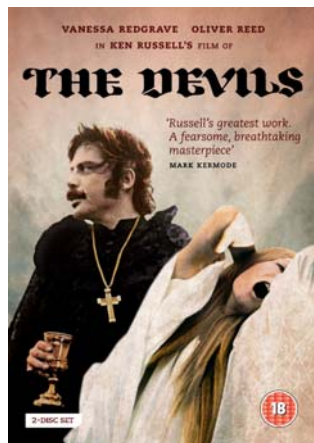


DVD press release



The Devils 2-Disc Special Edition

A film by Ken Russell

Vanessa Redgrave, Oliver Reed

Forty years ago, *The Devils* caused outrage amongst audiences and critics after one of the longest-running battles with the BBFC was resolved and the film finally opened in cinemas. Now recognised as a landmark in British film history, *The Devils* finally gets its DVD premiere on 19 March, released by the BFI in the original UK X certificate version with a wealth of new and exciting extra features and a 44-page illustrated booklet.

The death of director Ken Russell, in November last year, sparked an outpouring of tributes from both the film industry and fans. This **2-disc Special Edition** release of what many consider to be his greatest work is a justly fitting tribute to one of Britain's true mavericks.

The Devils is based on John Whiting's stage play and Aldous Huxley's novel. In 17th century France, a promiscuous and divisive local priest, Urbain Grandier (**Oliver Reed**), uses his powers to protect the city of Loudun from destruction by the establishment. Soon, he stands accused of the demonic possession of Sister Jeanne (**Vanessa Redgrave**), whose erotic obsession with him fuels the hysterical fervour that sweeps through the convent.

With Ken Russell's bold and brilliant direction, magnificent performances by Oliver Reed and Vanessa Redgrave, exquisite **Derek Jarman** sets and a sublimely dissonant score by **Sir Peter Maxwell Davies**, *The Devils* stands as a profound and sincere commentary on religious hysteria, political persecution and the corrupt marriage of church and state.

Special features

- DVD premiere presentation of the original UK X certificate version
- Newly filmed introduction with broadcaster and critic Mark Kermode (2012, 2 mins)
- Audio commentary with Ken Russell, Mark Kermode, editor Michael Bradsell and Paul Joyce
- *Hell on Earth* (Paul Joyce, 2002, 48 mins): documentary exploring the film's production and the controversy surrounding its original release
- *Director of Devils* (1971, 22 mins): documentary featuring candid Ken Russell interviews and unique footage of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies recording his celebrated film score
- Original on-set footage with commentary by editor Michael Bradsell (2012, 8 mins)
- *On-stage Q&A with Ken Russell* (2012, 13 mins): an excerpt from a conversation with Mark Kermode filmed at the National Film Theatre in 2004
- *Amelia and the Angel* (1958, 26 mins): Ken Russell's second short, made by the BFI's Experimental Film Fund, a delightful mix of religious allegory and magical fantasy
- Original UK trailer
- Original US trailer
- 44-page illustrated booklet featuring new essays from Mark Kermode, Craig Lapper (BBFC), Michael Bradsell and Sam Ashby, plus film notes, biographies and credits

Release date: 19 March 2012

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIVD940 / Cert 18

UK / 1971 / colour / English language with optional h-o-h subtitles / 107 mins /
Dolby Digital mono audio (320kbps) / Original aspect ratio 2.35:1 (16x9 enhanced) / Region 2

For further information and review copies please contact:

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Images are available at www.image.net under BFI DVD 2012