

# B-Film: The Birmingham Centre for Film Studies



## November-December 2014 News

Many research activities, events, projects and publications from members of B-Film came to fruition in November and December or were announced by them for 2015.



**Professor Russell Jackson** published *Shakespeare and the English-speaking Cinema* as part of the Oxford Shakespeare Topics series from Oxford University Press. This lively, authoritative, and innovative overview of the ways in which Shakespeare's plays have been adapted for cinema offers detailed commentary on significant films, including both 'mainstream' and 'canonical' works by such directors as Laurence Olivier, Orson Welles, Franco Zeffirelli, and Kenneth Branagh, and such ground-breaking movies as Derek Jarman's *The Tempest*, Baz Luhrmann's *William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet* and Peter Greenaway's *Prospero's Books*.

Routledge formally contracted *The Companion to World Cinema*, which is a project that cements collaboration between B-Film and The Centre for World Cinemas at the University of Leeds. This 280-page volume is co-edited by **Professor Rob Stone**, **Dr Alex Marlow-Mann**, Professor Paul Cooke and Dr Stephanie Dennison and is due for publication in January 2017. The volume will contain forty chapters, a 10,000 word co-written introduction and chapters by Stone, Marlow-Mann, **Dr James Walters** and **John Horne**. The book is also the flagship volume in the new series from Routledge and the same editorial board entitled *Remapping World Cinema: Regional Tensions and Global Transformations*. Routledge is keen to collaborate on a website with B-Film that will host teaching and research resources.



Following the meeting of the B-Film steering group in November, no less than three major conferences have been instigated by members of B-Film for the coming years.

Firstly, a conference to coincide with the publication of the aforementioned *Routledge Companion to World Cinema* will be held in January 2017. This will bring many of the volume's contributors to the University of Birmingham and will also issue a CFP to attract scholars in the field of World Cinema. The conference will carry the title of the Routledge series **Remapping World Cinema: Regional Tensions and Global Transformations**. The main organiser is **Professor Rob Stone**.

**Dr Kate Ince** is the main organiser of the second of these major conferences, which will be the 2018 annual conference of the **British Association of Film, Television and Screen Studies**. BAFTSS promotes research into and critical analysis of the screen-based media that are central to understanding the culture, society and economy of the new century.



The third major conference will be the 2020 annual conference of the **European Cinema Research Forum** and the main organiser will be **Dr Stephen Forcer**. The ECRF was founded in 2000 and is associated with the *Studies in European Cinema* journal from Routledge. The ECRF is the international forum for the discussion of all things relating to European film and European film culture and it brings together scholars working across Film Studies and Modern Languages.

The B-Film steering committee also established a structure with specific internal responsibilities for members at its recent meeting. **John Horne** accepted responsibility for liaison with postgraduate students, while **Dr Elystan Griffiths** and **Professor Rob Stone** took over management of the B-Film website, pending the appropriate UoB training. **Dr Kate Ince** took on the organisation of visiting speakers when it was decided to host two per year, one each term, under the title of the B-Film Guest Lecture: More news on this very soon. Finally, a B-Film sandpit event to explore research projects, funding opportunities and ideas amongst members of B-Film was proposed for reading week of the second term.



As well as organising major conferences, B-Film will also be well represented during the week-long festival celebrating ideas, research and collaboration across the University of Birmingham, from Monday 16th – Sunday 22nd March 2015. **Dr Kate Ince** is organising an event entitled **Girls, Gangs and Growing Up on Film** that includes a screening and discussion of Celine Sciamma's new film *Girlhood* (2014). This is a joint event with Birmingham's 2015 Flatpack Film Festival and will be introduced by Ince, whose research focuses on films directed by women in France since 2000. *Girlhood* is Sciamma's third feature film, following *Water Lilies* (2007) and *Tomboy* (2011), both of which dramatize episodes in the lives of adolescent and pubescent girls living in the tough suburbs of Paris. Joining Kate Ince to answer questions about the film will be either the director herself or Benedicte Couvreur, director of Hold-Up Films and producer of *Girlhood*.

Another B-Film event that week will be **Film and Human Rights: Local Stories and Bigger Pictures**, which will be co-organised by **Dr Michele Aaron** and **Professor Rob Stone**. Aaron will introduce a showcase of short films made by local school pupils in collaboration with Film Studies staff at the University. This will be followed by a panel discussion with academics, human rights activists and directors. Stone will then introduce the documentary *Sons and Daughters of the Alarde* (2013), which looks at the difficulties faced by women who wish to participate in the Alarde (weapons parades) in the Bidasoa area of the Basque Country, and reflects the tensions in this region. The director of the film, Jone Karres (right), will be present and will participate in an English-language interview and Q&A with the audience. Karre will also participate in a workshop the following day with UoB staff and students drawn from CAL. The event is sponsored by the University of Birmingham and B-Film and is part of the 'Screening Rights' events series.



Finally, **Professor Rob Stone** gave a Screen lecture on the cinema of Richard Linklater at the University of Glasgow in December and has been awarded the Koldo Mitxelena Chair in Basque Studies at the University of Chicago, where he will take up a temporary residency in May 2015 and deliver a series of lectures on Basque cinema.

Any news items for the B-Film newsletter? Please send them to [r.stone@bham.ac.uk](mailto:r.stone@bham.ac.uk)