



Birds Eye View Film Festival
 4-12th March 2010
www.birds-eye-view.co.uk



The Adventure of Prince Achmed



Whip It



Lady Gaga



Mall Girls



Gentlemen Prefer Blondes

This is to be a historic year at the Oscars for women filmmakers. If Katherine Bigelow (*Hurt Locker*) is nominated, she will only be the 4th woman ever nominated for a directing Oscar - and maybe the first to win it. Here to celebrate is the 6th annual **Birds Eye View Film Festival** showcasing an extraordinary range of female-directed cinema from all across the globe and highlighting the contribution of iconic women on screen since the beginning of film.

Among the stunning features this year are **Drew Barrymore's** critically acclaimed directorial debut *Whip It*, starring **Ellen Page** which will screen 12 March, Jessica Hausner's Golden Lion nominee *Lourdes*, and **Kim Longinotto's** documentary *Rough Aunties* - Grand Jury Prize winner at Sundance. This year's special retrospective and masterclass is from 2006 Oscar nominated Danish director **Susanne Bier** (*After The Wedding*) whose original film *Brothers* has been remade into a Hollywood version written by Bier and starring Natalie Portman, opening in cinemas this Friday. Other highlights include fashion films including work by **Ruth Hogben** and **Wendy Bevan** and the launch of an Animation Lab with **Lotte Reiniger's** *The Adventure of Prince Achmed* – the first feature length animation ever made in 1926 -with cutting-edge composer Mira Calix premiering her musical accompaniment. All this plus a sizzling retrospective of iconic blondes in *Blonde Crazy* at the BFI Southbank, including silent films with specially commissioned live music from the likes of **Patti Plinko** and **Gwyneth Herbert**. The awards and festival party will take place at the ICA on March 11.

• **Programme includes:**

- 7 Features
- 5 Documentaries
- Blonde Crazy retrospective with BFI Southbank
- Silent films with live music
- Retrospective & Masterclass with **Susanne Bier**
- Launch of Animation Lab with Warp Films
- Fashion Loves film
- Music Loves video with **Miranda Sawyer**
- Shorts: International, UK & documentaries
- Innovation & training workshops
- Festival opening night gala 4 March

• **At selected venues across London including:**

- BFI Southbank
- ICA
- Curzon Soho
- Barbican
- Ritzy Picturehouse

More Details: www.birds-eye-view.co.uk

Feature films: *Whip It* directed by Drew Barrymore and co-starring Drew, Ellen Page and Juliette Lewis as roller derby girls (screening 11 March); *Mall Girls* by Katarzyna Roslaniec about a 14 year old who finds herself on the fringes of a trendy group of teens; *Entre Nos* by Gloria La Morte and Paola Mendoza where a young Colombian woman Mariana and her two children struggle for survival on the streets of Queens, New York; *From a Whisper* by Wanuri Kahiu, an award winning hard hitting drama following the terrorist bombing of the US Embassy in Nairobi; *Lourdes* by Jessica Hausner follows a disabled woman's pilgrimage to Lourdes where she is seemingly cured by a miracle; *Amreeka* by Cherien Dabis, a humorous and heartwarming drama where Palestinian mum Muna and her teenager son Fadi leave their troubled homeland to start a new life with relatives in Illinois. *The Father of My Children* by Mia Hansen Løve is released during the festival and screened as part of the Birds Eye View First Weekenders Club.

Documentaries: *The Other Song* by Dr. Rajan Sankaran, about Rasoolan Bai, an Indian thumri singer, whose memory seems virtually lost to modern India; Kim Longinotto's Grand jury prize winner at Sundance, *Rough Aunties: Junior* by Jenna Rosher, Winner of the Sheffield Doc/Fest Audience Award, about on the generational divide between a mother and son; *She is the Matador* by Celeste Carrasco & Gemma Cubero del Barrio about the history of female matadors; and in the Kenyan double bill *Wangari Maathai: For our Land* a pro-democratic and environmental doc by Wanuri Kahiu.

Blonde Crazy & Silent films with live music: The Blonde in early silent and classic Hollywood cinema will be explored in a huge retrospective of cliché-busting performances from blonde beauties throughout March, in partnership with the BFI Southbank. Highlights range from ballsy comedienne **Marion Davies** in early silent film *The Patsy* to sex goddess **Marilyn Monroe** in a special digitally restored nationwide theatrical release of *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* and **Sharon Stone** in *Basic Instinct*. The early silent films, including the original *Chicago*, starring **Phyllis Haver** as a jazz crazy killer, will be screened with specially commissioned live music by Patti Plinko. Other cutting edge female artists include **Gwyneth Herbert** performing to *The Patsy* and **Jane Gardener** to *Her Sister From Paris* at the Barbican.

Retrospective & Masterclass with Susanne Bier: Danish, Oscar nominated filmmaker **Susanne Bier**'s work will be celebrated including the original version of Sundance and Cannes award-winning *Brothers*, starring Natalie Portman, *After The Wedding* (Efter Brylluppet) following a philanthropist's return to Denmark from working in an Indian orphanage and *Things We Lost In The Fire* starring Halle Berry and Benicio del Toro. Join us for an in-depth masterclass conversation with Bier on her career, her passions, inspirations and work.

Animation Lab: launches in partnership with Warp Films the first feature length animation ever made, *The Adventure of Prince Achmed* by **Lotte Reineger**.

Fashion Loves Film: Fashion + the Moving Image: Presenting you with the latest and most brilliant work of artists, fashion designers and photographers. Among the highlights are new work by innovators **Ruth Hogben** and **Wendy Bevan**, a fashion film featuring **Lady Gaga** for Dazed Digital and a selection of visual treats from fashion photographer's **Toyin, Jamie Isaia** and **Camille Vivier**. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with members of the fashion press and leading practitioners in the field.

Music Loves Video: Celebrating well-established women directors and introducing some exciting and original new talent, this showcase presents an inspiring and diverse mix of pop videos from the UK, Europe and beyond, hosted by journalist and critic Miranda Sawyer, who will be joined on stage by the inspiring directors.

Short Film Programme: UK, International and documentary shorts: A stunning variety of new films including 'Kirran and the Hatchmaker', a charming documentary about a boy obsessed with his chickens' family tree, the brilliantly executed 'When The Rain Comes', starring Dervla Kirwan, and edgy urban drama 'The Park'. BEV and 4docs have teamed up to present an international programme of award-winning short documentaries, including Kara Blake's 'The Delian Mode' (winner of Best Short Documentary at Hot Docs), Amy Williams' 'Amasan: Women of the Sea' (which counts Herzog as a fan) and impressive debut, 'China's Wild West' from Urszula Pontikos.

Events and workshops include: She Says presents: A cross-disciplinary networking event with expert speakers working across filmmaking and digital media; training events such as BAFTA presents: How Shooting on HD is changing Hair & Make Up, LFA presents: Post-production reinvented and New Technologies: Who, What and Why? co-hosted by Margaret Robertson, Paula Le Dieu and Alice Taylor.

For press information, contact Elizabeth Benjamin or Zoe Flower at Emfoudation:
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*****INTERVIEWS WITH DIRECTORS INCLUDING
KIM LONGINOTTO, KATARZYNA ROSLANIEC, PAOLA MENDOZA AND GLORIA LA
MORTE AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST*****

***** FURTHER INFORMATION ON PROGRAMME, STILLS & FILMS
AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST*****

Notes for Editors

- BIRDS EYE VIEW celebrates Birds Eye View celebrates & supports international women filmmakers. Backed by leading lights of the film industry, Birds Eye View is a positive response to the fact that women make up only 7% directors and 12% writers in what is the most powerful medium in the world. We are concerned with women's creative vision in film, and want to see more of it.
- In 2005 we launched a major UK women's film festival. This has been a storming success, proving the wealth of talent and potential that women bring to film. We believe that it is vital to the health and diversity of UK film that we raise role models, offer support and provide a forum for women in the industry, whilst encouraging the next generation to break new ground. As well as inspiring more women to write and direct their own work, we are also educating audiences about the importance of diversity in film, and through our extensive press & publicity and accessible events, we are widening the audiences for women-made films and world cinema.
- Birds Eye View is led by Rachel Millward, nominated a 'World Changing Woman' (The Guardian 21.08.06.) and shortlisted for the Women of the Future Award in Media, November 2009. Rachel is currently the Clore Fellow for Film. Our Patrons include Mike Figgis, Mira Nair, Joanna Lumley, Juliet Stevenson, Martha Fiennes, Stephen Woolley and Gurinder Chadha. Speakers, guests and performers at previous festivals have included Jo Brand, Meera Syal, Hayley Atwell, Sally Hawkins, Bella Freud, Sally Phillips, Shazia Mirza, Maureen Lipman, Chris O'Dowd, Imogen Heap, Natalie Clein and Bishi.
- Birds Eye View's FIRST WEEKENDERS CLUB (FWC) supports women filmmakers at the box-office on the all-important opening weekend. The opening weekend of a film has a phenomenal impact on the movie's life in cinema and beyond. Birds Eye View FWC aims to make a tangible difference to women filmmakers, by mobilising our national and international networks and connecting films created by women with their audience before a release, giving them the best chance of box office success. We will soon be launching an FWC award for the best woman-directed film of the year. "The Birds Eye View First Weekenders Club is an excellent initiative - reminding audiences of their power to make a difference at the box office and to influence the success of women-directed features." - Gurinder Chadha, Director
- Birds Eye View LABS are specialised intensive training programmes to hothouse new female writing talent and bring new feature films by women into production. Last year's lab 'LAST LAUGH: Women Create Comedy' successfully brought three comedy feature films from female writers to the Warp X / Warp Films development slates, including work from Sally Phillips, Julia Davis and Lucy Porter. These films are still in development. The next BEV LAB is a partnership with The Script Factory, entitled SHE WRITES. Launching at the 2009 Birds Eye View Film Festival, this will give 8 emerging female screenwriters the chance to develop a screenplay, with expert mentoring across one year, plus residential and UK wide workshops, master-classes and industry dinners, providing these women with the skills and contacts they will need to bring high quality, commercial films into production.
- Birds Eye View commissions SOUND & SILENTS events, celebrating iconic women in silent cinema with live musical accompaniment from cutting edge female artists. Past musicians include Imogen Heap, Natalie Clein, Bishi, The Elysian Quartet, Zoe Rahman and JUICE. In May 2010 Birds Eye View will present a special season of these events at Kings Place in London.

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