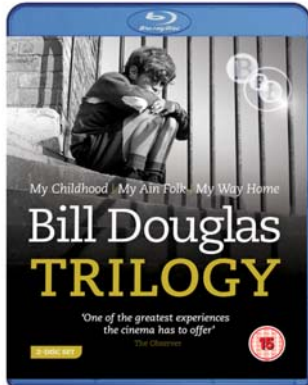


Blu-ray press release



Bill Douglas Trilogy **My Childhood** **My Ain Folk** **My Way Home**

Three of the most compelling films about childhood and adolescence ever made – now presented by the BFI in a High-Definition restoration on Blu-ray

Bill Douglas's award-winning films – *My Childhood*, *My Ain Folk* and *My Way Home* – are three of the most compelling and critically acclaimed films about childhood ever made. Released by the BFI on DVD for the first time in June 2008 in a two-disc set with special features, they come to Blu-ray on 27 July, alongside the Blu-ray and DVD release of Bill Douglas's *Comrades* (1987).

The narrative is largely autobiographical, following Jamie (played with heart-breaking conviction by Stephen Archibald) as he grows up in a poverty-stricken mining village in post-war Scotland. In these brutal surroundings, and subject to hardship and rejection, Jamie learns to fend for himself. We see him grow from child to adolescent – angry and bewildered, but playful, creative and affectionate.

In *My Childhood* (1972), eight-year old Jamie lives with his granny and elder brother in a Scots mining village in 1945. With his mother in a mental home, and his father absent, he is subject to the hardships of poverty. In *My Ain Folk* (1973), Jamie is sent to live with his paternal grandmother and uncle; a life full of silence and rejection. *My Way Home* (1978) sees Jamie's ultimate victory over his circumstances; after a spell in foster care, and a homeless shelter, he is conscripted into the RAF, where he embarks on a redemptive friendship with Robert, which allows him to emerge from his ineffectual adolescence to pursue his artistic ambition.

Watching the Trilogy is far from a depressing experience. This is cinematic poetry: Douglas contracted his subject matter to the barest essentials – dialogue is kept to a minimum, and fields, slag heaps and cobbled streets are shot in bleak monochrome. Yet with its unexpected humour and warmth, the Trilogy brims with clear-eyed humanity, and affection for an ultimately triumphant young boy.

Special features

- *Bill Douglas: Intent on Getting the Image* (2006, 63 mins), a new documentary about Bill Douglas's work
- *Come Dancing* (1970, 15 mins), Bill Douglas's remarkable student short
- Archive interview with Bill Douglas (4 mins)
- Illustrated booklet containing newly commissioned essays, notes and credits

Release date: 27 July 2009

RRP £24.99 / cat. no. BFIB1013 / cert 15

UK / 1972 - 1978 / black and white / 175 mins / BD50 + DVD-9 / original aspect ratio 1.33:1

This release comprises a Region 0 Blu-ray disc and a PAL Region 0 DVD, designed to be played on compatible Blu-ray players or consoles in conjunction with an H-D monitor

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Images are available at www.image.net

About The Bill Douglas Centre in Exeter

Bill Douglas left another important legacy, as well as his magnificent films. With his lifelong friend Peter Jewell he amassed an enormous collection of items on cinema and optical entertainment. After Bill's death

Peter donated the collection to the University of Exeter to establish The Bill Douglas Centre for the History of Cinema and Popular Culture; which is both a public museum and a research centre, and an amazing resource for anyone interested in the moving image. For more details please visit www.billdouglas.org

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

BFI releases are available from all good retailers; the Filmstore at BFI Southbank, the BFI, 21 Stephen Street, London W1 or by mail order from 020 7815 1350 or online at www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore