

BFI Reuben Library and BFI Shop officially open at BFI Southbank

*with generous support from sponsors, including
the principal BFI Library funder, the Reuben
Foundation*

London - Friday 21 September

Today the **BFI Reuben Library** officially opens in its new home in a specially designed space at BFI Southbank. BFI CEO Amanda Nevill, BFI Chair Greg Dyke and Mayor Boris Johnson marked the opening at an event last night at BFI Southbank, attended by King's Speech director Tom Hooper, Sir Christopher Frayling and Kevin Brownlow. With generous support from principal funders **The Reuben Foundation**, the new library provides one of the biggest collections of printed materials relating to film and television in the world and is already proving a resounding success, with visitor numbers increasing by 200% during its trial period from June - August 2012. Neighbouring the library is the ultimate destination for film books and DVDs, previously known as the Filmstore, it will have an improved layout and be renamed **BFI Shop**. With over five years of successful trading and now established as London's ultimate film specialist shop, **BFI Shop** will continue to cater for film fans as well as academics and film students. Luminaries who have dropped by both the Library and BFI Shop are a who's who of the film industry and include Michael Caine, Kevin Brownlow, Keanu Reeves, Kevin Spacey, Danny Boyle, Edgar Wright, John Walters, John Landis, Mike Leigh, Terence Stamp and John Carpenter.

Greg Dyke, BFI Chair said "The BFI looks after the world's greatest collections of film and television material and we opened this new library at BFI Southbank to inspire more people about the future of film. It is a vital hub and resource for everybody from filmmakers, academic researchers, students and the industry itself, or anyone with an interest in film and we are indebted to The Reuben Foundation along with our other benefactors for their incredible support."

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said: "This is a tremendous initiative, providing an exciting resource for Londoners that will also be a huge attraction to film fans, students and curious tourists from far and wide. I thank The Reuben Foundation for its support with this fantastic example of philanthropy in culture. London has provided an iconic backdrop for so many famous films, be it Harry Potter or James Bond and it's only right that we have such a fitting tribute to our great film heritage."

As well as **The Reuben Foundation,** the BFI is also delighted to announce that the BFI Reuben Library has received generous support from major benefactors **The Edwin Fox Foundation** and **The Dr. Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation** and additional support from **The Hintze Family Charitable Foundation.**

The BFI Reuben Library is now free to access and has longer regular opening hours including a new Saturday service. The library provides a broader appeal than ever before for everyone from casual visitors and students, to serious academic researchers. At a time of austerity during which many libraries have sadly been forced to close, the success of the library proves it is a vital resource and valuable addition to the BFI Southbank. It joins the venue's 4 cinemas, Mediatheque and Mezzanine Gallery Space, reflecting the BFI's commitment to putting its collection and knowledge at the heart of its offer.

The library provides all of the BFI's contemporary book stock and current journals as well as collections on filmmakers and film theory. State of the art equipment is now available for self-service scanning of paper and microform material, and the BFI's unique and heavily-used collection of press cuttings (covering film and television from the 1930s up to 2010) has now been digitised and is available in the new library.

With 30% more books and journals on open access display than in the previous reading room, the new library has increased its offering significantly, and initial increases in visitor numbers reflect this. Designed by award-winning Coffey Architects, the BFI Reuben Library combines a bespoke, hanging bronze coated mesh curtain suspending from the ceiling to filter light and sound, oak timber bookcases, subtle new lighting, and traditionally inspired, contemporary furniture, all of which create a rich, vibrant yet welcoming and calm space, which serves all manner of visitors.

The Reubens said "we are delighted to support the BFI in creating the new BFI Reuben Library, which we hope will benefit film

students, researchers and moving image enthusiasts of all ages for many years to come".

The Fox family said, "we are very excited to have been part of the creation of this wonderful new library for the BFI at the Southbank and to have donated the Reading Room which we hope will be a tranquil yet vibrant area of the library where both students and cinema lovers can read and learn about every aspect of film imaginable."

BFI Shop is stocked and staffed by experts, some of whom have worked there since it first opened five years ago. Offering the widest range of film merchandise in London, it sells books covering every film and TV-related subject, DVDs from around 100 different labels, magazines, posters, cards, bags, t-shirts and calendars. The shop has customers from all over the UK and around the world, who use its mail order service by phone or internet (www.bfi.org.uk/shop) and continues to be an invaluable resource for the wider film community.

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Notes to Editors

A library and information service was part of the BFI from its inception in 1933 and housed in the various homes of the BFI since then. Since 1987 the Library has been situated on the ground floor of the BFI's Stephen St office. The new space is housed in BFI Southbank's former Gallery space.

About the BFI Reuben Library

The BFI Reuben Library provides information on film, television and, increasingly, new media. Its priority is comprehensive coverage of the moving image in Britain from pre-cinema to the present, but the scope of the collection is international with material held in more than 15 languages.

Membership/access

From 1 April 2012 access to the BFI Reuben Library will be free of charge and all membership categories will be abolished.

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 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

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.

About the Reuben Foundation

The Reuben Foundation is a UK registered charity focused on making essential contributions to healthcare and education in the UK and worldwide. The Reuben Foundation recently launched the Reuben Scholarship Programme in association with the University of Oxford, University College London and ARK Schools, to assist bright students from disadvantaged backgrounds both to continue their education and see that attending university is an option very much open to them. The Reuben Foundation also created the 'Team London' volunteering scheme in partnership with the Mayor of London, which has raised over 100,000 new volunteers for existing voluntary organisations in the capital, allowing them to work more effectively to improve quality of life, offer more opportunities to youth and help lower crime. Please visit www.reubenfoundation.com for more information.

About the Edwin Fox Foundation

The Edwin Fox Foundation is a UK registered charity devoted to educational, cultural and medical causes in the UK and worldwide. It was established by Edwin Fox, a leading South African businessman and philanthropist who lived in London for over twenty five years. Amongst many other causes, the charity has focussed on creating new educational and working spaces at leading arts institutions including Sadlers Wells, the ICA, The South London Gallery and The National Portrait Gallery. It also supports other cultural institutions and festivals including The Philharmonia Orchestra, The Edinburgh International Festival and Dance Umbrella.

About The Dr. Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation

The Dr. Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation has been established to support advancement in education and in the fields of art and science; it is active with projects in support of the arts as well as medical and scientific research.

About the Hintze Family Charitable Foundation

The Hintze Family Charitable Foundation was established by [Michael](#) and Dorothy Hintze in 2005 and supports charitable endeavours in the areas of religion, health, education and the arts. Since inception, over 150 charities have received funding from the Foundation. Major donations have, amongst others, provided funding to Trinity Hospice in south London, The National Gallery, The Prince's Foundation, the University of Sydney, enabled the restoration of Michelangelo's frescoes in the Pauline Chapel at the Vatican, sponsored two major galleries at the Victoria & Albert Museum and provided vital funding to the Old Vic Theatre in London.

About Coffey Architects

Coffey Architects was selected through a competitive interview process to undertake the design and contract administration of the BFI Library Project in November 2011. Coffey Architects is also taking on the role of leading the consultant team.

This young practice formed in 2005 by Phil Coffey has projects in all sectors including residential, public buildings and urban design and is currently undertaking work throughout the UK, in China and in Bangladesh. The practice has been awarded a number of prizes including RIBA awards and last year won the RIBA Stephen Lawrence Prize award for the St Patricks School Library and Music Room, in Kentish Town, London . The prize rewards the best examples of projects that have a construction budget of less than £1 million and is intended to encourage fresh talent working with smaller budgets.

Phil Coffey was recently included in the ICOPAL Faces of British Architecture exhibition in Central London alongside, amongst other's Sir Richard MacCormac, Sir Nicholas Grimshaw and David Adjaye.

On the decision to proceed with implementation of the project, Phil Coffey said, *'Coffey Architects have enjoyed working with the BFI who have proven to be an understanding and ambitious client in what is a highly pressurised project. Our relationship with the wider client body, the South Bank venue and the individual librarian staff has been excellent and we are looking forward to the construction phase and a successfully completed project.'*