



DVD & Blu-ray press release

Three new BFI Flipside titles released on 25 January: **Privilege, That Kind of Girl & Permissive**

The BFI's **Flipside** DVD & Blu-ray strand is now firmly established and acclaimed, with a diverse selection of previously 'lost' British films – from 'B' movies to studio pictures and beyond – released during 2009. On **25 January 2010** three more rare and little-seen films are rescued from obscurity and made available to enjoy in high quality editions – **Privilege***, **That Kind of Girl** and **Permissive**.

Each title is newly-mastered to High Definition from original film elements and presented with previously unavailable short films, documentaries and interviews, some of which are preserved in the BFI National Archive. All volumes come in collectable numbered packaging, accompanied by extensive illustrated booklets with enlightening contributions from special guest writers.

Privilege (Peter Watkins, 1967)

Steve Shorter, the biggest pop star of his day, is loved by millions; his approval or endorsement can guide the choices and actions of the masses. But, in reality, he is a puppet whose popularity is carefully managed by government-backed handlers keen to keep the country's youth under control. Only an act of complete rebellion can set him free.

Starring **Manfred Mann's lead singer Paul Jones** as Shorter, and iconic Sixties supermodel **Jean Shrimpton** as the girl who tries to help him defy the system, *Privilege* is the third feature from provocative British director Peter Watkins (*The War Game*, *Culloden*), a filmmaker whose unique *vérité*-style and oppositional themes have continually met with controversy throughout his career.

Now being made available in the UK for the first time since its original cinema release, *Privilege* is presented here with two of Watkins' earliest film works.

Special features

- Original *Privilege* trailer
- *The Diary of an Unknown Soldier* (Peter Watkins, 1969, 17 mins): a young soldier in the trenches of the First World War, preparing for combat, shares his innermost feelings in this compelling short
- *The Forgotten Faces* (Peter Watkins, 1961, 19 mins): a gripping newsreel-style account of the peoples' uprising in Hungary, 1956, given forceful authenticity by Watkins' unique approach
- Extensive illustrated booklet with new essays by film historian Robert Murphy and Watkins specialist John Cook

*Due to an issue with materials, *Privilege* will only be released on DVD in January, with a Blu-ray edition to follow later in the year

That Kind of Girl (Gerry O'Hara, 1963)

In 1960s London, a beautiful continental *au pair* finds herself wrestling with the affections of an earnest peace-protestor, a dashing young toff and a roguish older man. But fun and freedom turn to shame and despair when she finds that her naivety has put the health of her lovers, and their partners – including the well-meaning Janet (played by *Big Zapper's* Linda Marlowe, in her first role) – at risk.

Stylishly shot in crisp black and white, and set against a backdrop of smoky jazz clubs, 'Ban the Bomb' marches, and evocative London locations, this finely-tuned cautionary tale was the directorial debut of Gerry O'Hara (*All the Right Noises*, *The Brute*).

Special features

- *The People at No. 19* (J.B. Holmes, 1948, 17 mins): an intense and effective melodrama which explores the themes of adultery, sexual hygiene and pregnancy from the perspective of an earlier era
- *No Place to Hide* (1959, 10 mins): a snapshot of the 'Ban the Bomb' march to Aldermaston
- *A Sunday in September* (1961, 27 mins): a compelling documentary, from the director of *Black Beauty*, about a nuclear disarmament demonstration in London, with Vanessa Redgrave, Doris Lessing and John Osbourne
- Robert Hartford-Davis interview (1968, 14 mins): *That Kind of Girl's* producer discusses his film career and production methods
- Extensive illustrated booklet featuring essays from novelist Cathi Unsworth and director Gerry O'Hara

Permissive (Lindsay Shonteff, 1970)

When Suzy arrives in London to visit an old school friend, she is unwittingly plunged into the ruthless world of the 'groupie'. Fuelled by sex, drugs and jealousy, her new lifestyle fosters in her a cold, cynical instinct for survival. But tragedy is never far away.

With its effective blend of gritty location work, brooding flash-forward devices, and a soundtrack by cult acid folk and prog rock legends **Comus**, **Forever More** – who also star – and **Titus Groan**, *Permissive* is a dark British counter-cultural artefact that's shot through with grim authenticity.

As a bonus, this release includes Stanley Long's ultra-rare **Bread**, a film that explores the same cultural milieu as *Permissive* (and features its own *bona fide* cult British rock band, **Juicy Lucy**), although it takes a somewhat more light-hearted approach to its subject.

Special features

- Original *Permissive* trailer
- *Bread* (Stanley Long, 1971, 68 mins): whilst hitch-hiking back from the Isle of Wight Festival, a group of friends decide to stage their own music event. But how will they afford it?
- *Bread* – mute deleted scenes
- 'Ave You Got a Male Assistant Please Miss? (1973, 4 mins) an unreservedly '70s take on the safe sex message
- Extensive illustrated booklet with contributions by I Q Hunter and rock singer Lee Dorrian, and Comus band-members' recollections of working with Lindsay Shonteff

The DVDs are £17.99 each and the Blu-rays are £22.99 each. The next Flipside titles will be released in May 2010.

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For further information and review copies please contact:

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Technical details

Privilege (Flipside 007): UK / Cert 15 / colour / English subtitles for hearing-impaired

DVD cat no: BFIVD835 / 99 mins / original aspect ratio 1.85:1

That Kind of Girl (Flipside 008): UK / Cert 12 / black & white / English subtitles for hearing-impaired

DVD cat no: BFIVD845 / 74 mins / original aspect ratio 1.33:1

Blu-ray cat no: BFIB1026 / 77 mins / original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / region 0

Permissive (Flipside 009): UK / Cert 18 / English subtitles for hearing-impaired /

DVD cat no: BFIVD858 / 86 mins / original aspect ratio 1.85:1 (16x9 anamorphic)

Blu-ray cat no: BFIB1035 / 90 mins / original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / region 0

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About the BFI Flipside strand

Developed from its popular monthly screening slot at BFI Southbank, the BFI's Flipside series on DVD and Blu-ray is designed to revisit and reappraise British films that have slipped through the cracks of cinema history – films that were overlooked, marginalised, or undervalued at the original time of release, or sit outside the established canon of recognised classics. Much of the material is drawn from the BFI National Archive.

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