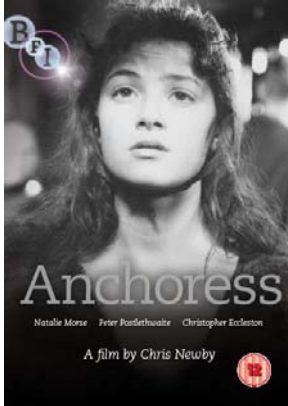


DVD press release



**Anchoress**  
**A film by Chris Newby**

**Festival International du Film Cannes 1993 'Un Certain Regard' Official Selection**

**Christopher Eccleston, Pete Postlethwaite and Toyah Willcox star in this sensual tale of religious conflict, in which a young girl's transcendental vision threatens to upset the foundations of her community.**

Inspired by records of the real Anchoress of Shere (near Guildford, Surrey), who was voluntarily walled up in a tiny cell adjoining a church, *Anchoress* vividly evokes life in a remote medieval village and explores the gulf between patriarchal power and female rebellion.

After claiming to be in direct contact with the Virgin Mary, 14-year-old Christine (Natalie Morse) takes the advice of her local priest (Christopher Eccleston) and becomes an anchoress.

Over the protestations of her parents, she devotes her life to prayer, surviving on charitable food donations while dispensing advice to pilgrims. Becoming an anchoress was a form of voluntary martyrdom, the sealing-up ceremony having a deliberately funereal feel, as though the subject had already died – which, in a sense, she had, at least from the outside world's perspective.

Featuring exquisite cinematography by Michel Baudour, the film has been re-mastered for this release from the original negative under the supervision of its director, Chris Newby (*Madagascar Skin*).

**Special features**

- **The Old Man of the Sea** (1989, 21 mins) - Newby's short film on the ancient relationship between man, nature and the supernatural.
- **Flicker** (2001, 4 mins) - Newby's study of the Guy Fawkes Night celebrations at Lewes
- **Stromboli** (1998, 11 mins) - Newby's portrait of the Aeolian island known for its violent volcanic eruptions
- Illustrated booklet

**Release date: 22 June 2009**  
 RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIVD788 / cert 12  
 UK / 1993 / black and white / English / optional hard-of-hearing subtitles /  
 104 mins + 36 mins extra material / DVD-9 / original aspect ratio 16:9 (anamorphic)  
 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](http://www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore)

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 Images are available at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net)

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