

BEN ROBERTS APPOINTED DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, BFI

Monday October 1, 2018: Ben Roberts, currently Director of BFI National Lottery Film Fund has been promoted to the post of BFI Deputy Chief Executive.

His new position will see him working with CEO Amanda Neville CBE to a wider remit, including delivery of the organisation's five year plan, BFI2022, and its future strategic and cultural direction, and in particular developing the BFI's role across the broader screen sectors and emerging media. This will include strengthening BFI relationships with the wider screen industries, promoting cultural diversity across the organisation, engaging new audiences and talent, and developing the BFI's financial sustainability and future commercial strength. Ben starts his role on 1 November 2018.

Whilst he will retain overall direction of the Film Fund, this promotion will enable new decision-making opportunities as part of a refreshed and expanded editorial approach within the Film Fund.

Since joining the BFI Ben has been one of the key architects in launching the BFI Diversity Standards, brokered a diversity-focussed trainee programme with Lucasfilm for the BFI Film Academy, and has been instrumental in setting inclusion targets across all BFI National Lottery funding. Under his stewardship, the BFI NETWORK has become a prolific and highly successful year-round, UK-wide talent development programme. He has reinvigorated the BFI's Production, Development and Audience Funds to be the home of the most vibrant and distinctive UK talent, and developed the BFI Film Audience Network as a thriving community of promoters and exhibitors. He is currently preparing to deliver the DCMS-backed Contestable Fund aimed at delivering new content for young audiences.

Amanda Neville, BFI CEO commented:

"This is an enormously well-deserved promotion for Ben who is widely respected and admired across the industry and who has contributed so much to the transformation of the BFI in recent years. As we deliver on the commitments made in BFI2022 and develop the organisation's future across the UK's rapidly evolving screen industries his clear-minded strategic thinking will be invaluable."

Ben Roberts, Biography.

Ben Roberts joined the BFI in 2012 as Director of the BFI Film Fund responsible for overseeing the BFI's Lottery investments in film development, production and distribution, along with the BFI's international activities. He has 20 years' experience in the film industry, across international sales, studio acquisitions, UK distribution and film finance, gained during his time as CEO of Protagonist Pictures, and before that at Universal Pictures and independent UK distributor Metrodome. His first job in film was as an usher at Showcase Cinemas in Coventry.

Ends.

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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 UK and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class filmmakers in the UK - investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting UK 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.