

**LONDON
LABOUR
FILM
FESTIVAL**



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COVENT GARDEN**

APRIL 2014
28th 29th 30th
1st 2nd **MAY**



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BECTU sends best wishes to everyone taking part in the London Labour Film Festival

Welcome



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UNISON Greater London Region wishes all filmgoers an enjoyable Film Festival.

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The news and campaigning website of the International Trade Union Movement

Welcomes you to the first....

LONDON LABOUR FILM FESTIVAL

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WELCOME TO THE LONDON LABOUR FILM FESTIVAL

It's that time again. Time to welcome you to our second London Labour Film Festival. Building on the enormous success of the first one, we'll continue to celebrate global social commitment through the art of cinema. There's so much to look forward to with the fresh and exciting line up we have planned.

Over the course of 5 days we'll be bringing you a host of very diverse and stimulating films from around the world – many of them PREMIERES. These films are all completely different but share a common theme: how labour issues affect us all as a society, as well as on a more personal and emotional level, the individual.

In particular, as our film festival is held in the same month as the European Parliamentary Elections we'll be showcasing some outstanding European films like *Le Capital* by the Greek-French film director Costa Gavras. This financial thriller takes a searing look at the world of greed and high finance.

The festival kicks off with the PREMIERE of a very British musical, *Big Society The Musical*. A surreal and gritty musical, *Big Society The Musical* is set against the backdrop of Britain's economic cuts. It cleverly weaves austerity protest marches, the spectacle of a west end musical and a very personal story. It's a must-see.

The line up also includes the award-winning actor, Chiwetel Ejiofor (*12 years a Slave*) in *Kinky Boots* (literally). Based on a true story, this riotous comedy tells the tale of traditional Northampton shoemaker who is forced to diversify or, see his family business and the jobs of his workers lost.

From America we bring you the unusual and exquisite, *Trash Dance*. Filmmaker Andrew Garrison follows choreographer Allison Orr as she rides along with Austin sanitation workers on their daily routes. She observes them and later convinces them to perform a most unlikely spectacle that stunningly shows the beauty and grace of everyday workers.

At least three of our selection this year are directed by women and we are delighted to be welcoming Polish director Maria Sadowska to the event for her award winning film *Women's Day*.

This is just a glimpse of some of the films we'll be screening at the Odeon, Covent Garden. There are lots of events and special guests so this really is a festival not to be missed.

A big thank you to all of our sponsors for their continued support.

See you at the festival.

Anna Burton is the director of the London Labour Film Festival and works as a film producer in London.

SPONSORS



Thanks to James Burton Designs for the front cover.



WELCOME TO THE 2014 LONDON LABOUR FILM FESTIVAL

BERNADETTE SÉGOL, GENERAL SECRETARY, EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 22 MAY 2014

TRASH DANCE



It is an honor and a delight to have *Trash Dance* screening as a part of the London Labour Film Festival. There is no more appropriate venue. While I hope this film is a pleasure for the audience, it is about serious stuff: our attitude about labour and the people who get it done.

We are muscle and bone and made to move and work. Choreographer Allison Orr might say, “to dance,” because she remembers that it is all time, space, and energy. This film is about the labour of usually-overlooked, working-class, men and women, and about the labour of a choreographer. If I have done my job right (my labour), you may also reflect on your own work and your relationship to your work. Most of my small body of work has been about working people whose voices are seldom truly heard in popular media. Children making photographs of their rural lives, single mothers, coalminers, inner-city African-Americans, even the work that goes on to make a small, travelling circus. I like people who know how to work.

The ETUC is glad and honoured to be associated with the 2014 London Labour Film Festival, together with our affiliate, the TUC, and many British trade unions.

As the festival this year takes place in the run-up to the European Parliamentary elections, I think it very apposite to reflect on the benefits that a Social Europe can bring to working people and, perhaps even more so, what the diverse and complementary visions of working people bring to Europe. So I am delighted that the festival will show a selection of films including from the UK, Poland, Belgium and France to help make our case.

We also need to break away from a bureaucratic view of Europe and show people’s real lives through many angles. Again, I very much welcome your showcasing films covering social issues in various forms including documentary, drama, comedy, musicals etc.

Social Europe is clearly under attack from austerity policies pursued by Governments in all our countries. Unfortunately, right-wing populists are using people’s genuine grievances to try to divide us. The power of films showing the resolve of working people uniting to fight for their rights is a tremendous antidote.

People need to be motivated to go out and vote and it is up to us to make the case that the election is important for all Europeans. The parliament has the power to change the way the EU is being run. The ETUC is promoting an alternative vision for a prosperous, socially inclusive Europe. We all need to support candidates that share this vision and forge a new path for Europe.

The ETUC has proposed a plan for investment, sustainable growth

and quality jobs to combat the crisis. Europe has the potential to do so, and developing our cultural wealth is part of it.

So far as the film industry is concerned, many film-goers and TV watchers will have noticed the little European MEDIA logo that appears at the end of the credits of many productions, and probably wonder the role that Europe plays.

And yet, Creative Europe, launched on 1 January this year has a budget of €1.46 billion for the next seven years, well over half of which will be allocated to the MEDIA programme. This will continue the programme’s work over the last twenty years of supporting the EU film and audiovisual industries in the development, distribution and promotion of their work.

I am glad that the European audiovisual sector has been excluded from the trade and investment negotiations that are currently taking place with the United States. The British film industry is an important player in Europe, and indeed the world. But even it needs to be ring-fenced within the European constellation to enable our indigenous producers, performers and technicians – particularly those promoting our working class values – to develop in their own way and with some breathing space free from the transatlantic conglomerates Americanising world culture.

This of course is anathema to those free marketers who know the price of everything and the value of nothing and would reduce Europe to a free-trade zone. That is one reason, among many others, to turn out and vote for a Social Europe next May.

others. So pensions become the problem with the city of Detroit, teachers’ unions are crippling the state of Wisconsin and sanitation workers are underworked and overpaid. This is much easier to pull off if you don’t know who is doing the work. It is especially easy if you have come to believe that people are the same as their jobs. I have stopped being surprised when someone tells me they assumed that if you pick up garbage you were not capable of much else.

What I hope is that this light, little, film has deep roots. A maxim of documentary production is, “make what you’d want to watch.” I enjoy big-hearted stories that don’t take themselves too seriously. I like stories that feed me but don’t leave a bad, medicine-taste in my mouth. I like meeting people and feeling like we’ve gotten below the surfaces.

Andrew Garrison, Director

GLOBAL LABOUR FILM FESTIVAL MOVEMENT: BUILDING INTERNATIONAL CINEMATIC SOLIDARITY

CHRIS GARLOCK, DIRECTOR, DC LABOUR FILMFEST & COORDINATOR GLOBAL LABOR FILM FESTIVAL

In the first-ever Global Labour Film Festival in May 2013, labour film festivals from around the world launched more than a dozen screenings of labour films. These included classics like *Salt of the Earth* and *Reds*, as well as brand-new films like *Dreamwork China*, *Harvest of Empire* and *The War on Whistleblowers*.

The Global Labour Film Festival (GLFF) was an opportunity to showcase films from around the world focussing on work, workers and their issues. Labour film festivals around the globe, including festivals in the UK, in Ireland and in Norway, screened a labour-themed film of their choice during the month of May. May was chosen because May 1st ‘International Workers’ Day’ is a national holiday in more than 80 countries and celebrated unofficially in many other countries.

First conceived at the second annual International Conference of Labour Film Festival in 2012, the GLFF is tangible evidence of a growing international network of labour culture. Organizers are using the mass media of film to highlight the struggles of working men and women around the globe. These festivals are reaching not only union members but also a broader audience of workers, who are facing increasing attacks on their livelihoods and on their very communities.

Most film festivals celebrate the art of film and it’s certainly true that at labour film festivals you’ll find movies that will entertain you, make you laugh, and make you cry. They’ll also bring you out of the theatre angry and determined to do something to change the world. That’s a difference worth celebrating and continuing to spread around the world.



BURGOS

Burgos is a film about Mrs Edita Burgos and the search for her missing son, Jonas Burgos.

Jonas was a farm worker and agriculturist and a member of the Farmers Alliance of Bulacan. In April 2007 seven armed men and a woman abducted him from a restaurant in Ever Gotesco Mall, Quezon City, Philippines.

Seven years later, Mrs Edita Burgos’s tireless crusade to search for her son still goes on. She is supported by the human rights groups ‘Desaparecidos’ (Families of the Disappeared), which has pursued the case that directly links the Philippine military to Jona’s abduction and detention.

They repeatedly deny their involvement.

Jonas Burgos and hundreds of progressive political activists, journalists, trade union activists and outspoken clergy have been killed or abducted in the Philippines during the past decade by suspected members and affiliates of the military and other state forces.

Under the auspices of the counter-insurgency program ‘Oplan Bayanihan’ the military have committed gross human rights violations with impunity against those who are critical of the government.

The Campaign for Human Rights in the Philippines UK (CHRP-UK), in co-operation with the London Labour Film Festival, is proud to screen the European Film Premiere of *Burgos*.

Proceeds from the event will go to human rights groups campaigning for justice in the Philippines.

Burgos is written by Ricardo Lee and directed by Joel C Lamangan, award winning Filipino screenwriter/director. Ms Lorna Tolentino, award-winning Filipina actress stars as Mrs Burgos.

ODEON CINEMA,
135 SHAFTSBURY
AVENUE,
COVENT GARDEN,
LONDON WC2H 8AH

FESTIVAL CALENDAR

| | MONDAY 28 APRIL | TUESDAY 29 APRIL | WEDNESDAY 30 APRIL | THURSDAY 1 MAY | FRIDAY 2 MAY |
|-------|---|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 17:00 | | | | | 17:30 DRINKS RECEPTION |
| 18:00 | 18:00 BIG SOCIETY THE MUSICAL (90MINS) | 18:00 KINKY BOOTS (107MINS) | 18:00 BURGOS: FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR PHILIPPINES (90MINS) | 18:00 TRASH DANCE (68MINS) | 18:00 WOMEN’S DAY (90MINS) |
| 19:00 | | | | 19:30-20:15 THE ENEMY WITHIN | 19:30 DRINKS RECEPTION |
| 20:00 | 20:15 ROSETTA (95MINS) | 20:00 SILENT RUNNING (89MINS) | 20:30 MONSIEUR VERDOUX (124MINS) | 20:30 LE CAPITAL (114MINS) | 20:00 BURN (86MINS) |
| 21:00 | | | | | |
| 22:00 | | | | | |

BOOKING INFORMATION

TO BOOK TICKETS:
www.brownpapertickets.com/profile/313213
or visit our website: londonlabourfilmfest.com

Ticket price £8 or £20 for a full Festival Pass.
This is a not for profit festival.
To volunteer or for more information: 07768 693972

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Download the full programme at londonlabourfilmfest.com

THE FILMS



Plus Q&A with director and actors

BIG SOCIETY – THE MUSICAL – A EUROPEAN FILM PREMIERE

MON 28 APR / 18:00

Big Society, the musical, gives a voice to thousands of people struggling to be heard in the face of the government's punitive cuts. It does so by telling an untold story through music. Linda (Paula Simms) works with young offenders in Liverpool. Facing unemployment, pending the closure of her Youth Centre, Linda thinks only of Connor, a defiant 14-year-old who has no one apart from her. She risks everything to help him. But as she fights for control, she realizes she has none. When no one hears you shout... Sing! Big Society is brought to us by Liverpool's, First Take – an award-winning non profit filmmaking organisation, specialising in working with diverse communities and producing edgy, authentic, untold and often complex stories. *Big Society*, the musical, is no exception.

DIR: LYNNE HARWOOD | UK | 2014 | 90 MINS



ROSETTA

MON 28 APR / 20:15

A deserving winner of the Palme D'or at Cannes in 1999, *Rosetta* was written and directed by the Belgian film-making team of brothers, Luc and Jean Pierre Dardenne. It is an uncompromising tale of poverty, closely following the life of a young woman struggling to shake free of her dead-end background. Living on a Belgian caravan site with her alcoholic mother, Rosetta burns with a desire for the things most of us take for granted – a regular job and a regular life. This is a truly moving and commanding classic that justifiably earned its lead, Émilie Dequenne, the best actress prize at Cannes.

DIRS: JEAN-PIERRE DARDENNE & LUC DARDENNE | FRANCE, BELGIUM | 1999 | 95 MINS



SILENT RUNNING

TUE 29 APR / 20:00

This 1970's environmentally themed sci-fi classic had an enormous influence on the whole Sci-Fi genre and so is of significant importance. Set in the future when plant life on earth has become extinct. Only a few specimens have been preserved in enormous, greenhouse-like domes attached to a fleet of space freighters, outside the orbit of Saturn. Freeman Lowell (the recently Oscar nominated Bruce Dern) is one of four crewmen aboard the Valley Forge and is the resident botanist and ecologist who carefully preserves a variety of plants for their eventual return to Earth. Lowell lovingly cultivates the crops and attends to the animal life. After he's given the order to jettison his beloved crops, Freeman Lowell goes rogue in a bid to protect the flora. As one of the first true eco-warriors, Lowell takes matters into his own hands and the action really begins....

DIR: DOUGLAS TRUMBULL | USA | 1972 | 89 MINS



MONSIEUR VERDOUX

WED 30 APR / 20:30

In this brilliant black comedy we see Charlie Chaplin as we've rarely seen him before. Chaplin plays Henri Verdoux, a loyal bank teller who is laid off after thirty years of exemplary service. To continue to support his beloved wife and child, he turns to crime. He marries and murders a series of wealthy widows. He is eventually caught and convicted. But before being led to his death, he

dismisses his killing of a few, as no worse than the killing of many in war, for which others are honored. This philosophical film was originally received far better in Europe than in America – and has become something of a cult movie.

DIR: CHARLIE CHAPLIN | USA | 1947 | 124 MINS



Fundraising event

BURGOS EUROPEAN PREMIERE

WED 30 APR / 18:00

Written and directed by two of the Philippine cinemas leading lights, Ricardo Lee and Joel C Lamangan, *Burgos* is a film about a mother's desperate search for her missing son. In April 2007 Jonas Burgos, an agriculturist and a member of the Farmers Alliance of Bulacan, was abducted by seven armed men and a woman at a restaurant in Ever Gotesco Mall, Quezon City, Philippines. Seven years later, Mrs Edita Burgos's tireless crusade to search for her son still goes on. The human rights group, Desaparecidos (Families of the Disappeared), supports her. They have found direct links to the abduction and detention with the Philippine military, though they deny it repeatedly. The Campaign for Human Rights in the Philippines UK (CHRP-UK), in co-operation with the London Labour Film Festival, is proud to screen *Burgos* at the London Film Festival.

DIR: JOEL LAMANGAN | PHILIPPINES | 2013 | 90 MINS



Plus Q&A director Maria Sadowska

WOMEN'S DAY EUROPEAN PREMIERE

FRI 2 MAY / 18:00

Described by many as a Polish 'Erin Brockovich', *Women's Day* follows the troubles and dilemmas of the heroine, Halina Radwan (Katarzyna Kwiatkowska) in her fight for justice against an unscrupulous, low-cost supermarket-chain, 'Motylek' (Butterfly). The plot is based on the true story of a former manageress of a cut-price supermarket chain in Poland. She took the chain to court for twenty-six thousand zloty (over five

thousand euro) for two-and-a-half thousand hours of unpaid overtime. The film is an indictment of what Poles call 'dziki' (wild) capitalism in which employees are compelled to work semi-legally. Such capitalism is a result of Poland's comparative poverty by European Union standards, with minimum wages as little as (one euro) an hour, and chronic unemployment which forces workers to fight to keep almost any kind of employment.

DIR: MARIA SADOWSKA | POLAND | 2013 | 90 MINS



LE CAPITAL

THU 31 APR / 20:30

The financial thriller, *Le Capital* by the Greek-French film director Costa Gavras takes an unflinching look at the world of greed and high finance. It follows the story of an executive Marc Tourneuil (Gad Elmaleh) who becomes the CEO of a large bank, only to upset the bank's board of directors when he begins to take unilateral control of the bank. We witness his ruthless ambition, power struggles, greed and deception. However, his brutal ascent is jeopardized by a hostile takeover attempt from a large American hedge fund led by Dittmar Rigule (Gabriel Byrne). *Le Capital* is fast-paced, darkly comic and a suspenseful drama well worth the many accolades it has received.

DIR: COSTA GAVRAS | FRANCE | 2012 | 114 MINS



TRASH DANCE EUROPEAN PREMIERE

THU 1 MAY / 18:00

Trash Dance is a film that finds beauty and grace in a completely unexpected place – garbage trucks and in the unseen men and women who pick up our trash. American filmmaker, Andrew Garrison follows choreographer Allison Orr as she rides along with Austin sanitation workers on their daily routes to observe and later convince them to perform a most unlikely spectacle. On an abandoned airport runway, two dozen trash collectors and their trucks deliver – for one night only – a stunningly beautiful and moving performance, in front of an audience of thousands, who are awed to discover how in the world a garbage truck can “dance.”

DIR: ANDREW GARRISON | USA | 2012 | 68 MINS



THE ENEMY WITHIN

THU 1 MAY / 19:30

The Enemy Within is a hotly anticipated nion and crowd funded documentary due to be revealed later this year. In an exclusive London Labour Film Festival event, Producer Sinead Kirwan will discuss plans for the film and present some excerpts from the film which goes to the heart of the Labour movement. In a film which tells the story of the strike from the frontline, this story examines and celebrates 30 years since the miners strike.

To celebrate 30 years since the miners' strike, Producer Sinead Kirwan will present a short excerpt from the film.

Image courtesy of reportdigital.co.uk/JohnSturrock



BURN

FRI 2 MAY / 20:00

Burn is a feature documentary about Detroit, told through the eyes of Detroit firefighters, who are charged with the thankless task of saving a city that many have written off as dead. *Burn* follows the crew of Engine Company 50: one of the busiest firehouses in America. Located on Detroit's blighted east side, E50 stands at ground zero of the city's problems. Every day, these firefighters face injury, disablement, and death.

But they come back, day after day, resolved to make a difference. They're certainly not here for the money: their starting salary is \$30,000 and they haven't seen a raise in 10 years. *Burn* tells the story of these exceptional individuals who, despite the challenges and dysfunction, believe in their city and are attempting to make a difference every day.

DIRS: TOM PUTNAM & BRENDA SANCHEZ | US | 2012 | 86 MINS

The Fire Brigades Union
is proud to sponsor the screening
at the London Labour Film Festival of...

BURN

...the feature documentary told
through the eyes of Detroit firefighters



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