



Press release

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BFI RECEIVES MAJOR DONATION TO 'RESCUE THE HITCHCOCK 9' CAMPAIGN FROM THE FILM FOUNDATION

The BFI's campaign to **Rescue the Hitchcock 9**, a worldwide fund-raising initiative to support the urgent restoration of Hitchcock's nine surviving silent films, has just received its largest single donation to date. The Film Foundation (chair: Martin Scorsese) is supporting the project, in partnership with the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, with a generous donation of \$275,000 which will go towards the restoration of *The Lodger*, *The Ring*, *Blackmail* and *The Pleasure Garden*.

Donations have been coming in from around the world thanks to support from the online community and international press coverage from *The Times of London* to the *New York Times*, and reports everywhere from Japan to Saudi Arabia and New Zealand. The campaign is off to a great start but we still need more contributions to help us reach our target.

Martin Scorsese said, "I'm thrilled that these films will be preserved and made available with the best possible prints for audiences to enjoy. Hitchcock remains an enduring influence on world cinema, and these early works provide a wonderful glimpse into the development of his signature style."

Amanda Nevill, BFI Director said, "We are delighted to acknowledge this very generous grant from our friends at The Film Foundation and the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. Hitchcock belongs not just to Britain but to the world, and we are grateful that so many people share our passion for his work."

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.

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 the BFI's team of technical experts are now in a position to restore scratched and damaged negatives and produce much improved viewing copies. The surviving nitrate materials for these films bear the marks of wear and tear over the decades. .

As the campaign continues we are happy to receive even small amounts to help us reach our target. Members of the public who would like to save an important and historic film can contribute by visiting www.bfi.org.uk/saveafilm.

THE HITCHCOCK 9:

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)

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Rescue a Film

£75 - would help to scan 375 frames of film for digital clean-up

£150 - would help to restore digitally 450 frames of film

£500 - would help to print 2,000 frames back to film for preservation

£3,000 - would help to record a reel of digitally restored frames back to film for preservation and new prints

Adopt a Film

Individuals, groups or syndicates can donate from £5,000 to £100,000 to join our ADOPT A FILM scheme.

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 - would help restore digitally a reel of film

£15,000 - would help to reproduce the colour tinting or black and white grading of the original nitrate prints by using digital colour and image correction techniques

£30,000 - would help to scan a feature film's worth of frames (i.e enough frames to reconstruct 100mins of film) for digital clean-up

£40,000 - would help to record a whole restored film back to modern film stock for preservation

£50,000 - would help to enable digital clean-up of a whole film

£100,000 - can secure the full restoration of a single feature film

The Film Foundation

For twenty years, The Film Foundation (www.film-foundation.org), a non-profit organization established in 1990 by Martin Scorsese, has been dedicated to protecting and preserving motion picture history by providing substantial annual support for preservation and restoration projects at the nation's major film archives. Since its inception in 1990, the foundation has raised awareness of the urgent need to preserve films and has helped to save over 545 motion pictures. Joining Scorsese on the board of directors are: Woody Allen, Paul Thomas Anderson, Wes Anderson, Francis Ford Coppola, Clint Eastwood, Curtis Hanson, Peter Jackson, Ang Lee, George Lucas, Alexander Payne, Robert Redford and Steven Spielberg. The Film Foundation is aligned with the Directors Guild of America whose President and Secretary-Treasurer serve on the foundation's board

About the BFI

The BFI is the nation's cultural organisation for film, keeping the breadth of voices in moving image culture alive and known. Through its venues, festivals, film releases and online, the BFI inspires people to understand and enjoy film culture, ensuring that everyone in the UK can see the broadest range and choice of films, otherwise not provided by commercial cinema. The BFI reaches an audience of over 7.5 million in the UK every year.

The BFI is a public body part-funded by DCMS through the UK Film Council. For every £1 it receives in grant-in-aid, the BFI raises a further £1.50 through self-generated means.

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. Expert teams undertake the time-consuming and complex task of restoring films. 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 1900 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, and 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) 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 Films

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, the collections of the Central Office of Information and most recently *Shadows of Progress: Documentary Film in Post-War Britain 1951 - 1977*.

***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting the BFI can be found at www.image.net under BFI / BFI National Archive/Hitchcock 9