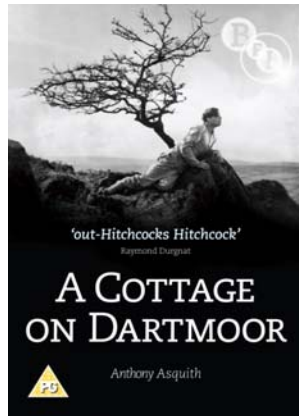


## DVD press release



# A Cottage on Dartmoor

## A film by Anthony Asquith

**One of the last British silents – and one of the best examples of the genre, digitally restored for DVD**

One of the very last silent films to be made in Britain before the talkies revolutionised cinema, **A Cottage on Dartmoor** (1929) is a virtuoso piece of filmmaking, a final passionate cry in defence of an art form soon to be obsolete. Restored from film materials preserved in the BFI National Archive, this little-known gem is released on DVD for the first time in the UK and presented here with a specially commissioned score by Stephen Horne.

Directed by Anthony Asquith (better known for *The Browning Version* and *The Way to the Stars*) *A Cottage on Dartmoor* is an embroiled melodrama, a tale of love and revenge, set on the bleak landscape of Dartmoor.

In a small-town hairdressing salon, a young barber, Joe (Uno Henning) is trying to court Sally, the beautiful manicurist (Nora Baring) and asks her out. She rejects him in favour of the security offered by an older, wealthier farmer. In a jealous rage Joe slashes the farmer with a razor and is sent to Dartmoor prison for attempted murder. He escapes over the moors to find Sally, who does not know if he has come to kill her or ask her forgiveness, and it's at this point that the film begins. The rest of the story is told in flashback.

Overlooked by critics more eager to heap praise upon his contemporary, Hitchcock, (who made *Blackmail* during the same year), Asquith's films display the same skill in inventive story-telling and technical artistry. Steeped in the work of the Soviet avant-garde and German expressionism, Asquith adopts these styles whilst instilling the film with a particularly British sensibility.

### Extras

- *Insight* (1960) – Study of Anthony Asquith at work featuring on set footage and interviews
- *Rush Hour* – Comedy film from the BFI National Archive about Britain's workers coping with the transport system during the War (Asquith, 1941)
- Fully illustrated booklet including essays by Bryony Dixon and Geoffrey Macnab

**Bryony Dixon, Curator for Silent Film, BFI National Archive is available for interview.** More films by Anthony Asquith will be released by the BFI in the future.

**Release date: 26 May 2008**

RRP £19.99 / cat. no. BFIVD779 / cert PG

UK / 1929 / black and white / 84 mins / ratio 4x3 / silent with piano accompaniment

BFI DVDs are available from the Filmstore at BFI Southbank and the BFI at 21 Stephen Street, London W1; all good DVD retailers; by mail order from 020 7815 1350 or online at [www.bfi.org.uk/video](http://www.bfi.org.uk/video)

**Press contact: Jill Reading, BFI Press Office**  
**Tel: (020) 7957 4759 or e-mail [jill.reading@bfi.org.uk](mailto:jill.reading@bfi.org.uk)**

**About the BFI**

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archive, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you. To find out more go to [www.bfi.org.uk](http://www.bfi.org.uk)