



BFI makes British 20th century life on film available for study online

600 hours of archive material digitised in JISC-funded project

28 May 2009: The BFI announced today the completion of phase 1 of a ground breaking project to give academics, teachers, students and researchers free online access to hundreds of hours of film and television in the BFI National Archive that tell the complex social, economic and political history of Britain in the 20th century.

Funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), **BFI InView: Moving Images in the Public Sphere** comprises more than 600 hours of full-length films and television programmes alongside over 8,000 pages of related documents that have been digitised and made exclusively available to the Higher and Further Education sectors for access and download via a dedicated website. Accessible through federated access management, meaning users can view the materials with a single sign-on, the BFI InView site is easily searchable with materials catalogued and organised under six main categories:

- Education
- Health
- The Environment
- Immigration, Race and Equality
- Industry and Economy
- Law and Order

Many titles are accompanied by expert commentary written by BFI curators and other experts, providing crucial background on the content of each item, its production history and context, giving a unique insight to Britain over the past 100 years or more.

The site will be accessed and trialled by a number of users in academia throughout the summer, before the full service is launched in September 2009 with even more material.

Heather Stewart, Cultural Programme director at the BFI, said: 'This is the first of what we hope will be many opportunities as the BFI moves to work closer with the HE sector. Thanks to JISC we are able to work in partnership to open up the archive and provide an indispensable resource for anyone interested in researching, teaching or learning about the great themes of 20th century British history from competing and, sometimes, contradictory points of view as seen in the moving image.'

Alastair Dunning, JISC's digitisation programme manager, said: 'Moving images are perhaps the key primary source of the twentieth century. JISC is delighted to be able to support a project which publishes such a rich array of unstudied film and television content.' BFI InView features an amazing and rich selection of rarely seen moving images from the collections of the BFI National Archive and its project partners: the BBC, Fremantle Media, the National Archives, Open Media and the Parliamentary Broadcasting Unit.

The digitised material represents a broad variety of sources and perspectives, including sponsored films, newsreels, television documentaries, discussion programmes from Channel Four's acclaimed *After Dark* series, Party Political Broadcasts, televised Parliamentary

debates and committees, and a series of never-before broadcast interviews by **Bernard Braden** recorded during 1967/68. A substantial number of *This Week* and *TV Eye* programmes from Fremantle's Thames Television Archive are also being included.

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Notes to Editors

1. For more information on the BFI, including details of the BFI's theatrical touring programmes, DVDs and books, visit www.bfi.org.uk

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.

2. The BFI National Archive is the world's most significant archive of film and television. It contains more than 230,000 films (features, shorts and documentaries) and more than 675,000 television programmes. The collection also contains internationally renowned holdings of posters, stills and designs along with the papers of major directors.

The collection is made available through public screenings at festivals and cinemas throughout the UK including regular screenings at BFI Southbank, alongside video and DVD releases, and online through the BFI's Screenonline website.

3. JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee) has invested over £22million in the digitisation of high-quality online content across a wide range of media for use in higher and further education. See www.jisc.ac.uk for further information or contact press@jisc.ac.uk