BFI Southbank announce SATIRE AND MORALITY: THE CINEMA OF MARCO BELLOCCHIO

Includes rare appearance by Marco Bellocchio as a curtain-raiser event on Sat 23 June, with a month-long season dedicated to the award-winning Italian auteur taking place during July

Thursday 17 May 2018, London.

The BFI today announces full details of SATIRE AND MORALITY: THE CINEMA OF MARCO BELLOCCHIO, a month-long season (1 July – 31 July) celebrating the work of the award-winning Italian director MARCO BELLOCCHIO (Fists in the Pocket, A Leap in The Dark, My Mother’s Smile, Vincere). A regular on the festival circuit including the BFI London Film Festival, and winner of awards at Berlin, Venice and Cannes, Bellocchio is still today one of the most distinguished and original filmmakers to have emerged from Italy in the 1960s. As a taster for the season, which is the first ever comprehensive retrospective of Bellocchio’s films, there will be a rare onstage appearance by the director on Saturday 23 June, when he will be in conversation at BFI Southbank with season curator Adrian Wootton. The season, which is in partnership with Istituto Luce-Cinecittà and the Italian Cultural Institute London, will also be complemented by screenings at the Ciné Lumière, offering audiences an opportunity to discover a rich, distinctive body of ambitious and beautifully realised films.

Bellocchio was keen for this complete retrospective to take place in London, as he studied at the Slade School of Fine Arts in 1963-64. It was during this time that he wrote his first feature film Fists in the Pocket (I Pugni in Tasca), the remarkable debut which which takes a satirically sharp axe to 1960s Italian society, and the manners and behaviour of a wealthy family. Other films screening in the season will include China Is Near (1967) another brilliant satire about an aristocratic brother and sister whose family is infiltrated from within by a social climbing duo; and Slap the Monster on Page One (1972), a story still relevant today of a right-wing newspaper trying to pervert the course of justice by affecting a police investigation into the murder of a young girl. For those wishing to delve deeper into Bellocchio’s work, on Monday 9 July season curator Adrian Wootton will host a richly illustrated talk which discusses highlights of Bellocchio’s filmography, considering major themes in his oeuvre, including Catholicism, politics and morality, as well as key literary influences such as Anton Chekhov and Luigi Pirandello.

After engagement with the communist party during the tumultuous political events of 1968 (which included making documentaries), Bellocchio returned to cinema with In the Name of the Father (1971), a powerful depiction of the rebellion of boys studying at a strict, religious boarding school, which was based on his own adolescence. One of Bellocchio’s most popular films of the 1970s, Victory March (1976) is another caustic look at the Italian establishment, this time focusing on the military, while A Leap in The Dark (1980) features brilliant central performances by Michel Piccoli and Anouk Aimée, and deservedly led to both winning Best Actor awards at the 1980 Cannes Film Festival.

A handsomely mounted, beautifully performed and faithfully adapted TV version of Anton Chekhov’s classic play The Seagull (1977) was a departure for Bellocchio, but it was both a labour of love and a demonstration of his versatility. Other adaptations screening in the season are Henry IV (1984), a bravura, cinematic, tragi-comic translation of Luigi Pirandello’s acclaimed play about a Count who may or may not be mad, The Nanny (1999), also adapted from a novella by Pirandello, and The Prince of Homburg (1997) a beautiful, austere and acclaimed period drama film of a 19th century play by Heinrich von Kleist.
In *My Mother's Smile* (2002) a notable painter estranged from his upper-class family learns that the Catholic Church is in the process of considering making his deceased mother a saint. A mesmerising, full-blown, late-career masterpiece, *My Mother's Smile* drips with irony, insight and savage wit about family and modern religion. *Good Morning, Night* (2003) is a subtle and gripping depiction of the real-life kidnapping by Red Brigade terrorists of Italian politician Aldo Moro in the 1970s, while *Vincere* (2009) – also based on real events – is a critically-acclaimed look at the early rise and hidden romantic relationship of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini.

Also screening is *The Wedding Director* (2006) about a famous director who flees from scandal in Rome to Sicily, and becomes embroiled in filming the wedding of an affluent man’s daughter; this film will be paired with Belloccio’s new short *The Fight* (2018), based on a Bulgarian poem which looks back at WW II. A beguiling, two-part movie set in Belloccio’s home town, *Blood of My Blood* (2015) is one part historical drama showing the brutality of an unjust witch trial and one part contemporary black comedy. Completing the line-up will be screenings of Belloccio’s most recent film *Sweet Dreams* (2016), a stylish, affecting adaptation of the contemporary Italian novel by Massimo Gramellini.


Season in partnership with:

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SEASON LISTINGS:

**Marco Belloccio in Conversation**
TRT 100min
SAT 23 JUN 18:30 NFT1

**An Introduction to the Cinema of Marco Belloccio**
TRT 90min
MON 9 JUL 18:10 NFT3

**Fists in the Pocket** *I Pugni in tasca* + intro by Marco Belloccio*
*Italy 1965. Dir Marco Belloccio. With Lou Castel, Paola Pitagora, Marino Masé, Liliana Gerace.* 105min. Digital. EST. 12A
SAT 23 JUN 20:45 NFT1* / SUN 1 JUL 18:00 NFT1

**China Is Near** *La Cina è vicina*
MON 2 JUL 18:10 NFT3 / FRI 6 JUL 20:40 NFT2

**In the Name of the Father** *Nel nome del padre*
*Italy 1971. Dir Marco Belloccio. With Yves Beneyton, Renato Scarpa, Laura Betti, Lou Castel.* 115min. Digital. EST
MON 2 JUL 20:40 NFT2 / SUN 15 JUL 17:40 NFT2

**Slap the Monster on Page One** *Sbatti il mostro in prima pagina*
*Italy-France 1972. Dir Marco Belloccio. With Gian Maria Volontè, Fabbio Garriba, Laura Betti.* 86min. 35mm EST
WED 4 JUL 20:40 NFT2 / SAT 7 JUL 18:20 NFT2
**Victory March** Marcia trionfale  
*Italy-France-West Germany* 1976. Dir Marco Bellocchio. With Michele Placido, Franco Nero, Miou-Miou, Patrick Dewaere. 125min. Format tbc. EST  
**SUN 8 JUL 17:30 NFT2 / THU 12 JUL 20:40 NFT2**

**The Seagull** Il gabbiano  
*Italy* 1977. Dir Marco Bellocchio. With Remo Girone, Laura Bettì, Pamela Villoresi, Giulio Brogi. 124min. Video. EST  
**TUE 10 JUL 18:00 NFT2 / SAT 14 JUL 20:40 NFT2**

**A Leap in The Dark (aka Leap Into the Void)** Salto nel vuoto  
*Italy-France-West Germany* 1980. Dir Marco Bellocchio. With Michel Piccoli, Anouk Aimée, Michele Placido, Gisella Burinato. 120min. Digital. EST  
**WED 11 JUL 20:30 NFT2 / FRI 20 JUL 18:15 NFT3**

**The Eyes, the Mouth** Gli occhi, la bocca  
*Italy-France* 1982. Dir Marco Bellocchio. With Lou Castel, Angela Molina, Emmanuelle Riva, Michel Piccoli. 93min. Digital. EST  
**SAT 14 JUL 16:00 NFT2 / WED 18 JUL 20:45 NFT2**

**Henry IV** Enrico IV  
*Italy* 1984. Dir Marco Bellochio. With Marcello Mastroianni, Claudia Cardinale, Leopoldo Trieste, Paolo Bonacelli. 95min. Digital. EST  
**SUN 15 JUL 20:10 NFT3 / SAT 21 JUL 16:00 NFT2**

**The Prince of Homburg** Il principe di Homburg  
**+ The Choir Master** Il maestro di coro  
*Italy* 2001. Dir Marco Bellochio. 15min. EST  
**MON 16 JUL 18:20 NFT2 / FRI 20 JUL 20:40 NFT2**

**The Nanny** La balia  
*Italy* 1999. Dir Marco Bellochio. With Fabrizio Bentivoglio, Valeria Bruni Tedeschi, Maya Sansa, Jacqueline Lustig, Pier Giorgio Belloccio. 106min. Format tbc. EST  
**SAT 21 JUL 18:20 NFT2 / SAT 28 JUL 20:40 NFT2**

**My Mother’s Smile** L’ora di religione (Il sorriso di mia madre)  
*Italy* 2002. Dir Marco Bellochio. With Sergio Castellitto, Jacqueline Lustig, Chiara Conti, Gigio Alberti. 105min. Digital. EST  
**SUN 22 JUL 18:10 NFT2 / SUN 29 JUL 20:30 NFT3**

**Good Morning, Night** Buongiorno, notte  
*Italy* 2003. Dir Marco Bellochio. With Maya Sansa, Luigi Lo Cascio, Roberto Herlitzka, Paolo Briguglia, Pier Giorgio Belloccio. 106min. Digital. EST. 15  
**MON 23 JUL 18:20 NFT2 / SAT 28 JUL 15:20 NFT3**

**The Wedding Director** Il regista di matrimoni + intro by season programmer Adrian Wootton OBE*  
*Italy-France* 2006. Dir Marco Bellochio. With Sergio Castellitto, Donatella Finocchiaro, Sami Frey. 97min. Digital. EST  
**+ The Fight**  
*Italy* 2018. Dir Marco Bellochio. 10min. EST  
**MON 9 JUL 20:30 NFT3* / SAT 28 JUL 18:20 NFT2**

**Vincere**  
**SUN 24 JUN 15:10 NFT2 / MON 30 JUL 20:30 NFT3**

**Sorelle Mai**  
*Italy* 2010. Dir Marco Bellochio. With Pier Giorgio Belloccio, Elena Belloccio, Donatella Finocchiaro. 105min. 35mm EST  
**TUE 24 JUL 20:40 NFT2 / SUN 29 JUL 17:45 NFT2**

**Blood of My Blood** Sangue del mio sangue
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 £12.65, concs £10.15 including Gift Aid donation. Members pay £2.20 less on any ticket - [www.bfi.org.uk/southbank](http://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](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

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BFI Reuben Library
BFI Southbank is home to the BFI Reuben Library which holds the world’s largest collection of books, journals and digitised material about film, television and the moving image. The library is free to access and hosts a year-round programme of talks and events.

'Not just for movie nerds - this huge collection of film and TV books, periodicals, scripts, stills and posters is full of inspiration for anyone involved in the creative arts' – Evening Standard Magazine

The BFI Reuben Library is open 10:30-19:00, Tuesday-Saturday.

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.

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BFI Mediatheque
Free to access BFI Mediatheques offer users an opportunity to explore the digital collections drawn from the BFI National Archive and partner collections, at select UK-wide locations.

*** 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 / July / Marco Bellocchio