

BFI announce full details of *Agnès Varda: Vision of an Artist*, a season dedicated to the pioneering filmmaker



The two month season will take place from 1 June – 31 July at BFI Southbank and include *Agnès Varda In Conversation* on Tuesday 10 July

Wednesday 23 May 2018, London.

Over six decades, **AGNÈS VARDA** has established herself at the vanguard of world cinema. On the eve of her presenting a new commissioned video installation at Liverpool Biennial 2018, and the long-awaited release of her Oscar-nominated documentary *Faces Places* (Agnès Varda and JR, 2018), out in the UK on **Friday 21 September**, **BFI Southbank** will present a two-month retrospective of her work, focusing on her work as an artist experimenting with the moving image. Highlights of the season - **AGNÈS VARDA: VISION OF AN ARTIST** - will be *Agnès Varda In Conversation* on **Tuesday 10 July** and the re-release of *Vagabond* (1985), Varda's powerful and heart-breaking account of a defiant and free-spirited woman, playing on extended run from **Friday 29 June**. The season will take place from **Friday 1 June – Tuesday 31 July**, and will also include screenings of some of Varda's best-loved film such as *Cléo from 5 to 7* (1962), *Mur Murs* (1981), *The World of Jacques Demy* (1995) and *The Gleaners & I* (2000). The season is presented in partnership with FACT and Picturehouse Cinemas, who will screen a selection of Agnès Varda's filmography, as well as films curated by the filmmaker, on a weekly basis from July-October as part of the Liverpool Biennial 2018 Film Programme.

The season will also feature contextualising talks and events including:

- *The Many Faces of Agnès Varda* which, in partnership with the film and feminism journal *Cléo*, will trace Varda's career from her debut to her most recent collaboration, the Oscar-nominated *Faces Places* (2017)
- *Agnès Varda Salon: Political, Personal and Playful*, an evening looking at Varda's particularly strong eye for portraying social movements, cultures and overlooked communities
- *'Do I scare you?' A Salon on Agnès Varda's 'Vagabond'* which will explore the significance of the protagonist of *Vagabond*, who is as challenging to societal expectations of women today as she was in 1985
- As well as the *Agnès Varda In Conversation* event on **Tuesday 10 July**, Varda will also take part in a **Q&A** following a screening of her cinematic memoir *The Beaches of Agnès* (2008) on **Wednesday 11 July**.

With her training in art history and her experience as a photographer, Agnès Varda continues to push the boundaries of what cinema as an art form can achieve, creating her own singular style by blending reality with poetic imagery, and fiction with documentary.

Further detail on the films screening during the season:

Varda's first feature ***La Pointe Courte*** (1955), a precursor to the French New Wave, signals her future stylistic and thematic interests. Set in a working-class fishing village, the story moves between the daily struggles of the villagers and a young married couple from the city contemplating their failing marriage. In ***Cléo from 5 to 7*** (1962) Varda created an iconic female protagonist in her moving and lyrical breakthrough feature which is a classic of the French New Wave. In her first colour film, ***Le Bonheur*** (1964) Varda becomes an observer of human behaviour telling the story of Thérèse and François, who lead a seemingly pleasant married life, until he begins an affair with another woman, supposedly to enhance their mutual enjoyment.

A playful chronicle of 1960s American counter-culture, ***Lions Love (... and Lies)*** (1969) features performances from Andy Warhol's muse Viva, the authors of Broadway hit musical *Hair*, and experimental filmmaker Shirley Clarke, capturing Hollywood's hedonistic spirit of the times. Set against the backdrop of the women's lib movement, ***One Sings, the Other Doesn't*** (1977) charts the friendship of two very different women, Suzanne and Pauline, over the course of 15 years. A deeply personal film, it combines elements of a musical (with lyrics written by the director herself) with Varda's usual blend of fiction and documentary. During her second extended stay in California, Varda turned her lens towards the outdoor murals of LA. ***Mur Murs*** (1981) is a visual journey through the city's neighbourhoods, documenting its extensive network of public art and introducing the individuals and communities behind the works, while concurrently revealing the systematic racial and economic divisions of the city. *Mur Murs* will screen alongside short film ***Uncle Yanco*** (1967), a portrait of a lost relative of Varda's, an artist living in San Francisco. ***Vagabond*** (1985) is a cinematic landmark that introduced one of the most intriguing, complex and uncompromising female protagonists in modern cinema. This powerful and heart-breaking film, which won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival, will screen on extended run from **Friday 29 June**, when it is re-released in selected cinemas.

Jane B. for Agnès V. (1987) is an innovative portrait of British-French actor and singer Jane Birkin; the 'imaginary biopic,' as Varda calls it, shows Birkin in private moments that offer a glimpse into her personal life, and fictionalised scenes that play to viewers' expectations of Birkin as a star. ***Jacquot de Nantes*** (1991) was Varda's first film celebrating her late husband, French filmmaker Jacques Demy. Using her signature style of mixing fiction with documentary, she beautifully reconstructs Demy's adolescence and his love of theatre and cinema. Varda delves further into Demy's career with ***The World of Jacques Demy*** (1995), a personal film which weaves together rare home-movies, behind-the-scenes footage, old photographs and interviews with Demy, his collaborators and children. This moving portrait will screen alongside ***Elsa la rose*** (1966), a short, poetic documentary about renowned poet Elsa Triolet. Varda's loving tribute to cinema ***One Hundred and One Nights*** (1995) features classic films clips and appearances from European film stars like Catherine Deneuve, Jean-Paul Belmondo and Jeanne Moreau; the film tells the story of Simon Cinéma, a hundred-year-old cineaste, who hires a film student to record stories about the films he made. It will screen alongside ***You've Got Beautiful Stairs, You Know*** (1986), a short made to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Cinémathèque française.

In ***The Gleaners & I*** (2000) Varda travels through France armed with a digital camera, to celebrate those who find use in discarded objects. This seminal work, referred to by Varda as a 'wandering-road documentary,' explores her creative process and approach to making film and art, and became so successful that she revisited the lives of some of the people in another film. ***The Gleaners and I: Two Years Later*** (2002) is not only a perfect companion piece to the original, but also a rich, stand-alone work that considers the effect a film can have on a society. ***Cinévardaphoto*** (2004) is a collection of three short documentaries reflecting on the nature of photography and the relation between art and memory. Completing the season will be ***The Beaches of Agnès*** (2008), a cinematic memoir of Varda's personal and artistic life, told by the director on the eve of her 80th birthday. Inventive, witty, emotional and reflective, this autobiographical essay celebrates Varda's artistic creativity and curiosity about life. **AGNÈS VARDA: VISION OF AN ARTIST** will offer audiences a chance to explore a filmmaker who has mastered the cinematic essay, pioneered new ways of expressing

her artistic vision, created ground-breaking female protagonists and repeatedly turned her lens on marginalised communities, producing a rich and inventive body of work during a 60 year career, which continues to this day.

For more information about Liverpool Biennial's Agnès Varda commission, please see the notes to editors. In partnership with:



– ENDS –

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About Liverpool Biennial and the Agnès Varda commission

Liverpool Biennial is the UK biennial of contemporary art and commissions artists to make and present work in the context of Liverpool. It takes place every two years across the city in public spaces, galleries, museums and online. The Biennial is underpinned by a programme of research, education, residencies and commissions. Founded in 1998, Liverpool Biennial has commissioned over 300 new artworks and presented work by over 450 artists from around the world. Amongst artists presented in early editions are Doug Aitken, John Akomfrah, Mona Hatoum, Nicholas Hlobo, Yayoi Kusama, Takashi Murakami, Yoko Ono, Philippe Parreno, Ai Weiwei and Franz West.

Agnès Varda will present a new commission for Liverpool Biennial 2018, the largest festival of contemporary visual arts in the UK (14 July – 28 October 2018), in partnership with FACT (Foundation for Art and Creative Technology) Liverpool. Commissioned by Liverpool Biennial and FACT, *3 Mouvements* (working title) is a three-channel video installation combining extracts from her films *Vagabond* (1985), *Documenteur* (1981) and *The Gleaners* (2000). Together with *3 Mouvements*, Varda will show an installation comprising her seminal film *Ulysse* (1982) and a large-scale photographic installation entitled *5 rêveurs* (2012). The presentation will be accompanied by a programme of weekly screenings of her works and a personally curated selection of films to accompany her own (every Wednesday from 18 July to 17 October 2018, 6.30pm).

SEASON LISTINGS:

Agnès Varda in Conversation

TRT 90min

Formally inventive, unabashedly feminine and with a wide-reaching influence on the French New Wave, creative non-fiction and feminist cinema, this artist hardly needs an introduction. One of the greatest living filmmakers, an undisputed iconoclast of cinema, photography and art; director Agnès Varda takes to the BFI stage to discuss her career so far.

Tickets £15, concs £12 (Members pay £2 less)

TUE 10 JUL 18:30 NFT1

The Many Faces of Agnès Varda

This afternoon of richly illustrated talks and discussions will provide an introduction to the work of Agnès Varda, tracing her journey from her (pre-French New Wave) debut to her most recent collaboration, *Faces Places*. Our invited speakers, including Kiva Reardon (Founding Editor of *cléo*), will look at Varda's background in photography, discuss her unique approach to filmmaking, and delve deeper into some of the themes emerging from her work.

Tickets £6.50

In collaboration with

cléo

a journal of film and feminism

SAT 2 JUN 12:00-15:00 NFT3

Agnès Varda Salon: Political, Personal and Playful

TRT 60min

Agnès Varda has a particularly strong eye for portraying social movements, various cultures and overlooked communities. How do her personal, social commitments and her ethnographic aesthetic inform her fiction work? How does she combine political engagement with a playful approach? Join our guest speakers to examine this particular aspect of Varda's oeuvre.

Free to ticket holders of One Sings, the Other Doesn't on Wed 20 Jun 18:15 (must be booked via box office due to limited capacity), otherwise £6.50

WED 20 JUN 20:30 LIBRARY

'Do I scare you?' A Salon on Agnès Varda's 'Vagabond'

TRT 90min

Mona, the protagonist of *Vagabond*, is as challenging to societal expectations of women today as she was in 1985. Join our guest speakers to discuss the enduring significance of one of Varda's most spirited and elusive female characters. Hosted by I Am Dora's Jemma Desai.

Free to ticket holders of Vagabond on Mon 2 Jul 18:20 NFT1 (must be booked via the box office due to limited availability), otherwise £6.50

MON 2 JUL 20:15 BLUE ROOM

La Pointe Courte

France 1955. Dir Agnès Varda. With Philippe Noiret, Silvia Monfort. 80min. Digital. EST. PG

Agnès Varda's first feature, a precursor to the French New Wave, signals her future stylistic and thematic interests. Set in a working class fishing village, the story moves between the daily struggles of the villagers and a young married couple from the city contemplating their failing marriage. With stunning cinematography, this striking debut demonstrates Varda's exquisite sensibility as a photographer.

SAT 2 JUN 16:20 NFT3 / SAT 16 JUN 20:20 NFT3

Cléo from 5 to 7 Cléo de 5 à 7

France-Italy 1962. Dir Agnès Varda. With Corinne Marchand, Antoine Bourseiller, Dominique Davray. 90min. Digital. EST. PG

In pop singer Cléo, Varda created an iconic female protagonist. Wandering the streets of Paris, Cléo goes on a journey of self-discovery as she awaits the results of an important medical test. Moving and lyrical, *Cléo from 5 to 7* is Varda's breakthrough feature and a French New Wave classic, best enjoyed on the big screen.

SAT 2 JUN 18:20 NFT3 / MON 4 JUN 20:45 NFT1 / THU 14 JUN 20:45 NFT3 / MON 25 JUN 18:40 NFT3

Le Bonheur Happiness

France 1964. Dir Agnès Varda. With Jean-Claude Drouot, Claire Drouot, Marie-France Boyer. 80min. Digital. EST. 15

Thérèse and François lead a seemingly pleasant married life, until he begins an affair with another woman, supposedly to enhance their mutual enjoyment. In her first colour feature, Varda becomes not only an observer of human behaviour and a commentator on the sexual revolution of the 1960s, but also a painter, utilising her palette on screen to enhance the story to great effect.

SUN 3 JUN 16:10 NFT3 / WED 6 JUN 20:50 NFT1 / THU 21 JUN 20:50 NFT1

Lions Love (... and Lies)

USA-France 1969. Dir Agnès Varda. With Viva, Gerome Ragni, James Rado, Peter Bogdanovich. 110min. Digital

A playful chronicle of 1960s American counter-culture, as seen through the eyes of a European filmmaker. Featuring performances from Andy Warhol's muse Viva, authors of Broadway hit musical *Hair* James Rado and Gerome Ragni, and experimental filmmaker Shirley Clarke, *Lions Love (... and Lies)* captures Hollywood's hedonistic spirit of the times, with the social and political upheavals in the background.

SUN 3 JUN 18:10 NFT3 / SUN 17 JUN 20:15 NFT2

One Sings, the Other Doesn't *L'une chante, l'autre pas*

France-Venezuela-Belgium 1977. Dir Agnès Varda. With Thérèse Liotard, Valérie Mairesse, Robert Dadiès. 120min. Digital. EST. 12A

Set against the backdrop of the women's liberation movement, the film charts the friendship between two women over the course of 15 years. Suzanne and Pauline lead very different lives, but what unifies them is their commitment to women's rights. A deeply personal film for Varda, it combines elements of a musical (with lyrics written by the director herself) with Varda's usual blend of fiction and documentary.

WED 20 JUN 18:15 NFT3 / SAT 30 JUN 20:40 NFT2

Mur Murs

France-USA 1981. Dir Agnès Varda. 81min. Digital

During her second extended stay in California, Varda turned her lens towards the outdoor murals of Los Angeles. This visual journey through the city's neighborhoods documents its extensive network of public art and introduces the individuals and communities behind the works, while at the same time revealing the systematic racial and economic divisions. It's a colourful ode to LA's vibrancy, creativity and diversity.

+ Uncle Yanco *Oncle Yanco*

France-USA 1967. Dir Agnès Varda. 22min

A short documentary about a lost relative of Varda's, an artist living in San Francisco.

SAT 9 JUN 20:20 NFT3 / MON 18 JUN 18:30 NFT2

Vagabond *Sans toit ni loi*

France 1985. Dir Agnès Varda. With Sandrine Bonnaire, Macha Méril, Yolande Moreau. 106min. Digital. EST. 15. A Curzon Artificial Eye release

A powerful and heartbreaking account of a defiant and free-spirited woman. Winner of the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival, *Vagabond* is a cinematic landmark that introduced one of the most intriguing, complex and uncompromising female protagonists in modern cinema. Sandrine Bonnaire, who debuted in Maurice Pialat's *À nos amours*, gives a remarkable performance as the independent and rebellious Mona, who drifts through the South of France. The first scene shows Mona's death, and so Agnès Varda tells her story through Mona's interactions with the cross-section of French society she met in the last few weeks of her life. These encounters reveal people's preconceptions around women's place in society, personal freedoms within social structures, and the value of work – issues that still resonate more than 30 years after the film's release.

OPENS FRI 29 JUNE

Jane B. for Agnès V. *Jane B. par Agnès V.*

France 1987. Dir Agnès Varda. 97min. Digital. EST

This innovative portrait of British-French actor and singer Jane Birkin was made in the lead-up to her 40th birthday. The 'imaginary biopic,' as Varda called it, shows Birkin in private moments that offer a glimpse into her personal life, and fictionalised scenes that play to viewers' expectations of Birkin as a star. Together, the two women reflect on what it means to be a cultural icon, explore the creative actor-director relationship, and examine how women are often portrayed on screen.

SAT 16 JUN 18:10 NFT3 / TUE 26 JUN 20:10 NFT2

Jacquot de Nantes

France 1991. Dir Agnès Varda. With Philippe Maron, Edouard Joubaud, Laurent Monnier. 120min. Digital. EST. PG

This is Varda's first film celebrating her late husband, French filmmaker Jacques Demy. With her signature style of mixing fiction with documentary, Varda beautifully reconstructs Demy's adolescence and his love of theatre and cinema, using his memoirs as reference. Initiated during Demy's last year of life and released after his death, *Jacquot de Nantes* is a touching portrait of a talented filmmaker-in-the-making.

SUN 1 JUL 20:10 NFT2 / SAT 7 JUL 18:10 NFT2

The World of Jacques Demy *L'univers de Jacques Demy*

France-Belgium-Spain 1995. Dir Agnès Varda. 90min. Digital. EST. 15

A personal and insightful look at the career of Jacques Demy, from his debut *Lola*, through his Hollywood sojourn, to later projects. Varda weaves together rare home-movies, behind-the-scenes footage, old photographs and interviews with Demy, his collaborators and children to create this moving portrait of a remarkable and influential filmmaker.

+ Elsa la rose

France. 1966. Dir Agnès Varda. 20min. EST

A short, poetic documentary about renowned poet Elsa Triolet.

MON 2 JUL 20:30 NFT3 / SAT 7 JUL 20:40 NFT2

One Hundred and One Nights Les cent et une nuits de Simon Cinéma

France-UK 1995. Dir Agnès Varda. With Michel Piccoli, Catherine Deneuve, Jean-Paul Belmondo. 105min. Digital. EST
Simon Cinéma (Piccoli), a centenarian cineaste, hires a film student to record stories about the films he made. With classic cinema clips and appearances from European film stars including Catherine Deneuve, Marcello Mastroianni and Jeanne Moreau (to name just a few), the film is a loving tribute to cinema and cinephilia.

+ You've Got Beautiful Stairs, You Know T'as des beaux escaliers, tu sais

France 1986. Dir Agnès Varda. 3min

A short, narrated by Isabelle Adjani, made to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Cinémathèque française.

WED 4 JUL 18:20 NFT2 / WED 11 JUL 20:45 NFT3

The Gleaners & I Les glaneurs et la glaneuse

France 2000. Dir Agnès Varda. 82min. Digital. EST. U

Armed with a digital camera, Varda travels through the French countryside and Parisian streets to celebrate those who find use in discarded objects. Throughout, she finds affinity as a gleaner of images, emotions and stories, and expands a poetic exploration of gleaning into an innovative self-portrait. This seminal work, referred to by Varda as a 'wandering-road documentary,' explores her creative process and approach to making film and art.

FRI 13 JUL 18:40 NFT3 / TUE 17 JUL 18:30 NFT2

The Gleaners and I: Two Years Later Les glaneurs et la glaneuse... deux ans après

France 2002. Dir Agnès Varda. 64min. Video. EST

Following the success of *The Gleaners & I*, Varda documented the events that occurred since its release, revisiting the lives of some of the people she encountered in the first part and incorporating the response it received. This film is not only a perfect companion piece to the original, but also a rich, stand-alone work that considers the effect a film can have on a society.

FRI 13 JUL 20:40 NFT3 / SUN 22 JUL 18:00 NFT3

Cinévardaphoto

France 2004. Dir Agnès Varda. 96min. Digital. EST

A collection of three short documentaries reflecting on the nature of photography and the relation between art and memory. *Ydessa, the Bears and etc...* (2004) is a portrait of a Canadian artist behind *The Teddy Bear Project*. In *Ulysse* (1982), Varda re-examines a photograph she took over 30 years earlier, while *Salut les cubains* (1963), narrated by Michel Piccoli, features images Varda shot on her 1963 visit to Cuba.

TUE 24 JUL 18:20 NFT2 / SAT 28 JUL 20:30 NFT3

The Beaches of Agnès Les plages d'Agnès + Q&A with Agnès Varda*

France 2008. Dir Agnès Varda. 110min. Digital. EST. 18

A cinematic memoir of Varda's personal and artistic life, told by the director herself on the eve of her 80th birthday. In a witty and original way, Varda weaves archive footage, reconstructions and film excerpts with present-day scenes to chart her life, including childhood, the French New Wave period, and her marriage to Jacques Demy. Inventive, emotional and reflective, this autobiographical essay celebrates Varda's artistic creativity and curiosity about life.

WED 11 JUL 18:10 NFT3* / WED 25 JUL 18:15 NFT1 / MON 30 JUL 20:40 NFT2

About the BFI

The BFI is the lead body 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 CBE.

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £12.65, concs £10.15 including Gift Aid donation. Members pay £2.20 less on any ticket - www.bfi.org.uk/southbank.

Young people aged 25 and under can buy last minute tickets for just £3, 45 minutes before the start of screenings and events, subject to availability - <http://www.bfi.org.uk/25-and-under>.

Tickets for FREE screenings and events must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment

BFI Shop

The BFI Shop is stocked and staffed by BFI experts with over 1,200 book titles and 1,000 DVDs to choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI.

BFI Reuben Library

BFI Southbank is home to the BFI Reuben Library which holds the world's largest collection of books, journals and digitised material about film, television and the moving image. The library is free to access and hosts a year-round programme of talks and events.

'Not just for movie nerds - this huge collection of film and TV books, periodicals, scripts, stills and posters is full of inspiration for anyone involved in the creative arts' – Evening Standard Magazine

The BFI Reuben Library is open 10:30-19:00, Tuesday-Saturday.

The benugo bar & kitchen

Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo's décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. The place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

BFI Mediatheque

Free to access BFI Mediatheques offer users an opportunity to explore the digital collections drawn from the BFI National Archive and partner collections, at select UK-wide locations.

***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI / BFI Southbank / 2018 / June / Agnès Varda