

## JOHN KRISH WINS EVENING STANDARD FILM AWARD 2010 FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY

At last night's Evening Standard Film Awards John Krish was announced as the winner of the award for Best Documentary, for a theatrical release entitled **A Day in the Life: Four Portraits of Post-War Britain**.

The award was presented by Jean Marsh to a delighted John Krish who was up against Banksy (**Exit Through the Gift Shop**) and Vadim Jean (**In the Land of the Free**). In his acceptance speech Mr Krish (87) holding his award high, quipped, "I was discovered by the BFI at 80, by the critics at 87, and this is so much better than an obituary".

The films in **A Day in the Life: Four Portraits of Post-War Britain** are: **The Elephant Will Never Forget** (1953), a poetic farewell to London's trams; **They Took Us to the Sea** (1961), a poignant record of a seaside outing for disadvantaged children; **Our School** (1962), charting the beliefs of educators, and the aspirations of the decade's young school-leavers; and **I Think They Call Him John** (1964), a deeply moving account of the life of an elderly widower.

The films were greeted with rapturous reviews by critics when they were released by the BFI last year:

'The quartet of films chosen here reveal [Krish's] technical accomplishment – an unobtrusive way of getting a shot, an instinct for corner-of-the-eye detail – but also his humane sensitivity to the trials of growing up, and growing old... I Think They Call Him John is the most touching film I've seen this year. Hail John Krish, and the BFI for rediscovering him'

\*\*\*\* The Independent(Arts & Books) + Film of the week

'In the field of British documentary filmmaking, there are a few famous leading lights such as Humphrey Jennings and John Grierson.... To their ranks, the under-recognised John Krish now needs adding... This magical compendium, on nationwide tour...one of the year's filmgoing highlights for all who get to see it'

\*\*\*\* The Daily Telegraph

'They are heartstopping social-realist monochrome visions of the way we lived then, and immersing yourself in these beautifully photographed and sparsely narrated films is a fascinating experience'

\*\*\*\* The Guardian (Film & Music)

'The latest reason to celebrate the sterling work done by the British Film Institute arrives in cinemas this week. A Day in the Life is a collection of four unassuming

and quietly magnificent short documentaries by John Krish, a film-maker whose work has hitherto been inexplicably neglected... Humane, affectionate and empathetic, these are films to be treasured."

\*\*\*\* The Times

'The British Film Institute has unplugged the wells, releasing a memory flood... these films have a defining power – and poignancy – as portraits of a moment. The revelation among directors may be the little-sung documentarist John Krish...

Whether depicting the end of London's trams or the loneliness of a widowed pensioner, Krish brings a compassionate eloquence and a stoical discerning gaze that are, in the best of senses, British'

\*\*\*\*\* Financial Times

'Fascinating... tender... demonstrating a lovely, quiet empathy'

\*\*\*\* Time Out

'Krish infuses the films with humanity and freshness, making him a talent who can be compared with the great Humphrey Jennings'

\*\*\*\* Evening Standard

'John Krish is one of our finest documentarists... Seeing [these films] is like opening a series of time capsules'

The Observer

'This week's best film is, in fact, four films... immeasurably moving, funny, or both'

The Independent on Sunday

**A Day in the Life** continues to play in selected cinemas across the UK and will be released by the BFI in a Dual Format Edition (DVD and Blu-ray discs in one box) on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011 with two previously unreleased titles: **I Want to Go to School** (John Krish, 1959, 30 mins): a charming portrait of a typical day at a primary school, made for the NUT; **Mr Marsh Comes to School** (John Krish, 1961, 28 mins): a distinctly unorthodox film for teenagers, featuring a supernaturally talented Youth Employment Officer.

John Krish is available for selected interviews by arrangement. He lives in West London.

**Press contacts:**

**Brian Robinson, Communications Manager, Archive & Heritage, BFI**  
Tel:020 7957 8940 or e-mail [brian.robinson@bfi.org.uk](mailto:brian.robinson@bfi.org.uk)

**Jill Reading, BFI DVD, Press Office**  
Tel: (020) 7957 4759 or e-mail [jill.reading@bfi.org.uk](mailto:jill.reading@bfi.org.uk)

**Judy Wells, Head of Press. BFI**  
Tel:020 7957 8919 or e-mail [judy.wells@bfi.org.uk](mailto:judy.wells@bfi.org.uk)

Images are available at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) under BFI DVD & Blu-ray 2011