

Press Release

Date: Wednesday 9 June

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Press images: [HERE](#)

The Southbank Centre announces exciting new partnership with the British Film Institute for the 65th BFI London Film Festival 6 – 17 October 2021



View of the Royal Festival Hall from across the river © Morley van Sternberg

The Southbank Centre commercial events team today announces that the site's Grade I-listed Royal Festival Hall will become the new red carpet Gala venue for the BFI London Film Festival's 2021 edition, in an exciting partnership for the arts centre.

This new partnership will make London's Southbank the heart of the film festival experience, with the iconic Royal Festival Hall hosting red carpet gala premieres, both the Opening and Closing Night galas as well as 8 Headline Galas and a number of major Special Presentations across the 12-days of the Festival.

The BFI London Film Festival is Britain's leading film event and one of the world's best film festivals. It presents a selection of the best in world cinema and incorporates a compelling combination of diverse films, red carpet glamour, friendly audiences and vibrant exchange. The LFF showcases exceptional British filmmaking alongside international work, and provides an essential profiling opportunity for films seeking global success.

The 2021 Film Programme will be based out of dual hubs on the Southbank and in the West End and will play a big part in London's cultural recovery as the capital's arts venues reopen their doors.

This announcement follows the recent reopening of the world-leading performance venue, after over a year of closure due to the pandemic. The Royal Festival Hall welcomed audiences back on 28 May, kicking off the site's four-month reopening programme, *Summer Reunion*.

Elaine Bedell, Chief Executive of the Southbank Centre, said: "We're so pleased to be partnering with the BFI to host the 65th BFI London Film Festival in October. We're busy reopening for the

summer and planning for the autumn, bringing much-needed culture and entertainment back to the Southbank Centre. As a multi-arts centre we're delighted to be able to host this important film festival in the Royal Festival Hall, which is a key cultural event in London."

For further press information and image requests please contact:

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About Southbank Centre

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre occupying a prominent riverside location that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. We want to take people out of the everyday, every day.

The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to four Resident Orchestras (London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment) and four Associate Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain).

About the BFI

We are a cultural charity, a National Lottery distributor, and the UK's lead organisation for film and the moving image.

Our mission is:

- To support creativity and actively seek out the next generation of UK storytellers
- To grow and care for the BFI National Archive, the world's largest film and television archive
- To offer the widest range of UK and international moving image culture through our programmes and festivals - delivered online and in venue
- To use our knowledge to educate and deepen public appreciation and understanding
- To work with Government and industry to ensure the continued growth of the UK's screen industries

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter.

The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Tim Richards.

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 diverse films, 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.



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