



## DVD press release

# Wittgenstein

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 remastered 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.

Philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein once stated that philosophy ought to be written as if it were poetry, and a poetic intensity typified his life and his work. No wonder, then, that a creative talent such as Derek Jarman should respond with such characteristic energy to a commission from Channel 4 for a film about the philosopher, written by radical literary theorist Terry Eagleton.

**Wittgenstein** is a bold offbeat biography, personalised in Jarman's unique style to address the politics and sexuality of the great but troubled man. The result is no dry treatise, but a treat for eyes and mind alike.

Exceeding the limitations of its miniscule budget, **Wittgenstein** is full of arresting visuals and bold performances from Tilda Swinton, Michael Gough, and Karl Johnson, who brilliantly captures Wittgenstein in all his torment and drama. It was to be Jarman's penultimate film, and is infused with the sense of artistic adventure, intelligence and playfulness that characterised his life and work.

### Extras

- Specially commissioned interviews with Tilda Swinton, Karl Johnson, and producer Tariq Ali
- Extensive behind-the-scenes footage showing Derek Jarman at work on set
- Filmed introduction by film historian Ian Christie
- **The Clearing** (Alexis Bistikas, 1994, 7 mins), a short film featuring Derek Jarman
- 18-page illustrated booklet including introductory essay by Colin MacCabe and interview with award-winning costume designer Sandy Powell

**Release date: 29 January 2007**

RRP £19.99 / cat. no. BFIVD725 / cert 12

UK / 1993 / colour / 69 mins / ratio 1.66:1 (16x9 anamorphic)

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](http://www.bfi.org.uk/video)

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