A hugely popular 62nd BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL DRAWS TO A CLOSE

Overall percentage capacity attendance rose by 12% with 7 out of every 10 seats sold to public in London

Overall London and UK-wide audience attendance reached 205,630

In Competition winners were JOY (Official Competition), GIRL (First Feature Competition), WHAT YOU GONNA DO WHEN THE WORLD’S ON FIRE? (Documentary Competition) and LASTING MARKS (Short Film Competition)

Films from 77 countries around the world; 38% Female Directors and 50% female directors in 3 of the 4 Competitive categories

Tricia Tuttle announced new Director, BFI Festivals at last night’s Closing Gala World Premiere of Jon S. Baird’s STAN & OLLIE

London, Monday 22 October 2018: The 62nd BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express®, closed last night with the World Premiere screening of Jon S. Baird’s STAN & OLLIE with the Director in attendance along with members of the cast and crew including Steve Coogan and John C. Reilly.

Despite reduced capacity in London, due to cinema closures, overall per screen attendance rose by 12% to a paid average occupancy of 72%. Audience attendance for the 62nd edition reached 205,630 across London and UK wide (total includes public attendance of 149,969 in London, 36,120 UK-wide with an additional 17,173 in press and industry admissions, and 2368 at education and industry events). Audiences throughout the UK engaged with the festival through satellite screenings of the World Premiere of Peter Jackson’s THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD, Matteo Garrone’s DOGMAN and Mike Leigh’s PETERLOO. The LFF Special Presentation of PETERLOO also made history by being the first LFF premiere outside London, taking place at HOME, Manchester.

The 62nd edition welcomed over 900 international and British filmmakers to present their work from across the LFF programme at venues across the capital. The festival featured a diverse selection of 229 feature films and 159 short films from both established and emerging talent and hosted 21 World Premieres, 9 International Premieres and 29 European Premieres and welcomed a stellar line up of cast and crew for many of the films.

The festival was widely applauded for its diversity and inclusion and celebrated a record-breaking number of female filmmakers with a special photo on the steps of BFI Southbank with more than 85 female film
industry professionals joining Artistic Director Tricia Tuttle including Directors Carol Morley, Georgia Parris, Harry Wootliff, Jessica Hynes, Nandita Das, Soudade Kaadan and Tinge Krishnan; actresses Rosamund Pike and Andrea Riseborough and industry professionals including producers Christine Vachon, Faye Ward, Liz Karlsen, BFI CEO Amanda Nevill and Briony Hanson, Director of Film at the British Council.

Filmmakers in attendance included:


Cast and Special Guests in attendance included:


For the first time this year, the Festival’s Competition winners were revealed on stage in front of packed public audiences on the evening of Saturday, October 20 at Vue Leicester Square, with the Best Film, Sutherland and Grierson Award-winning films presented as surprise screenings, encouraging them to experiment and all presentations of the Festival’s official award, the bronze Star of London, were made by Artistic Director Tricia Tuttle and the President of each Jury. This year’s Awards were supported by Italian luxury eyewear brand, Persol.
• JOY – Sudabeh Mortezai, won the Official Competition (Best Film Award)
• GIRL – Lukas Dhont, won the First Feature Competition (Sutherland Award)
• WHAT YOU GONNA DO WHEN THE WORLD’S ON FIRE? – Roberto Minervini, won the Documentary Competition (Grierson Award)
• LASTING MARKS – Charlie Lyne, won the Short Film Competition (Short Film Award)

The juries were 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®.

This year’s LFF Connects series of thought-provoking high-impact talks for industry and public audiences explored the future of film and how film engages with other creative industries and featured: Boots Riley; Clint Mansell; David Hare; Jonas Åkerlund and Simon Amstell.

Insightful Screen Talks given by celebrated directors, actors and industry professionals Alfonso Cuárón; Lee Chang-Dong; Maggie Gyllenhaal and Keira Knightley offered festival audiences the opportunity to learn more about these leaders of contemporary cinema.

The Surprise Film was Peter Farrelly’s GREEN BOOK starring Viggo Mortensen and Mahershala Ali which had won the People’s Choice Awards at Toronto International Film Festival the previous month.

The LFF’s increasingly significant press and industry programme welcomed delegates who joined stimulating debates with industry partners and experts in their field. These ranged from events exploring the impact of Brexit, discussions around co-production, skills and film scores to a number of events focusing on diversity and inclusion including authentic casting, cinematography, production and inclusion riders, film criticism, class and disability.

Additionally, 3600 accredited media and industry delegates from around the world attended the Festival.

*ENDS*

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:
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MAIN FESTIVAL PROGRAMME, COMPETITIVE SECTIONS AND STRAND GALAS:
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LFF Film Assets
Images are available on www.image.net
Trailers/Clips/Headline Gala red carpet b-roll are available on http://panther4.dmsukltd.com
Social Media: @BFI |#LFF

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

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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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