

Edinburgh International Film Festival and We Are Parable announce Special Partnership screening of Black Bear's transformative new film *Sing Sing* from director Greg Kwedar and starring Colman Domingo



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Based on a remarkable true story, the highly acclaimed drama will have its European premiere on Friday 16 August at the festival

The relaunched Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF), Black Bear and award-winning film exhibition company We Are Parable have today announced a special partnership screening for the European premiere of Greg Kwedar's unforgettable prison drama *Sing Sing*.

In *Sing Sing*, a small group of incarcerated people inside the infamous maximum security correctional facility find purpose by acting together in a theatre group. When a wary outsider joins the group, the men decide to stage their first original comedy entitled 'Breakin' The Mummy's Code' from inception to opening night.

Sing Sing stars Academy Award nominee Colman Domingo (*Rustin*, *Euphoria*), newcomer Clarence Maclin, Academy Award nominee Paul Raci, and an unforgettable ensemble cast of formerly incarcerated actors in a stirring true story of resilience, humanity, and the transformative power of art.

We Are Parable will present screenings of the film at EIFF with extended intros, talent Q&As and audience outreach. The European premiere of *Sing Sing* will screen at EIFF on 16 August at the Cameo cinema and will be released by Black Bear, who also produced the film, in the UK and Ireland on 30 August. The film will be released by A24 in the US on 12 July. The full EIFF programme will launch on Wednesday 10 July at 5pm, with tickets going on sale on Thursday 11 July at 12 noon.

EIFF has recently announced that its early-evening Opening Night film will be Nora Fingscheidt's (*System Crasher*) adaptation of Amy Liptrot's best-selling memoir, *The Outrun*, starring Saoirse Ronan (*Ladybird*, *Brooklyn*). Alongside this, EIFF has announced the name of its short film competition as *The Thelma Schoonmaker Prize for Short Filmmaking Excellence*. Thelma Schoonmaker, who will be in attendance at the Festival, is celebrated for her iconic work as an editor on landmark moments in cinema history, collaborating on such films as *Killers of the Flower Moon* and *Goodfellas*.

This year's 77th edition of the Festival honours the film festival's history, showcasing the very best talent in filmmaking in a format rooted in a local Scottish context whilst embracing the international diversity of creative expression. EIFF encourages general audiences, film fans and industry professionals to make the trip this summer to Edinburgh.

EIFF Director, Paul Ridd has said: "I am fortunate enough to have seen firsthand the incredible work Anthony and Teanne have been doing with We Are Parable these past years across audience engagement and distribution in the UK. Their tireless work and profound passion for cinema and growing audiences for it is a source of immense inspiration and I am just totally delighted we get to work with them and Black Bear on the European premiere of the extraordinarily moving film *Sing Sing* from filmmaker Greg Kwedar in August."

We Are Parable Co-Founders, Anthony Andrews & Teanne Andrews have said: *“We’re honoured to present the European premiere of Sing Sing at the Edinburgh International Film Festival. This new partnership with the festival and Black Bear reflects our dedication to transformative stories that resonate with audiences around the UK.”*

UK Managing Director Black Bear, Llewellyn Radley has said: *“Sing Sing tells a powerful, emotional story in a wholly original way, with wonderful performances from a cast that includes many formerly incarcerated actors, alongside professionals, Colman Domingo and Paul Raci. We’re thrilled to partner with the Edinburgh International Film Festival and We Are Parable to share this special film with UK audiences.”*

From August 15 to August 21 2024, the 77th edition of EIFF will take place at unique venues in Edinburgh, including Summerhall and the historic Cameo cinema, allowing audiences to seamlessly experience the best of the Fringe along with the world-class programme of cinema at EIFF. Submissions to EIFF have now closed with more information available at www.edfilmfest.org.

Helmed by Festival Director Paul Ridd and Festival Producer Emma Boa, the team aims to create a world-class showcase for independent film and filmmaking talent. Former Acquisitions Executive Ridd is supported by an expanding Board, including Chair Andrew Macdonald of DNA Films, producer of the iconic Edinburgh-based film Trainspotting; Peter Rice, former Chairman of General Entertainment at Disney and President of 21st Century Fox; and Amy Jackson, producer of last year’s BAFTA award-winning indie, Aftersun. EIFF 2024 is supported by Screen Scotland.

The EIFF programme launches on Wednesday 10 July at 5pm, with tickets on sale at 12 noon on Thursday 11 July.

Sing Sing images courtesy of Black Bear available [here](#)
[Watch the *Sing Sing* trailer](#)

Commenting on her appointment, Venditti said: *“My first encounter with Royal Northern Sinfonia in November 2022 was very positive; the musicians are fantastic, so open to experiment and quick to respond. When I met them again in May, it was a blast, both on stage and with the audience. I felt we all connected at an amazingly deep level. I am very much looking forward to collaborating with them again soon.”*

James Thomas Director, Royal Northern Sinfonia & Classical Programme said:

“It’s been a joy to work with Dinis and Maria on our 2024/25 season, my second full season as Director of our exceptional orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia. It’s a season packed with musical highs and exceptional artists – something the North East of England can be truly proud of. It also marks the next chapter with Dinis Sousa as Principal Conductor and Maria Włoszczowska as Artistic Partner and I’m so pleased to welcome Nil Venditti to our musical family as Principal Guest Conductor. Over 50% of the orchestras work takes place across the wider region and we’re looking forward to welcoming audiences in Gateshead and beyond.”

Visiting artists and orchestras

This year Royal Northern Sinfonia and The Glasshouse will welcome great musical friends to build a year of concerts that reflect the brilliance of classical music. These include John Wilson’s Sinfonia of London with Sheku Kanneh-Mason; singers Sarah Connolly, Willard White, Veronique Gens, Roderick Williams, Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha; pianists including Víkingur Ólafsson and Kristian Bezuidenhout; the BBC Philharmonic, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, The Hallé and The Philip Glass Ensemble; Opera North in a concert performance of Simon Boccanegra; and conductors Sofi Jeannin and Ricardo Minasi alongside new Principal Guest Conductor Nil Venditti.

Share the Stage: A Child of Our Time

Building on the success of the 2021 community performance of Verdi’s Requiem – ‘The People’s Requiem’ – the orchestra presents the next in its ‘Share the Stage’ series, this time around Tippett’s deeply moving *A Child of Our Time* - a plea for forgiveness and peace in a time of disharmony.

This is a huge invitation for non-professional musicians from across the North East to work with Dinis Sousa, Royal Northern Sinfonia and RNS Chorus over a period of months in one of the biggest performing groups the region will have ever seen. A joyful celebration of the power and humanity of music.

Composer anniversaries and new projects

This year of concerts celebrate two major figures of classical music, Ravel and Schoenberg, both celebrating landmark anniversaries this season.

Ravel’s 150th is celebrated through his symphonic music by the BBC Philharmonic and pianist Bertrand Chamayou; his masterworks for chamber forces including Mother Goose by Royal Northern Sinfonia; an ensemble concert led by Artistic Partner Maria Włoszczowska; and a new music and digital collaboration with the new media arts collective Mediale.

Schoenberg 150th is the focus of two concerts celebrating the century-defining composer, including the brilliantly theatrical *Pierrot lunaire* and the movingly, poetic *Verklärte Nacht*, both directed by Włoszczowska.

Celebrating composers who have altered our musical universe forever, a new series of contemporary music features György Ligeti, John Cage, Pauline Oliveros, Nico Muhly and a the world premiere of a new commission from Heloise Werner.

A stellar line-up of some of the world’s greatest pianists align in a celebration of the dramatic and versatile instrument, including: Kristian Bezuidenhout, Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, David Fray, Stephen Hough, Víkingur Ólafsson, Bertrand Chamayou, Elisabeth Leonskaja, Francesco Piemontesi, Piotr Anderszewski, Steven Osborne, Alasdair Beatson, Boris Giltburg, Jean-Efflam Bavouzet, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Benjamin Grosvenor and the winner of the Leeds International Piano Competition here the day after the competition, appearing with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.