



BFI Southbank Programme Highlights May 2007

- **Roberto Rossellini Part 1**
The first part of a major retrospective of films by this Italian maestro, plus an on-stage Guardian Interview with his daughter, **Isabella Rossellini**
- **Julie Christie**
One of the finest actors of British Cinema is celebrated, including a Special Release of **McCabe & Mrs Miller** by **Robert Altman**
- A BFI Special Release of **Longing**, by **Valeska Grisebach**, one of Germany's brightest new talents
- **Shane Meadows**
A reflection on the career of this unique and talented film-maker
- **The Maysles Brothers**
A season of films by the pioneers of documentary features who revolutionised the non-fiction film world
- **Bill Douglas**
Films by one of Britain's poets of cinema, including his Trilogy, which has been newly restored by the BFI
- **The Sheffield Doc/ Fest**
The best in documentary film and video
- **BFI Mediatheque**
A retrospective of the seminal BBC single-drama-strand **Play for Today**
- **Artists' film and video**
Launch of a five-month season celebrating the history of this art form in Britain
- **Gallery**
Jennifer & Kevin McCoy's exhibition **Tiny, Funny, Big and Sad** continues, and includes the world première of **The Constant World**, commissioned by the **BFI**

Roberto Rossellini Part 1

We commence a major retrospective of films by **Roberto Rossellini** (1906 – 1977) this month, launching with **The Guardian Interview with Isabella Rossellini** on Sunday 6 May, when we will screen a selection of short films featuring her father and mother as well as herself.

Rossellini began his career during WW2 by making films such as **The White Ship** (*La nave Bianca*, 1941), commissioned by the Italian Navy, where he brought to the screen an instinctive flair for documentary-style film-making. **Rome Open City** (*Roma città aperta*, 1945) was the first of his War Trilogy, along with the Oscar nominated **Paisà** (1946) and **Germany Year Zero** (1947), and established him as the leading pioneer of the Italian neo-realist film movement. As Europe crept out of war-torn shadows Rossellini moved into a subtler and more complex form of drama. Titles that followed include **Stromboli** (1950), the first to star his muse, **Ingrid Bergman**; which was greeted with controversy upon its release after the two had fallen in love whilst Bergman was still married. **Europa '51** (aka *No Greater Love*, 1952), **Voyage to Italy** (*Viaggio in Italia*, 1954) and **Fear** (*Angst/ la paura*, 1954) saw the couple's partnership bloom both personally and artistically. The season concludes in June.

www.bfi.org.uk/rossellini



This retrospective has been organised with the collaboration of the **Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia-Cineteca Nazionale** and **Cinecittà Holding**, and the support of the **Istituto Italiano di Cultura**, in conjunction with the **Cinemathèque Ontario** (James Quandt) and the **Museum of Modern Art**, New York (Laurence Kardish).

Julie Christie

During the 60s British cinema enjoyed a boom of film production that was celebrated around the world. One of the most fascinating actors to emerge from and define this era was **Julie Christie**. This month we celebrate her career with a season of films, including a BFI Special Release of **Robert Altman's McCabe & Mrs Miller** (1971). We are also delighted to welcome Christie to the BFI Southbank for a live interview on Tuesday 24 April, screening with her new film **Away from Her** (2006).

It was **John Schlesinger** who cast Julie Christie as the female lead in **Billy Liar** (1963), which gained her wide recognition before her Oscar-winning role in his film **Darling** (1965). When **David Lean** saw her performance he was so impressed by her screen presence that he signed her up to play the tragic Lara in the epic **Doctor Zhivago** (1965), thus establishing her as one of the iconic faces of the decade. Christie went on to play another doomed heroine in Schlesinger's adaptation of **Thomas Hardy's Far from the Madding Crowd** (1967), co-starring with **Terence Stamp**. A career highlight in the 70s was the stunning and achingly sad **Don't Look Now** (1973), by **Nicholas Roeg**. A self-confessed cinephile, Christie's career has slowed down during recent years as she has chosen roles based on her appreciation of 'the art of cinema' and collaborated with directors whom she admires. Titles such as **The Gold Diggers** (1983,) by **Sally Potter**, and

Afterglow (1997), by **Alan Rudolph**, reflect this and prove that her talent remains - she received an Oscar nomination for *Afterglow*.
www.bfi.org.uk/juliechristie

Special Release: *McCabe & Mrs Miller*

Fri 4 – Thu 17 May

One of the late, great **Robert Altman**'s finest films, this is one of the most haunting Westerns ever made (with an appropriate soundtrack from **Leonard Cohen**). In questioning the myths that underpin American society, this poignant drama of pioneer life offers a poetic analysis of the roots of capitalism and violence. It will be screened in a new print.

USA 1971 Dir Robert Altman With Warren Beatty, Julie Christie 121 min New print
Courtesy of Warner Bros

Special Release: *Distant Voices, Still Lives*

Sat 5 – Sat 12 May

The **BFI National Archive** has restored this poignant masterpiece which screens as part of our **Terence Davies** season in April. Using a series of social gatherings drawn from family memories, Davies paints a vivid picture of working-class life for a family in Liverpool during the 40s and 50s.

UK 1988 With Freda Dowie, Pete Postlethwaite, Angela Walsh, Dean Williams, 84 mins
cert 15 A BFI release

www.bfi.org.uk/terencedavies

Special Release: *Longing*

Fri 18 May – Thu 31 May

One of the standout features from last year's Berlin Film Festival. **Valeska Grisebach**'s deceptively modest, first feature charts the confusion when a happily married fireman falls in love with another woman. A film of sharp insights and devastating power.

Germany 2006, Dir Valeska Grisebach With Andreas Muller 88 mins EST A BFI release
Valeska Grisebach will be in conversation following the screening on Fri 18 May 18.10

Shane Meadows

Shane Meadows is one of England's most exciting film-makers. His refreshing and original work tackles difficult issues and portrays the grittier side of life in Britain. To coincide with the release of his latest film, ***This is England*** (2006) - screening on 23 April immediately before a **Guardian Interview** with the director - we celebrate his illustrious career so far.

Meadows learned his craft directing shorts, some of which will screen in this season. He made ***Where's the Money Ronnie?*** (1996) - an amusing crime caper - on the streets of Nottingham, with friends, when he was on the dole. This eventually led to his first feature, ***TwentyFourSeven*** (1997). Starring **Bob Hoskins**, this gritty account of the plight of a group of inner-city teenage boys earned Meadows numerous festival accolades. Other full length work screening in the season includes ***A Room for Romeo Brass*** (1999), and ***Dead Man's Shoes*** (2004), which with its chilling revenge theme has led some critics to hail it as the British equivalent of ***Taxi Driver***.

www.bfi.org.uk/meadows



The Maysles Brothers

Albert and **David Maysles** have enjoyed an enormously successful career, making documentaries with many icons of their generation, including **President John Kennedy**, **The Beatles**, the **Rolling Stones** and **Muhammad Ali**. BFI Southbank pays tribute to them with the most complete retrospective of their work to date, including the brother's rare and previously unseen material.

The New York-based Maysles were among the first to make 'Direct Cinema' and radically changed the format of documentary film-making. **Salesman** (1968) was a landmark film depicting the world of door-to-door Bible salesmen. **Gimme Shelter** (1970) is the legendary chronicle of the Rolling Stones 1969 US tour. The cult classic **Grey Gardens** (1976) follows recluses Edith Bouvier Beale, 79, and her daughter, Edie (cousin of **Jacqueline Onassis**), thriving together amid the decay of their once grand East Hampton Mansion. The season includes a special UK preview of **The Gates** (2007), a project 25 years in the making, about the collaboration between Maysles Films and Christo and Jean-Claude and the unfurling of 23 miles of fabric panels over through Central Park in 2005.

www.bfi.org.uk/maysles



Bill Douglas

BFI Southbank revisits the work of the late **Bill Douglas**, presenting the new restoration by the **BFI National Archive** of his trilogy: **My Childhood** (1972), **Ain Folk** (1973), **My Way Home** (1978) and his critically acclaimed epic **Comrades** (1986). The hugely underrated, and often forgotten, Douglas was one of British cinema's most distinctive auteurs. His trilogy provides a painfully intense picture of a harsh upbringing marked by poverty and isolation.

Mainly set in Newcraighall, the mining village on the outskirts of Edinburgh where Douglas was born in 1937, the trilogy in particular won many international awards, and was hailed as "a true masterpiece of poetic cinema".

www.bfi.org.uk/douglas

Sheffield Doc/fest on Tour

The UK's best known festival of documentary film and video continues its regional tour at the BFI Southbank. Highlights include: **A Crude Awakening: The Oil Crash** (2006), a compelling wake-up call to the inevitable prospect of life without oil; **Mozartballs** (2006), exploring the lives of people who are obsessed with Mozart while Australian/ Palestinian film-maker **Sherine Salama**, documents the final weeks of **Yasser Arafat**'s life in **The Last Days of Yasser Arafat** (2006).

www.bfi.org.uk/sheffield



Events – In person

The Guardian Interview with Isabella Rossellini

Sun 6 May 18:00 NFT1. Tickets £12.50, concs £9.25 (Members pay £1 less)



Preview: The War on Democracy + John Pilger intro

Fri 11 May 18:20 NFT1 Tickets £12.50, concs £9.25, (Members pay £1 less)

Courtesy of Lionsgate

Preview: Lunacy Sileni + Jan Svankmajer in Conversation

Tue 29 May 18:30 NFT1 Tickets £14.75, concs £10.75, (Members pay £1 less)

The Maysles: An Introduction

Fri 11 May 18:40 Studio Tickets £5, concs £4

Expedition Linnaeus Expedition Linné + Foke Rydén Q&A

Tue 22 May 18:30 NFT1. Tickets £8.60, concs £6.25



LINNÆUS 2007

Coming to England + Floella Benjamin

Weds 23 May 17:30 NFT2

Archive classics: Play for Today

Bar Mitzvah Boy

Sat 19 May 14.30

Play for Today Discussion

Sat 19 May 16.30

Destiny

Sat 19 May 18.15

Joint tickets available £19.75, concs £14.50 (all three sessions); £12.50 concs £9.25 (discussion and either screening). (Members pay £1 less).

A History of Artist's Film & Video in Britain

A Hidden History

Tue 15 May 18:20 NFT2

Seth Price: Rejected or Unused

Sat 5 May 18:40 Studio, Fri 11 May 20:50 studio. Tickets £5, concs £4

MODERN ART OXFORD

A Current History

Weds 23 May 18:10 NFT3. Tickets £5, concs £4



Moving images and music

V2: 10th Anniversary

To celebrate their anniversary, V2 - one of the UK's most successful independent record labels - are producing a series of events ranging from public debates to music industry seminars.

Jim White

Thu 10 May 20:45

Mercury Rev / Grasshopper

Thu 24 May 20:45



£8.60, £6.25, concessions (members pay £1 less)

The Flipside - Eccentric England

Join us as we take a strange journey into the bizarre world of the English eccentric with three distinctly odd and rarely screened documentaries.

One Man's Week: Vivian Stanshall

BBC 1975 30min

Dave Allen in Search of the Great English Eccentric

ATV 1974 Dir Robin Brown 52min

The Moon and the Sledgehammer

Fri 25 May 20:10 NFT1

A Night with the Bonzos

Wed 23 May 18:30

£8.60, £6.25, concessions (members pay £1 less)

Special Screenings and Talks:

What is Cinema? – The Art of Memory (Members pay £1.00 less)

Thu 10 May 18:40 Studio Tickets £5, concs £4

The McCoys and the Cinematic Gaze

Thu 24 May 18:50 Studio Tickets £5, concs £4 (Members pay £1.00 less)

The Costume Interpreter: Julie Christie

Thu 24 May 18:50 Tickets £5, concs £4 (Members pay £1.00 less)

Plenty of Time for Play: Cinema Publicity Film in the 30s

Mon 21 May 18:20 NFT2

Beautiful South

Tue 8 May 17:30 & 19:00 Tickets £2 per session, no concs (Members pay £1 less)

HAYWARD GALLERY
SOUTH BANK CENTRE - LONDON

Movie Magic: Especially for kids

The Belles of St Trinian's

Sat 26 May 13:45

St Trinian's Animation Workshop

Flash Gordon

Sat 12 May 13:30

We Shall Overcome (*Drommen*)

Sat 5 May 13:45

Monsters, Inc

Sat 19 May 13.15 NFT3

Screenings for parents, guardians & young children

Parent and Toddler Screening:

Monsters, Inc

Wed 16 May 11.00 NFT2

A Room for Romeo Brass

Wed 30 May 11.00 NFT2

Admission is only for parents or guardians accompanied by a baby/ toddler. Tickets £2 (babies/ toddlers go free).

Highlights from the Mediatheque

A retrospective of the seminal BBC series *Play for Today*, highlights include **The Lie** (1970), **Bar Mitzvah Boy** (1976), **Scum** (1977), **Abigail's Party** (1977) and **Too Late to Talk to Billy** (1982).

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 BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank 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 our venue is now 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 / May 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