

DVD press release



The COI Collection – Films from Britain Volume Two: Design for Today

The second volume in the new BFI DVD series of rare and fascinating historical documentary films made by the Central Office of Information. Featuring new music by Saint Etienne.

Disc one in this two-disc set focuses on architecture, household design and industrial design. Highlights include: **Designing Women** (1948) in which Joyce Grenfell takes us through the dos and don'ts of home furnishing; **Brief City** (1952), which shows modernist architecture and design on show at the Festival of Britain; **Design for Today** (1965), **Hugh Hudson's** day-in-the-life of British design, and **Peter Greenaway's Insight: Terence Conran** (1981), showing Conran at the height of his success.

Two films feature specially-commissioned scores by electronic pop band **Saint Etienne**. They give **Designed in Britain** (1959) and **Design for Today** a contemporary music make-over. Both films, with original scores, are included.

Disc two looks at fashion, from mini-skirts to Savile Row tailoring. Among the films are **Insight: Zandra Rhodes** (1981), in which **Peter Greenaway** and **Michael Nyman** team up in an early collaboration, and **The Pacemakers: Biba** (1970), a look at the work of **Barbara Hulanicki**. Also included are two fun and exuberant short pieces about 60s and 70s style – **Miniskirts Make Money** (1968) and **The Country Look** (1971). [See page 2 for complete film listing.](#)

The accompanying 25-page illustrated booklet provides comprehensive notes and essays, including Hugh Hudson's recollections of making *Design for Today*

Interview opportunities

BFI experts are available to talk or write about these films. Pete Wiggs and Bob Stanley from Saint Etienne are also available. The COI can be contacted directly.

Established in 1946, the COI was a successor to the wartime Ministry of Information and was responsible for producing thousands of films that celebrated Britain, its people and their achievements. The COI film collection is preserved by the BFI National Archive in collaboration with COI and The National Archives (TNA).

Release date: 22 March 2010

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIVD855 / E

UK / 1948 - 1985 / b&w, and colour / English, optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / 227 mins / DVD-9 x 2 / original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / Dolby Digital mono audio (320 kbps)
BFI DVDs are available from all good DVD retailers; by mail order from the BFI Filmstore
Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore

Press contact: Jill Reading, BFI Press Office
Tel: (020) 7957 4759 or e-mail jill.reading@bfi.org.uk
Images are available at www.image.net

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Disc One

Designing Women (1948) 23 mins
Designed in Britain (1959) 15 mins
Designed in Britain (1959) (Saint Etienne version)
Brief City (1952) 19 mins
Design for Today (1965) 15 mins
Design for Today (1965) (Saint Etienne version)
This Week in Britain 615: The National Theatre 5 mins
The Pacemakers: Basil Spence (1973) 14 mins
Insight: Terence Conran (1981) 14 mins
Total running time 1 hour 40 mins

Disc Two

Sixty Years of Fashion (1960) 18 mins
Miniskirts Make Money (1968) 3 mins
The Pacemakers: Biba (1970) 14 mins
The Country Look (1971) 3 mins
This Week in Britain: Men's Fashions (1973) 5 mins
24 Hours: Men's Fashions (Spanish version) (1973) 5 mins
This Week in Britain: The Mary Quant Show (1974) 5 mins
This Week in Britain: Savile Row (1976) 5 mins
Insight: Zandra Rhodes (1981) 14 mins
A Woman's Place: The ImageMakers (1985) 30 mins
Total running time 1 hour 35 mins

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