The 62nd BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express® adds *The Sisters Brothers*, *Sorry to Bother You* and *Dragged Across Concrete* to the programme line-up, as well as talks with Maggie Gyllenhaal, Clint Mansell, and Boots Riley.

Embargo: Tuesday 18 September, 12pm GMT

**LONDON, Tuesday 18 September:** The 62nd BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express® today announced the addition of three new films and three new talks to the 2018 programme line-up. Films include Jacques Audiard’s Venice Silver Lion Winner *The Sisters Brothers* (Audiard is a two-time previous winner of BFI LFF’s Official Competition), Boots Riley’s satirical hit *Sorry to Bother You* and S. Craig Zahler returns to the LFF for the third time with *Dragged Across Concrete*. Maggie Gyllenhaal joins the Screen Talks roster alongside previously announced Keira Knightley, Alfonso Cuarón and Lee Chang-dong. Clint Mansell and Boots Riley are announced for LFF Connects, talks with artists working at the intersection of film and other creative industries, joining the previously announced David Hare and Simon Amstell.

**NEW FILM ADDITIONS:**

**THE SISTERS BROTHERS**
Strand: Journey
Credits: **Dir** Jacques Audiard. **Prod** Pascal Caucheteux, Grégoire Sorlat, Michel Merkt, Megan Ellison, Michael De Luca, Alison Dickey, John C. Reilly, Jean-Pierre Dardenne, Luc Dardenne, Enrique López Lavigne, Cristian Mungiu. **Scr** Jacques Audiard, Thomas Bidegain. **With** John C. Reilly, Joaquin Phoenix, Jake Gyllenhaal. France, Spain, Belgium 2018. 120min. **Sales** IMR International

Screenings:
- Fri 19 Oct Empire Haymarket  20:30
- Sat 20 Oct Cineworld Leicester Square   11:15
- Sun 21 Oct VUE West End  10:30

John C. Reilly and Joaquin Phoenix play sibling hired killers in Jacques Audiard’s (*Rust and Bone*, *A Prophet*) touching, darkly funny and free-wheeling Western THE SISTERS BROTHERS. Charlie (Joaquin Phoenix) and Eli (John C Reilly) are the Sisters brothers, assassins sent by the fearsome Commodore to kill chemist and prospector Hermann Warm (Riz Ahmed), but first to extract by any means his formula for a liquid that illuminates gold. Setting out ahead of the brothers to locate Warm, tracker John Morris (Jake Gyllenhaal) ruminates on the dizzying pace of change. Featuring a quartet of note-perfect performances, each of the men also searches his own soul: Eli longs for some of life’s simpler pleasures; Charlie doesn’t see much
point in struggling against a destiny bequeathed by his pitilessly violent past; Morris and Warm aspire to a life free of incessant greed and brutality. Adapting from a novel by Patrick DeWitt, Audiard and co-writer Thomas Bidegain deliver a piquantly humorous examination of the nature of violence, fraternity and male friendship. Exquisitely crafted throughout, Alexandre Desplat’s score is a particular delight.

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU
Strand: Laugh
Credits: **Dir-Scr** Boots Riley. **Prod** Nina Yang Bongiovi, Forest Whitaker, Charles D King, George Rush, Jonathan Duffy, Kelly Williams. **With** Lakeith Stanfield, Tessa Thompson, Steven Yeun. USA 2018. 111min. **UK Distribution** Universal Pictures

Screenings:
Thu 11 Oct  BFI Southbank  18:10
Fri 12 Oct  Embankment Garden Cinema  14:15
Sun 14 Oct  VUE West End  17:30

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU joins the Laugh Strand, receiving its UK Premiere at the LFF. A mild-mannered call centre operator whizzes up the corporate ladder after he discovers a unique ability to adopt a “white voice” in writer-director Boots Riley’s breathlessly inventive satire. With Cassius Green’s (Lakeith Stanfield) newly discovered talent, it’s not long before he rises through the ranks of his company, moving closer to the inner circle of coke-snorting entrepreneur Steve Lift (Armie Hammer). But as Cassius soon discovers, Steve has some disturbing ambitions for him and the cost of success could be more than just alienation from both his colleagues and activist girlfriend Detroit (Tessa Thompson). Bursting with ideas, visual panache and caustic wit, Riley acerbically lampoons office life and offers savage commentary on the young African-American experience. Joining a triumphant new wave of radical black cinema, SORRY TO BOTHER YOU establishes Riley as a filmmaking force to be reckoned with.

DRAGGED ACROSS CONCRETE
Strand: Cult
Credits: **Dir-Scr** S. Craig Zahler. **Prod** Keith Kjarval, Dallas Sonnier, Tyler Jackson, Jack Heller, Sefton Fincham. **With** Mel Gibson, Vince Vaughn, Tory Kittles. Canada-USA 2018. 159min. **Sales** Bloom

Screenings:
Tue 16 Oct  Picturehouse Central  20:40
Thu 18 Oct  VUE West End  20:00

DRAGGED ACROSS CONCRETE is as brutal and uncompromising as the title would suggest. The third feature from S. Craig Zahler (*Bone Tomahawk*, *Brawl in Cell Block 99*) is another instant classic. When disillusioned old-time cop Brett Ridgeman (Mel Gibson) and his cocky younger partner Anthony Lurasetti (Vince Vaughn) are caught on camera forcefully strong-arming a suspect, their renegade approach to law enforcement gets them both suspended. With their egos bruised, and their finances depleted, the pair impulsively resort to a criminal plan which sees them cross paths with Henry Jones, a recently released ex-con desperate to rescue his family from poverty, by any means available. Punctuated by moments of distressingly savage violence (and a dose of wickedly black humour), Zahler’s latest masterwork is an
impeccably styled, daringly unconventional genre exercise, likely to enthrall and appal in equal measures. Brace yourselves, crime thrillers are rarely boiled quite so hard.

SCREEN TALKS / LFF CONNECTS

SCREEN TALK: MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL
Date, time and location: Friday, 19 October, 12:00, BFI Southbank

Maggie Gyllenhaal discusses a dazzling career playing smart, complex female characters, most recently captivating as a teacher who becomes obsessed with a young gifted student in THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER.

Gyllenhaal gained international attention with her supporting performance in the 2001 cult classic DONNIE DARKO. She was launched to indie film stardom by her unforgettable lead performance in the following year’s SECRETARY, for which she received her first Golden Globe nomination. The rising star followed this up with supporting turns in 40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS, and in two Charlie Kaufman films: ADAPTATION and CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND.

Gyllenhaal received huge acclaim for playing a recovering heroin addict in SHERRYBABY and in 2009 earned her first Oscar nomination, for Best Supporting Actress in CRAZY HEART. She won her first Golden Globe Award and an Emmy nomination in 2015 for the TV mini-series THE HONOURABLE WOMAN, while this year has brought another Golden Globe nomination for her acting work on HBO’s acclaimed drama THE DEUCE. Gyllenhaal also serves as producer for both the TV series and THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER.

LFF CONNECTS: CLINT MANSELL
Date, time and location: Thursday, 11 October, 18:45, VUE West End

Clint Mansell, composer of LFF Special Presentation OUT OF BLUE and LFF Official Competition selection HAPPY NEW YEAR, COLIN BURSTEAD, joins us to reflect on a remarkable journey from cult indie rocker to successful film and TV music composer.

After notching up 11 Top 40 UK hits as the front man of UK alt-rock grebo band Pop Will Eat Itself, Mansell headed to New York where a chance introduction to independent auteur Darren Aronofsky led to his film score debut, for 1998’s cult classic PI. This director-composer union has gone from strength to strength, the pair having worked together on REQUIEM FOR A DREAM, THE FOUNTAIN, THE WRESTLER, the Grammy-nominated BLACK SWAN and NOAH.

Known for his darkly alluring sonic signature, Mansell’s work has been heard on Duncan Jones’ award-winning MOON, Park Chan-wook’s STOKER, and Ben Wheatley’s dystopian drama HIGH RISE, as well as the widely adored BLACK MIRROR episode ‘San Junipero’ and Oscar-nominated animated feature LOVING VINCENT.

At LFF with both OUT OF BLUE and HAPPY NEW YEAR, COLIN BURSTEAD, Mansell joins us to discuss his innovative approach to making music for film, the collaborative and creative process of writing a score, and the power and importance of a film’s soundtrack.
LFF CONNECTS: BOOTS RILEY
Date, time and location: Thursday, 11 October, 15:30, BFI Southbank

Multi-hyphenate rapper, director, activist, author, poet, producer and screenwriter Boots Riley joins us to examine his work as socially conscious artist and activist.

Until recently, best known as the lead vocalist of political hip hop groups The Coup and Street Sweeper Social Club, Boots Riley is fervently dedicated to the struggle for political change through culture.

His interest in politics began at a young age, inspiring him to join the Progressive Labor Party and the International Committee Against Racism as a young teenager, and latterly the Occupy Oakland movement and activist group The Young Comrades.

But he’s also recently turned to filmmaking with explosive success. His directorial debut SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, is a biting, brilliantly funny critique of capitalism, greed and institutional racism, with its huge commercial success in the US suggesting he’s tapped into the pulse of a politically engaged generation. Riley joins us to share thoughts on the role of art in politics and discuss a career that shows how popular art and political engagement can co-exist.

Tickets go on sale to BFI Champions Wed 19 Sep 10:00, BFI Members Wed 19 Sep 11:00 and to the public from Thu 20 Sep 10:00.

-END-

For further press information and general enquiries about the 62nd BFI London Film Festival:

OPENING/CLOSING AND HEADLINE GALAS, SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS and ASSOCIATED SCREEN TALKS:
Email: LFFPress@ddapr.com | Tel: +44 +207 932 9800
Head of Press: Kate Hudson     Festival Publicity Assistant: Georgie Markham

For Opening Night Red Carpet Media Enquiries and all Red Carpets for HEADLINE GALAS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:
Email: LFFRedcarpet1@ddapr.com | Tel: +44 207 932 9800
Media Manager: Hannah Tatum    Red Carpet Assistant: Gabriella Syer-Willoughby

MAIN FESTIVAL PROGRAMME AND STRAND GALAS, COMPETITIVE SECTIONS and FILMMAKER TEAS:
Email: lffmainprogramme@ddapr.com | Tel: +44 +207 932 9800
Head of Press: Rob Deacon    Festival Publicity Assistant: Holly Gregory
Strand Publicists: Lucy Fleet, Bola Akande, Nikki Aslatt

For Red Carpet Media Enquiries for MAIN FESTIVAL PROGRAMME AND STRAND GALAS
Email: LFFRedcarpet2@ddapr.com |Tel: +44 207 932 9800
Media Manager: Sam Ross

LFF CONNECTS AND SCREEN TALKS:
Email: screentalksandconnects@ddapr.com | Tel: +44 +207 932 9800
GENERAL ENQUIRIES and FESTIVAL ACCREDITATION

BFI London Film Festival PR Manager: Mia Farrell
Email: Mia.Farrell@bfi.org.uk | Tel: +44 (0)20 7957 8970
Accreditation email: LFFPressAccreditation@bfi.org.uk

BFI Head of Press and PR: Judy Wells
Judy.Wells@bfi.org.uk

Festival Information & Ticket Booking
Telephone Bookings: 020 7928 3232 between 10:00 – 20:30
Online: www.bfi.org.uk/lff
In person: BFI Southbank Office: 10:00 – 20:30

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
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI is a Government arm’s-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger.

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 diverse
films, 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.

Tricia Tuttle Biography
Tricia Tuttle’s appointment as Artistic Director follows five successful years as Deputy Head of Festivals at BFI, including BFI Flare and BFI London Film Festival. Moving from North Carolina in 1997 to complete a joint MA at BFI and Birkbeck, University of London in Film and TV Studies, Tricia’s passion for film has seen her work as a programmer, lecturer, writer and journalist. Her career has spanned a five-year tenure at BAFTA, starting in 2008 and with her appointment as Film Programme Manager in 2011; programming the BFI London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival (the pre-cursor to BFI Flare) and as Event Producer at London’s The Script Factory. Highly regarded by the BFI and industry, Tuttle has been instrumental in evolving BFI Festivals, continuing to expand audience reach year on year and introducing impactful initiatives such as BFI Flare’s FiveFilms4Freedom, in partnership with the British Council.

About Amex Invites
American Express connects Cardmembers to the kinds of rewarding experiences and opportunities that matter to them and their businesses. Through Amex Invites, Cardmembers have access to presale tickets, as well as the best seats and exclusive offers at some of the UK’s most sought-after entertainment events via partnerships with a range of entertainment institutions including AEG, Live Nation, Somerset House, The British Film Institute and The National Theatre. Amex Invites is just one example of the powerful backing that American Express provides its customers.

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