

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: Vox Lux

USA 2018. Dir Brady Corbet. With Natalie Portman, Raffey Cassidy, Jude Law, Willem Dafoe. 101min. Digital. Cert tbc. Courtesy of Curzon-Artificial Eye

In 1999, a teenage Celeste survives a high-school shooting and, inspired by her experience, performs a song that captures the public imagination and catapults her into pop stardom. After his striking debut *The Childhood of a Leader*, Brady Corbet presents a film of contrasts, looking at celebrity and artistry through the journey of a fictional pop diva (superbly played by Cassidy and Portman at different stages).

Tickets £15, concs £12 (Members pay £2 less)

WED 1 MAY 18:15 NFT1

TV Preview: Victorian Sensations + Q&A with director Sebastian Barfield, presenter Philippa Perry and BFI curator Bryony Dixon

BBC Four 2019. Dir Sebastian Barfield. Clips from Eps 1&2 + complete Ep3, TRT 145min

Victorian Sensations transports us to the thrilling era of the 1890s, a decade of rapid and often bewildering discovery and change, which continues to resonate today. In their respective films, mathematician Dr Hannah Fry, actor Paul McGann and psychotherapist Philippa Perry explore the technology, art and culture of the last years of Queen Victoria's reign. Drawing extensively on the newly available BFI National Archive collection of Victorian films, director Sebastian Barfield reveals a Britain bewitched by electricity and x-rays, a time when decadence and artistic genius went hand in hand and when a mass-media revolution encompassed the dawn of cinema – and some very Victorian fake-news scandals.

THU 9 MAY 18:15 NFT3

Claire Denis in Conversation

TRT 90min

With her newest film *High Life* (pxx) hitting UK screens this month, and with one of the most impressive filmographies of any contemporary filmmaker, we welcome French director Claire Denis to the BFI to discuss her work so far, her move into English-language filmmaking, and the state of French and European cinema today.

Joint ticket available with the preview of *High Life* on Tue 7 May £25, concs £20 (Members pay £2 less)

THU 9 MAY 18:15 NFT1

Preview: Beats

UK 2019. Dir Brian Welsh. With Martin Donaghy, Brian Ferguson, Laura Fraser. RT and cert tbc. Digital. Courtesy of Altitude Entertainment

In the summer of 1994, in a small town in central Scotland, best mates Johnno and Spanner (Donaghy and Ferguson) head out for one last night of raving together before Johnno's family move away. Shot partly on gritty black and white, *Beats* effortlessly taps into a youthful nostalgia for an endless party, and for the counterculture movement of the 90s.

Tickets £15, concs £12 (Members pay £2 less)

MON 13 MAY 20:35 NFT1

UK Premiere: HERO – Inspired by the Extraordinary Life & Times of Mr. Ulric Cross + Q&A

Canada-Trinidad and Tobago 2018. Dir Frances-Anne Solomon. With Nikolai Salcedo, Joseph Marcell, Rudolph Walker. 110min. Digital. Cert tbc

Trinidadian Ulric Cross had a distinguished career as a soldier, jurist and diplomat in a life that spanned momentous political change in the 20th century. Archive footage and drama are used to tell the story of his extraordinary life: a story that encompasses WWII, African independence movements, Black Power and the rise of a new brand of black leadership around the world, events that define our present reality. We're pleased to host this UK premiere and welcome special guests to the BFI stage.

SAT 18 MAY 14:00 NFT1

Preview: Too Late to Die Young Tarde Para Morir Joven + Q&A with director Dominga Sotomayor

Chile-Brazil-Argentina-Netherlands-Qatar 2018. Dir Dominga Sotomayor Castillo. With Demian Hernández, Antar Machado, Magdalena Tótoro. 110min. Digital. EST. 15. Courtesy of Day for Night

In the summer of 1990, as democracy returns to Chile in the aftermath of Pinochet's regime, teenagers Sofia and Lucas, uprooted by their parents to a tiny town away from the turmoil of the big city, are living through their first loves. Sotomayor's confident third feature is a coming-of-age story for its characters as much as it is for Chile.

Tickets £15, concs £12 (Members pay £2 less)

THU 23 MAY 18:15 NFT1

Preview: Support the Girls

USA 2018. Dir Andrew Bujalski. With Regina Hall, Haley Lu Richardson, Shayna McHayle. 93min. Digital. Cert tbc. Courtesy of Bulldog Films

Double Whammies – a 'sports bar with curves' or 'breastaurant' – provides a distinctly American setting for this heartfelt comedy from indie filmmaker Andrew Bujalski (*Computer Chess, Funny Ha Ha*). Taking a day-in-the-life approach, *Support the Girls* is a look at a group of (female) workers' solidarity versus corporate ruthlessness, all wrapped up in a delightful, witty and tender package, with a standout Regina Hall.

Tickets £15, concs £12 (Members pay £2 less)

TUE 28 MAY 20:30 NFT1

A FOCUS ON NICK BROOMFIELD

We celebrate Broomfield's 50 years of filmmaking and welcome the renowned documentary director to the BFI stage

Nick Broomfield in Conversation + Behind the Rent Strike

UK 1974. Dir Nick Broomfield. 55min. Digital (new restoration). PG

We celebrate the career of Nick Broomfield this weekend, beginning with an on-stage interview covering his start in documentary filmmaking, his move towards fiction films and his wider career. *Behind the Rent Strike*, one of his earliest works, has been restored by the BFI National Archive and looks at the residents of a housing estate in Kirkby, Liverpool and their protest against newly introduced housing legislation.

In association with Kew Media Distribution

FRI 31 MAY 18:30 NFT1

The Leader, His Driver and The Driver's Wife + intro by Nick Broomfield

UK 1991. Dir Nick Broomfield. 80min. Digital (new restoration). 12A

Nick Broomfield's seminal documentary following his quest to interview Eugene Terre Blanche, the far-right leader of the AWB Afrikaner Party in South Africa, is funny, insightful and disturbing in equal measure. Despite the leader's reluctance to be interviewed, Broomfield carves a relationship out with his loyal driver, and in turn his wife, succeeding in antagonising Terre Blanche with his perceived irreverence and persistence.

FRI 31 MAY 20:40 NFT1

Future Film Labs: Documentary Filmmaking Masterclass with Nick Broomfield

Aimed at 16 to 25-year-olds

Nick Broomfield, the hugely influential British filmmaker, has adopted many different approaches during his career to tell stories about people and situations that still feel fresh and compelling when viewed today. With a new film under his belt (*Marianne & Leonard: Words of Love*), Broomfield talks about his extensive career and shares his experiences as one of the world's leading documentary filmmakers.

SAT 1 JUN 12:30 NFT2

Biggie & Tupac + intro by Nick Broomfield

UK 2002. 118min. Digital (new restoration). 15

Nick Broomfield looks into the unsolved murders of the rappers Christopher Wallace (aka Biggie Smalls/ The Notorious B.I.G) and Tupac Shakur, sifting through a collection of questionable testimonies from their friends,

relatives, lawyers and more. With the suggestion of collusion by the LAPD and a strong case against Suge Knight, who ran Death Row Records, Broomfield's quest for the truth is an uphill struggle.

SAT 1 JUN 15:00 NFT2

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 £20, concs £16 (Members pay £2 less)

MON 20 MAY 18:30 NFT1

MEMBER EXCLUSIVES

These events are exclusive to BFI Members and their guests.

Join today at bfi.org.uk/join

Member Salon: Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb

Celebrate our Kubrick film season with a focus on this classic Cold War political satire. Join fellow Members to discuss the film's contemporary relevance, meticulous production design and unforgettable performances. Members can book a joint ticket to the Member Salon screening and discussion on Tue 21 May for themselves and their guests in advance for just £6. Members who have watched the film on another date are also welcome to come along to the free discussion and show their Membership card to admit themselves and a guest on a first-come, firstserved basis.

FILM: MON 20 MAY 18:10 NFT3

SALON: MON 20 MAY 20:00 BLUE ROOM

Champion Preview: High Life

UK-USA-France-Germany-Poland 2018. Dir Claire Denis. With Robert Pattinson, Juliette Binoche, André Benjamin, Mia Goth. 110min. Digital. Courtesy of Thunderbird Releasing

Be among the first to see Claire Denis' hotly anticipated tale of the mysteries of birth and the challenges of survival starring Robert Pattinson and Juliette Binoche. See pxx for further details of this new release.

Champion Members are invited to book up to two tickets to this exclusive preview for only £6 each

WED 1 MAY 20:45 NFT3

Wake in Fright

Australia-USA-UK 1971. Dir Ted Kotcheff. With Donald Pleasence, Gary Bond, Chips Rafferty, Sylvia Kay. 109min. Digital. 18 (includes scenes of animal violence that some viewers may find upsetting)

This cult favourite depicts a young teacher stranded in a brutal Outback town who finds himself challenged by the people and their questionable ways. This classic of the Australian new wave is still controversial for its kangaroo hunt, but remains a powerful piece of filmmaking.

THU 30 MAY 18:10 NFT3

NEW RELEASES

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

High Life + Q&A with director Claire Denis*

UK-USA-France-Germany-Poland 2018. Dir Claire Denis. With Robert Pattinson, Juliette Binoche, André Benjamin, Mia Goth. 110min. Digital. Courtesy of Thunderbird Releasing

A man (a career-best Pattinson) and a charming baby are the last two survivors on a once-chaotic spaceship full of convicts. Their government-issued mission – to harvest energy from black holes, overseen by the foxy Dr Dibs (Binoche) – is overwhelmed by feral dynamics that shift between violent and erotic. Juliette Binoche channels unabashed sensuality in one unforgettable sequence. Featuring an eerie score by Denis' long-term musician collaborator, Stuart Staples, this is poetic, image-driven cinema that defies convention to embrace something wilder.

***Preview + Q&A Thu 9 May 20:15 NFT1**

Tickets £15, concs £12 (Members pay £2 less), joint ticket available with Claire Denis in conversation £25, concs £20 (Members pay £2 less)

OPENS FRI 10 MAY

RE-RELEASES

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

Maborosi Maborosi no hikari

Japan 1995. Dir Hirokazu Kore-eda. With Makiko Esumi, Takashi Naito, Tadanobu Asano. 110min. Digital. Cert tbc. EST. A BFI release

By 1995 Kore-eda was already well established as a documentary director, but it was his fiction debut that brought him international attention, winning prizes in Chicago, Vancouver and Venice, and securing commercial releases in western countries. An apparently happy marriage is abruptly ended by the husband's sudden death, but was it accident or suicide? Kore-eda's haunting, meditative film traces a widow's attempts to cope with and comprehend her bereavement. With its static camera set-ups and long takes evoking the work of the great Japanese director Yasujiro Ozu and Taiwanese master Hou Hsiao-Hsien, Maborosi announced a vital new presence in Japanese cinema.

Also available on **BFIPLAYER**

CONTINUES FROM FRI 26 APR

Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb

USA-UK 1963. Dir Stanley Kubrick. With Peter Sellers, George C Scott, Sterling Hayden, Keenan Wynn. 94min. Digital 4K. PG. A Park Circus release

'Gentleman. You can't fight in here! This is the War Room!' Adapted from sci-fi novel Red Alert by Peter George, Kubrick's tour-de-force of political satire feels unnervingly prescient in the context of current global politics. Set mainly within legendary production designer Ken Adam's imposing war-room, Dr Strangelove charts an absurd but inexorable path towards nuclear oblivion that's triggered when an unhinged American general believes the Russians have caused his impotency. With a razor-sharp script and dazzling performances, the film critiques America's fixation upon military might, and lampoons the men who sit in the seats of power. This is a film about communication – or more accurately, the consequences of miscommunication.

FROM SAT 18 MAY

The Blue Angel Der blaue Engel

Germany 1930. Dir Josef von Sternberg. With Emil Jannings, Marlene Dietrich, Kurt Gerron, Rosa Valetti. 108min. Digital. EST. PG. A Eureka release

Marlene Dietrich is sensational in her breakthrough role as Lola Lola, star attraction of The Blue Angel beer hall Raunchy, witty, self-possessed, Lola exudes erotic power. 'Beware of blonde women,' she sings, but no one heeds this advice – neither her schoolboy fans, nor their sexually repressed teacher (Jannings) whose moral outrage dissolves in lust. Loosely based on a novel by Heinrich Mann, Sternberg's masterpiece is a dazzling construct of enigmatic lighting, décor and sound, featuring real-life stars of Weimar cabaret (Gerron, Valetti) and the now classic songs of Friedrich Hollaender. For leftist critics it lacked satirical edge, yet it conjures a transgressive realm that recalls the paintings of George Grosz and Otto Dix. An enduring classic; its subversive vitality is undiminished.

FROM FRI 31 MAY

WEIMAR CINEMA 1919-1933: BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS

Weimar Launch Night: Jonny Woo presents 'The Party at the end of the World'

Join us for the launch of our two-month Weimar season: an evening of film, performance and cabaret, curated and hosted by the inimitable Jonny Woo. We'll be screening the silent comedy *Heaven on Earth* (see adjacent), with a live accompaniment, followed by a Weimar-themed cabaret and party in the BFI Bar and Kitchen.

FRI 3 MAY BFI BAR & KITCHEN

The Weimar Dream Factory: An Introductory Survey

TRT 90min

Weimar cinema was Europe's Hollywood, supplying a new mass audience with thrills and sensations, from gothic hallucinations to comic fantasies. Emerging from the catastrophe of WWI, it also projected visions of a new reality: glittering modernity, nightmare poverty, conflicting social and political ideals. Making abundant use of film clips, season programmer Margaret Deriaz guides us through a dazzling and disturbing dreamscape.

Tickets £6.50

TUE 7 MAY 18:10 NFT3

Sight & Sound Discussion: The Birth of Criticism

TRT 90min

The birth of film and cultural criticism could be traced back to the Weimar Republic, with the rise of prominent writers and critics such as Siegfried Kracauer, Theodor Adorno, Walter Benjamin and Lotte Eisner. *Sight & Sound* editor Nick James chairs a discussion about this influential time, which will look at the environment in which these practitioners flourished, consider their most prominent work, and explore the legacy of their writing on the contemporary criticism landscape.

Tickets £6.50

TUE 28 MAY 18:15 NFT3

KUBRICK

Kubrick on Masculinity

TRT 90min

Across his oeuvre, Stanley Kubrick consistently focused on and explored toxic men – from criticism of toxic masculinity to an examination of the causes and consequences of the destructive behaviour of men on society. Kubrick's take on the troubled male psyche is ripe for discussion in the current cultural climate: join our guest panel for this timely conversation.

Tickets £6.50

WED 15 MAY 18:10 NFT3

THE VICTORIAN FILM

Victorian Film study day

Celebrate the launch of the BFI's newly digitised collection of 500+ British films from the earliest days of projected moving pictures with this day of papers, panels and screenings. Our invited experts and historians will be on hand to share their insights into the research, identification, restoration and digital preservation of the films.

FRI 10 MAY 10:30-17:00 NFT3

Heroes of the Victorian Film

TRT 90min. With live accompaniment

The French have the Lumière brothers and the Americans have Thomas Edison, but how many people in Britain can name our own pioneer filmmakers? Come and meet the youthful, adventurous, tech-savvy and financially astute heroes of British Victorian film in a live debate with film screenings. Experts will champion the filmmaker they think deserves to be known by everyone in the land.

SAT 11 MAY 16:00 NFT3

BFI Course: An Introduction to Victorian Film (1895-1901)

Join film lecturer Nick Scudamore on a short evening course (across three consecutive Tuesdays) that will take you on a fascinating journey back to the beginnings of film and cinema. Vividly illustrated with newly-digitised material, and with expert insight and guidance, the course will encourage students to develop a fresh perspective on some of the very first films, and on the Victorians themselves.

Course fee £35

TUE 14, TUE 21, TUE 28 MAY 18:30-20:30 STUDIO

BIG SCREEN CLASSICS

Citizen Kane

USA 1941. Dir Orson Welles. With Orson Welles, Joseph Cotten, Everett Sloane, Dorothy Comingore. 119min 35mm U

Orson Welles' endlessly rewarding debut surveys the life and times of a media tycoon (brilliantly played by the director himself), and invites us to ponder key questions about the value of an individual's existence. What matters most: what we achieve, or how we're remembered? Whether we're understood by others, or by ourselves? What we gain, or what we lose? A masterpiece of extraordinary riches.

WED 1 MAY 20:45 NFT1 / SAT 4 MAY 20:30 NFT2

Living Ikiru

Japan 1952. Dir Akira Kurosawa. With Takashi Shimura, Nobuo Kaneko, Kyoko Seki. 143min. 35mm EST. PG

Akira Kurosawa's portrait of an unassuming civil servant (a superb Shimura) who learns he hasn't long to live and wonders how to spend his final days is rightly regarded as one of the great humanist films of the postwar era. As the protagonist passes through panic, cynicism and despair to – well, something else – Kurosawa steers clear of sentimentality to create a film that's remarkably moving.

Also available on **BFIPLAYER**

SUN 5 MAY 13:30 NFT3 / SAT 11 MAY 17:10 NFT2 / MON 13 MAY 18:00 NFT3

My Night with Maud Ma Nuit chez Maud + intro by Geoff Andrew, Programmer-at-large*

France 1969. Dir Eric Rohmer. With Jean-Louis Trintignant, Françoise Fabian, Marie-Christine Barrault. 110min. Digital. EST. PG

A devoutly Catholic engineer (Trintignant), having impulsively decided to marry a student spotted at Mass (Barrault), finds himself distracted by a free-thinking divorcée (Fabian) he's introduced to one wintry evening. Rohmer's (and his protagonist's) interest in metaphysics – particularly Pascal's wager about the rewards of faith – is translated into a gloriously physical and very witty drama about erotic temptation and resistance.

FRI 3 MAY 18:10 NFT3 / WED 8 MAY 18:15 NFT3* / FRI 10 MAY 20:30 NFT3

Last Year in Marienbad L'Année dernière à Marienbad

France-Italy 1961. Dir Alain Resnais. With Delphine Seyrig, Giorgio Albertazzi, Sacha Pitoëff. 93min. Digital. EST. U

The script by *nouveau roman* iconoclast Alain Robbe-Grillet sets an intriguing puzzle: a man meets a woman in a luxury hotel, and insists they had an affair the previous year. But what, if anything, really happened? The unsettling scrambling of past, present and future (or fantasy?) is rigorously sustained by Resnais' use of stylised performances, lighting and camerawork. A veritable cinematic labyrinth.

THU 2 MAY 18:30 NFT3 / TUE 28 MAY 20:50 STUDIO

El sur The South + intro by Maria Delgado, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama*

Spain-France 1983. Dir Víctor Erice. With Omero Antonutti, Sonsoles Aranguren, Iciar Bollain, Lola Cardona. 95min. Digital. EST. PG

A woman remembers her childhood and early teenage years – and in particular her relationship with her mysterious father – in northern Spain in the late 50s. Víctor Erice's lyrical masterpiece conjures up the secretive atmosphere of life under Franco's regime, and contemplates the all-pervasive influence of time, not only on our memories but on our capacity for hope and love, disappointment and despair.

Also available on **BFIPLAYER**

THU 9 MAY 20:45 STUDIO / WED 15 MAY 18:20 NFT2* / MON 20 MAY 20:30 NFT3

Seconds

USA 1966. Dir John Frankenheimer. With Rock Hudson, Salome Jens, John Randolph. 107min. Digital. 15

A middle-aged man, bored with his marriage, is pleased to learn of a secret organisation that provides a new body and name for a fresh start in an arty Californian beach community – but one should be careful what one wishes for... John Frankenheimer's dystopian sci-fi fable reflects upon notions of identity, responsibility and freedom, and James Wong Howe's camerawork enhances the mood of paranoia.

TUE 14 MAY 20:30 NFT3 / FRI 24 MAY 20:50 STUDIO / SAT 25 MAY 18:00 NFT2

Daughters of the Dust + intro by film critic Kelli Weston*

USA-UK 1991. Dir Julie Dash. With Cora Lee Day, Barbaro, Alva Rogers. 112min. Digital. 12A

Julie Dash's landmark of African-American filmmaking contemplates the effects of time and tradition on identity, be it racial, cultural, social or individual. Set in 1902 on an island where a Gullah family is reunited for a ritual dinner before some members leave for the mainland, the film uses lyrical imagery, mythic symbolism, dreamlike tableaux and a time-leaping narrative to highly original effect.

WED 22 MAY 18:10 NFT3* / FRI 31 MAY 20:30 NFT3

The Outlaw Josey Wales

USA 1976. Dir Clint Eastwood. With Clint Eastwood, Chief Dan George, Sondra Locke, Bill McKinney. 135min. Digital 4K. 18

Having joined Confederate guerrillas after his family was massacred at the end of the Civil War, former farmer Josey Wales (Eastwood) decides to hunt down the friend he believes betrayed him. However, as he inadvertently gathers a motley surrogate family of strays on his travels, his thirst for revenge diminishes. Clint Eastwood delivers a marvelous western that journeys through a harsh landscape to somewhere altogether more forgiving.

MON 6 MAY 15:10 NFT3 / SAT 18 MAY 20:25 NFT3

The Grapes of Wrath

USA 1940. Dir John Ford. With Henry Fonda, Jane Darwell, John Carradine, Charley Grapewin. 129min. Digital. PG

John Ford's classic adaptation of Steinbeck's Depression-era novel centres on the Joads, an Oklahoma family deprived of their farm who seek work and a new home in California – where new migrants are resented. The waves of hope and desperation are vividly captured by Gregg Toland's superb cinematography, while the charismatic lead performances lend emotional weight to the themes of universal solidarity, humanity and justice.

SUN 19 MAY 17:30 NFT3 / MON 27 MAY 14:00 NFT1

Bitter Victory + intro by Geoff Andrew, Programmer-at-large*

USA-France 1957. Dir Nicholas Ray. With Richard Burton, Curd Jürgens, Ruth Roman, Christopher Lee. 83min. Digital. PG

'I kill the living and save the dead': dark ironies abound in Ray's magnificent drama about an Allied mission against Rommel in Libya, led by an inexperienced major (Jürgens). His captain (Burton), however, is familiar with the region and with his superior's wife. A deadly rivalry grows... A powerful, visually stunning study of courage and cowardice, knowledge and ignorance, pride and profound inner pain.

TUE 7 MAY 18:15 NFT1 / SUN 12 MAY 14:40 NFT3 / WED 29 MAY 18:10 NFT3*

Walkabout

Australia-UK 1971. Dir Nicolas Roeg. With Jenny Agutter, David Gulpilil, Lucien John. 100min. Digital. 12A

After their father commits suicide, a prim teenager and her young brother are forced to fend for themselves in the Outback, where an encounter with an Aboriginal boy offers hope of survival, even though verbal communication proves impossible. Exploring the clash of nature and 'civilisation', sexuality and mortality, the film is keenly alert to time and place, both vividly evoked by Roeg's own camerawork.

WED 1 MAY 20:50 NFT3 / TUE 21 MAY 20:30 NFT3 / SUN 26 MAY 20:10 NFT2 / THU 30 MAY 18:20 STUDIO

The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie *Le Charme discret de la bourgeoisie* + intro by film scholar **Virginie Sélavy***

France 1972. Dir Luis Buñuel. With Fernando Rey, Delphine Seyrig, Stéphane Audran, Michel Piccoli. 101min. Digital. EST. 15

Six characters in search of a meal are repeatedly prevented from completing their repast – by unexpected interruptions, bizarre inconvenience or their own lack of purpose? True to his surrealist aesthetic, Buñuel never lets on, though interludes of the sextet wandering along a road might offer a hint. Whatever, the depiction of life as chaotic, random and absurd is characteristically witty and imaginative.

WED 1 MAY 18:20 NFT2* / MON 20 MAY 20:40 NFT2 / THU 23 MAY 20:40 NFT2

SPECIAL FILMS & EVENTS

Dates for your cultural diary, from DVD/Blu-ray launches to weekends, film summits and festivals

Moving Millions: British Transport Films Blu-ray Launch + Q&A

TRT 100min

Join us for an evening of rail, road, tube and tram as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the illustrious documentary film unit British Transport Films, as well as the 100th anniversary of the Department for Transport. This one-off event examines the wider legacy and application of moving image in the transport sector, and includes the screening of a new 4K digital restoration of Geoffrey Jones' BTF homage to progress: *RAIL* (1967). Introduced by BFI Curator of Non-Fiction, Steve Foxon, and followed by a Q&A with special guests. Part of the Department for Transport's Centenary

The Best of British Transport Films two-disc

BFI Blu-ray will be available from 20 May



TUE 14 MAY 18:00 NFT1

Philip Saville: An Enduring Talent. Afternoon of a Nymph + discussion

Armchair Theatre. ITV 1962. Dir Philip Saville. With Janet Munro, Ian Hendry. 90min

Philip Saville, who died in 2016, was a constantly inventive director whose list of credits includes some of the greatest British TV productions ever seen, including *Hamlet at Elsinore*, *Boys from the Blackstuff*, *Gangsters*, *The Lives and Loves of a She-Devil* and *Count Dracula*. Fortunately, before he died he had delivered his memoirs, and we celebrate their publication with a screening of *Afternoon of a Nymph* – a pitch-perfect showbiz satire by Robert Muller, a writer with whom Saville often collaborated. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion (illustrated with clips) looking back at Philip Saville's extraordinary career.

The Lives and Loves of a She-Devil screens next month at BFI Southbank

THU 23 MAY 18:20 NFT3

Soundtracking with Edith Bowman

TRT 90min

May sees us welcome back Edith Bowman for another edition of her *Soundtracking* live event. Since the launch of the podcast in 2016, the great and good of the film industry have shared inspiring and in-depth stories about the relationship between what you see on screen and what you hear. Expect a bumper edition this month – in the coming weeks, we announce several special guests.

WED 8 MAY 18:20 NFT1

CHINESE VISUAL FESTIVAL

Showcasing the very best in contemporary cinema from the Chinese language-speaking world

UK Premiere: First Night Nerves + Q&A with director Stanley Kwan

Hong Kong 2018. Dir Stanley Kwan. With Sammi Cheng, Gigi Leung, Bai Baihe. 100min. Digital. Cantonese and Mandarin with EST

From his breakthrough drama *Women* through later work such as *Rouge* and *Center Stage*, the acclaimed Hong Kong director Stanley Kwan created sympathetic and fully realised portrayals of women. His latest spectacular, with typical visual panache, takes us backstage at an upcoming theatre production starring two former rival actresses. The female ensemble cast sparkles, while the backstabbing represents the ruthless side of the entertainment industry.

THU 2 MAY 18:10 NFT1

Rouge + Q&A with director Stanley Kwan

Hong Kong 1987. Dir Stanley Kwan. With Anita Mui, Leslie Cheung, Alex Man, Emily Chu. 96min. Digital. Cantonese with EST

For this sumptuous super natural tinged romance, Kwan shows us that there's more to Hong Kong cinema than high-flying martial arts and heroic bloodshed. *Rouge*, a rare treat on the big screen, brings together two of Asia's brightest stars, Anita Mui and Leslie Cheung. Mui plays a ghost who returns from the 1930s to search for her missing love, but discovers a much-changed Hong Kong; the changes since the film's release make it all the more poignant today.

SAT 4 MAY 18:15 NFT3

UK Premiere: In Character

China 2018. Dir Dong Xueying. 74min. Digital. Mandarin with EST

This documentary explores the impact of the Cultural Revolution on modern China as a director decides to make a semi-autobiographical feature. As preparation, 13 young actors leave all the trappings of modern life behind and stay for three months in a firearms factory in rural Sichuan, incorporating the costume and culture as well as the sensibility of the period. Conflict arises when one actor tries to leave, raising fascinating questions about today's generation in China.

WED 8 MAY 20:45 NFT3

UK Premiere: Tracey + Q&A

Hong Kong 2018. Dir Jun Li. With Philip Keung, Kara Wai, River Huang, Jennifer Yu. 119min. Digital. Cantonese with EST

The sudden death of an old friend reawakens yearnings in a dutiful father that have been hidden for decades. This intelligently scripted, timely LGBTQ+ drama is the debut feature from Jun Li. While theatre veteran Ben Yuen rightly picked up a Golden Horse Award for his portrayal of a transgender singer, it's prolific character actor Philip Keung – in his first leading role – who will linger in the memory, as his character struggles to follow his heart without tearing his family apart.

THU 9 MAY 18:00 NFT2

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...

BFI FLARE

LGBTQ+ films and events. Look out for the Flare badge throughout the Guide...

Hard Paint Tinta Bruta

Brazil 2018. Dirs Filipe Matzembacher, Marcio Reolon. With Shico Menegat, Bruno Fernandes, Guega Peixoto. 118min. Digital. EST. Cert tbc

Moody, disturbed loner Pedro lives in the harbour town of Porto Alegre. He scrapes together a living as webcam performer 'NeonBoy,' and erotic displays of his naked body smeared with neon paint attract a

devoted following. When a copycat act appears online, Pedro must confront his own existence and struggle to keep control.

THU 2 MAY 20:40 NFT3



WOMAN WITH A MOVIE CAMERA

We celebrate women's contribution to cinema and spotlight female stories

Thursday Till Sunday De Jueves a Domingo + Q&A with director Dominga Sotomayor Castillo

Chile-Netherlands 2012. Dir Dominga Sotomayor Castillo. With Francisco Pérez-Bannen, Paola Giannini, Santi Ahumada. 96min. Format tbc. EST. 12A

Chilean writer-director Dominga Sotomayor Castillo – whose latest film *Too Late to Die Young* previews this month (see p6) – made her feature length debut with this achingly familiar coming-of-age story, set in the very particular brand of hell that is the family holiday car trip. Told from the perspective of her teenage protagonist Lucía as she sits in the back of the car and becomes aware of the growing tensions between her parents, the film marks the preoccupations that permeated Sotomayor's later work: the youthful, formative moments and the effects parents' actions can have on their children. For this screening and Q&A, we're pleased to welcome this exciting new voice in Latin American cinema.

Also available on **BFIPLAYER**

Supported by



THU 23 MAY 20:30 NFT3

TERROR VISION

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

Stage Fright (aka Deliria, aka Aquarius, aka Bloody Bird)

Italy 1987. Dir Michele Soavi. With David Brandon, Barbara Cupisti, Domenico Fiore. 90min. Digital. 18

Having worked with Italian genre greats such as Dario Argento, Lucio Fulci and Lamberto Bava, Michele Soavi made his directorial debut with this deliriously stylish slasher opus, in which a group of thespians are systematically offed by a maniac sporting a giant owl mask. Proudly dispensing with plot intricacies in favour of ostentatious set-pieces, Soavi's baroque nightmare is a true sight to behold.

THU 30 MAY 20:40 NFT3

EXPERIMENTA

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

Why Life is Worth Living: Friedl Kubelka vom Gröller

TRT 110min

Making a very rare UK appearance, Friedl Kubelka vom Gröller will personally present a selection of her carefully observed documentary portrait films made between 1969 and 2018. She is joined by Dietmar Schwärzler, Austrian artist film distributor, sixpackfilm representative and editor of the book *Friedl Kubelka*

vom Gröller – *One Is Not Enough. Photography & Film II* (Buchverlag Walther König & Index 2018). Don't miss this special event, which is supported by the Austrian Cultural Forum.

WED 29 MAY 20:20 NFT3

PROJECTING THE ARCHIVE

A rare chance to see rediscovered British features from the BFI National Archive

My Death Is a Mockery + intro by Vic Pratt, BFI Video Publishing

UK 1952. Dir Anthony Young. With Donald Houston, Kathleen Byron, Bill Kerr. 75min **35mm**

Hop aboard for a choppy Channel crossing with this bleak, bulletspattered sea-smuggling crime drama, salvaged from the turbulent waves of time. A down-on-his-luck fisherman (British screen stalwart Donald Houston) is tempted into a dangerous but more lucrative line in black-market booze at the urging of his wayward wife (Byron) after a brief bar-room liaison with a small-time spiv (Tony Hancock's old radio co-star Bill Kerr, in a rare serious role).

Also available on **BFIPLAYER**

+ The Tell-Tale Heart

UK 1953. Dir J B Williams. 21min. Digital

This recently recovered long-lost rarity sees a strident young Stanley Baker deliver a virtuoso solo performance as he spookily recounts Poe's chilling tale of madness and murder.

TUE 21 MAY 18:30 NFT1

SILENT CINEMA

Enjoy the best international restorations, often with a live musical accompaniment

Squibs Wins the Calcutta Sweep + intro by BFI curator Bryony Dixon

UK 1922. Dir George Pearson. With Betty Balfour, Hugh E Wright, Fred Groves, Annette Benson, Bertram Burleigh. c70min. 35mm With live piano accompaniment

The four Squibs films made Betty Balfour's career. In the second, she plays the 'gamine' cockney flower girl hoping to marry her respectable policeman boyfriend. But given her father, a bookie's runner with a flexible attitude to the law, and her brother-in-law, 'the weasel', an out-and-out crook, things don't look promising. But then Squibs wins a sweepstake ticket for the Derby... Screening to coincide with the British Silent Film Festival Symposium, 11-12 April at King's College London

SUN 7 APR 13:10 NFT1

BFI FAMILIES

VIVACIOUS VICTORIANS LIVE!

Suitable for 8 to 12-year-olds

We'll be creating films 1890s-Victorian style, inspired by the fearless cameramen who toured the world shooting fabulous footage down rivers, up volcanoes and from the fronts of trains, and pioneering filmmakers with their use of innovative stop-frame techniques. We'll be emulating Victorian filmmaking at its unique best: prepare to be amazed as we follow in their intrepid footsteps with the use of props and green screen!

Tickets £37.50 per child, siblings £22

Parents leave their children with us for the duration, packed lunches, drinks and snacks must be provided

TUE 28 MAY 10:30-16:30

VIVACIOUS VICTORIANS ANIMATION DAY

Suitable for 8 to 12-year-olds

Let's get royally animated by the Queen on screen! Victoria herself was filmed many times – at Balmoral with the Tsar of Russia, opening the V&A and at her Diamond Jubilee. With the help of animation software we'll be delving into Victorian Britain, and we definitely will be amused!

Tickets £37.50 per child, siblings £22

Parents leave their children with us for the duration, packed lunches, drinks and snacks must be provided
WED 29 MAY 10:30-16:30

VICTORIAN INVENTIONS LIVE ACTION FILMING DAY

Suitable for 8 to 12-year-olds

For this filmmaking day we'll draw inspiration from the whacky inventions the Victorians dreamt up. Prepare to be amazed by hands-on demonstrations of early Victorian moving-image devices. Other activities include scripting, dressing up, prop-making, filming and green screen. Films will be uploaded to our BFI Families YouTube channel.

Tickets £37.50 per child, siblings £22

Parents leave their children with us for the duration, packed lunches, drinks and snacks must be provided

THU 30 MAY 10:30-16:30

FUNDAY TV PREVIEW: HORRIBLE HISTORIES VICTORIAN SPECIAL + Q&A WITH CAST AND CREW

CBBC-Lion Television 2019. Dir Steve Connelly. 30min + Q&A

'We are definitely amused!' as the BFI National Archive's newly digitised collection of Victorian film gets the *Horrible Histories* treatment. Join trusty guide Rattus Rattus and HM Tricky Vicky herself for a very special episode about a time when moving pictures had just been invented and filmmakers would stop at nothing to get that shot. Members of the cast and creative team will present their latest electrifying excursion into our past.

SUN 19 MAY 12:30 NFT1

FUNDAY WORKSHOP: HORRIBLE HISTORIES

This workshop for all the family – inspired by hit TV series *Horrible Histories* – will turn back the clock to the Victorian age. Try your hand at animation, perhaps draw a family portrait of you all as Victorian kings and queens, or invent your own horrible history? Join us in the BFI Southbank foyer for tons of fun.

SUN 19 MAY 11:00 FOYER

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN

UK 1970. Dir Lionel Jeffries. With Dinah Sheridan, Jenny Agutter, Bernard Cribbins, Sally Thomsett. 109min. Digital. U (suitable for all ages)

An Edwardian family must leave their comfortable London home and move to Yorkshire after their father is taken away by the authorities. Despite their reduced circumstances, they soon find plenty of fun and adventure in the countryside – specifically in the vicinity of the steam-train railway line. Undoubtedly, this is one of the best-loved British family films.

SUN 12 MAY 12:20 NFT3 / SUN 26 MAY 12:30 NFT3

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 27 APR-25 MAY

FUTURE FILM

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

The European Film Awards' Youth Audience Award 2019

Age 12-14 and love film? Join us as a youth juror for one amazing day when youth juries in more than 50 cities around the world watch the same three new European feature films and decide their winner! Find out more and apply at education@bfi.org.uk by Mon 29 April. Successful applicants will be notified by Wed 1 May and the judging day will be Sun 5 May, 9am-6pm in The Studio at BFI Southbank.

Future Film Labs: Cinematographers

Future Film Labs offers industry insight, practical masterclasses, professional advice and networking for young emerging filmmakers. Cinematographers tell stories with visuals; this month our panel reveal how. We wrap up with free networking drinks featuring drop-in scripting, casting and career surgeries with script doctors and our partners Backstage and Hiive. Inspiration awaits!

Tickets £6 or bring a friend for £10

BFI Future Film supported by



Headline sponsor of Future Film Labs:



SENIORS

Free matinees and talks for the over-60s

Seniors' Free Matinee: The Lady with the Little Dog Dama s sobachkoy + Q&A

Soviet Union 1960. Dir Iosif Kheifits. With Iya Savvina, Aleksey Batalov, Nina Alisova, Panteleymon Krymov. 83min. 35mm EST

This acclaimed Soviet-period adaptation of Anton Chekhov's 1899 short story follows the course of an adulterous affair between a young woman and a banker, who meet at the Crimean resort of Yalta. Filmmaker Mamoun Hassan, who finds the film both true to its source and a work of sublime cinema, will present the screening.

MON 13 MAY 14:00 NFT1