December 2018 at BFI Southbank

ONSTAGE AT BFI SOUTHBANK:
SCREENWRITER SARAH PHELPS AND ACTORS RUPERT GRINT AND TARA FITZGERALD (THE ABC MURDERS), DAVID WALLIAMS AND ACTOR ALAN DAVIES (THE MIDNIGHT GANG), ACTORS BRENDAN O’CARROLL, JENNIFER GIBNEY, PADDY HOULIHAN AND DANNY O’CARROLL (MRS BROWN’S BOYS), COMEDIANS JOHN BISHOP AND NISH KUMAR, ACTOR PAUL MCGANN (WITHNAIL AND I), REECE SHEARSMITH, MARK GATISS, STEVE PEMBERTON, JEREMY DYSON (THE LEAGUE OF GENTLEMEN), ACTOR DAVID SCHNEIDER (I’M ALAN PARTRIDGE, THE DAY TODAY)

Film previews: THE IMAGE BOOK LE LIVRE D’IMAGE (Jean-Luc Godard, 2018), RBG (Betsy West, Julie Cohen, 2018), MUG TWARZ (Dir Małgorzata Szumowska, 2018)
TV previews: SOUND OF MOVIE MUSICALS (BBC/Zinc Media, 2018), THE ABC MURDERS (BBC/Mammoth Screen, 2018), THE MIDNIGHT GANG (BBC/King Bert Productions, 2018) MRS BROWN’S BOYS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL (BBC Studios/RTE/BOXPIX, 2018)
New and Re-Releases: DISOBEDIENCE (Sebastián Lelio, 2017), SORRY TO BOTHER YOU (Boots Riley, 2018), FREE SOLO (Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi, Jimmy Chin, 2018) IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE (Frank Capra, 1946)

BFI COMEDY GENIUS continues in December with a brilliant line-up of special events, including An Audience with The League of Gentlemen, a night looking at the new wave of satire on television hosted by The Mash Report’s Nish Kumar and a screening of Withnail and I (Bruce Robinson, 1987) introduced by one of its stars Paul McGann. Following a sold-out event with JANE FONDA in person at BFI Southbank in October, our season dedicated to the iconic actor continues throughout December with screenings of films including Coming Home (Hal Ashby, 1978), On Golden Pond (Mark Rydell, 1981) and Paulo Sorrentino’s Youth (2015). Our ANIMATION 2018 focus comes to a close in December with festive screenings of Father Christmas (1991, Dir Dave Unwin), The Snowman (1982, Dir Dianne Jackson) and Tim Burton’s The Nightmare Before Christmas (Henry Selick, 1993). Other festive treats will include screenings of It’s a Wonderful Life (Frank Capra, 1946) and Meet Me in St. Louis (Vincente Minnelli, 1944).

New releases being screened on extended run will include Sebastián Lelio’s London-set Disobedience (2017), nail-biting and poignant, documentary about noted American rock climber Alex Honnold Free Solo (Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi, Jimmy Chin, 2018) and Boots Riley’s breathlessly inventive satire Sorry to Bother You (2018). Film previews this month will include Jean-Luc-Godard’s The Image Book (2018) and new documentary about the life of US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, RBG (Betsy West, Julie Cohen, 2018). TV previews will include Sound of Movie Musicals (BBC/Zinc Media, 2018) followed by a Q&A with host and musician Neil Brand, the latest adaptation of David Walliams’ books for children The Midnight Gang (BBC/King Bert Productions, 2018), followed by a Q&A with David Walliams and actor Alan Davies, and a new adaptation of Agatha Christie’s The ABC Murders (BBC/Mammoth Screen, 2018), followed by a Q&A with cast and crew including screenwriter Sarah Phelps and actors Rupert Grint and Tara Fitzgerald. Also in December, BFI FLARE will mark the 30th anniversary of World AIDS Day with an event featuring rarely-seen archive extracts from work broadcast on World AIDS Day since the late 1980s, and will be followed by an open discussion with guests including filmmakers, academics and activists.

COMEDY GENIUS
• TUE 4 DEC, 18:15 – SCREEN EPIPHANY: Nick Helms Introduces The Naked Gun (David Zucker, 1988) / Onstage: writer and actor Nick Helm (Uncle, Loaded)
• TUE 4 DEC, 20:30 – SCREENING + INTRO: *The Great Dictator* (Charlie Chaplin, 1940) / Onstage: comedian John Bishop

• WED 5 DEC, 18:10 – SCREENING + INTRO: *Withnail and I* (Bruce Robinson, 1987) / Onstage: actor Paul McGann

• THU 6 DEC, 20:40 – SPECIAL EVENT: An Audience With The League Of Gentlemen / Onstage: Reece Shearsmith, Mark Gatiss, Steve Pemberton, Jeremy Dyson

• SAT 8 DEC, 13:00 – SCREENING + INTRO: *The Belles of St. Trinian’s* (Frank Launder, 1954) / Onstage: actor Steve Nallon (*Spitting Image*)

• SAT 8 DEC, 18:15 – SPECIAL EVENT: TV’s New Wave of Satire with Nish Kumar / Onstage: comedian Nish Kumar plus guests TBA

• TUE 11 DEC, 20:10 – PHILOSOPHICAL SCREENS: The Ethics of Humour in *To Be or Not To Be*


• FRI 14 DEC, 18:00 – SCREENING + INTRO: *Withnail and I* (Bruce Robinson, 1987) / Onstage: actor Matthew Baynton (*Bill, The Wrong Mans*)

• SAT 15 DEC, 20:30 – SCREENING + INTRO: *Monty Python’s Life of Brian* (Terry Jones, 1979) / Onstage: actor David Schneider

• WED 19 DEC, 18:15 – TV PREVIEW + Q&A: *Mrs Brown’s Boys Christmas Special* (BBC Studios/RTE/BOXPIX, 2018) / Onstage: actors Brendan O’Carroll, Jennifer Gibney, Paddy Houlihan and Danny O’Carroll

**Comedy Genius** (22 October 2018 – 31 January 2019) will be the UK’s greatest ever celebration of film and TV comedy. From boundary-pushing writers and performers who say the unsayable, to silent slapstick heroes of the past and disreputable and anarchic voices of the present, this season will celebrate comic genius with an array of talent taking part throughout the season. Guests will include Tracey Ullman, the cast of *The League of Gentlemen* and Jennifer Saunders, while silent star Mabel Normand is given her long-overdue moment in the spotlight. Following on from previous landmark BFI blockbusters including *Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder*, *The Genius of Hitchcock* and *Black Star, Comedy Genius* will be a provocative and timely moment to pause and contemplate comedy in contemporary Britain. As we collectively face fundamental questions of identity, social responsibility and nationhood in a post-Brexit and post-#MeToo world, are there now some lines that simply should not be crossed or are the lines more blurred than ever? Is it possible to enjoy un-PC comedy of the past with a clear conscience? And how are a new generation of ‘woke’ comedians changing up the game? As arguably the most subjective form of entertainment, comedy has the power to provoke exciting and varied debate – and make us laugh with fart jokes.

Heather Stewart, BFI Creative Director said: "In a divided Britain, in a world where we may be uncertain about what we’re allowed to find funny anymore, we need a laugh more than ever. Just seeing Sid James holding a sausage roll or the sight of Jack Benny at the front of a bunch of goose-stepping Nazis in To Be or Not to Be, cheers me up. Whether it’s Dolly Parton, Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin indulging in a drug-fuelled fantasy of bringing down their sexist boss, Peter Sellers’s maniacal Dr Strangelove, Buster Keaton’s deadpan face, Sharon Horgan’s hilariously frank take on family and relationships, or Tiffany Haddish’s grapefruit tutorial, we think there is enough wisecracking, slapstick, satire, smut and innuendo in our Comedy Genius season for everyone."

A full press release is available on the [BFI website](https://www.bfi.org.uk/).  

**JANE FONDA**

BFI Southbank’s JANE FONDA season, celebrating the remarkable political activist, two-time Academy Award-winner, fitness guru and non-profit founder, continues throughout December. The season includes a BFI re-release of the all-too-relevant *9 to 5* (Colin Higgins, 1980), which is back in cinemas across the UK from [16 November](https://www.bfi.org.uk/). Hilariously tackling issues that almost 40 years later are finally being taken seriously, Fonda co-stars with Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton as a trio of women who refuse to put up with their sexist boss any longer. Also screening in part two of the season will be *Tout va bien* (Jean-Luc Godard, Jean-Pierre Gorin, 1972) a lucid, angry, and at times hilarious, account of an American journalist and a French filmmaker caught up in a factory occupation, which becomes a metaphor for the state of America ‘four years after May 68.’ It will screen alongside *Letter to Jane: An Investigation About a Still* (Jean-Luc Godard, Jean-Pierre Gorin, 1972), a meditation on, and dissection of, a famous image of Jane Fonda taken during a trip to Vietnam. For the Oscar-winning film *Julia* (1977) director Fred Zinnemann teamed up with writer Lillian Hellman to adapt an episode in Hellman’s published memoirs. Although the truthfulness of Hellman’s story about her childhood best friend Julia, and her activism in the anti-fascist movement was questioned on the film’s release, the brilliant cast of Vanessa Redgrave as Julia, Jane Fonda as Hellman and the first screen role for Meryl Streep as their bitchy socialite ‘frenemy’, ensured the film was a great success.
Hal Ashby’s Coming Home (1978) sees Fonda play a woman torn between loyalty to her husband, a conservative military captain played by Bruce Dern, and to a Vietnam veteran who she begins to develop feelings for, the idea for which was conceived by Fonda as the first feature for her own production company. The China Syndrome (James Bridges, 1979) features Fonda opposite Michael Douglas in a paranoid conspiracy thriller about a television reporter and her cameraman who discover safety cover-ups at a nuclear power plant, while On Golden Pond (Mark Rydell, 1981) stars Fonda alongside her father Henry Fonda as a chalk-and-cheese father and daughter in Ernest Thompson’s adaptation of his own quiet off-Broadway play. Completing the season will be Paulo Sorrentino’s Youth (2015) a deliciously bittersweet drama focusing on the friendship between a curmudgeonly retired composer and a film director; Fonda stars as the director’s former muse and favoured actress in this stylish, witty and emotionally resonant film.

A full press release is available on the BFI website.

ANIMATION 2018: FESTIVE FAMILY FAVOURITES

- **SUN 9 DEC, 15:00 – SPECIAL EVENT: The Christmas Short Films / Onstage: directors Dave Unwin and Richard Williams**

BFI Southbank’s year-long focus on animation comes to an end with some classic festive tales throughout December, including a focus on Raymond Briggs. Animated films Father Christmas (1991, Dir Dave Unwin) and The Snowman (1982, Dir Dianne Jackson) have become synonymous with festive British TV and these will both be screened alongside the darkly festive Oscar®-winner A Christmas Carol (1971, Dir Richard Williams), which uses groundbreaking techniques, and was inspired by 19th-century engraved illustrations. The screenings will be followed by a Q&A with directors Dave Unwin and Richard Williams. We’ll also screen Ethel & Ernest (Roger Mainwood, 2016), an animated story, told in a series of vignettes, following the lives of Ethel and Ernest from their marriage in the 1930s onwards. Based on Raymond Briggs’ illustrated book about his own parents, it was directed by the hugely accomplished director Roger Mainwood, who sadly died in September. We hope to have some of his friends and family with us to help celebrate his career and this extraordinary work.

Completing the programme will be screenings of Tim Burton’s The Nightmare Before Christmas (Henry Selick, 1993), the classic stop-motion animation set in Halloween Town. The screening on Saturday 15 December will be preceded by a Funday Workshop where younger audiences will be able to create their very own Christmas characters.

EVENTS, PREVIEWS AND REGULAR STRANDS

- **SAT 1 DEC, 13:40 – BFI FLARE: World AIDS Day at 30**
- **SAT 1 DEC, 20:10 – RUSSIAN FILM WEEK: Ice Lyod (Oleg Trofim, 2018) / Onstage: cast and crew TBA**
- **SUN 2 DEC, 17:50 – FILM PREVIEW: The Image Book Le livre d’image (Jean-Luc Godard, 2018)**
- **MON 3 DEC, 18:10 – FILM PREVIEW + Q&A: RBG (Betsy West, Julie Cohen, 2018) / Onstage: guests TBC**
- **WED 5 DEC, 20:10 – SPECIAL EVENT: Critics’ Salon: Disobedience**
- **WED 5 DEC, 20:30 – MEMBER EXCLUSIVES: Member Picks: Die Hard (John McTiernan, 1988)**
- **WED 5 DEC, 20:50 – FILM PREVIEW: Mug Twarz (Małgorzata Szumowska, 2018)**
- **THU 6 DEC, 18:30 – WOMAN WITH A MOVIE CAMERA: 15th Anniversary Screening: Thirteen (Catherine Hardwicke, 2003)**
- **SAT 8 DEC, 14:00 – AFRICAN ODYSSEYS: Hallelujah Anyhow (Matthew Jacobs, 1990) / Onstage: actor Doña Croll**
- **SAT 8 DEC, 15:30 – TV PREVIEW + Q&A: Sound of Movie Musicals (BBC/Zinc Media, 2018) / Onstage: musician and presenter Neil Brand**
- **MON 10 DEC, 18:30 – SPECIAL EVENT: Mark Kermode Live in 3D at the BFI / Writer and broadcaster Mark Kermode**
- **TUE 11 DEC, 18:15 – FILM PREVIEW + Q&A: Free Solo (Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi, Jimmy Chin, 2018) / Onstage: guests TBC**
- **THU 13 DEC, 18:15 – TV PREVIEW + Q&A: The ABC Murders (BBC/Mammoth Screen, 2018) / Onstage: director Alex Gabassi, James Prichard CEO of Agatha Christie Ltd, screenwriter Sarah Phelps and actors Rupert Grint and Tara Fitzgerald**
- **SUN 16 DEC, 11:00 – TV PREVIEW + Q&A: The Midnight Gang (BBC/King Bert Productions, 2018) / Onstage: David Walliams and actor Alan Davies**
• THU 27 DEC, 20:45 – TERROR VISION: Maniac (William Lustig, 1980)

NEW AND RE-RELEASES
• FROM FRI 30 NOV: Disobedience (Sebastián Lelio, 2017)
• FROM FRI 14 DEC: It's a Wonderful Life (Frank Capra, 1946)
• FROM FRI 28 DEC: Free Solo (Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi, Jimmy Chin, 2018)
• FROM FRI 28 DEC: Sorry to Bother You (Boots Riley, 2018)

BIG SCREEN CLASSICS: THE TIMELESS FILMS WE URGE YOU TO SEE
To complement our Comedy Genius season our daily screenings of classic movies offer a reminder that life isn’t always a laughing matter; things can go suddenly, surprisingly downhill. As viewers, we’re at a safe distance from events on screen, but that doesn’t prevent our getting emotionally involved in them. Bad stuff happens: c’est la vie...
A film from BIG SCREEN CLASSICS: Going Downhill will screen every day for the special price of £8:
• Lola Montés (Max Ophüls, 1955)
• Bicycle Thieves Ladri di biciclette (Vittorio De Sica, 1948)
• Tokyo Story Tokyo monogatari (Yasujirō Ozu, 1953)
• The House of Mirth (Terence Davies, 2000)
• All That Heaven Allows (Douglas Sirk, 1955)
• Citizen Kane (Orson Welles, 1941)
• The Leopard Il gattopardo (Luchino Visconti, 1963)
• Brazil (Terry Gilliam, 1985)
• The Wages of Fear Le Salaire de la peur (Henri-Georges Clouzot, 1953)
• Meet Me in St. Louis (Vincente Minnelli, 1944)
• Barry Lyndon (Stanley Kubrick, 1975)

FULL EVENTS LISTINGS FOR DECEMBER ARE AVAILABLE HERE:

– ENDS –

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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 3323. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £12.65, concs £10.15 including Gift Aid donation. Members pay £2.20 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 can be found via the link below:
https://bfi.sharefile.com/d-sd9c55934e8e4463a

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