BFI ANNOUNCES FARHANA BHULA APPOINTED DEVELOPMENT & PRODUCTION EXEC FROM LEADING INDEPENDENT WILDGAZE FILMS

KRISTIN IRVING ALSO TAKES ON EXPANDED DEVELOPMENT & PRODUCTION EXEC ROLE

Thursday 22 November 2018. Farhana Bhula has been appointed Development & Production Executive, and will join the BFI’s Film Fund team in the New Year from leading UK production company Wildgaze Films where she is currently Head of Development.

Kristin Irving who joined the BFI in 2015 as Development Executive, also takes up a new role as an expanded role as Development & Production Executive with immediate effect.

Farhana and Kristin will support projects in development and production, with a particular focus on early career filmmakers including those supported through the BFI NETWORK and iFeatures programmes.

At Wildgaze, Farhana worked across film and television on projects in development including a Brooklyn TV spin-off Brooklyn Boarding House; Dark Matter, a ghost story adapted by Gaby Chiappe; and The Giant’s House, a feature screenplay adapted by Nick Hornby.

Prior to joining Wildgaze, Farhana was a Development Executive at Endor Productions and she has also produced award-winning shorts and a first feature. She has championed films and talent working on projects that are diverse in theme and form.

Kristin is currently leading for the BFI on Fyza Boulifa’s in-production debut feature Lynn & Lucy and is working across BFI-backed productions including Rose Glass’s first feature Saint Maud, currently in production, Hong Khaou’s Monsoon and Craig Roberts’ Eternal Beauty.

Farhana’s appointment follows other recent executive appointments with Jess Loveland announced as the new Head of BFI NETWORK and Mathieu Ajan as a second BFI NETWORK Talent Executive working out of Film London.

The BFI uses National Lottery funding to develop talent and support culturally diverse and impactful filmmaking. This year the Film Fund introduced targets for supported filmmakers across ethnicity, gender, LGBTQ+ and disability – and set out its five funding priorities around careers, impact, risk, perspective and UK-wide support.

Projects currently in production or prepping for release include Cathy Brady’s Wildfire, Ben Sharrock’s Limbo, Sarah Gavron’s Girl Untitled, Jessica Swale’s Summerland, Jessica Hausner’s Little Joe, Shola Amoo’s The Last Tree, Chino Moya’s Undergods, Sacha Polak’s Dirty God, and Philippa Lowthorpe’s Misbehaviour.
Ben Roberts, BFI Deputy Chief Executive Officer, said: “We are thrilled to welcome Farhana to the Film Fund team. As we are often a first port of call for filmmakers, Farhana’s experience in independent film development, and her enthusiasm for encouraging voices from all backgrounds will be a benefit to us and filmmakers everywhere. We are also excited to be expanding Kristin’s role – with her expertise and passion for storytelling in all its forms, she has already made a significant contribution to the Film Fund.”

Farhana Bhula said: “I’m really excited to be joining the BFI and look forward to championing bold, distinctive and underrepresented voices from around the UK. I’ve loved working at Wildgaze. It’s been an enormous privilege to have been part of such an inspiring company, led by two women with such an instinct for storytelling and an impressive track record.”

Finola Dwyer and Amanda Posey, Wildgaze Films said: “We’ll be very sorry to lose Farhana, but know that her passion for new talent is the perfect match for this opportunity at the BFI, and have no doubt she will continue to bring her boundless enthusiasm and taste to everything she does.”

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About the BFI
At the BFI we support, nurture and promote the art of film, television and the moving image. A charity, funded by Government and earned income, and a distributor of National Lottery funds, we are at the heart of the UK’s fast growing screen industries, protecting the past and shaping their future across the UK. We work in partnership with cultural organisations, government and industry to make this happen. We bring our world-class cultural programmes and unrivalled national collections to audiences everywhere, and promote learning about our art-form and its heritage. We support the future success of film in the UK by nurturing new voices and fresh ideas, enriching independent British film culture, challenging the UK’s screen industries to innovate and defining Britain and its storytellers in the 21st century.

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 Film Fund supports world-class UK filmmaking from talent and film development, through to production and audience development across exhibition, distribution and international sales, investing over £50 million of National Lottery funding a year.
Films backed by the BFI include Mike Leigh’s *Peterloo* which received its UK premiere at the 62nd BFI London Film Festival and *Cold War* which brought Pawel Pawlikowski the Best Director award at this year’s Cannes; Wash Westmoreland’s *Colette*; William McGregor’s *Gwen*; Claire Denis’ *High Life*; Peter Strickland’s *In Fabric*; Carol Morley’s *Out of Blue*; Annabel Jankel’s *Tell It to the Bees*; Tom Harper’s *Wild Rose*; IWC Schaffhausen award-winner Richard Billingham’s *Ray & Liz*; Amma Asante’s *Where Hands Touch*. In the pipeline for release are Victor Kossakovsky’s *Aquarela*; Brian Welsh’s *Beats*; Scott Graham’s *Born to Run*; Chiwetel Ejiofor’s *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind*; Peter Middleton and James Spinney’s *Chaplin*; Chis Morris’ *Untitled Project*; Neil Biswas’s *Darkness Visible*; Jason Barker’s *A Deal with the Universe*; Andrew Hulme’s *The Devil Outside*; Sacha Polak’s *Dirty God*; Craig Roberts’ *Eternal Beauty*; Thomas Clay’s *Fanny Lye Deliver’d*; Iain Cunningham’s *Irene’s Ghost*; Gabrielle Brady’s *Island of the Hungry Ghosts*; Lisa Barros D’Sa and Glenn Leyburn’s *Normal People*; Hong Khaou’s *Monsoon*; Steve McLean’s *Postcards from London*; Ken Loach’s *Sorry We Missed You*; Joanna Hogg’s *The Souvenir*; Chino Moya’s *Undergods* and Tim Travers Hawkins’ *XY Chelsea*. Recent releases include Tinge Krishnan’s *Been So Long*; Jim Hosking’s *An Evening With Beverly Luff Linn*; Matthew Jones’ *The Man from Mo’ Wax*; Haifaa Al-Mansour’s *Mary Shelley*; Sean McAllister’s *A Northern Soul*; Matthew Holness’ *Possum*; and Idris Elba’s *Yardie*.

**About Wildgaze Films**

Wildgaze Films is one of the UK’s leading production companies run by the Oscar®-nominated and BAFTA award-winning producers Finola Dwyer and Amanda Posey (for *Brooklyn* and *An Education*). Wildgaze Films’ current production *Dirt Music*, now shooting in Western Australia, is an adaptation by Jack Thorne of Tim Winton’s iconic novel, directed by Gregor Jordan, starring Kelly Macdonald and Garrett Hedlund, co-financed and developed with Film4. Their most recent productions include *Our Souls At Night*, *Their Finest* and, as executive producers, VS.