

**BRIAN COX RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Opening and Closing Night Films,
& More Special Guests Announced**

20th BRADFORD INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
in partnership with Virgin Media

www.bradfordfilmfestival.org.uk
(27 March to 6 April 2014)

The **20th Bradford International Film Festival in partnership with Virgin Media**, (27 March – 6 April) is proud to reveal its 2014 line-up which includes a film tribute to hugely respected Scottish actor **Brian Cox**, who receives the Lifetime Achievement Award on Sunday 6 April and participates in a Screen Talk with Festival Co-director Neil Young.

Neil says: *“This year’s recipient of the BIFF Lifetime Achievement Award is truly a titan of the acting profession. **Brian Cox** has excelled consistently in distinctive, scene-stealing roles in cinema, on stage and television, in a professional career that spans half a century.*

*“From his 1986 Hannibal Lecktor in Michael Mann’s **Manhunter** and his definitive performance in 1987’s **Titus Adronicus** at the National Theatre he reached the mainstream in 1995 with a barnstorming turn in **Braveheart** and **Rob Roy**, which brought the proud Scot to Hollywood’s attention. In the ensuing two decades he’s added class and gravitas to productions ranging from blockbusters (**X-Men 2**, **The Bourne Supremacy**) to high-class auteur-driven fare (**Adaptation**, **Rushmore**, **Match Point**) to edgy indies like **L.I.E.**, which earned him several awards. Cox has one of the great careers in British showbusiness, which we proudly salute this year at the Bradford International Film Festival.”*

A selection of highlights from Brian Cox’s illustrious cinematic career will be screened during the Festival. These include: *The Year of the Sex Olympics* (1968), *Manhunter* (1986), *Rushmore* (1998), *L.I.E.* (2001), *The Bourne Supremacy* (2004), *The Escapist* (2008), plus a special preview of his most recent feature, *Believe* (2013) where Cox plays legendary Manchester United manager, Sir Matt Busby.

Opening and Closing Night Films announced

Opening Night Film on Thursday 27 March is **The Lunchbox** (Dir. Ritesh Batra, 2013), which has already proved popular at Cannes and several other international film festivals, now arrives in the UK with a reputation as a sure-fire crowd-pleaser and the latest Indian film to cross over to a wider audience. Produced by and starring **Irrfan Khan** (*The Warrior*, *Life of Pi*, *Slumdog Millionaire*), *The Lunchbox* combines vivid, bustling scenes of daily life in the teeming city of Mumbai with a universal and unashamedly old-fashioned romantic story.

Closing Night Film on Sunday 6 April is **Locke** (Dir. Steven Knight, UK, 2013), starring **Tom Hardy** (*The Dark Knight Rises*, *Bronson*, *Inception*) and the voice of **Olivia Colman** (*Tyrannosaur*, *The Iron Lady*, *Broadchurch*, *Rev*), is the second feature from the Oscar nominated writer of *Eastern Promises*. A genuine one-man-

tour-de-force, *Locke* suggests that Hardy deserves to be ranked among the finest actors of his generation. As the eponymous central character Hardy find himself one evening painfully enmeshed in crises both personal and professional, as he drives south down a motorway conducting a series of increasingly fraught hands-free phone calls.

Festival special guests:

As well as Brian Cox, this year's Festival is delighted to welcome the following guests: writer, director and TV presenter **Mark Cousins** (*The Story of Film: A Odyssey, Moviedrome*) who presents his new documentary, *A Story of Children and Film*; comedian and erstwhile filmmaker and Yorkshireman **Graham Fellows aka 'John Shuttleworth'** who will give a short musical performance before a screening of his 2006 film, *Its Nice Up North*, which was shot by photographer **Martin Parr**, (whose photographs are on display in the National Media Museum exhibition, *Only In England: Photographs by Martin Parr and Tony Ray Jones*, 28 March – 29 June); **Richard Jobson**, filmmaker (*16 Years of Alcohol, A Woman in Winter*), musician (The Skids, The Armoury Show) and former late night TV presenter will be in Bradford to discuss his career; BAFTA Winning actress **Vicky McClure** (*This Is England, This Is England 86, Line of Duty*), is one of the jurors for this year's Bradford UNESCO City of Film European Feature Competition; directors **Joe Brewster** and **Michele Stephenson** will introduce the UK Premiere of their film, *American Promise*; director **Daisy Asquith** and musician **Bill Nelson** (Be-Bop Deluxe), will introduce the World Premiere screening of *Velorama*, a new documentary created from BFI archive material celebrating a century of the bicycle and part of Sheffield Doc/Fest's Tour De Cinema in the Yorkshire Festival.

Previously announced guests include:

Sally Potter, one of the UK's most fascinating and inspirational directors, will collect BIFF's Fellowship Award; acclaimed screenwriter **Frank Cottrell Boyce** (*24 Hour Party People, The Railway Man*), and the man responsible for scripting the 2012 London Olympics opening ceremony, is headline speaker for *Filmmakers' Weekend in association with the Northern Film School at Leeds Metropolitan University*; Silent-movie pianist and TV presenter **Neil Brand** (*Sound of Cinema: Music That Made the Movies*) joins film critic **Mark Kermode's** rockabilly band, **The Dodge Brothers**, for their third successive visit to the Festival, to present the World Premiere of a new score for the 1916 silent western *Hell's Hinges*; seminal director of the American avant-garde **James Benning**, in town for a special tribute. Benning is one of the subjects in Gabe Klinger's Venice Film Festival prize-winner, *Double Play: James Benning and Richard Linklater* which will receive its UK Premiere; and finally, **Metamono**, a three-piece band who restrict themselves to using only analogue electronic technology, will perform the World Premiere of a new soundtrack to accompany a selection of early silent British science and natural history films, *Secrets of Nature*.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Press Office

For press information, images and interview requests please contact:

Clare Wilford, BIFF Press Officer
clare@clarewilford.co.uk / 01668 214 923

Phil Oates, Press Officer, National Media Museum
phil.oates@nationalmuseum.org.uk 01274 203317

Box Office

National Media Museum Box Office: 0844 8563797

Film Lovers Pass - £80 / £70 conc.

Allows entry to all standard priced films; excludes special events, Widescreen Weekend screenings and events, Filmmakers weekend.

Weekend Film Lovers Pass - £30 / £25 conc.

Weekend 1 Film Lovers Pass covers period Friday 28 – Sunday 30 March

Weekend 2 Film Lovers Pass covers period Friday 04 – Sunday 06 April

Valid Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Allows entry to all standard priced films excludes special events, Widescreen Weekend screenings and events, Filmmakers weekend.

Widescreen Weekend Pass - £99 / £79

Filmmaker's Weekend Pass - £60 / £50 conc.

Allows entry to all Filmmakers weekend events and all standard priced films. Excludes special events, Widescreen Weekend screenings and events.

BIFF 2014 Title Sponsor: Virgin Media

Sponsors: Jurys Inns; Leeds Metropolitan University & Northern Film School; Schofield Sweeney

Funders: BFI/National Lottery (Main Funder); Bradford Council and Bradford UNESCO City of Film (Main Funder); Europa Cinemas



Strand Supporters: Boris Karloff Foundation; Daiwa Anglo Japanese Foundation; The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation; Italian Cultural Institute; US Embassy; Laser Hotline

Partners: JCT600; Media Servicing Limited

About BIFF: Since it began in 1995, Bradford International Film Festival has continued to be one of the outstanding events in the UK's film calendar. The National Media Museum is the hub of the festival, where its unique facilities make it possible to present films in every format from 16mm, 35mm and 70mm to 3-strip Cinerama and IMAX 3D.

About The National Media Museum: The National Media Museum in Bradford, West Yorkshire, opened in 1983 with the remit to explore the art and science behind images and image-making, and has since become one of the most visited UK museums outside London. It draws from more than 3.5 million objects in its National Photography, Television, Cinematography and New Media Collections to create special exhibitions, interactive galleries and activities for families and adults.

It is home to Europe's first IMAX cinema screen, the Pictureville Cinema and Cubby Broccoli Cinema. Entry to the Museum is free. www.nationalmediamuseum.org.uk

About Virgin Media:

Virgin Media is the first provider of all four broadband, TV, mobile phone and home phone services in the UK.

The company's cable network – the result of multi-billion pound private investment – delivers ultrafast broadband to over half of all UK homes, with speeds of up to 120Mb, as well as market leading connectivity to thousands of public and private sector organisations across the country.

Virgin Media has developed the most advanced interactive television service, bringing together broadcast TV, thousands of hours of on demand programming and the best of the web in a single set-top box powered by TiVo. The company was the first to offer HD TV and 3D on demand to millions of British households.

Virgin Media also boasts the best and widest collection of films of any TV provider in the UK. From 3D blockbusters and classic feature films, to Bollywood movies and short films – Virgin Media has over 1,000 movies available on demand at any one time, as well as a wide selection of film channels covering a variety of genres.

The world's first virtual mobile network was launched by Virgin Media and it is also one of the largest fixed-line home phone providers in the country.

Virgin Media is a part of Liberty Global plc, the world's largest international cable company. Together Virgin Media and Liberty Global serve 24 million customers across 14 countries, helping connect people to the digital world and enabling them to discover and experience its endless possibilities.

About Bradford, City of Film: Bradford is the world's first UNESCO City of Film. This permanent title bestows international recognition on Bradford as a world centre for film because of the city's rich film heritage, its inspirational movie locations and its many celebrations of the moving image through the city's annual film festivals. By 2020 Bradford will be *the* place to enjoy film, learn through and about film, make film and visit because of film. www.bradford-city-of-film.com