



## BFI announces 2020 programme highlights

**Wednesday 11 December 2019, London.**

The BFI today announce highlights of our public programme for 2020 including the BFI's annual UK-wide Blockbuster season **JAPAN**, and key seasons taking place at BFI Southbank, at venues across the BFI Film Audience Network (BFI FAN) and on BFI Player in the coming year. The BFI is the UK's lead organisation for film, TV and the moving image, a unique cultural charity that supports the work of filmmakers from the UK and around the world and champions independent filmmaking. The BFI blockbuster season this year takes place at BFI Southbank and across UK Wide BFI FAN venues in spring/summer: **JAPAN** will be a major celebration of Japanese cinema and will coincide with the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. Meanwhile, BFI Southbank will host major celebrations of actors and directors including: **FEDERICO FELLINI** (Jan-Feb), **TILDA SWINTON** (Mar), **ABBAS KIAROSTAMI** (Jul-Aug), **BETTE DAVIS** (Sept-Oct), **ROBERT ALTMAN** (Oct-Nov), **MARLENE DIETRICH** (Dec) and **SIDNEY POITIER** (month TBC). Also at BFI Southbank in 2020 will be a season celebrating **REGGAE**, reflecting on the musical genre's rich body of fiction and documentary film; a look at the art of filmmaking through the eyes of women directors in **WOMEN MAKE FILM** (a season and a BFI UK-wide release); and a celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the seminal **PLAY FOR TODAY**.

**Heather Stewart, BFI Creative Director said:** *"Film and television, probably more than any other art forms, help us understand ourselves and others, other times and other places. In these fractured times, cultural and artistic collaborations between countries are more important than ever. Following major focuses over the last few years on Russian, Chinese and Indian film, the BFI will be celebrating Japanese cinema in all its rich glory – from early rare footage of life in Japan in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, held in the BFI National Archive – to great classics from Ozu, Mizoguchi and Naruse. From the samurai swordsmen of Kurosawa to the vivid visions of Anime masters, from the netherworlds of J-Horror to contemporary filmmakers including Takashi Miike, Takeshi Kitano and Naomi Kawase. Only the BFI can do a blockbuster season on this scale, across the UK and in our flagship venue BFI Southbank and working with partners worldwide."*

### **BFI UK-WIDE BLOCKBUSTER 2020**

#### **JAPAN – May/June/July/August/September 2020**

From **May – September 2020**, the BFI will present a major nationwide season celebrating Japanese film, featuring the great classics of Ozu, Mizoguchi and Naruse, the samurai swordsmen of Kurosawa and the creative dissidents of the New Wave. Vivid visions of Anime masters and the netherworlds of J-Horror will be back on the big screen and we'll also celebrate contemporary visionaries such as Takeshi Miike, Takeshi Kitano and Naomi Kawase. As the world's attention is on Tokyo for the Olympics over the summer, the season will include spectacular live events, special guest appearances, talks, workshops and fun for families, and the BFI will work in close collaboration with partners to present events and screenings across the UK. The season will include BFI re-releases, a major season at BFI Southbank and new collections of film on BFI Player, DVD & Blu-ray and in Mediatheques. The season will also draw on the BFI National Archive's significant collection of early films of Japan dating back to 1897, including travelogues, home movies and newsreels, offering audiences a rare chance to see how European and Japanese filmmakers captured life in Japan in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **HIGHLIGHTS: JANUARY – MAR 2020**

#### **FEDERICO FELLINI – January/February 2020**

January 2020 marks the centenary of one of cinema's most exuberantly playful filmmakers, **Federico Fellini** (1920–1993), who BFI Southbank will celebrate with a two-month complete retrospective, including a UK-wide BFI re-release of the era-defining **La dolce vita** (1960), a special weekend (18-19 January) of events programmed around what would have been the filmmaker's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday (on January 20), and a definitive retrospective of his films. A number of films will also be made available to cinemas across the UK, and online on BFI Player.

#### **TILDA SWINTON – March 2020**

BFI Southbank will celebrate the work of **TILDA SWINTON** with a very special season which has been programmed in partnership with the Oscar-winning actor. Swinton, who will appear onstage during the season, is undoubtedly one of the UK's most prolific actors, repeatedly collaborating with directors like Derek Jarman (*The Last of England*), Bong Joon-ho (*Snowpiercer*), Jim Jarmusch (*Only Lovers Left Alive*) Wes Anderson (*The Grand Budapest Hotel*) and Luca Guadagnino (*I Am Love*). Her incredibly varied career which spans arthouse (*Orlando*), award-winning dramatic performances (*Michael Clayton*, *We Need to Talk About Kevin*), comedy (*Trainwreck*) and superhero movies (*Doctor Strange*), will be reflected by this season of her films and will be announced in full in early 2020.

#### **BFI FLARE: LONDON LGBTQ+ FILM FESTIVAL – 18–29 March 2020**

**BFI FLARE: LONDON LGBTQ+ FILM FESTIVAL** returns to BFI Southbank from **18–29 March**, showcasing the best new and classic LGBTQ+ films from around the world.

### **HIGHLIGHTS: APRIL – JUNE 2020**

#### **BFI & RADIO TIMES TELEVISION FESTIVAL – 17-19 April 2020**

The biggest and most exciting public TV festival in the UK, the **BFI & RADIO TIMES TELEVISION FESTIVAL**, returns to BFI Southbank for a third year from **17-19 April**. The Festival will celebrate the best shows on British TV as well as preview hotly anticipated new work and celebrate our TV heritage. The programme will be announced in February.

#### **THIRST – April 2020**

To coincide with the publishing of a new book of essays *She Found it at the Movies – Women writers on sex, desire and cinema*, BFI Southbank will present **THIRST** – a season of films which explores women's secret desires, teen crushes, and one-sided movie star love affairs, flipping the switch on a century of cinema's male-gaze domination. The editor of *She Found it at the Movies*, film and culture writer Christina Newland, has programmed the season, which will include screenings, talks and discussions with a full programme being announced in January.

#### **WOMEN MAKE FILM – May 2020 at BFI Southbank, film festivals and selected cinemas**

Mark Cousins (*The Story of Film: An Odyssey*) once more gives us a guided tour of the art and craft of filmmaking, this time through the compelling lens of some of the world's greatest directors – all women. *Women Make Film: A New Road Movie Through Cinema* (2019), is told in 40 "chapters", written and directed by Cousins and narrated by actors including Tilda Swinton, Jane Fonda, Thandie Newton, and Sharmila Tagore. BFI Southbank will host a season of films featured in *Women Make Film* paired alongside their relevant chapters, shining a light on the work of filmmakers like Pirjo Honkasalo, Márta Mészáros, Ava DuVernay, Sarah Maldoror and Kira Muratova. The film will play at selected film festivals and cinemas across the UK before being released on BFI home entertainment on 18 May.

#### **BFI FILM CLASSICS RELAUNCH – May 2020**

The celebrated **BFI Film Classics** book series relaunches in **May 2020** with 20 new releases from authors such as A.L. Kennedy, Camille Paglia and Julian Baggini. Featuring 3 new additions to the collection and 17 reissues, the titles will feature new artwork and forewords and will be published in partnership with Bloomsbury Publishing.

### **HIGHLIGHTS: JULY – SEPTEMBER 2020**

#### **ABBAS KIAROSTAMI – July/August 2020**

BFI Southbank will present a comprehensive two month retrospective of the work of the late Iranian filmmaker **ABBAS KIAROSTAMI** (*Certified Copy*, *Ten*, *Taste of Cherry*) throughout July and August 2020, with titles also available on DVD and BFI Player. Kiarostami, who died in 2016, had a remarkable career that saw him widely acclaimed as one of the most innovative, important, influential and genuinely distinctive filmmakers of the last few decades.

#### **REGGAE – August 2020**

BFI Southbank mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the seminal film *Babylon* (Franco Rosso, 1980) with a season celebrating **REGGAE** in August 2020. The highly influential musical and cultural phenomenon reflects a rich body of fiction and documentary film, from *The Story of Lovers Rock* (Menelik Shabazz, 2011) and *Harder They Come* (Perry Henzell, 1972) to *Rockers* (Theodoros Bafaloukos, 1978) and *Sprinter* (Storm Saulter, 2018).

#### **BETTE DAVIS – September/October 2020**

There will be a major season dedicated to the legendary **BETTE DAVIS**, one of the most fearless and powerful women to come through the Hollywood studio system. As a contract player for Warner Brothers, Davis long-battled for the respect she was due from the studio, eventually suing them, claiming “I knew that, if I continued to appear in any more mediocre pictures, I would have no career left worth fighting for”. Following the court case (which Davis lost) Warners finally began to offer her roles more suited to her talent, and she was soon starring in films like *Jezebel* (William Wyler, 1938), for which she won an Oscar (she would go on to become the first person to secure 10 Academy Award nominations for acting) and *The Little Foxes* (William Wyler, 1941), as the malevolent Southern aristocrat Regina Giddens. After a career lull in her fifties Davis later fearlessly re-invented herself with garish and unsympathetic roles in films like *Hush... Hush, Sweet Charlotte* (Robert Aldrich, 1964) and *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?* (Robert Aldrich, 1962), the latter of which inspired the recent TV drama *Feud* (2017) about the much talked about rivalry between Davis and her co-star Joan Crawford. The season will include a BFI re-release of *Now, Voyager* (Irving Rapper, 1942), back in selected cinemas UK-wide in September.

## **HIGHLIGHTS: OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2020**

### **BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL – October 7-18 2020**

The 64<sup>th</sup> **BFI London Film Festival** will run from **October 7-18, 2020** at venues across the capital.

### **ROBERT ALTMAN – October/November 2020**

With his irreverent and subversive approach to filmmaking and his boundary-pushing stylistic innovations, **ROBERT ALTMAN** was one of the leading and most important directors of the post-studio, ‘New Hollywood’ golden age of the 1970s. In October and November BFI Southbank will celebrate his work with screenings of films like *McCabe & Mrs Miller* (1971), *The Long Goodbye* (1973), *Thieves Like Us* (1974), *Nashville* (1975), *MASH* (1970), *A Prairie Home Companion* (2006) and *Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean* (1982).

### **MARLENE DIETRICH – December 2020**

The year will conclude with a celebration of the iconic actor and singer **MARLENE DIETRICH**. With a career that spanned the 1910s to the 1980s, Dietrich repeatedly reinvented herself, ensuring she remained one of the most popular actors and performers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The season will include screenings of film like *The Blue Angel* (1930), *Shanghai Express* (1932), *Stage Fright* (1950), *Touch of Evil* (1958) and *Witness for the Prosecution* (1957).

## **ALSO COMING TO BFI SOUTHBANK IN 2020:**

**SIDNEY POITIER** – month TBC

**CAROLE LOMBARD SEASON** – January 2020

**ELIA KAZAN SEASON** – February/March 2020

**FAY WELDON SEASON** – January 2020

**JESSICA HAUSNER SEASON** (see also, LITTLE JOE release) – February 2020

**BFI FUTURE FILM FESTIVAL** – 20-23 February 2020

**RAVI SHANKAR FOCUS** – April 2020

**MIKE HODGES SEASON** – May 2020

**WOMAN WITH A MOVIE CAMERA SUMMIT** – June 2020

**MÁRTA MÉSZÁROS SEASON** – June 2020

**SIGHT & SOUND DEEP FOCUS: POVERTY ROW** – June 2020

**RAY HARRYHAUSEN CENTENARY EVENTS** – July 2020

**PLAY FOR TODAY 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON** – September/October 2020

**NEW ARAB CINEMA SEASON** – September/October 2020

BFI Southbank is the UK’s national cinematheque and one of the few surviving cinemas regularly showing film on 35mm and 70mm celluloid between its four auditoria. BFI Southbank is also home to the BFI Reuben Library, the biggest film library in the world, the BFI Shop, and BFI Mediatheque which offers free access to 1000’s of film and TV titles, many from the BFI National Archive. With a unique programme of seasons, talks, premieres, festivals and one-off events, BFI Southbank has the world’s biggest names in film in venue and on stage every month. It is also one of the most buzzing venues on the South Bank with the Riverfront bar and restaurant and Benugo Bar and Kitchen, where film and culture lovers come together in their mutual love of cinema.

## **BFI UK-WIDE RELEASES IN 2020 INCLUDE:**

**BFI Release: *LA DOLCE VITA*** – 3 January (part of FEDERICO FELLINI SEASON)

**BFI Release: *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE*** – 7 February (part of ELIA KAZAN SEASON)

**BFI Release: *LITTLE JOE*** – 21 February (part of JESSICA HAUSNER SEASON)

**BFI Release: *WOMEN MAKE FILM: A NEW ROAD MOVIE THROUGH CINEMA*** – available from May (alongside WOMEN MAKE FILM season)

**BFI Release: *NOW, VOYAGER*** – September (part of BETTE DAVIS SEASON)

## **BFI DVD/BLU-RAY RELEASES IN 2020 INCLUDE:**

DVD/Blu-ray: BFI Flipside presents *COSH BOY*

Blu-ray: *JUDGMENT AT NUREMBERG*

DVD/Blu-ray: *BAIT*

DVD/Blu-ray: *SCANDAL*

Blu-ray: *CYRANO DE BERGERAC*

Blu-ray: *SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY*

DVD/Blu-ray: *TONGUES UNTIED*

DVD: *THE CHILDREN'S FILM FOUNDATION BUMPER BOX VOL.2*

DVD/Blu-ray: *BEAT THE DEVIL*

DVD: *WOMEN MAKE FILM: A NEW ROAD MOVIE THROUGH CINEMA*

DVD/Blu-ray: *LITTLE JOE*

DVD/Blu-ray: *BEST OF PLAY FOR TODAY VOL.1*

**– ENDS –**

### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

#### **Press Contacts:**

**Liz Parkinson – PR Manager, BFI Cultural Programme**

[liz.parkinson@bfi.org.uk](mailto:liz.parkinson@bfi.org.uk) / 020 7957 8918

**Judy Wells – PR Director, BFI**

[judy.wells@bfi.org.uk](mailto:judy.wells@bfi.org.uk) / 020 7957 8919

**Elizabeth Dunk – Junior Press Officer**

[elizabeth.dunk@bfi.org.uk](mailto:elizabeth.dunk@bfi.org.uk) / 020 7957 8986

**Jill Reading – Press Officer, BFI Theatrical and BFI DVD**

[jill.reading@bfi.org.uk](mailto:jill.reading@bfi.org.uk) / 020 7957 4759

**Sarah Bemand – Press Officer, Archive and Heritage**

[sarah.bemand@bfi.org.uk](mailto:sarah.bemand@bfi.org.uk) / 020 7957 8940

**Mia Farrell – PR Manager, BFI Festivals**

[mia.farrell@bfi.org.uk](mailto:mia.farrell@bfi.org.uk) / 020 7957 8970

#### **About the BFI**

The BFI is the UK's lead organisation for film, television and the moving image. It is a cultural charity that:

- 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

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

**BFI Southbank**

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 £13.75, concs £11.25 including Gift Aid donation. Members pay £2.20 less on any ticket - [www.bfi.org.uk/southbank](http://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 can be found via the link below:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bvv5defzi4rm5bg/AABM\\_AW1iEB18kPTK1CVNSUIa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bvv5defzi4rm5bg/AABM_AW1iEB18kPTK1CVNSUIa?dl=0)

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