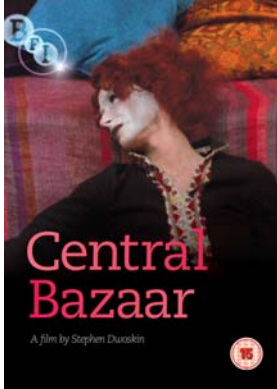


DVD press release



Central Bazaar

A film by Stephen Dwoskin

Director, artist and advocate of independent film, Stephen Dwoskin gathered a group of strangers together for five weeks in 1974 and filmed them as they explored their fantasies within a single room. The results of this experiment are seen in this extraordinary and gorgeous looking experimental epic, released for the first time on 25 May.

Inspired by the post-hippy encounter groups that developed on America's West Coast, this poetic precursor to TV's Big Brother explores the relationship between intimacy and performance, often to extreme effect. Men and women don make-up, stockings and ceremonial gowns while emotional and physical interactions form and rupture, pushing some participants to their very limits.

Through his involving camerawork and dynamic use of sound – including a compelling drone score by celebrated composer **Gavin Bryars** – Dwoskin creates a truly unique film that drives us to examine our own sense of 'fantasy' and to question our relationships to both the people around us and the film itself.

As well as the DVD release, the BFI is offering a rare opportunity to see the distinctive work of Stephen Dwoskin at **BFI Southbank** in **An Intimate Cinema: The Films of Stephen Dwoskin** – a season of films, workshops and a special *in conversation* event all taking place from **1 – 31 May**. **Stephen Dwoskin is available for interview.**

Working initially as a graphic designer and art director for CBS Records in New York, Dwoskin began making films in 1961, a few years before Andy Warhol, an artist with whom he is often compared. He left the underground US film scene in the mid-Sixties and, on moving to England, quickly became involved in the foundation of the London Filmmakers' Co-op. His reputation as a bold and distinctive filmmaker was established in this early period and, to this day, remains one of the most visually rich and emotionally intense filmmakers in British cinema.

Special features

- New high definition transfer created from new film elements
- *Labour Party* (1974, 20 mins), Dwoskin's on-set companion piece to *Central Bazaar*. An unsuspecting Labour Party canvasser calls at the house and falls under the provocative and playful influence of the feature film's participants
- Illustrated booklet with contributions from Jonas Mekas, Paul Willemen and William Fowler

Release date: 25 May 2009

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIVD817 / cert 18

UK / 1975 / colour / English / 142 mins / DVD-9 / original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / Dolby Digital mono audio (320 kbps)

BFI DVDs are available from all good DVD retailers; by mail order from the BFI Filmstore Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore

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 Images are available at www.image.net (BFI DVD 2009)

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