



BFI InView – British history through the lens

- **New online resource released after a summer of Beta testing**
- **1,000 hours of archive material digitised in JISC-funded project**

23 September 2009: The BFI announced today the completion of a ground breaking project to give academics, teachers, students and researchers free online access to over 1,000 hours of film and television in the BFI National Archive and other collections that tell the complex social, economic and political history of Britain in the 20th century.

BFI InView: British history through the lens is the culmination of a two year programme of work to research, catalogue and digitise films and television programmes which reveal the history of Britain as never before, using the BFI National Archive collections and working with key partners in other national, regional and commercial archives.

Funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), BFI InView contains more than 1,000 hours of full-length films and television programmes alongside 8,000 pages of related documents that have been digitised and made exclusively available online to the Higher and Further Education. Users can access and download the material via a dedicated website with federated access management, which means they can view the materials with a single sign-on. The 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, and giving a unique insight to life in Britain over the past 100 years or more.

Amanda Nevill, Director, BFI, said: 'We are delighted to announce the completion of this major project as it is core to the BFI's objective to open up the incredible richness of the archive for the study of British history and manners. Moving images convey an authentic historical record of the 20th century and seen like this they force recognition of the complex and often conflicting points of view on a single subject.

'We are very grateful to JISC for their support which has enabled us to work together with partners to create this indispensable resource for anyone interested in studying or teaching British history.'

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 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