

BFI and ICA announce co-programmed seasons dedicated to award-winning filmmaker Lucrecia Martel



Thursday 29 March 2018, London.

The **BFI** and the **Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA)** today announce two seasons dedicated to the critically acclaimed Argentine director **Lucrecia Martel**. The seasons, which are programmed in partnership and in parallel with one another, will take place at **BFI Southbank (CLOSE-UP: LUCRECIA MARTEL from 21 May – 7 June)** and the **ICA (ICA Lucrecia Martel Retrospective from 20 – 27 May)**.

Since the Argentine director came onto the scene with her debut feature *La Ciénaga*, fans of her work (who include Pedro Almodóvar) have eagerly awaited her next project. As her latest critically-lauded film *Zama* (2017) is released by New Wave Films in UK cinemas, BFI Southbank and the ICA will showcase Martel's work alongside special events and talks, including onstage appearances by the director at both venues.

Zama will open at cinemas across the UK, including preview screenings and extended run at BFI Southbank and the ICA, following its Special Presentation in association with Sight & Sound at BFI London Film Festival 2017. This adaptation of Antonio Di Benedetto's existential novel is Martel's first feature since 2008's *The Headless Woman*, and is a richly layered exploration of personal malaise. Daniel Giménez Cacho plays a minor officer in an unnamed colony of the 18th-century Spanish crown, desperate to relocate from his remote post to the city where his family lives, but who is beset by endless bureaucracy. A preview of the film at **BFI Southbank on Tuesday 22 May** will be followed by a **Q&A** with Martel, who will discuss her new work, as well as her career thus far.

Also screening in both seasons will be Martel's debut feature *La Ciénaga* (2001), which tells the story of 50-something Mecha and her husband Gregorio, who are gloomily trying to cope with their teenage kids. Their lives parallel that of Mecha's cousin, who lives in the nearby town of La Ciénaga. Soon, family tensions and resentments bubbling under the surface threaten to blow up in the cramped and heated conditions of both families. The screening of *La Ciénaga* on at the **ICA on Sunday 20 May** will be followed by a **Q&A** with Martel.

The Holy Girl (2004), (at BFI Southbank on Monday 21 May and ICA on Wednesday 23 May) also set in La Ciénaga, focuses on two teenage girls discovering their sexuality and an intense religious devotion at the same time. An incident during a medical conference at her mother's hotel puts one of them on a mission of faith and discovery. Completing the line-up of Martel's features is her take on the psychological thriller, *The Headless Woman*, (at BFI Southbank on Friday 25 May and ICA on Saturday 26 May) in which a woman unravels after she thinks she has accidentally killed someone on the road.

Also taking place at the ICA will be a programme of Martel shorts, curated by the director herself, and the **UK premiere** of the documentary *Light Years* (Manuel Abramovich, 2017), which reveals the story behind the making of *Zama*. For those wishing to delve deeper into Martel's work, there will be *The Close-Up Salon: Lucrecia Martel* at BFI Southbank on **Sunday 27 May**. This afternoon of illustrated presentations and rich discussion will carefully unravel Martel's intricate and enigmatic filmmaking, considering how gender, race and class function in her films, as well as the importance of Argentine history and national identity.

The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) will run their ICA Lucrecia Martel Retrospective from 20 – 27 May.

CLOSE-UP: LUCRECIA MARTEL (21 May – 7 June) is the latest in BFI Southbank's **CLOSE-UP** series, which focuses on vibrant and important voices currently working in the industry who have produced a small but significant body of work.

– ENDS –

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BFI SOUTHBANK, CLOSE UP: LUCRECIA MARTEL SEASON LISTINGS:

Zama + Q&A with director Lucrecia Martel*

Argentina-Brazil-Spain-The Netherlands-Mexico-Portugal-USA 2017. Dir Lucrecia Martel. With Daniel Giménez Cacho, Lola Dueñas, Matheus Nachtergaele. 115min. Digital. EST. Cert tbc. Courtesy of New Wave Films

***Preview + Q&A Tuesday 22 May, 20:20 – BFI Southbank**

Extended Run from Friday 25 May – Thursday 7 June – BFI Southbank

The Swamp La Ciénaga

Argentina-Spain-France-Japan 2001. Dir Lucrecia Martel. With Graciela Borges, Mercedes Morán, Martín Adjemián. 100min. 35mm. EST. 12A

Thursday 24 May, 20:45 – BFI Southbank

The Holy Girl La niña santa

Argentina-Italy-Netherlands-Spain 2004. Dir Lucrecia Martel. With María Alche, Mercedes Morán, Carlos Belloso, Alejandro Urdapilleta. 106min. 35mm. EST. 15

Monday 21 May, 18:15 – BFI Southbank

The Headless Woman La mujer sin cabeza

Argentina-France-Italy-Spain 2008. Dir Lucrecia Martel. With María Onetto, Claudia Cantero, César Bordón. 89min. Digital. EST. 12A

Friday 25 May, 21:00 – BFI Southbank

The Close-up Salon: Lucrecia Martel

Tickets £6.50

Sunday 27 May, 12:00-15:00 – BFI Southbank

ICA LUCRECIA MARTEL RETROSPECTIVE LISTINGS:

The Swamp La Ciénaga + Q&A with director Lucrecia Martel

Argentina-Spain-France-Japan 2001. Dir Lucrecia Martel. With Graciela Borges, Mercedes Morán, Martín Adjemián. 100min. 35mm. EST. 12A

Sunday 20 May, 18:00 – ICA

The Holy Girl La niña santa

Argentina-Italy-Netherlands-Spain 2004. Dir Lucrecia Martel. With María Alche, Mercedes Morán, Carlos Belloso, Alejandro Urdapilleta. 106min. 35mm. EST. 15

Wednesday 23 May, 21:00 – ICA

Preview Screening: Zama

Argentina-Brazil-Spain-The Netherlands-Mexico-Portugal-USA 2017. Dir Lucrecia Martel. With Daniel Giménez Cacho, Lola Dueñas, Matheus Nachtergaele. 115min. Digital. EST. Cert tbc. Courtesy of New Wave Films

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Saturday 26 May, 14:00 – ICA

Light Years + Shorts Programme curated by Lucrecia Martel

Sunday 27 May, 16:00 – ICA

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 £12.10, concs £9.70 including Gift Aid donation. Members pay £2.00 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 / May / Lucrecia Martel