



**Embargoed until 12.00 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

The BFI is launching two national projects as part of its **LONG LIVE FILM** campaign to celebrate the BFI Archive's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**LONG LIVE FILM** will give members of the public a unique opportunity to adopt a Hitchcock film with a fund-raising appeal to restore his early films: **RESCUE THE HITCHCOCK 9**.

And there's a national hunt for the BFI's **75 MOST WANTED FILMS**, a search for important but elusive films, including the only missing Hitchcock film, *The Mountain Eagle*.

## **RESCUE THE HITCHCOCK 9**

Alfred Hitchcock's early silent films need urgent attention to restore them to their former glory. The BFI needs YOUR help to bring these cinematic masterpieces back to life and secure them for future generations as the BFI celebrates 75 years of the BFI National Archive.

A dedicated cinema trailer, voiced by Kenneth Branagh, and a new website are part of the campaign. [www.bfi.org.uk/saveafilm](http://www.bfi.org.uk/saveafilm)

Every penny counts and even small amounts can add up to help us reach our target of £1 million. From July onwards, members of the public who would like to save an important and historic film can contribute by visiting [www.bfi.org.uk/saveafilm](http://www.bfi.org.uk/saveafilm). Donors with upwards of £5,000 **ADOPT** a specific film from the shortlist and receive an on-screen credit, whilst a donation of £100,000 will secure the full restoration of an individual film with their name in the credits. All donations are welcome but £25 and upwards will help **RESCUE** one of the films, from 50cm of film to restoring a whole scene, and make the contributor a BFI Supporter, receiving regular updates about the status of the restoration while having the satisfaction of knowing that they have helped to save a crucial part of British cultural history. With enough support, we also hope to be able to commission a new score for each film from a major composer of international standing.

Hitchcock is internationally recognised as one of Britain's greatest ever film-makers. 30 years since his death he remains one of the world's most influential and important directors. Funds permitting,

we hope to start restoration work on *The Farmer's Wife* (1928), a delightfully unexpected comedy of a farmer in search of rural matrimony.

Hitchcock's early films are among the finest achievements of British silent cinema. On its first release *The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog* (1926) was acclaimed as a masterpiece and his subsequent films refined his techniques of stunning visual composition, richly cinematic storytelling linked to dramatic invention, which are uniquely Hitchcock.

New digital techniques mean that we are now in a position to transform scratched and damaged negatives into beautiful viewing copies. The original nitrate materials for all these films are in a very poor state as decades of wear and tear have taken their toll.

**THE HITCHCOCK 9: (full synopsis attached)**

THE PLEASURE GARDEN (1925)  
THE LODGER (1926)  
DOWNHILL (1927)  
EASY VIRTUE (1927)  
THE RING (1927)  
THE FARMER'S WIFE (1927)  
CHAMPAGNE (1928)  
THE MANXMAN (1929)  
BLACKMAIL (1929)

## BFI MOST WANTED

The BFI is launching a nation-wide hunt for 75 of its **Most Wanted** 'lost' films and offers audiences a rare opportunity to see a selection of the **BFI National Archive's** recent discoveries.

Missing films have an aura about them, a mystery they accrue due to being unavailable and sought after. Lost titles such as **Alfred Hitchcock's *The Mountain Eagle*** (1926) have become holy grails for film enthusiasts the world over. In 1992, the **BFI** compiled a list of titles called **Missing Believed Lost**, in a bid to track down elusive British films. Since then, 16 of them have found their way to **the BFI National Archive**; while not every discovery is a candidate for 'masterpiece' status, they nevertheless enable greater understanding of our film history and fill important gaps in the filmographies of some of our best directors.

We are very keen to find these films for the national collection. Some may exist in private collections, others might turn up in foreign archives, but the aim is to find as many as possible so it can continue to preserve and make available the nation's film heritage.

The new project will take the form of an online resource at the BFI website, which describes the lost films using reviews, stills and original publicity materials. [www.bfi.org.uk/mostwanted](http://www.bfi.org.uk/mostwanted)

In July and August, all the titles that have been unearthed since 1992 will be screened at **BFI Southbank**, plus some other rare films not seen in the UK for many years including **Michael Powell's His Lordship** (1932) and **Bella Donna** (1934) directed by **Robert Milton**. In August, part two of the season will include new prints of **The Constant Nymph** (1928) and **Emil and the Detectives** (1935).

#### The Ten Most Wanted

**The Mountain Eagle (Alfred Hitchcock, 1926)**

Hitchcock's second film as director: the Most Wanted's most wanted

**Two Crowded Hours (Michael Powell, 1931)**

Michael Powell's first film: a "very good little murder drama"

**Squadron Leader X (d. Lance Comfort, 1943)**

Thrilling war escape drama directed by the recently re-evaluated Lance Comfort

**Sleep is Lovely (d. David Hart, 1968)**

Intriguing late-60s London-set kidnap-and-ransom drama from a director hailed as an 'English Godard'

**Symptoms (d. Joseph Larraz, 1968)**

Stylish cult 1970s horror about a disturbed female killer

**Somewhere in Politics (d. John E Blakeley, 1948)**

Knockabout comedy with madcap music hall star Frank Randle

**The Last Post (d. Dinah Shurey, 1929)**

The directorial debut of Britain's only 1920s female filmmaker

**Linda (d. Don Sharp, 1960)**

Teen drama from cult director Don Sharp, with *Cathy Come Home*'s Carol White

**A Study in Scarlet (d. George Pearson, 1914)**

The immortal Sherlock Holmes takes his first bow in a British feature

**Maria Marten or the Mystery of the Red Barn (d. Maurice Elvey, 1913)**

True crime thriller - an early staging-post in British horror

The full 75 (in chronological order) are attached

#### PRESS CONTACTS

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#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

Rescue a Film

£25 - can restore 50cm of film

£75 - can restore 150cm of film

**£150** - can restore 10 seconds of film  
**£300** - can restore 20 seconds of film  
**£500** - can restore a shot  
**£1,000** - can restore 1 minute of film

### **Adopt a Film**

Individuals, groups or syndicates can donate from **£5,000** to **£100,000** to **ADOPT** a specific film of their very own. By making a gift at this level you will have access to unique events and opportunities at the BFI through a series of special, tailored packages to reflect your interest and generosity.

**£5,000** - can restore a scene  
**£10,000** - can restore 10 mins of film  
**£50,000** - can restore the original colour tinting of a single feature film  
**£100,000** - can secure the full restoration of a single feature film

Other highlights of **Long Live Film: Celebrating 75 Years of the BFI National Archive** include:

### **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

### **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**

### **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 June 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 800,000 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.

**Booking information**

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £9.00, concs £6.65 Members pay £1.40 less on any ticket. Website [www.bfi.org.uk/southbank](http://www.bfi.org.uk/southbank)

**Tickets for ALL FREE screenings and events but must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment**

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.

**\*\*\* PICTURE DESK \*\*\***

**A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting the BFI Southbank screenings can be found at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) under BFI / BFI Southbank / July 2010 and BFI National Archive**