



BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL 2018

MINI BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES FULL PROGRAM MICHAEL CAINE TRIBUTE WITH THE AUSTRALIAN PREMIERES OF DOCUMENTARY *MY GENERATION* AND CRIME CAPER *KING OF THIEVES*

Presented by Palace, the **MINI British Film Festival** is thrilled to announce the full 2018 program which boasts a sensational selection of the most eagerly awaited films of the year from the British Isles. Featuring a roll call of British cinema royalty as well a host of exciting new talent, this year's British Film Festival program promises to delight and engage audiences.

The Australian premiere of **COLETTE** will open the festival. Keira Knightley stars as trailblazing French novelist Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette, whose provocative debut – falsely credited to her husband - becomes the toast of Paris in this mesmerising biopic, one of several films screening that depict the lives of literary figures.

Closing the festival this year is **STAN & OLLIE**, coming straight from its world premiere at the 62nd BFI London Film Festival. From BAFTA-winning screenwriter Jeff Pope (*Philomena*) and starring Steve Coogan and John C. Reilly, this is the truly funny and touching story of one of Hollywood's greatest double acts: Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy.

This year we pay tribute to British cinema titan Michael Caine with a suite of new and classic films starring the prolific actor who shows no sign of slowing down!

We present the Australian premieres of Caine's latest films **KING OF THIEVES** and **MY GENERATION**. Caine leads an all-star cast including Jim Broadbent, Tom Courtenay, Michael Gambon and Ray Winstone in **KING OF THIEVES**, the darkly funny, incredible true story of the most daring heist in British criminal history.

Then in upbeat documentary **MY GENERATION**, Caine invites you into the world of his youth: the Swinging 60s where icons like The Beatles were originating London's pop-culture scene. Produced and presented by Caine and sourced from over 1,600 hours of footage, extensive research and over 50 interviews with key players, **MY GENERATION** is an insider's view of a defining era of cultural change.

Alongside **MY GENERATION** are two unforgettable Caine films from the era **ALFIE** (1966) and **THE ITALIAN JOB** (1969), together with screenings of three other essential films from that time, they comprise this year's retrospective **SWINGING SIXTIES: THE KNACK... AND HOW TO GET IT** (1965); **GEORGY GIRL** (1966) and **TO SIR, WITH LOVE** (1967).

Another special retrospective presentation is **THE DAM BUSTERS** (1955). Considered one of the greatest British war movies of all time that continues to inspire filmmakers today, **THE DAM BUSTERS** returns to the big screen in a new 4K restoration to mark the 75th anniversary of the legendary WWII Royal Air Force operation.

WWII is also depicted in **SPITFIRE**, a new documentary about the plucky fighter plane that took on the might of the Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain through the first-hand accounts of the last surviving combat veterans. Narrated by Charles Dance.

Conflict at home and abroad is examined in two very different new films **JOURNEY'S END** and **PETERLOO**. From the director of *The Duchess* comes **JOURNEY'S END**, an emotionally-charged WWI drama adapted from R.C. Sherriff's 1928 play as a group of British soldiers await their fate on the front line in the final months of the war. Stars Sam Claflin, Toby Jones and Paul Bettany.

While seven-time Oscar nominee Mike Leigh (*Mr Turner*) focuses his lens on a pivotal moment in British history in **PETERLOO**, a gritty and passionate account of the peaceful working class demonstration in 1819 Manchester that was violently suppressed by police forces. Stars Rory Kinnear and Maxine Peake.

Every year the British Film Festival features new films starring some of cinema's biggest names and 2018 is no exception.

In **THE CHILDREN ACT** Emma Thompson stars as a widely-admired judge facing a life changing decision on behalf of a young man refusing medical treatment. **THE CHILDREN ACT** also stars Stanley Tucci, Ben Chaplin and Fiona Whitehead and is directed by Richard Eyre (*Notes on a Scandal*).

RED JOAN, based on the life of British KGB agent Melita Norwood, stars Judi Dench and Sophie Cookson as Joan Stanley, one of the most influential spies in living history. From veteran British stage and screen director, Trevor Nunn.

Bill Nighy stars in **SOMETIMES, ALWAYS, NEVER**, a stylish comedy-drama about a Scrabble-obsessed tailor searching for his lost son. The feature debut for director Carl Hunter, **SOMETIMES, ALWAYS, NEVER** is written by Frank Cottrell-Boyce (*The Railway Man*, *Goodbye Christopher Robin*) and features Sam Riley, Alice Lowe, Jenny Agutter and Tim McInnerny.

Golden Globe award winning actor Idris Elba goes behind the camera with his directorial debut **YARDIE**. Set in '70s Jamaica and '80s London, **YARDIE** is the story of 'D' who embarks on an explosive quest for retribution following the death of his brother.

Complementing festival opener **COLETTE** are a trio of films that delve into artistic life and love.

Actor, director and writer Rupert Everett, in the role he was born to play, shines as Oscar Wilde in **THE HAPPY PRINCE**, which chronicles the great writer's final years in exile in Naples and Paris, and co-stars Colin Firth, Emily Watson and Tom Wilkinson.

INTERLUDE IN PRAGUE, a handsome period drama based on true events, Aneurin Barnard (*Dunkirk*) portrays Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart during his incredible time in Prague, where he composed 'Don Giovanni.'

Australian star Elizabeth Debicki (*Breath*, *The Kettering Incident*) plays literary icon Virginia Woolf in **VITA AND VIRGINIA**, the fascinating true story of the love affair between Woolf and socialite Vita Sackville-West (Gemma Arterton, *Their Finest*) in this sumptuous portrait which screens direct from its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Ahead of his star turn as Ned Kelly in the upcoming **TRUE HISTORY OF THE KELLY GANG**, young English actor George Mackay features in two films screening at the British Film Festival, **OPHELIA** and **WHERE HANDS TOUCH**.

In **OPHELIA**, Mackay plays Hamlet to Daisy Ridley's (*Star Wars*, *Murder on the Orient Express*) Ophelia in this clever reshaping of *Hamlet* which sets Ophelia centre stage and reimagines Shakespeare's play from her perspective. Directed by Australian Claire McCarthy (*The Waiting City*), **OPHELIA** also stars Naomi Watts, Clive Owen and Tom Felton.

From director Amma Asante (*A United Kingdom*) **WHERE HANDS TOUCH** is an impossible romance set in the most brutal of times: Germany, 1944, where a biracial teenage girl Leyna (Amanda Stenberg, *The Hunger Games*) and a

Hitler Youth member Lutz (Mackay) fall in love. Abbie Cornish and Christopher Eccleston also feature in this affecting rites-of-passage survival tale.

Adolescence is also explored in two very different films. Filled with catchy tunes that will be stuck in your head for weeks, Scottish teen-zombie-musical-comedy **ANNA AND THE APOCALYPSE** follows high schooler Anna who finds herself in the middle of a zombie invasion. While Debrah Haywood's acclaimed and singular debut, **PIN CUSHION** is a whimsical but utterly moving film about an eccentric mother and daughter who arrive to a new town desperate to start over.

This year's ultimate feel-good British comedy, **SWIMMING WITH MEN** stars Rob Brydon stars as a man who finds a new lease on life after joining an amateur, all-male, synchronised swimming team. Featuring a fantastic support cast including Jim Carter, Jane Horrocks and Charlotte Riley, **SWIMMING WITH MEN** is directed by Oliver Parker (*Dad's Army, Johnny English Reborn*).

Three-time BAFTA nominee Sylvia Syms (*The Queen, Victim*) stars opposite Peter Bowles (*Victoria, To the Manor Born, Blow-Up*) in **TOGETHER**, a riveting drama about an inseparable retired couple that are forced to live apart by social services. Inspired by real life stories of elderly couples caught up in the social services system, writer-director Paul Duddridge sheds light on the bureaucracy of the aged care system and how the wishes of older people are so often ignored.

Plus the festival features a trio of beloved British family movie favourites with weekend matinee screenings of box office smash hit **PADDINGTON** (2014), animation **PETER PAN** (1953) and the original **MARY POPPINS** (1964) starring Julie Andrews ahead of the much anticipated sequel **MARY POPPINS RETURNS** in January.

Exclusive to Palace Cinemas, the festival will take place nationally from late October in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Perth, Canberra and Brisbane.

Festival tickets on sale from 26 September. Visit www.britishfilmfestival.com.au

LISTING DETAILS:

NSW	Tue 23 Oct – Wed 14 Nov Palace Norton Street, Palace Verona, Palace Central, Chauvel Cinema
VIC	Thu 25 Oct – Wed 14 Nov Palace Cinema Como, Palace Balwyn, Palace Brighton Bay, Palace Westgarth, The Astor Theatre
SA	Wed 24 Oct – Wed 14 Nov Palace Nova Eastend Cinemas, Palace Nova Prospect Cinemas
WA	Thu 25 Oct – Wed 14 Nov Cinema Paradiso, Palace Raine Square, Luna on SX and The Windsor
ACT	Wed 24 Oct – Tue 13 Nov Palace Electric Cinema
QLD	Wed 24 Oct – Wed 14 Nov Palace Barracks, Palace Centro on James Street

For updates and more information, visit www.britishfilmfestival.com.au

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