1-20 March 2018 at BFI Southbank

ONSTAGE APPEARANCES INCLUDE:  
SUSAN SARANDON AND ALEXANDRA DEAN (EXEC PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR OF BOMBSHELL: THE HEDY LAMARR STORY), ACTOR MICHAEL CAINE AND DIRECTOR DAVID BATTY (MY GENERATION), DIRECTOR RUBEN ÖSTLUND (THE SQUARE), DIRECTOR MOLLY DINEEN (BEING BLACKER), WRITER-ACTOR MARC WOOTTON AND ACTORS VICKI PEPPERDINE, ASIM CHAUDHRY AND HARRY PEACOCK (HIGH & DRY), WRITER TONY GRISONI AND ACTORS DAVID MORRISSEY AND MANDEEP DHILLON (THE CITY AND THE CITY)


Friday 26 January 2018, London.
Prior to the launch of BFI FLARE on Wednesday 21 March, the programme at BFI Southbank from 1-20 March sees the culmination of both our season dedicated to Swedish master INGMAR BERGMAN, and GIRLFRIENDS, a season celebrating the joys and complexities of female friendships on screen. Highlights of the GIRLFRIENDS programme in March will include a very special live edition of popular comedy podcast The Guilty Feminist on Saturday 17 March and a day of events on Saturday 3 March looking at girlfriends on television, from Sex and the City and Girls to Chewing Gum and Fleabag. The BFI’s continuing ANIMATION focus this month will include the UK Premiere of a set of Aardman Shorts which have been newly restored by AMPAS. The shorts, which feature family favourites Wallace and Gromit, will be followed by a Q&A with Aardman co-founder David Sproxton on Sunday 11 March.

Ahead of the release of new documentary Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story (Alexandra Dean, 2017), which tells the story of Hollywood star and pioneering inventor Hedy Lamarr, BFI Southbank will host a very special International Women’s Day preview of the film on Thursday 8 March. The preview will be followed by a Q&A with the film’s Director Alexandra Dean and Executive Producer Susan Sarandon, which will also be simulcast live to selected cinemas across the UK in partnership with UN Women. The film will then open on extended run the following day, screening alongside a selection of classic films in which Lamarr starred, including Experiment Perilous (Jacques Tourneur, 1944) and My Favorite Spy (Norman Z McLeod, 1951). Also previewing will be My Generation (David Batty, 2017); presented and narrated by Michael Caine, My Generation playfully explores the impact of Britain’s working class cultural revolution in the 1960s. The preview on Wednesday 14 March will be followed by a Q&A with Michael Caine and director David Batty, which will be simulcast live to selected cinemas across the UK. Also previewing in March will be the Oscar-nominated The Square (2017), which will be followed by a Q&A with director Ruben Östlund on Monday 12 March.

The 16th Kinoteka Polish Film Festival will open at BFI Southbank with a screening of Birds Are Singing in Kigali (Joanna Kos-Krauze, Krzysztof Krauze, 2017) on Wednesday 7 March. The screening will be followed
by a Q&A with director Joanna Kos-Krauze, who will also take part in two further Kinoteka events at BFI Southbank on Thursday 8 March. BFI Southbank will also welcome the Human Rights Watch Film Festival to the venue over the weekend of 9-11 March; the Festival, which returns to London from 7-16 March, will announce the full programme, including films and special guests at BFI Southbank, in early February.

**GIRLFRIENDS**

- SAT 3 MAR, 11:00-16:00 – SPECIAL EVENT: Squad Goals: An Exploration of TV Girlfriends
- SAT 3 MAR, 18:30 – SPECIAL EVENT: Squad Goals: The Girlfriend Revolution on TV
- SAT 17 MAR, 13:50 – SPECIAL EVENT: The Guilty Feminist Live!

BFI Southbank’s season of films celebrating the joys and complexities of female friendships – GIRLFRIENDS – includes features and shorts from around the world, from the silent era to today. The season showcases portraits of women who are three-dimensional and not defined solely by their relationship to men, from the hedonist heroines of Vera Chytilová’s *Daisies* (1966) and the schoolgirl friendship depicted in Jane Campion’s rarely-seen TV movie *2 Friends* (1986), to the endlessly quotable titular characters of *Romy and Michele’s High School Reunion* (David Mirkin, 1997). Around twenty features will be screened between Thursday 1 February – Tuesday 20 March, most of which will be paired with a short film by an up-and-coming woman filmmaker. More than half the films in the season are directed by women, including Sally Potter, Nicole Holofcener, Vera Chytilová and Hollywood pioneer Dorothy Arzner, while almost all of them have a female scriptwriter, presenting audiences with a wealth of female talent both behind and in front of the camera.

Special events during March will include a very special live edition of popular comedy podcast *The Guilty Feminist* on Saturday 17 March. Hosted by comedian and writer Deborah Frances-White, *The Guilty Feminist Live!* will welcome special guests to discuss female friendship, films and topics ‘all 21st-century feminists agree on’ while confessing their insecurities, hypocrisies and the fears that undermine their lofty principles. On Saturday 3 March there will be a day of events looking at girlfriends on television; it’s been 20 years since the first episode of *Sex and the City* aired, and since then we’ve seen shows that have complex, honest and hilarious portrayals of female friendships at their core, from *Girls*, *Broad City* and *Insecure*, to Brit-hits *Chewing Gum* and *Fleabag*. During this day of talks we’ll interrogate this wave of female-made and female-focused content, their characters and their cultural legacy. There will also be a tie-in collection on BFI Player with more than 20 features and shorts on offer, including critically acclaimed Palestinian film *In Between* (Maysaloun Hamoud, 2016), Sean Baker’s compassionate and frenetic tale of two transgender sex workers *Tangerine* (2015) and Japanese film *Happy Hour* (Ryusuke Hamaguchi, 2015), which was a hit on the festival circuit in 2015.


**INGMAR BERGMAN: A DEFINITIVE FILM SEASON**

- SAT 3 MAR, 16:30 – TALK: Bergman: Beyond the Silver Screen

The BFI will mark the centenary of world-renowned Swedish filmmaker INGMAR BERGMAN (1918 – 2007) in early 2018; the ultimate auteur, Bergman was a hugely influential and distinctive writer-director who worked in film, theatre and television. The celebration will include a comprehensive season of his work at BFI Southbank from Monday 1 January to Tuesday 20 March, UK-wide revivals of Bergman’s first English-language film *The Touch* (1971) and his much-loved version of Mozart’s opera *The Magic Flute* (1975), with 2
both titles also being released on BFI Blu-ray/DVD and on BFI Player. Five other films, unseen on the big screen for many years, including *Smiles of a Summer Night* (1955) and *Cries and Whispers* (1972), will be made available for booking by the BFI, enabling cinemas around the country to programme their own mini-retrospectives during this centenary year.

The BFI Southbank season, which is a collaboration between the BFI, the Ingmar Bergman Foundation, The Swedish Film Institute, SF Studios and The Ministry of Culture Sweden, will include virtually everything Bergman wrote for the screen, taking in well-known films such as *The Seventh Seal* (1957) and *Wild Strawberries* (1957), and ground-breaking TV series like *Scenes from a Marriage* (1973) starring Oscar-nominated actor Liv Ullmann, whose directorial feature *Faithless* (2000), from a script by Bergman, will also screen in the season. Screenings at BFI Southbank of more than 50 films directed or written by Bergman, as well as several TV series, will be accompanied by an ambitious events programme designed to bring Bergman and his work to life for a new generation. The season is programmed thematically to offer a fresh route into Bergman’s huge back-catalogue, and will give audiences a chance to reappraise, or discover for the first time, the work of a true master.


**ANIMATION 2018**

- **TUE 6 MAR, 18:20 – SCREENING + DISCUSSION: Funny Women Get Animated: Revisiting ’Crapston Villas’ and ’Pond Life’ / Onstage: animators Candy Guard and Sarah Ann Kennedy**

The BFI’s year-long celebration of all things animated, **ANIMATION 2018**, continues in March with a focus on a generation of animators who in the 80s and 90s, thanks to bold commissioning and programming by broadcasters like Channel 4, graduated from innovative new animation courses into a world that wanted to fund and screen their work. It was a golden age that showcased everything from progressive adult fare to iconic family favourites like Nick Park’s *Creature Comforts* (1989) and *Wallace and Gromit*.

A highlight of this month’s programme will be the UK premiere of a collection of classic Aardman films restored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS). Audiences will see Wallace and Gromit star in *A Grand Day Out, The Wrong Trousers* and *A Close Shave*, as well as lesser-known shorts *Adam*, *Wat’s Pig* and *War Story*. With over 40 years in the business, Aardman continue to produce some of the highest quality stop-motion animation in the world, and this rare big-screen outing on **Sunday 11 March** will be followed by a Q&A with Aardman co-founder **David Sproxton**. The late 1990s saw not one but two animated, adult sitcoms on mainstream television, both written and directed by women. On **Tuesday 6 March** we look back at the roots of Channel 4 series *Crapston Villas* and *Pond Life* with their creators **Candy Guard** and **Sarah Ann Kennedy**, along with the independent shorts that led to their breakthrough, and catch up with their more recent work.

Also screening in March will be Martin Rosen’s seminal *Watership Down* (1978), and a programme of newly restored British shorts from the BFI National Archive including Alison de Vere’s *The Black Dog* (1987), Joanna Quinn’s *Britannia* (1993) and Daniel Greaves’ Oscar-winning *Manipulation* (1991).
**EVENTS, PREVIEWS AND REGULAR STRANDS**

- **THU 1 MAR, 20:20 – FILM PREVIEW: Custody** *Jusqu’à la garde* (Xavier Legrand, 2017)
- **FRI 2 MAR, 13:00 & 18:15 – EXPERIMENTA: Edge of Frame Weekend 2018**
- **FRI 2 MAR, 20:45 – MEMBER EXCLUSIVE: The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert** (Stephan Elliott, 1994)
- **MON 5 MAR, 18:15 – TV PREVIEW + Q&A: High & Dry** (Baby Cow Productions-Fooling Nobody, 2018) / Onstage: writer-director Marc Wootton and actors Vicki Pepperdine, Asim Chaudhry and Harry Peacock
- **MON 5 MAR, 20:30 – FILM PREVIEW + Q&A: Being Blacker** (Molly Dineen, 2017) / Onstage: Director Molly Dineen
- **WED 7 MAR, 18:00 – THE 16TH KINOTEKA POLISH FILM FESTIVAL + DISCUSSION: Opening Night: Birds Are Singing in Kigali** (Joanna Kos-Krauze, Krzysztof Krauze, 2017) / Onstage: director Joanna Kos-Krauze
- **THU 8 MAR, 18:15 – INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY PREVIEW: Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story** (Alexandra Dean, 2017) / Onstage: Director Alexandra Dean and executive producer Susan Sarandon – simulcast live to cinemas around the UK
- **THU 8 MAR, 20:20 – THE 16TH KINOTEKA POLISH FILM FESTIVAL + INTRO: Papusza** (Joanna Kos-Krauze, 2013) / Onstage: Joanna Kos-Krauze
- **THU 8 MAR, 20:50 – WOMAN WITH A MOVIE CAMERA PREVIEW: I Got Life!** (Blandine Lenoir, 2017)
- **FRI 9 MAR – SUN 11 MAR, VARIOUS TIMES – HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS** – films and guests will be announced by HRWFF in early February
- **SAT 10 MAR, 16:00 – AFRICAN ODYSSES: Menelik Shabazz in Conversation** / Onstage: director Menelik Shabazz
- **MON 12 MAR, 18:15 – TV PREVIEW + Q&A: The City and the City** (BBC Two-Mammoth Screen, 2018) / Onstage: writer Tony Grisoni and actors David Morrissey and Mandep Dhillon
- **MON 12 MAR, 20:15 – MEMBER SALON: You Were Never Really Here**
- **MON 12 MAR, 20:20 – FILM PREVIEW + Q&A: The Square** (Ruben Östlund, 2017) / Onstage: Director Ruben Östlund
- **TUE 13 MAR, 20:30 – SPECIAL EVENT: Nicola Shindler in Conversation** / Onstage: television producer Nicola Shindler and special guest actor Sarah Lancashire
- **WED 14 MAR, 18:30 – FILM PREVIEW + Q&A: My Generation** (David Batty, 2017) / Onstage: Michael Caine and director David Batty – simulcast live to cinemas around the UK
- **FRI 16 MAR, 20:50 – MEMBER EXCLUSIVE: Ben Okri introduces Yeelen** (Souleymane Cissé, 1987) / Onstage: Poet and novelist Ben Okri
- **TUE 20 MAR, 18:10 – FILM PREVIEW: Isle of Dogs** (Wes Anderson, 2018)
- **TUE 20 MAR, 20:45 – SPECIAL EVENT: Mark Kermode Live in 3D at the BFI**

**NEW AND RE-RELEASES**

- **CONTINUES FROM FRI 23 FEB: The Touch** (Ingmar Bergman, 1971) – part of INGMAR BERGMAN: A DEFINITIVE FILM SEASON
- **FROM FRI 9 MAR: You Were Never Really Here** (Lynne Ramsay, 2017)
- **FROM FRI 9 MAR: Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story** (Alexandra Dean, 2017)
- **FROM FRI 16 MAR: The Magic Flute** (Ingmar Bergman, 1975)
BIG SCREEN CLASSICS: THE TIMELESS FILMS WE URGE YOU TO SEE

Even in the silent era, music was deemed an important accompaniment to the screening of a film. When the talkies arrived, it became an essential part of the filmmaking process; composers were commissioned to write scores which would enhance the images on screen and the dialogue of the actors. This month and next, we present films notable for their original soundtracks. A film from BIG SCREEN CLASSICS: Mood Music and More... will screen every day for the special price of £8:

- *Angel Heart* (Alan Parker, 1987) – the screening on Friday 16 March will be followed by a Q&A with director Sir Alan Parker
- *Bambi* (James Algar, Sam Armstrong, 1942)
- *Koyaanisqatsi* (Godfrey Reggio, 1982)
- *Double Indemnity* (Billy Wilder, 1944)
- *Kuhle Wampe* (Slatan Dudow, 1932)
- *Woman of the Dunes* (Hiroshi Teshigahara, 1964)
- *Goldfinger* (Guy Hamilton, 1964)
- *The Omen* (Richard Donner, 1976)
- *The Heiress* (William Wyler, 1949)
- *Paris, Texas* (Wim Wenders, 1984)

FULL EVENTS LISTINGS FOR MARCH ARE AVAILABLE HERE:

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About the BFI

The BFI is the lead body 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 CBE.

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £12.10, concs £9.70 including Gift Aid donation. Members pay £2.00 less on any ticket - www.bfi.org.uk/southbank.

Young people aged 25 and under can buy last minute tickets for just £3, 45 minutes before the start of screenings and events, subject to availability - http://www.bfi.org.uk/25-and-under.

**Tickets for FREE screenings and events must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment**

**BFI Shop**
The BFI Shop is stocked and staffed by BFI experts with over 1,200 book titles and 1,000 DVDs to choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI.

**The benugo bar & kitchen**
Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo’s décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. The place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

There’s more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

*** PICTURE DESK ***
A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI / BFI Southbank / 2018 / Mar