



DVD press release

The Angelic Conversation

A film by Derek Jarman

On 29 January, the BFI releases Derek Jarman's **Caravaggio** (1986), **Wittgenstein** (1993) and **The Angelic Conversation** (1985), all digitally restored and re-mastered for DVD and each with extensive and illuminating extra features.

The films were made with the BFI Production Board, whose aim was to foster innovation in British filmmaking, thus providing a natural home for Jarman's artistic sensibility. These three films represent highpoints in his career and are perhaps the most enduring in their appeal and relevance to contemporary audiences.

Intense, dreamlike, and poetic, **The Angelic Conversation** is one of the most artistic of Derek Jarman's films. With his painter's eye, Jarman conjured, in a beautiful palette of light, colour and texture, an evocative and radical visualisation of Shakespeare's love poems.

Of the 154 sonnets written by Shakespeare, most were written to an unnamed young man, commonly referred to as the Fair Youth. Here, Judi Dench's emotive readings of 14 sonnets are coupled with ethereal sequences; figures on seashores, by streams and in colourful gardens. The disruption of these magical scenes with images of barren and threatening landscapes echoes perfectly the celebration and torment of love explored in the sonnets.

Shot on Super-8 before being transferred to 35mm film, the unique technical approach results in a striking aesthetic, with Coil's languorous soundtrack completing the intoxicating effect.

Extras

- Specially commissioned interviews with producer James Mackay and production designer Christopher Hobbs
- **Derek Jarman in conversation with Simon Field** (1989, 32 mins)
- Stills gallery
- 20-page illustrated booklet including introductory essay by Colin MacCabe, Tilda Swinton's testimonial letter to Derek Jarman and photographs taken during the making of the film

Release date: 29 January 2007

RRP £19.99 / cat. no. BFIVD724 / cert PG
UK / 1985 / colour / 78 mins / ratio 1.33:1

This disc contains optional subtitles for the hearing-impaired on all items
BFI DVDs are available from all good retailers, by mail order from 0845 458 9910
or online at www.bfi.org.uk/video

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