62nd BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL AMERICAN EXPRESS® GALA ANNOUNCED AS UK PREMIERE OF

THE FAVOURITE

Embargo: Thursday 9th August, 12pm

LONDON, Thursday 9th August: The 62nd BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express® is thrilled to announce THE FAVOURITE, a film directed by Academy Award® nominee Yorgos Lanthimos and starring Olivia Colman, Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz, as this year’s American Express Gala. The film will receive its UK Premiere on Thursday 18th October at the Cineworld, Leicester Square.

It’s the early 18th century and England is at war with the French. Nevertheless, duck racing and pineapple eating are thriving at Court. A frail Queen Anne (Olivia Colman) occupies the throne and her close friend Lady Sarah (Rachel Weisz) governs the country in her stead while tending to Anne’s ill health and mercurial temper. When a new servant Abigail (Emma Stone) arrives, her charm endears her to both Sarah and the Queen, and Abigail sees a chance at a return to her aristocratic roots. As the politics of war become intense, so too does intrigue at the Palace. Abigail is determined to fulfil her ambitions and she will not let woman, man, politics or rabbit stand in her way.

THE FAVOURITE, a film by Academy Award® nominated Yorgos Lanthimos, is written by Deborah Davis and Tony McNamara and produced by BAFTA® nominee Ceci Dempsey, Academy Award® nominee Ed Guiney, BAFTA® nominee Lee Magiday and Yorgos Lanthimos. Starring BAFTA® and Golden Globe® winner Olivia Colman, Academy
Award® winner Emma Stone and Academy Award® winner Rachel Weisz. THE FAVOURITE also stars BAFTA nominee® Nicholas Hoult, Joe Alwyn, James Smith, Primetime Emmy® winner Mark Gatiss and Jenny Rainsford.

Tricia Tuttle, BFI London Film Festival Artistic Director says: “This is wickedly funny filmmaking from Yorgos Lanthimos who is operating at virtuoso frequency. The Favourite is a delight from start to finish, powered by a trio of riotous performances from Olivia Colman, Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz who are all clearly revelling in the wit and rhythm of the script. The perfect Gala for our principal partner American Express.”

From Fox Searchlight Pictures, Film4 and Waypoint Entertainment, an Element Pictures/Scarlet Films Production, THE FAVOURITE is released in cinemas across the UK and Ireland on January 1st 2019.

THE FAVOURITE was developed by Film4, the BFI with National Lottery funding, and the Irish Film Board.

The 62nd BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express takes place from Wednesday 10 October-Sunday 21 October 2018. The full Festival programme will be announced on Thursday 30 August 2018.

- Ends-

THE FAVOURITE Assets – Trailer / Stills
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJ1cQqkdigo&feature=youtu.be
Stills: Download here or at this link https://ftp.premiercomms.com/?ShareToken=6318964C7E9ED3A57F714CBA6D708E499EAC3548

For further press information and general enquiries about the 62nd BFI London Film Festival:

Please note the different festival sections, contacts and accreditation for 2018

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 Festival Publicity Assistant: Georgie Markham
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

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

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

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

BFI Head of Press and PR: Judy Wells
Tel: +44 (0)7984 180 501

For further details on the UK release of THE FAVOURITE
Eugene.Oconnor@premiercomms.com / +44 207 292 7342
Elizabeth.Taylor@premiercomms.com / +44 207 292 8396
NOTES TO EDITORS

About the BFI

THE FAVOURITE was supported in development by the BFI Film Fund. 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. With over £50 million of National Lottery funding to invest each year, the BFI is the UK’s largest public investor in film.

The BFI is the lead organisation for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK - investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI is a Government arm’s-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger.

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 Artistic Director follows 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; programming the BFI London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival (the pre-cursor to BFI Flare) and as Event Producer at London’s The Script Factory. Highly regarded by the BFI and industry, 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.
About Amex Invites
American Express connects Cardmembers to the kinds of rewarding experiences and opportunities that matter to them and their businesses. Through Amex Invites, 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 Invites is just one example of the powerful backing that American Express provides its customers.

About American Express
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About Fox Searchlight Pictures
Fox Searchlight Pictures is a specialty film company that both finances and acquires motion pictures. It has its own marketing and distribution operations, and the films are distributed internationally by Twentieth Century Fox. Fox Searchlight Pictures is a unit of 21st Century Fox.

About Film4
Film4 is Channel 4 Television’s feature film division. Film4 develops and co-finances films and is known for working with the most distinctive and innovative talent in UK and international filmmaking, both new and established. Film4 has developed and co-financed many of the most successful UK films of recent years, Academy Award®-winners such as Martin McDonagh’s Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri, Lenny Abrahamson’s Room, Alex Garland’s Ex Machina, Asif Kapadia’s box office record breaking documentary 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 Lynne Ramsay’s You Were Never Really Here, Andrea Arnold’s American Honey, Yorgos Lanthimos’s The Lobster, Mike Leigh’s Mr. Turner, Chris Morris’s Four Lions, Shane Meadows’ This is England, Clio Barnard’s The Selfish Giant, Jonathan Glazer’s Under the Skin, Andrew Haigh’s 45 Years and David Mackenzie’s Starred Up.

Film4’s recent releases include Andrew Haigh’s Lean on Pete, Clio Barnard’s Dark River, Michael Pearce’s Beast, Yorgos Lanthimos’s The Killing of a Sacred Deer, Rungano Nyoni’s I Am Not a Witch, and Danny Boyle’s T2 Trainspotting. Forthcoming releases include Bart Layton’s American Animals, Sebastián Lelio’s Disobedience, Pawel Pawlikowski’s Cold War, Lenny Abrahamson’s The Little Stranger, Yorgos Lanthimos’s The Favourite, Tinge Krishnan’s Been So Long, Iain Morris’s The Festival, Mike Leigh’s Peterloo, Steve McQueen’s Widows, Stephen Merchant’s Chernobyl, and David Mackenzie’s Education. Films in production or pre-production include Armando Iannucci’s The Personal History of David Copperfield, Asif Kapadia’s Maradona, Nick Rowland’s Calm With Horses, Justin Kurzel’s True History of the Kelly Gang, Coky Giedroyc’s adaptation of Caitlin Moran’s How To Build a Girl, and Chaplin from Peter Middleton and James Spinney. For further information please visit www.film4productions.com.

About Waypoint Entertainment
Waypoint Entertainment is a film and television development, production, and finance company with a slate that includes: Scott Cooper’s HOSTILES starring Christian Bale and Rosamund Pike; Martin Zandvliet’s THE OUTSIDER starring Jared Leto; Shane Black’s detective thriller THE NICE GUYS starring Russell Crowe and Ryan Gosling; Woody
Harrelson’s LOST IN LONDON Harrelson, Owen Wilson, and Willie Nelson; and Terrence Malick’s SONG TO SONG starring Ryan Gosling Michael Fassbender, Natalie Portman, Cate Blanchett, and Rooney Mara.

About Element Pictures
Element Pictures is headed by Ed Guiney and Andrew Lowe, with offices in Dublin and London encompassing film and television production, distribution, and exhibition. Recent productions include Lenny Abrahamson’s Academy Award® and Golden Globe Award-winning ROOM, Yorgos Lanthimos’ THE LOBSTER, winner of the Jury Prize in Cannes and Academy Award® nominated for Best Original Screenplay. Currently in post-production is Yorgos Lanthimos’ THE KILLING OF A SACRED DEER starring Colin Farrell and Nicole Kidman and Sebastián Lelio’s DISOBEDIENCE, starring Rachel McAdams, Rachel Weisz and Alessandro Nivola.

About Scarlet Films
Ceci Dempsey is the Managing Director of Scarlet Films, a film and television company based in London. Recent productions include Yorgos Lanthimos’s THE LOBSTER, which won the Jury Prize in Cannes and was nominated for an Academy Award® and a BAFTA Award®. THE FAVOURITE, which is currently in production, again with Lanthimos as director, was developed initially at Scarlet with the BFI. A number of feature and television projects will be announced shortly. Prior to becoming an independent producer, Dempsey had a number of executive positions at studios in LA and London across development and production, namely Lumiere Pictures, BSkyB, Eon Productions and CiBy 2000.