62ND BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AMERICAN EXPRESS® ANNOUNCES 2018 JURIES

This year’s Jury Presidents are: LENNY ABRAHAMSON (Official Competition), FRANCIS LEE (First Feature Competition), SIMON CHINN (Documentary Competition) and RUNGANO NYONI (Short Film Competition)

Other Jurors are: Official Competition (Best Film Award) – Baz Bamigboye, Emilia Clarke, Dominic Cooper, Cairo Cannon, Gonzalo Maza, Andrea Riseborough

First Feature Competition (Sutherland Award) – Maria Djurkovic, Natalie Dormer, Will Poulter, Inge de Leeuw, Ben Bailey Smith

Documentary Competition (Grierson Award) – Lucy Cohen, Charlie Lyne, Daisy Asquith, Anita Rani

Short Film Competition (Short Film Award) – Ayo Akingbade, Joe Lawlor, Christine Molloy, Oliver Sim, Anya Taylor-Joy

London – 2 October 2018: The 62nd BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express® announces its jury line-up for this year’s Festival Awards. The juries will be led by: Academy Award®-nominated director Lenny Abrahamson, nominee for the LFF Best Film Award for Room (LFF 2015 and also director of Frank, winner Best Screenplay BIFA 2014); Francis Lee, winner of the 2017 BIFA for Best Début Screenwriter for God’s Own Country; the prolific, award-winning documentary producer Simon Chinn, who won the 2009 and 2013 Academy Award® for Best Documentary for Man on Wire and Searching For Sugarman respectively; and director Rungano Nyoni, whose film I Am Not A Witch was in the First Feature competition in the Festival last year (securing her a nomination for the IWC Schaffhausen Filmmaker Bursary Award in association with the BFI), won the BAFTA for Outstanding Début by a British Writer, Director or Producer and is the UK’s entry for Best Foreign Language Film for the 2019 Academy Awards®.

The Festival celebrates the highest creative achievements of British and international filmmakers in its Competitive sections, applauding extraordinary storytelling and inventive filmmaking across all the categories. This year’s line-up across the competitive sections showcases the enormous depth and diversity of talent working in the global film industry today, with female directors or co-directors making
up at least half of the films in three out of the four categories (Official Competition, First Feature Competition, Short Film Competition).

The winners in each competition will be selected by our hand-picked juries, and for the first time this year, the winners will be revealed in front of a public audience on the evening of Saturday, October 20. Each winning film will be presented as a surprise screening in each category at Vue Leicester Square, preceded on stage by the presentation of the Festival’s official award, the bronze Star of London, in the presence of Artistic Director Tricia Tuttle, the President of the Jury and the winning filmmaker. This places audiences at the very heart of the awards celebration and encourages them to experiment and see the winning films as a surprise. This year’s Awards are supported by Italian luxury eyewear brand, Persol.

OFFICIAL COMPETITION

**Lenny Abrahamson, Official Competition President said:** "As someone who has had films in the London Film Festival and loved the experience, it’s a particular honour to come back this year as President of the Jury for the Official Competition. The films in this section were chosen because they represent inventive and distinctive film making of the highest calibre and I’m so looking forward to immersing myself in the process of watching, reflecting on and discussing all this great work with the other members of the jury."

LENNY ABRAHAMSON is joined by: BAZ BAMIGBOYE – the award-winning entertainment columnist for the Daily Mail group of newspapers; highly acclaimed British actress EMILIA CLARKE, whose credits include *Solo: A Star Wars Story, Game of Thrones* and *Me Before You*; DOMINIC COOPER – the British star of *Mamma Mia, An Education* (SAG nominee) and *The History Boys*; CAIRO CANNON – the producer of *Dreams of a Life* (LFF 2011) *The Falling* (LFF Official Competition 2014) and *Out of Blue*, screening as a Special Presentation in the Festival this year; GONZALO MAZA, the Chilean producer and screenwriter of *Gloria* and *A Fantastic Woman*, winner of the Academy Award® for Best Foreign Language Film; and the multi-award-winning British actress ANDREA RISEBOROUGH, whose credits include *Birdman, Shadow Dancer, Nocturnal Animals* and the Primetime Emmy-winning *Black Mirror*.

The Best Film Award recognises inspiring, inventive and distinctive filmmaking. The Official Competition films are:

- **BIRDS OF PASSAGE**, Cristina Gallego and Ciro Guerra
- **DESTROYER**, Karyn Kusama (European Premiere)
- **HAPPY AS LAZZARO**, Alice Rohrwacher
- **HAPPY NEW YEAR, COLIN BURSTEAD.**, Ben Wheatley (World Premiere)
- **IN FABRIC**, Peter Strickland
- **JOY**, Sudabeh Mortezai
- **THE OLD MAN AND THE GUN**, David Lowery
- **SHADOW**, Zhang Yimou
- **SUNSET**, László Nemes
• TOO LATE TO DIE YOUNG, Dominga Sotomayor

FIRST FEATURE COMPETITION

Francis Lee, First Feature Competition President said: “The Sutherland Award is an important honour bringing a focus onto the first time filmmaker and I am feeling very privileged to be President of the jury this year”

FRANCIS LEE’s fellow jurors are the Academy Award® and BAFTA-nominated Production Designer MARIA DJURKOVIC (The Imitation Game, Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy, The Hours, Billy Elliot); British actor and Screen Actors Guild nominee NATALIE DORMER (Game of Thrones, The Riot Club, Rush, The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Pt 2); 2014 BAFTA Rising Star winner WILL POULTER, whose credits include The Maze Runner, The Revenant and The Little Stranger; International Film Festival Rotterdam programmer INGE DE LEEUW, who has curated several special programmes for IFFR, including the widely travelled ‘Out of Fashion’ (2011) and Everyday Propaganda (2015); and multi-talented British rapper, comedian, actor, screenwriter and radio presenter BEN BAILEY SMITH (aka Doc Brown).

The Sutherland Award for the First Feature Competition has been recognising original and imaginative début feature directing talent since 1958. This year’s nominated directors are:

• Lila Avilés, THE CHAMBERMAID
• Soudade Kaadan, THE DAY I LOST MY SHADOW
• Cathy Yan, DEAD PIGS
• Lukas Dhont, GIRL
• Isabella Eklöf, HOLIDAY
• Celia Rico Clavellino, JOURNEY TO A MOTHER’S ROOM
• Harry Wootliff, ONLY YOU (European Premiere)
• Richard Billingham, RAY & LIZ
• Ivan Ayr, SONI
• Paul Dano, WILDLIFE

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

Simon Chinn, Documentary Competition President comments: “It’s an exciting time for feature documentaries internationally and this year’s competition reflects the way the genre is continuing to evolve in terms of range, originality and cinematic ambition. I’m truly honoured to be presiding over the jury with such a great group of fellow jurors."

Joining SIMON CHINN are BAFTA nominee and winner of last year’s Grierson Award for Kingdom of Us, LUCY COHEN; the award-winning director and critic CHARLIE LYNE, whose film Lasting Marks is a Short Film Award nominee at this year’s Festival; BAFTA-nominated director, producer and cinematographer DAISY ASQUITH (Queerama, After The Dance); and British radio and television presenter ANITA RANI.
The Grierson Award presented in partnership with The Grierson Trust recognises cinematic documentaries with integrity, originality and social or cultural significance. The documentaries selected this year are:

- **BISBEE ‘17**, Robert Greene
- **DREAM AWAY**, Marouan Omara, Johanna Domke
- **EVELYN**, Orlando von Einsiedel (World Premiere)
- **JOHN MCENROE: IN THE REALM OF PERFECTION**, Julien Farau
- **THE PLAN THAT CAME FROM THE BOTTOM UP**, Steve Sprung (World Premiere)
- **PUTIN’S WITNESSES**, Vitaly Mansky
- **THE RAFT**, Marcus Lindeen
- **THEATRE OF WAR**, Lola Arias
- **WHAT YOU GONNA DO WHEN THE WORLD’S ON FIRE?**, Robert Minervini
- **YOUNG & ALIVE**, Matthieu Bareyre

**SHORT FILM AWARD**

**Rungano Nyoni, Short Film Competition President comments**: “It was an honour to be asked. I’ve been to LFF as a filmmaker with my short film and my feature film which competed in the first film competition last year. It’s a pleasure to return this year in my capacity as Jury president. What I am also quite impressed by is that I get to see the films in an actual cinema. That’s an incredibly gracious and respectful gesture towards the filmmakers that sweated for their shorts. Looking forward to full immersion.”

RUNGANO NYONI’s fellow jurors are British director AYO AKINGBADE (Tower XYZ, A is for Artist); JOE LAWLOR AND CHRISTINE MOLLOY the Dublin-born filmmaking duo Desperate Optimists (Helen, Who Killed Brown Owl); Musician and composer OLIVER SIM from the Mercury Prize-winning British indie pop band the XX; and BAFTA EE Rising Star Award nominee ANYA TAYLOR-JOY (Sutherland Award winner The Witch (LFF 2015), The Miniaturist, Split).

The Short Film Award recognises short form works with a unique cinematic voice, which demonstrate a confident handling of chosen theme and content. The nominations are:

- **ANOTHER DECADE**, Morgan Quaintance
- **DE NATUTRA**, Lucile Hadžihalilović
- **THE FIELD**, Sandhya Suri
- **HELLO, RAIN**, C J ‘Fiery’ Obasi
- **LASTING MARKS**, Charlie Lyne
- **LEASH**, Harry Lighton
- **MONELLE**, Diego Marcon
- **SALAM**, Claire Fowler
- **SOLAR WALK**, Réka Bucsi
- **VESLEMOY’S SONG**, Sofia Bohdanowicz
For further press information and general enquiries about the 62nd BFI London Film Festival:

Please note the different festival sections, contacts and accreditation for 2018

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT COMPETITIVE SECTIONS:
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Festival Information & Ticket Booking
BFI Members’ priority booking opens 10.00am, 6 September – join at www.bfi.org.uk/join
Public booking opens 10.00am, 13 September
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.

**The Star of London**

The Star of London is the official award presented by the BFI London Film Festival to the winners of its competitive categories. It is made of bronze and was designed for the Festival by Sculptor Almuth Tebbenhoff.

**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 Persol
Persol is an eyewear brand which boasts a 100-year heritage, its name synonymous with exquisite materials and artisanal Italian craftsmanship. Long at the confluence of the everyday and the extraordinary, Persol glasses were originally conceived to help tram drivers navigate the streets of Turin but they have since become the favourite of actors, artists and the cultivated and curious.

Persol has had a strong link with cinema since the swinging 60’s when Italian actor Marcello Mastroianni wore the 649 model in ‘Divorce, Italian Style’ and King of Cool Steve McQueen donned a pair of, now iconic, folding 714 model in 1968 hit ‘The Thomas Crown Affair’. These days Persol is the brand of choice of contemporary movie stars such as Bradley Cooper, Daniel Craig and Lea Seydoux.

persol.com

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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