EUROPEAN PREMIERE
OF
ARMANDO IANNUCCI’S
THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF DAVID COPPERFIELD
TO OPEN 63RD BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

Starring Dev Patel, Tilda Swinton, Hugh Laurie, Peter Capaldi, Ben Whishaw, Paul Whitehouse and Gwendoline Christie

Dev Patel as David Copperfield, distributed by Lionsgate

Embargo: Tuesday, 16th July. 8.00am

LONDON, Tuesday, 16th July: The 63rd BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express is thrilled to announce that this year’s Opening Night gala will be THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF DAVID COPPERFIELD, directed by the multi-award-winning writer, filmmaker and broadcaster Armando Iannucci and starring BAFTA Award winner Dev Patel as David Copperfield. The film will receive its European Premiere on Wednesday 2nd October at Odeon Luxe, Leicester Square. This fresh take on Charles Dickens’ classic novel, boasts a stellar British cast, led by Dev Patel, Tilda Swinton, Hugh Laurie, Peter Capaldi, Ben Whishaw, Paul Whitehouse and Gwendoline Christie; many of whom are expected on the red carpet in Leicester Square.

THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF DAVID COPPERFIELD will be released by Lionsgate UK and is a FilmNation Entertainment and Film4 Production. FilmNation are handling international sales and co-repping the US sale with UTA.

An avid Dickens fan, Armando Iannucci (the award-winning writer/director of The Thick of It, In the Loop, Veep and The Death of Stalin) adapts here, alongside frequent collaborator Simon Blackwell, employing his comedic mastery and vivid characterizations to bring to life one of Dickens’ most cherished characters in THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF
DAVID COPPERFIELD. From birth to infancy, from adolescence to adulthood, the good-hearted David Copperfield is surrounded by kindness, wickedness, poverty and wealth, as he meets an array of remarkable characters in Victorian England. As David sets out to be a writer, in his quest for family, friendship, romance and status, the story of his life is the most seductive tale of all.

Armando Iannucci, director, producer and co-writer, commented “It’s a huge thrill and honour to be asked to open the fantastic BFI London Film Festival. ‘The Personal History of David Copperfield’ is a film about compassion, humour, generosity and friendship, and I couldn’t have asked for a more welcoming setting in which to premiere it.”

Tricia Tuttle, BFI London Film Festival Director said “Scotland’s Armando Iannucci is one of the most prodigiously talented and original filmmakers hailing from the UK. The Personal History of David Copperfield shows his trademark wit and a joyous sense of style - it’s a delight from start to finish, with Dev Patel and co-stars delivering performances of megawatt charm and comic flair. I’m so excited to be opening the 63rd BFI London Film Festival with this film which is not only wildly entertaining but also a timely celebration of the power of generosity and compassion.”

Shot on location in the UK, the film is produced by Kevin Loader and Armando Iannucci and stars Dev Patel, Tilda Swinton, Hugh Laurie, Peter Capaldi, Ben Whishaw, Paul Whitehouse, Aneurin Barnard, Daisy May Cooper, Morfydd Clark, Benedict Wong, Gwendoline Christie, Anthony Welsh and Rosalind Eleazar. Suzie Harman and Robert Worley serve as Costume Designers, Cristina Casali as Production Designer, Christopher Willis as Composer and Karen Hartley-Thomas as Hair and Make-up Designer.

The 63rd BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express takes place from Wednesday 2nd October-Sunday 13th October 2019. The full Festival programme will be announced on Thursday 29 August 2019.

- Ends-

Assets – Still
Please credit still as follows: Courtesy of Lionsgate UK

For further press information and general enquiries about the 63rd BFI London Film Festival:
Please note the contacts and red-carpet accreditation for the different festival sections.

OPENING/CLOSING AND HEADLINE GALAS, SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS and ASSOCIATED SCREEN TALKS:
Email: LFFPress@ddapr.com | Tel: +44 +207 932 9800
Head of Press: Kate Hudson

For Opening/Closing Night Red Carpet Media Enquiries and all Red Carpets for HEADLINE GALAS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:
Email: LFFRedcarpet1@ddapr.com | Tel: +44 207 932 9800
Media Manager: Hannah Tatum

MAIN FESTIVAL PROGRAMME AND STRAND GALAS, LFF AWARDS, EVENTS and FILMMAKER TEAS:
Email: LFFPress@ddapr.com | Tel: +44 +207 932 9800
Head of Press: Lucy Powell

For Red Carpet Media Enquiries for MAIN FESTIVAL PROGRAMME AND STRAND GALAS
Email: LFFRedcarpet2@ddapr.com | Tel: +44 207 932 9800

GENERAL ENQUIRIES and FESTIVAL ACCREDITATION
BFI London Film Festival PR Manager: Mia Farrell
Email: Mia.Farrell@bfi.org.uk | Tel: +44 (0)20 7957 8970
Accreditation email: LFFPressAccreditation@bfi.org.uk
For further details on the UK release of The Personal History of David Copperfield:
Aimee Hall & Lorna Mann, Lionsgate
AHall@Lionsgate.com / LMann@lionsgate.com

Festival Information & Ticket Booking
BFI Members’ priority booking opens 10:00am, 5th September – join at www.bfi.org.uk/join
Public booking opens 10:00am, 12th September
Telephone Bookings: 020 7928 3232 between 10:00 – 20:30 (from Tuesday 3rd September – Sunday 13th October)
Online: www.bfi.org.uk/lff
In person: BFI Southbank Office: 11:00 – 20:30 *(open 10:00am from 5th + 12th September)

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. 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. In March 2019, she was recognized in Variety’s annual International Women’s Impact Report as a
woman making an impact in showbiz around the globe.
About Amex Experiences
American Express connects Cardmembers to the kinds of rewarding experiences and opportunities that matter to
them and their businesses. Through Amex Experiences, Cardmembers have access to presale tickets, as well as the
best seats and exclusive offers at some of the UK’s most sought-after entertainment events via partnerships with a
range of entertainment institutions, including AEG, Live Nation, Somerset House, The British Film Institute and the
National Theatre. Amex Experiences is just one example of the powerful backing that American Express provides its
customers.

About American Express
American Express is a global services company, providing customers with access to products, insights and
experiences that enrich lives and build business success. Learn more at americanexpress.com and connect with us on
facebook.com/americanexpress

About The Personal History of David Copperfield
The Personal History of David Copperfield is an adaptation of the Dickens classic directed by award winning filmmaker
Armando Iannucci (The Death of Stalin). Dev Patel (Lion, Slumdog Millionaire) will play the title character of David
Copperfield, alongside Academy Award winner Tilda Swinton, Hugh Laurie, Peter Capaldi, Ben Whishaw, Paul
Whitehouse, Aneurin Barnard (Dunkirk), Daisy May Cooper (This Country), Morfydd Clark (The Falling), Benedict Wong
(Avengers: Infinity War), Gwendoline Christie (Game of Thrones), Anthony Welsh (Fleabag) and Rosalind Eleazar
(Howards End).

Kevin Loader (The Death of Stalin) and Iannucci are producing the feature, which was developed with FilmNation
Entertainment. It was written by Iannucci (Emmy Award winning creator of Veep) and fellow Academy Award
nominee Simon Blackwell (In The Loop) based on Charles Dickens’ novel. The Film will be released in cinemas by
Lionsgate UK and was developed by FilmNation Entertainment who co-financed the film with Film4.

The Personal History of David Copperfield reunites many of Armando Iannucci’s long-term collaborators including
cast members Hugh Laurie (Veep), Peter Capaldi (The Thick of It, In The Loop) and Paul Whitehouse (The Death of
Stalin) and crew members who collaborated on The Death of Stalin and previous productions including casting
director Sarah Crowe, production designer Cristina Casali, costume designer Suzie Harman, cinematographer Zac
Nicholson and composer Chris Willis.

About Lionsgate
The first major new studio in decades, Lionsgate (NYSE: LGF.A, LGF.B) is a global content leader whose films, television
series, digital products and linear and over-the-top platforms reach next generation audiences around the world. In
addition to its filmed entertainment leadership, Lionsgate content drives a growing presence in interactive and
location-based entertainment, video games, esports and other new entertainment technologies. Lionsgate’s content
initiatives are backed by a nearly 17,000-title film and television library and delivered through a global sales and
distribution infrastructure. The Lionsgate brand is synonymous with original, daring and ground-breaking content
created with special emphasis on the evolving patterns and diverse composition of the Company’s worldwide
consumer base.
http://www.lionsgatofilms.co.uk/

About FilmNation
FilmNation’s talent for seeking out and elevating creative content across a wide range of genres is at the center of its
success as the company just passed its 10 year mark. The independent studio boasts more than 45 Academy Award
nominations for its sales and production titles. The studio’s current and upcoming production slate includes:
Sebastian Lelio’s GLORIA BELL starring Julianne Moore, which opened to one of the year’s highest per screen
averages, Dominic Cooke’s spy thriller IRONBARK starring Benedict Cumberbatch, Armando Iannucci’s THE
PERSONAL HISTORY OF DAVID COPPERFIELD starring Dev Patel, and Sean Durkin’s THE NEST starring Jude Law, to
name a few. FilmNation’s first television production I Know This Much Is True is now in production with HBO, and
several other series are in development including House of the Spirits at Hulu. The company recently announced the
launch of its UK-based television production company with Nordic Entertainment Group.
About Film4
Film4 is Channel 4 Television’s feature film division, which develops and co-finances films and has an established track record for working with the most distinctive and innovative talent in UK and international filmmaking. Film4 has developed and/or co-financed many of the most successful UK films of recent years - Academy Award-winners such as Yorgos Lanthimos’s The Favourite, Martin McDonagh’s Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri, Lenny Abrahamson’s Room, Alex Garland’s Ex Machina, Asif Kapadia’s Amy, Steve McQueen’s 12 Years a Slave, Danny Boyle’s Slumdog Millionaire and Phyllida Lloyd’s The Iron Lady, in addition to critically-acclaimed award-winners such as Pawel Pawlikowski’s Cold War, Lynne Ramsay’s You Were Never Really Here, Rungano Nyoni’s I Am Not a Witch, Andrea Arnold’s American Honey, Todd Haynes’ Carol, Mike Leigh’s Mr. Turner, Shane Meadows’ This is England and Jonathan Glazer’s Under the Skin. Forthcoming releases include Chris Morris’s The Day Shall Come, Michael Winterbottom’s Greed, Sarah Gavron’s Rocks, Coky Giedroyc’s adaptation of Caitlin Moran’s How To Build a Girl and Armando Iannucci’s The Personal History of David Copperfield, which is the eighth Film4 production in ten years to be selected either as Opening or Closing Night Gala of the BFI London Film Festival.

For further information please visit www.film4productions.com.