



NET.WORK@LFF opens applications to emerging UK filmmakers to take part in international programme at 2015 BFI London Film Festival

Wednesday 1 July, 2015: As part of the continued commitment by the BFI London Film Festival to discover and support new UK filmmakers, applications open today for 15 emerging filmmakers from across the UK to take part in NET.WORK@LFF.

An internationally focused development programme, **NET.WORK@LFF** is managed and delivered by Creative England on behalf of the BFI, the BFI London Film Festival and other BFI NET.WORK partners. The BFI NET.WORK sees the BFI working with Creative England, Ffilm Cymru Wales, Film London, Northern Ireland Screen, Scottish Film Talent and Creative Skillset in a joined-up network of experienced development teams supporting **New and Emerging Talent** – the NET in NET.WORK.

Taking place from **9-12 October 2015**, NET.WORK@LFF will include masterclasses, private screenings, facilitated networking and one-to-one sessions with international filmmakers and industry executives during the course of the three and a half day development programme which sits at the heart of the BFI London Film Festival.

The programme is aimed at upcoming **writers, directors, writer/directors** and **producers** from the nations and regions of the UK and who are on the cusp of making their first feature film and/or have already made a micro or low budget feature, and who demonstrate the potential to break through internationally.

Last year's NET.WORK@LFF group included **Rachel Dargavel**, who produced the iFeatures-supported **NORFOLK** by Martin Radich which premiered at Rotterdam and was nominated for the Michael Powell award at the Edinburgh International Film Festival. NET.WORK@LFF 2014 participant **Cassandra Sigsgaard** has produced the Blaine Brothers' debut feature **NINA FOREVER** which premiered at this year's SXSW festival.

Selected participants will get the chance to meet and network with international filmmaking talent and industry executives drawn from the Festival's programme in an intimate setting. In 2014, guest speakers included writer-directors **Susanne Bier** (**A SECOND CHANCE**, **SERENA**), **David Mitchell** (**IT FOLLOWS**, **THE MYTH OF THE AMERICAN SLEEPOVER**); **Peter Strickland** (**THE DUKE OF BURGUNDY**, **BERBERIAN SOUND STUDIO**) and **David Robert Mitchell** (**IT FOLLOWS**, **THE MYTH OF THE AMERICAN SLEEPOVER**); writers **Nick Hornby** (**WILD**, **AN EDUCATION**) and **Rebecca Lenkiewicz** (**IDA**); producers **Helen Estabrook** (**WHIPLASH**, **MEN**, **WOMEN AND CHILDREN**), **Andrew Macdonald** (**FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD**, **TRAINSPOTTING**), **Bruna Papandrea** (**WILD**, **GONE GIRL**) and **Teddy Schwarzmann** (**THE IMITATION GAME**). Representatives from companies such as **E1 Entertainment**, **Fox Searchlight**, **Sierra Affinity**, **Silver Reel**, **The Match Factory** and **United Talent Agency** were also brought in as contributors.

Celine Haddad, Senior Film Executive at Creative England, said: "Creative England is delighted to continue its partnership with the BFI London Film Festival and Creative Skillset as part of the BFI NET.WORK. This is a brilliant opportunity for the next generation of filmmakers throughout the UK to

be inspired by the international film community, as well as to develop new relationships with creative and business practitioners from across the world.”

Lizzie Francke, Senior Production Executive for the BFI, say, *“The ambition for the BFI NET.WORK is to support most exciting and distinctive filmmakers from across the UK and provide them with specific opportunities that nurture their creativity, knowledge and skills and progress their talent and careers. NET.WORK@LFF has been a fantastic innovation by the BFI NET.WORK, the LFF and Creative Skillset offering invaluable experience for emerging talent with leading international filmmakers and executives all of whom have been generous in sharing their time and experiences.”*

Clare Stewart, BFI London Film Festival Director, says, *“Every year, BFI London Film Festival brings new and emerging talent and their films to the attention of audiences and the film industry. Last year we stepped up our leadership role for emerging UK film talent by introducing [NET.WORK@LFF](#) and creating an environment for them to meet, learn and be inspired by the many international filmmakers and industry professionals who come to London for the Festival. I am delighted that we are continuing and developing this initiative further this year.”*

NET.WORK@LFF participants will receive full accreditation for the entire duration of the 59th BFI London Film Festival, which gives free access to press and industry screenings, as well as the programme of industry events. Participating filmmakers are required to pay a nominal fee towards their place on the programme with travel and accommodation bursaries available for applicants outside Greater London.

The BFI NET.WORK nurtures writers, directors and producers who have yet to have a feature film produced and/or released, through a hands-on approach that is tailored to the needs of the filmmaker. This includes funding for feature film development, short films and pilots as well as bespoke editorial and professional development support. NET.WORK partners also host regular masterclasses, workshops and other talent development programmes across the country.

The BFI NET.WORK is central to the BFI’s strategy to discover and support the next generation of feature filmmaking talent, no matter where they live in the UK.

The deadline for applications to NET.WORK@LFF is Friday 31 July 2015.

For full guidelines and to apply visit www.creativeengland.co.uk/film/networklff (tbc)

For more information on Creative England’s support for new and emerging filmmakers in England visit www.creativeengland.co.uk/film/talent-centres

For more information on the BFI NET.WORK visit www.network.bfi.org.uk

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For more information please contact the Creative England Press Office: 0117 952 9973 / press@creativeengland.co.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Creative England

Creative England invests in and supports creative ideas, talent and businesses in film, TV, games and digital media. We aim to grow the brightest, the best, and those with the most promise so that

individuals and businesses can achieve their full creative and commercial potential. We help identify future opportunities to grow the economy and generate jobs. www.creativeengland.co.uk

Creative Skillset

Creative Skillset empowers the Creative Industries to develop skills and talent; we do this by influencing and shaping policy, ensuring quality and by securing the vital investment for individuals to become the best in their field and for businesses to grow. As the industry skills body for the Creative Industries, we work across film, television, radio, animation, visual effects, games, fashion, textiles, advertising, marketing communications and publishing. www.creativeskillset.org

Creative Skillset's Film Skills Fund, as part of its film skills strategy, is funded by the National Lottery via the BFI and through the Skills Investment Fund, which comprises industry and government co-investment. The film skills strategy focuses on addressing the vital skills and training needs of the industry to deliver maximum economic and cultural return: creating jobs, strengthening skills, building skills for the future and ensuring world-class film education.



Developing world class talent

The BFI Film Fund

With over £30 million of Lottery funding to invest each year, the BFI is the UK's largest public investor in film, and the BFI Film Fund supports first-class British filmmaking from talent and project development, through production, to audience development across exhibition, distribution and international sales.

Films supported by the BFI Film Fund which have recently screened at international film festivals include Sean McAllister's ***A Syrian Love Story***, which this month won the Grand Jury prize at Sheffield Doc/Fest; Yorgos Lanthimos' ***The Lobster*** which premiered In Competition at Cannes in May; Andrew Haigh's ***45 Years*** which premiered in competition at Berlin Film Festival in February where it won two Silver Bear awards; and John Maclean's ***Slow West***, John Crowley's ***Brooklyn***, Louise Osmond's ***Dark Horse*** and Jerry Rothwell's ***How to Change the World*** which all premiered at Sundance in January.

Highly anticipated films backed by the BFI include Sarah Gavron's ***Suffragette***, recently announced as the opening night film for this year's BFI London Film Festival and featuring a stellar cast including Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter and Meryl Streep; Ben Wheatley's ***High Rise***; Terence Davies' ***Sunset Song***; John Michael McDonagh's ***War On Everyone***; Andrea Arnold's ***American Honey***; Colm McCarthy's ***She Who Brings Gifts***; and Pete Travis' ***City of Tiny Lights***.

About the BFI

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 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 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.



The National Lottery®



**Department
for Culture
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