



BFI FILM AUDIENCE NETWORK UNLEASHES

GOTHIC: THE DARK HEART OF FILM ACROSS THE UK

London, 9th October 2013. Fear stalks the land. Prepare for an unprecedented GOTHIC assault on the senses across the UK, as the BFI Film Audience Network (BFI FAN) launches with a celebration of GOTHIC the hideous and alluring dark heart of film (October 2013 – February 2014), part of the biggest BFI blockbuster project ever.

Witches, vampires, werewolves and spectres will be unleashed upon film audiences across the British Isles as Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and all the English regions work together as part of this new and dynamic film network to capture the imagination of the British public. BFI FAN will enable film fans across the nation - who cannot easily access a broader variety of films - to experience a diverse range of activity, through screenings, education, community projects and archive events. GOTHIC is just the start of a whole range of other extraordinary film experiences BFI FAN will bring to local audiences.

Thrilling GOTHIC highlights in every part of the UK include:

- **Wales Goes Dark: Abertoir Horror Film Festival:** UK premiere of Welsh film **The Darkest Day, Aberystwyth** (19 Oct), plus Abertoir partnering on festivals at Theatr Clwyd Cymru, Gwyn Hall, The Torch Milford Haven and more to be added
- **Cardiff:** Darkened Rooms: **Dracula** screens at **Cardiff Castle** (29 Oct - SOLD OUT), (5 Nov - NOW ON SALE)
- **Newport:** **Night of the Demon** at Tredegar House, Newport (30 Oct)
- **Leeds:** **Gothic Film Festival** classic Gothic screenings and events in the beautiful ruins of Kirkstall Abbey for Hallowe'en weekend (31 Oct – 3 Nov)
- **Belfast:** **Burn Baby, Burn!** Witchcraft on film season at the Queen's Film Theatre (1 – 5 Nov)
- **London:** The **Dia de Los Muertos** (Day of the Dead) **Experience!** brings classic Mexican horror films, live music and immersive theatre to the Rich Mix (1 & 2 Nov);
- **Hereford:** The Elephant Man: A Freakish History in the Black Lion Pub's attic with introduction and post-film discussion led by Gothic horror expert, Prof. Ian Conrich (2 Nov)
- **Glasgow, Edinburgh & Dundee:** **Häxan: Witchcraft Through the Ages** with a new score in Glasgow Film Theatre, Filmhouse Edinburgh and Dundee Contemporary Arts
- **Derry-Londonderry:** **The Cabinet of Dr Caligari**, open-air screening under the city walls (15 Nov)
- **Brighton:** a complete Svankmajer retrospective (17 Nov – 01 Dec) at Cinecity, Brighton Film Festival
- **Bristol:** The Corridor Sessions present **The Shining** at Watershed (29 Nov)
- **Manchester:** a British Gothic Double Bill at Cornerhouse (Sat 26 Oct)

Thanks to the allied forces of BFI FAN, new collaborations are opening up a dazzling array of special events, screenings, lectures and musical accompaniments offering unprecedented riches for audiences with special guests, education events and more. Screenings in a gothic library, haunted houses, a bombed out church, late nights and children's events are among the delights in store.

Heather Stewart, Creative Director, BFI said, "We are delighted to have nine such dedicated partners in the new BFI Film Audience Network (BFI FAN) to reach audiences in every corner of the UK. BFI FAN gets off to a spine-chilling start with extraordinary GOTHIC film experiences that will thrill from Ballymena to Brighton, Much Marcle to Manchester. With terror guaranteed across the land, this will be a Hallowe'en like never before."

Across the GOTHIC project some of the greatest classics of GOTHIC cinema are being re-released, with Herzog's *Nosferatu the Vampyr* (1979) alongside the Murnau's seminal and original *Nosferatu* (1922) in selected cinemas across the UK. Jack Clayton's haunting masterpiece *The Innocents* (1961) will also have a major re-release (Dec) and a new restoration of Jean Cocteau's *La Belle et la Bête* (1946) will re-released (Jan 2014). Many GOTHIC titles will be available on the BFI's newly launched video on demand service **BFI Player** with its own dedicated GOTHIC channel.

The key events of GOTHIC are gearing up throughout October and this isn't just for Hallowe'en, although it's a very good place to start. In the days that follow wherever you live there will be no escape... As the dark nights of winter give way to Christmas ghost stories there are always more great adventures in cinema to chill the soul. With the New Year, new GOTHIC thrills will begin.

GOTHIC celebrates the very British genius – rooted in literature and art – that gave rise to some of the most filmed characters in our on-screen history: Dracula, Frankenstein and Jekyll & Hyde. GOTHIC introduced the nation to sex, unleashing dark passions and breaking taboos along the way, circumventing what was acceptable to view on screen and then selling it to America – who imported the genre with true bloodlust.

GOTHIC's phenomenal geographical reach across the UK via the following Film Hubs:

Central East Led by Broadway Nottingham & Cambridge Film Trust, with Gothic a Film Festival at **Kirkstall Abbey, Leeds** (31 Oct – 3 Nov), over Hallowe'en Weekend, consisting of eight screenings over four days of a mix of classic films that will resonate with the surroundings, including *Night of the Demon* (1957), *Witchfinder General* (1968) and *The Devil Rides Out* (1968), *The Bride of Frankenstein* (1935), *Nosferatu* (1922) and *The Innocents* (1961), plus a special Junior Gothic event on Sat 2 Nov.

GOTHIC continues in January with screenings at **Childerley Hall, Cambridgeshire, Newstead Abbey, Nottinghamshire** (the home of Byron) and the Field House Barn, Thrandeston, Suffolk with a special screening of *Witchfinder General* (1968) in the Witchfinder's territory.

London Led by Film London the **Dia de Los Muertos** (Day of the Dead) **Experience!** at Rich Mix presented by De Skalon PR, in partnership with Movimientos, kicks off activity on 1 & 2 November 2013 with classic Mexican horror films, live music and immersive theatre to mark the Mexican holiday in which the living celebrate their departed relatives. Gothic events continue with **The Haunted Childhood All Nighter** presented by De Skalon PR in partnership with The Lost Picture Show, bringing spine-chilling international horror to an eerie London location. In January the **Schools' Gothic programme** developed by Picturehouse Education will centre on Gothic titles *La Belle et la Bête* (1946), *Pan's Labyrinth* (2006), *The Woman in Black* (2012) and *Wuthering Heights* (2011) producing interactive introductions and comprehensive resource packs for each. Over Valentine's weekend The New Black's **Thriller Weekender** will bring Flash Mobs, haunting Double-bills, midnight screenings and seminars to the Stratford Cultural Quarter. The programme will conclude with the London Comedy Film Festival's **LOCO Go Gothic** with Gothic comedy at St

Clements Social Club, Mile End alongside LOCO School of Slapstick workshops for kids during the February 2014 half term.

North Led by **Sheffield's Showroom, National Media Museum Bradford & Cine Yorkshire**. Cult Tuesdays (Oct/Nov) at Showroom will feature classics of the dark side, such as *The Wolf Man* (1941), *The Ghoul* (1933), *The Devil Rides Out* (1968). Celluloid Screams festival (26 – 31 Oct) offers a heady brew of late night screenings of zombie classics and more for fans of the Undead. Euro Gothic at NMM (31 Oct – 3 Nov) includes Argento's *Suspiria*, Murnau's *Nosferatu* (1922) and Franju's *Eyes Without a Face* (1960).

Led by **Broadway Nottingham & Cambridge Film Trust** the **Gothic Film Festival at Kirkstall Abbey, Leeds** will host eight screenings over four days 31 Oct - 3 Nov in this hauntingly beautiful ruined abbey. In this brilliantly atmospheric setting audiences will enjoy horror classics including *Nosferatu* (1922) with live musical accompaniment as a Junior Gothic special event, *Night of the Demon* (1958), *The Passion of Joan of Arc* (1928), *Bride of Frankenstein* (1935) and more, plus a series of events including performers and storytellers.

Northern Ireland Led by **Queen's Film Theatre, Belfast** - Cinema City is taking audiences to the dark side as part of **Derry-Londonderry UK City of Culture**, with a special performance of *Psycho* (1960) with live music from the **Ulster Orchestra** at **Ebrington**, and an outdoor film programme in **Ebrington Square**, including *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari* (1919) and *An American Werewolf in London* (1981), while the **Nerve Centre** presents a season of Gothic film. The **QFT** in Belfast explores the Dark Arts on screen with *Burn Baby, Burn!*, a season tracing witchcraft on screen, and a demonically themed all-nighter, while the **Belfast Film Festival** and **Braid Arts Centre** in Ballymena will present site-specific screenings in spooky locations across the region.

North West Central Led by Cornerhouse Manchester. Special events have been organised by Cornerhouse, GrimmFest, The Dukes in Lancaster, Scratch n Sniff Cinema, QUAD in Derby and these programmes feature a stirring selection of great Gothic horror classics including *The Wicker Man* (1973), an immersive screening of *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane* (1962), *Dracula* (1958), *Dead of Night* (1945), and *Night of the Demon* (1957), *Nosferatu* (1922) and *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (1992), *The Innocents* (1961) and *The Others* (2001), *Bride of Frankenstein* (1935) and *La Belle et La Bête* (1946).

Venues include Wem Town Hall; QUAD, Derby; St. Luke's Bombed Out Church; The Plaza Super Cinema Salford; Ordsall Hall, Salford; The Dancehouse art deco Theatre, Manchester; John Rylands Library (early 20th century Gothic masterpiece) and Cornerhouse, Manchester.

Scotland Led by Scottish Film and delivered by Regional Screen Scotland, programme highlights include a new score for *Häxan: Witchcraft Through the Ages* (1922) from Verity Susman, to be performed across the region at Filmhouse Edinburgh, Glasgow Film Theatre (GFT) and Dundee Contemporary Arts (DCA).

Highlights include the Love is the Devil season at GFT each film screening telling an obsessive love story with a Gothic or supernatural twist. Dark Visions at Filmhouse is a season exploring cinema's contribution to the visual culture of the witch in the twentieth century. As part of Dundead (Dundee's Horror Festival) at DCA, Gothic themes will be explored through screenings including *The Wicker Man* (1973), *Witchfinder General* (1968) and *Blood on Satan's Claw* (1971). There's an all day **Frightfest** event at GFT, and for young people Discovery Film Festival will screen the UK premier of *Victor and the Secret of Crocodile Mansion* (2012) at DCA.

South East Led by Cinecity Brighton Film Festival where a fascinating and complete survey of the films of Jan Svankmajer will reveal the rich and frightening world of these superb animated fantasies, anchored in the Gothic (17 Nov – 01 Dec 2013) followed by a UK-wide tour.

South West and West Midlands Led by Bristol's Watershed, audiences will explore Ben Wheatley's Modern Gothic with some of his own films alongside newly remastered digital prints of classic tales of witchery in *Witchfinder General* (1968) and *Blood on Satan's Claw* (1971), plus an immersive late night screening of *The Shining* (29 Nov). A special series of Late Night screenings will include *Hausu* (1977) (1 Nov), *Repulsion* (1965) (15 Nov) and *Suspria* (1977) (26 Nov). In the rural climes of Herefordshire, The Courtyard bring screenings including *The Elephant Man* (1980) (2 Nov), a recreation of the original double-bill of *Don't Look Now* (1973) and *The Wicker Man* (1973) (12 Nov), *Shaun of the Dead* (2004) with an interactive zombie game experience through the streets of Hereford (15 Nov), *Nosferatu* (1922) screening at Gothic mansion Hellens Manor (16 Nov), and a healthy peppering of Svankmajer short films, culminating in a screening of *Faust* (1994) (Jan 2014).

Education specials: *Alice in Wonderland* & The Mad Hatter's Magic Tea Party 19 Oct; Svankmajer's *Alice* & Big Magic Ink workshop 26 Oct. Svankmajer Claymation workshop 1st Dec Watershed. The Courtyard will present a drama workshop for ages 7-12 investigating Gothic characters (9 Nov).

Wales Led by Chapter (Cardiff). 'Wales Goes Dark' with **Abertoir Horror Film Festival** and participating venues around Wales to bring darkness across the land in; **Aberystwyth Arts Centre** (Aberystwyth), **The Torch** (Milford Haven), **Theatr Clwyd** (Mold) and **Gwyn Hall** (Neath). Celebrations in the cinema of the legendary **Peter Cushing** in his centenary year and the living legend **Roger Corman**, are complemented by special event screenings including *Dracula* (1958) at **Cardiff Castle** and *Night of the Demon* (1957) at **The National Trust's Tredegar House** as part of **Darkened Rooms**. Abertoir presents the UK premiere of Welsh-made epic, *The Darkest Day* at Aberystwyth Arts Centre and the premiere of a new score for Jean Epstein's *The Fall of the House of Usher* (1928) for Hallowe'en, created and performed by **Steepways Sound Collective**.

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Notes to editors:

For more information on the BFI Film Audience Network visit:

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/film-audience-network>

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The eight Film Hubs within BFI FAN are:

Film Hub for Central East

Led jointly by Cambridge Film Trust & Broadway Nottingham

Cambridge Film Trust champions independent cinema and fosters film culture and education through its year-round programme culminating in the annual Cambridge Film Festival. Broadway Nottingham is one of the leading independent cinemas for cultural film in the UK.

Partners include:

Aldeburgh Cinema

Big Country

Broadway Cinema, Letchworth

Cambridge Film Consortium

Cinema Plus@Cinema City

Creative Arts East: Village Screen Network

EAFA
Hollywood Cinemas
Independent Cinema Milton Keynes
MACE
North Norfolk Village Screen
Phoenix Arts: Big Country
South Suffolk Hub
Suffolk Digital Screen Network
UHArts

Film Hub London

Led by Film London: As the capital's film and media agency, Film London aims to ensure London has a thriving film sector that enriches the city's businesses and its people. The agency has a strong track record of supporting innovative exhibition and education initiatives, maximising access to the capital's film culture and helping audiences to discover film in all its diversity.

Film Hub NI

Led by QFT [Queen's Film Theatre], Belfast: For over 40 years QFT has been the only full-time cinema dedicated to showing specialised and non-mainstream film in Northern Ireland. The QFT shows almost 400 individual films from around the world each year and promotes film culture in all its diverse forms.

Partners include:

Belfast Film Festival
Braid Arts Centre, Ballymena
Cinemagic, Belfast
Cinema-City, Derry
Nerve Centre, Derry

Film Hub North West Central

Led by Cornerhouse Manchester: Since opening in 1985 Cornerhouse has been bringing the best in UK and international cinema to Manchester and the North West through a programme of over 3,500 screenings per year, an extensive programme of engagement events and attracting large and committed audiences making it one of the UK's most successful independent cinemas. Grimm Up North run the annual Manchester set genre film festival Grimmfest alongside regular screening events across the region.

Grimm Up North
John Ryland's Library, Manchester
The Dancehouse Theatre, Manchester
Ordsall Hall, Salford

Film Hub Scotland

Led by Scottish Film and delivered by Regional Screen Scotland, Film Hub Scotland is a consortium consisting of Scotland's leading cultural cinemas and film festivals, and its cinema development agency Regional Screen Scotland. Collectively these organisations are the principal providers of specialist and independent cinema exhibition and programming in Scotland.

Venues include:

Edinburgh Filmhouse
Glasgow Film Theatre
DCA

Film Hub South East

Led by the University of Brighton, Film Hub SE is managed by a consortium of Brighton-based partners: Brighton & Hove City Council, Cinacity (curates and presents Brighton's annual film festival), Lighthouse (creative agency working at the intersection of the art, film education),

Picturehouse Cinemas (UK's leading arthouse cinema) and Screen Archive South East (collecting, preserving, promoting and providing public access to screen heritage).

Partners include:

Duke of York's cinema, Brighton
Dukes at Komedia, Brighton

Film Hub South West & West Midlands

Led by Watershed, Bristol: Watershed's ambition is to develop audiences' choice, engagement, understanding and enjoyment of the past, present and future of cinema. Watershed is a leading cross-artform venue and producer, sharing, developing and showcasing exemplary cultural ideas and talent.

The Black Lion, Hereford
The Courtyard, Hereford
Hellens Manor, Much Marcle, Herefordshire

Film Hub Wales

Led by Chapter (Cardiff): Chapter is an ambitious, multi-art form cultural space that presents and produces international art, performance and film alongside a dynamic social space.

Wales Goes Dark partners include:

Abertoir Horror Film Festival, Aberystwyth
Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Aberystwyth
Theatr Clywd, Mold
Gwyn Hall, Neath
The Torch, Milford Haven
Cardiff Castle
The National Trust's Tredegar House, Newport

GOTHIC: The Dark Heart of Film is a nationwide BFI project (**October 2013 – February 2014**)

The BFI will take Britain back to darker times and thrill the nation by uncovering as never before the dark heart of film. With over 150 titles and around 1000 screenings GOTHIC features spectacularly terrifying special events to thrill every corner of the UK. The project also incorporates the longest BFI Southbank season in London yet (4 months), UK wide theatrical and DVD releases, an education programme and a range of exciting partnerships, special guests and commentators, including project ambassador Sir Christopher Frayling. GOTHIC will explore film's most popular theme, spawning some of the medium's most iconic, powerful and terrifying scenes and characters whose lasting popularity just refuses to die. A Gothic compendium featuring essays by leading figures such as Mark Kermode, Guillermo Del Toro and Marina Warner will accompany the project. The BFI Player, newly launched VOD platform will feature a dedicated Gothic channel.

www.bfi.org.uk/gothic

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