



PRESS RELEASE

16 June 2009

## BFI welcomes Digital Britain Report

The BFI has welcomed many of the recommendations in Lord Carter's Digital Britain Final Report published today, particularly around the Government's position on orphan rights issues and film education – as well as its recognition of the BFI's role in preserving the UK's film and television collections and making them more publicly available.

The Report says the Government proposes to introduce a trial model for making orphan works available on a regulated basis. Orphan works are defined as those which are known to remain in copyright but where even after a diligent search the owner cannot be identified or found.

Currently the law prevents archive organisations such as the BFI from making copies of any films that it does not own the rights to, even for preservation purposes. Under the new proposals the BFI will be able to restore and make high quality preservation copies of the orphan works it holds in the BFI National Archive (as much as 10 per cent of the collection) available to the public. In the event of any commercial gain from public access, screenings, DVDs and so on, the BFI will hold back money should a rights owner subsequently become evident.

For many years the BFI has advocated for film to be widely adopted as a teaching tool and a compelling education resource across the curriculum, calling for the teaching of film 'grammar' and for an understanding of 'film sentence' to be recognised as an entitlement for every school child. We are pleased therefore to note that the Report places importance on this, stating that 'by learning to "read" films', young people are learning new skills to make them literate in the digital world.

The Report also recognises the benefit of recent Government investment in preserving and making available the national and many regional film archive collections for public enjoyment and learning. The BFI is working with a number of partners to deliver the Screen Heritage UK project which aims to ensure that the public have digital access to these film collections, regardless of where they live or where the material is held.

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**Notes to Editors**

For more information on the BFI visit [www.bfi.org.uk](http://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.

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 and DVD releases, and online through the BFI Screenonline website.