

# PRESS RELEASE



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## BBC First Becomes Sponsor of the BBC First British Film Festival

Premium British drama channel BBC First has signed up as naming sponsor of the BBC First British Film Festival 2015.

Presented by Palace, the BBC First British Film Festival returns for its third year with a standout selection of Festival favourites and box office hits from the British Isles and will take place nationally at Palace Cinemas from October 27 to November 18.



Tim Christlieb, Director of Channels, BBC Worldwide Australia and New Zealand, said: “We are delighted to be coming on board as the naming sponsor of the BBC First British Film Festival. BBC First is all about showcasing world-renowned, award-winning British talent on both sides of the camera with stories that challenge, immerse and entertain, all with a uniquely British perspective, so this is a natural fit for us.”

To celebrate, BBC First will also be screening a season of TV movies in a three hour block each Wednesday night for six weeks from October 7.

The BBC First British Film Festival 2015 will open nationally in Palace Cinemas with the highly anticipated *Youth*. Fresh from its premiere at Cannes Film Festival and starring veteran British actor **Michael Caine**, it is director **Paolo Sorrentino's** second English-language film and the follow-up to his Academy Award-winning film *The Great Beauty* (2013).



For more than 20 years, Fred Ballinger (Caine) has been going to a resort in at the foot of the Alps in Switzerland. Now retired after decades of worldwide success conducting orchestras in London, New York and Venice, the composer is approached by a Buckingham Palace emissary (**Alex MacQueen**): The Queen is offering a knighthood, and wants him to conduct his most famous composition, "Simple Songs." Fred refuses citing "personal reasons." With a large ensemble cast populating the glorious location including **Harvey Keitel, Rachel Weisz, Paul Dano**, and **Jane Fonda**, *Youth* is at its essence a wry buddy comedy with wise reflections on life and regret.

Another early highlight is *45 Years*, winner of the Edinburgh International Film Festival's top award for best British feature film from break-out British sensation **Andrew Haigh**. In his latest unconventional take on relationships, Kate (**Charlotte Rampling**) and husband Geoff (**Tom Courtenay**) are busily preparing for their 45th wedding anniversary celebrations until they suddenly receive news relating to an incident that occurred fifty years ago. The discovery creates a schism between Kate and Geoff which is fuelled by insecurities, long-buried memories and regrets.

Straight from the BFI London Film Festival 2015 Opening Night slot comes *Suffragette* (**John Crowley**), the first real film to recount the extraordinary British women who risked everything for equality at the turn of the last century. With a powerful ensemble cast including **Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter** and **Meryl Streep**, *Suffragette* is an intense and inspirational drama that tracks the early feminist movement in the fight for the right to vote.

Beloved British story-teller **Nick Hornby** (*An Education*), brings us another gem with *Brooklyn*, the tale of Eilis Lacey (**Saoirse Ronan**, *The Lovely Bones*), a young Irish immigrant trying to make her way in 1950s Brooklyn, New York. With a powerful cast, including a break out performance from **Emory Cohen** as the charming love interest Tony, *Brooklyn* has received rave reviews as a superb time capsule and sweeping romance for the ages. The script was developed by BBC Films who also co-financed the production.

And announcing our 2015 retrospective, **Love Actually - A Century of British Romance** which will feature 10 romantic gems representing each decade of the Twentieth Century including 1969s **Women In Love** newly remastered and direct from premiere screenings at the London film Festival.

**The full program will be announced later in September.**

**The 2015 BBC First British Film Festival will take place nationally at Palace Cinemas:**

**NSW** Oct 27 – Nov 18 **Palace Verona, Palace Norton Street**

**VIC** Oct 28 – Nov 18 **Palace Cinema Como, Palace Balwyn and Palace Brighton Bay.**  
**SA** Oct 28 – Nov 18 **Palace Nova Eastend**  
**ACT** Oct 29 – Nov 18 **Palace Electric**  
**WA** Oct 28 – Nov 18 **Cinema Paradiso, Luna on SX and The Windsor**  
**QLD** Oct 29 – Nov 18 **Palace Barracks & Palace Centro**  
**BYRON** Oct 29 – Nov 18 **Palace Byron Bay**

**Images L-R: Michael Caine and Harvey Keitel star in Youth**  
**Saoirse Ronan and Domhall Gleeson in Brooklyn**

-Ends-

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### About BBC Worldwide Australia & New Zealand

Australia & New Zealand (ANZ) is a priority territory for BBC Worldwide, focusing on growth across all its core business areas. Recently relocated to McMahons Point, BBC Worldwide ANZ wholly owns six channels: BBC First, UKTV, BBC Knowledge and CBeebies on Foxtel and Fetch TV in Australia; UKTV and BBC Knowledge on Sky TV in New Zealand; and is responsible for the distribution and promotion of BBC World News which transmits in both countries. BBC Worldwide ANZ distributes great British content from the BBC and other producers to free-to-air, subscription channels and SVOD platforms in Australia and New Zealand. It works with partners to bring BBC Worldwide DVDs, consumer products, entertainment formats and live events to the local market, as well as offering advertising opportunities for the BBC's world renowned [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) news site. In 2014/15, it generated headline sales of £81.9m, up 7.8% year-on-year.

The logo for Foxtel, featuring the word "FOXTEL" in a bold, orange-to-red gradient font.The logo for Fetch TV, featuring the word "fetch" in a blue, lowercase font and "tv" in a white font inside a blue square.The logo for BBC Worldwide, featuring the letters "BBC" in white inside a purple square, with the word "Worldwide" in white below it.The logo for BBC Worldwide, featuring the letters "BBC" in white inside a purple square, with the word "Worldwide" in white below it.