

Press release: immediate



**FULL SCREENING DETAILS ANNOUNCED FOR UK FILM COUNCIL'S  
FROM BLIGHTY WITH LOVE SEASON, 5–18 March 2010  
Featuring live audience Q&A with three British directors**

**MUMBAI – 22 February 2010:** The UK Film Council has announced the full screening programme for next month's British film showcase ***From Blighty with Love***, which will feature three live 'in-conversation' events with British directors.

'Blighty' is an English term for Britain, deriving from the Hindustani word *vilāyatī* (pronounced *bilāti* in many Indian dialects and languages) meaning 'foreign'.

*From Blighty with Love* will showcase the following seven new British independent UK films, none of which have been available to the cinema-going public in India before, in Indian cinemas in Mumbai, Bangalore and Delhi from 5 to 18 March\*.

- ***Man on Wire*** (dir. James Marsh) - winner of the 2009 Oscar® for Best Documentary and BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) for Outstanding British Film.
- ***In the Loop*** (dir. Armando Iannucci) – nominated for 2010 Oscar® for 'Best Adapted Screenplay' as well as 2010 BAFTA for Outstanding British Film and Best Screenplay, and winner of the 2009 British Independent Film Award for Best Screenplay.
- ***Easy Virtue*** (dir. Stephan Elliott) - nominated for the 2008 British Independent Film Award for Best Supporting Actress (Kristin Scott Thomas).
- ***Genova*** (dir. Michael Winterbottom) - winner of the 2008 San Sebastián International Film Festival award for Best Director.
- ***Glorious 39*** (dir. Stephen Poliakoff) - selected for the 2009 Toronto International Film Festival and the Times BFI London Film Festival.
- ***Rage*** (dir. Sally Potter) - nominated for the Golden Bear award at the 2009 Berlin International Film Festival.
- ***Angel*** (dir. François Ozon) - nominated for the Golden Bear award at the 2007 Berlin International Film Festival.

The 'in-conversation' events will include **Stephen Poliakoff**, director of the season's opening night film *Glorious 39*, and **Armando Iannucci**, the Oscar®-nominated director behind *In the Loop*, who will take part in live webcast Q&A answering questions from Indian audiences from a studio in London. **Sally Potter**, the director of *Rage*, will introduce her film and answer questions in person in Mumbai on 8 March.

**Sarah McKenzie, the UK Film Council's Senior Executive for Export Development** said: "The UK Film Council is working hard to open up UK film to international markets and audiences, and to promote our home-grown talent to new viewers. *From Blighty with Love* is the first time that India's English-speaking audiences will be offered a whole new British cinema experience, with 'in conversation' events designed to put film fans in touch with key British talent. The star studded line-up provides a fantastic taster of the excellence and diversity of British filmmaking."

**Shekhar Kapur, Joint Project Patron, highly respected actor, producer and Oscar nominated director** (*The Four Feathers, Elizabeth, Bandit Queen*) said: "I'm absolutely honoured and delighted be asked to be the joint patron for this season of *From Blighty with Love*, which is an exciting season of some great new British cinema. I could not recommend this package of excellent movies more highly, and believe that there is something in there for everybody, I hope you all enjoy it."

**Fellow Joint Patron** and newly appointed **British Deputy High Commissioner in Mumbai, Peter Beckingham** added: "I am delighted so soon after my arrival in Mumbai to welcome the UK Film Council's film season *From Blighty with Love*, which offers a great range of British films, from comedy and drama through to documentary. I am sure Indian audiences will relish the opportunity to enjoy some of the latest UK releases; I certainly can't wait to see them!"

*From Blighty with Love* will be delivered by the UK Film Council with the help of project partners, UK Trade and Investment, Book My Show and the Mumbai Film Festival. BBC Entertainment is the drama and entertainment partner; NDTV Lumiere the World Cinema partner and Network 18 the TV News partner. Other cross promotion partners include Visit Britain and the British Council.

Participating cinemas are:

- Mumbai/Bombay - Fame Adlabs, Andheri; Fame Inorbit, Malad; Metro Big Cinema; Big Vashi; Big R-City Ghatkopar; PVR Juhu; and PVR Phoenix, Lower Parel;
- Bangalore - the Fame Lido; and
- Delhi - Big Cinemas, TGIP Mall, Noida.

Tickets are on sale now and available from [www.bookmyshow.com](http://www.bookmyshow.com) or by telephone 3989 5050.

To register for regular *From Blighty with Love* updates go to [www.fromblightywithlove.com](http://www.fromblightywithlove.com).

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**Notes to Editors**

**\*PLEASE NOTE: due to the success of *My Name Is Khan* affecting cinema venue availability in India, the *From Blighty with Love* season will now start on 5 March, not 26 February as previously announced. The season will run from Monday 5 March until Thursday 18 March.**

**FROM BLIGHTY WITH LOVE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE**

<b>Time: 10pm Date</b>	<b>Film Title</b>	<b>Directors Q&amp;A</b>
Fri 5 Mar	GLORIOUS 39	Opening Night <b>Stephen Poliakoff</b> In Conversation
Sat 6 Mar	MAN ON WIRE	
Sun 7 Mar	EASY VIRTUE	
Mon 8 Mar	RAGE	<b>Sally Potter</b> In Conversation
Tues 9 Mar	GENOVA	
Weds 10 Mar	GLORIOUS 39	
Thurs 11 Mar	MAN ON WIRE	
Fri 12 Mar	EASY VIRTUE	
Sat 13 Mar	IN THE LOOP	
Sun 14 Mar	RAGE	
Mon 15 Mar	GENOVA	
Tues 16 Mar	IN THE LOOP	<b>Armando Iannucci</b> In Conversation
Weds 17 Mar	MAN ON WIRE	
Thurs 18 Mar	ANGEL	Closing Night Film

## **FROM BLIGHTY WITH LOVE FILMS**

### **Angel (dir. François Ozon)**

“Outstanding cast” – The Guardian

“Lavish Edwardian melodrama (and) the set and costumes are glorious” – Empire  
 “François Ozon’s first full English-language feature is an affectionate tribute to the ‘Women’s Picture’ of the 40s and 50s... the costumes are magnificent and Angel’s mansion is a shrine to the gods of bad taste” – Total Film

“Enjoyable, impressively directed melodrama that stays just the right side of kitsch and features a superb performance by Romola Garai” – View London

Set in Edwardian England and based on a novel inspired by the life of author Marie Corelli, **François Ozon’s** *Angel* stars **Romola Garai** (*Glorious 39*, *Atonement*) as precocious, would-be novelist Angel Deverell, whose ignorance of the ways of the world doesn't prevent her from penning a luridly explicit romantic novel. Publisher Theo Gilbright, played by **Sam Neill** (*Jurassic Park*) sees Angel's potential and she soon becomes the Barbara Cartland of her day, thanks to her best-selling series of bodice rippers. Also starring **Michael Fassbender** (*Inglourious Basterds*, *300*) and **Charlotte Rampling** (*Max Mon Amout*, *Paris By Night*).

### **Easy Virtue (dir. Stephan Elliott)**

“A glorious delight... had me doubling up with laughter” - Daily Mail

“A sheer delight... fruity, frothy and very, very funny” - News of the World

"Deliciously funny comedy of manners... some brilliantly acidic one-liners, its wall-to-wall wit on a grand scale" (4 stars) - Daily Mirror

"The champagne wit of Noel Coward's eighty year old play still fizzles and sparkles in Stephan Elliott's jaunty adaptation of *Easy Virtue*. Handsome production values, a class-act cast and nimble direction all combine to make the most of the material, transforming it into a surprisingly elegant, entertaining period piece" - Screen International

*Easy Virtue* is Stephan Elliott's 1920's period romantic comedy based on the play by Noel Coward. A glamorous independent American woman, played by beautiful US actress **Jessica Biel**, falls in love with a dashing English soldier and enters into a spirited battle of wits with **Kristin Scott Thomas** (*The English Patient*) her disapproving new mother-in-law. Also starring **Colin Firth** (*Mamma Mia!*). *Easy Virtue* fizzles with droll humour, pithy observations on the class system and some brilliantly acidic one-liners. It's wall-to-wall wit on a grand scale.

### **Genova (dir. Michael Winterbottom)**

"A haunting tale with unforgettable performance by Firth" - Daily Mail

"An eerily effective supernatural chiller" - London Lite

"A powerful work from a director at the top of his game... nerve wracking" - Mail on Sunday

"A moving story of loss and displacement that's light on its feet and heavy with emotion" (4 stars) - Time Out

"Winterbottom at his haunting best" (4 stars) - Evening Standard

"A tender and touching film" - The Observer

Grief and tears, sun and sex: **Michael Winterbottom's** (*24 Hour Party People, A Mighty Heart*) moving story of loss and displacement follows Joe (**Colin Firth**) and his daughters as they embark on a new life in the city of Genova, Italy after the death of his much-loved wife. It is a heart-warming tale of how one family comes to terms with grief and begins the first tentative steps towards a new future. *Genova* doesn't pull its punches but its optimistic final message is that love (of a father and his daughters, or a daughter and her boyfriend, or a child for her lost mother) can help to conquer all.

### **Glorious 39 (dir. Stephen Poliakoff)**

"A tremendous performance from Romola Garai" - The Independent

"A rollicking conspiracy thriller" - The Guardian

"Hugely entertaining and impressively directed, *Glorious 39* is a gripping pre-war mystery thriller with a suspenseful script and terrific performances from a great cast" - View London

"Remarkable British cast" - The Observer

"Sumptuous production design" - The Times

*Glorious 39* is a British thriller set in London and the Norfolk countryside when Britain stands on the brink of war in 1939. Young up-and-coming actress **Romola Garai** (*Angel, Atonement*) takes the central role as Anne Keyes, an aspiring actress, who unwittingly finds herself drawn into a web of political intrigue which threatens to destroy both the man she loves and her own idyllic lifestyle. Written and directed by **Stephen Poliakoff** (*Close My Eyes, Shooting the Past, The Lost Prince*) and also starring Golden Globe and BAFTA-winning actor **Bill Nighy** (*Notes on a Scandal, Love Actually*), who plays Anne's father Alexander, Oscar®-winning screen icon **Julie Christie** (*Away From Her, Finding Neverland*), **David Tennant** (*Dr Who*), **Jeremy Northam** (*Gosford Park*) and the legendary **Christopher Lee** (*Lord of The Rings, Golden Compass*).

### **In the Loop (dir. Armando Iannucci)**

"The Funniest Film of the Year" - XFM

"Comedy of the very highest order" - Shortlist

"Genius" (5 stars) - Sky Movies

"Unmissable" (5 stars) - Maxim

"Brilliant" (5 stars) - News of the World

"A weapon of mass hilarity" - The Sun

An award-winning biting satire set in the world of contemporary politics in London and Washington DC, written and directed by Scottish comic genius **Armando Iannucci**, and based loosely on his popular BBCTV comedy series *The Thick of It*. Starring **Tom Hollander** (*Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End, The Soloist*) as the hapless Simon Foster, the British Secretary of State for International Development who somehow manages to blunder his way into the centre of a major US/UK Government war mongering controversy. **Peter Capaldi** (*Local Hero, Torchwood*) plays the brilliant foulmouthed PR spin-doctor Malcolm Tucker who is determined to get his own way at any price!

### **Man on Wire (dir. James Marsh)**

"One of the greatest heist films of all times" (5 stars) - The Sunday Times

"Sensational" (5 stars) The Guardian

"Gripping" (5 stars) - The Mail on Sunday

"As enthralling as any slice of blockbuster fiction" (5 stars) - The Daily Express

"Gracefully spun story of towering human endeavour... extraordinary" - Total Film

On an August morning in 1974, a French street performer and tightrope walker named **Philippe Petit** spent 45 strange and wonderful minutes alone in the air, at a height of 1,350ft, balancing on a slim steel wire that connected the newly

constructed World Trade Centre towers in New York. It was the realisation of a long held dream he had nurtured with a passion. With a raft of awards including an Oscar® for Best Documentary feature and five star reviews, *Man on Wire*, the feature directorial debut from James Marsh, has become one of the most successful and exhilarating British documentary features of all time.

### **Rage (dir. Sally Potter)**

"An extraordinary feat of storytelling" - Little White Lies

"Hypnotic" - The Times

"Overpowering... oddly compelling, a genuine one-off" - The Independent

"Fascinating characters" - New York Press

"Without question the most unusual piece of work I've ever done" - Judi Dench

Defying the usual conventions of film, *Rage* is the cinematic creation from writer-director **Sally Potter** (*Orlando*), the visionary award-winning filmmaker. Using a radical narrative structure focused entirely on a series of individual performances to camera, *Rage* consists of a dynamic series of interviews, as if shot by a schoolboy on his mobile phone, as he goes behind the scenes at a New York fashion show during a week in which an 'accident' on the catwalk turns into a murder investigation. Was it a crime of passion or something more sinister? The stellar cast of actors includes **Jude Law** (*The Talented Mr Ripley*, *Alfie*) as Minx a transvestite model; **Judi Dench** (*M* in the James Bond films, *Mrs Brown*) as a powerful fashion editor, and **Steve Buscemi** (*Fargo*, *Pulp Fiction*) as a war photographer turned paparazzi.

### **UK FILM COUNCIL**

[www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk](http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk)

- The UK Film Council is the Government-backed lead agency for film in the UK, supporting the UK film industry, celebrating UK film culture and nurturing UK film talent at home and abroad.
- Since its creation in 2000 the UK Film Council has backed more than 900 films, shorts and features, which have won over 300 awards and entertained more than 200 million people around the world.
- Its support develops new filmmakers, funds exciting new British films and gets a wider choice of films to audiences throughout the UK. It also invests in training British talent, promoting Britain as an international filmmaking location and raising the profile of British films abroad. In addition, it funds the British Film Institute.
- Films backed by the UK Film Council include *Man on Wire*, *Nowhere Boy*, *In the Loop*, *Happy-Go-Lucky*, *Bend it like Beckham*, *The Constant Gardener*,

*Gosford Park, Red Road, St Trinian's, This is England, Touching the Void, Vera Drake and The Wind that Shakes the Barley.*