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The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release

October 2001

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART TAKES PART IN UKwithNY FESTIVAL WITH TWO SPECIAL FILM PROGRAMS

A Salute to FilmFour

October 18–28, 2001

British Advertising Broadcast Awards 2001: Award-Winning British Commercials

October 19–29, 2001

The Museum of Modern Art will participate in the upcoming citywide ***UKwithNY*** Festival––a two-week-long celebration of British achievement and the United Kingdom's long-standing, vital, and mutually beneficial relationship with New York—by presenting two special film and media programs, ***A Salute to FilmFour*** and ***British Advertising Broadcast Awards 2001: Award-Winning British Commercials***. ***UKwithNY*** encompasses more than 100 events of British art and culture throughout New York City including exhibitions; dance, music, and theatrical performances; sporting events; and film programs; and runs from October 14 through October 28, 2001. ***A Salute to FilmFour***, which comprises 12 feature films produced by the British television channel, was organized by Laurence Kardish, Senior Curator, Department of Film and Media; with thanks to Miramax, Sony Pictures Classics, New Yorker Films, and Fox Searchlight. ***British Advertising Broadcast Awards 2001: Award-Winning British Commercials***, which comprises some 100 commercials selected for excellence by British advertising industry professionals, was organized by Peter Bigg, Administrator of the British Advertising Broadcast Awards Organization, and coordinated for The Museum of Modern Art by Laurence Kardish.

A Salute to FilmFour

October 18–28, 2001

British television's Channel 4 was launched in 1982, the same year its *Film on Four* program began to produce films for network broadcast. After much success both in Britain and abroad, in the mid-1990s *Film on Four* grew into a major production company for independent cinema, FilmFour.

FilmFour is responsible for many popular films that captured the zeitgeist of their time, such as *Trainspotting* (1996, directed by Danny Boyle), *The Crying Game* (1992, written and directed by Neil Jordan), and *Sexy Beast* (2000, directed by Jonathan Glazer). One of FilmFour's most recent accomplishments, *Late Night Shopping* (2001, directed by Saul

Metzstein), a comedy about a group of young friends and their late-night conversations at the grocery store where they work, will receive its New York premiere in this series.

During its early years, much of FilmFour's programming reflected the preference of David Rose, the series' commissioning editor from 1982 to 1990, for contemporary and social political topics. Films such as *Letter to Brezhnev* (1985, directed by Chris Bernard), *My Beautiful Laundrette* (1986, directed by Stephen Frears), and *Rita, Sue and Bob Too* (1986, directed by Alan Clarke), were critically acclaimed in Britain and were released in theaters abroad. Later editors, including David Aukin, 1990–98, and Paul Webster, 1998–present, continued the tradition, producing such edgy and relevant works as Mike Leigh's *Naked*, Gurinder Chadha's *Bhaji on the Beach*, and Ken Loach's *Raining Stones* (all 1993).

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A Salute to FilmFour

Schedule

Thursday, October 18

2:00 *My Beautiful Laundrette*. 1985. UK. Directed by Stephen Frears. Written by Hanif Kureishi. Cinematography by Oliver Stapleton. With Saeed Jaffrey, Roshan Seth, and Daniel Day-Lewis. *My Beautiful Laundrette* helped establish not only the international reputations of Frears, Kureishi, and Day-Lewis but also the significance of FilmFour. Originally commissioned for the television series *Film on Four*, it was shot in 16mm. As Frears admitted, "You couldn't seriously have gone out and said to a financier, 'I'm going to make a film about a gay Pakistani laundrette owner,' and confidently expect that there'd be an audience." But there was, and a large one, for a film that challenged ideas about class, love, and contemporary life. 93 min.

4:00 *Beautiful Thing*. 1995. UK. Directed by Hettie MacDonald. Written by Jonathan Harvey, based on his play. Cinematography by Chris Seager. With Glen Berry, Linda Henry, and Scott Neal. Jamie, a teenage boy in working-class south London, is in love with a neighboring boy from a troubled family. Although his mother is supportive, Jamie tries to keep both his affection and his sexual orientation a secret. What happens when a romance blossoms is cheering and bold. *TimeOut London* called this "urban fairy tale" a winner. 91 min.

6:00 *Late Night Shopping*. 2001. UK. Directed by Saul Metzstein. Written by Jack Lothian. Cinematography by Brian Tufano. With Luke de Woolfson, James Lance, and Kate Ashfield. *Late Night Shopping*, the initial collaboration between FilmFour and the Glasgow Film Office (here receiving its first New York screening), is a cheeky comedy about a group of friends who either work stocking supermarket shelves or are unemployed. Outside the occasional sexual encounter, they have settled into a routine of meeting and talking into the night. In this diminished job market, little seems likely to change—but life is full of surprises. Metzstein has written, "The whole point was to make an intimate film but at the same time be aware that the four friends are little characters in a big world. . . . We wanted grandeur of scale but intimacy at the same time." 91 min. Filmmaker present.

Friday, October 19

2:00 *Rita, Sue and Bob Too*. 1986. UK. Directed by Alan Clarke. Written by Andrea Dunbar. Cinematography by Ivan Strasburg. With Michelle Holmes, Siobhan Finneran, and George Costigan. Clarke (1935–90) died relatively young, but not before his films established a model for a rude new British cinema. An astute social observer and chronicler of the emotionally desperate, he made his characters both ribald and sad. *Rita, Sue and Bob Too* has qualities of hellish farce: two teenaged friends, Rita and Sue, in a working-class northern suburb have sequential affairs with a 27-year-old sleazeball, Bob, for whom they babysit. Bob's wife, Michelle, finds out, and Rita, Sue, and Bob too disconnect. Consequences come swiftly and are at once hackneyed and darkly comic. 93 min.

8:00 *My Beautiful Laundrette*

Saturday, October 20

1:00 *East Is East*. 1999. UK. Directed by Damien O'Donnell. Written by Ayub Khan-Din, based on his play. Cinematography by Brian Tufano. With Om Puri, Linda Bassett, and Jordan Routledge. For Khan-Din, *East Is East* is somewhat autobiographical. George Khan, an immigrant from Pakistan, has married Ella, an Englishwoman, and owns a Salford fish-and-chips shop. The couple have seven children, some of marriageable age. George's attitude to domestic discipline has earned him the nickname "Genghis," but his kids rebel against his confining patriarchy—they want to grow up like ordinary Brits. The great Indian-British actor Puri makes George a memorable character, torn between tradition and change. This affecting and bittersweet work addresses cultural and generational gaps that audiences everywhere can recognize. 95 min.

3:00 *Raining Stones*. 1993. UK. Directed by Ken Loach. Written by Jim Allen. Cinematography by Barry Ackroyd. With Bruce Jones, Julie Brown, and Gemma Phoenix. "What seems at first to be Ken Loach's wry view of unemployed despair turns out to be an almost ecstatic call for a new morality, with—startlingly—a happy ending. The jobless hero steals sheep to sell to the butcher who doesn't want them, his van is stolen, the best work he can find is cleaning drains door-to-door. But he's a man with faith, and he borrows the large sum needed for his daughter's first communion. A revolutionary film set in the dreary north of England, *Raining Stones* forges a shocking, concrete optimism out of hopelessness" (New York Film Festival program brochure, 1993). 90 min.

5:00 *Naked*. 1993. UK. Written and directed by Mike Leigh. Cinematography by Dick Pope. With David Thewlis, Lesley Sharp, and Katrin Cartlidge. Barely eight years old, *Naked* is already a contemporary classic. Energized by Thewlis's staggering performance as the voluble misanthrope Johnny, a young man of some passion, much disdain, and no future, *Naked*, according to Leigh, is "not a two-hour-eleven-minute picture of doom and gloom. . .there are, apart from all the famous bleak moments, various shows of care. . .and love. . . . The film's not about England, it's about Western civilization. . . . It's about confusion." Just as Leigh had hoped, *Naked* is "as funny as it is sad, as beautiful as it is ugly, as compassionate as it is loathsome, and as responsible as it is anarchic." 131 min.

Sunday, October 21

1:00 *Letter to Brezhnev*. 1985. UK. Directed by Chris Bernard. Written by Frank Clarke. Cinematography by Bruce McGowan. With Alfred Molina, Peter Firth, and Tracy Lea. Writing from the 1985 Venice International Film Festival, David Robinson reported that

Channel 4 had shown a film out of competition that "in energy, originality, and audacity outclasses practically everything else in sight." That film, *Letter to Brezhnev*, proved that Channel 4 had become a major producer. Wise and direct, the film tells of two young women who live outside Liverpool but party in the city. One night they meet a couple of Russian sailors. When the Soviets return to their ship, the girls decide their romantic future may lie in Russia. 95 min.

3:00 *Rita, Sue and Bob Too*

5:00 *Trainspotting*. 1996. UK. Directed by Danny Boyle. Written by John Hodge, based on the novel by Irvine Welsh. Cinematography by Brian Tufano. With Ewan McGregor, Ewen Bremner, and Jonny Lee Miller. A riotous series of riffs on being down, out, and drugged, *Trainspotting* is based on Welsh's cult novel. In sequences both effervescent and squalid, it charts, rather merrily, the disintegration of the friendships among a group of Edinburgh heroin addicts. "Although the topic, in one sense, is heroin," Boyle has said, "it's not really just a heroin film. . . . It doesn't try to pontificate, it doesn't try to assume a superiority or a patronizing attitude about drugs. This is essential among the young audience here in Britain, because the number of people who are taking drugs every weekend, and still living a normal life-style that includes going to the cinema, is unbelievable." 93 min.

Monday , October 22

1:00 *Trainspotting*

3:00 *The Crying Game*. 1992. UK. Written and directed by Neil Jordan. Cinematography by Ian Wilson. With Forest Whitaker, Miranda Richardson, and Stephen Rea. For Andrew Sarris "a series of Chinese boxes, each enclosing a different surprise and a different genre," for Janet Maslin a "romantic thriller. . . a dizzying exploration of sex, loyalty, betrayal, and unexpected love," *The Crying Game* may really be, as Vincent Canby wrote, about "the strength of political commitment and the role playing of life's fugitives." Jordan admits that it was a difficult film to find funding for: "It was seen as the kind of film everyone should be making, but everyone was afraid to make it. It dealt with terrorism, race, sex. . . . You've got various levels of erotic relationships. You've got a hugely unsympathetic woman. . . . All in one script." Channel 4 became a production partner, helping to make the film happen. 112 min.

Tuesday, October 23

2:00 *Bhaji on the Beach*. 1993. UK. Directed by Gurinder Chadha. Written by Chadha and Meera Syal. Cinematography by John Kenway. With Kim Vithana, Jimmi Harkishin, and Sarita Khajuria. "For 'Woman's Amusement Day,' the members of the Saheli Asian Center for women of Indian origin leave Birmingham in an old bus for Blackpool, the resort mecca of the working class. So opens this fetching, witty comedy with its broad assortment of sharply defined characters determined to enjoy themselves despite differing domestic problems and hopes. Some get more than they bargained for. . . . Chadha captures the uniqueness and strength of these women, depicting them with a refreshing complexity rarely seen in Western cinema" (New Directors/New Films program brochure, 1994). 100 min.

6:00 *East Is East*

Thursday, October 25

2:00 *Naked*

6:00 *Letter to Brezhnev*

Friday, October 26

2:00 *The Crying Game*

Saturday, October 27

5:30 *Beautiful Thing*

Sunday, October 28

3:00 *Bhaji on the Beach*

5:00 *Sexy Beast*. 2000. UK/Spain. Directed by Jonathan Glazer. Written by Louis Mellis and David Scinto. Cinematography by Ivan Bird. With Ben Kingsley, Ray Winstone, and Amanda Redman. A determined sociopath, a criminal determined to be irresistible, Don Logan (played by Kingsley with full-blooded intensity) flies from damp England to sunny Spain to lure an old buddy out of a pleasant retirement. How Logan "convinces" a reluctant player into one last scheme, a most curious robbery, is only one swell part of *Sexy Beast*'s neat, dark comic narrative. The other part is half of the film's surprise, and will not be divulged here. *Sexy Beast* is the first feature directed by Glazer, celebrated in Britain for his music videos and commercials. 88 min.

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FilmFour Ltd. is Channel 4 Television's wholly owned film company and operates in the areas of film development, production, sales, and distribution. FilmFour's slate reflects its reputation as Britain's pre-eminent "mini-studio" working with the finest international film talent. Upcoming titles include *Charlotte Gray*, directed by Gillian Armstrong, starring Cate Blanchett and Billy Crudup, and *Death to Smooch*, directed by Danny DeVito, starring Robin Williams, Edward Norton, and Catherine Keener, (both co-productions with Warner Bros. Pictures); *Lucky Break*, from Peter Cattaneo, director of *The Full Monty*; *Crush*, directed by John McKay, starring Andie MacDowell, Imelda Staunton, and Anna Chancellor; *Buffalo Soldiers*, directed by Gregor Jordan, starring Joaquin Phoenix, Ed Harris, Anna Paquin, and Scott Glenn; *Miranda*, directed by Marc Munden, starring Christina Ricci; and Thomas Vinterberg's *It's All About Love*, starring Joaquin Phoenix and Claire Danes.

British Advertising Broadcast Awards 2001: Award-Winning British Commercials

October 19–29, 2001

Now in its eighteenth year at MoMA, the annual exhibition presents approximately 100

British commercials made in 2000 for television and cinema that were selected for excellence in various product categories, by British advertising-industry professionals. This year the series also features a 25-year retrospective of the British Television Advertising Awards Gold Winners, 1976–2000.

Friday, October 19

6:00 The Best of British Advertising: Winners of the British Television Advertising Awards, 2000. Approx. 100 min.

Also showing Sunday, October 28 at 1:00.

Saturday, October 27

2:00 25-Year Retrospective of the Gold Winners of the British Television Advertising Awards, 1976–2000. Approx. 180 min.

Also showing Monday, October 29 at 2:00.

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