

DEREK

Press release

***Derek* a new film by Isaac Julien about the life of Derek Jarman has been selected for Sundance and Berlin film festivals and will form the centrepiece of major exhibition at the Serpentine Gallery**

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Derek is a timely re-appraisal of Jarman's life and work and will form part of a Jarman season to include:

- ***Derek***, a new film about the artist featuring Tilda Swinton, directed by Julien has been selected for the World Cinema Competition: Documentary at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival and for the 2008 Berlin Film Festival
- The premiere at the Serpentine, and on More4, of ***Derek***
- The launch of the Jarman Award for artist film-makers, presented by Film London and More4 in partnership with the Serpentine Gallery
- A season of Jarman films on More4 and a series of related screenings at City Screens cinemas, London.

Derek is a unique collaboration between Tilda Swinton and Isaac Julien, in which British artist and filmmaker Derek Jarman is remembered and celebrated. ***Derek*** is a film of Jarman's life, as well as the story of England from the 1960s to the early 1990s. At its centre is a day-long interview Jarman recorded in 1990 with film producer and author Colin MacCabe. A message in a bottle, it surveys Jarman's life from the point of view of his death. Tilda Swinton is the film's narrator, reading a letter she wrote to Jarman a decade after his death. Clips of Jarman's feature-length and Super-8 films are juxtaposed with news and current affairs footage of the times that his life illuminated, from sixties swinging London through to Thatcherite nationalism of the eighties and its repression of difference.

From *Sebastiane* (1976) to *Blue* (1992), Derek Jarman's films constantly interrogated time and art, and epitomised his own era. He was a painter, part of that moment that made sixties London a capital of the art world. He was a filmmaker, perhaps the single most crucial figure of British independent cinema through the seventies, eighties and nineties. He lived as a gay man surfing the joys of Gay Liberation and the sorrows of Aids. He lived as a participant observer, noting with pen or camera all that passed before him - from punk to Thatcher, from Hampstead Heath cruising to film premiere.

Influenced by him as a friend and co-conspirator, Isaac Julien is a central part of Jarman's legacy. His film, ***Derek***, is at the same time the dream of a lost past and a demonstration of the immediacy of Jarman's work and example. Jarman left a startlingly original legacy, seemingly part of every significant artistic movement of his time, he epitomised what Jordan, a character from *Jubilee* says: 'Don't dream it, be it'.

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Notes to editors:

Isaac Julien

Isaac Julien is one of Britain's foremost artists, as equally acclaimed for his fluent and arresting single-screen films as his vibrant and inventive gallery installations. Moving deftly between filmworld and artworld, Julien remains one of the most original voices on the contemporary art scene. Julien came to prominence in the film world with his 1989 drama-documentary *Looking for Langston*, gaining a cult following with this poetic exploration of Langston Hughes and the Harlem Renaissance. This following was expanded in 1991 when his film *Young Soul Rebels* won the *Semaine de la Critique* prize for best film at the Cannes Film Festival. He was nominated for the Turner Prize in 2001 and was the recipient of both the prestigious MIT Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts (2001) and the Frameline Lifetime Achievement Award (2002). His work *Paradise Omeros* was presented as part of Documenta XI in Kassel (2002). He won the Grand Jury Prize at the Kunst filmBiennale in Cologne (2003) for his single screen version of *Baltimore*, and the 2005 Aurora Award. His widely acclaimed documentary film, *Baadasssss Cinema* was made in 2002. Julien was a jury member at the 1992 Sundance Film Festival and the 2007 Rotterdam International Film Festival. He has had solo shows at the Pompidou Centre in Paris (2005), MoCA Miami (2005), the Kestner Gesellschaft, Hanover (2006) and Metro Pictures New York (2007). Julien is represented in the Tate Modern, Centre Pompidou, Guggenheim and Hirshhorn Collections.

Derek

Directed by Isaac Julien, produced by Colin MacCabe & Eliza Mellor, executive producers James Mackay, Tilda Swinton and Isaac Julien. For Film London, Chief Executive Adrian Wootton, Head of Production Maggie Ellis, Project Manager Rose Cupit. Supported by Channel 4, Film London, Museum of Modern Art's Fund for the Twenty-First Century, Sundance Documentary Film Fund and Serpentine Gallery.

'Derek'

UK 76 mins colour

To be transmitted on More4 Tuesday 19 February 2008.

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INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PUBLICITY

SUNDANCE 2008

Office – from 1/16/08 – 1/26/08

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Or visit www.derekthemovie.com

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The Derek Jarman Season

This Derek Jarman season is a timely re-appraisal of Jarman's work and will include the premiere at the Serpentine and on More4 of Julien's film about the artist, *Derek* (shortlisted for International competition at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival and selected for the 2008 Berlin Film Festival); the launch of the Jarman Award for artist-film-makers presented by Film London and More4 in partnership with the Serpentine Gallery; a season of Jarman films on More4 and a series of related screenings at the Gate Cinema, London.

Jarman Exhibition - Serpentine Gallery, London

The Serpentine exhibition, curated by Isaac Julien, will highlight Jarman's work in film and painting, including his pioneering presentation of the moving image within the gallery context. The exhibition is conceived as an immersive environment and will feature several never-before-seen examples of Jarman's early experiments on Super-8 film from the James Mackay collection, an installation of his 1993 film *Blue*, as well as a selection of his paintings. Julien will also make an installation of photographic light boxes for the exhibition, documenting Jarman's cottage and garden in Dungeness.

Derek Jarman curated by Isaac Julien
Serpentine Gallery
23 February – 13 April 2008, 10 am – 10 pm daily, admission free
Kensington Gardens, London W2

Launch of Jarman Award

Celebrating the spirit of experimentation, imagination and inspiration in the work of UK artist filmmakers, the Jarman Award recognises individuals whose risk-taking work resists boundaries and conventional definition – work that encompasses innovation, excellence and vision. The award will shine a light on those artist-filmmakers who could be to our times what Jarman was to his.

The winning artist will receive £20,000, co-sponsored by Film London and More4, along with a commission for four short films to be aired in Autumn 2008 on Channel 4 in its '3 Minute Wonder' slots.