

## DVD press release



### **Love is the Devil** **Study for a Portrait of Francis Bacon** A film by John Maybury

**A dazzling, audacious feature from one of Britain's most exciting directors (*The Edge of Love*, *The Jacket*); with extras including a new commentary by John Maybury and Derek Jacobi**

Exploring the territory where art, love and sex collide, *Love is the Devil* charts the powerful and dangerous relationship between one of Britain's most controversial artists, Francis Bacon (Derek Jacobi) and his lover and muse George Dyer (Daniel Craig).

In bohemian 1960s Soho, amongst a coterie of artists, rent boys and drunks, Dyer struggles for Bacon's attention, steadily bled dry by drink and drugs. *Love is the Devil* portrays a bawdy, decadent world of artists' studios, casinos and late night bars – including the infamous Colony Room Club, presided over by foul-mouthed patroness Muriel Belcher (Tilda Swinton).

Derek Jacobi's portrayal of Bacon is precise and mesmerising, whilst Daniel Craig gives a raw, expressive performance as the tough petty thief who became the model for some of Bacon's most intense and celebrated paintings, his ultimate vulnerability throwing his lover's glory into sharp relief.

The film's fantastic visual style captures the extraordinary dynamism of Bacon's art; the lighting and colour palette are inspired by his work, and the film's atmosphere is one of both beauty and grotesque.

*Love is the Devil* was a co-production between the BFI Production Board and other partners including the BBC and Arts Council England.

#### **Special features**

- New feature-length commentary by John Maybury and Derek Jacobi
- *The Colony – A Documentary Preview*, exploring the legendary Soho club
- New interview with producers Ben Gibson and Chiara Menage
- 26-page illustrated booklet containing specially commissioned essays and notes by Christopher Frayling and Michael O'Pray

#### **Release date: 25 August 2008**

RRP £19.99 / cat. no. BFIVD776 / cert 18

UK / 1998 / colour / 87 mins / DVD-9 / Ratio 1.66:1 (anamorphic 16x9)

Optional hard-of-hearing subtitles on the feature and commentary

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

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