LONDON – 15:00, Tuesday 13 February 2018: The BFI London Film Festival in Partnership with American Express® today confirmed the dates for the Festival’s 62nd edition which will take place at venues across the UK capital from 10 – 21 October 2018.

Submissions for the 2018 BFI London Film Festival are now open. Feature and short films can be submitted through the BFI London Film Festival website at www.bfi.org.uk/lf. The final deadline for short films and features is Monday 15 June 2018.

Films entered through open submissions are eligible for Official Competition, Documentary Competition, First Feature Competition and Short Film Competition, provided they meet the other criteria for these sections and with priority given to European and World Premieres. Already confirmed for 2018 is the World Premiere of Peter Jackson’s new film, restored and colourised from footage shot during the First World War, co-commissioned by 14-18 NOW and Imperial War Museums.

For this 62nd edition Tricia Tuttle, previously the Deputy Head of Festivals, is the Festival’s Artistic Director and Anne-Marie Flynn, previously Head of Business & Industry, is the Festival’s Managing Director. BFI Head of Festivals and the Director of the BFI London Film Festival Clare Stewart, has taken a year-long sabbatical in 2018 after 6 years at the helm.

Last October the BFI London Film Festival presented 374 feature and short films from both established and emerging talent with 68 countries represented. In 2017 the Festival attracted 212,635 overall attendances, a 9% uplift from 2016 due to a significant increase in UK-wide audiences. Attendances in London reached 182,955, with 29,680 people enjoying the Festival through satellite screenings across the UK of Opening Night film Andy Serkis’ BREATHE, Valerie Faris & Jonathan Dayton’s BATTLE OF THE SEXES and Dorota Kobiela and Hugh Welchman’s LOVING VINCENT. The Closing Night gala was
the UK Premiere of Martin McDonagh’s THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI with writer/director Martin McDonagh in attendance along with members of the cast and crew including Peter Dinklage, Woody Harrelson, Frances McDormand and Sam Rockwell. The programme presented twelve Headline Galas and more Special Presentations than in previous years, with an increase to 8 from 5 at LFF 2016, while the temporary purpose built venue Embankment Garden Cinema was once again the home for Strand Galas and films in Official Competition for its second year.

The Festival welcomed over 900 international and British filmmakers to present their work in the programme, ranging from major global superstars and many of the world’s most established directors, to new talents making their first short film.

Director Paul Greengrass, received the prestigious BFI Fellowship, presented at the Festival, and the Best Film was awarded to Andrey Zvyagintsev’s LOVELESS.

The Festival welcomed leading lights from across the international film industry in 2017. Acting talent supporting films at the Festival included: Andrew Garfield, Saoirse Ronan, Emma Stone, Christoph Waltz, Jamie Bell, Annette Bening, Cate Blanchett, Mary J. Blige, Hugh Bonneville, Douglas Booth, Jessie Buckley, Raffey Cassidy, Timothée Chalamet, Hong Chau, Saara Chaudry, Sam Claflin, Jason Clarke, Olivia Cooke, Valeria Cotto, Bryan Cranston, Benedict Cumberbatch, Willem Dafoe, Trine Dyrholm, Colin Farrell, Oakes Fegley, Claire Foy, Martin Freeman, Bruno Ganz, Esther Garrel, Louis Garrel, Aidan Gillen, Jake Gyllenhaal, Armie Hammer, Garrett Hedlund, Tom Hollander, Toby Jones, Nicole Kidman, Carey Mulligan, Cillian Murphy, Robert Pattinson, Maxine Peake, Joaquin Phoenix, Jodie Whittaker and Ruth Wilson.

Directors presenting their work included: Greta Gerwig, Guillermo del Toro, Lynne Ramsay, Dee Rees, Sean Baker, Greg Barker, Noah Baumbach, Paddy Considine, David Fincher, Andrew Haigh, Todd Haynes, Yorgos Lanthimos, Sally Potter, Andy Serkis and Andrey Zvyagintsev.

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PRESS CONTACTS:

Judy Wells, Head of Press and PR, BFI
Tel: 020 957 8919 / 07984 180 501 / email: judy.wells@bfi.org.uk

Elizabeth Dunk, Press Office Assistant, BFI
Tel: 020 7957 8986 / email: elizabeth.dunk@bfi.org.uk
NOTES TO EDITORS

About the BFI

The BFI is the lead organisation 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 London Film Festival

BFI London Film Festival is Britain's leading film event and one of the world's best film festivals. It introduces the finest new British and international films to an expanding London and UK-wide audience and attracts significant international film industry participation. LFF is a compelling combination of red carpet glamour, friendly audiences and vibrant exchange. LFF provides an essential profiling opportunity for films seeking global success; promotes the careers of British and international filmmakers through its industry and awards programmes and positions London as the world's leading creative city.

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