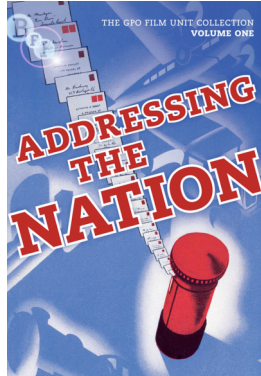


DVD press release



Addressing the Nation

The GPO Film Unit Collection Volume One

The first of three deluxe double-disc box sets presenting all the key films of the GPO Film Unit on DVD for the first time. The complete collection includes legendary filmmakers such as John Grierson, Len Lye and Humphrey Jennings.

Created 75 years ago out of the ashes of the Empire Marketing Board Film Unit, the GPO Film Unit was one of the most remarkable creative institutions that Britain has produced. A hotbed of creative energy and talent, it provided a springboard to many of the best-known and critically acclaimed figures in the British Documentary Movement.

John Grierson, Alberto Cavalcanti, Humphrey Jennings, Basil Wright, Harry Watt, Edgar Anstey and Arthur Elton, alongside innovators and experimentalists such as Len Lye and Norman McLaren are some of the directors whose work embraced public information films, drama-documentary, social reportage, animation and advertising.

Celebrating the 75th anniversaries in September 2008 of both the BFI and the GPO Film Unit itself, the BFI National Archive, in partnership with The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA), Royal Mail and BT Heritage, has curated and restored this legendary output of short films. A selection of highlights will be screened in cinemas nationwide in the programme *Love Letters and Live Wires* and two special events will take place at BFI Southbank (details on page 2).

Addressing the Nation contains 15 films from the period 1933-1935 and provides a fascinating exploration of the unit's early experimentation with sound. It features Basil Wright's award-winning *Song of Ceylon* and Len Lye's *A Colour Box*; the critically acclaimed *Weather Forecast*; *Coal Face* – directed by Alberto Cavalcanti and Auden and Britten's precursor to *Night Mail* (included in volume two) and other neglected works, many of which will be available for the first time since their original release.

The discs are presented in a deluxe box with an 80-page bound book (film listing on page 2). Volume two will be released in February 2009 and volume three later in 2009.

Experts on the collection are available for interview and there is extensive information on the GPO Film Unit project at www.bfi.org.uk/gpo

Special features

- *On the Fishing Banks of Skye* (John Grierson, 1935)
- GPO Film Display trailer
- 80-page book containing introductory essays, biographies and film notes
- Dolby Digital mono audio (320 kbps)



Release date: 22 September 2008

RRP £24.99 / cat. no. BFI758 / E

UK / 1933-1935 / black and white, and colour / optional subtitles for the hearing-impaired
140 mins + 14 mins approx extra material / original aspect ratio 1.33:1

Available from the Filmstore at BFI Southbank, London SE1 and all good DVD retailers; by mail order from the Filmstore on 020 7815 1350 or online www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore

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Addressing the Nation – film listing

Disc one

The Coming of the Dial (Stuart Legg, 1933)
Cable Ship (Alexander Shaw, Stuart Legg, 1933)
Granton Trawler (John Grierson, 1934)
John Atkins Saves Up (Arthur Elton, 1934)
Air Post (Geoffrey Clark, 1934)
The Glorious Sixth of June (Alberto Cavalcanti, 1934)
Pett and Pott (Alberto Cavalcanti, 1934)
6.30 Collection (Harry Watt, Edgar Anstey, 1934)
Weather Forecast (Evelyn Spice, 1934)

Disc two

Song of Ceylon (Basil Wright, 1934)
A Colour Box (Len Lye, 1935)
Coal Face (Alberto Cavalcanti, 1935)
The King's Stamp (William Coldstream, 1935)
BBC The Voice of Britain (Stuart Legg, 1935)
Sixpenny Telegram (Donald Taylor, 1935)

Love Letters and Live Wires – Highlights from the GPO Film Unit 1936-1939 (80 mins, cert U) – in cinemas nationwide

Thursday 18 September – Tuesday 30 September

The GPO Film Unit project will launch during the BFI's 75th birthday celebrations at BFI Southbank in September with the first screening of **Love Letters and Live Wires** on 18 September followed by a discussion with leading figures exploring the GPO's living legacy in documentary, advertising and the modern world. Repeat screenings daily from 19 – 30 September. An additional programme of GPO Rarities will screen on **Tue 30 September**.

Sunday 21 September, or different date marked*

Love Letters and Live Wires plays at the following cinemas:

Aberdeen, Belmont Picturehouse; **Bath**, Little Cinema; **Bristol**, Watershed; **Cambridge**, Picturehouse; **Chichester**, New Park*; **Darlington**, The Barn*; **Derby**, Quad*; **Edinburgh**, Cameo; **Exeter**, Picturehouse; **Glasgow**, Film Theatre*; **Inverness**, Eden Court*; **Lancaster**, The Dukes*; **Leeds**, Hyde Park Picturehouse; **Leicester**, Phoenix Arts*; **Liverpool**, FACT Picturehouse; **London**, Clapham Picturehouse, Gate, Greenwich Picturehouse, Renoir*, Rio*, Ritzy, Screen on Baker St, Screen on the Hill, Screen on the Green; **Manchester**, Cornerhouse; **Newbury**, Corn Exchange; **Newcastle**, Tyneside Cinema; **Norwich**, Cinema City; **Nottingham**, Broadway; **Oxford**, Phoenix Picturehouse; **Sheffield**, Showroom Cinema; **Southampton**, Picturehouse; **Stirling**, MacRoberts Arts Centre*; **Tewkesbury**, Roses Theatre*; **Wolverhampton**, Light House*; **York**, City Screen Picturehouse

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. For the whole of September, the BFI will celebrate its 75th with a bumper programme of special events, screenings, film seasons and offers. For further information visit www.bfi.org.uk/75

About the BPMA

The British Postal Museum and Archive cares for the visual, physical and written records of over 400 years of postal development including stamps, poster design, photography, staff records and vehicles. For more information visit www.postalheritage.org.uk

About BT Heritage

BT's commitment to its heritage is published in its Heritage Policy (www.bt.com/heritage) adopted in 2004. BT is the only major company to have made such a public commitment to safeguarding its past and future heritage. The key features of our approach are to maintain historical documents and records within the company, under the management of BT Archives, and to promote access to our physical artefacts online and at museums across the UK through BT's Connected Earth initiative (www.connected-earth.com).