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

Preview: Beautiful Boy
USA 2018. Dir Felix van Groeningen. With Steve Carell, Timothée Chalamet, Maura Tierney, Amy Ryan. 112min. Digital. 15. Courtesy of STUDIOCANAL
David Sheff (Carell) leads a charmed California lifestyle, with a loving family and a successful career, until he slowly becomes aware of his teenage son’s (Chalamet) addiction to crystal meth. Carell and Chalamet blister on screen as father and son, in an intimate take on addiction that reveals the tough and wrenching toll it takes on loved ones.
Audio description is available at this preview
Tickets £15, concs £12 (Members pay £2 less)
WED 2 JAN 20:30 NFT1

Preview: Destroyer
An almost unrecognisable Nicole Kidman stars as jaded LAPD detective Erin Bell, still reeling from the trauma she experienced after she and her partner (Stan) were placed undercover in a notorious crime gang led by the unpredictable Silas (Kebbell). When it appears that Silas has re-emerged, Bell becomes even more determined to close the case for good.
Audio description is available at this preview
Tickets £15, concs £12 (Members pay £2 less)
TUE 8 JAN 20:30 NFT1

Preview: Colette + Q&A with producers Stephen Woolley and Elizabeth Karlsen
Free-thinking, boundary-pushing French author and iconoclast Sidonie-Gabrielle ‘Colette’ (Knightley) finally gets the biopic treatment with this charming, rollicking film. The story focuses on Colette’s marriage and professional relationship with sleazy publisher Willy (West), and her growth from provincial maiden to a rule-breaking, defiant writer and feminist who led one of the most exciting lives of the 20th century.
Tickets £15, concs £12 (Members pay £2 less)
WED 9 JAN 20:15 NFT1

Preview: Hale County This Morning, This Evening
Photographer-turned-filmmaker RaMell Ross has crafted an innovative, impressionistic portrait of contemporary life in Hale County, Alabama, offering a new way of seeing and experiencing the heat and the hearts of people in the Black Belt region of the USA. Captured over five years, the film is not so much a narrative as a series of vignettes and moments that hold within them urgent questions about stereotypes and representations of black America.
Tickets £15, concs £12 (Members pay £2 less)
TUE 15 JAN 18:15 NFT3

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 £16.50, concs £13.20 (Members pay £2 less)

MON 28 JAN 18:30 NFT1

12 Stars
TRT c120min
12 Stars is our monthly series offering filmmakers and thinkers an opportunity to reflect on European cinema and identity at a time of profound cultural and geo-political transition. For our first event in 2019, we’re partnering with Institut français UK and their annual Night of Ideas, a global project to celebrate the exchange of ideas between countries, cultures, topics and generations. With this year’s theme of ‘facing our time,’ the question of how we respond to the present technological, social, environmental and geopolitical challenges will be at the heart of this event.

_In partnership with Institut français UK and EUNIC: European Union National Institutes of Culture_

WED 30 JAN 18:00 NFT1

**MEMBER EXCLUSIVES**
These events are exclusive to BFI Members and their guests.
Join today at [bfi.org.uk/join](http://bfi.org.uk/join)

Member Salon: Sorry to Bother You
TRT 60min
Our regular discussion series for Members and their guests returns this month with a closer look at Boots Riley’s dark satirical debut. Join your fellow Members to discuss where the contemporary capitalist and consumerist society could be headed, and what role corporations will play in our future. Members can book a joint ticket to the salon and the screening on Thu 10 Jan for themselves and their guests in advance for just £6. Members who’ve watched the film on another date are welcome to come along to the free salon discussion and show their membership card for admission on a first-come, first-served basis.

**THU 10 JAN 20:10 BLUE ROOM**

Behind the Scenes at the BFI
Behind the Scenes brings BFI curators, programmers and policy-makers together to give you a glimpse into how we work. This event looks at BFI Southbank and focuses on some of our upcoming seasons and events, exploring how we decide what to programme, where we source our prints from and also looking at the work of the BFI Reuben Library and the BFI Mediatheque.

Tickets £6

THU 31 JAN 18:10 NFT3

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

**Sorry to Bother You**
Mild-mannered call-centre employee Cassius (Stanfield) discovers he has a talent to adopt a ‘white voice’ – an ability which promptly lets him climb the corporate ladder. But as he draws closer to disturbed entrepreneur Steve (Hammer), there might be more at stake than just his career, friendships with his co-workers and his relationship with his activist girlfriend Detroit (Thompson). In his dark satirical debut, Boots Riley firmly establishes himself as a powerful new voice in contemporary cinema. We can only hope the Trump era heralds more socialist comedy horrors like this.
CONTINUES FROM FRI 28 DEC

Free Solo
This poignant, in-depth portrait of noted American rock climber Alex Honnold follows him as he attempts to become the first person to ever free solo climb Yosemite’s 3,000ft high El Capitan Wall – with no ropes or safety gear. This is a thrilling, edge-of-your-seat experience, filmed with vertigo-inducing camerawork that looks into the life and motivation of an athlete determined to push himself to the extreme in his quest to achieve the perfect climb. Honnold challenges not only his body but his beliefs, especially when the unexpected twist of falling in love threatens his focus...

CONTINUES FROM FRI 28 DEC

Stan & Ollie
It’s 1953 and Hollywood has fallen out of love with Laurel and Hardy, the once golden duo of international comedy. In the hope of re-igniting their career, the pair embark on a tour of the UK’s seaside towns and music halls, but audiences are sparse and impresario Bernard Delfont is already looking for ways to break their contract. With hilarious recreations of Way Out West on film and County Hospital on stage, Coogan and Reilly excel as the beloved entertainers and give a heart-warming depiction of a lifelong friendship under pressure.
Audio description available at all screenings
Hearing-impaired subtitles available: Sat 19 Jan 16:00 NFT3 Wed 23 Jan 14:30 Studio

OPENs FRI 18 JAN

Relaxed Screening
Welcome to an accessible screening of Stan & Ollie for people who prefer a relaxed cinema environment. Presented for those who have autism, Asperger Syndrome or learning disabilities and their carers and assistants.
More detailed information about this event can be found at bfi.org.uk/relaxed
Tickets for this pilot event are free but should be booked in advance
MON 21 JAN 14:00 NFT3

Bergman: A Year in a Life Bergman – ett år, ett liv
Jane Magnusson’s documentary centres on 1957, a turbulent but miraculously productive year when Bergman, besides unveiling The Seventh Seal and Wild Strawberries and working extensively in theatre and TV, led a messily complicated domestic life that included a spell in hospital. This focus is merely the springboard for a survey that spirals out to embrace everything from childhood to old age, touching on his many creative achievements, his strengths and failings as a man, and the way his art derived from his life. Illuminating anecdotes are offered by many who knew him – none, however, perhaps quite as revealing as Ingmar’s own testimony.
Also available on BFIPLAYER
OPENs FRI 25 JAN

INGMAR BERGMAN FOCUS

The Seventh Seal Det sjunde inseglet
Sweden 1957. Dir Ingmar Bergman. With Max von Sydow, Gunnar Björnstrand, Bengt Ekerot, Bibi Andersson. 96min. Digital. EST. PG
Vividly recreating a medieval world tormented by plague and superstition, Bergman’s allegorical drama – centred on a knight (von Sydow) returned from the Crusades who challenges Death to a game of chess in order to postpone his demise – remains fascinating (and finally rather touching) as a study of faith in crisis. Full of powerful images, it punctuates its bleakness with moments of pleasingly pawky humour.
Also available on BFIPLAYER
SUN 13 JAN 18:00 NFT1 / SAT 19 JAN 16:10 NFT1 / MON 28 JAN 14:30 NFT3 / WED 30 JAN 20:50 NFT1
Wild Strawberries Smultronstålet
One of Bergman’s warmest films boasts a magnificent performance by Sjöström as ageing, grouchy academic Isak Borg, who is driving to Lund to receive an award; the trip takes in memories, reveries and illuminating encounters with family members and strangers alike. Famous for its early dream sequence, the film is nevertheless most impressive for its rich, vivid characterisations from a superb cast of Bergman regulars.
Also available on BFIPLAYER
TUE 1 JAN 15:40 NFT3 / SUN 20 JAN 20:00 NFT2 / TUE 22 JAN 14:30 NFT3 / SUN 27 JAN 15:30 NFT1

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

The Passenger Professione: reporter
Italy-France-Spain 1975. Dir Michelangelo Antonioni. With Jack Nicholson, Maria Schneider, Jenny Runacre, Ian Hendry. 126min. Digital. 12A. A BFI release
When David Locke (Nicholson) impulsively exchanges identities with a businessman he finds dead in a North African hotel room, he believes he’s starting anew. But passing himself off as someone else doesn’t mean he’s escaping the past... Working from a superb script by Mark Peploe and Peter Wollen, Antonioni creates some of his most memorable scenes and eloquent images: Locke breaking down in the Sahara; soliciting help from a tourist (Schneider) in Gaudi’s Barcelona; trying to evade various people pursuing him through the arid landscapes of southern Spain. Suspense, intrigue, wit, visual beauty, ideas: this classic has them all in spades.
Seniors’ matinee + intro Mon 14 Jan 14:00 NFT1
FROM FRI 4 JAN

ANTONIONI
Confronting the modern world with style

Michelangelo Antonioni: Chronicle of a Modernist’s Career
TRT 100min
In this introductory survey of Antonioni’s work as a writer-director of international renown, season curator Geoff Andrew will discuss both his steady development of what became a highly distinctive – and extremely influential – style of cinematic storytelling, and the themes which preoccupied him over the years. The talk will make lavish use of film clips, some of them from deservedly famous sequences.
Tickets £6.50
WED 9 JAN 18:10 NFT1

THE GOLDFERN AGE OF ALEXANDER KORDA: BRITAIN’S MOVIE MOGUL

Introducing Britain’s Movie Mogul
TRT 90min
To launch our Alexander Korda season we explore what made him earn the title of ‘Britain’s Movie Mogul.’ How did he manage to challenge the dominance of Hollywood? How did his background as a Hungarian émigré impact his approach to production and collaboration? Korda’s biographer Charles Drazin, producer David Korda and academic Sarah Street will discuss the extraordinary career of Alexander Korda with season curator Josephine Botting.
Tickets £6.50
TUE 8 JAN 18:10 NFT3
LAUREL AND HARDY

King’s key Scholars in Film Studies: ‘I Want Music Everywhere’: Music and Slapstick in Laurel and Hardy’s Early Sound Films

TRT 90min

In the latest in this series of lectures featuring world-leading scholars, Professor Rob King (Columbia University) looks at the role of music in one of the most important Hollywood studios of the early sound era, the Hal Roach Studios, whose most famous stars were Laurel and Hardy. Exploring the studio’s innovation of jazzy ‘wall-to-wall’ musical scores, King’s talk will shed new light on the ways in which film scoring was used to enhance slapstick pacing and tempo. King will also consider how these innovations took a different turn a few years later in a series of feature-length operettas starring Laurel and Hardy.

Tickets £6.50

Presented in partnership with Department of Film Studies, King’s College London

BIG SCREEN CLASSICS

The Innocents + intro by Lucy Bolton, Queen Mary University of London*

UK 1961. Dir Jack Clayton. With Deborah Kerr, Michael Redgrave, Peter Wyngarde. 100min. Digital 4K. 12A

Based on Henry James’ The Turn of the Screw, The Innocents follows a newly appointed governess who is responsible for two children at a large country estate. As she starts to suspect that her wards might be possessed by spirits, she uncovers the history of the property, and is forced to question her own sanity. With stunningly atmospheric cinematography from Freddie Francis and a fantastic score, this is a treat on the big screen.

THU 3 JAN 20:40 NFT2 / SUN 6 JAN 17:50 NFT2 / WED 9 JAN 18:10 NFT3*

Dead of Night


This British horror anthology film features several eerie tales that unfold during an evening in a country house. The most chilling is undoubtedly the final story, which features Redgrave as a ventriloquist who believes his dummy is real. With stories by HG Wells and EF Benson, and an impressive line-up of directing talent, Dead of Night is more than capable of delivering its share of scares.

Also available on BFIPLAYER

TUE 8 JAN 20:40 NFT2 / SAT 12 JAN 20:40 NFT2 / THU 17 JAN 14:30 STUDIO / FRI 25 JAN 18:20 NFT2

Cat People

USA 1942. Dir Jacques Tourneur. With Simone Simon, Kent Smith, Tom Conway. 73min. Digital. PG

A young couple find their relationship tested by her belief that she’s descended from a line of feline people who can transform into panthers when aroused and are capable of killing. This classic, atmospheric tale of suspense draws upon the power of suggestion, and depicted its horror in a groundbreaking and chillingly effective way which proved that sometimes less is more.

MON 7 JAN 20:45 NFT3/ FRI 18 JAN 20:40 NFT2

Night of the Demon


‘It’s in the trees, it’s coming...’ Jacques Tourneur’s film is based on a story by MR James and features a satanic cult, an eerie séance and a demonic threat. Night of the Demon is now considered a gothic classic, and was chosen by Martin Scorsese as one of the scariest horror films of all times.
Beetlejuice + intro by Justin Johnson, Lead Programmer*

USA 1988. Dir Tim Burton. With Geena Davis, Michael Keaton, Alec Baldwin. 92min. Digital. 12A
Tim Burton’s second feature is the ultimate haunted-house movie. It features a belting soundtrack by Danny Elfman, impressive visual effects (a mixture of stop-motion, prosthetics and chroma key) and a knockout performance from Keaton as Betelgeuse, a crude spirit trying to help a recently deceased ghost couple rid their home of new inhabitants. This fun, scary, outrageous comic fantasy firmly put Burton on the map.

Häxan Witchcraft Through the Ages

Sweden-Denmark 1921. Dir Benjamin Christensen. With Benjamin Christensen, Clara Pontoppidan, Oscar Stribolt, Maren Pedersen. c106min. Digital. With live piano accompaniment*. EST. 15
Even upon release, Häxan’s status as a great work of cinema was never under question, but its ‘unadulterated horror’ led some critics to consider it ‘unfit for public exhibition.’ Part documentary, part re-enactment, this silent, well-researched study of witchcraft and superstition adopts a subversive, surrealist approach that makes it both a chilling curio and a masterpiece in its own right.

Gaslight + intro by Nathalie Morris, BFI National Archive Curator*

UK 1940. Dir Thorold Dickinson. With Anton Walbrook, Diana Wynyard, Frank Pettingell. 89min. Digital. PG
Despite MGM’s attempts to dispose of it so as not to rival their lavish remake four years later, Thorold Dickinson’s Gaslight thankfully survives. Newlyweds Paul and Bella arrive at a house that has been empty for years, having previously been the scene of a murder, and it soon becomes clear to Bella that her new home has been vacant for good reason. Gaslight has a sense of menace that enthral s throughout.

The Old Dark House

USA 1932. Dir James Whale. With Boris Karloff, Raymond Massey, Charles Laughton, Gloria Stuart. 75min. Digital 4K. PG
Five travellers find themselves stranded in the Welsh mountains during a huge storm and are drawn towards an old, deserted house run by a sinister brother and sister and their mute butler (Karloff). In a film considered lost for many years, James Whale uses macabre humour and things that go bump in the night to tell a very creepy story. You can’t call yourself a horror fan until you’ve seen The Old Dark House.

Also available on BFIPLAYER

The Phantom of the Opera

USA 1925. Dir Rupert Julian. With Lon Chaney, Mary Philbin, Norman Kerry. 89min. Digital. With Ed Bussey score. PG
This silent classic, made only 15 years after Gaston Leroux’s novel was published, features Lon Chaney as the ‘Phantom’ of the Paris Opera House, who becomes fixated on the beautiful and vocally talented Christine, understudy to the prima donna of the company. After some ghostly sightings and other scares, Christine comes face to face with him – but is he a man or a monster?

Also available on BFIPLAYER

Dracula

USA 1931. Dir Tod Browning. With Bela Lugosi, Helen Chandler, David Manners. 74min. Digital. PG
After a successful lawsuit against Murnau’s 1922 Nosferatu, Bram Stoker’s widow sold the rights to Universal for this horror classic, which sees Lugosi reprise his successful Broadway role as Count Dracula, a vampire who resides in a Transylvanian castle and feasts upon the blood of young women. The role that defined his career is powerful and compelling.
Vampyr Vampyr: Der traum des Allan Gray
Germany-France 1932. Dir Carl Theodor Dreyer. With Julian West, Maurice Schutz, Rena Mandel. 82min. Digital. PG
As one of two very different vampire pictures released within a year of each other, this is an interesting companion piece to Tod Browning’s commercially successful Dracula. Here, Danish auteur Dreyer offers a different, more experimental take on the vampire story. His first sound film was shot in three languages on location and uses soft focus to enhance the atmosphere and make for a delightfully unsettling viewing experience.

The Others + intro by Anna Bogutskaya, Events Programmer*
USA-Spain-France-Italy 2001. Dir Alejandro Amenábar. With Nicole Kidman, James Bentley, Alakina Mann, Christopher Eccleston. 104min. 35mm 12A
Alejandro Amenábar’s chilling drama owes as much to The Turn of the Screw as it does to more recent horror stories. Grace Stewart and her two children live in a large country house after WWII. Grace becomes increasingly unsettled when she hears voices, and her daughter reports sightings of other people. Kidman has rarely been better, capturing the paranoia of a fragile woman trying desperately to protect her family.

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

50th Anniversary Screening: Where Eagles Dare + Q&A
‘Broadsword calling Danny Boy...’ Richard Burton’s Major Smith leads his intrepid group into the heart of Nazi Bavaria to rescue a US General who knows too many military secrets. With some great plot twists and outstanding stunts (including the classic cable car scene), Where Eagles Dare is deservedly considered one of the greatest action films of all time. Join us for an anniversary screening with a host of special guests (see bfi.org.uk for updates).

Woody Woodpecker: A Celebration
TRT 90min. With thanks to Universal Pictures International
Created by Walter Lantz in 1940, Woody Woodpecker starred in hundreds of theatrical shorts until Lantz’s studio closed in 1972. Today, our guest panel discusses what made this loveable bird such a huge success on both film and TV, re-appraising classics such as The Barber of Seville (1944) and Termites from Mars (1952), alongside brand new animated shorts which we preview here for the first time.

LONDON SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 2019
LSFF returns for it’s sixteenth year delivering the best in short form
Looming coastlines, Counts with suspect dinner invitations, heavy doses of Catholic guilt: check, check, check. These short films probe ‘gothic’ in all its conceptions, from Americana to pastoral horrors with tinges of Angela Carter. We’ve archaeologists unleashing evil nymphs and Game of Thrones’ Maisie Williams avenging bullies with a little crow-whispering. The programme also features Billie Piper, Sinéad Cusack and Harry Potter’s Katie Leung.

**MON 14 JAN 20:15 NFT3**

**Derek Jarman: The Music Videos**

**TRT 84min**

As music video emerged as a culturally significant medium in the early 80s, Derek Jarman found himself in high demand by outsider and queer artists who were breaking into the mainstream. LSFF presents a celebration of these oft-forgotten, aesthetically diverse gems, featuring his collaborations with The Smiths, the Pet Shop Boys, Suede and others. The screening will be followed by a Jarman disco in the BFI Bar and Kitchen.

**WED 16 JAN 20:30 NFT3**

**The Contouring of Deafhoods + Q&A**

**TRT 130min**

Looking at how each D/deaf person moves through pockets of communities, this programme takes us from the harbours and cities of England to the refugee camps of the Sahara to the greenery of New Zealand. We prise out conversations on how culture, circumstance, race and gender relate to our deafnesses. With a BSL Q&A, and English interpretation provided.

**THU 17 JAN 20:20 NFT3**

**Fishing With John + Skype Q&A with John Lurie**

**TRT 165min**

Musician John Lurie’s deadpan (mis) adventure series follows Tom Waits, Willem Dafoe and others who are coerced into a variety of ill-prepared fishing trips. A surreal precursor to the scripted reality TV shows of the noughties, and pitched somewhere between a Discovery Channel travelogue and a hipsterised Beckett play, Fishing with John is a curiously heartwarming ode to friendship and reckless fishing.

**FRI 18 JAN 20:00 NFT3**

**CHINESE NEW YEAR**

On Tue 5 Feb it’s officially the year of the pig, join us to celebrate through cinema

**Turtle Rock**

*China 2017. Dir Xiao Xiao. 101min. Digital. EST*

For nearly a century the village of Turtle Rock (named after a giant turtle-shaped rock formation) has been home to seven families. Originally fleeing war, they moved to this mountainous region and have eked out a simple life ever since. Filmed delicately from afar in black and white and incorporating a naturalistic soundtrack, this beautiful observational documentary captures the rhythm and remote-ness of the residents’ lives as they weather the four seasons.

**MON 21 JAN 18:30 NFT2**

**UK Premiere: A Way Out**

*China-Germany 2017. Dir Zheng Qiong. 94min. Digital. EST*

This documentary portrait follows the lives of three Chinese teenagers from vastly contrasting social backgrounds who are all striving for a better future. One is from a big city, one from a small provincial town and the third hails from a village in one of the most poverty-stricken areas of China. Over the course of six years we learn about their dreams, hopes and fears as they navigate their way in a modern world where success seems to be the only thing that matters.

**WED 23 JAN 20:30 NFT3**
UK Premiere: Men on the Dragon + Q&A with cast and crew TBA
Hong Kong 2018. Dir Sunny Chan. With Francis Ng, Chan-Leung Poon, Kenny Wong. 92min. Digital. EST
This heartfelt comedy follows three employees of a broadband network company as they struggle to overcome life’s daily grind. With massive layoffs afoot, they pledge their company loyalty by signing up for the newly formed dragon boat team. Once embarked on a rigid training programme, they’re forced to confront their mid-life crises and rediscover their fight for life’s wider challenges.

FRI 25 JAN 18:20 NFT1

Filming East Shorts Award Show + Q&A
TRT 120min
Co-produced by Filming East and Chinese Arts Now, this event is part of the British Chinese Film Day, and will present entries for the Filming East Short Film Award, the competition of short films produced by Chinese filmmakers in the UK. Films are selected from different genres and include narrative, animation, fashion video, and documentary. This special event will include a Q&A with the filmmakers.
Presented by Chinese Arts Now

SUN 27 JAN 12:50 NFT3

Susu + Q&A with director Yixi Sun, producer Norman J Warren and other members of the production team
Two Chinese students take a weekend job working on the archives of a famous Chinese opera star and find themselves involved in a chilling gothic mystery. This feature debut from UK-based Yixi Sun is produced by legendary horror director Norman J Warren and offers a unique twist on the traditional haunted-house story, and is a Cardiff International Film Festival winner.

SUN 27 JAN 15:15 NFT3

UK Premiere: The Soul of Himalaya + intro by Yixi Sun, director of Filming East
This epic drama is set in the eighth century and features the Bogar tribe, part of the mysterious Lhoba people who live in the forests of the Tibetan Plateau. Disaster has forced them to the edge of extinction and the story follows their attempt to reverse their imminent destruction. All supporting roles are performed by ethnic Lhobas who are real-life herdsmen, farmers or hunters. The film offers a rare glimpse into a Tibetan culture that’s fast disappearing in the face of an encroaching modern world.

WED 30 JAN 20:20 NFT3

UK Premiere: The Fragile House Hai shang cheng shi + intro by Filming East
China 2018. Dir Lin Zi. With Zeng Xiaolian, Wei Heqing, Xiao Jie, Sang Guosheng, Ren Yue. 85min. Digital. EST
This visually inventive directorial debut offers a fresh take on the traditional genre of the Chinese New Year film. Money and familial attachments collide when Huang CuiYing’s younger sister drops by on New Year’s Eve demanding repayment of a debt. Lin Zi takes the most important celebration in the Chinese calendar and uses it to reflect on the concept of ‘family,’ which is under fire in the struggle for profit in modern China.

THU 31 JAN 20:30 NFT3

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...

WOMAN WITH A MOVIE CAMERA
We celebrate women’s contribution to cinema and spotlight female stories

I Used to be Normal: A Boyband Fangirl Story
*Australia-USA 2018. Dir Jessica Leski. 96min. Digital*
To paraphrase the immortal words of Harry Styles, ‘who’s to say that a teen girl’s musical taste is any less valuable than that of a 30-year-old hipster?’ In her documentary feature debut, which premiered to a rapturous reception at 2018’s London Film Festival, director Jessica Leski doesn’t focus on the boybands themselves, but the adoration they inspire in women. Four in particular, from different generations (aged 14 to 64) and diverse backgrounds, with an array of boyband preferences: The Beatles; Backstreet Boys; Take That and One Direction. Leski presents fandom as a valuable rite of passage and a way for women to define their own identity, in a film exploding with so much colour and enthusiasm that you’ll start smiling from the very first shot.

Supported by

MON 7 JAN 18:10 NFT3

AFRICAN ODYSSEYS
Inspirational films by and about the people of Africa, from archive classics to new cinema and docs

Horace Ove Double-bill: Baldwin’s Nigger + intro by artist Zak Ove
*UK 1968. Dir Horace Ove. 46min. 16mm*
In light of the recent film adaptation of James Baldwin’s novel *If Beale Street Could Talk*, we screen this impassioned, entertaining and striking portrait of the writer as he addresses a community activist group in 1960s London. Accompanied by the comedian and civil rights activist Dick Gregory, Baldwin discusses, among other things, what it means to be black in America, comparing it to the experience of the British black community.

+ The Black Safari + Q&A
For years there have been white expeditions to deepest Africa. In this parody of such explorers and documentary films, an African expedition travels along the Liverpool to Leeds canal in search of Britain’s heart. The intrepid explorers examine the quaint customs of the natives, delve into their folklore and record for posterity an exotic but fast-vanishing culture.

SAT 19 JAN 14:00 NFT2

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

Experimenta Mixtape #1
*TRT 75min*
Think of this screening event as a continuous stream of choice items drawn from multiple sources; one film follows another and so on. The sequence will last roughly 75 minutes and titles will not be announced in advance. The only guide we offer is to say that it will collide timestreams and contexts, naturally, and the selection of work will be broad. Expect experimental films, artist films, short films, maybe even adverts and probably pop videos. Like any good mixtape, whether smoothly sequenced or roughly compiled, it should, we hope, articulate a sense of both openness and great intent, or better still, commitment. This first mixtape will be compiled by BFI programmer William Fowler.

THU 10 JAN 20:30 NFT3
SONIC CINEMA
Music-inspired films and events, a feast for the ears and the eyes

Reeps One: We Speak Music + live performance and Q&A
TRT 90min

We Speak Music is an exploration into the unexpected evolution of the human voice and technology. Fronted by visual artist and world-class beatboxer Harry Yeff (aka Reeps One) and presented by technological innovators Nokia Bell Labs, this series of six short documentaries investigates the little-studied and emerging areas of voice and communication beyond speaking. Reframing our understanding of the human voice and its potential, the series reveals the monumental growth of vocal experimentation among a diversity of communities around the world, and its groundbreaking importance for academia. In a finale concluding his journey, Reeps One collaborates with a vocal AI ‘twin’ to expose the newest paradigm shift around voice, and an imminent future.

Tickets £16.50, concs £13.20 (Members pay £2 less)
THU 24 JAN 20:50 NFT1

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

Zombie (aka Zombi 2/Zombie Flesh Eaters)
Italy 1979. Dir Lucio Fulci. With Tisa Farrow, Ian McCulloch, Richard Johnson. 88min. Digital. EST. 18

Initially billed as a sequel to Dawn of the Dead (despite no connection to Romero’s classic), Fulci’s film takes place on a Caribbean island, where a young woman stumbles upon an outbreak of the undead as she’s searching for her missing father. Boasting some of the director’s most outré set-pieces (zombie vs shark, anyone?), this eye-popping shocker gained infamy in the UK as an official video nasty.

THU 31 JAN 20:40 NFT2

BFI FAMILIES

FUNDAY PREVIEW: HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD
USA 2019. Dir Dean DeBlois. With the voices of Jay Baruchel, Jonah Hill, Cate Blanchett, Kit Harington. RT tbc. PG. Courtesy of Universal Pictures International

The much-anticipated final instalment of this epic series finds the people of Berk happily living in harmony with the dragons, with Hiccup as their chief. However, a significant threat to the village means that Hiccup and Toothless must travel to find a hidden world, long dismissed as a myth – and along the way they meet a female Night Fury!

SAT 26 JAN 12:00 NFT1

FUNDAY WORKSHOP: HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD

Bring your little ones along to our dragon-inspired arts and crafts area, and be in with a chance to win some fantastically prizes. We invite you to create fire-breathing creatures, dragon masks, animated adventures... just let your imaginations take flight!

This is a drop-in workshop, free to ticket holders of How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World

SAT 26 JAN 10:30 FOYER

SATURDAY FILM CLUBS
Our Saturday film clubs are a must for any child who loves film and wants to have fun! Topics cover everything from animation and adverts, to sci-fi and special effects... More info can be found at bfi.org.uk/families. These clubs are hugely popular so book early.

Mini Filmmakers (for ages 8-11)
10:30 – 12:30 (£85 per child)

Young Filmmakers (for ages 12-15)
14:00 – 16:30 (£95 per child)
For more info contact:
joanna.vandermeer@bfi.org.uk
EVERY SAT FROM 12 JAN – 16 FEB

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

Future Film Labs: The Celluloid Recalibration
Future Film Labs offers industry insight, practical masterclasses, professional advice and networking for young emerging filmmakers. From the latest VFX to the most exciting new technologies – how do you prepare to be the filmmaker of the future? Find out in this month’s discussion. We wrap up with free networking drinks featuring drop-in scripting, casting, funding and career surgeries with our partners Euroscript, Backstage, Livetree and Hiive. Inspiration awaits!
Tickets £6 or bring a friend for £10
Headline sponsor of Future Film Labs and Future Film Recommends:

SAT 19 JAN 12:30 NFT3