



Press release

Łódź, 13.06.2018

**Sally Potter, the special guest of Transatlantyk Festival (Łódź, Poland) to receive during the festival the special “FIPRESCI 93 Platinum Award”.**

**The festival will present her films in the Close up section.**

**Sally Potter is the British** film director considered to be one of the most significant contemporary filmmakers. Since making her first 8mm film at the age of fourteen, she has written and directed several feature films, as well as many short films, a television series, and even directed an opera. Debuted with her first feature film, an experimental drama *The Gold Diggers* (1983) then directed *Orlando* (1992), bold adaptation of Virginia Woolf's classic novel, that won numerous awards and brought Potter's work to a wide international audience. It was followed by *The Tango Lesson* (1996), *The Man Who Cried* (2000), *Yes* (2004), *Rage* (2009) and *Ginger and Rosa* (2012) and *The Party* (2017).

**Sally Potter joins an exclusive group of film creators honored with the special FIPRESCI award – The International Federation of Film Critics (*Fédération Internationale de la Presse Cinématographique*). The director will receive a “FIPRESCI 93” statuette during the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of Transatlantyk Festival, held in Łódź on July 13 - 20.**

The “FIPRESCI 90+” award celebrates over ten decades of the Federation's activities, emphasizing the role and importance of film criticism. Founded in 1925, FIPRESCI is

currently the key prestigious organization that brings together film critics from all around the world.

– *We asked filmmakers who were important for us to celebrate with us, and to accept a special prize, the “FIPRESCI 90+ Award” - says Klaus Eder, the General Secretary of the International Federation of Film Critics. – The special “FIPRESCI 90+ Award” was so far awarded to Jean-Jacques Annaud, Costa-Gavras, Nanni Moretti, Alan Parker, Goran Paskaljević, Edgar Reitz, Ettore Scola, Béla Tarr, Margarethe von Trotta, Andrzej Wajda and last year during Transatlantyk Festival Lucrecia Martel– directors with whose work and conception of cinema we feel particularly connected. This year at Transatlantyk Festival, in Lodz, Sally Potter honors us, by accepting our “FIPRESCI 93 Award”.*

Sally Potter is undoubtedly one of the most exceptional contemporary female film directors. Formally flexible, intellectually rich and emotionally astute, Sally Potter's cinema works consistently to expand and adapt the film medium, and to make its viewers become "part of the transformation." It is a cinema in which the heroine of an opera can rise again to critically investigate her tragic fate (*Thriller*); in which a screen icon belatedly challenges her own commodification and objectification (*The Gold Diggers*); in which a blocked filmmaker re-energizes herself through dance (*The Tango Lesson*); in which contemporary lovers converse in verse (*Yes*); in which a boy's behind-the-scenes research project, posted online, inspires its audience to action (*Rage*); in which a man "becomes a woman" (*Orlando*). It is a cinema that seeks to remind viewers of their potential, challenging what its creator has called "the cultural discouragement at large." An anti-despair cinema.

– *I'm so happy that Sally Potter will be this year's guest of Transatlantyk – says Jan A.P. Kaczmarek, an Oscar-winning composer and the Director of the Festival. I have always admired the independence of her work, along with its interwoven engagement with image, dance and music. – It is also a great honor for our Festival to have been chosen by the Federation to be within the exclusive circle of film festivals, where FIPRESCI 90+ jubilee awards are presented. Truly, we couldn't have hoped for a more adequate context for this year's edition of the Festival.*

During Transatlantyk Festival the audience will get a chance to watch five feature films directed by Sally Potter: *Orlando*, *The Tango Lesson*, *Yes*, *Ginger & Rosa* and *The Party*.

## ABOUT FESTIVAL

The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of Transatlantyk – a festival of film and music – will be held on June 13-20 in Lodz, Poland. Over 300 feature films and documentaries from around the globe will be screened during the Festival. The main theme of this year's edition is the **Independence now**. The programme will feature international films with over 50 Polish premieres presented in the NEW CINEMA section will compete for the **Transatlantyk Distribution Award**. There will be four close ups on the directors: retrospective of 'the godfather of Romanian new wave – Lucian Pintile, who passed away in May this year will be a tribute to his work, the Close up on the master of Polish Cinema – Andrzej Baranski; the mini-retrospective of Milos Forman, to honour the great director. Transatlantyk Festival organises the only in Poland **Culinary Cinema**, with amazing programme created in cooperation with Berlin International Film Festival. The outdoor **Cinema in Bed**, labelled by BuzzFeed one of the 10 most wonderful cinemas in the world, awaits as well! Once more, two prestigious composition contests will take place: **Transatlantyk Instant Composition Contest™** and **Transatlantyk Film Music Competition™**, which every year attract young film scores' composers from around the globe.

Festival Accreditations granting entrance to the majority of events during the Festival can already be purchased via our website: [www.transatlantyk.org](http://www.transatlantyk.org). The tickets for single screenings, special events, and promotional packages will be available for purchase starting with July 3rd.

## LODZ, THE CITY OF FILM

For many years, Lodz has been considered the capital city of Polish cinema. It is the home of famous Lodz Film School – one of the oldest film schools in the world, founded in 1948, known for its graduates: Krzysztof Kieślowski, Roman Polański, Jerzy Skolimowski, Krzysztof Zanussi, and Andrzej Wajda – whose Oscar-nominated *The Promised Land* as well as his final work *Afterimage* (2016) were shot right here, in Lodz. For almost 70 years, Lodz Film School has been educating the next generations of film directors, cinematographers, and other film professionals, who win prestigious prizes and awards in Poland and abroad on a regular basis. Every year, the extraordinary and unique atmosphere of the city attracts filmmakers, film lovers, and tourists. Lodz offers all film lovers Poland's only Museum of Cinematography, devoted to the art of photography, media, and to famous Polish blockbusters. The city, with its characteristic post-industrial landscape, spectacular manufacturers' palaces, and picturesque Art Nouveau tenement houses, is not only a priceless source of inspiration for filmmakers, but also a paradise for producers. So far, almost 200 films and tv series were shot in Lodz. Every year, over a dozen of new productions are set in the city, with film crews spending in Lodz, on average, 150 shooting days. Last year the city

of Lodz joined the exclusive network of the UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES in the field of FILM.

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