LONDON – 11th February: The BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express® today confirmed the dates for the Festival’s 63rd edition which will take place from 2nd – 13th October, led by Festival Director Tricia Tuttle in her second year leading the team after serving as Artistic Director in 2018.

“We had a cracking 2018 edition,” says Tuttle, “Our highest ever occupancies were a testament to our adventurous audiences who eagerly savour a wide range of global cinema. It made for a fabulous experience for filmmakers and a great place to launch a film. We can’t wait to build on that in 2019.”

Submissions for the 2019 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/lff. The final deadline for features and short films is Friday 14th June at 5pm GMT.

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.

The 62nd edition of the festival, which took place in October last year, celebrated a record-breaking number of female filmmakers, with 38% of the films directed by women and 50% female directors in 3 of the 4 competitive categories. The programme was also widely applauded for its diversity and inclusion, showing films from 77 countries around the world and welcoming 900 international and British filmmakers to present their work. The festival featured a varied selection of 229 feature films.
and 159 short films from both established and emerging talent. Of those films, the festival hosted 21 World Premieres, 9 International Premieres and 29 European Premieres, with Steve McQueen’s WIDOWS opening the festival, closing with the World Premiere of Jon S Baird’s STAN & OLLIE and featuring Yorgos Lanthimos’ THE FAVOURITE as its American Express Gala.

Last year’s festival proved to be hugely popular with overall per screen attendance rising by 12%, reaching an audience of 205,630 across London and the UK. Audiences throughout the UK were able to engage with the BFI London Festival through satellite screenings of the World Premiere of Peter Jackson’s THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD, attended by HRH The Duke of Cambridge, Matteo Garrone’s DOGMAN and Mike Leigh’s PETERLOO. The BFI LFF Special Presentation of PETERLOO also made history as the first festival premiere to be hosted outside of London at HOME Manchester.

In 2018 the BFI London Film Festival welcomed leading lights from across the international film industry. Acting talent supporting films at the festival included: Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Alice Lowe, Amandla Stenberg, Andrea Riseborough, Bill Heck, Bill Nighy, Billy Howle, Chris Pine, Dakota Johnson, Daniel Kaluuya, Denise Gough, Dominic West, Emma Stone, Jamie Dornan, Jessica Hynes, Jessie Buckley, John C. Reilly, Julian Barratt, Keira Knightley, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Melissa McCarthy, Mia Goth, Michaela Coel, Michelle Rodriguez, Nicholas Hoult, Nicole Kidman, Olivia Colman, Olivia Cooke, Patricia Clarkson, Richard E. Grant, Rosamund Pike, Sam Riley, Stanley Tucci, Steve Carell, Steve Coogan, Tilda Swinton, Tim Blake Nelson, Timothée Chalamet, Viggo Mortensen, Viola Davis and Zoe Kazan.

Directors presenting their work included: Alfonso Cuarón, Barry Jenkins, Ben Wheatley, Boots Riley, Carol Morley, David Mackenzie, Ethan Coen, Ethan Hawke, Felix van Groeningen, George Tillman Jr, Jason Reitman, Joel Coen, Jon S. Baird, Luca Guadagnino, Michael Moore, Mike Leigh, Nadine Labaki, Paul Dano, Peter Jackson, Peter Strickland, Steve McQueen, Terry Gilliam, Tinge Krishnan, Wanuri Kahiu, Wash Westmoreland and Yorgos Lanthimos.

In a festival first, the LFF’s Competition winners were announced on stage in front of packed public audiences, with the Official Competition (Best Film Award) presented to Sudabeh Mortezai’s JOY and the First Feature Competition (Sutherland Award) presented to Lukas Dhont for GIRL. Robert Minervini’s WHAT YOU GONNA DO WHEN THE WORLD’S ON FIRE won the Documentary Competition (Grierson Award) and Charlie Lyne’s LASTING MARKS took home the Short Film Competition (Short Film Award).

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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.

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 diverse films, 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.

Tricia Tuttle Biography

Tricia Tuttle’s appointment as Director of BFI Festivals follows her role as Artistic Director of the 62nd Edition of the BFI London Film Festival and five successful years as Deputy Head of Festivals at BFI, including BFI Flare and BFI London Film Festival. Moving from North Carolina in 1997 to complete a joint MA at BFI and Birkbeck, University of London in Film and TV Studies, Tricia’s passion for film has seen her work as a programmer, lecturer, writer and journalist. Her career has spanned a five year tenure at BAFTA, starting in 2008 and with her appointment as Film Programme Manager in 2011; programming the BFI London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival (the pre-cursor to BFI Flare) and as Event Producer at London’s The Script Factory. Highly regarded by the BFI and industry, Tuttle has been instrumental in evolving BFI Festivals, continuing to expand audience reach year on year and introducing impactful initiatives such as BFI Flare’s FiveFilms4Freedom, in partnership with the British Council.
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