



PRESS RELEASE

07/07

NFT Programme Highlights 1-11 March 2007

STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS

There are just a few weeks to go before the rejuvenation work at the NFT is completed and on **14th March** we celebrate the opening of **BFI Southbank** with a whole new programme of contemporary and classic cinema and events, including a range of exciting new and free facilities for the exploration of the moving image. Before that, audiences can revel in a short programme that runs from 1 to 11 March, with film seasons and events to please everyone.

PROGRAMME:

- **Out of the Shadows: 50 Cinematic Masterpieces**
Our season of some of the most innovative films ever made continues, in 'an alternative top 50' that challenges the value of recent polls
- **Peter Whitehead**
The counter-culture on film: a career retrospective (including an onstage interview) of a documentarist who captured the zeitgeist of the 60s
- **Jessie Matthews**
A centenary tribute to the high-kicking, saucer-eyed 'Dancing Divinity' – one of Britain's greatest ever film stars
- **Extended Run**
Los Olvidados (1950), **Luis Buñuel's** savage Mexican masterpiece, now magnificently restored
- **Extended Run**
A digital restoration of **South Pacific** (1958), Rodgers and Hammerstein seminal musical
- **Previews, interviews, events & learning**
 - **Birds Eye View Film Festival: International Women's Day Gala**
 - **Peter Whitehead in Conversation**
 - **The Flipside: Great Snakes, Snowy! It's Tintin Night!**

Out of the Shadows: 50 Cinematic Masterpieces

We present the second part of our season of some of the most innovative films ever made in an 'alternative top 50' that seeks to provide a more up-to-date and open-minded account of the art of film than may be found in more conventional polls and 'all-time-best' lists.

In ***Au hasard, Balthazar*** (1966), director **Robert Bresson** reveals his dislike of theatrical acting with a dryly ironic yet deeply moving account of the kindness and cruelty of mankind as witnessed through the eyes of a donkey that passes between different owners. ***Persona*** (1966), starring **Liv Ullmann** and **Bibi Andersson** and directed by **Ingmar Bergman**, explores the symbiotic relationship between a disturbed actress and her nurse. Another study of the complexities of human relationships can be seen in **Eric Rohmer's *My Night With Maud*** (1969), a philosophical comedy-drama starring **Jean-Louis Trintignant**. Also in this season, which continues until the end of April, is the renowned avant-garde film ***Wavelength*** (1967) by **Michael Snow**, comprising one continuous slow zoom from a wide view of a room to an extreme close-up of a photograph.

www.bfi.org.uk/outoftheshadows

Peter Whitehead

Peter Whitehead discovered a passion for film-making during his time at the Slade art school and he began to chronicle the youth explosion of the 60s with such works as ***Wholly Communion*** (1965), in which he captures the Albert Hall Poetry Festival of '65, and ***Tonite Let's All Make Love in London*** (1967), an inspiring portrait of swinging London and arguably the best filmed document of the era. In this comprehensive retrospective we include these and other films, including a glimpse of his latest offering, ***Work in Progress: Pete Doherty and The Libertines***. On 7 March Peter Whitehead will appear on stage at the NFT in conversation.

www.bfi.org.uk/whitehead

Extended Run: Los Olvidados

Fri 16 February - Thurs 8 March

From its riveting Oedipal nightmare - 'perhaps the greatest of all movie dream sequences,' said Pauline Kael - to its wrenching final scenes, ***Los Olvidados*** draws the viewer into a reality of its own and never lets go. Set in the slums of Mexico City, the film details several days in the life of Pedro, a young boy of the streets, and his relations with his fellow gang members, his loveless mother, and especially with the charismatic, self-serving gang leader Jaibo, who makes Pedro an unwitting accomplice to murder...

Mexico 1950 Dir Luis Buñuel With Alfonso Mejia, Estela Inda 88 mins
New restoration by the UNAM Film Archive, Mexico. A BFI release

Jessie Matthews

March 2007 marks the centenary of the birth of **Jessie Matthews**, and the NFT celebrates with a season of her finest films. Jessie Matthews was Britain's most successful actress during the 1930s and the country's only genuine pre-war superstar, attracting legions of fans across the world. She made her stage debut in 1917 before swapping the chorus line for the silver screen in 1923. This season provides a rare opportunity to see Matthews' more notable film appearances such as **There Goes The Bride** (1932) and the five films she made with director **Victor Saville**, including **The Good Companions** (1933) and the classic **Evergreen** (1934).

Despite her fame and many offers, Matthews never made the transfer to Hollywood. She remained in the UK throughout the 40s making films such as **Candles at Nine** (1944), a rarely-seen cult thriller, and **Victory Wedding** (1944), an accomplished wartime short starring **John Mills** and **Dulcie Gray** and which Matthews herself directed. Her popularity declined in the post-war years and it wasn't until 1958 that she appeared again on the big screen in **tom thumb** (1958). This season is made complete with a compilation of television programmes, including the documentary **Catch a Fallen Star** (BBC 1987) and excerpts from other programmes.

www.bfi.org.uk/matthews

Extended Run: South Pacific

Fri 2 - Sun 11 March

A brief re-release for Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic musical, digitally restored from the original Todd-AO negative with full six-track magnetic sound. A captivating tale of interracial love set on a Pacific island during the Second World War, it features such memorable songs as 'There Is Nothin' Like a Dame', 'Some Enchanted Evening' and – highlighting the problem of racism – 'You've Got to Be Carefully Taught'.

USA 1958 Dir Joshua Logan With Mitzi Gaynor, Rossano Brazzi, John Kerr 150 mins J-Cert U Digital

Previews, interviews, events & learning:

Birds Eye View Film Festival Opening Night: International Women's Day Gala

Thu 8 Mar 8.45 NFT1

Birds Eye View open their annual film festival with the hottest female film-making talent from around the globe, with live music from Mercury Prize-nominated jazz pianist Zoe Rahman, and an Action Aid programme of films made by women from developing countries. Plus a celebrity host and a party in the NFT Film Café.

The festival continues at the ICA www.birds-eye-view.co.uk Tickets £12.50, concs £9.25 (members pay £1 less)

Peter Whitehead in Conversation

Wed 7 Mar 8.45 NFT1

The foremost counter-culture chronicler of the 60s and pioneer of the participant-observer style of documentary filmmaking, will be welcomed to the NFT stage.

Joint ticket available (Wed 7 Mar only) with The Fall £12.50, concs £9.25 (members pay £1 less)

The Flipside

The Flipside is a new NFT initiative with the mission to seek out film and TV that is weird, wonderful, offbeat, and rare. From the trashy to the terrific, it combines main features with way-out extras, in search of strange worlds of cinematic experience.

Great Snakes, Snowy! It's Tintin Night!

Mon 5 Mar 6.30 NFT2

To mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Hergé (Georges Remi), creator of Tintin, The Flipside celebrates the world's most famous quiff-haired comic-strip reporter. Here's your chance to see the ultra-rare English language version of the bizarre live-action **Tintin and the Golden Treasure** (*Tintin et le mystère de la toison d'or*; France 1961; dir Jean-Jacques Vierne). Plus further Tintin treats!

Introduced by Vic Pratt and William Fowler, Curators at the BFI National Archive.

Total c180 mins + interval Tickets £12.50, concs £9.25 (members pay £1 less)

Press contacts: Colette Geraghty, Ian Cuthbert or Ilona Cheshire

Tel: 020 7957 8919 / 8918 / 8986 or email: firstname.lastname@bfi.org.uk

Booking information

The NFT is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets.

NFT Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £8.60, concs. £6.25. Members pay £1 less on any ticket. Website www.bfi.org.uk/nft

Notes to Editors

Please note that as of 14th March 2007 the NFT will be known as BFI Southbank. Please direct all listings information to the new venue's name.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

***** PICTURE DESK ALERT *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting National Film Theatre screenings can be found at www.image.net under British Film Institute / NFT / March 1-11 2007

If further images are required contact BFI Stills, Posters & Designs.

For information and prices e-mail stills.films@bfi.org.uk or phone 020 7957 4797