

IN PERSON & PREVIEWS

Talent Q&As and rare appearances, plus a chance for you to catch the latest film and TV before anyone else

World Premiere: The Dirty War on the NHS + intro by director John Pilger

UK 2019. Dir John Pilger. c100min. Digital. Cert tbc. Courtesy of Dartmouth Films

Renowned BAFTA and Emmy-winning filmmaker and journalist John Pilger joins us to present his new documentary: 'a tribute to a unique institution,' he says at the start of the film. It's also about the threat to democracy and, above all, a warning. Pilger investigates the dismantling 'by stealth' of the National Health Service; 'a last bastion of true public service'.

Tickets £15, concs £12 (Members pay £2 less)

MON 2 DEC 18:20 NFT1

Ghostbusters: 35th Anniversary screening at the BFI IMAX

USA 1984. Dir Ivan Reitman. With Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Harold Ramis, Sigourney Weaver, Ernie Hudson. 103min. 12A

A trio of New York scientists start a ghostbusting business after an encounter with a phantom librarian. With their Ecto-1 vehicle equipped with paranormal paraphernalia, they set out to rid the city of unwanted spectres. However, a visit from new client Dana Barrett presents a ghoulish challenge that may be beyond them... The biggest comedy of the 1980s is a perfect combination of on screen talent and visual effects.

TUE 3 DEC 18:20 BFI IMAX

Premiere: Cleanin' Up the Town: Remembering Ghostbusters

UK 2019. Dir Anthony Bueno. With Ivan Reitman, Dan Aykroyd, Sigourney Weaver, Harold Ramis, Ernie Hudson. 100min. Digital. Cert tbc. Courtesy of Bueno Productions

This fascinating and funny documentary – 12 years in the making – charts the production of the original 1984 Ghostbusters through insightful interviews with the main cast and crew, and includes never-before-seen archive material from the personal collections of the creative team. It highlights how Ghostbusters' combination of brilliant writing, acting and innovative special effects came together to ensure that no one's in any doubt about who they're gonna call...

TUE 3 DEC 20:45 BFI IMAX

Preview: Marriage Story + Q&A with writer-director Noah Baumbach

USA 2019. Dir Noah Baumbach. With Scarlett Johansson, Adam Driver, Laura Dern, Merritt Wever. 137min. Digital. Cert tbc. Courtesy of Netflix

A married couple based in New York find their relationship under threat when actress Nicole (Johansson) takes a temporary job in LA, leaving her family behind. Her director husband Charlie (Driver) isn't comfortable on the east coast and does his best looking after their son, aware that his parenting is being watched and judged by others. Baumbach (*Frances Ha, Greenberg*) yet again produces another poignant, unmissable work.

Tickets £15, concs £12 (Members pay £2 less)

THU 5 DEC 18:00 NFT1

Soundtracking With Tim Burton

TRT c180min

A director who needs no introduction, Tim Burton joins host Edith Bowman this month to talk in depth about his work and the importance of music in his films. In 1985, *Pee-wee's Big Adventure* brought together Burton and a then-unknown composer called Danny Elfman, a collaboration that's produced 16 films-and-counting. With classics such as *Batman*, *Beetlejuice* and *Edward Scissorhands*, audiences have grown up with a creative partnership that's formed an unmistakable and formidable artistic voice spanning over 30 years. Burton has also chosen a surprise film for the event that's close to his heart, and this will screen after the on-stage conversation.

Tickets £20, cons £16 (Members pay £2 less)

FRI 6 DEC 18:30 NFT1

TV Preview: Dracula + Q&A with writers Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss, actor Claes Bang and exec producer Sue Vertue

BBC One-Network-Hartswood Films 2019. Dir Jonny Campbell. With Claes Bang, John Heffernan, Joanna Scanlan, Dolly Wells, Morfydd Clark. Ep1 90min

Coming soon to BBC One, three feature-length episodes will re-introduce the world to Dracula, the vampire who made evil sexy. In Transylvania in 1897, the blood-drinking Count is making plans against Victorian London. And be warned: the dead travel fast. Award-winning Danish actor Claes Bang (*The Girl in the Spider's Web*, *The Affair*) stars as Dracula in Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss' brand new mini-series, inspired by Bram Stoker's classic novel.

MON 9 DEC 18:15 NFT1

Preview: Weathering With You Tenki no ko

Japan 2019. Dir Makoto Shinkai. With the voices of Kotaro Daigo, Nana Mori, Shun Oguri. 114min. Digital. Cert tbc. EST. Courtesy of All the Anime Ltd

Teenage runaway Hodaka arrives in Tokyo as Japan is enduring a long run of torrential rain. He befriends Hina, a girl with the ability to bring spells of sunshine when she commands it, but it soon becomes clear that she's in danger. After the success of his worldwide mega-hit *Your Name*, Shinkai again delivers a smart, visually stunning work that successfully combines romance and intrigue with a supernatural twist.

Tickets £15, concs £12 (Members pay £2 less)

TUE 10 DEC 18:00 NFT1

TV Preview: Martin's Close + Q&A with Mark Gatiss (plus cast TBA)

BBC Four-Can Do Productions-Adorable Media 2019. Dir Mark Gatiss. With Peter Capaldi, Wilf Scolding, Simon Williams, Sara Crowe. 30min + Q&A

It's 1684. John Martin is on trial for his life. Facing him, the infamous 'hanging judge', George Jeffreys. But this is not a cut-and-dried murder case, because the innocent young girl Martin is accused of killing has been seen after her death... Starring Peter Capaldi, this standalone drama is based on MR James' chilling short story of the same name, and is adapted and directed by Mark Gatiss. Join us for your traditional seasonal fix of terror in BBC Four's *Ghost Story for Christmas*.

WED 11 DEC 18:15 NFT1

KERMODE LIVE

IN 3D Let's talk about film...

Mark Kermode Live in 3D at the BFI

TRT 90min

Mark Kermode Live in 3D at the BFI is a monthly conversation between you (the audience) and one of the nation's favourite and most respected film critics. With the help of surprise guests from the industry, Kermode will explore, critique and dissect movies past and present and reveal his or his guests' cinematic guilty pleasures. Get involved by tweeting your questions in advance to @KermodeMovie #MK3D.

Tickets £20, concs £16 (Members pay £2 less)

MON 16 DEC 18:30 NFT1

MEMBER EXCLUSIVES

These events are exclusive to BFI Members and their guests.

Join today at bfi.org.uk/join

Members' Festive Evening

Join us for this popular annual event to thank you for all your support over the year. Grab a drink and some seasonal treats, enjoy special entertainment and 20% off (plus other exclusive offers) in the BFI Shop. This event is free and there's no need to book, so just swing by the main foyer at BFI Southbank any time between 18:00 and 20:30. You're welcome to bring your friends along too!

TUE 3 DEC 18:00-20:30 MAIN FOYER

Member Picks

For a chance to see one of your favourite films on the big screen, share your choice with us at bfi.org.uk/memberpicks

Home Alone

USA 1990. Dir Chris Columbus. With Macaulay Culkin, Catherine O'Hara, Joe Pesci, Daniel Stern. 103min. Digital 4K. PG

As the McCallister family rush to catch their Christmas holiday flight they leave behind young Kevin. A couple of crooks target the family's supposedly empty home – but haven't reckoned on the welcome the youngster has in store for them. Comedy genius John Hughes wrote and produced this classic, which became the highest grossing live-action comedy at the time of its release in the US.

TUE 3 DEC 20:40 NFT3

NEW RELEASES

The best new cinema for you to enjoy, with plenty of screening dates to choose from

The Cave

Denmark-Syria-Germany-USA-Qatar 2019. Dir Feras Fayyad. 95min. Digital. Cert tbc. Courtesy of Dogwoof
Fayyad's powerful film captures the experience of heroic women (literally) hidden below the surface of the Syrian Civil War Feras Fayyad (*Last Men in Aleppo*) returns to his native Syria to observe the lives of a team of female doctors operating in 'The Cave', one of the secret subterranean hospitals providing medical care to the trapped, war-torn population. In addition to the daily horrors of chemical warfare, the remarkable women battle through ingrained cultural sexism with tireless dedication. This intimate and poignant documentary, selected for this year's Special Presentation at the London Film Festival, beautifully captures vital moments of compassion and camaraderie in the face of devastation and tragedy.

OPENS FRI 27 DEC

So Long, My Son Di jiu tian chang

China 2019. Dir Wang Xiaoshuai. With Ai Liya, Wang Jingchun, Yong Mei. 180min. Digital. EST. Courtesy of Curzon Artificial Eye

'Sixth Generation' director Wang Xiaoshuai offers an absorbing family chronicle that unfolds modern Chinese history with the rich insightfulness of a novel. This complex ensemble piece spans four decades, from the 1980s to the cosmopolitan present, and follows the interconnected fortunes of various characters around a couple, Liyun (Yong Mei) and Yaojun (Wang Jingchun), and their son. In the early 80s, Liyun, a factory worker, becomes pregnant for the second time, falling foul of the national policy of one-child families. Zigzagging between decades, the film shows how political reality affects the fates of the family and those around them. A moving and deeply involving drama of personal and national destinies, this epic narrative is executed with mesmerising control.

OPENS FRI 27 DEC

RE-RELEASES

We've selected these key classics (many newly restored) for you to enjoy, with plenty of screening dates to choose from

Tommy

UK 1975. Dir Ken Russell. With Ann-Margret, Oliver Reed, Roger Daltrey, Elton John, Jack Nicholson. 108min. Digital. 15. A BFI release

After witnessing the murder of his father, traumatised Tommy is left unable to see, speak or hear. From pinball champion to messiah, the adult Tommy (Daltrey) is accompanied on his journey by some of the most memorable visuals and performances in British cinema: Tina Turner as the hypodermic-happy Acid Queen; a towering Elton John in skyscraper boots; and Ann-Margret writhing in a deluge of chocolate and baked beans. Ken Russell's virtuosity and iconoclasm are intoxicating, while the film's targets of consumerism, religion and deluded leaders remain unnervingly prescient. This is rock opera as it should be: played at full volume in every sense.

CONTINUES FROM FRI 22 NOV

Eyes Wide Shut

UK-USA 1999. Dir Stanley Kubrick. With Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman, Sydney Pollack, Todd Field. 159min. Digital. 18. A Park Circus release

The date of this re-release of *Eyes Wide Shut* isn't accidental; it's time to reappraise it as a Kubrickian Christmas movie Kubrick's final film, released posthumously, is an incredible display of precision and suspense, featuring a fragile relationship played out by (then) real-life couple Kidman and Cruise. When Alice Harford admits to her husband Bill that's she's having sexual thoughts about another man, it sets off an obsession in him to have an erotic encounter – which leads him into an unforgiving world that he isn't prepared for. Shot over a mammoth 15-month period, and based on Arthur Schnitzler's novella *Traumnovelle*, *Eyes Wide Shut* explores the seductive and dangerous sexual underbelly of New York's elite.

Also available on **BFIPLAYER**

+ **Never Just a Dream: Stanley Kubrick and Eyes Wide Shut**

UK 2019. Dir Matt Wells. 8min

A documentary exploring Kubrick's enigmatic swansong.

CONTINUES FROM FRI 29 NOV

The Umbrellas of Cherbourg *Les Parapluies de Cherbourg*

France-West Germany 1964. Dir Jacques Demy. With Catherine Deneuve, Nino Castelnuovo, Anne Vernon, Marc Michel. 91min. Digital. EST. U. A BFI release

Geneviève (Deneuve) is in love with car mechanic Guy (Castelnuovo), but her mother (Vernon) has other ideas. Her umbrella shop isn't doing well; besides, there's the war in Algeria... In Demy's bittersweet classic Michel Legrand's achingly lovely score, the vibrant colour-coding of Bernard Evein's art direction, Jean Rabier's elegant, fluid camerawork and the uniformly rhapsodic performances are brought together to turn an unusually sombre – even dark – storyline into an enchanting fairy tale that muses wisely, and very movingly, on the workings of chance and fate. Few filmmakers have dealt with the everyday realities of life so imaginatively, tenderly or magically.

Seniors' matinee + intro Tue 10 Dec 14:00 NFT3

FROM FRI 6 DEC

BFI MUSICALS

TOMMY STEELE PRESENTS MAGICAL MOMENTS OF THE MUSICALS

TRT 100min

Iconic entertainer and star of *Half A Sixpence*, *The Happiest Millionaire* and *Finian's Rainbow*, our very own Bermondsey boy Tommy Steele OBE presents an afternoon of memories, clips and stories behind some of his favourite musical films, ranging from the early days of sound through to the golden age of the lavish Hollywood musical. You'll be taken on an entertaining, toe-tapping journey that will encompass the work of Busby Berkeley, Eleanor Powell and perhaps even a reminiscence from Steele about his own role in the history of this wonderful genre.

SUN 1 DEC 16:00 NFT1

BIG SCREEN CLASSICS

The Philadelphia Story

USA 1940. Dir George Cukor. With Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant, James Stewart, Ruth Hussey. 112min. Digital 4K. U

When a wealthy divorcee (Hepburn) decides to marry again, she's unprepared for the arrival at her society wedding not only of her millionaire ex (Grant) but of a pair of scandal-seeking journalists (Stewart, Hussey)... Cukor's evergreen version of Philip Barry's play boasts sparkling performances from a magnificent cast and characteristically understated direction which seamlessly interweaves wit, romance and subtle eroticism.

Also available on **BFIPLAYER**

SUN 1 DEC 17:10 NFT2 / SUN 22 DEC 20:00 NFT2 / MON 30 DEC 14:30 NFT3

The Deer Hunter

USA 1978. Dir Michael Cimino. With Robert De Niro, John Cazale, Christopher Walken, John Savage, Meryl Streep. 183min. Digital 4K. 18

Michael Cimino's epic account of the effects of the Vietnam war on three Pennsylvanian steelworkers, their friends and families begins with an exuberant Russian Orthodox wedding and ends with an altogether more sombre gathering. Between them, the scenes set in Vietnam have an often nightmarish intensity, underlining the raw emotions at the core of the film's exploration of friendship, loyalty, love and community.

SUN 8 DEC 19:15 STUDIO / SAT 14 DEC 19:00 NFT2

Tokyo Story Tokyo Monogatari

Japan 1953. Dir Yasujiro Ozu. With Chishu Ryu, Chiyuki Higashiyama, Setsuko Hara. 136min. Digital. EST. U

An elderly country couple visit their grown-up children in Tokyo, but find most of them preoccupied with work and the trappings of postwar city life. Though loosely based on Leo McCarey's *Make Way for Tomorrow*, Ozu's masterpiece feels entirely characteristic of his wry, wise response to the vicissitudes of modern family life; it builds, calmly but unflinchingly, to a coda of enormous poignancy.

Available on **BFIPLAYER**

SAT 7 DEC 20:20 NFT2 / MON 23 DEC 17:20 NFT3

Ordet The Word

Denmark 1955. Dir Carl Theodor Dreyer. With Henrik Malberg, Preben Lerdorff Rye, Birgitte Federspiel. 125min. Digital. EST. 12A

Dreyer's adaptation of a play by Kaj Munk concerns a close-knit family riven by different attitudes towards religious faith, not least by one son's belief that he is Christ... As the tensions between characters take their toll, Dreyer's quiet but intensely focussed narrative style – coupled with painterly images of luminous beauty – ensures we accept, however improbably, the film's extraordinarily affecting closing scenes.

Available on **BFIPLAYER**

FRI 6 DEC 18:10 STUDIO / TUE 17 DEC 18:10 STUDIO / FRI 20 DEC 20:35 NFT2

After Life Wandafuru raifu

Japan 1998. Dir Hirokazu Kore-eda. With Arata, Erika Oda, Takatoshi Naito. 118min. Digital. EST. PG

Hirokazu Kore-eda's film is set in a limbo where the recently deceased are encouraged by counsellors to choose their most precious memory, which is then recreated on film so that they can take it with them for eternity. A warm, amusing, imaginative mix of fiction and documentary interviews, it succeeds both as a meditation on happiness and the power of memory and cinema, and as a celebration of human interaction.

Available on **BFIPLAYER**

TUE 10 DEC 18:15 STUDIO / THU 12 DEC 18:10 STUDIO

Black Orpheus Orfeu negro + intro by Professor Lúcia Nagib, University of Reading*

Brazil-France-Italy 1958. Dir Marcel Camus. With Breno Mello, Marpessa Dawn, Adhemar da Silva. 107min. 35mm EST. 12A

One of the world's most famous celebratory gatherings is linked with death in this colourful, samba-rich *Palme d'Or*-winner that transposed the Orpheus myth to the favelas of Rio. Though expected to wed Mira, trolley conductor Orfeo falls for Euridice, herself avoiding an admirer dressed in sinister skeletal costume; soon the lovers are forced to take refuge among the Carnival's crowds.

Available on **BFIPLAYER**

WED 4 DEC 17:35 NFT2* / FRI 13 DEC 20:40 NFT3

Rope + intro by Geoff Andrew, Programmer-at-large*

USA 1948. Dir Alfred Hitchcock. With James Stewart, John Dall, Farley Granger, Cedric Hardwicke. 80min. Digital. PG

Having murdered a friend and hidden him in a trunk, two gay students welcome guests – including their professor (Stewart) – to dinner, smug in the belief their crime will go unnoticed... Notable for its technical virtuosity (it was assembled from uncut 10-minute takes, invisibly edited together), the film has Hitchcock slyly pushing viewers to side – through his use of suspense – with the arrogant, amoral killers.

Available on **BFIPLAYER**

TUE 3 DEC 14:30 STUDIO / THU 5 DEC 21:10 NFT1 / WED 11 DEC 18:00 NFT3*

The Ladykillers + intro by Mark Duguid, BFI National Archive Curator*

UK 1955. Dir Alexander Mackendrick. With Alec Guinness, Peter Sellers, Herbert Lom, Cecil Parker. 91min. Digital. U

One of the darkest Ealing comedies, this pitches a motley crew of criminals against a sweet, unsuspecting, elderly landlady whose room their leader (Guinness) is renting for his headquarters; the best laid plans, however, fall foul of internecine' rivalries. Seen by some as an allegory about the state of postwar Britain (or even Ealing Studios), it's blessed with priceless performances.

MON 9 DEC 18:30 NFT2 / WED 18 DEC 18:10 NFT2*

Goodfellas

USA 1990. Dir Martin Scorsese. With Robert De Niro, Ray Liotta, Joe Pesci, Lorraine Bracco. 145min. Digital 4K. 18

Scorsese's dazzling portrait of the Italian-American underworld as experienced by an awe-struck kid-turned-made-man (Liotta) from the 50s to the late 70s offers a litany of misplaced loyalties, violent crime, ready vengeance and deadly betrayal. Visceral, visually flamboyant and edited with a rock 'n' roller's sense of rhythm, it contrives to be shocking yet at times perversely seductive.

MON 16 DEC 20:10 NFT3 / FRI 27 DEC 20:10 NFT3

The Wild Bunch

USA 1969. Dir Sam Peckinpah. With William Holden, Robert Ryan, Ernest Borgnine, Warren Oates. 145min. Digital. 18

Sam Peckinpah's once-controversial movie, now widely regarded as a classic, depicts the passing of the West from the perspective of an anachronistic band of outlaws, outdone by technological progress and new codes of 'honour' at the start of the 20th century. If the energies and impulses celebrated and mourned are grounded in macho values, the film nevertheless has a dark, haunting lyricism.

THU 19 DEC 18:00 NFT3 / SAT 28 DEC 20:10 NFT1

The Leopard Il gattopardo

Italy-France 1963. Dir Luchino Visconti. With Burt Lancaster, Claudia Cardinale, Alain Delon, Serge Reggiani. 188min. Digital 4K. PG

Luchino Visconti's epic, somewhat nostalgic adaptation of Lampedusa's novel about the fading fortunes of an aristocratic Sicilian family during the Risorgimento centres on a marvellous performance by Burt Lancaster as the stoic but sorrowing Prince of Salina. He's surrounded by a stellar cast, sumptuous sets and splendid costumes, all lustrosly caught by Giuseppe Rotunno's camerawork – most memorably in a lavish ballroom sequence.

SAT 21 DEC 14:00 NFT3 / SUN 29 DEC 19:00 NFT1

The Magnificent Ambersons

USA 1942. Dir Orson Welles. With Joseph Cotten, Dolores Costello, Agnes Moorehead, Tim Holt. 88min. 35mm U

Orson Welles' follow-up to *Citizen Kane* is a brilliant, highly faithful adaptation of Booth Tarkington's novel about the demise of a patrician Midwestern family in an increasingly industrialised America. It remains a masterpiece, notwithstanding RKO's mutilation of the later scenes. The sheer cinematic invention is already evident in the prologue; wry humour alternates with a melancholy gravitas to create a work of philosophical depth and emotional complexity.

SAT 14 DEC 16:10 NFT3 / SUN 15 DEC 18:00 NFT3

SPECIAL FILMS & EVENTS

Dates for your cultural diary, from DVD/Blu-ray launches to weekenders, film summits and festivals

Films to Be Buried With: End of Decade Christmas Special

TRT 80min

Join Brett Goldstein and his special guest Nish Kumar as they break down the films of the decade that made them cry the most, that made them laugh the most and that gave them the most trouble in the pants(!). Join

them for a celebration of life, death and movies – and bring your own top ten of the decade if you want to add to the fun.

Tickets £15, concs £12 (Members pay £2 less)

THU 19 DEC 21:00 NFT1

Russian Film Week, Closing Night: The End of the Season + Q&A

Russia 2019. Dir Konstantin Khudyakov. With Yuliya Peresild, Yulia Snigir, Anna Chipovskaya, Evgeniy Tsyganov. 95min. Digital. EST. 15

Prolific director Konstantin Khudyakov tells a story of three sisters who, as the USSR collapses, find themselves living in a small Baltic town. Despite a decade of adjusting to life in a new country they still feel like outsiders and long to get back to Moscow. The film draws inspiration from Chekov's play *Three Sisters*, and is brought to life by the formidable talent of its three female leads.

Tickets £25, concs £20 (Members pay £3 less)

SUN 1 DEC 18:30 NFT1

The Ernest Lindgren Lecture: A Centenary Tribute to Harold Brown

Harold Brown was the BFI Archive's first preservation officer. He pioneered a method to identify early films by their physical characteristics, which has been used by film archivists worldwide since the 1960s. To commemorate the centenary of his birth we welcome independent researcher and film historian Camille Blot-Wellens, who will explore Brown's contribution to early cinema and the continuing relevance of his methodology today. FIAF general secretary Christophe Dupin will join her to talk about Harold Brown the man. Hosted by BFI curator Bryony Dixon.

A new, expanded edition of Brown's seminal *Physical Characteristics of Early Films as Aids to Identification* (edited by Camille Blot-Wellens) will be published shortly by FIAF

TUE 10 DEC 18:10 NFT3

IT'S PANTO SEASON!

Oh no it's not, oh yes it is...

A look at the star-studded, staple of the seasonal schedules: the TV pantomime Pantomime, that most traditional seasonal fare, has survived by constantly reinventing itself while holding on to its most fundamental tropes – a Principal Boy, men in drag, slapstick antics, corny jokes and a smattering of smutty innuendo. Pantomimes had regular spots in Christmas TV schedules, with the first (the Arthur Askey-scripted Dick Whittington and his Cat) screened in 1937. Though frequently little more than filmed versions of a live stage production, there was also a penchant for creating one-off shows for TV, either in a theatre or a TV studio. These would often feature a host of stars already famous on the small screen. It's this latter form that our short, fun-packed programme will focus on.

Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp

BBC 1966. Dir David Croft. With Arthur Askey, Roy Castle, Mary Millar, Charlie Cairoli. 85min

The old trumper Askey and the dynamic and versatile Castle may have got top-billing but it's the formidable arch-panto villain Alan Curtis who steals every scene he's in, eliciting a chorus of hisses and boos from the audience. With a cast drawn from the stars of various stage pantos of the time, this is a splendid snapshot of a moment where old theatre traditions were under threat from the power of television.

SUN 1 DEC 14:50 NFT3

Cinderella: The Shoe Must Go on + intro by Barry Cryer and Steve Nallon (Panto work permitting)

ITV 1986. Dir Jon Scoffield. With Danny La Rue, Roy Kinnear, Brian Conley, Roy Hudd, Steve Nallon. 80min

Central television assembled a massive celebrity cast (including Basil Brush, Les Dennis, Caroline Munroe, Willie Rushton) for this irreverent retelling of the Cinderella story by scriptwriters Barry Cryer and Dick Vosburgh.

+ Spitting Image: The Panto

ITV 1993. Dir Andy De Emmony. 25min

The team took over Hackney Empire for a Christmas panto (organised by John Major) to take pot-shots at all their favourite politicians, pop stars and presenters.

FRI 20 DEC 18:20 NFT3

Jack and the Beanstalk

ITV 1998. Dir John Henderson. With Paul Merton, Julian Clary, Julie Walters, Neil Morrissey. 75min

The new generation of TV comics took on the pantomime tradition in this Christmas special, written by Simon Nye and staged at The Old Vic. Nye's *Men Behaving Badly* star Neil Morrissey played the hapless Jack and *The Young Ones'* Ade Edmundson (in drag) was on hand to dish out some *Bottom*-style violent slapstick.

+ The Panto Set

Ch4 2003. Dir Paul Clay. 50min

Paul Clay's mischievous documentary poses the question 'has panto a place in the 21st century?'

SUN 22 DEC 15:20 NFT2

The Crackerjack Pantomime: Robinson Crusoe

BBC 1975. Dir Robin Nash. With Peter Glaze, Don Maclean, Ed Stewart, Jan Hunt. 65min

Various BBC sitcom stars (John Laurie, John Inman, Windsor Davies and Don Estelle) joined the regular *Crackerjack* cast for this slapstick-heavy romp with a sprinkling of intentionally corny jokes, some of which may offend the sensibilities of a modern audience and demonstrate how things have changed.

+ The Goodies: Snow White 2

ITV 1981. Dir Bob Spiers. With Bill Oddie, Graeme Garden, Tim Brooke-Taylor. 25min

In their typical, lightning-paced and zany style, The Goodies brilliantly deconstruct the entire pantomime tradition.

SAT 28 DEC 15:30 NFT2

FESTIVE FILMS

The Nightmare Before Christmas

USA 1993. Dir Henry Selick. With the voices of Chris Sarandon, Catherine O'Hara, Danny Elfman. 76min. Digital.

PG

In Halloween Town, Jack Skellington finds scaring people isn't fun anymore. Instead he sets his sights on Christmas Town, which is covered in snow and full of tinsel and joy. His festive attempts get lost in translation when Father Christmas disappears and instead of toys in their sacks, children receive rats and shrunken heads. Surely this can't mean the end of Christmas as we know it?

SAT 14 DEC 20:50 NFT3 / SUN 22 DEC 15:30 NFT3 / SAT 28 DEC 13:30 NFT2

It's a Wonderful Life

USA 1946. Dir Frank Capra. With James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. 129min. Digital 4K. U

George Bailey is a small-town family man who's having a rough time. When a guardian angel appears he shows George how his good deeds have had a positive influence on the lives of those around him and tries to steer him back to happiness. This beautifully crafted film features powerful performances all round and is now considered one of the greatest Christmas films of all time.

FROM SAT 21 DEC

Scrooge

UK 1951. Dir Brian Desmond Hurst. With Alastair Sim, Mervyn Johns, Hermione Baddeley. 87min. Digital. U

Of all the actors to play the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge in film history, none has bettered the great Alastair Sim in this darkly joyous adaptation of the classic festive novel by Charles Dickens. With supernatural visits showing him what was, is and could be, Scrooge goes on a journey during the course of one Christmas Eve that could change his outlook on life for ever.

Available on **BFIPROJECT**

FRI 20 DEC 14:30 NFT3 / SAT 21 DEC 16:00 NFT2 / SUN 22 DEC 18:00 NFT2

Gremlins (new 4K digital restoration)

USA 1984. Dir Joe Dante. With Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates, Hoyt Axton. 106min. Digital 4K. 12A

A father presents his son with the ultimate gift – a loving pet to be his friend. But there are rules that mustn't be ignored otherwise his pet, and its brethren, will transform into diabolical creatures who relish mayhem and

despair! Don't let Gizmo, the cute and fluffy star of *Gremlins* fool you, this is a darkly comic tale of a Christmas gone wrong.

FRI 20 DEC 20:50 NFT1 / SAT 21 DEC 20:45 NFT1 / SUN 22 DEC 17:20 NFT3 / SAT 28 DEC 17:40 NFT2

MISSING BELIEVED WIPED 2019

Giving you recent rediscoveries, and showcasing our TV history

Drama, with a hint of comedy on the side, is on the menu for this year's ever-popular Missing Believed Wiped, the BFI initiative that aims to track down and screen items absent from the official TV archives. This is your chance to enjoy these rare treats on the big screen, specially sourced and curated by our expert programmers. And – as always – there may be extra treats on the day!

SESSION ONE

TRT 120min

No Harm Done

ITV 1974. Dir Don Leaver. With Lee Montague, Helen Worth. 50min

Regular *Avengers* scripter Roger Marshall delivers a tense thriller that opens by the well-trodden plot of a family taken hostage by villains, but unexpectedly evolves into something psychologically far more compelling.

+ Porterhouse – Private Eye

Six of the Best, ITV 1965. Dir Albert Locke. With Peter Butterworth, June Whitfield. 25min

Carry On regulars Butterworth and Whitfield star as a bungling detective and his judo-obsessed daughter in this pilot episode that never graduated to a series.

+ Friend of the Family

ITV 1960. Dir Bill Stewart. 15min

A Christmas Admag that takes a look at new technology. Admags have proved perennially popular with the MBW audience for their odd mix of weirdness and nostalgia.

+ Adam Adamant Promo

A five-minute sneak preview of an upcoming animated version of a missing episode of the famous fantasy series.

Joint ticket with Session Two £18, concs £15 (Members pay £2 less)

SUN 8 DEC 15:00 NFT1

SESSION TWO

TRT 120min

Freedom in September

Play of the Week, ITV 1962. Dir Joan Kemp Welch. With Patrick Troughton. 85min

In this absorbing play set at the height of the Cold War, Patrick Troughton turns in a typically brilliant, energetic and eccentric performance as an investigative journalist on the trail of a Russian musician who has gone AWOL from a cultural group visit. We also screen extracts from two fascinating, long-lost interviews featuring Dennis Potter and Douglas Adams.

Joint ticket with Session One £18, concs £15 (Members pay £2 less)

SUN 8 DEC 17:40 NFT1

REGULAR PROGRAMME

We have something for everyone – whether you're into silent treasures, LGBTQ+ cinema, experimental works or want to bring the kids to a Funday preview...

RELAXED SCREENING

White Christmas

USA 1953. Dir Michael Curtiz. With Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, Vera Ellen. 120min. Digital. U

An uplifting seasonal favourite with choreography by Bob Fosse. A pair of WWII buddies and entertainers hook up with a sister act in order to help out their former army general and the failing inn that he owns. Relaxed

screenings are presented each month for those in the neurodiverse community and their carers and assistants. More detailed information can be found at bfi.org.uk/relaxed

Tickets £3

WED 4 DEC 14:00 NFT3

SONIC CINEMA

Music-inspired films and events, a feast for the ears and the eyes

The Clash: Westway to the World

UK 2000. Dir Don Letts. 60min. Digital. 15

Originally conceived as a promo for the bands' long-overdue live album *From Here to Eternity*, Don Letts' film is electrifying. The band are obviously at ease with him as a friend and filmmaker, and so we're treated to an intimacy and honesty that's rarely granted to audiences. As Letts has since pointed out: 'they weren't salesmen, they were the real deal'. On the 40th anniversary of the release of *London Calling*, we're honoured to welcome the band and Don Letts to our stage after the screening to discuss the film and their legacy. Don Letts will be DJing in the BFI Bar & Kitchen after the event (free)

Tickets £25, concs £20 (Members pay £2 less).

Tickets will be limited to two per person during the priority booking period

SAT 14 DEC 18:30 NFT1

WOMAN WITH A MOVIE CAMERA

We celebrate women's contribution to cinema and spotlight female stories

Preview: I Am (Not) a Monster + Q&A with director Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian

UK 2019. Dir Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian. 98min. Digital. Cert tbc

Ben Hayoun-Stépanian, founder of the University of the Underground, ponders on the ownership and plurality of our thoughts, along with the means by which freedom of learning and innovative education can exist in contemporary times. When the need for change has never been more urgent, this joyous potpourri of ideas, featuring (among others) Noam Chomsky, Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and Hiroshi Ishiguro, and propelled by an Ethiopian hip-hop soundtrack, is an ambitious yet accessible outcry for 'knowledge is power'.

THU 12 DEC 20:20 NFT3

EXPERIMENTA

Artist film and alternative moving-image culture; works that break with convention

Experimenta Mixtape #7

TRT 120min

Join us for an encounter with the unknown. Artist and experimental films are the focus, but the Mixtape remit stretches much wider as a way of opening things up and exploring unexpected links – or points of divergence – across art and film culture. In Mixtape #7 we present strange and stunning works. No films are announced in advance and programme notes are only given out at the end. Don't miss this special Christmas edition, which will have a hint of the music video about it. Remember: this programme will never be screened again!

WED 18 DEC 18:20 NFT3

TERROR VISION

The darker side of cinema; films that will horrify and astound

The Dorm That Dripped Blood (aka Pranks)

USA 1982.Dirs Stephen Carpenter, Jeffrey Obrow. With Laurie Lapinski, Stephen Sachs, Daphne Zuniga. 88min. Digital. 18

Four students spend their Christmas vacation clearing out a vacant college dormitory. Unfortunately for this ill-fated gang of perky undergrads, someone else is lurking among the abandoned halls. Lesser known than

celebrated seasonal slashers *Black Christmas* and *Silent Night, Deadly Night*, this underrated shocker (which made an early appearance on the UK video nasties list) comes filled with festive frights.

THU 19 DEC 20:50 NFT3

SILENT CINEMA

Enjoy the best international restorations, often with a live musical accompaniment

Eerie Tales Unheimliche Geschichten + intro by Miranda Gower-Quian, Phoenix Cinema programmer

Germany 1919. Dir Richard Oswald. With Conrad Veidt, Anita Berber, Reinhard Schunzel. 95min. Digital. With live musical accompaniment by Stephen Horne. EST

'Tis the season to be spooky with a German silent from a century ago, the same year that *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* was made – also starring the great Conrad Veidt. *Eerie Tales* is an anthology film of five gothic, ghostly or macabre tales from the greats of the genre, including Edgar Allan Poe and Robert Louis Stevenson. They're narrated by the Harlot, The Devil and even Death himself.

SUN 8 DEC 13:10 NFT2

FUTURE FILM

Screenings, industry guests and networking events for 16 to 25-year-olds

Future Film Labs: VFX

Future Film Labs offers industry insight, practical masterclasses, professional advice and networking for young emerging filmmakers. This month our specialist panel answers the question, 'how on Earth did they do that?' We wrap up with free networking drinks featuring drop-in scripting, casting and career surgeries with script doctors and our partners Backstage and Screenskills.

Tickets £6 or bring a friend for £10

BFI Future Film supported by



Headline sponsor of Future Film Labs:



SAT 14 DEC 12:30 NFT3

BFI FAMILIES

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

UK-USA 1968. Dir Ken Hughes. With Dick Van Dyke, Sally Ann Howes, Lionel Jefries, Gert Fröbe. 146min. 35mm U

Jeremy and Jemima Potts save an old car from the scrapyard and find themselves travelling with their family to Vulgaria, where children are outlawed and the tyrannical Baron Bomburst wants that car! Roald Dahl's script, based on Ian Fleming's novel, introduced the world to Truly Scrumptious, the disturbing Child Catcher and an amazing flying car.

SAT 7 DEC 12:45 NFT3

TV PREVIEW: Cinderella After Ever After + Q&A With David Walliams

Sky One-King Bert Productions 2019. Dir Elliot Hegarty. With David Walliams, Sian Gibson, Celia Imrie, Tom Courtenay. 45min

Discover what happened to Cinderella (Gibson) and Prince Charming (Walliams) after the fairy tale ended – was being united by a glass slipper enough to guarantee a happy, life-long relationship? In this comic Christmas special, co-written by David Walliams, we go back to the world of Cinderella, the royal family, her evil stepmother and the ugly sisters Dumbella and Rubella.

SAT 14 DEC 12:00 NFT1**FUNDAY TV PREVIEW: The Tiger Who Came To Tea + Q&A With Actor Clara Ross, Director Robin Shaw, Composer David Arnold And Producer Ruth Fielding**

Channel 4-Lupus Films 2019. Dir Robin Shaw. With the voices of Benedict Cumberbatch, Tamsin Greig, David Oyelowo, David Walliams. 30min. U

'Once there was a little girl called Sophie, and she was having tea with her mummy in the kitchen. Suddenly there was a ring at the door. Sophie's mummy said, "I wonder who that can be...?"' Thus began Judith Kerr's celebrated children's favourite, brought to glorious animated life by Lupus Films, the company behind *The Snowman and the Snowdog*.

SUN 15 DEC 12:00 NFT1**FUNDAY WORKSHOP: The Tiger Who Came To Tea**

Judith Kerr's beloved creations come to life at our Funday Workshop – thanks to you and your little ones. Create your own animations, invent adventures based on your own family, and if you earn your stripes you may even be in with a prize!

This is a drop-in workshop, free to ticket holders of *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*

SUN 15 DEC 10:00 FOYER**The Grinch**

USA 2018. Dir Yarrow Cheney, Scott Mosier. With the voices of Benedict Cumberbatch, Rashida Jones, Kenan Thompson. 86min. Digital (2D). U

The mean old Grinch lives in a mountain cave above Whoville. Spying on the Whos, he's frustrated by their happiness. But his decision to steal all the presents and decorations one Christmas – in order to spread ill will and discontent – teaches him a very important, seasonal lesson.

SAT 21 DEC 12:00 NFT3**The Muppet Christmas Carol**

USA 1992. Dir Brian Henson. With Michael Caine and the voices of Frank Oz, Dave Goelz, Jerry Nelson. 86min. Digital. U

Ebenezer Scrooge, a mean-spirited miser, is visited one night by Christmas ghosts who offer him one last chance at redemption. Caine is a marvellous Scrooge, and with joyous songs aplenty this combo of The Muppets and Charles Dickens is an irresistible festive treat.

SUN 22 DEC 13:20 NFT3 / MON 23 DEC 14:00 NFT3**The Wizard Of Oz**

USA 1939. Dir Victor Fleming. With Judy Garland, Ray Bolger, Bert Lahr, Jack Haley, Margaret Hamilton. 102min. Digital. U

The Christmas season just wouldn't be complete without the opportunity to travel with Dorothy, somewhere over the rainbow, from monochrome Kansas to the multi-coloured Land of Oz. With the Scarecrow, Tin Man and Cowardly Lion on her side and the Wicked Witch of the West and a hoard of flying monkeys determined to thwart her, will Dorothy find her way home?

SUN 22 DEC 14:00 NFT1**Christmas Move It! Family Animators**

Suitable for children of all ages, accompanied by an adult

At this wintry, festive-themed workshop, children and grown-ups (parent/ grandparent/guardian) come together to have great fun making magical stop-motion animations. Your films are then posted to our YouTube channel and can be shared with family and friends to wish them season's greetings!

Tickets £24 for one adult and child, siblings/additional adults £11 each

SUN 8 DEC 11:00 -15:30