

BFI Distribution acquires *Varda by Agnès* and British feature *Bait*



LONDON – 23 April 2019. Following their world premieres at the Berlinale in February, Agnès Varda's final film, **VARDA BY AGNÈS**, made all the more poignant after her death last month, and the unusual and beautifully crafted British feature **BAIT**, written and directed by Mark Jenkin, have been acquired by the BFI for distribution in the UK and Ireland.

The deals were negotiated with MK2 and Early Day Films respectively by Acquisitions Manager Laura Dos Santos.

An unpredictable documentary from a fascinating storyteller, **VARDA BY AGNÈS** sheds light on her experience as a director, bringing a personal insight to what she calls "cine-writing".

Fionnuala Jamison, Head of Sales, MK2 says: "We are delighted to be partnering with the British Film Institute on the UK release of **VARDA BY AGNÈS**, especially given the BFI's support of Agnès's films in the past. **VARDA BY AGNÈS** is a poignant testimony of an immense artist's approach to the world and to her work, and one that deserves to be seen by all those who value creativity and sharing like Agnès did. This UK release is especially meaningful as it was a country close to Agnès' heart, and one of the last ones she visited."

Julie Pearce, Head of BFI Distribution adds: "We were so happy when cinema great Agnès Varda joined us at the BFI last summer. Seeing her onstage, for what turned out

to be the last time, is a moment the audience will never forget. We are proud to be releasing her intimate, insightful and joyful final film in the UK.”

The film will be released in UK and Irish cinemas on 19 July 2019.

Since its Berlinale premiere, Mark Jenkin’s BAIT, the only British film selected for the Forum, has garnered a great deal of buzz and received its North America premiere at New Directors/New Films in New York last month. Set in Cornwall, the film casts a bold look at the simmering tensions between fishermen, residents, and holidaymakers in a Cornish harbour village where industry is being replaced with leisure.

Kate Byers and Linn Waite from Early Day Films say: “We are thrilled that the BFI will be taking BAIT to cinemas across the UK. BFI is a global point of reference for British talent and we’re looking forward to partnering with them on the film’s release.”

Julie Pearce, Head of BFI Distribution says: “BAIT is an intriguing and distinctive British independent film which packs a powerful message and we can’t wait to introduce it to UK audiences.”

Sales enquiries for BAIT are handled by The Festival Agency.

BAIT will be released in UK cinemas later this summer.

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- 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

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