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BFI launches Silent Sensations at venues across the UK



This July the **BFI** launches a new programme of silent films at venues across the UK, bringing rarely seen and fascinating films from the **BFI National Archive** to new audiences in a regular programme screening at Leicester's **Phoenix Square, Watershed** in Bristol and the **Arts Picturehouse** in Cambridge.

The strand launches on 11 July with a programme of thrilling British crime and horror titles, including four great episodes from classic series of the early 1920s: **The Last Appeal** and **The Jest** from Fred Paul's **Grand Guignol** series; **The Silver Buddha** from **The Mystery of Dr Fu Manchu** series; and **The Final Problem** from **The Last Adventures of Sherlock Holmes**. A pianist will provide live accompaniment to these classics from the early days of British cinema.

Acknowledging the challenges of exhibiting silent films to audiences not familiar with the films, this BFI initiative provides subsidised access to some of the BFI National Archive's vast collections of silent film, with selections specially curated by **Bryony Dixon**, BFI National Archive Curator and Programmer of the **British Silent Film Festival**.

The launch coincides with **Long Live Film: Celebrating 75 Years of the BFI National Archive**, a two-month celebration of the world's most significant archive of the moving image.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

The first *Silent Sensations* programme screens at Phoenix Square, Leicester on Sunday 11 July; Watershed, Bristol on Sunday 18 July; and the Arts Picturehouse, Cambridge on Sunday 25 July.

About Phoenix Square Film & Digital Media

Based in the heart of Leicester's emerging Cultural Quarter, Phoenix Square Film & Digital Media houses state of the art cinemas, digital gallery spaces, interactive cafe bar and film production facilities with editing suites - capable of hosting festivals, seminars & conferences. This unique space is set to be a hub of activity for the region. It is an educational charity with a remit to enhance moving image and new media work. phoenix.org.uk

The building is supported by public and private sector partners Blueprint, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire Economic Partnership and De Montfort University. The project is also supported by the EU through the European Regional Development Fund. phoenixsquare.co.uk



About Watershed, Bristol

Watershed is a cross-artform producer, sharing, developing and showcasing exemplary cultural ideas and talent. We curate ideas, spaces and talent to enable artistic visions and creative collaborations to flourish. Watershed is rooted in Bristol but places no boundaries on its imagination or desire to connect with artists and audiences in the wider world.

Opened in 1982, as the UK's first media centre Watershed occupies two distinct physical spaces. Three cinemas, a large, light and airy Café/Bar and a suite of flexible conference and events spaces are housed in a Grade II listed, fully accessible building, complemented by the Pervasive Media Studio, a research and development space, opened in 2008, where creativity and technology meet.

With audiences and participation at its heart Watershed delivers a year- round diverse, cultural programme of films, events, festivals, artist commissions, tours and conferences. In all of our work we seek to produce open collaborations which bridge expertise, imagination and boundaries to promote emergent practice and enjoyable experiences. watershed.co.uk



About the Arts Picturehouse, Cambridge

Situated opposite Emmanuel College in the heart of the city centre, the Arts Picturehouse is a fully licensed three-screen cinema showing a wide variety of independent, foreign and mainstream films. Since opening its doors in 1999 above England's largest pub, the cinema has become the host venue of a number of Festivals including the Cambridge Film Festival and the Cambridge African Film Festival.

The Arts Picturehouse boasts an eclectic programme, including silent film and live musical accompaniments, repertory classics and rarely screened prints. We can show everything from rare groundbreaking 16mm shorts to lush 70mm presentations of contemporary classics and screens that are ready for the digital revolution of cinema.

With a Café/Bar with a fine selection of wines and food served by the As You Like It kitchen, the Arts Picturehouse provides a cinematic experience like no other in Cambridge. picturehouses.co.uk



Highlights of Long Live Film: Celebrating 75 Years of the BFI National Archive include:

BFI Most Wanted

A national campaign to find 75 'Lost' films and a look at some of the BFI National Archive's recent discoveries

Dangerous Beauty: The Joy of Nitrate Film

A rare opportunity to savour the delights of original nitrate prints on the big screen for the first time in ten years

Alberto Cavalcanti

A landmark retrospective of a much-loved director famed for his work at the GPO Film Unit and Ealing studios, and nationwide theatrical release of **Went the Day Well?** (1942) and **They Made Me a Fugitive** (1947) – newly restored by the BFI National Archive

SUPPORT THE BFI

A nationwide campaign to rescue nine of **Hitchcock's** classic silent films, announced on the 30th anniversary of his death

Special screening at BRASS: Durham International Festival

Experimental artist and filmmaker **Bill Morrison** sets archival footage to a new score by internationally acclaimed Icelandic musician and composer **Jóhann Jóhannsson**, with their new collaborations **The Miners' Hymns**

www.bfi.org.uk/archive75

BFI National Archive

The BFI National Archive was founded in 1935 and has grown to become the largest collection of film and television in the world with over 180,000 films and 750,000 television programmes. With specialist storage facilities in Warwickshire and Hertfordshire the archive also boasts significant collections of stills, posters and designs along with original scripts, press books and related ephemera. We are funded partly by OfCom as the official archive for ITV, Channel Four and Channel Five. We record a representative sample of television across Britain's terrestrial channels and are the official archive of moving image records of Parliament.

BFI Mediatheques

Anyone can get access to collections of over 1800 titles from the archive for free at BFI Mediatheques around the UK, currently at BFI Southbank, BFI National Library, QUAD Derby, Central Library Cambridge and Wrexham Library, shortly to be joined by the newest addition in July which will be in the Discovery Museum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

BFI National Archive Online

Our YouTube channel **BFIFilms** has over 300 items which can be viewed online. [Over 750,000 views have been recorded for *Alice in Wonderland* (1903) recently uploaded to coincide with the release of Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland*]. Academic access for higher education is through the **BFI InView** project. Schools and educational institutions have access to a wide range of material at **screenonline.org.uk**. This is in addition to paid access at the BFI for other research needs.

BFI Special Collections

12,000 prints a year are loaned out by the BFI National Archive to support the programmes of 800 venues across the UK and overseas and our DVD label regularly issues selected items. These have included the hugely popular British Transport Films Collection series, the legendary documentaries of The GPO Film Unit and most recently, highlights from the collections of the Central Office of Information.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.