



DVD press release

British Artists' Films Ian Breakwell

'Breakwell's was an art of retrieval, absorption and contrariety. His video pieces are subtle enactments of an individual praxis that compel our attention, again and again, to the uneasy comity of lived life.'

Will Self

The third release in the BFI's *British Artists' Films* DVD series features Ian Breakwell (1943-2005), an artist who worked in many different mediums, with the moving image a constant part of his art-making.

Over 30 years of Ian's filmmaking is surveyed. Included are his earliest to-camera readings from his written *Diaries*, *Excerpts From The Diary*, the film *Repertory*, his hilarious parody of broadcast television *The News* and the episodes *Growth* and *The Walking Man* from Annalogue's Channel Four Television series *Ian Breakwell's Continuous Diary*. Also included are two works that reflect his love of the alternative theatre traditions of variety, spectacle and illusion – *Auditorium*, and his brilliant response to a residency at the BFI National Archive, *Variety*.

The DVD also contains *theFrame – Ian Breakwell* (2007, 32 mins) an extensive illustrated interview recorded shortly before his death, and an illustrated 20-page booklet with a fully annotated filmography and a bibliography. The sleeve notes feature a specially commissioned introductory essay by Will Self.

Just ahead of the DVD release, Tate Britain will be holding a study day – *In Profile The Work of Ian Breakwell* (Sat 12 May, 1.30pm – 5.45pm), in collaboration with Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design. Chaired by Paul Bonaventura, it brings together some of the commentators and collaborators who worked with Breakwell to discuss his legacy.

The *British Artists' Films* DVD series is produced in partnership with arts documentary producers Illuminations and Arts Council England. It features a wide selection of important film and video work by British artists from the last thirty years. Previous releases are *William Raban* and *Chris Welsby*.

Release date: 28 May 2007

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UK / 1973-2006 / colour / 127 mins / ratio 1.33:1

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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