

BFI **BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL 2019**
2-13 OCTOBER

In partnership with
AMERICAN EXPRESS

**63RD BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL AMERICAN EXPRESS GALA
IS EUROPEAN PREMIERE OF RIAN JOHNSON'S
KNIVES OUT**



Embargo, Monday 19th August: 9.00am GMT

LONDON, Monday, 19th August: The 63rd BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express is delighted to announce **KNIVES OUT**, written and directed by Rian Johnson, and starring Daniel Craig, Chris Evans, Ana De Armas, Jamie Lee Curtis, Toni Colette, Katherine Langford and Christopher Plummer, will be this year's American Express Gala. This fresh and modern take on a classic "whodunit", which comes from Lionsgate and MRC, will receive its European Premiere on Tuesday, 8th October at the Odeon Luxe, Leicester Square. Rian Johnson and some cast members are expected to attend.

Acclaimed writer and director Rian Johnson (*Brick*, *Looper*, *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*) pays tribute to mystery mastermind Agatha Christie in **KNIVES OUT**, a fun, modern-day murder mystery where everyone is a suspect. When renowned crime novelist Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer) is found dead at his estate just after his 85th birthday, the inquisitive and debonair Detective Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) is mysteriously enlisted to investigate. From Harlan's dysfunctional family to his devoted staff, Blanc sifts through a web of red herrings and self-serving lies to uncover the truth behind Harlan's untimely death. With an all-star ensemble cast including Chris Evans, Ana de Armas, Jamie Lee Curtis, Toni Collette, Don Johnson, Michael Shannon, LaKeith Stanfield, Katherine Langford and Jaeden Martell, **KNIVES OUT** is a witty and stylish whodunnit guaranteed to keep audiences guessing until the very end.

Rian Johnson, writer and director, commented "I'm thrilled to be screening **KNIVES OUT** at the BFI London Film Festival. This film was an attempt to capture the twisty fun of an Agatha Christie whodunnit, it's a great pleasure to be showing it in the country responsible for the genre's golden age."

Tricia Tuttle, BFI London Film Festival Director said “With *Knives Out*, Rian Johnson has crafted a devilishly clever and wickedly entertaining new crime caper. As with his previous work, Johnson brings immense erudition and passion for the conventions of the genre he’s working in, but always makes something entirely his own. This is impeccably designed, with writing that keeps you guessing to the final moments and his extraordinary cast are at their arch and compelling best. *Knives Out* is a whodunit, as sharp as the blade that killed the patriarch at the heart of the film and we are overjoyed to present the European Premiere as our principle partner, American Express’s Gala.”

Lionsgate and MRC present, a T-STREET production, with Lionsgate UK releasing KNIVES OUT in cinemas across the UK on 27th November 2019.

The 63rd BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express takes place from Wednesday 2nd October-Sunday 13th October 2019. The full Festival programme will be announced on Thursday 29 August 2019.

- Ends-

Assets – Stills/Trailer

Please credit still as follows: Courtesy of Lionsgate UK

Direct link to images: http://panthercdn.dmsukltd.com/pan6/lionsgate/knives_out/pol/all_stills.zip

Direct link to trailer:

http://panthercdn.dmsukltd.com/pan6/lionsgate/knives_out/pol/lionsgate_knives_out_teaser_trailer_hd-1080.mov

Direct link to trailer with bumper:

http://panthercdn.dmsukltd.com/pan6/lionsgate/knives_out/pol/lionsgate_knives_out_teaser_trailer_with_bumper_hd-1080.mov

For further press information and general enquiries about the 63rd BFI London Film Festival:

Please note the contacts and red-carpet accreditation for the different festival sections.

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GENERAL ENQUIRIES and FESTIVAL ACCREDITATION

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For further details on the UK release of Knives Out:

Aimee Hall & Lorna Mann, Lionsgate

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Festival Information & Ticket Booking

BFI Members' priority booking opens 10:00am, 5th September – join at www.bfi.org.uk/join

Pre-sale booking dates for Amex cardholders: 10th & 11th September

Public booking opens 10:00am, 12th September

Telephone Bookings: 020 7928 3232 between 10:00 – 20:30 (from Tuesday 3rd September – Sunday 13th October)

Online: www.bfi.org.uk/lff

In person: BFI Southbank Office: 11:00 – 20:30 *(open 10:00am from 5th + 12th September)

NOTES TO EDITORS

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.

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 Director of BFI Festivals follows her role as Artistic Director of the 62nd Edition of the BFI London Film Festival and 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. 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. In March 2019, she was recognized in Variety's annual International Women's Impact Report as a woman making an impact in showbiz around the globe.



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About Amex Experiences

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About American Express

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About Lionsgate

The first major new studio in decades, Lionsgate (NYSE: LGF.A, LGF.B) is a global content leader whose films, television series, digital products and linear and over-the-top platforms reach next generation audiences around the world. In addition to its filmed entertainment leadership, Lionsgate content drives a growing presence in interactive and location-based entertainment, video games, esports and other new entertainment technologies. Lionsgate's content initiatives are backed by a nearly 17,000-title film and television library and delivered through a global sales and distribution infrastructure. The Lionsgate brand is synonymous with original, daring and ground-breaking content created with special emphasis on the evolving patterns and diverse composition of the Company's worldwide consumer base.

<http://www.lionsgatefilms.co.uk/>