

## **BRITISH FEDERATION OF FILM SOCIETIES MAY NEWSREEL**

### **NEWS**

#### **NEW BFFS BOARD MEMBERS**

BFFS would like to announce that Tony Thorndike (of Harrogate Film society), Peter Mitchell (of Octagon Films) and Katherine Sellar (recently of Edinburgh University Film Society) have been co-opted onto the BFFS Board. They bring with them a wealth of skills, experience and enthusiasm that will be a major asset to the BFFS Board.

Welcome, Tony, Peter and Katherine!

#### **BFFS FUNDING CAMPAIGN**

BFFS still needs your help to get our funding re-instated. To find out more about the BFFS funding cut and to join the campaign go to:

<http://bffs.org.uk/newsandevents/news/BFFSfundingcuts.html>

#### **BFFS SPRING NATIONAL VIEWING SESSION, BRACKNELL- THE REACTIONS**

Over 80 people made their way to South Hill Park Arts Centre in sunny Berkshire for the BFFS Spring National Viewing Session on Saturday 21 May.

They were treated to 9 films over two screens with titles as diverse as Danish nuclear documentary Into Eternity to the beautifully animated love letter to man's best friend, My Dog Tulip. Benda Bilili! the feel-good documentary following the fortunes of Congolese band Staff Benda Bilili! proved to be the most popular title of the day, narrowly beating South African drama Life, Above All.

See below for all of the reaction scores.

#### **DCMS FILM POLICY REVIEW**

Look out for a call for evidence from Department for Culture, Media and Sport about its film strategy:

[http://www.culture.gov.uk/what\\_we\\_do/creative\\_industries/8150.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/creative_industries/8150.aspx)

#### **NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COMMUNITY CINEMAS 2011 AND FILM SOCIETY OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

**17<sup>TH</sup>-18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, INSTITUT FRANCAIS, LONDON**

The dates have been announced for this year's National Conference and Film Society of the Year Awards ceremony. We are delighted to be returning to the Institut Francais in South Kensington, London. More details will be available soon, so save the date in your diary!

#### **FSOY APPLICATIONS OPENING SOON**

Keep your eye on your inbox in the coming weeks for full detail on how to apply for the new look suite of awards, including the inaugural **Filmbank Audience Award** and your chance to vote as the happiest audience in the UK.

#### **COUNTDOWN TO ZERO - DEMAND ZERO DAY. JOIN THE EVENT!**

Directed by Academy Award® nominated Lucy Walker (*Blindsight*), *Countdown to Zero* traces the history of the atomic bomb from its origins to present day global affairs. It

makes a compelling case for worldwide nuclear disarmament and features an impressive array of speakers.

Demand Zero Day will see audiences across UK and Ireland watch the film simultaneously before linking up live to BAFTA's panel featuring Queen Noor of Jordan, ex-CIA operative Valerie Plame and Tarantino's Producer, Lawrence Bender. Take up the baton by bringing the premiere to your doorstep as an Ambassador. Visit [www.countdowntozerofilm.com](http://www.countdowntozerofilm.com) to find out how.

### **BFFS BOARD ELECTIONS – COMING SOON**

In the coming months BFFS will be asking for nominations for potential board candidates in preparation for our officer elections. Keep your eyes open for nomination emails.

## **FUNDING NEWS**

### **SCREEN SOUTH RIFE FUNDING – DEADLINE 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

Funds available for SE groups for exhibition, education and community projects. Find out how to apply here: <http://www.screensouth.org/content.aspx?parent=4&page=50>

## **FILM SOCIETY NEWS**

### **SOUTH WEST NETWORK VIEWING SESSION - REACTIONS**

The audience reactions from the Devon Cornwall Network Viewing Session can be found on the BFFS website: [http://bffs.org.uk/export/sites/bffs\\_site/pdf/SW\\_Reactions.pdf](http://bffs.org.uk/export/sites/bffs_site/pdf/SW_Reactions.pdf)

Top scorer, Loose Cannons is available now from the BFFS Booking Scheme. You can download full programme notes from:

<http://bffs.org.uk/newsandevents/news/screeningdaysreactions.html>

## **EVENTS**

### **BFFS YORKSHIRE GROUP**

- BFFS Yorkshire Group AGM: 19th June, The Courthouse, Otley
- BFFS Yorkshire Group Residential Weekend: 2nd - 5th December 2011, Cober Hill Conference Centre, Scarborough

## **BFFS BOOKING SCHEME NEWS**

After the success of the [Spring National Viewing Session](#), BFFS is excited to be able to offer film society and community cinema programmers more choice than ever from the BFFS Booking Scheme.

The scheme is now home to over 300 titles and is an easy and reliable way to book a wide range of quality titles including the best in world cinema, the latest socially conscious documentaries and timeless classics

Head to the [BFFS website](#) to download the latest catalogue, along with our new information sheets on the following:

- Popular titles from [Cinefile](#), including *Conversations with my Gardener*
- [The Best of Black and White](#), featuring *Rififi* and *Rome, Open City*
- Social issue films from [Dogwoof](#) such as *Into Eternity* and *Gasland*
- The latest titles from [Peccadillo Pictures](#), including *Life, Above All*
- Quality titles from [Trinity](#) such as *Samson and Delilah*, *London River* and *Benda Bilili!*
- [Film Education](#) inspiration to help you expand your programme

### **NOW AVAILABLE FROM BFFS – POMEGRANATES AND MYRRH**

A free-spirited Palestinian dancer becomes the wife of a political prisoner in *Pomegranates and Myrrh* - the debut feature film from award-winning documentary maker Najwa Najjar. The film makes no political argument and is not intended to be an examination of Middle Eastern politics; the extent to which the characters' everyday lives are affected by political strife and society's boundaries makes the loudest statement on the plight of ordinary people. Head to the BFFS website for full programme notes:

<http://www.bffs.org.uk/services/blockbooking/whatsnew.html>

### **FESTIVALS, FESTIVALS, FESTIVALS**

- [Mosaïques Festival of World Culture](#) : 2-9 June
- [Doc/fest](#) : 8-12 June
- [Edinburgh International Film Festival](#) : 15-26 June
- [London Indian Film Festival](#): 30 June -12 July
- [New Zealand Film Festival, London](#): 1-3 July
- [Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival](#): 4-10 July
- [Galway Film Fleadh](#): 5-10 July

### **NEW RELEASES**

- [Mammuth](#): Axiom Films, 3 June
- [Countdown to Zero](#): Dogwoof Pictures, 24 June
- [Incendies](#): Trinity Filmed Entertainment, 24 June

## REMINDERS

### **BFFS COMMUNITY EXHIBITOR SURVEY**

This year's survey has already been sent out to all community cinemas and film societies. If we've missed you out, please get in touch, or go to the [BFFS website](#) for more details.

If you would like to receive this newsletter in PDF form, please email [bryony.bffs@googlemail.com](mailto:bryony.bffs@googlemail.com)

### **THE BFFS TEAM**

<b>BFFS SPRING NATIONAL VIEWING SESSION 2011: AUDIENCE REACTIONS</b>	
<b>FILM TITLE</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>BENDA BILILI!</b>	<b>87.5</b>
<b>LIFE, ABOVE ALL</b>	<b>85.4</b>
<b>THE GREAT WHITE SILENCE</b>	<b>82.6</b>
<b>MY DOG TULIP</b>	<b>77.2</b>
<b>TREACLE JR</b>	<b>65.8</b>
<b>INTO ETERNITY</b>	<b>63.1</b>
<b>BALLAST</b>	<b>52.9</b>
<b>LOUISE-MICHEL</b>	<b>48.0</b>
<b>LULLABY (SHORT)</b>	<b>47.5</b>