Birds Eye View Film Festival
March 8 - 17 2011

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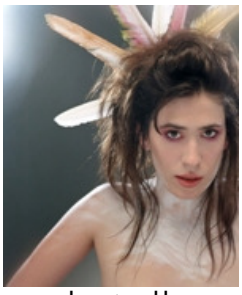
Golden Globe winner & Oscar nominee *In A Better World*

Michelle Williams in *Meek's Cutoff*



Imogen Heap

Lillian Gish in *The Wind*

The hotly anticipated Birds Eye View Film Festival 2011 (BEV) programme has been announced by **Rosamund Pike** at a private launch event on 25 January. The Festival returns for its seventh annual celebration of women filmmakers from **8-17 March** at **BFI Southbank**, the **ICA** the **Southbank Centre**, with **over 40 events** and screenings including an unprecedented **seven international feature debuts** (fiction and documentary) by women, plus **seven specially commissioned new live scores** for silent classics.

Programme includes:

•Features inc Golden Globe winner *In A Better World*
•Documentaries inc Lucy Walker's *Countdown to Zero*
•Sound & Silents musicians inc. Imogen Heap, Micachu
•Bloody Women: from Gothic to Horror themed strand
•Fashion Loves Film with Linder Sterling, Julie Verhoeven
•Music Loves Video with Kate Nash & Miranda Sawyer
•Short films, inc. Oscar contenders & BAFTA winners
•Filmmaker Focus: Margarethe von Trotta
•Opening & Closing Night Galas + Festival Awards
•Parties & VIPs, inc. Rosamund Pike & Joely Richardson
•Innovation, training & workshops
•BFI retrospective: *A Woman's Gotta Do...*

At selected London venues:

•BFI Southbank
•The ICA
•Southbank Centre
•Prince Charles Cinema
•Electric Cinema, Notting Hill
•Rio Cinema, Dalston
•Shortwave, Bermondsey

BEV 2011 highlights

The Birds Eye View Film Festival 2011 (BEV) opens on 8 March, the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, with an Opening Night Gala showcase of short films by the world's most exciting emerging women filmmakers, including award-winners and Oscar-shortlists, as well a live score by pop innovator **Micachu** to an early silent animation by Lotte Reiniger; and followed by an exclusive BEV Party at BFI Southbank.

Festival programme highlights include the London premiere of **Susanne Bier's Golden Globe winning and Oscar nominated *In A Better World*** and **Kelly Reichardt**'s ***Meek's Cutoff*** starring Oscar nominee **Michelle Williams** (+ Q&A with actress **Shirley Henderson**); documentaries including Oscar nominated **Lucy Walker**'s Sundance hit ***Countdown to Zero*** and Turner Prizewinner **Gillian Wearing**'s feature debut ***Self Made***; UK Shorts introduced by actress **Natalie Press** including **Marianne Elliott's** film debut ***Alice*** starring **Maxine Peake**, and International Shorts including Oscar-shortlisted ***Little Children, Big Words*.**

Slashing through the BEV programme is **Bloody Women: From Gothic to Horror**, a vital rediscovery of women's contribution to horror from gothic psychodrama to vampire chic. Highlights include **Kathryn Bigelow's** seminal vampire flick ***Near Dark***; new shorts by film's bloodiest women programmed in association with Film4 FrightFest; a panel debate featuring journalist & broadcaster **Muriel Gray;** and a partnership with the Horror Channel that sees the station dedicate a week of programming to films created by or featuring horror's most powerful women.

BEV's renowned silent film / live music commissions **Sound & Silents** also follow this year's **Bloody Women** theme. Highlights include **Grammy Award winner Imogen Heap**'s score to Germaine Dulac's ***The Seashell and the Clergyman*** (1928); **Aristazabal Hawkes** of Mercury and BRIT award-winners **Guillemots** performing live to ***Sparrows*** (1928), starring Mary Pickford; and **Blue Roses, Micachu, Seaming To, Tara Busch** and **Lola Perrin** performing to films by pioneering filmmakers such as **Lotte Reiniger** and **Lois Weber** at events across BFI Southbank and the Southbank Centre.

For the **Closing Night** Gala on 17 March BEV presents the London Premiere of **Lena Dunham**'s SXSW-winning quarterlife crisis comedy ***Tiny Furniture***, followed by the coveted Festival Awards whose jury members and presenters include **Joely Richardson, Emma Freud** and **Kerry Fox**. Elsewhere, the Festival Party at the ICA will be co-hosted by Little White Lies with live acts including Wendy Bevan's latest incarnation **Temper Temper**.

Festival favourite **Fashion Loves Film** returns with work by designers, fine artists and photographers exploring the crossover between fashion, art and advertising, featuring work by **Linder Sterling** and **Julie Verhoeven** and films starring **Tilda Swinton** and **Kristin Scott-Thomas**. The ultimate cinematic mix-tape **Music Loves Video** is also back with a smash-hit selection of the best filmmakers with rhythm, introduced by BRIT Award winner **Kate Nash** with a directors' Q&A chaired by **Miranda Sawyer.**

Running in tandem with BEV 2011 is BFI Southbank's retrospective ***A Woman's Gotta Do...*** Highlights include Jodie Foster in ***The Silence of the Lambs***, Sigourney Weaver in ***Aliens***, and Lillian Gish in ***The Night of the Hunter***.

BEV 2011 Full Programme Details

Features: Golden Globe winner and Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Language Film, ***In A Better World*** (London Premiere) is the story of two families dealing with conflict and grief, from Oscar nominated **Susanne Bier**; SXSW winning ***Tiny Furniture*** (London Premiere) directed by **Lena Dunham; *Meek's Cutoff***, a powerful tale of a stranded group on the Portland-Oregon trail 1845, directed by **Kelly Reichardt** and starring Oscar nominee **Michelle Williams** + Q&A with actress **Shirley Henderson; *Grown Up Movie Star*** (UK premiere), **Adriana Maggs**' Sundance 2010 award-winning Newfoundland drama; ***Night Catches Us*** (UK premiere), **Tanya Hamilton**'s explosive New Orleans Audience Award-winning debut about a Black Panther's return from exile in 1976, with a new soundtrack by **The Roots**; Sundance nominee ***The Imperialists are Still Alive!*** (London Premiere), a subversive take on the paranoia of post 9/11 New York directed by **Zeina Durra**; and the German/Kenyan ***Soul Boy*** (London Premiere), **Hawa Essuman**'s Rotterdam Audience Award-winning family adventure through a Nairobi slum.

Documentaries: ***Women of Hamas*** (UK Premiere), a stunning work with unprecedented access to women under Gaza's controversial ruling party Hamas (+ Q&A with director **Suha Arraf**); ***Countdown to Zero*** (Special Preview), tracing the history of atomic weapons (+ director masterclass with Sundance and Berlin winner and Oscar nominee **Lucy Walker**); ***Orgasm Inc*** (UK Premiere), the sensational insider account of the commercial battle for women's sexuality by **Liz Canner** (+ panel discussion hosted by journalist & broadcaster **Bidisha** with Coco De Mer founder **Sam Roddick**); ***Self Made***, Turner Prizewinner **Gillian Wearing**'s startlingly original debut (+ Q&A); and ***Guilty Pleasures***, a hilarious and uplifting account of the international Mills & Boon romance phenomenon (+ Q&A with London-based director **Julie Moggan**).

Bloody Women: From Gothic to Horror: A darker twist for BEV 2011 looking at women's work in the development of horror from 19th century gothic to 21st century vampire chic. Featuring Oscar-winner **Kathryn Bigelow**'s seminal reinvention of the modern vampire in ***Near Dark*** (1987), plus a showcase of the best contemporary short films by the world's bloodiest women, co-programmed with **Film4 FrightFest** (inc. British Horror Award-winner ***Short Lease***, Minimalen Best Short Fiction ***Daddy's Girl***, Singapore Short Film Award-winner ***Dirty Bitch*** and British Horror Festival Audience Award-winner ***Nursery Crimes***) and a panel debate on the role of women in modern horror, featuring journalist & broadcaster **Muriel Gray**, FrightFest's **Alan Jones**, film professor **Linda Williams** and cult actress and Horror Channel presenter **Emily Booth**; plus a partnership with the **Horror Channel** for a week of strong women in horror broadcast across the UK, from **Winona Ryder** in *Heathers* to **Jess Weixler**'s Sundance Award-winning performance in *Teeth*.

Sound & Silents (for *Bloody Women*): BEV's specially commissioned live scores to classic silents include ***Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*** (1920, scr. Clara Beranger) with contemporary folk act **Blue Roses**; ***Sparrows*** (1926, w. Mary Pickford), scored by **Aristazabal Hawkes** of BRIT and Mercury Award nominee **Guillemots**, ahead of the band's third album release; ***The Wind*** (1928, scr. Frances Marion, w. Lillian Gish), with music by composer-pianist **Lola Perrin**; and a special Sound & Silents event at the Southbank Centre featuring ***Meshes of the Afternoon*** (1943, dir. Maya Derren) with award-winning multi-instrumentalist **Seaming To**; ***Hansel and Gretel*** (1955, dir. Lotte Reiniger) with experimental pop sensation **Micachu**; ***Suspense*** (1913, dir.

Lois Weber) with **Tara Busch;** and ***The Seashell and the Clergyman*** (1928, dir. Germaine Dulac) with Grammy and Novello Award-winner **Imogen Heap**.

Fashion Loves Film: A dazzling showcase of work curated by fashion filmmaker Kathryn Ferguson with **Linder Sterling's** *Forgetful Green*; **Julie Verhoeven's** *I Want You*; **Sarah Piantadosi's** *Ostwald Helgason SS11*; **KT Autela's** *A Piece Apart SS10*; and *Holly Fulton SS11*, directed by **Quentin Jones**; and work starring **Kristin Scott-Thomas** and **Tilda Swinton**.

Music Loves Video: Brit Award-winner **Kate Nash** introduces this year's programme, with favorites including **Floria Sigismondi**'s kaleidescopic visuals for **The Dead Weather**'s 'Die By The Drop' and **Lucy Needs**' surreal take on **Slow Club**'s 'Giving Up On Love', starring **Mackenzie Crook.** Journalist **Miranda Sawyer** returns this year to host a directors' Q&A.

Shorts: **Opening Night Gala Shorts** (including Oscar-shortlisted ***The Silence Beneath the Bark*** and ***Little Children***, ***Big* Words,** Cannes Jury Prizewinner ***Bathing Micky*** and Raindance Best UK Short ***Stanley Pickle***); **UK Shorts** introduced by *Evening Standard* award-winner **Natalie Press** (including an appearance by Press in ***Just Before Dawn*** and *War Horse* director **Marianne Elliot**'s film debut ***Alice*** starring **Maxine Peake**); and **International Shorts** (including Palm Springs' Best of the Fest ***The Wake*** and Rotterdam Best Short winner ***Atlantiques***).

Filmmaker Focus: Margarethe von Trotta: A leading force of Germany's New Wave beginning work as an actress in Fassbinder and Schlondorff's films, von Trotta has gone on to create some of the most important German cinema including gems *The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum* (German Film Award – Gold, 1976) and *The German Sisters* (Venice Golden Lion, 1981). BEV is thrilled to present her latest film, ***Vision: From the Life of Hildegard von Bingen***, and a screening of her Cannes-winning classic ***Rosa Luxembourg*** with a special director Q&A in association with Verso Books to celebrate the publication of *The Letters of Rosa Luxembourg*.

BEV Innovation Workshops: including the latest in ***Adventures in Animation***, a masterclass on how to ***Make A Movie On Your Mobile*** and activist filmmaking workshop ***Filmmaking for Change***, featuring an exclusive preview of **Emily James**' (*Age of Stupid*) latest crowd-funded documentary ***Just Do It***. Throughout the Festival, BEV will also be hosting the ***High Rise*** interactive 360˚ documentary project, directed by Katerina Cizek and winner of the inaugural IDFA Digital Storytelling Award 2010.

BEV Labs: Continuing work on the BEV Labs, providing development and training to the next generation of women filmmakers. BEV 2011 features a celebratory reading of a script from the **She Writes** screenwriting Lab, hosted by **Elizabeth Karlsen** (producer, *Made In Dagenham*) and sees work ongoing with the **Re:Animate Lab**, as two of the BEV-fostered writer/animator collaborations go into development with **Warp Films.**

Other events: **Festival Party** (in association with Little White Lies), **Bring A Baby Screening** *(Guilty Pleasures*), **Equals on Film Oxfam Gala**, **Horror Make-Up Workshop** (with the London School of Media Make-Up), **Open Screen Event** (Branchage Surgery), **Meet the Filmmakers** (with Shooting People), **Women, Film and International Development** (event & film launch with Real World / the International Development School / Screen South), and many more.

*****INTERVIEWS WITH DIRECTORS INCLUDING*****
KELLY REICHARDT, LUCY WALKER, GILLIAN WEARING, SUSANNE BIER, LENA DUNHAM, ADRIANA MAGGS, ZEINA DURRA, HAWA ESSUMAN, SUHA ARRAF, LIZ CANNER, JULIE MOGGAN, MARGARETHE VON TROTTA, TANYA HAMILTON

****OTHER BEV TALENT AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW****
SHIRLEY HENDERSON, LINDER STERLING, JULIE VERHOEVEN, MICACHU, IMOGEN HEAP, ARISTAZABAL HAWKES, NATALIE PRESS, KATE NASH, ROSAMUND PIKE, MIRANDA SAWYER AND OTHERS ON REQUEST

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

For press information or interviews, contact Elizabeth Benjamin or Hilary Cornwell at Margaret PR: elizabeth@margaretlondon.com **/** hilary@margaretlondon.com
020 7033 6868

Notes for Editors

· BIRDS EYE VIEW celebrates and supports international women filmmakers. Backed by leading lights of the film industry, it is a positive response to the fact that women make up only 7% directors and 12% writers in the world's most powerful medium. BEV is concerned with women's creative vision in film, and wants to see more of it.

· In 2005 BEV launched the major UK women's film festival. This has been a storming success, proving the wealth of talent and potential that women bring to film. BEV believes 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, BEV educates audiences about the importance of diversity in film, and through and extensive public campaigns and accessible events, BEV seeks to widen the audiences for women-made films and world cinema.

· BEV is led by Rachel Millward, named as one of the 50 "Women to Watch" by Arts Council England and the Cultural Leadership Programme and previously nominated as 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. **Patrons include Mike Figgis, Mira Nair, Joanna Lumley, Juliet Stevenson, Martha Fiennes, Stephen Woolley and Gurinder Chadha**.

· 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. FWC aims to make a tangible difference to women filmmakers, by mobilising 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. "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. 2009'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. SHE WRITES lab is ongoing in partnership with The Script Factory. Launching at the 2009 Birds Eye View Film Festival, this has given 10 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. In 2010, the continuing partnership with Warp Films and support from Skillset and Scottish Screen saw the launch of REANIMATE, pairing ten exceptional women screenwriters with ten female animators and providing contacts, creative support and a residential retreat at Bradford Animation Festival to help advance their projects towards pitching for the Warp development slate.

· 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, Mira Calix, The Elysian Quartet, Zoe Rahman, Broken Hearts DJs and JUICE.