

13/06

## Visions of Love: Celebrate Valentines Day at BFI Southbank



Have a truly unforgettable Valentine's Day at **BFI Southbank** with an expertly selected programme of films celebrating romance and passion screening across the venue's four plush film theatres on February 14. The programme offers classic visions of love with **A Place in the Sun**, **A Matter of Life and Death** and **From Here to Eternity**, as well as chances to experience contemporary love stories in **Weekend** and **A Perfect Ending**. Last year **Miranda Hart** picked a film and a meal at the BFI as her 'best place for a first date' in ES Magazine's *My London* column. With a wonderful selection of films and the chance to extend the evening at the *benugo bar & kitchen* or *The Riverfront*, the BFI Southbank is the best place in London to enjoy the complete Valentine's Day experience.

Audiences can start their evening in Hollywood, where classic romance began, with multi-Oscar winning **A Place in the Sun** (1951). This passionate tale of love across social boundaries sizzles with the chemistry between Hollywood starlets **Elizabeth Taylor** and **Montgomery Clift**. Other classic love stories retuning to the big screen for this special evening include the utterly enchanting **A Matter of Life and Death** (1946) created by British Cinema's most esteemed filmmaking duo, **Michael Powell** and **Emeric Pressburger**. This superbly crafted fantasy drama offers breath-taking scenes of the young **David Niven** fighting for love against the odds, on the stairway to heaven. **From Here To Eternity** (1953) weaves a thrilling

web of passion, honour and chivalry in the exotic Hawaiian tropics starring **Burt Lancaster** and **Deborah Kerr**.

The programme also offers an image of love in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with Andrew Haigh's acclaimed **Weekend** (2011). Dubbed by The New York Times as 'one of the most satisfying love stories you are likely to see', this charming modern tale follows two men as they wrestle with the universal ideas of commitment and love after a one-night stand. Also screening is **Nicole Conn's** lesbian romp which cuts straight to passion, **A Perfect Ending** (2012). A powerful tale of sexuality and empowerment, the film depicts a wealthy housewife's search for sexual fulfilment in the arms of a female escort.

At BFI Southbank there's no need to finish the evening at the end of the reel. The **benugo bar & kitchen's** intimate atmosphere is the perfect setting for a romantic meal. Alternatively, couples can also take advantage of the venue's prime location on the Thames and recline with a tailor made cocktail in **The Riverfront**, BFI Southbank's chic and vibrant waterside bar.

#### **Press Contacts:**

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#### **Screenings taking place on Valentines Day:**

##### **A Place in the Sun**

USA 1951. Dir George Stevens. With Montgomery Clift, Elizabeth Taylor, Shelley Winters, Anne Revere, Raymond Burr. 122min. Digital. PG. A BFI release

Both George Stevens' finest film and a highpoint in the careers of Montgomery Clift and Elizabeth Taylor, this is one of post-war Hollywood's most affecting and genuinely adult love stories. The winner of six Oscars (for direction, screenplay, cinematography, score, costumes and editing), it centres on George Eastman (Clift), a shy, slightly awkward Midwesterner who arrives in California hoping for a job in his uncle's factory, when he meets and immediately falls for beautiful socialite Angela (Taylor). While all the performances are excellent, Taylor and Clift were never better – or lovelier – and their scenes together are memorable for their wounded beauty.

**Thu 14 Feb 18:00 & 20:30 NFT3**

##### **From Here to Eternity**

US 1953. Dir Fred Zinnemann. With Burt Lancaster, Deborah Kerr, Frank Sinatra. 118min. Digital. PG

Somehow Lancaster and Kerr embracing in the surf remains the iconic image from this potent version of James Jones's pre-Pearl Harbour barrack-room saga. Notwithstanding Oscar-winning Sinatra as the platoon's wiry scrapper Maggio, however, the stand-out turn is actually Clift's fiercely independent Prewitt, stoically resisting his comrades' increasingly brutish attempts to second him to the company's boxing team. A compelling, characteristic portrait of self determined masculinity challenging the conventions of machismo.

**\*Introduced by Trevor Johnston**

**Thu 14 Feb 18:10 NFT1\***

##### **A Matter of Life and Death**

UK 1946. Dir Michael Powell & Emeric Pressburger. With David Niven, Kim Hunter, Roger Livesey, Kathleen Byron. 104min. Digital. U

First mooted as a project to foster an improvement in Anglo-American relations, *A Matter of Life and Death* emerged as a timeless romantic fantasy. David Niven plays Peter Carter, a young airman seemingly doomed before his time and trapped between life and death, between a Technicolor earth and a monochrome heaven. There have been other films that have dealt with heaven and earth but none possessed quite the ambition or visual flair of *A Matter of Life and Death*.

**Thu 14 Feb 20:45 NFT1**

### **Weekend**

UK 2011. Dir Andrew Haigh. With Tom Cullen, Chris New. 97min. 18

This is a disarmingly authentic story of two gay men after a one-night stand. Stripped of the clichés of romantic comedy, it feels fresh and real and funny. It was filmed in Nottingham but could be any 21st century big town. The two handsome leading men wrestle with the idea of commitment and their emotional journey takes on a universal relevance. 'One of the most satisfying love stories you are likely to see' – *New York Times*.

**Thu 14 Feb 20:40 NFT2**

### **A Perfect Ending**

USA 2012. Dir Nicole Conn. With Barbara Niven, Jessica Clark, John Heard, Morgan Fairchild. 110min. Digital. 15

Wealthy housewife and mother of three Rebecca Westridge has two secrets – one is that she's never achieved orgasm. She's persuaded by stunned lesbian friends to hire an escort. However, this isn't your average escort, this escort appears to have stepped out of a Bounty advert by way of Oxbridge. Will Rebecca find more than sexual fulfilment? Fans of director Nicole Conn will not be disappointed by this powerful tale of sexuality and empowerment.

**Thu 14 Feb 18:20 NFT2**

### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

#### **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 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 £10.00, concs £6.75 Members pay £1.50 less on any ticket. Website [www.bfi.org.uk/southbank](http://www.bfi.org.uk/southbank)

**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](http://www.image.net) under BFI / BFI Southbank / February 2013**