

EE BRITISH ACADEMY FILM AWARDS IN 2015

PRESS INFORMATION

ABOUT BAFTA

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) is an independent charity that supports, develops and promotes the art forms of the moving image by identifying and rewarding excellence, inspiring practitioners and benefiting the public. In addition to its awards ceremonies, BAFTA has a year-round, international programme of learning events and initiatives that offers unique access to some of the world's most inspiring talent through workshops, masterclasses, scholarships, lectures and mentoring schemes, connecting with audiences of all ages and backgrounds across the UK, Los Angeles and New York. BAFTA relies on income from membership subscriptions, individual donations, trusts, foundations and corporate partnerships to support its ongoing outreach work. To access the best creative minds in film, TV and games production, visit www.bafta.org/guru. For more information, visit www.bafta.org.

VOTING PROCEDURES

BAFTA's expert voting membership of 6,500 industry professionals votes online in two rounds to decide the Film Awards nominations and the winners.

Following extensive discussion, consideration and research over several years, the Film Committee confirmed a move from a three-round voting system to a two-round system for the awards presented in 2013.

As in previous years, members will vote for both the nominations and the winner in the Best Film category and the four performance categories.

(See below: Voting Procedures – Summary Table)

Voters are asked to rank their votes in order of preference in Round One – ranked results will be used to resolve any ties.

The Fellowship and Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema awards are both in the gift of the Academy and are decided each year by BAFTA's Film Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees.

The EE Rising Star Award is the only Award to be decided by the public. A jury headed by the Deputy Chair of BAFTA's Film Committee selected the names of five outstanding individuals and the winner is decided by a public vote coordinated by EE.

VOTING PROCEDURES – SUMMARY TABLE

	Round One voting – nominations (up to five votes *)	Round Two voting – winner (one vote)
Best Film Leading Actress Leading Actor Supporting Actress Supporting Actor	All voters	All voters
Director Original Music Cinematography Production Design Editing Sound Special Visual Effects Costume Design ** Make Up & Hair **	Directing chapter Music chapter Cinematography chapter Production Design chapter Editing chapter Sound chapter Special Visual Effects chapter Costume Design chapter Make Up & Hair chapter	All voters
Adapted Screenplay Original Screenplay	Screenplay chapter	All voters
Animated Film Film Not in the English Language Outstanding British Film Documentary	Opt-in Animation chapter Opt-in FNIEL chapter Opt-in British Film chapter Opt-in Documentary chapter	Opt-in Animation chapter Opt-in FNIEL chapter Opt-in British Film chapter Opt-in Documentary chapter
Outstanding Debut	Jury	Jury
British Short Film British Short Animation	Short Film Jury Short Animation Jury	Opt-in Shorts chapter

GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON BAFTA

What (or who) is BAFTA?

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts is an independent charity that supports, develops and promotes the art forms of the moving image by identifying and rewarding excellence, inspiring practitioners and benefiting the public.

In addition to its Awards ceremonies covering film, television and games, BAFTA has a year-round learning programme offering unique access to some of the world's most inspiring talent through workshops, masterclasses, lectures and mentoring schemes, connecting with audiences of all ages and backgrounds across the UK, Los Angeles and New York.

BAFTA relies on income from membership subscriptions, individual donations, trusts, foundations and corporate partnerships to support its ongoing outreach work.

For further information, visit www.bafta.org or www.bafta.org/guru.

Who runs BAFTA?

The Board of Trustees is the ruling body of BAFTA and is currently chaired by John Willis, with Tim Corrie as Deputy Chair. The Academy's President is HRH The Duke of Cambridge. Vice Presidents are Duncan Kenworthy OBE (for Film) and Sophie Turner Laing (for TV) and the organisation's Chief Executive is Amanda Berry OBE.

Each sector of BAFTA – Film, Television and Games – is represented by a Committee of industry professionals. The current Chairmen of the Film, Television and Games Committees are Nik Powell, Andrew Newman and Harvey Elliott respectively; the Deputy Chairmen of the Film and Television Committees are Pippa Harris and Jane Lush respectively.

Learning programme

Throughout the year, BAFTA's learning programme creates platforms for BAFTA winners, nominees and members to share their expertise with different audiences. The programme includes around 250 live events - such as the recent 'A Life in Pictures' with Ethan Hawke and Emma Thompson and David Lean Lecture from director Lone Scherfig, and masterclasses with leading craft practitioners – as well as BAFTA Guru, our online learning channel offering interviews, advice and training tips designed both to inspire and to be a useful tool for anyone who is hoping to make their mark in the creative industries. BAFTA's reach extends throughout the UK, with branches in Scotland and Wales, as well as the USA, with branches in Los Angeles and New York.

Early history of the Academy

The great British filmmaker David Lean, most famous for his 1962 film *Lawrence of Arabia*, was the first Chairman of the Academy in the year it was founded – 1947. The first Film Awards ceremony was in 1949.

The British Film Academy, as it was then known, was formed on 16 April 1947 when its 14 founding members met at the Hyde Park Hotel under Lean's Chairmanship.

The first Council of Management read like a 'who's who' of British film talent: Anthony Asquith, Michael Balcon, Alexander Korda, Frank Launder, David Lean, Muir Matheson, Ronnie Neame, Laurence Olivier, Michael Powell, Carol Reed and Paul Rotha.

The first Film Awards ceremony took place in May 1949 and honoured *The Best Years of Our Lives*, *Odd Man Out* and *The World Is Rich*.

The Guild of Television Producers and Directors was set up in 1953 with the first awards ceremony in October 1954. Winners were awarded Grecian masks, designed by Mitzi Cunliffe, a version of which remains today as the coveted BAFTA mask.

By 1958, the Academy and Guild recognised shared aims and principles and amalgamated into the Society of Film and Television Arts. The inaugural meeting of the new Society of Film and Television Arts was held in December at Buckingham Palace and presided over by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

In 1976, Her Majesty The Queen, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, HRH The Princess Royal and Lord Mountbatten officially opened the headquarters at 195 Piccadilly and, in March, the Society became officially known as the British Academy of Film and Television Arts.

In 1998, BAFTA's Film and Television Awards split into separate, stand-alone ceremonies.

The BAFTA trophy was first introduced in 1976

The iconic BAFTA mask was designed in 1955 by US sculptor Mitzi Cunliffe and has become an internationally-recognised symbol of excellence in the art forms of the moving image.

Born in New York, Cunliffe read Fine Arts and Fine Arts Education at Columbia, later working in the studio of a sculptor in Paris, though it was an artistic experience elsewhere in France which set the true course of her career. Seeing the West front of the cathedral in Chartres for the first time, Cunliffe recalled, was "Love at first sight. I knew then that was the kind of work in which I wanted to be involved." Cunliffe lived in England from 1949 to 1976 and much of her work was carved or modelled in a small garage at her home in Didsbury, Manchester. From the direct carving of stone reliefs in sections for works on public buildings, she later developed methods for producing modular sculpture cast in various materials, including concrete and aluminium, for interiors and exteriors.

In 1955, a trophy mask was commissioned by Andrew Miller-Jones of the [then] Guild of Television Producers. Cunliffe originally modelled the mask in Plasticine, from which the casting moulds were made, and though based on the traditional concept of the theatrical tragicomic mask, it is more complex than its immediate front facial appearance suggests. The hollow reverse of the mask bears an electronic symbol around one eye and a screen symbol around the other, linking dramatic production and television technology, and the full intention of Cunliffe's original design included a revolving support to allow the mask to be turned and viewed easily from either side.

The Guild merged with the British Film Academy in 1958 to become the Society of Film and Television Arts. The SFTA later became the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in 1976, and presented one of the first BAFTA masks to Sir Charles Chaplin who became an Academy Fellow that year. Cunliffe's distinct design is now a symbol recognised worldwide.

Mitzi Cunliffe passed away on 30 December 2006 in Oxford, England.

The Award – including the bronze mask and marble base – weighs 3.7 kg and measures 27cm (h) x 14cm (w) x 8cm (d); the mask itself measures 16cm (h) x 14cm (w).

BAFTA's royal connections

HRH The Duke of Cambridge, KG, has been President of the Academy since February 2010.

The Duke's appointment follows a long tradition of royal involvement with the Academy. HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, was the first President of the Society of Film and Television Arts (SFTA) in 1959 to 1965 and HRH Princess Anne, The Princess Royal, was its President from 1972 to 2001. It was the Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh's generous donation of their share of profits from the film Royal Family that enabled the Academy to move to its headquarters at BAFTA 195 Piccadilly.

The Duke Of Cambridge succeeded Lord Attenborough Kt, CBE , to become the Academy's fifth president in its history. He is supported by Vice Presidents Sophie Turner Laing (representing Television) and Duncan Kenworthy OBE (representing Film).

Games is the third 'pillar' of the Academy

Since 1998, BAFTA has been celebrating and rewarding the very best innovation and talent from the video games industry, and in 2005, the stand-alone British Academy Games Awards were created, which now sits alongside the ceremonies for Film and Television.

Members

BAFTA is a membership organisation. There are 7,500 members in total and 6,500 Film voters. The annual membership fee, as of January 2014, is £420 (£280 for overseas and regional members). Information on membership, including criteria for joining, is available [here](#).

How BAFTA is funded

BAFTA is a registered charity that relies on income from membership subscriptions, individual donations, trusts, foundations and corporate partnerships to support its ongoing outreach work.

BRITISH ACADEMY OF FILM AND TELEVISION ARTS – KEY PERSONNEL

Amanda Berry OBE, Chief Executive of BAFTA

Amanda Berry was appointed Director of Development and Events of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) in October 1998 and in December 2000 became its Chief Executive. Amanda was awarded an OBE for services to the film industry in 2009 and, in 2012, made The Times' British Film Power 100, the Women in Film and Television Power List and Women: Inspiration & Enterprise's Power 50.

Amanda has been instrumental in the major changes BAFTA has undergone in recent years, successfully positioning it as the pre-eminent charitable body that educates, promotes and rewards excellence in the art forms of the moving image. She is publicly credited with instigating the changes that define the modern, forward-looking Academy as one of the most influential institutions in the arts today. She successfully placed BAFTA's annual Film Awards ceremony on the international stage, which has helped the Academy communicate its charitable message to a global audience. Under her leadership, BAFTA's other Awards ceremonies – the Television, Games, Children's and Television Craft Awards – and its year-round learning and events programme have continued to grow in stature; the latter now delivers in excess of 200 events a year with many being filmed and made freely available via the BAFTA Guru website, cementing the Academy's reputation as the touchstone for inspiration and information. With branches in Los Angeles, New York, Scotland and Wales, BAFTA's international profile continues to grow, and in 2011 Amanda devised and oversaw the inaugural 'BAFTA Brits to Watch' event in Los Angeles, attended by BAFTA President, HRH The Duke of Cambridge and The Duchess of Cambridge. The event received widespread attention from the global press and boosted the Academy's profile, as well as that of the emerging British talent, who were introduced to the leading names in the film, television and games industries in the USA.

Prior to joining BAFTA, Amanda worked as a theatrical agent and in television production. She was a company director at Duncan Heath Associates (part of the ICM group) between 1982 and 1988. Her television career began in 1989 when she worked at LWT. From 1990, Amanda worked extensively as a producer and development executive for Scottish Television Enterprises, both in Glasgow and in London, where her credits included three BAFTA Awards ceremonies.

Anne Morrison, Chair of BAFTA

Anne Morrison is a consultant, coach and executive producer. From 2009 to 2014, Anne was Director of the BBC Academy, the organisation responsible for all the BBC's training and development across journalism, production, technology and leadership.

This followed her role as Project Director of Network Supply Review, the BBC's ambitious plan to grow network TV production dramatically from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland by 2012.

Prior to this Anne was Controller, Documentaries and Contemporary Factual, BBC. Under her leadership, this factual TV production department made programmes such as the drama-documentary Dunkirk, investigations such as The Secret Policeman and Whistleblower, live events such as The Queen's Jubilee and Live8; launched documentary strands One Life and Mischief; made contemporary factual programmes such as What Not To Wear and relaunched Top Gear.

Anne began her career at the BBC in 1981 as a general trainee and then joined Documentary Features where she directed and produced a range of documentaries. She also produced Holiday and executive produced Crimewatch and Rough Justice. Anne was educated in Belfast and Churchill College, Cambridge.

John Willis, Deputy Chair of BAFTA

John Willis is Chief Executive of Mentorn Media and Group Creative Director of Tinopolis plc. John started his career at Yorkshire Television where he directed a string of award winning documentaries including Johnny Go Home and Alice - A Fight for Life. In 1988 he moved to Channel 4 as Controller of Factual Programmes before being promoted to Director of Programmes in 1993. During his time at Channel 4 successes included Trainspotting, Four Weddings and a Funeral, Cutting Edge, Father Ted, Big Breakfast and True Stories. After Channel 4 he moved to United Productions as Chief Executive where United made Hornblower, Paul Watson's Wedding in the Family and Alan Bleasdale's Oliver Twist. He represented United on the Boards of both Channel 5 and ITN broadcaster WGBH. He returned to England in 2003 to join the BBC as Director of Factual and Learning programmes which included The Secret Policeman and Planet Earth. He was a member of the BBC Executive Committee. In late 2006 he joined Mentorn, producers of Question Time for the BBC as well as factual drama like Britz and The Promise.

Nik Powell, Chair of BAFTA's Film Committee

In the early 1970s Nik Powell set up Virgin Records with Richard Branson. In 1982, he formed Palace Productions with Stephen Woolley and executive produced all productions, including three Neil Jordan films: the award-winning The Company of Wolves, the Oscar-nominated and Cannes award-winning Mona Lisa and the Oscar- and BAFTA-winning The Crying Game. In 1992 Nik and Stephen formed Scala Productions where they produced Terence Davies' The Neon Bible, the Oscar-nominated and Golden Globe-winning Little Voice by Mark Herman and Fred Schepisi's Last Orders. Nik's last film was Ladies in Lavender starring Dame Judi Dench.

Nik is the Director of the National Film and Television school, Vice Chair of the European Film Academy and is a member of the Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres.

Pippa Harris, Deputy Chair of BAFTA's Film Committee

Pippa started her career at Jacaranda Productions as a production assistant in 1989. After that she worked as a script editor for ITV and Channel Four, before becoming Development Executive at BBC Films. She was then promoted to Executive Producer, BBC Drama Serials where her productions included The Way We Live Now, Care, The Sleeper, Love in a Cold Climate and Warriors. In 2001 she became Head of Drama Commissioning for the BBC, working alongside Jane Tranter. BBC commissions included State Of Play, The Lost Prince, Cutting It, Flesh and Blood and Daniel Deronda. In 2003, she co-founded film and theatre production company, Neal Street Productions, with partners Sam Mendes and Caro Newling. Here she heads up the film and TV side. Since forming the company, Pippa has produced films Starter for Ten, Jarhead and the contemporary British thriller, Blood, starring Paul Bettany and Mark Strong. Pippa has also executive produced the films Revolutionary Road, Things We Lost in the Fire and Away We Go. For TV, Pippa has produced Stuart A Life Backwards, with Tom Hardy and Benedict Cumberbatch, and executive produced the hugely successful Call the Midwife, which returned for a Christmas Special and has a second series due to start at the end of January 2013, as well as the critically acclaimed The Hollow Crown – a series of Shakespeare films for the BBC/PBS — starring Ben Whishaw, Tom Hiddleston and Jeremy Irons.