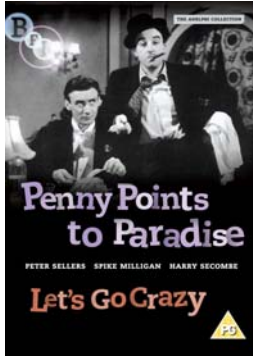




DVD and Blu-ray press release



Penny Points to Paradise Let's Go Crazy

Peter Sellers Spike Milligan Harry Secombe

New strand The Adelphi Collection launches with world premiere DVD and Blu-ray release of *Penny Points to Paradise* and *Let's Go Crazy* newly restored by the BFI National Archive

On **3 August**, the BFI brings the ultra-rare British comedies featuring early Peter Sellers performances ***Penny Points to Paradise*** and ***Let's Go Crazy*** to DVD and Blu-ray, in a special edition which includes the little-seen Sellers voiced comic clip collection ***The Slappiest Days of Our Lives***. *Penny Points to Paradise* and *Let's Go Crazy* can also be seen on the big screen on **27 July** when they will be shown at a special event at BFI Southbank.

Featuring celebrated cast members from **The Goon Show**, and shot on a shoestring budget, these post-war comedies have remained virtually unseen since their original release. Now rescued from obscurity, and painstakingly reconstructed and restored from the best available materials by the BFI National Archive, this eagerly anticipated release constitutes the missing link in British comedy history and charts the very beginnings of Peter Sellers' extraordinary rise to international stardom.

Penny Points to Paradise and *Let's Go Crazy* are the first titles in a new BFI DVD strand exploring the output of **Adelphi Films** – a small, family-run British company. Future titles will explore the exciting, yet curiously overlooked, output of this tiny studio, from noir-ish crime pictures and buoyant musicals to colourful melodramas and slapstick comedies. **Sid James, Diana Dors, Ted Ray, Petula Clark, Ronnie Corbett, Rolf Harris** and **Prunella Scales** are just some of the many well-loved performers who appeared before Adelphi's cameras early on in their careers.

Penny Points to Paradise and *Let's Go Crazy* have been restored by the BFI National Archive thanks to the generous support of Laura Camuti, a Sellers aficionado. Both films have been re-mastered to High Definition from the BFI's newly restored film elements.

Vic Pratt, Curator, BFI National Archive comments: 'This release will be welcomed by film scholars, radio enthusiasts, and everybody who enjoys good, old-fashioned British comedy. These new restorations provide a fascinating – and immensely historically valuable – opportunity to see Sellers, Milligan and Secombe, captured on film at a point just before they found fame as The Goons, developing and honing their craft before your very eyes.'

Penny Points to Paradise (Tony Young, 1951, 68 mins)

Gormless Pools winner Harry Flakers (**Harry Secombe**), accompanied by his best pal, Spike (**Milligan**), head off on holiday down beside the seaside where he hopes to relax and celebrate his new-found riches. Before long, they are confronted by gold-digging gals, dealing with the Goonish Major (**Sellers**), facing a sassy salesman who won't take no for an answer (Sellers, again), hula-hula-ing with Felix Mendelssohn and his Hawaiian Serenaders, and tangling with thieves (dryly played by Alfred Marks, and Bill Kerr of Hancock's Half Hour). Shot on location in and around Brighton, the old-school comic antics on offer here are sure to raise a very British chuckle.

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Let's Go Crazy (Alan J. Cullimore, 1951, 31 mins)

A comedy short made immediately after *Penny Points to Paradise*, *Let's Go Crazy* is another fascinating embryonic showcase for British comic legends **Peter Sellers** and **Spike Milligan**. This raucous, ramshackle film features improvised Goonish sketches, memorably interspersed with an entertaining selection of variety

turns, including Freddy Mirfield and His Garbage Men, Britain's outrageous answer to Spike Jones and His City Slickers.

Taking multiple roles, Sellers excels as Giuseppe, a frustrated waiter exasperated by demands for 'boiled beef and carrots', drags up in *grande dame* style to become the Crystal Jollibottom of his radio comedy days, and – as an anarchic mock-Groucho Marx – blows up the set!

Special features

- **The Slappiest Days of our Lives** (1953, 73 mins): Barely seen since its original release, this virtually forgotten French compilation of clips from vintage silent comedies was re-dubbed by Adelphi Films with a flight-of-fancy voiceover commentary by Peter Sellers. It is both an intriguing oddity and a valuable record of the comedian's formative years as a character 'voice man'. Against a backdrop of extracts from classic early comedy films, Sellers stylishly adopts the vocal personae of some of his comic heroes to take a slapstick trip across the USA.
- Illustrated booklet with essays, restoration notes and original promotional material.

Release date: 3 August 2009

DVD RRP £17.99 / cat. no. BFIVD843 / 172 mins / DVD-9

Blu-ray RRP £22.99 / cat. no. BFIB1028 / 182 mins / BD50 / region free

UK / 1951 / PG / black and white / English, optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / original aspect ratio 1.33:1

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

For more details on Adelphi Films go to www.adelphifilms.com

Where to buy BFI DVD and Blu-ray titles

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

BFI Southbank booking information

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office Tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £9.00, concs. £6.65. Members pay £1 less on any ticket. Website www.bfi.org.uk/southbank

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