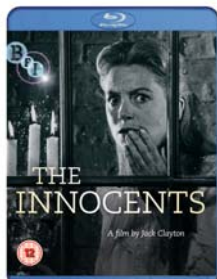


BFI DVD – Blu-ray press release



The Innocents

A film by Jack Clayton

Deborah Kerr, Michael Redgrave, Peter Wyngarde

An intensely unsettling experience and widely considered to be one of the greatest of all ghost stories on film, *The Innocents* is now brought to Blu-ray by the BFI with numerous special features.

In the performance of her career, Deborah Kerr plays Miss Giddens, an emotionally repressed vicar's daughter, who becomes the guardian of two, apparently angelic, orphans at a secluded stately home. When the apparitions of a late governess and her sadistic lover manifest themselves to Miss Giddens, she determines to save her young charges from their ghostly evil. But just who is corrupting whom?

The Innocents' sinister atmosphere is carefully created through its cinematography, soundtrack, and decor: Freddie Francis's beautiful CinemaScope photography, with its eerily indistinct long shots and mysterious manifestations at the edges of the frame; an evocative and spooky soundtrack; and the grand yet decaying Bly House.

Jack Clayton's superbly haunting film retains the ambiguity of Henry James' novella *The Turn of the Screw* from which it is adapted and keeps us guessing until the film's tragic conclusion. It continues to inspire today's 'haunted house' movies, most notably *The Others* (Alejandro Amenábar, 2001) which starred Nicole Kidman. Among the many extras are Clayton's rare directorial debut, *Naples is a Battlefield* and his Academy-award winning short *The Bespoke Overcoat*.

Special features

- Full-feature commentary by Professor Christopher Frayling
- *Filmed introduction* (Caroline Millar, 2006, 26 mins): Christopher Frayling, on location at Sheffield Park House – where *The Innocents* was shot – on the making of the film
- *The Bespoke Overcoat* (Jack Clayton, 1955, 37 mins): Jack Clayton's award-winning short, adapted from Gogol's *The Overcoat*, follows a haunted tailor as he comes to terms with a friend's death
- *Naples is a Battlefield* (Jack Clayton, 1944, 14 mins): Clayton's rare (un-credited) directorial debut is a documentary account of the wartime destruction and reconstruction of Naples. Made for the RAF film unit.
- Original US Trailer (3 mins)
- *Designed by Motley* (2010, 14 mins): Gallery of costume designs for *The Innocents* by prolific British designers Motley. With introduction and audio captions.
- Illustrated booklet with sleeve note essay by the *League of Gentleman's* Jeremy Dyson, an on-set report, director biography and more

Release date: 23 August 2010

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIB1032 / cert 12

UK, US / 1961 / black and white / English, optional subtitles for the hard-of-hearing / 100 mins / BD50 / original aspect ratio 2.35:1 Cinemascope / 1080p / 24fps / PCM mono audio (48/24-bit)

BFI releases 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

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Images are available at www.image.net (BFI DVD & Blu-ray 2010)