and *Gypsy* (2015). Go behind the scenes on productions of *Company* (1972), *Evita* (1978), *Guys and Dolls* (1982), *Miss Saigon* (1989), *Oklahoma!* (2000) and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (2013). Discover how *Evita* (Alan Parker, 1996) and *Les Misérables* (Tom Hooper, 2012) were adapted for cinema, and *Absolute Beginners* (Julien Temple, 1986) transposed from novel to big screen. Learn the craft with profiles of star choreographers, lyricists, composers and performers including Bob Fosse, Stephen Sondheim, Tim Rice, Lionel Bart, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Elaine Paige and Liza Minnelli. And 50 years after Judy Garland's tragic death, go in search of Oz.

INTO FILM FESTIVAL

There will be a strand dedicated to BFI Musicals in the [Into Film Festival](#) (6-22 November)

#BFIMusicals

Visit www.bfi.org.uk/musicals for more information and www.bfimusicals.co.uk for full UK-wide listings

– ENDS –

SELECTION OF IMAGES

All the below images and more can be downloaded via this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/av0g17iiommr5wp/AACmgr03qxb1g0o5Uo-a6uRja?dl=0>

The Greatest Showman



The Sound of Music



Cabaret



Singin' in the Rain



La La Land



Les demoiselles de Rochefort



Hedwig and the Angry Inch



The Umbrellas of Cherbourg



On the Town



Yentl



Goodbye, Mr. Chips



Pakeezah



Cabin in the Sky



My Fair Lady



Sweet Charity



The Wizard of Oz



Guys and Dolls



Tommy



Swing Time



Dreamgirls



Fiddler on the Roof



Gold Diggers of 1933



Moving image assets – including the BFI Musicals trailer – are available on request

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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.

About the BFI Film Audience Network

Supported by National Lottery funding, the BFI Film Audience Network (FAN), is central to the BFI's aim to ensure the greatest choice of film is available for everyone. Established in 2012 to build wider and more diverse UK cinema audiences for British and international film, FAN is a unique, UK-wide collaboration made up of eight Hubs managed by leading film organisations and venues strategically placed around the country. FAN also supports talent development with BFI NETWORK Talent Executives in each of the English Hubs, with a mission to discover and support talented writers, directors and producers at the start of their careers.

BFI Musicals is a celebration of musicals on screen, led by BFI, the Independent Cinema Office and Film Hub Midlands on behalf of the BFI Film Audience network, supported by funds from the National Lottery.

