



NATIONAL FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL TO RECEIVE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING BRITISH CONTRIBUTION TO CINEMA

[\[Download high res images here\]](#)

London, 26 January 2018: The British Academy of Film and Television Arts announced today that the [National Film and Television School](#) (NFTS) will receive the Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema Award at the EE British Academy Film Awards on Sunday 18 February at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

The Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema Award is presented annually in honour of Michael Balcon, the British film producer known for his work with Ealing Studios. Previous recipients include Mike Leigh, Kenneth Branagh, Derek Jarman, Mary Selway, Ridley and Tony Scott, Working Title Films, Lewis Gilbert, the *Harry Potter* series of films, John Hurt, Peter Greenaway, Tessa Ross, BBC Films and Angels Costumes. Curzon received the award last year.

Marc Samuelson, Chair of BAFTA's Film Committee, said: "I am thrilled that the National Film and Television School will receive this honour. The NFTS provides a fantastic training ground for the next generation of creative talent - each year many of BAFTA's talented scholarship recipients receive their training at the school, and an overwhelming number of its students and alumni go on to become BAFTA-winners and household names. The NFTS is a truly integral part of our industry, and is hugely deserving of this award."

Dr Jonathan Wardle, Director of NFTS said: "This award is a huge honour. For almost five decades the NFTS has trained and educated people who go on to power British cinema. Our graduates have been responsible for some of British film and television's greatest moments in recent years. With the generous support from our donors and the wider British film, television and games industries, we will continue to provide the people that ensure the UK remains at the forefront of the creative industries globally for years to come."

Patrick McKenna, NFTS Chairman says: "For decades the National Film and Television School has been at the heart of Britain's creative industries and I am delighted that this has been recognised by BAFTA. This award marks a pivotal time in the School's history as it enters an exciting period of growth and builds on its worldwide reputation for developing the talent that fuels our film, TV and games industries."

The National Film School (as it was first named) opened in 1971, the culmination of a major effort by the industry and government to create an institution to educate and train talent for the British film industry. The NFTS bought the old Beaconsfield Film Studios in Buckinghamshire and set about refitting it to professional industry standards. Founder Colin Young established four permanent departments - production, camera, editing and sound - and in 1971 the first intake of 25 students passed through the studio gates. Directors Mike Radford (*The Merchant of Venice, Il Postino*), Bill Forsyth (*Local Hero*) and Ben Lewin (*Ally McBeal*), pioneering documentarist Nick Broomfield (*Aileen: Portrait of a Serial Killer*), and visual effects specialist Dennis Lowe (*Cold Mountain, The English Patient*) were among their number.

195 Piccadilly, London W1J 9LN
T+44 (0)20 7734 0022 F+44 (0)20 7292 5868
www.bafta.org



In 2003 Nik Powell took over the running of the school. Under his leadership, Powell oversaw a huge growth in size and scale of the NFTS, and during his time as director he cemented its reputation as one of the finest film schools in the world. Powell stepped down from the role in July 2017. In January this year, BAFTA and Oscar-nominated writer, producer and director Alex Garland (*Ex Machina*) was appointed as the school's first associate director.

Today the NFTS focusses on producing career-ready students across a wide range of practical disciplines that meet industry needs. With more behind-the-camera courses than any other film school, the NFTS is recognised internationally as a model of excellence in specialist higher education and one of the world's pre-eminent institutions in film and the moving image. The NFTS boasts alumni including BAFTA-winning and Oscar-nominated cinematographer, Roger Deakins (*No Country For Old Men*); BAFTA-winning director, David Yates (*Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*); BAFTA and Oscar-winning animator Nick Park (*Wallace And Gromit*), Oscar-winning and BAFTA-nominated composer Dario Marianelli (*Darkest Hour*), BAFTA-winning director, Sarah Gavron (*Suffragette*), Cannes Film Festival Vulcain Prize for the Technical Artist winning Cinematographer, Charlotte Bruus Christensen (*Molly's Game*) and BAFTA-winning director, Lynne Ramsay (*We Need to Talk About Kevin*).

The NFTS leads the way in bringing forward the best film, television and games design talent and is an essential talent pipeline for the UK's creative industries. The school's awards success is a testament to its teaching. The 2018 EE British Academy Film Awards marks a record year in this respect, with NFTS students and alumni garnering a total of ten nominations, and 126 alumni credited across all the nominated films.*

Across the school's history, NFTS students and alumni have won an incredible 129 awards across the BAFTA's various awards ceremonies, including 20 at previous British Academy Film Awards. NFTS alumni have also won 10 Oscars and received a further 49 Oscar nominations for their feature film work. 12 graduation films by NFTS students have won BAFTAs, eight have received Oscar nominations and six have won Student Academy Awards.

The EE British Academy Film Awards will take place on Sunday 18 February at the Royal Albert Hall. The ceremony will be hosted by Joanna Lumley and will be broadcast exclusively on BBC One and BBC One HD. The ceremony is also broadcast in all major territories around the world. On the night, www.bafta.org will feature red carpet highlights, photography and winners interviews, as well as dedicated coverage on its social networks including Facebook (/BAFTA), Twitter (@BAFTA / #EEBAFTAs), Tumblr and Instagram.

For further information, please contact:

Kerry McGlone at freuds
T 020 3003 6648
E Kerry.Mcglone@freuds.com

195 Piccadilly, London W1J 9LN
T+44 (0)20 7734 0022 F+44 (0)20 7292 5868
www.bafta.org



EE
BRITISH ACADEMY
FILM AWARDS



Press Release
(cont.)

Notes:

NFTS alumni nominated in the 2018 EE British Academy Film Awards are: Emily Morgan (Producer - *I Am Not A Witch*), Fodhla Cronin O'Reilly (Producer - *Lady Macbeth*) Hugh Welchman (Co-Director- *Loving Vincent*), Dario Marianelli (Composer – *Darkest Hour*), Roger Deakins (Cinematographer – *Blade Runner 2049*) Stuart Wilson (Sound – *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*), Mahdi Fleifel (Short Film Writer/Director– *A Drowning Man*), Aneil Karia (Short Film Director – *Work*) and Paloma Baeza and Ser En Low (British Short Animation – *Poles Apart*)

About BAFTA

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) is a world-leading independent arts charity that brings the very best work in film, games and television to public attention and supports the growth of creative talent in the UK and internationally. Through its Awards ceremonies and year-round programme of learning events and initiatives – which includes workshops, masterclasses, scholarships, lectures and mentoring schemes in the UK, USA and Asia – BAFTA identifies and celebrates excellence, discovers, inspires and nurtures new talent, and enables learning and creative collaboration. For advice and inspiration from the best creative minds in working in film, games and television, visit www.bafta.org/guru. For more, visit www.bafta.org.

195 Piccadilly, London W1J 9LN
T+44 (0)20 7734 0022 F+44 (0)20 7292 5868
www.bafta.org