



CINEMA UNBOUND: THE CREATIVE WORLDS OF POWELL + PRESSBURGER

Michelle Williams Gamaker and Powell + Pressburger

+ Michelle Williams Gamaker in conversation with Dr Kulraj Phullar

House of Women

Written and Directed by: Michelle Williams Gamaker

Story Consultant: Elan Gamaker

Producer: Josh Llewelyn

Cinematographer: Tom Wright

Editor: Michelle Williams Gamaker

Sound Recordist: Martin Clarke

Sound Designer: Sara Pinheiro

Cast:

Kelly Hunter (*anonymous reader*)

Krishna Isha

Jasdeep Kandola

Tina Mander

Arunima Rajkumar

UK 2017

14 mins

Oberon

Written and Directed by: Michelle Williams Gamaker

Producer: Qila Gill, Marginalia Pictures

UK 2023

6 mins

Thieves

Written and Directed by: Michelle Williams Gamaker

Story Consultant: Elan Gamaker

Producer: Melanie Cura Daball

Cinematographer: Tom Wright

Editor: Elan Gamaker

Original Music by Aaron Cupples

Cast:

Charlotte Gallagher (*Lotta Woods*)

Mark Gillis (*Michael, the director*)

Krishna Isha (*Sabu*)

Ananya Jaidev (*the silver maiden*)

Catherine Lord (*the Sultan*)

Lucy May Orange (*the conductor*)

Dahong Wang (*Anna May Wong*)

UK 2023

28 mins

CINEMA UNBOUND: THE CREATIVE WORLDS OF POWELL + PRESSBURGER

The Red Shoes From Fri 8 Dec

Experimenta: Michelle Williams Gamaker and

Powell + Pressburger + Michelle Williams

Gamaker in conversation with Dr Kulraj Phullar Wed

13 Dec 18:05

Oh... Rosalinda!! Wed 13 Dec 20:45

Bluebeard's Castle (Herzog Blaubarts Burg)

Fri 15 Dec 18:10 (+ intro by writer Lillian Crawford);

Sat 23 Dec 13:30

Peeping Tom Fri 15 Dec 20:50; Mon 18 Dec 20:45;

Thu 21 Dec 18:00; Sat 23 Dec 18:00; Fri 29 Dec

18:15

The Tales of Hoffmann Sat 16 Dec 14:45; Sat 30

Dec 17:30

They're a Weird Mob

Sat 16 Dec 17:45; Fri 29 Dec 20:40

Michelle Williams Gamaker's stunning, beautifully-staged films trouble the too often overlooked political dynamics trapped in classic cinema. Calling her work 'fictional activism', she imagines alternative scenarios where marginalised brown characters take control of the films in which they appear, reformulating narratives and disturbing received histories. *House of Women* (2017) drastically reimagines casting sessions for Kanchi in *Black Narcissus* in a deliberately dissonant, modern setting. *Thieves* (2023) meanwhile sees rebellious Sabu and Anna May Wong turn the tables on Michael Powell and his crew, during the making of *The Thief of Baghdad*, with electrifying results.

We are delighted to also welcome Williams Gamaker to discuss her work, the issues it raises, and her interests in Powell and Pressburger, with Dr Kulraj Phullar.

William Fowler, bfi.org.uk

Michelle Williams Gamaker is an artist filmmaker. Since 2014, she has been developing Fictional Activism: the restoration of marginalised film stars of colour as central figures, who return in her works as brown protagonists to challenge the fictional injustices to which they have been historically consigned.

By proposing critical alternatives to imperialist storytelling in British and Hollywood studio films, she interrogates cinema by sabotaging the casting process and utilising cinema's tools against itself.

Williams Gamaker is joint winner of Film London's Jarman Award (2020) and exhibits her films nationally and internationally, including BFI Flare (2017) and BFI London Film Festivals 2018, 2021, Aesthetica Short Film Festival (winner of Best Experimental Film, 2021 and 2023) London Short Film Festival (2022, 2024) and Sharjah Film Platform 6 (2023).

Williams Gamaker's major institutional solo, *Our Mountains are Painted on Glass* premiered *Thieves*, her first film in Fictional Revenge at South London Gallery.

It is currently on show at Dundee Contemporary Arts and will tour to Bluecoat, Liverpool in 2024.

She is a Reader in BA Fine Art at Goldsmiths College, University of London, and is currently a British Academy Wolfson Fellow, where she is developing her filmmaking as Critical Affection.

The Small Back Room Sat 16 Dec 20:45; Fri 22 Dec 18:20; Wed 27 Dec 20:30; Sat 30 Dec 15:00
The Phantom Light Sun 17 Dec 12:30
Espionage: Never Turn Your Back on a Friend / A Free Agent + intro Sun 17 Dec 15:15
Library Talk: The Glass Pearls
 Tue 19 Dec 19:30 BFI Reuben Library
The Love Test + Something Always Happens Tue 19 Dec 20:20
Lazybones + Her Last Affaire Wed 20 Dec 17:50
Age of Consent
 Fri 22 Dec 20:45; Wed 27 Dec 18:15
A Matter of Life and Death
 Sat 23 Dec 15:00 BFI IMAX
Black Narcissus Sat 30 Dec 14:30 BFI IMAX
Honeymoon (Luna de miel) Thu 28 Dec 20:40

With thanks to



The Red Shoes: Beyond the Mirror
 Our new BFI Southbank exhibition immerses you in Powell and Pressburger's *The Red Shoes*. From 10 November to 7 January. Blue Room

BECOME A BFI MEMBER

Enjoy a great package of film benefits including priority booking at BFI Southbank and BFI Festivals. Join today at bfi.org.uk/join

SIGHT AND SOUND

Never miss an issue with **Sight and Sound**, the BFI's internationally renowned film magazine. Subscribe from just £25*

* Price based on a 6-month print subscription (UK only). More info: sightandsoundsubs.bfi.org.uk



BFI PLAYER

We are always open online on BFI Player where you can watch the best new, cult & classic cinema on demand. Showcasing hand-picked landmark British and independent titles, films are available to watch in three distinct ways: Subscription, Rentals & Free to view.

See something different today on player.bfi.org.uk

BFI SOUTHBANK

Welcome to the home of great film and TV, with three cinemas and a studio, a world-class library, regular exhibitions and a pioneering Mediatheque with 1000s of free titles for you to explore. Browse special-edition merchandise in the BFI Shop. We're also pleased to offer you a unique new space, the BFI Riverfront – with unrivalled riverside views of Waterloo Bridge and beyond, a delicious seasonal menu, plus a stylish balcony bar for cocktails or special events. Come and enjoy a pre-cinema dinner or a drink on the balcony as the sun goes down.

Dr Kulraj Phullar is a Film Studies scholar based in London. His areas of interest include classic Hollywood and film noir, British colonial and diasporic cinemas, and popular Indian cinemas.

He has taught at several universities and film schools, and currently works at MetFilm School in Ealing and as a guest tutor on the Film Studies, Programming and Curating MA at the National Film and Television School.

LONDON SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

The Short Films of Cartoon Saloon + Q&A with Cartoon Saloon's Nora Twomey, Tomm Moore and Paul Young
 Sat 20 Jan 11:30
My Eye Is My Ear
 Sat 20 Jan 13:50
LSFF Competition: This Must Be the Place
 Sat 20 Jan 20:45
LSFF Competition: There Are New Suns
 Wed 24 Jan 20:30
LSFF Competition: Growing Up in Public
 Thu 25 Jan 20:45
British Short Films on Film
 Fri 26 Jan 18:15
LSFF Competition: A Trick of the Light
 Sat 27 Jan 20:40

REGULAR PROGRAMME

Seniors' Free Matinee: Sunset Boulevard + intro
 Mon 8 Jan 14:00
Art in the Making: Fields of the Senses + intro by Steven Foxon, Curator of Non-Fiction, BFI National Archive
 Tue 9 Jan 18:30
Projecting the Archive: The Street Singer aka Interval for Romance + intro by writer Ming Ho
 Tue 16 Jan 18:20
African Odyssey: West Indies + intro by archivist Annabelle Aventurin + Q&A with film programmer Abiba Coulibaly, Jonathan Ali of The Twelve30 Collective and filmmaker, curator and DJ, Rabz Lansiquot
 Sat 20 Jan 16:30
Experimenta: Do It Yourself: Women Artist Filmmakers and Punk + Christine Binnie, Anne Robinson and Jill Westwood in conversation with Rachel Garfield
 Wed 24 Jan 18:15
Silent Cinema: Lady Windermere's Fan + intro by Bryony Dixon, BFI National Archive curator
 Sun 28 Jan 15:20
Relaxed Screening: The Enigma of Kaspar Hauser Jeder für sich und Gott gegen alle + intro & discussion
 Mon 29 Jan 18:20
Restored: Spellbound
 Tue 30 Jan 18:00

SCALA: SEX, DRUGS AND ROCK AND ROLL CINEMA

Basket Case Mon 1 Jan 15:20; Thu 25 Jan 20:40
Pink Flamingos
 Mon 1 Jan 18:20; Fri 19 Jan 18:20; Fri 26 Jan 20:50 (+ intro by Mark Moore and Tasty Tim)
Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill!
 Tue 2 Jan 18:20; Thu 18 Jan 21:00 (+ intro by film scholar and writer Virginie Selavy)
Taxi zum Klo Wed 3 Jan 20:50; Mon 8 Jan 20:40 (+ intro by Vic Roberts, Scala usher)
The Warriors
 Sat 6 Jan 18:15; Sun 14 Jan 12:00; Wed 17 Jan 20:55 (+ intro by SCALA!!! co-director Ali Catterall)
Thundercrack! Sat 6 Jan 20:00; Sun 14 Jan 14:10
The Evil Dead
 Fri 5 Jan 20:45 (+ intro by Graham Humphreys, freelance illustrator and designer of the original UK marketing for *The Evil Dead*); Tue 30 Jan 18:10
Salo, or the 120 Days of Sodom Salò o le 120 giornate di Sodoma
 Tue 9 Jan 20:35 (+ intro by season curator Jason Wood, BFI Executive Director of Public Programmes & Audiences); Tue 23 Jan 18:10
Sight and Sound Presents: Scala Spirit 1993-2023 Thu 11 Jan 18:20
Shivers Thu 11 Jan 21:00; Sun 21 Jan 15:20
Pee-wee's Big Adventure
 Fri 12 Jan 18:10 (+ intro by Ben Roberts, BFI CEO); Wed 31 Jan 18:20
Pink Narcissus + Un chant d'amour
 Fri 12 Jan 20:40; Thu 25 Jan 18:20
The Saint: Teresa + intro by Dick Fiddy, Archive TV Programmer + **The Avengers: A Touch of Brimstone** Sat 13 Jan 14:30
Looking for Mr Goodbar + Dick
 Sat 13 Jan 17:45 (+ intro by season curator Jane Giles); Mon 22 Jan 20:10
The Thing Sat 13 Jan 20:40; Mon 29 Jan 20:45
The Beast La Bête
 Tue 16 Jan 20:45; Tue 23 Jan 20:50
Surprise Film + intro by season curator Jane Giles Sat 20 Jan 17:10
A Clockwork Orange
 Sun 21 Jan 18:00; Wed 31 Jan 20:25
Shock, Horror! The Scala All-nighter: An American Werewolf in London; The Creature from the Black Lagoon – 3D; Videodrome; The Incredible Shrinking Man; Nightmare on Elm Street Sat 27 Jan 22:30 BFI IMAX