



PRESS RELEASE

07/21

June 2007

BFI Southbank Programme Highlights

- **Jan Švankmajer**
A complete retrospective of films by a master of animation, including an exclusive **Special Release** of his new film *Lunacy* (Sileni, 2006)
- **John Cassavetes**
A brand new print of *Opening Night* (1977) will screen as a **Special Release** in a season featuring new prints of films by the pioneer of American independent film-making
- **Cannes At 60**
A selection of prize-winners from **Billy Wilder's** *The Lost Weekend* (1946) and **Volker Schlöndorff's** *The Tin Drum* (1979) to **Quentin Tarantino's** *Pulp Fiction* (1994)
- **Roberto Rossellini - Part II**
The second instalment of our definitive retrospective of films, including many great rarities, from this Italian maestro
- **A Decade of Dance**
The **Bolshoi Ballet**, **Western Theatre Ballet** and **Margaret Dale** are remembered with through screenings from **BBC** television
- **Artists' film and video**
A wild weekend-long programme of new and recent artists' work inspired by Charles Fort's visionary *New Lands*
- In anticipation of the **Mikio Naruse** season in July, the BFI presents a **Special Release** of *When A Woman Ascends the Stairs* (1960)
- **Previews and Events at BFI Southbank**

Jan Švankmajer

This month we invite you into the dark world of **Jan Švankmajer**, the innovative Czech surrealist. He is one of the world's best known and most respected animators, and his work has influenced directors from **Terry Gilliam** to the **Quay Brothers**. This is the first complete season of films by Švankmajer ever screened in the UK, and as a highlight we're delighted to welcome him to the BFI for an on-stage Q&A (Tue 29 May), which will follow a screening of his new film **Lunacy** (*Sileni*, 2006), an exploration of themes from the works of **DeSade** and **Poe**, to screen in a Special Release.

Švankmajer's films have a visceral quality that transcends the usual boundaries of taste, and are often both hilarious and unsettling. Drawing on a tradition of surrealism particular to his native Prague, he uses an extensive array of techniques - including live action, puppet theatre, and drawn animation - to express his distinctive vision of the world. This season showcases his rarely seen shorts, plus familiar titles such as **Alice** (*Neco z Alenky*, 1987), **Faust** (*Lekce Faust*, 1994), and the wickedly funny **Conspirators of Pleasure** (*Spiklenci slasti*, 1996), an account of the more absurd sadomasochistic aspects of human desire.

The season will tour throughout the UK during July to June and the BFI will release **Jan Švankmajer: The Complete Short Films** on DVD, 25 June
www.bfi.org.uk/svankmajer



Special Release: Lunacy (Sileni)

Fri 1 – Thur 14 June

This dark, semi-comic fable tells of a timid youth befriended by a diabolical and deranged Marquis who takes him first to a remote château where blasphemous orgies are common, then to an asylum seemingly run by the inmates. Fear and desire fuel a deeply Freudian narrative that questions traditional notions of sanity and madness. With its live-action drama regularly punctuated by animated interludes, this is a skilful blend of horror film, philosophical speculation and savage satire.

Czech Republic 2006 118 mins EST Courtesy of Illuminations Films
www.bfi.org.uk/lunacy

Special event: Inside the Cabinet of Jan Švankmajer

Wed 13 Jun 18:20 NFT2

The 'cabinet of curiosities' or Wunderkammer has played a major role in Jan Švankmajer's surrealist art, the juxtaposition of its natural, artificial and scientific objects evoking poetic and imaginative connections. Dr Suzanne Buchan leads a panel of artists and researchers into Švankmajer's cabinet to shed new light on the irrational objects of his imagination.

John Cassavetes

John Cassavetes (1929 – 1989) almost single-handedly initiated the first wave of American independent film-making with his improvised debut feature **Shadows** (1959). This month BFI Southbank honours his legacy with new prints of his remarkable films – often self-financed from his work as an actor. Radically

departing from conventional Hollywood narratives, Cassavetes pioneered the verité style of film-making, favouring characterisation and emotional truth over plot and technical polish.

Although *Shadows* initially failed to get distribution in America Cassavetes took the film to Europe, where it screened at festivals to widespread critical acclaim and won the **Critics Award** at **Venice**. In *Faces* (1968) he directed his wife **Gena Rowlands** for the first time; the film chronicles the disintegration of a middle-class marriage and was nominated for three **Academy Awards** including original screenplay. In *A Woman Under the Influence* (1974) Rowlands gives a powerful performance as a mentally unbalanced young wife and mother. Academy Award nominations were for Best Actress and Best Director; it was also Cassavetes' greatest commercial success.

www.bfi.org.uk/cassavetes

Special Release: *Opening Night*

Fri 15 – Thu 28 June

A masterpiece from the 1970s, *Opening Night*, starring **Gena Rowlands**, was the ninth film by writer-director Cassavetes. Fascinatingly multi-layered, *Opening Night* engages the audience on many levels: as a backstage melodrama which takes to extremes the idea that 'the show must go on'; as a profound enquiry into the very nature of acting; as a riveting exploration of the anxiety which attends the ageing process; and as a kind of ghost story.

USA 1977 With Gena Rowlands, Ben Gazzara, John Cassavetes, Joan Blondell, 144min 15

New print. A BFI release.

www.bfi.org.uk/openingnight

Cannes at 60

Cannes has firmly established itself as the leading and most prestigious film festival in the world. Synonymous with premiere screenings and glamour, it remains truly committed to promoting quality titles and sets cinematic trends. To coincide with the Festival's 60th anniversary we will host a season of Cannes prize-winners, reflecting how the festival has shaped cinematic tastes over the decades. Highlights include **Ingmar Bergman's** exquisite *Smiles of a Summer Night* (1955), **Federico Fellini's** iconic *La dolce vita* (1960), **Lindsay Anderson's** *If...* (1968), and *The Mother and the Whore* by **Jean Eustache**. More recent titles include **Jane Campion's** mesmerising film *The Piano* (1993), **Abbas Kiarostami's** intriguing *The Taste of Cherry* (1997) and **Nuri Bilge Ceylan's** superb *Distant* (2003).

www.bfi.org.uk/cannesat60

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Sight & Sound Presents:

Cannes and Film: Sixty Glorious Years? Thierry Frémaux,

Tue 12 June 18.15 NFT 3

The Artistic Director of the Cannes Film Festival, in conversation

Roberto Rossellini Part II

We continue our definitive retrospective of films by Roberto Rossellini (1906 – 1977) this month, with a selection of films that marked his shift from neo-realism and melodrama to documentary film-making and studies of the human condition.

L'amore. Due storie d'amore (1948) stars **Anna Magnani**, his lover at the time. The film is split into two stories, the first being an adaptation of **Jean Cocteau's The Human Voice** where Magnani carries the story playing a woman who is desperately trying to convince her lover not to leave her during a telephone call; the other a story by and starring **Federico Fellini**. Following his divorce from **Ingrid Bergman**, Rossellini began to re-invent his career. **Il generale Della Rovere** (1959), starring **Vittorio De Sica**, was his most commercially successful film; it won the **Golden Lion** at Venice in 1959 and received an **Oscar** nomination. **Viva l'Italia** (1961) is an interpretation of the unification of Italy in 1861. His dedication to historical re-construction continued with **The Rise to Power of Louis XIV** (1966), **Augustine of Hippo** (1972) and **Cartesius** (1973). One of his final and most memorable productions was **Italy: Year One** (*Anno uno*, 1974), a study of Italy's first post-war Prime Minister.

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 **Cinematèque Ontario** (James Quandt) and the **Museum of Modern Art**, New York (Laurence Kardish).

A Decade of Dance

Celebrating 50 years since the **Moscow Bolshoi Ballet** first visited Britain and 100 years since the founding of the **Western Theatre Ballet**, BFI Southbank presents a season of rarely screened television productions from the BBC, plus programmes from the pioneering dance director **Margaret Dale**. Dale captured a decade of new trends in choreography during the 50s and 60s, and she filmed some of the most striking and groundbreaking dance programmes for the **BBC**.

Highlights include the made-for-TV masterpiece **Houseparty** (1961), by choreographer **Peter Darrell** and respected scriptwriter **John Hopkins**. The season includes live productions of **Sergei Prokofiev's** last ballet composition, **The Stone Flower** (1961). **The Bolshoi Comes to London** programme remembers the enthusiasm felt during the early visits of this thrilling dance company with performances by **Galina Ulanova**, **Raissa Struchkova** and **Maya Plisetskaya**.

www.bfi.org.uk/decadeofdance

Margaret Dale Exhibition

To complement this season, there will be a small exhibition of photographs portraying Margaret Dale at work, drawn from Miss Dale's own collection, which has been donated to the BFI.

Artists' Film & Video

For one weekend in June the **Artists' Film & Video** strand presents new and recently made films, installations and performance pieces inspired by **Charles Fort's** visionary text from 1923, **New Lands**. The works presented here explore the line between the tangible and the perceptual. In **Richard Linklater's** philosophical and award-winning **Waking Life** (2001) the technique of rotoscope animation is employed. Respected video artist **Matthew Noel-Tod** re-presents a series of moments from four Polish films in **Obcy Aktorzy/Foreign Actors** (2006), raising questions about history, location, cinema and politics. The season also includes a series of innovative shorts, a performance from **Hilary Koob Sassen**, plus brand new work from **Graham Gussin** and **Uriel Orlow** that may be seen **FREE of charge** in **New Land Installations**.

Artefacts: Artists' Film and Video in Documents

A display reflecting the multiple origins and DIY spirit associated with artists' film and video, including hand-printed posters from the 60s, throw-away fliers from the 80s, artists' notebooks and storyboards, plus other artist-led events from the 30s to the present.

Mezzanine Gallery Until 4 Jul

www.bfi.org.uk/artistsfilmandvideo

Special Release: When A Woman Ascends the Stairs

(*Onna ga Kaidan o agaru toki*)

Fri 29 June – Thurs 12 July

Mikio Naruse's breathtaking film is shot in Scope, in dense, congested interiors. Hideko Takamine plays an 'ageing' Tokyo hostess, a widow trying to maintain her dignity amid the sleaze of the Ginza bar district. She remains faithful to the memory of her husband, and supports her mother, brother and his son, whilst dreaming of opening her own bar. This release anticipates the July season of films by Naruse.

Japan 1960 Dir Mikio Naruse With Hideko Takamine, Masayuki Mori, Daisuke Kato 110min
New print EST PG A BFI release

www.bfi.org.uk/whenawoman

Previews and Events at BFI Southbank

In Person:

- **Edward Burtynsky & *Manufactured Landscapes*** (1996)
- **Magnum in Motion** – Magnum Photo's 60th Anniversary - **FREE event**



- **Chris Shepherd & *The White Bus*** (1967)
- **John T Davis & *Shellshock Rock***

Previews at BFI Southbank – see it here first:

- ***Exiled Fong Juk*** (2006)
- ***Paris je t'aime*** (2006)
- ***Shrek the Third*** (2007)

The Costume Interpreter:

- **The Best Suit Ever** with writer **Todd McEwen** and **Lindy Hemming**, the costume designer for James Bond and the new Batman film
- + screening of **North by Northwest** (1959)

Sight & Sound Presents:

- **Cannes and Film: Sixty Glorious Years?** **Thierry Frémaux**, Artistic Director of the Cannes Film Festival, in conversation



Blacktronica:

- **From Mambo to Hip-Hop** (2006) + **Blacktronica Club Night**

Blacktronica



The Flipside:

- **Live It Up** (1963)
- **The Strange Story of Joe Meek** (1991)

Club Filmosophy:

- **INLAND EMPIRE** (2006) with a discussion led by author **Daniel Frampton** revealing the thinking behind complex film-making

Total Recall:

From the BFI's extraordinary archive

- **The Birds and the Bees: Early Natural History Film**

A Hidden History:

Part 1: A focus on Britain's pre-war avant-garde film

- **The Film Society and Film-makers' Little Magazines: 20s & 30s**
- **Grierson's Avant-Garde at the Brussels International Film Festival 1935 and New York World's Fair 1939**
- **FREE Mezzanine Gallery:** the fascinating **Artefacts: Artists' Film and Video in Documents** exhibition. Until 4 July

In the Studio:

Another chance to see **This is England** (2006), **INLAND EMPIRE** (2006), **After the Wedding** (2006), **Into Great Silence** (2006)

+ **FREE** highlights from the Mediatheque programme:

- **The Promised Land**
- **Pandora's Box**

Tom Middleton AMBA

Big Chill Recordings present Tom Middleton's AMBA – the world premiere of Lifetracks as an audiovisual work. He has teamed up with two of Britain's most innovative VJs and AV artists Ben Mason (Red Dog) and Nick Hillel (Yeast) to interpret his latest work Lifetracks.

Fri 29 Jun 19:30, 21:15 NFT1 Tickets £14.75, concs £10.75 (Members pay £1 less)

In the Film Café this evening we are pleased to present **The Big Chill Club Night**.

The Film Café will be open to Tom Middleton AMBA ticket holders only.

THE BIGCHILL

Ingmar Bergman Evening:

Encountering Bergman (Arena)

BBC 2007, Dir David Thompson, 39min +

Bergman and Faro Island (Arena)

BBC 2007/SVT 2004, Series Producer (Arena) Anthony Wall, Dir (SVT) Marie Nyrerod 59min
EST

Faro Island could also have been called *Bergman and Life*. In his home at the seashore, he talks about the childhood that shaped him and his worst demons.

Wed 20 Jun 18:10 NFT2

Bergman and the Cinema (Arena)

BBC 2007/SVT 2004 Series Producer (Arena) Anthony Wall, Dir (SVT) Marie Nyrerod 59min
EST

Bergman pays a final visit to Filmstaden where many of his films were made +

Bergman and the Theatre

SVT 2004 Dir Marie Nyrerod 58 min EST

Between 1938 and 2002 Bergman directed 125 theatrical stagings and for five decades The Royal Dramatic Theatre in Stockholm was his workplace.

Wed 20 Jun 20:40 NFT2

We hope to welcome special guests to introduce the evening.

Joint ticket available £12.50, concs £9.25 (Members pay £1 less)

Movie Magic: Especially for kids

Preview: Shrek the Third (2007)

Sat 23 Jun 15:00

Dumbo (1941) + **Toot, Whistle, Flink and Boom** (1953)

Thu 7 June 18:20, Sat 9 Jun 14:00

The Cat Returns (*Neko No Ongaeshi*, 2002)

Wed 13 Jun 11:00

The Story of the Weeping Camel (*Die Geschichte vom Weinenden Kamel*, 2003)

Sat 2 Jun 12.50

Ring of Bright Water (1969)

Sat 30 Jun 13:45

Otterly Marvellous! Workshop

Sat 30 Jun 12:00

Screenings for parents, guardians & young children:

Parent and Toddler Screening:

The Cat Returns (*Neko No Ongaeshi*) (2002)

Wed 13 Jun 11.00

The Piano (1993)

Wed 20 Jun 11.00

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

Better Late than Never

When the NFT was hit by a massive power failure over the weekend of 9–10 February, we sadly had to turn away disappointed ticket holders. Now, at BFI Southbank we make good on our promise to give you a second chance...

Viridiana

Sp-Mex 1961 Dir Luis Buñuel With Francisco Rabal, Fernando Rey 91min EST 15
Buñuel's **Palme d'or** winning film that provoked a scandal

Sat 30 Jun 18:30

Republic of Sin (*La Fièvre monte à El Pao*)

Fr-Mex 1959 Dir Luis Buñuel 100min EST

A powerful meditation on the crisis facing the political Left after WWII.

Sat 23 Jun 18:20

Tale of the Late Chrysanthemums (*Zangiku monogatari*)

Japan 1939 Dir Kenji Mizoguchi 148min EST

A devoted wife sacrifices herself for her kabuki actor husband in 1880s Japan - one of Mizoguchi's most magnificent works.

Mon 18 Jun 17:20

Dr Mabuse the Gambler (*Dr Mabuse der Spieler*)

Ger 1922 Dir Fritz Lang With Rudolph Klein-Rogge c249min + interval PG

Lang's two-part epic is a great example of the serial-style narrative. An exhilaratingly inventive, fast-paced and profoundly political action-film.

Fri 22 Jun 18:10 With live piano accompaniment

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/southbank

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Mediatheque

This month's additions: **Anarchy in the UK** revisits the spirit of punk with a collection of films and television programmes that tells the story of the music, its fans and its effect on the UK. **The Promised Land** programme charts the responses to the challenges posed by the nation's housing crisis. Highlights include An **Ultra-Modern House** (1931), **Architecture or Revolution** (1966) and the controversial legacy of modernism in **Tellick Tower (Building Sights)** (1991).

For further information please contact: brian.robinson@bfi.org.uk

Gallery

Opening 23 June:

Lynette Wallworth – Hold: Vessel 1, 2001

Courtesy of and commissioned by the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Melbourne, Australia

Lynette Wallworth – Hold: Vessel 2, 2007

Commissioned by the BFI, London, Produced by Forma

Touring produced by Forma, Supported by Arts Council England
For further information please contact: ilona.cheshire@bfi.org.uk



BFI Filmstore

The BFI Filmstore is stocked and staffed by BFI experts with over 1,200 book titles and 1,000 DVDs to browse and choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI.

For further information please contact: jill.reading@bfi.org.uk

The benugo bar & kitchen

Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo's décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. This is the place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

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 BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI / BFI Southbank / June 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