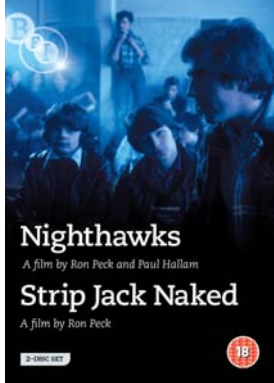


Press release



**Nighthawks – 30th Anniversary**

**A film by Ron Peck and Paul Hallam**

**With Ken Robertson, Stuart Craig Turton, Rachel Nicholas James**

**30 years since its first release, and now restored by the BFI, Nighthawks will be presented as part of the 23rd London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival on 27 and 28 March; on BFI DVD and Blu-ray from 30 March and in an extended run at BFI Southbank from 9 - 23 April.**

Hugely controversial on its initial release, *Nighthawks* defies categorisation. Set to a haunting electronic score, its compelling cyclical structure portrays the daily work of a schoolteacher with his documentation of changing urban spaces and nights spent cruising bars and clubs in search of Mr Right.

Leading actor Ken Robertson, who excels in a brave performance, was the only professional member of the cast, and the film confounded critics at the time, but the recent restoration by the BFI reveals *Nighthawks* to be one of the great undervalued films of the 1970s.

On **Friday 27 March at 20.30**, a special **LLGFF** screening of *Nighthawks* will take place at BFI Southbank in the presence of members of the cast and crew, followed by a discussion which will be led by comedian **Matt Lucas**. The film will also be shown on **28 March** in the Studio at BFI Southbank, prior to an **extended run** there from **9 - 23 April** and will be included in the **LLGFF on Tour** programme which visits more than 40 venues across the UK between April and September.

On **30 March**, the BFI releases newly re-mastered DVD and Blu-ray editions of *Nighthawks* in 2-disc sets along with *Nighthawks II: Strip Jack Naked* (Ron Peck, 1991) (details on p.2). Both sets feature numerous extra features (details on p.2).

**NB. Directors Ron Peck and Paul Hallam are available for interview.**

- ends -

**BFI press contacts:**

Jill Reading (DVD and Blu-ray)

Tel: (020) 7957 4759 or e-mail [jill.reading@bfi.org.uk](mailto:jill.reading@bfi.org.uk)

Billy Wiz (LLGFF and Tour screenings)

Tel: (020) 7957 4729 or e-mail [billy.wiz@bfi.org.uk](mailto:billy.wiz@bfi.org.uk)

Tim Mosley (BFI Southbank Studio screenings)

Tel: (020) 7957 8918 or e-mail [tim.mosley@bfi.org.uk](mailto:tim.mosley@bfi.org.uk)

Images are available at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) under LLGFF or DVD2009

**Notes to editors**

*Nighthawks* (Ron Peck and Paul Hallam, 1978) and *Nighthawks II: Strip Jack Naked* (Ron Peck, 1991) / Cert

18 / 2-disc set / colour / original aspect ratio 1.33:1

BFI DVD and Blu-ray release date: 30 March 2009

DVD Cat no. BFIVD832 / RRP £22.99 / 358 mins

Blu-ray Cat no. BFIB1015 RRP £24.99 / 204 mins (Blu-ray) / 167 mins DVD

- 2 -

*Strip Jack Naked*, made thirteen years after *Nighthawks*, puts the earlier film into a historical and personal context, with Ron Peck drawing on his own journey from closeted suburban teen to politically radicalised

filmmaker. Its unusual honesty marks *Nighthawks II: Strip Jack Naked* as not just a lucid account of the responsibilities of a gay filmmaker, but as one of the most honest and abrasive British biographies ever made.

#### **Special features on DVD edition**

- *Its Ugly Head* (1974), Ron Peck's student film
- *On Allotments* (1976), documentary by Four Corner Films
- *Edward Hopper* (1981), Ron Peck's documentary on the artist
- *Nighthawks* pilot (1977), 16mm film made to interest potential investors and others in the project
- *What Can I Do with the Male Nude?* (1985), Ron Peck's video essay on censorship
- *The Last Biscuit* (2005), a video essay by Paul Hallam and Andrea Luka Zimmerman
- Illustrated booklet with essays, reviews and new pieces by Ron Peck and Paul Hallam

#### **Special features on Blu-ray edition**

High definition features (with PCM audio):

- *Nighthawks* (1978), newly transferred from the original negative
- *Its Ugly Head* (1974)
- *On Allotments* (1976)
- *Edward Hopper* (1981)

Standard definition features:

- *Strip Jack Naked* (1991), from original production video
- *Nighthawks* pilot (1977)
- *What Can I Do with the Male Nude?* (1985)
- *The Last Biscuit* (2005)
- Illustrated booklet

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

#### **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)