



2012 DATES: OCTOBER 10 – 21ST

9am Tuesday 19th June 2012, London The BFI today announced that the 56th edition of the BFI London Film Festival, in partnership with American Express, will run from 10 - 21st October 2012 and enjoy both an increase in the number of screenings and venues, in new parts of the capital. As part of BFI Head of Exhibition and Festival Director Clare Stewart's new strategic direction for the Festival, this approach sees the Festival shorter in length but significantly increasing its capacity for primetime screenings. This new structure, alongside the recently announced new programme categories, competitive sections and enhanced Awards, is designed to give a wide and diverse audience more opportunities to take part in the Festival and celebrate outstanding films from the UK and around the world from both new and established talent.

More venues, more screenings, new audiences

The new 12 day duration of the Festival will give a concentrated burst of film across more boroughs of London than ever before. The important cinema going axis between the major Leicester Square cinemas (Odeon West End, Vue West End, Odeon Leicester Square and Empire) and BFI Southbank will be maintained but the Festival's reach will be extended into 4 new regional London cinemas: the Hackney Picturehouse, the Renoir in Bloomsbury, Screen on the Green in Islington, and the Rich Mix in Shoreditch. The Festival will continue to screen at the ICA and will expand its use of Curzon Mayfair, the Ritzy in Brixton, and Cine Lumiere, Kensington which will all screen films for the full duration, rather than the previous 3 days, of the festival. With a substantial increase in the number of primetime evening and weekend screenings, not only will more people be able to get involved but the festival also has the opportunity to significantly boost its commercial potential.

Clare Stewart, BFI Head of Exhibition and Festival Director said '*The BFI London Film Festival is one of the jewels in the capital's cultural crown and we want to ensure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to experience it. Whether it's a film aficionado diving straight in to our festival programme or a moviegoer coming to the festival for the first time - more screenings, more venues and more London boroughs makes it a Film Festival for everyone.*'

The 56th BFI London Film Festival runs from 10-21st October and is now open for entries:

Short films deadline is 22 June

Features films deadline is 6 July

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/lff/node/2104>

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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
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of filmmakers and audiences

The BFI London Film Festival

BFI London Film Festival is an iconic international film festival that supports London's position as the world's leading creative city. It presents the best new British and international films to an expanding London and UK-wide audience. It provides career-enabling opportunities for British and international filmmakers through its industry and awards programmes.

Clare Stewart biography

Clare Stewart's sixteen year programming career has encompassed leadership roles as Festival Director, Sydney Film Festival (2006-2011) and the inaugural Head of Film Programs at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image in Melbourne (2002-2006) as well as various roles at the Australian Film Institute (1996-2001), including Exhibition Manager, and programmer and Committee Member of the Melbourne Cinémathèque (1995-2002).

About American Express

American Express Company is a diversified worldwide travel, financial and network services company founded in 1850. It is a leader in charge and credit cards, Travellers Cheques, travel and insurance products. As part of the premium service delivered to Cardmembers, American Express handpicks the very best in London entertainment through its award winning Preferred Seating programme. From giving a sneak peek behind the scenes, offering money can't buy experiences at events, American Express goes that extra mile to deliver inspiring and memorable entertainment experiences. The company has multi - year partnerships with a range of entertainment institutions including AEG Live, Ticketmaster, Live Nation and the British Film Institute. To sign up to receive the free eNewsletters visit www.amex.co.uk/access

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On 1 April the BFI became 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. We'll connect audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema; preserve and restore the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations; champion emerging and world class filmmakers in the UK; invest in creative, distinctive and entertaining work; promote British film and talent to the world; and grow the next generation of filmmakers and audiences.

For more information on the BFI and its work, visit bfi.org.uk

The British Film Institute ("BFI") is a charity registered in England and Wales No. 287780.

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