



Missing Believed Wiped:

Newly rediscovered rarities starring **Bob Monkhouse** and **Alastair Sim** plus colour TV from black & white

Television history is among the most fragile of any form of cultural production. The majority of all British television output from before 1970 does not survive either due to the lack of recording equipment or recordings were wiped and re-used. But from under beds, in cupboards and sometimes even misfiled on television company archive shelves new discoveries are regularly coming to light.

We are delighted to report that the BFI's annual survey of rediscovered television has turned up a bumper selection of materials previously considered lost which will be screened at BFI Southbank on Sunday 14th December, 4pm and 6.30pm.

Among the highlights are the first fruits from our collaboration with the holders of the late **Bob Monkhouse**'s legendary collection of TV and film: a risqué episode from his 1957 sitcom *My Pal Bob* (one of only three episodes known to survive) and *The Flipside*, (1966) a BBC *Thirty Minute Theatre* drama starring Bob Monkhouse as an American DJ.

We are also showcasing an astonishing new BBC initiative to recover the colour from black-and-white telerecordings of programmes that were made in colour. This will be the first public display of this extraordinary high level scientific wizardry which will enable the BBC's boffins to restore colour to episodes of *Doctor Who* and *Dad's Army* and *Top of the Pops* only recorded in monochrome. The results will revolutionise the exploitation of key parts of the nation's archives.

Also on offer are an episode from a costume drama from the 1950s, trailers from a host of BBC 1960s shows (for example, *It's a Square World*, *Detective*) and a full length ITV programme *Goodbye to ABC* (1968) – the channel's last broadcast, looking back over ABC's glorious history before it lost its franchise.

To round off this year's treasure trove we have a fascinating 1950s recording of **Alastair Sim** delivering a masterful monologue to camera – about the difficulties of delivering a monologue to camera – in *Speaking Personally* (1952). This is among the earliest television items ever to resurface in recent years and was donated to the BFI National Archive by the Sim family. There's a rare recording of John Osborne in Granada's

Chelsea at Eight (c.1957) and some rare music footage of Gerry and the Pacemakers from *Thank Your Lucky Stars* c.1964.

Dick Fiddy, the BFI's TV consultant and co-ordinator of the Missing Believed Wiped project is available for interview.
Selected clips for broadcast are available by prior arrangement.

Any member of the public who thinks they may be sitting on some old television programmes or knows where some might be located, please contact Dick Fiddy, TV Programmer/Consultant at the BFI. Tel: 020 7815 1398, email: dick.fiddy@bfi.org.uk; or Steve Bryant, Senior Curator (Television), BFI National Archive. Tel: 01442 289114, email: steve.bryant@bfi.org.uk.

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