

THE PERFORMING ARTS ON FILM & TELEVISION CATALOGUE

Film and video materials held by the archives
and collections of **BFI**, **Arts Council England**, **LUX**,
**Central St Martins British Artists Film & Video
Study Collection** relating to theatre, dance, music,
performance art, politics and poetry



Balletomines, 1954



2011

Acknowledgements

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How to Access Films

This Catalogue explores the relationship between the performing arts and film to provide both an index and an approach to programming. The film titles included represent a selection rather than a definitive subject listing from the archives of the BFI, Arts Council England, Central St Martins British Artists Film and Video Study Collection and LUX. A source is given for every title in the catalogue. The contact details for the sources are listed below along with some general information about each organisation.



BFI

21 Stephen Street
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Telephone +44 (0) 20 7255 1444

www.bfi.org.uk

The BFI National Archive is the largest collection of film and television material in the world and includes over 200,000 fiction and non-fiction film titles, 800,000 television titles and 1,000,000 stills, from 1895 to date. The BFI creates access to its collections through film distribution, research viewing facilities, online availability, video publication and footage sales to filmmakers.

BFI Distribution

Email bookings.films@bfi.org.uk

Telephone +44 (0)20 7957 4709

Access is offered to 35mm, 16mm film prints, DCPs, Digibetas, Blu-Rays, and DVDs for cultural, commercial and educational exhibition (eg cinemas, festivals, film clubs/societies, universities and schools). As archive film prints can be of variable quality, public exhibitors should check print condition at the time of booking

If Distribution rights are owned by the BFI you will be charged a hire fee plus transport costs. If Distribution rights are not owned by the BFI you will be asked to make a rights clearance relating to the use of BFI Archive Viewing Copies, plus a print hire fee and transport costs. If BFI Distribution does not have rights holder contact details, the BFI's Information Services may be able to assist you in locating this (see contact details below).

DVD copies: Please note that this Catalogue reference two types of DVDs (i) if the archive source indicated is 'BFI DVD' these can be publically screened providing the rights are cleared, and are often available to purchase; (ii) if DVDs are listed as 'Reference copies only' and the archive source is the 'BFI National Archive', then these are reference copies which are viewable only via the BFI's Research Booking Service and cannot be booked for public screenings.

BFI Information Services

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/filmtvinfo/library/services/ask/>

Telephone +44 (0)20 7255 1444

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 10am-12 noon; 3pm-5pm

You can find additional information about the research services offered here:

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/filmtvinfo/library/services/research.html>

BFI Research Viewing Service

Email researchviewings@bfi.org.uk

Telephone +44 (0)20 7957 4726

Film and DVD copies may be viewed for a fee by appointment at the BFI, 21 Stephen Street, London W1T 1LN. Our offices are just off Tottenham Court Road, which is also the location of the nearest underground station.

BFI Special Collections

Email: speccoll@bfi.org.uk

Tel: +44 (0)20 7957 4772

Special Collections holds a unique and diverse collection of cinema and television ephemera. It includes personal and working papers from individuals and organisations involved in film and TV production. The collections also include programmes, tickets, autographed letters and promotional material, including over 30,000 press books and other cinema memorabilia. Special Collections are available to view by appointment at the BFI's offices in Stephen Street, London W1.

BFI Mediatheques

You can watch over 2000 complete films and TV programmes from the BFI National Archive free of charge in the Mediatheques at BFI Southbank London; QUAD centre for art and film Derby; Cambridge Central Library; Wrexham Library North Wales; Discovery Museum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

More information, and a full list of featured titles, can be found here:

http://www.bfi.org.uk/whatson/bfi_around_the_uk/mediatheques

BFI YouTube Channel

<http://www.youtube.com/user/BFIfilms>

Presenting hundreds of free films from the BFI National Archive, plus previews of new and forthcoming BFI releases and seasons, expert commentaries and interviews.

BFI InView

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/inview/>

Free to all UK Higher and Further Education users via an academic institution login, the BFI InView website makes available one thousand hours (2000 titles) of non-fiction film and TV to view or download, alongside eight thousand pages of related documents. Selected from the BFI National Archive, InView's collection captures diverse perspectives on events, developments, and debates through the 20th and into the 21st century.



BFI Screenonline

www.screenonline.org.uk

An online encyclopaedia of British film and TV, featuring short films, single television programmes in their entirety and clips from feature-length films. Please note that the information and stills on the site can be seen by all, but the moving image content may only be accessed via UK educational organisations and public libraries.

Archive Film Search

www.bfi.org.uk

Launching in mid-2011, an online facility for searching the databases of titles held by the UK's regional film archives (South West Film & Television Archive; North West Film Archive; Amber Films; Northern Regions Film & Television Archive; East Anglian Film Archive; Media Archive for Central England; Screen Archive South East; Yorkshire Film Archive; London's Screen Archives; Wessex Film & Sound Archive) and the BFI National Archive. Some of the films held by the archives will also be available to view free online.

BFI Video Publishing

Specialising in British rediscoveries, archive non-fiction, Artists Film & Video and International classics, the BFI Video label is a collection of around 300 releases commercially available in the UK on DVD and Blu-ray, with 40 new editions published every year. Available to buy from all video stores and online (Amazon etc).

BFI Video on Demand

The BFI works with a number of commercial partners including LOVEFiLM.com, iTunes, etc to make its collections available to buy and download via Video on Demand (VoD).

BFI Footage Sales

Email footage.films@bfi.org.uk

Telephone +44 (0) 20 7957 4842

For rates and further information on clips of titles from the BFI National Archive for sale to UK and International film and television programme makers.



Arts Council England (ACE)

ACE funded film production from the 1950s-90s, specialising in documentaries about the arts and experimental work. Many titles in the collection contain rare material about individual artists, while others offer definitive coverage of their subject. Several hundred of these titles are available on DVD through Concord Video and Film Council Ltd.

ACE Film Bookings

Contact Concord Video and Film Council Ltd

Telephone: (01473) 726 012

www.concordmedia.co.uk (click on the link to 'The Arts' on the left hand side, and then on 'Arts Council')

Please note that Concord only distribute via DVD. For 16mm film bookings of ACE titles, please contact BFI Distribution, with rights clearances via the Arts Council (<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk>).

Arts on Film Archive
UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

ACE Research Viewings

<http://artsonfilm.wmin.ac.uk/>

The University of Westminster's Arts on Film Archive offers a complete database and online video streaming of all 450 films made by the film department of Arts Council England between 1953 and 1998 and several films produced up to 2003 by the dance Department of ACE. Due to copyright restrictions the ACE films can only be streamed to ac.uk domain addresses.



Central St Martins British Artists Film & Video Study Collection

Central St Martins College of Art and Design

107-109 Charing Cross Road

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Email info@studycollection.org.uk

Telephone +44 (0) 20 7514 8159

<http://www.studycollection.org.uk/>

The British Artists' Film and Video Study Collection is dedicated to documenting the achievements of British moving-image artists. It contains over 4000 video copies of artists' works, approximately 5000 still images, files on 450 artists, a library of over 1000 books and magazines, a collection of historical posters and publicity materials, and documentation relating to key artist-led organisations, public funding bodies, etc. The Study Collection welcomes by appointment post-graduate researchers, curators, programmers, artists, and anyone interested in the academic study of British Artists' Film and Video.

Research: the British Artists Moving Image Database

<http://www.studycollection.co.uk/bamid/index.php>

The British Artists Moving Image Database is designed to assist research into British artists' film and video. It covers experimental and avant-garde film, video art, artists' television, gallery-based installations and other works that use moving image and audio-visual multimedia technologies, made by British and British-based artists. The database provides comprehensive information about several thousand works, including the date of making, first exhibition site (if known), the original format and often a short synopsis. It is also a guide to the dispersed national collection of British artists' moving image works. It identifies the holdings of public and academic collections, archives, distributors and dealers, their location and conditions of access.



LUX

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LUX is an arts agency which explores ideas around artists' moving image practice through exhibition, distribution, publishing, education and research. LUX is the only organisation of its kind in the UK, it represents the country's only significant collection of artists' film and video and is the largest distributor of such work in Europe (representing 4500 works by approximately 1500 artists from 1920s to the present day).

The LUX titles in this Catalogue feature the filmmakers' own synopses (by kind permission of LUX).

LUX Film Bookings

<http://lux.org.uk/collection/hire>

All titles owned or archived by LUX can be hired through their booking service.

LUX Research Viewings and Information

LUX titles can be viewed and further information found at either the main LUX website: www.lux.org.uk (click on 'Collection' and then 'Watch') or at www.luxonline.org.uk

Guide to Entries

Title entries look like this:

Black Nativity

UK 1961 Dir Langston Hughes

1975 Feet

16mm B&W

Black American presentation of the nativity story. From the New York stage production by

Langston Hughes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

An explanation of what this information means is given in italics below:

Black Nativity (film title + TV or funding programme strand if applicable)

[transmission date: 18/11/1980 (T)] (In the case of television broadcast titles, this indicates the date of the film's first transmission on UK television)

UK 1961 Dir Langston Hughes (country of production / year of production / director)

1975 Feet (length of film footage if known, or length in minutes is indicated in many cases)

16mm B&W (film or video format – more than one format may be listed; 'Reference copy only' indicates no public screening materials / colour or Black & White)

Black American presentation of the nativity story. From the New York stage production by Langston Hughes. (short synopsis)

Archive source: BFI National Archive (where to get the copy from – more than one source may be listed; please note that the BFI National Archive and BFI Distribution collection may in some cases both hold a version of the title listed).

Introduction

This Catalogue was commissioned by MI:LL (Moving Image: Legacy and Learning), an Arts Council England initiative to support projects and develop strategies that promote engagement with the arts through the moving image.

Intended for use by programmers, curators, researchers, students, performers, practitioners, artists and filmmakers, this Catalogue gives an account of the histories of theatre, acting, dance, music, performance art and oratory (from politics to poetry) on film and television through referencing around 3500 titles selected from the combined collections of the BFI, Arts Council England, Central St Martins British Artists Film & Video Study Collection and LUX.

The film and television collections of these archives include titles from the very beginnings of cinema (1895) through to recent works. Some of the materials listed are 35mm film prints, but we have also included a wide range of titles with significant content available only on DVD viewing copies (these may be off-air copies of television programmes) and will be clearly indicated as 'DVD (Reference copy only)'. Due to rights and materials issues, not all titles listed in this Catalogue will be available to screen in all contexts; the relevant Archive sources will be able to advise on any restrictions. Furthermore the material nature of the collections may create issues relating to the availability and quality of requested copies.

Please also note that the information in this Catalogue has been drawn from many different sources (including databases, online sources and other catalogues). While we have endeavoured to ensure consistency, continuity of style and the accuracy of all filmographic, material and historical information and synoptic accounts, some idiosyncrasies and errors may have crept into the listings. You are advised to double check any areas of particular concern at the time of booking materials.

The Catalogue shows the richness and particularity of the different collections, each of which preserves a distinct area of moving image culture and has its own relationship to performance, and which together add up to an extraordinary cultural resource.

The BFI's fiction titles, documentaries and TV broadcast material, along with its Special Collections of Stills, Posters and Designs, provide an enormous range of material relating to the performing arts and to broader concepts of performance (concepts of theatrical presentation and of a relationship to and with the audience), as well as a view of the adaptation of the performing arts to the needs of cinema. They also offer a powerful insight into the work of performance that goes on behind the scenes.

The materiality of the medium of the moving image is examined in the Central St Martins British Artists' Film & Video Study Collection, which also contains images derived from performances or records of performances by other artists.

The ACE documentaries give both a historical perspective to activity in the performing arts at specific periods, and critical context to the material in the other collections.

The LUX collection specialises in experimentation, which is particularly pertinent to this catalogue. LUX titles feature synopses by the filmmakers, giving a particular sense and feel of their films.

The combination of the collections provides a complex view both of the performing arts in history, and of their adaptation in, or contribution to, these various moving image practices (artists' film and video; cinema features and documentaries; broadcast culture). They also give a perspective on how these practices have promoted the performing arts as disciplines and allowed them to grow. The collections show a range of different relationships between the moving image and live performance or the performing arts per se; one of the key distinctions is between material which provides a record of live performances and film which incorporates performance into the moving image artwork.

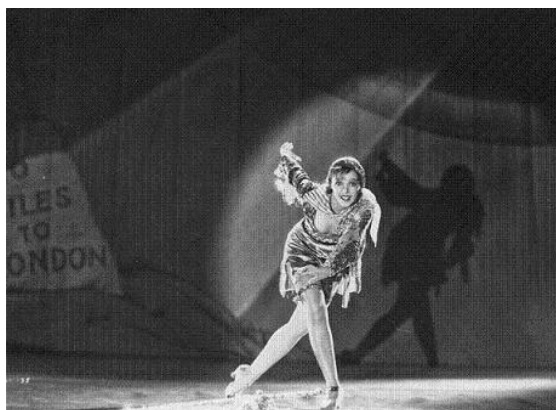
The Catalogue aims to support a discussion about performance that reflects both its social aspect and the composite phenomenon that is created on- and off-stage. It also looks at performance as a concept and a construct. Philosophically, and in recent cultural theory, this also applies to the performance of social roles. This process can be seen as part of the founding relationship between theatre and cinema, which, as these collections show, can be explored both in terms of illusion and fantasy and in terms of the overt deconstruction of fictional narratives. This casts light both on the backstage production of stage performances and on the construction of cinema icons and their effect on society's subcultures through the power of the image. And it may also allow us a vantage point from which to look at the creation of theatrical spaces in public where engagement occurs on a number of different levels.

The Catalogue is organised in chapters by discipline, broadly following a chronology of subject matter and personalities, and within those sections listing films by production date, for a historical perspective, or alphabetically in the case of more miscellaneous groupings. However the chapter 'From Politics to Poetry' is organised predominantly by theme, and then chronologically.

We have tried to keep duplication of content to a minimum, but certain titles or personalities may belong in more than one chapter (or conversely appear to be 'missing' from a section). There is a Contents page upfront and at the back of the Catalogue are alphabetical indexes of personalities and titles plus a Full Contents Guide listing the subjects within each chapter to facilitate navigation. One of the benefits of online publishing is the ability to search and find within what we hope is a document that makes for enjoyable and informative browsing. The Catalogue is also available to download for free.

Helena Blaker
Jane Giles
March 2011

Chapter 1: British Music Hall and Variety on Film 1895 - 1930



Good Companions (1933)

Introduction

This chapter focuses on the holdings of the BFI National Archive that relate to films of music hall artistes. Amongst the holdings are direct recordings of performances (for example, the early sound on disc films such as *Billy Merson In Harry Lauder Burlesque* - a direct to camera performance spoofing another music hall personality) and actuality films involving music hall personalities. Films featuring music hall artistes in comedies or dramas made for cinema are also featured, such as *Don Quixote* (UK 1923) with George Robey in a semi-straight role as Sancho Panzer.

Films based on specific music hall sketches or plays are represented, also fiction films about the music hall of the era plus rare examples of music hall sketches from 1895–1930 made into later comedies such as *The Bailiffs* (UK 1932), based on a scenario by Fred Karno and featuring himself in a cameo role.

Please note:

- Titles in **[Square Brackets]** have been supplied by Archive cataloguers because the original title has been lost.
- All prints are 35mm unless indicated.
- The footage given relates to the viewing copy of the print and this can be watched at BFI Stephen Street.
- Many early film prints are incomplete, in which case every effort has been made to indicate this.
- Any missing data means that the films have not yet been fully catalogued by the Archive.
- Nitrate viewing copies are subject to viewing restrictions.

Records of Performances and Actualities

This section features films of music hall artistes where performances have been recorded more or less directly on film. For example, see the early sound on disc films such as Billy Merson in *Harry Lauder Burlesque* a direct to camera performance spoofing another music hall personality. This category also includes actuality film involving music hall personalities.

Comic Costume Race

UK 1896 Prod Paul's Animatograph Works

43ft.

35mm B&W

An actuality film of a race in comic costume, in progress at the annual music hall Sports fundraising event on July 14th 1896 at Herne Hill, London. We see the view across the park from one end of the racetrack as four men race towards the camera and change into pantomime costume (clowns costumes, wig, top hat and tutu) which are held in wicker baskets. The participants race back down the other end to where a crowd is gathered. Note: The participants have not been identified as yet. Many of these occasions were filmed and the films distributed commercially, including the films of the most celebrated of all music hall artistes, Dan Leno, at the event of 1902. Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lumière C.N.C. Compilation - Programme 1

France 1896 Prod Lumiere

249 ft.

35mm B&W

Compilation of Lumiere films shot in Britain, which includes variety acts filmed outside the Empire, Leicester Square. The relevant items are: *Entrée Du Cinématographe* (UK 1896), *Danseuses Des Rues* (UK 1896), *Nègres Dansant Dans La Rue* (UK 1896), *Danse Javanaise* (UK 1896), *Jongleur Javanais* (UK 1896) And *Lutteurs Javanais* (UK 1896). Archive source: BFI National Archive

Agoust Family of Jugglers

UK 1898 Prod British Mutoscope and Biograph Company

35mm B&W

Note: There are several other music hall and variety acts contained within the Biograph collections of both the BFI National Archive and the Netherlands Filmmuseum. contained within NFM Biograph Compilation No. 3
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Has He Hit Me?

UK 1898 Prod British Mutoscope and Biograph Company

A comic boxing display by the McNaughton brothers, Gus and Tom.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

E. Williams and His Merry Men

UK 1899 Prod unknown

35mm 141.

35mm B&W

A seaside minstrel show, this film shows E.H. Williams' 'Merry Men', performing two sketches on a small outdoor stage in front of a wooden hut at Rhyl, Wales. Eight comedians in black face perform a minstrel comedy sketch, dressed as schoolchildren harangued by a schoolmaster. The troupe then perform as black-faced minstrels, wearing striped jackets and white flannels, with ten sitting in line on chairs, while two perform a dance routine in front of them. The two minstrels (the cornermen) on the ends of the seated line both hold tambourines. Note: Pierrot or Minstrel shows were traditional seaside entertainments and might feature artistes on tour while the London halls were closed during summer. The name of the troupe is written on the roof of a large hut with admission prices and directions for the location of the performance if it rained. This would indicate that the show was well established as a beach attraction.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

[Herbert Campbell As Little Bobby]

UK 1899 Prod British Mutoscope and Biograph Company

49ft

35mm B&W

Herbert Campbell filmed in the Biograph studio which was situated at that time on the Thames Embankment. Campbell is dressed as 'Little Bobby' for the 1899-1900 Drury Lane pantomime, 'Cinderella'. He is seated at table in front of large meal, with a glass of beer beside him. He eats messily then drinks the beer in one and grins at the camera.. Note: The British Biograph Company filmed celebrities from the theatre and s. They exhibited their films nationally, with their flagship show at the Palace Theatre of Varieties on Shaftesbury Avenue, which is still operating today showing Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals. Campbell was frequently partnered with Dan Leno, probably the best known of all artists, and made some other films with him which are now sadly lost. Campbell was a large man hence the comedic juxtaposition of him as a child. The film is operating on several levels, as a news item, as an advert for the pantomime and as a 'facial' comedy.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Will Evans, The Musical Eccentric

UK 1899 Prod Warwick Trading Company

35mm 67ft.

35mm B&W

Will Evans, the well-known performer, tumbles on to the stage, does a series of tumbling tricks with a chair, plays a mandolin, and finally bows. Note: Will Evans was a comic performer in the circus and pantomime tradition (eccentric in this case meaning acrobatic) he also sang, danced and played. He was also a writer, he co-wrote the farce 'Tons of Money' which was filmed in 1924 starring Leslie Henson. His father, Fred Evans was a celebrated pantomime performer and Will's nephew, another Fred, was the comedian best known for his film character 'Pimple' q.v.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Amann, The Great Impersonator

UK 1899 Prod British Mutoscope and Biograph Company

46ft.

35mm B&W

Ludwig Amann impersonates both Emile Zola and Captain Dreyfus. Note: these quick change impressionists were a popular act in the music halls.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Kitty Mahone

UK 1900 Prod Gibbons' Bio-Tableaux

118ft.

35mm B&W

Lil Hawthorne sings 'Kitty Mahone' on stage (actually on a rooftop). Note: The BFI National Archive has an audiotape copy of the sound recording that would have accompanied this 'Phono-Bio-Tableaux' production. Lil Hawthorne was an American vaudeville singer who lived and performed in London for several years.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Topsy Turvey Dance By Three Quaker Maidens

UK 1900 Prod G.A. Smith

35mm 72ft.

35mm B&W

Three girls in Quaker costume dance before an American flag held by two male attendants. They retire behind the flag and apparently dance with their legs in the air; the dance is repeated, but this time the flag is dropped and the girls are seen to be holding dummy legs. Two of the girls make their exit, leaving the leader holding a pair of legs. She then makes her exit.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes

UK 1902 Prod GAS Films + Dir G A Smith

38ft.

35mm B&W

The nursery rhyme 'Hey Diddle Diddle' is acted out on a stage. Note: this was possibly from the local pantomime and contained seven scenes including Sing a Song of Sixpence, Old Mother Hubbard, Little Miss Muffet, Goosey Gander, Jack and Jill, Old Woman in a Shoe. One of many such subjects made by Smith who also shot several films shot of the Robinson Crusoe cast in the same year- see below.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

[Pierrot]

UK 1902 Prod GAS Films + Dir G A Smith

53ft.

35mm B&W

Section from a pantomime of Robinson Crusoe. On stage a backdrop of Crusoe's hut with Robinson playing with a parrot. Friday plagued by monkey. Dame Crusoe enters with washing basket and begins to sort it hampered by Friday and the monkey. Robinson re-enters with dancing girls one of whom is waving the union jack.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lettie Limelight in Her Lair aka Miss Bayley

UK 1903 Prod GAS Films + Dir G A Smith

43ft.

35mm B&W

The film shows Eva Bayley (sister in law of film pioneer G A Smith) as an actress (which she was in real life) in her dressing room preparing for a performance. It shows her making up and looking in mirror. Note: This may be an entr'acte film, designed to be screened during a theatre show to cover a costume or scene change. The film shows in a humorous way what is supposedly happening off-stage. Archive source: BFI National Archive

Two Old Sports

(c 1901 Prod GAS Films (WTC) + Dir G A Smith

46ft.

35mm B&W

Two 'stage door johnnies' seated at table looking at a magazine, 'Pearson's Pantomime Favourites'. They come across a picture of an actress in tights reclining. They laugh, joke and gesture until they weep with laughter. Note: this is one of a series of films which Smith made involving these two old gents at the pantomime/. These characters are a convention in comedy re-emerging in the 'two old men in the balcony' characters in the Muppet Show.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Countryman and the Cinematograph

UK 1901 Prod Paul's Animatograph Works

19ft (incomplete).

35mm B&W

A yokel in a cinema reacts to what he sees on the screen. The yokel, wearing a white smock, is standing to one side of the screen. He imitates the dancing girl in tutu; runs away from an approaching express train and becomes annoyed when he sees himself flirting with a milkmaid. Note: as there were no purpose-built cinemas at this time the scene would presumably have taken place at a fairground cinematograph. The unsophisticated man confused by the film was a popular subject and reinforces the myth of the primitive audience response to the advent of cinema. Also used as device to instil sense of superiority in audience who were not so naive.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Deonzo Brothers

UK 1901 Prod Paul's Animatograph works.

87ft.

35mm B&W

The two Deonzo Brothers in a stage act which involves leaping in and out of barrels. Shot on a stage with rural backdrop. Fragment, ends abruptly. Note: The Deonzo Brothers were American, from Hamilton Ohio. For further information on the Deonzo Brothers see article from the Harmsworth Magazine Feb-Jul 1901 reprinted in Charlie Holland 'Strange Feats and Clever Turns'. The article has detailed illustrations of the barrel-jumping act depicted in the film, including how the climax of the act turns out, which is missing from the film.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes

UK 1902 Prod GAS Films + Dir G A Smith Archive

38ft.

35mm B&W

The nursery rhyme 'Hey Diddle Diddle' is acted out on a stage. Note: this was possibly from the local pantomime and contained seven scenes including Sing a Song of Sixpence, Old Mother Hubbard, Little Miss Muffet, Goosey Gander, Jack and Jill, Old Woman in a Shoe. One of many such subjects made by Smith who also shot several films shot of the Robinson Crusoe cast in the same year.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

[Pierrots]

UK 1902 Prod GAS Films + Dir G A Smith Archive

53ft

35mm B&W

Section from a pantomime of Robinson Crusoe. On stage a backdrop of Crusoe's hut with Robinson playing with a parrot. Friday plagued by monkey. Dame Crusoe enters with washing basket and begins to sort it hampered by Friday and the monkey. Robinson re-enters with dancing girls one of whom is waving the union jack.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

[Collapsing Bridge]

UK 1902 Prod Unknown (possibly by Walter Gibbons)

87ft.

35mm B&W

Fragment of a water spectacular, possibly of 'Tally Ho!' staged at the London Hippodrome in 1901, shortly after it's opening. The camera is facing the stage with the water tank in the foreground, and with a walkway in between the tank and the stage. A melodrama is being enacted on the stage. There is a fight with muskets firing indicated by puffs of smoke. Two mounted soldiers ride down walkway and plunge into the tank. A carriage and four drives down the walkway led by man. The two front horses plunge into tank followed by the other two. The walkway collapses into the tank and water pours down from the 'hill' washing down the 'bridge' with bits of wood, flotsam and jetsam. Note: This is the only film of a music hall taken indoors during this early period. Identification of the stage show and venue are unconfirmed pending further research – the story in this sequence doesn't match contemporary descriptions of the scenario of Tally Ho! But these are certainly Hengler's famous 'plunging horses', a famous circus act adapted for the hippodromes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mistletoe Bough

UK 1904 Prod Clarendon Film Company Archive

480ft.

35mm B&W

Popular poem by E.T. Bayley about a bride who hides in a chest and is only discovered 15 years later. Note: This was a popular recitation piece in the music halls.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Quick Change Act

UK 1906 Prod Charles Urban Film Co.

118ft.

35mm B&W

With Percy Honri, Harry Thompson. Perci Honri, the virtuoso concertina player, and star of the show Concordia, changes costume behind the scenes in a . Three men are seen on a set, apparently the dressing room in a theatre. A man dressed as a devil

rushes in and the three of them help him to change out of that costume into a suit. He powders his face as they rush about him. He knocks all three of them over as he grabs a concertina and races back on to the stage. Note: This was probably used as an entr'acte film by Percy Honri to cover a difficult costume change in the musical show 'Concordia'. According to Peter Honris this film was shot on Urban Bioscope camera at George Hana's studio in Bedford Street.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Two Clowns

UK c1906 Prod G A Smith Archive

145ft.

35mm B&W

Two clowns, one male and one female sit beside each other at a table. They light their cigarettes and the female clown blows smoke into the other clown's face. He pours her a drink, she accepts, they toast and drink the wine. He whispers in her ear, she appears shocked then she paints his nose; then his cheeks. They both laugh. The background is dark with Chinese lanterns hanging either side of the clowns. Note: This was one of G.A. Smith's experiments with Kinemacolor.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

(Untitled Chronophone Film - Drawing Room)

France 1907 Prod Gaumont Archive

184ft.

35mm B&W

This has recently been identified as 'It Was a Nice Quiet Morning' and a disc located. No main title. A man sits on a chair in a drawing room in front of open French windows. He recites 'It was nice quiet morning' which tells the story of man being constantly interrupted. His wife enters and asks for money, which he grudgingly gives her. A tinker appears at the window and is kicked out and so next is an organ-grinder. A bald tradesman enters and is given some money by the singer. The singer calls his wife. They quarrel and in anger she pushes him to the floor. A magnetic tape of this recitation is held.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

(Untitled Chronophone Film - Drunkard)

France 1907 Prod Gaumont Archive

184ft

35mm B&W

A plump man with centre parting comes into poor flat. Sings song. Wife and daughter are washing clothes in background. More washing delivered. He sits on a sofa singing and drinks beer. He goes to sleep and his wife covers him with a blanket. Chalked on wall: Sope 1½, Bred 4, Hale 18/-, Rent 2/- . Hand written on leader: "L'enfant du poupin(?) anglais".

Archive source: BFI National Archive

(Untitled Chronophone Film - Napoleon)

France 1907 Prod Gaumont Archive

162ft.

35mm B&W

No title. Filmed in the open air in a garden. A man in Napoleon-style uniform enters with a woman on each hand. He sings a song, singing first to one woman, then the other. They perform a little dance then leave, returning to take a bow.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

(Untitled Chronophone Film - Sailor)

France 1907 Prod Gaumont Archive

154ft.

No main title. A bearded man in sailor suit enters and sings and does comic dance in an interior set. Four girls lie on the floor in the background. They get up and join in the dancing.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cinematophone Singing Pictures No. 106

UK 1907 Prod Walturdaw Company

100 ft.

35mm B&W

A girl sings a song in a street scene. She is persistently interrupted by two characters, one of whom bangs on the door to gain admittance. The same girl as in *By the Side of the Zuyder Zee*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cinematophone Singing Pictures: Fly Ann

UK 1907 Prod Walturdaw Company

116 ft.

35mm B&W

A man wearing a cowboy costume sings to a girl.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cinematophone Singing Pictures: Where Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone

UK 1907 Prod Walturdaw Company

112 ft

35mm B&W

A man in yokel costume sings the well-known song outside a public house. At the conclusion he removes his hat and wig and bows to the camera.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cinematophone Singing Pictures: By the Side of the Zuyder Zee

UK 1907 Prod Walturdaw Company

96 ft

35mm B&W

A girl singer wearing a bonnet and apron, mimes the words of the well-known song, some children are seen watching in the background. Possibly Fanny Fields or May Moore Duprez, who were both known for this kind of song in Dutch girl costume.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cinematophone Singing Pictures: I Would Like To Marry You

UK 1907 Prod Walturdaw Company

101 ft

35mm B&W

A man wearing a top hat and frock coat sings to a woman.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

[Village Blacksmith]

UK 1907 Prod unknown

181 ft, incomplete.

35mm B&W

Title reads "Mr Greville Norman and Ipsum Favourites". A blacksmith emerges from a doorway and stands over an anvil. He is followed by two other men one of whom works on a horse shoe on the anvil as the first man recites the poem, probably the famous poem by Longfellow. Note: According to some records there is an accompanying disc but this has not been definitely established.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Goodbye Sweetheart Goodbye

UK 1907 Prod unknown

165 ft.

35mm B&W

Possibly a chronophone. A man in evening dress sings "Goodbye Sweetheart, Goodbye". Note: Disc held but uncertain if it is for this film.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Toreador Song

UK 1909 Prod unknown

154 ft.

35mm B&W

Man dressed as toreador sings the song from Carmen. Note: Disc held - uncertain if it is for this film.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

[Vivaphone Film]

UK 1909 Prod Hepworth Manufacturing Company

168 ft.

35mm B&W

A duet is sung by two monks in white robes and hats. They occasionally walk round in a circle before returning to their position. The backdrop is totally black. Note: possibly something to do with the Kinoplastikon system which displayed stereoscopic images with sound.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Are We Downhearted ?

UK 1909 Prod Hepworth Manufacturing Company

178 ft

35mm B&W

Hay Plumb, Chrissie White, Alma Taylor and others ebulliently singing the popular song with dancing and miming to the words.. Note: A disc of the recording of the song to which the cast would have mimed has been located and a magnetic recording is held.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Muggins

UK 1909 Prod Cricks and Martin + Dir Dave Aylott

619ft.

35mm B&W

Country boy makes good in the army and comes home a hero. Note: Muggins played by Arthur Charrington who had music hall and theatre experience.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rigollo, The Man of Many Faces

UK 1910 Prod Charles Urban Trading Company

Incomplete 11ft.

35mm B&W

A comedian uses a hat to portray a suffragette. Note: Possibly a quick-change act. Presumably the suffragette character' was one of many different faces rapidly portrayed in the act.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Fete in Venice

UK c.1910 Prod unknown

633ft.

35mm B&W

The Kellino family of acrobats, including Will Kellino, perform their 'Risley act'; acrobatic stunts on an open stage (with Venetian settings), and Using a trampoline.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Whisper and I Shall Hear

UK c.1913 Prod unknown

163 ft.

35mm B&W

A man sings to a woman. They are both in 18th-century costume in an open air wooded setting. Other people in costume are seen in background. Note: A song film designed to be projected with a phonograph accompaniment. The name 'Vocal Cinema' appears on the final frame. Music by Marietta Piccolomini (1834-1899).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Here We Are Again

UK 1913 Prod Clarendon (Gifford says Cricks (C&M)) + Dir Edwin J Collins

489ft

35mm B&W

A Harlequinade based comedy. A policeman dreams that two thieves he is chasing turn into Clown and Pantaloon. Two sweethearts that he turns out of the park turn into Harlequin and Columbine. All four figures vanish and reappear before him until he is completely confused. He finally wakes to find the inspector shaking him.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Alice Delysia and Vesta Tilley

UK 1914 Prod unknown

82ft

35mm B&W

Actuality film of Alice Delysia and Vesta Tilley appearing at a Wedding reception at a large house, the bride is thought to be Vesta Tilley. The bride leaves the house with the groom and talks to guests on the lawn

Archive source: BFI National Archive

[Music Hall Act]

UK 1914 Prod Unknown note in records query Bamforth?

90ft

35mm B&W

Film of a classic harlequinade. The stage set represents a street scene, a very common setting in pantomime harlequinades. Harlequin and Columbine enter and perform a dance. Enter Pantaloon and Clown (in traditional Grimaldi clown costume). Harlequin waves his magic wand or 'slapstick' to make a crate appear in their hands. They put him in it and sit on it, but he re-emerges behind them and changes the crate into one bearing the word "Sausages". The butcher emerges from his shop and a melee ensues involving him, Pantaloon and Clown, Harlequin and a police constable, using as weapons the legs of meat hanging outside his shop. The butcher is put into the crate and minced into a string of sausages, which appear from the side of the crate. The final tableau shows Columbine and Harlequin, the Policeman, and Pantaloon and Clown shaking hands.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hoxton... Saturday July 3, Britannia Theatre

UK 1920 Prod unknown

367ft

35mm B&W

An actuality film of street scenes in Hoxton and Shoreditch and a rare glimpse of the exterior of a music hall caught on film. The date of 1920 is given in the opening title but with no details of who made the film. The camera shows a view of the Britannia Theatre, the most famous of all the East End music halls, from across Hoxton Street in Shoreditch. The streets are crowded with people who would typify the audience for the Britannia and include a group of small boys waiting in line outside the theatre. A range of vehicles passing by include a Midland Railway Company delivery cart going past the town-hall, trams and a mixture of motor and horse-drawn vehicles. The camera passes down Old Street and passes by Charles Square. A tram goes by 'The London Apprentice' public house and the tower of St Leonard's Church, Shoreditch.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The De Forest Phonofilms

In 1922 Lee de Forest developed the Phonofilm, a system for recording synchronized sound directly onto film stock. From 1925 the De Forest system was operating under licence in England. The Phonofilm was used to record stage performances such as music hall turns, light opera, recitations, and a range of musical acts. The problems of maintaining synchronisation over longer running films meant that the system did not effectively compete with systems for silent film features. The arrival of other sound on film systems created stiff competition between rival manufacturers. The De Forest system was not, ultimately, one of the survivors.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

'I Don't Care What You Used To Be' - Sung By Dick Henderson

UK c.1925 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

300 ft

35mm B&W

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dick Henderson Singing 'Love Her All the More'

UK 1926 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

358 ft

35mm B&W

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Joe Termini - the Somnolent Melodist

UK 1926 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

817ft.

35mm B&W

Unedited footage. On a stage set - an English village scene – a clapper boy and another man stand. The clapperboard reads 'Termini Shot 1'. Joe Termini comes on the set and performs a comic routine involving his hat and his starched bib before playing medley of jazz tunes on the violin. He performs a more serious, slower song with (unseen) piano accompaniment. In shot 6 he plays a guitar performing 'Ain't she sweet'. In shot 4 he plays the banjo, first performing a comedy routine again involving his hat and bib. He then performs a medley of songs including 'Blue skies'.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

I Don't Believe You're in Love With Me

UK 1926 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

486ft.

35mm B&W

Walter Williams and Winnie Collins sing a duet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Alvin D Keech and Kel Keech No 3

UK 1926 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

749ft.

35mm B&W

Music hall act by two banjo players.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Alvin D Keech and Kel Keech No 4

UK 1926 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

887ft.

35mm B&W

Music hall act by two banjo players.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mr Teddy Elben in His Song Scena 'When That Yiddisher Band Played An Irish Tune'

UK 1926 Prod De Forest Phonofilms + Dir Robert J Cullen

613ft.

35mm B&W

Humorous scena, featuring a band, in Jewish clothing, playing a selection of tunes in Ragtime/Irish/ Yiddish styles with accompanying patter from Teddy Elben. The band are chased off stage by 'audience' throwing cabbages etc.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

I've Never Seen a Straight Banana

UK 1926 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

393ft.

35mm B&W

'The Great Yorkshire Comedian' in 'I've never seen a Straight Banana' by Ted Waite published by Lawrence Wright Music Co. Dick Henderson behind fruit stall on stage. Opens with the song, interrupted from off stage. Tells two jokes and continues to sing the song chorus. Finally he smiles at the camera, thumbs in braces, lifts his bowler hat and the curtains close.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dick Henderson Singing 'Tripe'

UK 1926 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

638 ft.

35mm B&W

Dick Henderson sings 'Tripe'.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dick Henderson in a Song Scena 'Let's All Go To Mary's House'

UK 1926 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

407 ft

35mm B&W

Dick Henderson sings the comic song of the title.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gwen Farrar and Billy Mayerl

UK 1926 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

359ft.

35mm B&W

The pair singing 'I've got a Sweetie on the Radio'.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

It's a Great Big Shame

(c 1926) Prod Almost certainly a De Forest Phonofilm

385 ft.

35mm B&W

Unidentified version, of this famous Gus Elen song with the lyrics in the title cards.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Topsey Turvey

UK c.1926 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

358ft.

35mm B&W

Featuring Arthur Roberts. sings 'Topsey Turvey' which he sang in the 1890's in 'HMS Irresponsible'. Includes a long sequence with the comedian miming a woman undressing in a bathing machine.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ventriloquist

UK 1927 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

299ft.

35mm B&W

An American ventriloquist with a live girl who plays the dummy.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Boheme Blue

UK 1927 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

790ft.

35mm B&W

Musical short. Performers unidentified.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Coffee Stall

UK 1927 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

1612ft.

35mm B&W

Sketch featuring Mark Lupino and Company (brother of Barry and Stanley Lupino).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ain't She Sweet

UK 1927 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

181ft.

35mm B&W

Comedian Dick Henderson sings Ain't She Sweet as Chilli Bouchier dances.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Nervo and Knox in Their Famous Dance Scene 'The Love of Phtohtenese

UK 1927 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

328ft.

35mm B&W

The famous comedians of Crazy Gang fame had worked as a double act on the halls from 1919 and had both previously worked in knockabout comedy acts. This is a record of their famous sketch, The love of Phtohtenese (pronounced Hot Knees, the T being weak as in Broadcasting House).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

There Are More Heavens Than One

UK 1927 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

368 ft.

35mm B&W

Dickie Henderson wearing light coloured suit and bowler hat, he removes his hat saying he has shown his humorous side and would now like to show his serious side. He sings the song of the title then bows to camera and the curtain closes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Lard Song; a Song Scena Featuring Tommy Lorne

Prod De Forest Phonofilms

948ft.

35mm B&W

A comic sketch with Scots comedian Tommy Lorne as a shopkeeper. He sings the 'Lard song' and a version of 'Comin' Thro the Rye' with references to Prohibition. Two

'Russian' women come into the shop for Cockroach destroyer and end with the competing strains of the Volga Boatsong and the titles song.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Actor's Squad

UK 1927 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

884ft.

35mm B&W

Comic sketch, with Lawrence Anderson impersonating various famous actors of the day (including John Martin Harvey) in a scenario where they have to drill soldiers on Parade.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Nightingale's Courtship

UK 1927 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

482ft.

35mm B&W

French clowns, the Plattier Brothers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Billy Merson Singing 'Desdemona'

UK c.1927 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

372ft.

35mm B&W

The famed Nottingham comedian singing humorous song, dressed in a toga and playing a prop harp.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jack Hodges, Comedian in 'To See If My Dreams Come True'

UK 1927 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

806ft

35mm B&W

The comedian in a song number.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Divine and Charles in An Apache Dance [On With Dance series]

UK 1927 Prod Pioneer Film Agency + Dir Harry B Parkinson

38ft

35mm B&W

Fragment of this dance team performing the Apache dance.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mr George Mozart, the Famous Comedian

UK c.1927 Prod De Forest Phonofilms.

882ft.

There is no synopsis for this film yet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Yid Nesbitt

UK 1927 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

1021ft.

35mm B&W

Assisted by brother Harry, the famous South African brothers in musical, vocal, verbal and terpsichorean tit-bits.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

‘Hot Water’ and ‘Vegetabuel’

UK 1928) Prod De Forest Phonofilms + Dir Widgey Newman

840ft

35mm B&W

Leslie Sarony sings these two songs direct to camera with public house backdrop.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Victoria Girls

UK 1928 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

699ft.

35mm B&W

The Victoria girls in their famous dancing medley.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Canoodling

UK 1928 Prod De Forest Phonofilms

713 ft.

35mm B&W

Hal Jones, star of the stage revue ‘Splinters’ sings the song "Canoodling" from the show.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Clonk

UK 1928 Prod De Forest Phonofilms + Dir Widgey R Newman

613 ft

35mm B&W

Song performed by Leslie Sarony and Artie Ash.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Acci-Dental Dentist

UK 1929 Prod British Sound Film Productions + Dir Thomas Bentley

782ft.

35mm B&W

Ernie Lotinga recreates the character, Jimmy Josser, which he developed on the halls for the screen. This is a two-reel slapstick set at the dentists, of which only one reel survives in the BFI National Archive.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Music Hall Artistes and Themes in films made for Cinema

This section includes films featuring music hall artistes in comedies or dramas made as original works for cinema. It also features films that contain elements common in pantomime and popular theatre, such as *Pimple in the Whip* (UK 1917) - a spoof on the theatrical spectacular, *The Whip*, clearly in the style of a music hall skit.

Vice Versa

UK 1910 Prod Cricks and Martin + Dir Dave Aylott
433ft.

35mm B&W

Comedy featuring a mischievous boy who steals a magic wand from a magician at a child's party. He uses the wand to reverse positions of various types of dominant and subservient people he encounters (a policeman and villain, suffragettes and labourers, a man beating a donkey, well dressed man and shoe shine boy) Note: the magic wand was a commonly used device in pantomime, deriving from Harlequin's magic bat or 'slapstick'. The use of the wand to transform or reverse character types was frequently employed and would have been understood by the audience as a familiar contrivance. The advantage of the film version was in its ability to employ trick photography rather than the less convincing stage trickery.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Charley Smiler Joins the Boy Scouts

UK 1911 Prod Cricks and Martin + Dir Dave Aylott
560ft.

35mm B&W

Fred Evans as Charley Smiler, a boy scout encountering various mishaps outdoors. Tall, awkward Charley, seeing a troop of Boy Scouts on the march, wants to join them - and is accepted amid laughter. He primps proudly before his mirror in his new equipment, then rushes off to join the company on a hike. Various mishaps occur as Charley falls into puddles, ponds, beds of nettles and so on. After being chased by an irate farmer with a gun, Charley is disgusted with the ideals of scouting, and leaves the company angrily. Note: The only survivor of a series of Charley Smiler films.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Night I Fought Jack Johnson

UK c.1912 Prod Hepworth Manufacturing Company / Vivaphone film
196 ft.

35mm B&W

Mute Vivaphone film in which a man recounts his boxing match with a black boxer, which is shown while he sings. Mute Note: the boxer is a white man in black make-up.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

I Do Like To Be Where the Girls Are

UK c.1912 Prod Hepworth Manufacturing Company / Vivaphone film
169 ft

35mm B&W

Alma Taylor and Violet Hopson in suffragette and chorus girl costume.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Fred's Police Force

UK 1912 Prod Precision Films

incomplete

35mm B&W

Fred Evans plays Fred a rejected recruit who starts own police force. Dressed as a policeman he accepts a drink from a maid and becomes drunk and then interrupts a gambling session, helping himself to the stakes and drinks. He comes across two poachers in the woods who are scared off at his approach. 252ft (of 560ft)

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pimple's Motor Bike

UK 1913 Prod Folly Films + Dir Fred Evans

243ft

35mm B&W

Pimple buys a motor bike and angers people by crashing into them

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pimple's Wonderful Gramophone

UK 1913 Prod Phoenix + Dir Fred Evans

417ft.

35mm B&W

Pimple sets up a large box fitted with a gramophone horn and sits down inside it. A notice declares that it will play any tune asked for when a penny is dropped in the slot. Pimple answers the requests of different people who come along but is finally brought to grief by a classical request and the attentions of a drunk.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pimple's Complaint

UK 1913 Prod Folly Films + Dir Fred Evans, Joe Evans

207 ft incomplete of 450ft.

35mm B&W

Some boys pin a notice to Pimple's back saying he has the smallpox and he unwittingly causes a general panic.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pimple's Battle of Waterloo

UK 1913 Prod Phoenix film company + Dir Fred Evans

552ft.

35mm B&W

A spoof of the Battle of Waterloo in which Pimple plays Napoleon. Scenes include him crossing the Alps on a pantomime horse, an attempt on his life by suffragettes and arriving at Waterloo station. He recreates the sentry scene where Napoleon takes over the sleeping sentry's watch only to find the sentry accusing him of stealing his rifle. At the battle Napoleon and Wellington toss a coin for the first shot. The French realise they have forgotten the ammunition, and one of the soldiers goes off to a shop

to buy some. A troupe of Boy Scouts charge Napoleon, who after a chaotic battle surrenders. He is taken prisoner and sent off in a boat, saying goodbye to France (actually Twickenham) forever. Note: The film is a parody of the British and Colonial super production

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Nobby the New Waiter

UK 1913 Prod Ec-Ko Film Company + Dir W P Kellino

Cast. Sam T Poluski

531ft.

35mm B&W

Nobby obtains job as a waiter but his various antics soon result in dismissal. He smokes on duty, flirts with the cook, and puts on roller skates. Two customers evade paying their bill by engaging Nobby in a game of 'Blind man's Bluff'. Note: This shows some of the routines of Sam Poluski, the straight man from the Poluski Brothers comedy duo in which he performed with his brother Will.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Maid of Cefn Ydfa

UK 1914) aka The Love Story of Ann Thomas

Prod Willam Hagggar Jr + Dir William Hagggar

2305 ft incomplete.

35mm B&W

Ann is forced to marry a man she does not love, and the man she does love, Will, is forced into exile. Note: The Hagggar company were Welsh showmen turned filmmakers, regularly performed this classic melodrama. They filmed it twice and this second version stars a young Will Fyffe of 'I Belong to Glasga' fame, started working for the Hagggar's in 1898 as a 13 year-old. He went on to become very successful in music hall and made many films in the 1930's. In the Maid of Cefn Ydfa he plays the comic light relief, Dai Lossin.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Rollicking Rajah

UK c.1914 Prod Hepworth Manufacturing Company / Vivaphone film

208 ft.

35mm B&W

A man dressed as an Indian rajah sings while women dance around him. Mute Note: The song sheet exists for this.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Two Columbines

UK 1914 Prod London Film Company + Dir Harold Shaw

1992ft.

35mm B&W

A former dancer who has broken an ankle, never to dance again, works as a skivvy in a theatre. On Christmas eve she dances to entertain her child and dies leaving the child to be brought up by the principles, Harlequin and Columbine from the theatre company. Note: this play within the drama is a Christmas Harlequinade, with Columbine, Harlequin, Pantaloon, Policeman and chorus girls.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Christmas Day in the Workhouse

UK 1914 Prod Samuelson Film Company + Dir George Pearson

580 ft

35mm B&W

Fred Paul plays the pauper, telling the workhouse inmates of his wife's starvation.

From the famous poem by George R Sims. incomplete.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lieut. Pimple and the Stolen Submarine

UK 1914 Prod Folly Films

862ft.

35mm B&W

A Royal Navy officer thwarts foreign spies who steal a submarine

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lieutenant Pimple's Dash For the Pole

UK 1914 Prod Folly Films + Dir Fred Evans

676ft.

35mm B&W

Pimple is sent to assess the North Pole for tax purposes, but is unable to find it until a policeman directs him to a pub of that name.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pimple's Charge of the Light Brigade

UK 1914 Prod Folly films + Dir Fred Evans

118ft.

35mm B&W

Fragment only. A policeman directs the Light Brigade, led by Pimple to the valley of Death inn. The Brigade dismount from their horses and enter the inn. Note: the intertitles are based on Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem, a great favourite of the recitation and the source of many parodies.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Fat Man On a Bicycle (aka. W.H.O.R.K. a la Pimple)

UK 1914

Prod Unknown + Dir Fred Evans

143ft. Incomplete.

35mm B&W

A fat man attempts to cycle his bike down the middle of a deserted street, assisted by another man

(Pimple). They are having some difficulty in keeping the bike upright and the fat man falls off. The men now stand outside a front door, a woman watches the fat man remount his bike and helps to steady him. In the street the men still have trouble but eventually set off. They make slow progress through a quiet street until they collide with a vegetable seller and with a woman and a pram, the woman, pram, two men and the bicycle end up on the floor. The woman rescues a baby from the pram and begins to kick the two men. Shot of the two men, and the bike in a street where a sign on the wall reads; 'S. BOWYER'.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pimple's Uncle

UK 1915 Prod Piccadilly Films + Dir Fred Evans

926ft.

35mm B&W

Pimple learns that his uncle intends to leave his money to his most deserving nephew. Pimple 's cousin James thinks of a way to make Pimple unpopular with his uncle but the ruse rebounds and he is cut off without a penny.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pimple Has One

UK 1915 Prod Piccadilly Films + Dir Fred Evans/Joe Evans

378ft. (beginning missing).

35mm B&W

Pimple fetches wine in shopping basket but gets drunk. With camera moving from side to side as on waves, seasick Pimple tangles with policeman and boy. He fills a rich man's top hat with the soda siphon. He collapses on ground and a lady places her unloosened boot in front of him. Ashamed of her exposed ankle Pimple pulls skirt down bashfully when she raises it again he takes out a brush and whitewashes the camera and winks.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pimple's Part

UK 1916 Prod Regent Film + Dir and cast Fred Evans/ Joe Evans

incomplete 191ft.

35mm B&W

Pimple dresses as an actor and declaims in a restaurant. He practises at home with his wife and their silhouettes on the blind look as if he is murdering her. He is nearly arrested by a passing policeman. He retires to bed still learning his part.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Missing Link

UK 1917 Prod Homeland Productions + Dir W P Kellino

150 ft incomplete.

35mm B&W

Cast. Lupino Lane, Winifried Delevanti, Blanche Bella, W P Kellino. Section only. A group of school boys pile into a classroom and begin to fight for the best desk. One of the boys, Nipper, pretends to be a teacher by donning a mortar-board and waving a cane. In the headmistress's office a new boy is brought to school [the 'boy' is Kitty, Nipper's sweetheart dressed up]. The disruption in the classroom continues and the teacher attempts to cane Nipper who is blamed for the bad behaviour. Kitty and Nipper are caught helping each other with a question and she is made to wear a dunces cap and the other boys shoot peas at her with a peashooter. Note: W P Kellino played the 'missing link' i.e. an ape in this comedy but unfortunately this is missing from this surviving fragment.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pimple in the Whip

UK 1917 Dir Fred Evans/Joe Evans

Prod Piccadilly

Cast: Fred Evans, Joe Evans, Nina Maxwell

1302ft.

35mm B&W

A parody of the stage spectacular, racing drama 'The Whip'. Lord Elpus (Pimple) is penniless and puts all of his money on The Whip, a race horse. The villain follows him to a secret trial of The Whip (represented by a pantomime horse). Later the villain goes to The Whip's stable and tries to poison him by sawing his leg off, and then his tail, but Elpus intervenes. At Madame Tussaud's Lord Elpus and the heroine see wax figures of Von Tirpitz, the Kaiser (a pig), Von O'Clock and Charles Peace. The villain locks Elpus inside, but he escapes with the help of a genie from Aladdin's lamp. Elpus, cycles after a train containing The Whip. As he is releasing the horse the train behind crashes into the carriage too soon, and the scene has to be repeated twice before Elpus rescues The Whip, only for the train to crash into them both. At Newmarket Lord Elpus himself rides The Whip in the race (the other competitors also being pantomime horses) and seems certain of victory when The Whip throws him just before the winning post and refuses to move any further. Note: 'The Whip' was a famous Drury Lane production, written by Cecil Raleigh and Henry Hamilton, which featured at its climax an actual on-stage horse race, as well as the rail crash. It was also filmed by Maurice Tourneur in the USA in 1917.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Trippe and Tribunals (No. 2 of The Blunders of Mr Butterbun Series)

UK 1918 Prod Hagen and Double + Dir Fred Rains

1708ft.

35mm B&W

Mr Butterbun receives a request to lead an appeal tribunal for WW1 conscripts and rushes off (after much business getting dressed). The Board is shown at work judging the conscription appeals of comic characters who attempt to fool or bribe them with the usual excuses being too old, too young, engaged on important war work, widowed mothers to care for etc. Chaos ensues and the Board members go off to the races and subsequently go to a restaurant and ring up a huge bill on champagne and are kicked out. Mr Butterbun goes home very drunk to face his angry wife. Note: this is one of only two surviving episodes of this series of 9 two reel comedies, mostly a vehicle for Lupino Lane who was already well established as a star of the halls in sketches, musical comedy and pantomime. This is indicated by the opening simultaneous inset of Lupino as himself and as Mr Butterbun. The series was issued as part of the Kinekature Comedies which exploited a patent gimmick which distorted the film image for comic effect. The transformation was often triggered by a device such as a magic ring in the same style as other such pantomime devices including Alf's Button.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Introducing the Juggling Demons

UK c.1920 Prod Unknown

84ft.

35mm B&W

Unidentified fragment depicting a juggling act with clubs, filmed in a studio. Two men dressed in demon's costume smile at the camera, then perform a juggling act with clubs. Their movements are seen in slow motion as they take turns to juggle with a set of three clubs and then in normal motion. Note: This may be an extract from a cinemagazine.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Film Pie Series

UK 1920 Prod Neville Bruce Film Service + Dir Geoffrey Malins and Neville Bruce

337ft

35mm B&W

Series of 12 comedy sketch/ variety act compilation films. Each film contains several items. Originally included: Film Pie; Eat or Drink; Have Yer Got a Tanner Bill?; Why Was Jimmy Wild?; This Story Has a Moral for Husbands Only; A Polite Reminder; You Cannot Tell a Sausage by its Skin; It Never Rains But...

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Inquisitive (Film Pie series)

UK 1920 Prod Neville Bruce Film Service

468ft

35mm B&W

Compilation of five acted gags: 'Inquisitive' - Small boy jokes with mother, combing her hair. 'A very unsuccessful competitor in the toffee apple competition' - Man in drag is handed a tin of corned beef. 'Neighbourly love' - One woman tells another that her baby's name is Bill because he came on the first of the month. 'He held his breath' - Knife throwing act and joke

(with Jock McNaughton, Tony Holgate and Ida Fane). 'Nippy nippers' - Two boys joke at barber's expense.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Very Unsuccessful Competitor in the Toffee Apple Competition (Film pie series)

UK 1920 Prod Robertson Cole Pictures Corporation

568ft

35mm B&W

This seems to duplicate some of the titles in the episode entitled 'Inquisitive'. It has the title sketch, 'Neighbourly love', 'Nippy Nippers', 'He held his Breath' and also includes 'Not at the Troc' a restaurant sketch.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Harlequinade

UK 1923 Prod Stoll Film Company + Dir A E Coleby

Cast: George Robey as Clown

356ft. (a longer reel of rushes exists as a master print, 855ft).

35mm Nitrate B&W

Traditional Harlequinade with George Robey, in a pantomime played against a backcloth depicting a street scene with shops. The characters play tricks on the infuriated shopkeepers and their customers starting with the bill poster, a man carrying a load on his head, the butchers, a lady with a baby (which is replaced with the traditional sausages and turns into a baby pig. At the draper's there is some comic business with the dummies before they move onto the butcher's again, doing the Indian Rope trick with the string of sausages before falling off on to Policeman. Harlequin and Columbine are continually dancing across the stage. Harlequin blacks out the backdrop and the film ends with a Happy New Year message painted by Clown and Pantaloon. The four characters bow before the fallen curtain. Note: this appears to have been filmed in a real theatre as the film shows some of the stage trap doors commonly employed by pantomime. The film also employs filmic tricks such as stop motion, disappearing items etc. We also see Robey acting the throwing of sweets to the audience (presumably children).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Little Bit of Fluff

UK 1928 Prod British International Pictures + Dir Jess Robbins/Wheeler Dryden
6979ft

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

A young husband's head is turned by an exotic dancer, and numerous misunderstandings result in this feature length comedy. A vehicle for Syd Chaplin and Betty Balfour based on the famous farce. Note: apart from being a good example of musical comedy in this era this is also an opportunity to see Syd Chaplin perform some of the acrobatic routines that he learned during his time with Fred Karno's troupe.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Films based on Music Hall Sketches and Plays

This section features British and some international films that have particular relevance to British cinema and music hall.

King John

UK 1899 Prod British Mutoscope and Biograph Company + Dir W K L Dickson

84ft + 5ft.

35mm B&W

Film of Her Majesty's Theatre production of King John with Herbert Beerbohm Tree, which opened on 20th September 1899. The film was shot at the open air Biograph studio on the Embankment using a theatre backdrop. The film was made in four scenes of which only part of the third survives and was clearly intended to publicise the stage production as the film was released at the Palace Theatre of Varieties and several European and British halls to coincide with the opening night. The audience apparently responded well to the film as the large format meant they got a good view of the famous actor.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Le Raid Paris-Monte Carlo En Deux Heures

UK 1905) France

Prod Star Film /Georges Melies

543ft

35mm B&W

Trick film in which members of the Folies Bergeres walk across a road to congratulate the drivers of the car in the said race. This includes Little Tich in his big boots who stands on tiptoes to light his cigarette from that of the giant Antonich.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Trilby

UK 1914 Prod London Film Company + Dir Harold Shaw

1324ft

35mm B&W

Adaptation of the famous melodrama 'Trilby' by George du Maurier with Sir Henry Beerbohm Tree as Svengali. This work was a popular subject in the halls in a variety of forms. Section only, incomplete.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Night in the Show

UK 1915 Prod Essanay + Dir Charles Chaplin.

1587ft

16mm B&W

Charlie Chaplin in film version of the Fred Karno sketch 'Mumming Birds'. He plays inebricated 'swell' who causes havoc in an English music hall. He also plays an interfering man in the balcony. Note: this differs from the Karno sketch in that instead of the view of the view being restricted to the audience in the boxes on the sides of the stage, the film is able to look backwards to the entire audience.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Twinkletoes

USA 1926 Prod First National + Dir Charles J Brabin

7700ft.

35mm B&W

American tale of a Limehouse music hall dancer who falls for a boxer. Title part played by Colleen Moore in ludicrous fantasy Chinatown based on a 1917 story by Thomas Burke. Twinkletoes' cockney pals are improbably named 'Hank' and 'Chuck'.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Only Me

USA 1929 Prod Educational Film Exchange

1490ft.

35mm B&W

Lupino Lane plays all 27 parts in version of famous Fred Karno sketch 'Mumming Birds' also know as a night at the English music hall' or a Night at the Show'.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

My Lucky Star

UK 1933 Prod Masquerader Productions + Dir Louis Blattner/ John Harlow

5853ft

35mm B&W

A maid is mistaken for a film star and eventually gets her chance on the silver screen. Stars many music hall regulars.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Fiction films about Music Hall

This section features examples of music hall sketches popular from 1895-1930 and made into cinema comedies with the coming of sound film. It also includes filmed music hall acts of major artistes who were known to be performing during this period.

Elstree Calling

UK 1930 Prod British National Pictures + Dir Adrian Brunel

7783ft.

35mm B&W

Revue about first television broadcasts featuring many of the stars of the music hall in the 1920's including, Tommy Handley, Gordon Harker, Lily Morris, Will Fyffe. Also

featured speciality acts from popular theatre, variety and cabaret such as Teddy Brown and the Charlot Girls.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Roamin' in the Gloamin'

UK 1931 Prod Gainsborough Pictures

429ft 16mm.

35mm B&W

Note: One of a series of Harry Lauder songs

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Nanny

UK 1931 Prod Gainsborough Pictures

35mm B&W

Note: One of a series of Harry Lauder songs

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gus Elen in 'It's A Great Big Shame' (Pathétone Weekly)

UK 1932 Prod Pathe

109ft

16mm B&W

Gus Elen singing his signature song direct to camera with street backdrop.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

source: BFI National Archive

Josser Joins the Navy

UK 1932 Prod British International Pictures + Dir Norman Lee

in poor condition, 6271ft

35mm Nitrate B&W

Josser (played by Ernie Lotinga) is a hall porter is forced to join the navy while tracking spies.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Say It With Flowers

UK 1933 Prod Real Art Productions + Dir John Baxter

6180ft.

35mm B&W

This feature film includes several personalities recorded years after they were first famous. There are songs from Charles Coborn ("The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo"), Marie Kendall ("Just Like the Ivy") and Florrie Forde ("She's a Lassie from Lancashire", "Has Anybody Here Seen Kelly?", "Hold Your Hand Out, Naughty Boy", "Down at the Old Bull and Bush", "Oh! Oh! Antonio!", "Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag" and "It's a Long Way to Tipperary"). Also features uncredited, Tom Costello and Percy Honri.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Good Companions

UK 1933 Dir Victor Saville

Prod Gaumont British Picture Corporation/Welsh Pearson and Co.

10146ft

Adaptation of J B Priestley's play concerns a defunct troupe of touring theatricals with a Pierrot act and their revitalization by arrival of new blood in the shape of Jessie Matthews and John Gielgud. Film debut of comedian Max Miller, vividly recreates lost world of provincial theatre.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Falling For You

UK 1933 Prod Gainsborough Pictures + Dir Robert Stevenson

7720ft .

35mm B&W

Story of rival journalists trying to get an exclusive from an heiress in Switzerland. With Jack Hulbert and Cecily Courtneidge doing some of their comedy routines developed as musical comedy acts.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

You Made Me Love You

UK 1933 Prod British International Pictures + Dir Monty Banks

6338ft.

35mm

Cast. Stanley Lupino, Thelma Todd, James Carew, Syd Crossley. Musical comedy version of the Taming of the Shrew. Note: Not so much a music hall piece but a good example of the type of musical comedy that many music hall stars found themselves in during the 1920's and which were made into films in great numbers as soon as sound came in.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Soldiers of the King

UK 1934 Prod Gainsborough + Dir Maurice Elvey

7083 ft.

35mm B&W

Musical comedy concerning a family of music hall artistes, starring Edward Everett Horton. Cicely Courtneidge shines as mother of the Marvello troupe as the Colonel forbids his lieutenant to marry a music hall star. Includes hit song 'There's something about a soldier' by Noel Gay. Other music hall personalities include Leslie Sarony and Artie Ash and Bransby Williams.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Happy

UK 1934 Prod British International Pictures + Dir Friedrich Zelnick

7500ft.

35mm B&W

Cast. Stanley Lupino, Will Fyffe, Harry Tate, Gus McNaughton. Musical comedy set in Paris with songs by Stanley Lupino and featuring music hall favourites.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Kentucky Minstrels

UK 1934 Prod Real art (Julius Hagen) + Dir John Baxter

5939ft incomplete of 7279ft.

35mm B&W

Scott and Whaley, American Negro cross talking double act play minstrels in this drama of an old time minstrel who sinks to poverty before regaining popularity. Note:

This was adapted from the radio show of the same name written by Harry Pepper, C Denier Warren and John Watt.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

My Old Dutch

UK 1934 Prod Gainsborough Pictures

7550ft.

35mm B&W

This feature film is based on the famous song/sketch by Albert Chevalier. It stars Betty Balfour, Michael Hogan with hefty support from Gordon Harker and features Florrie Forde in cameo. A pivotal scene takes place at the pictures and the action is interspersed with scenes from the missing 1915 My Old Dutch with Albert Chevalier himself playing Joe and Florence Turner Playing Sal, Henry Edwards also appears in significant role. These scenes are on the screen in the fictitious cinema and commented on by the main protagonists as the parallel story unfolds.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Over the Garden Wall

UK 1934 Prod British International Pictures + Dir John Daumery

5940ft.

35mm nitrate only B&W

Cast. Bobby Howes, Margaret Bannerman, Marian Marsh.

Musical Comedy about and aunt's objections to her nephew's love for the neighbour's niece. Syd Crossley plays Podds and Bobby Howes plays Bunny.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Evergreen

UK 1934 Prod Gaumont British + Dir Victor Saville

8498ft..

35mm B&W

Story of 1909 music hall star, forced to retire, whose daughter capitalizes on her mother's success in the present day Vehicle for Jessie Matthews and Sonnie Hale.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Those Were the Days

UK 1934 Prod British International Pictures + Dir Thomas Bentley

7221ft.

35mm B&W

Cast Will Hay, John Mills, Iris Hoey, Angela Baddeley. Feature film recreating the atmosphere of old-time music hall with notable success. Includes Will Hay, Lily Morris, actor playing G.H. Elliott, doing Lily of Laguna, Harry Bedford and Sam Curtis.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Boots! Boots!

UK 1934 Prod Blakeley's Productions + Dir Bert Tracey

6046 ft. shorter 1936 version originally 80mins.

35mm B&W

Musical comedy starring George Formby (junior) in his first film, as a boot-boy at a big hotel. He falls for the scullery maid who turns out to be the long-lost niece of wealthy residents at the hotel. Formby uses routines developed in his act which he inherited

from his father after his death in 1921. BFI National Archive print is from damaged original material with sound synch problems.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Arthur Prince and Jim in A Ventiloquial Sketch

UK 1935 Prod Conservative and Unionist Film Association

795 ft.

35mm B&W

Arthur Prince dressed as a navy officer is sitting with his dummy dressed as a sailor. As he talks with the dummy he smokes a cigar. He tells the dummy that he must have a career, to which the dummy says he wants to be a politician. The dummy says he would make promises to get into Parliament - free houses, train rides etc. and make the banks pay. Arthur Prince explains that the money in the banks belong to people and that people shouldn't be deceived by governmental promises. The dummy then talks about the Grand National and says he lost because he hadn't studied the horse's form. Arthur Prince tells the dummy that he should study governmental form before thinking of entering politics. Party political film finishes with words "Support the National Government".

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Birds of A Feather

UK 1935 Prod Baxter and Barter Productions + Dir John Baxter

of 780ft, incomplete master material 2700ft of original running length of 6234'.

35mm B&W

Cast: George Robey, Eve Lister, Horace Hodges. Vehicle for George Robey who stars as millionaire sausage king who finds treasure in rented baronial hall.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Radio Parade of 1935

UK 1935 Prod British International Pictures + Dir Arthur Woods

8466ft.

35mm B&W

Includes Will Hay, Alfred Drayton, Billy Bennett, Dave Burnaby, Lily Morris, Nellie Wallace, the Western Brothers, Clapham and Dwyer, Georgie Harris, Hugh E. Wright, Claude Dampier, Ronald Frankau, Alberta Hunter and Ted Ray.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Things Are Looking Up

UK 1935 Prod Gaumont-British Picture Corporation

7158.

35mm B&W

The schoolmistress elopes with circus wrestler and is substituted by an identical twin. With Max Miller, Dick and Dickie Henderson, Will Hay and starring Cicely Courtneidge. Note: Hay Plumb has small part.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Royal Cavalcade

UK 1935 Prod British International Pictures + Dir Norman Lee

9432ft.

35mm nitrate only B&W

Made to celebrate George V's silver jubilee, this is a look at Britain in the years of his reign. The linking theme is the ownership of a George V penny from person to person. It contains many scenes of popular entertainment including music hall, musical comedy and revue with short glimpses of many artistes working in the years 1895 to 1930. Including: Arthur Prince, Lupino Lane, Stanley Lupino, George Robey, Harry Tate, Gus McNaughton, Syd Walker, Alice Lloyd, Jerry Verno, Seymour Hicks, Ellaline Terris, Jimmy Hanley, Florrie Forde, George Graves etc.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Arthur Lucan (Old Mother Riley) – Bridget's Night Out

UK 1936 Prod Butcher's Film Service

221ft.

35mm B&W

Comic monologue by Arthur Lucan as Old Mother Riley, probably from 'Stars on Parade' (see above). Old Mother Riley complains about her daughter Kitty's absence from the house before removing numerous layers of clothes in preparation for bed. Bridget's voice is heard off. Note: This is a filmed version of famous music hall sketch from which the 'Old Mother Riley' film series derived.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hearts of Humanity

UK 1936 Prod UK Films + Dir John Baxter

5910ft.

35mm B&W

Thriller starring Eric Portman with Bransby Williams as Mike, a member of the London underworld. Contains scenes at the 'Metro' music hall during a talent spotting competition. Variety acts include Teddy Joyce and his band, violinist, comedian Stanelli.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ella Shields

UK 1936 Prod UK Films

104ft + 75ft

16mm B&W

Ella Shields sings "Burlington Bertie", originally from Men of Yesterday (UK 1936). One print has the words superimposed over the picture. Note: The footage was reused in Camp Concert (1943, see below).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Soft Lights and Sweet Music

UK 1936 Prod British Lion Film Corporation + Dir Herbert Smith

5873ft and section of 593ft.

35mm B&W

A musical revue featuring many music hall and musical comedy stars.

Includes: Evelyn Dall

("I've Lost My Rhythm", "I'm All In"); Ambrose and his Orchestra

("We're Tops on Saturday Night", "Limehouse Blues", "Madonna" etc); the Western Brothers

("After All That", "Mistlethwaite, Don't Be a Cad"); Harry Tate; Turner Layton

("My S.O.S. to you"); Elisabeth Welch

("Yesterday's Thrill"); Wilson, Keppel and Betty; the Five Charladies

("I'm Just a Little Lady from the Boulevards"); Sandy Powell's Harmonica Band
("It's My Mother's Birthday Today"); Max Bacon
("Cohen the Crooner") and the Three Rhythm Brothers
("Tiger Rag"). A second copy recently acquired includes additional material with
Turner Layton
("East of the Sun and West of the Moon"); Donald Stewart
("South American Joe") and Billy Bennett
("The Shooting of Dan McGrew"), plus see the Harry Tate 'Motoring' sketch below.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

(Motoring Sketch)

UK 1936 Prod British Lion Film Corporation
600ft
DVD (Reference copy only) B&W
Harry Tate in a sketch originally from Soft Lights And Sweet Music
UK 1936).
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Stars On Parade

UK 1936 Prod Butcher's Film Service
5772ft.
35mm B&W
Variety compilation including Robb Wilton and Arthur Lucan as Old Mother Riley in
the original "Bridget's Night Out" sketch.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Calling All Stars

UK 1937 Prod British Lion Film Corporation
6653ft + original trailer 211ft.
35mm B&W
Musical revue. Includes: Ambrose and his Orchestra
("Serenade in the Night", "Body and Soul", "Eleven More Months and Ten More Days",
"When Day is Done"; Carroll Gibbons and the Savoy Hotel Orchestra
("I'm Always Painting Rainbows"; Evelyn Dall
("I Don't Want to Get Hot"); Sam Browne
("The Peanut Vendor"); Max Bacon
("When Gimble Hits the Cymble"; Larry Adler
("Stardust", "St Louis Blues"); Arren and Broderick
("The Last Rose of Summer", "Bacio"); Billy Bennett
("T'was Christmas Day in the Workhouse"); Flotsam and Jetsam
("Calling All Stars", "The Changing of the Guard"); the Nicholas Brothers
("Za-Zu-Za-Zu"); Turner Layton
("These Foolish Things"); Revnell and West ("Old Kent Road", "Red Sails in the
Sunset", "Sweet Adeline"); Leon Cortez and his Coster Pals; Elisabeth Welch
("Nightfall"; Buck and Bubbles
("Rhythm's OK in Harlem").
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Underneath the Arches

UK 1937) Dir Redd Davis/Sydney Blythe
Prod Twickenham Film studios

6500ft + 2537ft.

16mm B&W

Vehicle for Flanagan and Allen is comedy of two London down-and-outs who stow away to South America and get caught up in a revolution and the ensuing peace meetings.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Song of the Road

UK 1937 Dir John Baxter

6559ft.

35mm B&W

UK Films Bransby Williams plays Bill, a van driver who refuses to switch to motorized transport. He travels through South England in search of work with his horse Polly, meeting up with travelling circus etc.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Feather Your Nest

UK 1937 Prod Associated Talking Pictures + Dir William Beaudine

7307 ft

35mm B&W

An assistant recordist at a gramophone factory restores his fortunes when he finally makes a hit record. starring George Formby and Polly Ward with Syd Crossley. Songs and music by Leslie Sarony among others.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Thank Evans

UK 1938 Prod Warner Brothers First National Productions + Dir R William Neill
fragment only 106ft.

35mm B&W

A vehicle for music hall comedian Max Miller and sequel to 'Educated Evans' with Polly Ward and Albert Whelan. Note: a 106 ft fragment is held in the BFI National Archive collection otherwise this is a lost film.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hoots Mon!

UK 1939 Prod Warner Brothers First National Productions

7067ft.

35mm B&W

Feature film with Max Miller

(the closest record to his stage act) and Impersonator, Florence Desmond.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

I Thank You

UK 1941 Prod Gainsborough Pictures + Dir Marcel Varnel

81 mins.

35mm B&W

Comedy in which Lily Morris plays a Lady who refuses to back a theatrical company. The company eventually persuade her to revive her old music hall act which saves the show. With Arthur Askey, Moore Marriott.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Common Touch

UK 1941 Dir John Baxter

Prod British National

9221'

35mm B&W

A young businessman stays incognito at a doss house. Bransby Williams plays old Ben. Some dance band performance with the Savoy Orpheans, Carroll Gibbons and his orchestra.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Let the People Sing

UK 1942 Prod British National Films + Dir John Baxter

9390ft.

35mm B&W

Cast: Alastair Sim, Patricia Roc, Fred Emney, Edward Rigby. Travelling players help local townspeople fight the closure of their entertainment hall. From the novel by J. B. Priestley. Note: not strictly about music hall but, like the characters in Priestley's other novel, *The Good Companions* it illustrates the life of the peripatetic theatrical troupes who were always closely related to the music hall business. There was considerable cross over of personnel between these two areas of the business, particularly in the summer months.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Down Melody Lane

UK 1943 Prod New Realm

3755ft.

35mm B&W

Variety compilation, including Leslie 'Hutch' Hutchinson, Naughton and Gold, G.S. Melvin, the Houston Sisters and John Payne's Negro Choir.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Starlight Serenade

UK 1943 Prod Federated Film Corporation

563ft.

35mm B&W

Variety compilation which includes two good sequences showing Wilson, Keppel and Betty and their famous sand dance.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Variety Jubilee

UK 1943 Prod Butcher's Film Service + Dir Maclean Rogers

92 mins

35mm nitrate only B&W

16mm + 35mm B&W

Music hall romance of two variety artistes and the son and grandson of one who make a career in the theatre. Screenplay by Kathleen Butler. Includes George Robey, Charles Coburn, Tom E. Finglass, Ganjou Brothers and Junita, Wilson Keppel and Betty (the film of their act is incomplete and does not show Betty) and Marie Lloyd Jr. recreating her mother's act.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Theatre Royal

UK 1943 Dir John Baxter

Prod British National Films

8702'

35mm B&W

Flanagan and Allen vehicle concerns props man trying to save theatre from being sold and puts on a show to keep it open.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Champagne Charlie

UK 1944 Prod Ealing studios + Dir Alberto Cavalcanti

9385ft.

35mm B&W

Tommy Trinder and Stanley Holloway star as the legendary rival lion comiques' of the mid 19th century, Champagne Charlie (George Leybourne) and the 'Great Vance'. Contains many original songs of the time.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

London Town

UK 1946 Prod Wesley Ruggles Productions

11464ft Technicolor restoration

35mm B&W

Feature film with several sketches starring Sid Field which formed part of his long running music hall act. His catch line was 'What a performance!' and he was famous for a golfing sketch (Address the ball!) with Jerry Desmond who also had a long career in film comedy.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Courtney's of Curzon Street

UK 1947 Prod Wilcox-Neagle Productions + British Lion Film Corporation

10844ft.

35mm B&W

Michael Wilding and Anna Neagle vehicle, in which he is a baronet who marries the parlour maid. Unable to cope with social pressures she leaves him and bears him a son. Later, she is successful on the stage and they are reunited. Note: Contains scenes of Anna Neagle performing songs at different stages of her life including during WW1.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Scrapbook For 1933

UK 1949 Prod Associated British Pathe

5177ft.

35mm B&W

Compilation documentary. Includes Wilson, Keppel and Betty, Lupino Lane, Beatrice Lillie, Ronald Frankau, Harry Tate, Tommy Handley, all shown very fleetingly.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ray of Sunshine An Irresponsible Medley of Song and Dance

UK 1950 Prod Delman Pictures

60 mins

35mm B&W

Variety compilation, featuring the complete act of Wilson, Keppel and Betty, and also George Formby, Gracie Fields, Will Hay, the Crazy Gang, Frank Randle, Stanley Holloway, Jack Hulbert, Cicely Courtneidge, Arthur Askey, Alfred Lester, Hetty King, Gaby Delys, John McCormack, Lupino Lane, Anna Pavlova, Marie Kendal, Madge Saunders.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Slappiest Days of Our Lives

1953 Dir various

76 mins

DVD + Blu-Ray B&W (Featured as an extra on the BFI DVD + Blu-Ray title Penny Points to Paradise/Let's Go Crazy)

A compilation of predominantly silent comedy clips re-edited and voiced to create a new plot. An introductory intertitle, signed by producer Arthur Dent, suggests that the film is "presented to cinemagoers of today as a tribute to one of the greatest pioneers of this industry, Mack Sennett", but the film features extracts from the productions of various other silent filmmakers, as well as sequences from sound films that have had their soundtracks re-dubbed with a flight-of-fancy voiceover commentary by Peter Sellers. Featuring: Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy, Buster Keaton, Harold Lloyd, Ben Turpin, Billy Bevan, and James Finlayson.

Archive source: BFI DVD

After the Ball

UK 1957 Dir Compton Bennett

8031ft.

35mm B&W

Biopic of the life story of Vesta Tilley.

Vesta Tilley is played by Pat Kirkwood. Features some real music hall stars such as Jerry Verno. Trailer also held.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Entertainer

UK 1960 Dir Tony Richardson

96 mins

35mm B&W

Archie Rice, third-rate variety performer in a failing summer show in 1950s Britain, tries to revive his flagging fortunes but alienates his family and loses everything. Tony Richardson originally directed *The Entertainer* at the Royal Court in 1957 with Laurence Olivier playing Archie Rice. The film version, also starring Olivier, was Richardson's second feature. John Osborne's stage play continued the critique of postwar English life he had begun in *Look Back in Anger*. Written by John Osborne and Nigel Kneale.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Famous Music Hall Artists

UK 1966

11 mins

16mm B&W Silent

(Compilation film. Many of these items also appear separately above.) "Miss Toots Pounds singing The Cupid On The Wedding Cake". "Lorna and Toots - Pounds in impressions of famous sisters". "The Musical Eccentric Will Evans

(Britain, 1899)". "Vesta Tilley". Guests on a lawn at a society wedding; the bride (Vesta Tilley) carrying a bouquet. "The Jolly Dutch Girl. Little Miss May Moore Duprez, age three (from Around The Town)". "Marie Lloyd" [actually Marie Lloyd Jr]
Archive source: BFI Distribution

Chaplin

UK 1992 Dir Richard Attenborough

Cast. Robert Downey Junior, Anthony Hopkins, John Thaw, Paul Rhys, Kevin Kline, Geraldine Chaplin.

35mm Col

Biopic of Charlie Chaplin from his music hall days in London, to his rise in Hollywood and later life. Based on David Robinson's seminal biography. Contains some good scenes in music halls including the famous 'Mumming Birds' sketch later made into film as 'Night in the Show'.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Chapter 2: Theatre



To Be or Not to Be (1942)

Introduction

The relationship between stage and screen is a complex one, with a close and interwoven history. Theatre and the stage arts have influenced the development of the cinema in terms of narrative forms, staging, acting styles and more, but so too have the stage arts themselves been by the cinema since its arrival at the turn of the twentieth century.

Theatre is typically designed to be experienced live and in the moment, providing an ephemeral experience which requires that the work be performed again in order for it to endure over time. With each new performance comes the opportunity for new interpretations of the original written work – interpretations that in turn reflect the context and times in which they are performed.

The arrival of the cinema had a profound effect on this requirement, as specific productions and interpretations of an original work, could be preserved and viewed again at a later time, in a different place. The ephemeral nature of the theatre, though still a dominant characteristic, had been forever altered.

This chapter takes as its starting point the idea that dramatic writing is the foundation of what can be produced on stage or in film and is guided by an acknowledgement of the long history of theatre as an art form, and the ways in which that history still influences dramatic work today. For instance, it examines the lingering influence of classical theatre and the still-powerful language of Shakespeare, and the many extraordinary productions that have been made from his plays.

Alongside this, there are the constant developments in new writing, some of which indicate particular relationships between theatre and public life. For instance, in

Britain in the period between the 1950s and the early 1970s, developments both in the classical repertoire and in the new writing being showcased at the Royal Court Theatre in London and other new companies, created an extraordinarily dynamic situation for theatre in Britain, bringing with them challenging, improvisatory styles of performance, new subject matters and innovative approaches to language.

This was a period of development for British theatre, which built on the creation of the National Theatre in London in 1963, and on the new productions of Shakespeare produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company. At the same time, the period saw the Royal Court Theatre establish itself as a home for new writing, in parallel to other regional companies across Britain, such as the Glasgow Citizens Theatre, and others more experimental in form such as the Theatre Workshop at the Theatre Royal Stratford East in London, and by companies such as 7:84, Shared Experience and Hull Truck in the North of England.

Much of this new writing had a social agenda: to articulate a new subject matter concerning class, race and sexuality. Where these 'Angry Young Men' playwrights went, cinema was soon to follow, either through direct adaptations of key plays (such as John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*), or through cinema directors following their path-breaking example.

The developments in theatre that took place in this period coincided with the growth of television, which brought plays – both new and classical – into the homes of millions of Britons. The period from the 1950s to the 1970s saw a dynamic set of developments in drama commissioned for television, such as one-off or single drama strands including Armchair Theatre, Play for Today and The Wednesday Play. Also, many of the RSC's 'world theatre' productions were restaged in television studios. In addition to its film adaptations of plays, the BFI National Archive holds many unique materials relating to television arts programmes up to the late 1960 – these series often featured theatre, and include Resistance; Monitor; Tempo; Aquarius; The South Bank Show; and Without Walls.



Oedipus Rex - 1956

Aeschylus (c. 525/524 – 456/455 BC)

The Ancient Greek playwright Aeschylus is generally recognised as the father of the tragedy in drama. He expanded the number of characters in plays to allow for conflict among them; previously, characters interacted only with the chorus. Only seven of an estimated 70 to 90 plays by Aeschylus have survived into modern times.

The Serpent Son series

UK 1979 Dir Bill Hays

Three plays: Agamemnon, 90 mins; Grave Gifts, 85 mins; The Furies, 75 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Three part adaptation of Aeschylus' The Oresteia by Frederic Raphael and Kenneth McLeish.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Aristophanes (446 – 386 BC)

Sometimes referred to as the 'Father of Comedy', Aristophanes was the greatest representative of ancient Greek comedy and the one whose works have been preserved in greatest quantity. Eleven of his 40 plays survive virtually complete. These provide the only real examples of a genre of comic drama known as the Old Comedy – the phase of comic dramaturgy in which chorus, mime, and burlesque still played a considerable part and which was characterized by bold fantasy, merciless invective and outrageous satire, licentious humour, and a freedom of political criticism.

Flickorna (The Girls)

SE 1968 Dir Mai Zetterling

100 mins

35 mm B&W

Follows a theatre group touring in Sweden, while performing *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Aristophanes – The Gods Are Laughing

UK 1995 Dir Coky Giedroyc

47 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Comedy based on the life of Aristophanes, who is acknowledged as the father of political satire

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Euripides (480 – 406 BC)

Euripides is known primarily for having reshaped the formal structure of Athenian tragedy. He sought to portray his characters realistically, and favoured sparse staging, in contrast to other dramatists of the time. His plays seem modern by comparison with those of his contemporaries, focusing on the inner lives and motives of his characters in a way previously unknown to Greek audiences. His works influenced New Comedy and Roman Drama, and were later idolized by the French classicists. His influence on drama extends to modern times. Euripides' greatest works include *Alceste*, *Medea*, *Trojan Women* and *The Bacchae*.

Elektra

Italy 1909 Dir Aquila

9 mins

35mm B&W

From the Greek myth. Agamemnon lies dying, murdered by his wife Clytemnestra. Before he is sent away from the palace, Orestes is begged by his sister Elektra to one day avenge their father. She waits ten years for him. On his return she takes him to where Clytemnestra is sleeping. As he deliberates, armed guards force their way in. Orestes defeats them in swordplay, then kills his mother. Next he kills her lover Aegisthus. Elektra and Orestes display the two dead bodies to the crowd outside the palace.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Electra

UK 1962 Dir Joan Kemp-Welch

58 mins

16mm B&W

In Greek. With Aspasia Papathanassiou and the Piraikon Greek Tragedy Theatre.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Electra

UK 1974 Dir Michael Lindsay-Hogg

85 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

With Eileen Atkins.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Szerelmem, Elektra

Hungary 1975 Dir Miklós Jancsó

74 mins

35mm Col

Jancsó's film was derived from László Gyurkó's stage play, which offered a radical re-reading of the ancient Elektra myth. Jancsó in turn transports it to the Hungarian plains, and while the film initially seems to be set in a timeless never-never land, by the end the costumes and music are recognisably Hungarian. There are just eight principal shots, each lasting an entire reel of film, with four additional fill-in shots making up a total only just scraping double figures.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Medea

Italy 1970 Dir Pier Paolo Pasolini

118 mins

35mm + DVD B&W

Based on the play by Euripides. Pasolini's dazzling version retells the story as a mixture of social anthropology and ritual theatre, with every incident given both a 'magic' and a 'rational' reading. Maria Callas is extraordinarily expressive in the title role.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI DVD + BFI Distribution

Euripides' Medea

UK 1998

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Open University programme from the series 'An Introduction to the Humanities' in which the British actor Fiona Shaw and a group of drama students explore some of the ways in which Euripides' play Medea might be realised for a modern audience.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sophocles (c. 497/6 – 407/6 BC)

Sophocles' first plays were written later than those of Aeschylus and earlier than those of Euripides. He wrote 123 plays during the course of his life, but only seven have survived in a complete form: Ajax, Antigone, Trachinian Women, Oedipus the King, Electra, Philoctetes and Oedipus at Colonus. The most famous of Sophocles' tragedies are those concerning Oedipus and Antigone: these are often known as the Theban plays. Sophocles influenced the development of the drama by adding a third actor and thereby reducing the importance of the chorus in the presentation of the plot and creating greater opportunity for character development and conflict between characters

Antigone

Italy 1911 Dir Mario Caserini

12 mins

35mm B&W

Adapted from the tragedy by Sophocles. (Note: Contains Italian flash titles taken from the original positive)

Archive source: BFI National Archive

I Cannibali

Italy 1970 Dir Liliana Cavani

87 mins

35mm Col

Based on the classic story of Antigone. Retold and set in a modern-day aristocratic Milan. With Britt Ekland. Music by Ennio Morricone.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Antigone (from 'The Theban Plays By Sophocles' series)

UK 1986 Dir Don Taylor

115 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

With Juliet Stevenson. Adaptation by Don Taylor.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Oedipus Rex

Canada 1956 Dir Tyrone Guthrie

74 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A recording of Guthrie's stage production of Sophocles' tragedy, which had the actors wear masks just as the Greeks did in the playwright's day. From the English translation by Yeats.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Oedipus Rex

Italy 1967 Dir Pier Paolo Pasolini

104 mins

35/16 mm Col

Visually astonishing adaptation of the tragedy Oedipus Rex by Sophocles. The myth is treated as a dream set in the Moroccan desert, interspersed into scenes set in present-day Bologna. In the present day a man leaves his young son to die in the desert. In ancient Thebes an oracle predicts that Oedipus will kill his father and marry his mother. Despite his attempts to escape his destiny the prophecy is fulfilled and Oedipus puts out his eyes. We return again to the present day, where a blind Oedipus walks the streets of Bologna. With Franco Citti.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Oedipus at Colonus (from the Theban Plays by Sophocles series)

UK 1986 Dir Don Taylor

131 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Oedipus, now a blind old man and an outcast, wanders through Greece guided by his daughter Antigone. His hopes for peace are shattered by conflict between his two sons, and war between Thebes and Athens

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Speaking to the City – Sophocles Then and Now

UK 1986 Dir Don Taylor

200 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Actors who participated in the 'Theban Plays' series (see two titles listed above) discuss the plays and their contemporary meaning

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Oedipus Rex

Japan 1995 Dir Peter Gelb

58 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Japanese production of Stravinsky's opera-oratorio using striking visual elements such as huge puppets, sculptures, and a set which floats above a reflecting pool. Seiji Ozawa conducts the Saito Kinen Orchestra and the eighty-strong Shinyukai Chorus. The Jean Cocteau narration is in Japanese with English language subtitles.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

William Shakespeare (1564 – 1616)



Hamlet 1948

William Shakespeare is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. His plays are still produced in an extraordinary number of both British and international interpretations every year, on stage and in film.

The many and varied cinematic versions of Shakespeare include striking international adaptations – such as *Ran* (Akira Kurosawa, Japan/France 1985), Baz Luhrmann's version of *Romeo and Juliet* (1996) or *West Side Story* (1961) – and the British productions of the 1940s and 1950s by Laurence Olivier (a prime exponent of transposing theatre productions into film, a role succeeded in the 1990s by actor/director Kenneth Branagh).

Since the 1960s, Royal Shakespeare Company actors Ian McKellen and Judi Dench, among others, have been notable performers of Shakespeare on stage and in film,

and RSC directors Peter Hall and Trevor Nunn, among others, have turned their attention to film as well as the stage.

At the end of this section are brief entries for adaptations of other Elizabethan playwrights such as Christopher Marlowe, and further entries for pre-nineteenth century British theatre.

The Comedy Of Errors (c. 1592-1593)

The Comedy of Errors

UK 1978 Dir Philip Casson

132 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV musical production based on the version directed by Trevor Nunn and staged by the RSC, for which the original text had been comprehensively reworked as a slapstick comedy musical, with the characters deliberately caricatured. Trevor Nunn's television adaptation takes an almost Brechtian approach; no attempt is made at disguising the piece's theatrical origins, but there are frequent cutaways to the audience whose presence is in any case unmistakable throughout from their audible reaction. With Francesca Annis, Judi Dench, Brian Coburn, Richard Griffiths, Griffith Jones.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Romeo & Juliet (c. 1594-1595)

One of the Shakespeare plays that has received the most artistically varied on-screen interpretation is Romeo and Juliet. From big-screen Hollywood features set in different eras to ballet and musical versions written with very different scores and visual languages, the timeless story has proved to be relevant to any time and culture.

Romeo and Juliet

US 1936 Dir George Cukor

123 mins

35mm B&W

Lavish adaptation starring Leslie Howard and Norma Shearer (aged, respectively, 42 and 35 at time of shooting). Laurence Olivier was originally asked to star as Romeo, but turned the role down, leaving Howard to step in.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

West Side Story

US 1961 Dir Robert Wise and Jerome Robbins

152 mins

35mm, 70mm, DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Robbins and Wise's reworked Romeo and Juliet into a new form, creating one of the most celebrated American musicals. The film is set amid rival gangs in New York City in the 1950s, and tells the story through dance and music. Adapted from the Broadway musical, also directed by Robbins. With music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Romeo and Juliet

UK 1966 Dir Paul Czinner

126mins

16mm

Ballet composed by Tchaikovsky, choreography by Kenneth MacMillan, performed by Margot Fonteyn and Rudolph Nureyev. Nearly thirty years earlier Paul Czinner had made the first British sound Shakespeare film with *As You Like It* (1937).

Archive source: BFI National archive

Romeo and Juliet

UK/Italy 1968 Dir Franco Zeffirelli

152 mins

35mm Col

Zeffirelli's version of Shakespeare's play is notable mostly for its visual flair and the lavish costumes by Danilo Donati. With Leonard Whiting, Olivia Hussey, Michael York. Laurence Olivier provides the narration.

Archive Source: BFI Distribution

Romeo and Juliet

UK 1978 Dir Alvin Rakoff

170 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Production for the BBC Television Shakespeare series, with a cast including Patrick Ryecart, Celia Johnson, Rebecca Saire, John Gielgud and Alan Rickman. Produced by Cedric Messina.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Richard II (c. 1595-1596)

Shakespeare's history play is based on the life of King Richard II of England (ruled 1377–1399) and is the first part of a tetralogy, referred to by some scholars as the Henriad, followed by three plays concerning Richard's successors: Henry IV Part One, Henry IV Part Two and Henry V. The play had limited popularity in the twentieth century, but John Gielgud exploded onto the world theatrical consciousness through his performance as Richard at the Old Vic Theatre in 1929, returning to the character in 1937 and 1953 in what ultimately was considered as the definitive performance of the rôle.

The Tragedy Of King Richard II

UK 1970 Dir Toby Robertson

122mins

Betacam SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performance of Shakespeare's play by the Prospect Theatre Company from the 1969 Edinburgh Festival. With Ian McKellen.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Richard II (Performance)

UK 1997 Dir Deborah Warner

85mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Television version of the Royal National Theatre's 1995 production of Shakespeare's *Richard II* directed by Deborah Warner. With Fiona Shaw.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Richard II ('Richard II Live From the Globe' (7.9.03))

UK 2003 Dir Sue Judd

206mins

DVD (Reference copy only) + Digibeta Col

The live broadcast of an all-male theatrical production, as *Richard II* is performed from the Globe Theatre, London. Mark Rylance plays *Richard II*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Midsummer Night's Dream (c. 1595-1596)

A Midsummer Night's Dream

US 1935 Dir Max Reinhardt and William Dieterle

133 mins

35mm B&W

Director and producer Max Reinhardt was formerly director of the Moscow Theatre in Russia. Combining the talents of many of his contemporaries, Reinhardt's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is one of the most celebrated Shakespeare adaptations in cinema history. Hal Mohr's Academy Award-winning photography shows the equally shimmering art direction of Anton Grot. The all-star cast, including James Cagney, Dick Powell, Olivia de Havilland and Mickey Rooney, meet the challenge, offering due respect and glamour to the proceedings. Kenneth Anger would later claim to have appeared as a young child, playing a changeling prince.

Archive source: BFI National Archive/Distribution

After the Dream (Omnibus)

UK 1978 Dir Dennis Marks, BBC

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV documentary about internationally acclaimed theatre director Peter Brook and his work since his production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Britain in 1970. Brook's stage production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was one of the most influential of the twentieth century, his sparse and colourful staging introducing his vision of 'The Empty Space' to an international audience.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Another Space for Shakespeare (Black Arts DVD Project)

UK 1991 Dir Shangara Singh Rapalon

28 min

Digibeta + DVD

An experiment in staging parts of *Hamlet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The film includes selections from *Hamlet* Act I (including brief excerpts from Laurence Olivier's 1948 film) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* Act II; from *Hamlet* Act II and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* Acts V and II, and from *Hamlet* Acts III, IV and V, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* Act V. Supported and financially assisted by Haringey Arts Council, The Arts Council of Great Britain

Henry V (c. 1598-1599)



Henry V (1989)

Henry V

UK 1944 Dir Laurence Olivier

137 mins

35mm Colour

From the 1930s to the 1950s, Laurence Olivier dominated British cinema's interpretations of Shakespeare. Olivier's second Shakespeare film (following his role in Paul Czinner's 1937 *As You Like It*) pushed adaptation of the Bard onto an entirely new plane. Fascinating not just for its approach to the text but also for its portrait of multiple facets of the British character, calibrated for explicitly propagandist purposes, it came too late in the Second World War to be a call to arms as such, but formed a powerful reminder of what Britain was defending. The initial scenes echo many early British Shakespeare films in that they resemble a filmed stage production, with the important distinction that this one was staged specifically for the cameras in a reproduction of the Globe theatre, a familiar sight today following its reconstruction, but long vanished in 1944. When the action shifts to Agincourt, the initial stylisation gives way to a far more dynamic treatment, shot on location and clearly influenced by Eisenstein's *Alexander Nevsky*, not just in visual composition and movement but also in the fusion between image and soundtrack, William Walton's score as eloquent as Shakespeare's verse. The "once more unto the breach" speech is given on horseback, with Olivier underlining word by deed, his steed weaving in and out of his massed armies before hurtling into the fray.

Archive source: BFI Distribution and BFI National Archive

An Age of Kings Parts 7 & 8

UK 1960 Dir Michael Hayes

60 mins (each part)

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Part 7 (Signs of War) and Part 8 (The Band of Brothers). Episodes from a fifteen-part cycle of Shakespeare's English history plays. Parts 7 and 8 are Henry V. Judi Dench plays Katherine of France.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Henry V

UK 1989 Dir Kenneth Branagh

137 mins

16mm Colour

Featuring many of the leading British actors of the 1980s and 90s (including Emma Thompson, Branagh's wife from 1989 to 1995), this is a faithful version of Shakespeare's play of patriotic and bellicose sentiments, as seen from national and personal perspectives. The scenes of the Battle of Agincourt are rousing. With Robbie Coltrane in the role of Falstaff, introduced into the play by Branagh through the use of flashbacks.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Henry V at the Globe

UK 1997 Dir Steve Ruggi

50mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A special programme to mark the opening of the newly reconstructed Shakespeare's Globe theatre in London. Featuring a performance of Act IV of Henry V, with Richard Olivier directing Mark Rylance as the young king. Includes extracts from the opening celebrations, at which the play's prologue is read by Zoë Wanamaker as a tribute to her father Sam Wanamaker for turning the idea of a new Globe Theatre into reality.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Julius Caesar (c. 1599-1600)



Julius Caesar (1953)

Julius Caesar

US 1953 Dir Joseph L Mankiewicz

121 mins

35mm B&W

Mankiewicz's film presents Shakespeare's play as a great, cinematic political thriller. Brando's Mark Antony is both brilliant and exceptionally beautiful. "This is a picture of mood, of violence, of real people – their ambitions, their dreams," said Mankiewicz. With Marlon Brando, James Mason, Louis Calhern, John Gielgud.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

As You Like It (c. 1599-1600)

As You Like It

UK 1937 Dir Paul Czinner

92 mins

35mm B&W

Featuring the best of British talent from the 1930s, the film is noteworthy for two reasons: it was the first feature-length British sound Shakespeare film, and it contains the earliest of Laurence Olivier's Shakespeare performances to be recorded for posterity. Czinner directed his wife, Elisabeth Bergner, as a tomboyish Rosalind, alongside heavyweights of British theatre Leon Quartermaine as Jacques and Henry Ainley as the Duke. The magical Forest of Arden, created by renowned art director Lazare Meerson, is a fantasy world where wit and romantic repartee sparkle against William Walton's elegant score. David Lean worked as editor (brilliantly) and Jack Cardiff as cameraman.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hamlet (c. 1600-1601)



Hamlet (1964)

Possibly Shakespeare's best-known play, arguably his most complex and certainly his longest. Inspired by the true story of Danish prince Amleth, it could have been staged as a straightforward revenge drama, but in the event Shakespeare adds so many layers that it becomes a dazzling work of philosophy, not least in terms of its self-awareness about the nature of theatre. So much a cornerstone of world literature that huge chunks will be immediately recognised even by people who have never watched a production, it is open to endless re-interpretation, and has consequently seen a wider range of adaptations than any other Shakespeare play - both on stage (it is believed that the play has never been out of the repertory since its first performance) and screens large and small.

Hamlet

Germany 1920 Dir Heinz Schall, Svend Gade

88 mins

35mm B&W

Shot in Germany, this is a fascinating and revisionist silent film version of Shakespeare's tragedy. Here, Hamlet is a woman, played by the early Scandinavian film star Asta Nielsen. A pre-credit sequence details how Queen Gertrude has given birth to a daughter and, thinking the king has died in battle and not wanting to relinquish the crown, she tells the population of Denmark that she has given birth to a son. Ultimately, the King survives, but they both decide to keep the fiction alive.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hamlet

UK 1948 Dir Laurence Olivier

155 mins

35mm B&W

Laurence Olivier's 1948 film noir *Hamlet* won best picture and best actor Oscars (the first non-American film to win best picture). In a phrase not in Shakespeare's original, Olivier opens by telling us that it is "the tragedy of a man who could not make up his mind", foregrounding the film's central theme, a neat metaphor for the uncertainty of the immediate post-war years. He also largely eliminates the play's political intrigue: Fortinbras is banished, and so too are Rosencrantz and Guildenstern – the three characters most indelibly associated with the world outside Elsinore. These cuts focus attention on the play's central theme: the relationship between Hamlet, his lover Ophelia, mother Gertrude and stepfather Claudius. His interpretation stressed the Oedipal overtones of the play, to the extent of casting the 28-year-old Eileen Herlie as Hamlet's mother, opposite himself, at 41, as Hamlet. Shot in high-contrast black and white, it's not quite as overtly expressionist as, for instance, Orson Welles' *Macbeth* (also 1948), but it's certainly a similarly claustrophobic, stifling experience.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hamlet

US 1964 Dir Bill Colleran

191 mins

35mm B&W

John Gielgud directed Richard Burton on stage at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre in 1964 to 1965, and a film of the live performance was produced.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gamlet

USSR 1964 Grigori Kozintsev

35mm B&W 148

An epic 1964 Russian language film adaptation of *Hamlet*, based on a translation by Boris Pasternak with a score by Dmitri Shostakovich. Innokenty Smoktunovsky was cast in the role of Hamlet, which won him praise from Laurence Olivier. John Gielgud and Kenneth Branagh have said that they consider this to be the definitive rendition of Shakespeare's play.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hamlet

US/UK 1969 Dir Tony Richardson

117 mins
35mm Col

With Nicol Williamson as Hamlet and Marianne Faithfull as Ophelia. Based on a production staged at the Roundhouse in London in 1969, and filmed entirely within the same theatre. Heavily cut to under two hours, attention was firmly focused on Nicol Williamson's Hamlet, the main beneficiary of Richardson's strategy of filming almost everything in tight close-up. Very much a product of its time, Williamson presents Hamlet as an explicitly anti-Establishment figure (the production was popularly known as the "angry young man Hamlet"), railing against the forces of conservatism represented by Anthony Hopkins (Claudius) and Judy Parfitt (Gertrude).
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hamlet

UK 1972 Dir David Giles
115 mins

Betacam SP or DVD (Reference copy only)

Based on Robert Chetwyn's Prospect Theatre production starring Ian McKellen (Hamlet), John Woodvine (Claudius), Faith Brook (Gertrude) and Susan Fleetwood (Ophelia). It had already amassed a substantial reputation before the broadcast - indeed, it played a significant role in establishing McKellen's reputation - and so director David Giles (who would later helm many of the BBC Television Shakespeare productions) wisely made little attempt at obscuring its theatrical roots, though he did devise imaginative visual treatments of some key scenes. The Ghost scene is especially striking, with two simultaneous images of McKellen's face superimposed on top of one another.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hamlet

Spain/UK 1976 Dir Celestino Coronado
66mins
16mm Col

A radical reinvention of the play developed as a 16mm-and-DVD (Reference copy only) project made at the Royal College of Art in 1976. Taking its cue from Hamlet's speech to Gertrude concerning "the counterfeit presentment of two brothers", Coronado casts identical twins Anthony and David Meyer as not only twin Hamlets but also the Ghost, Laertes and the Player King, with Helen Mirren playing both Gertrude and Ophelia. Though the budget was admittedly tiny, this was not a money-saving device: this doubling served to emphasise the way the play's characters frequently mirror each other in method and motivation.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The South Bank Show: Hamlet

UK 1989 Dir Chris Hunt
52 mins

DVD, DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary presented by Melvyn Bragg about the enduring popularity of *Hamlet*. With footage of productions from 1900 to 1989, including Sarah Bernhardt as Hamlet in 1900, Johnston Forbes-Robertson in 1913, Asta Nielsen as a woman who spends her life disguised as a man in 1920, John Barrymore in 1933, John Gielgud in 1944, Laurence Olivier in 1948, Innokenti Smoktunovsky and Richard Burton in 1964, Jonathan Pryce and Derek Jacobi in 1980 productions, and Mark Rylance in 1989. Also

containing interviews with Orson Welles and Peter O'Toole from 1963, and from Tyrone Guthrie from 1960.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Shakespeare - Playing the Dane

UK 1994 Anthony Lee (producer)

49mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Actors who have played Hamlet discuss why they perceive the role as a benchmark in their careers. Programme includes stills and archive clips from a variety of productions including those of Lawrence Olivier, Ian McKellen, Richard Burton and Mel Gibson. There are also extracts from new productions.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Peter Brook on Hamlet

UK 2002

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Theatre director Richard Eyre interviews Peter Brook about the inspiration behind his Theatre de Bouffes du Nord (Paris) production of Hamlet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Twelfth Night (1602)

Twelfth Night

UK 1988 Dir Paul Kafno

156 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A version of Branagh's Renaissance Theatre Company production, broadcast on Thames TV. The play was well served by Frances Barber (Viola), Richard Briers (Sir Toby Belch) and Christopher Ravenscroft (Orsino), with Anton Lesser's Feste coming in for particular praise.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Twelfth Night

UK 2003 Dir Tim Supple

102 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Perhaps the most imaginative British TV adaptation of the play. Directed by Tim Supple and starring Parminder Nagra (Viola), Chiwetel Ejiofor (Orsino), Michael Maloney (Malvolio) and Richard Bremner (Sir Andrew Aguecheek), it was a modern-dress, overtly multicultural production (complete with interpolated Hindi dialogue) that turned Viola and Valentine into Indian asylum seekers. With a score by Nitin Sawhney.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Measure For Measure (c. 1603 - 1604)

Measure for Measure

UK 2004 Dir Janet Fraser Crook

174mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Live broadcast of a production of Shakespeare's Measure for Measure from London's Globe theatre, presented by Andrew Marr and with comment from historian David Starkey, actress Juliet Stevenson and the production's director John Dove.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Othello (c. 1603 - 1604)



Othello (1965)

Othello

UK 1965 Dir Stuart Burge

166 mins

70mm Col

Essentially a filmed record of Laurence Olivier's legendary 1964 National Theatre production (John Dexter was the original director, with Stuart Burge behind the cameras). Controversy over Olivier's make-up, quasi-Jamaican accent and deliberately unsympathetic interpretation overshadowed the fact that this was also one of the twentieth century's most radical and original Othellos, and Frank Finlay's Iago and Maggie Smith's Desdemona provided strong support.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Othello

UK/USA/Canada 2001 Dir Geoffrey Sax

100 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A transposition of the plot to a present-day, highly topical setting, using modern dialogue. Police officer John Othello is promoted to become the first black head of the Metropolitan Police, over the head of his nominal superior Ben Jago. Although the script inevitably fails to match the original's poetry, it is a masterclass in filleting the most effective dramatic elements. Eamonn Walker and Christopher Eccleston have superb screen chemistry as Othello and Jago, their relationship given an intensity that at times becomes almost homoerotic. Geoffrey Sax's efficient direction brings it in at a 100 minutes without ever giving the impression that anything significant has been lost.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Othello (Theatre Night)

UK 1990 Dir Trevor Nunn

204 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV version of Nunn's acclaimed stage version of Shakespeare's play. Trevor Nunn's production of Othello presented by the Royal Shakespeare Company, as played in their 1989 season in Stratford and London. Set at the time of the US Civil War and notable for an outstanding quartet of performances by Ian McKellen (Iago), Imogen Stubbs (Desdemona), Zoë Wanamaker (Emilia) and especially Willard White as Othello, whose rendition of the verse took full advantage of his better-known career as a distinguished operatic bass-baritone. Arguably the most satisfying filmed version of Othello to date, it also presented a largely complete account of the text.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Nunn's Othello (The Late Show)

UK 1990 Dir Janet Fraser Crook

30mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Nunn talks about the challenges of bringing Shakespeare to the screen and his forthcoming TV version of Othello.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

King Lear (c. 1604 - 1605)

King Lear

UK 1976 Dir Steven Rumbelow

48 mins

DVD, 16mm and DVD (Reference copy only) Col

BFI Production Board backed, highly physical reworking of the play, based on the Triple Action Theatre Group's 1973 production.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

King Lear (The South Bank Show)

UK 1987 Dir Chris Hunt

52mins

Digibeta, DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on the various productions of King Lear over the twentieth century, with comments by director Peter Brook on his filming of the play in 1970. Features a production of King Lear at the National Theatre, directed by David Hare and starring Anthony Hopkins as Lear.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Macbeth (c. 1603 - 06)



Macbeth 1948

Macbeth

US 1948 Dir Orson Welles

86 mins

35 mm B&W

Shot in just 23 days on a backlot at Republic studios, Welles' adventurous version of the play evokes the sense of a nightmarish world before time. The magnificently moody cinematography is by John L Russell. With Welles, Roddy McDowell and Jeanette Nolan.

Archive source: BFI National Archive (print in poor quality)

Throne of Blood

Japan 1957 Dir Akira Kurosawa

110 mins

35mm B&W

Kurosawa's transposition of Shakespeare's Macbeth to sixteenth-century Japan is immensely successful. A truly remarkable film combining beauty and terror to produce a mood of haunting power, Throne of Blood also shows Kurosawa's familiar mastery of atmosphere, action, and the savagery of war. "I wanted to make Macbeth. The problem was: how to adapt the story to Japanese thinking. The story is understandable enough but the Japanese tend to think differently about such things as witches and ghosts. I decided upon the techniques of the Noh, because in Noh style and story are one. I wanted to use the way Noh actors have of moving their bodies, the way they have of walking, and the general composition which the Noh stage provides." (Kurosawa, to Donald Richie, Sight & Sound Summer 1964). With Toshiro Mifune, Isuzu Yamada.

Archive source: BFI Distribution and BFI National Archive

Macbeth

US 1970 Dir Roman Polanski

140 mins

35mm Col

Polanski's version of Shakespeare's play (which he adapted for the screen with Kenneth Tynan) was produced shortly after the murder of his wife Sharon Tate by Charles Manson's followers. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are played by actors younger than had been traditional. The then twenty-six-year-old Francesca Annis plays Lady Macbeth as a softer woman than usual. Polanski explained this by noting that

"directors always present Lady Macbeth as a nagging bitch. But people who do ghastly things in life, they are not grim, like a horror movie". The film's bleak absurdist ending is Polanski's most significant departure from Shakespeare's text. The film was produced by Hugh Hefner's Playboy Enterprises after a number of Hollywood studios had turned down the project.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Macbeth

UK 1979 Dir Philip Casson

146 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Sourced from a 1976 Royal Shakespeare Company production by Trevor Nunn that had already passed into theatrical legend, the television version was equally acclaimed, and is widely regarded to this day as one of the most wholly successful of all television Shakespeares. The original production was stripped down to its barest essentials, with a small cast playing in the round with virtually no scenery and minimal props (instead, brilliant use was made of sound: the clinking of Macbeth's daggers as his hands shake in fear, his wife's unearthly scream during her sleepwalk), and television director Philip Casson also made extensive use of extreme close-ups, with Macbeth (Ian McKellen) and Lady Macbeth (Judi Dench) emerging from the shadows to deliver close to career-best performances.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Tempest (1611)



The Tempest (1908)

The Tempest

UK 1908 Dir Percy Stow

12 mins

35mm B&W

Comfortably the most visually imaginative and cinematically adventurous silent British Shakespeare film, Percy Stow's adaptation attempts a complete précis of the entire play staged specifically for the cameras. Explanatory intertitles link a series of mostly very brief scenes, shot both on location and in the studio, the latter being used to stage some fairly elaborate tableaux reminiscent of the French fantasy film pioneer Georges Méliès.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Tempest

UK 1979 Dir Derek Jarman

95 mins

35mm + DVD Col

Shot on 16mm on a characteristically tiny budget, Derek Jarman's third feature is one of the most imaginative of all Shakespeare films. It was a long-term labour of love for Jarman – he'd been obsessed with the play since his school days, and had made a serious attempt at getting the film produced in 1974, when his lack of experience counted against him. The justly celebrated climax sees the legendary, then 75-year-old Elisabeth Welch (credited only as "A Goddess") appear to sing 'Stormy Weather' while surrounded by sailors dancing the hornpipe and scattering confetti.

Exuberantly campy, flamboyantly inventive and mercifully devoid of anything approaching good taste, this *Tempest* is decidedly not for all tastes, but it shows what the cinema can bring to Shakespeare in the hands of the right artist.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

The Tempest

UK 1980 Dir John Gorie

125 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Production for the BBC Television Shakespeare series. Cast includes Michael Corden as Prospero, Derek Godfrey as Antonio, Pippa Guard as Miranda. Produced by Cedric Messina.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Prospero's Books

UK 1991 Dir Peter Greenaway

125 mins

16mm + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

In a controversial and innovative adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, Greenaway uses then contemporary computer paintbox technology to achieve spectacular effects that counterpoint John Gielgud's classical interpretations of the text. (With architectural set design allowing deep planes of focus and the participation of dancer Michael Clark as Caliban.) Crammed with provocative visual and conceptual ideas, it is arguably barely comprehensible to those unfamiliar with the play, as Greenaway's images tend to swamp rather than illuminate the text (much of which is delivered offscreen, with Gielgud performing all the parts). Clark comes across most effectively as Caliban; the rest of the supporting cast have largely decorative roles.

Archive source: BFI National Archive (DVD (Reference copy only)) + BFI Distribution

Temp'est

UK 1994 Dir Simon Reynell

25 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of films combining music and images: a moment from Shakespeare's *The Tempest* reinterpreted. Music composed by James Dillon, Soprano Singer, Sara Stowe; Performers, Music Projects London; Conductor Richard Bernas.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

See also:

Silent Shakespeare

UK 1999 Dir Various

88 mins

DVD B&W and tinted

Compilation of seven silent film versions of plays by Shakespeare made in Britain, Italy and the US between 1899-1911; with a new musical soundtrack composed in 1999.

Archive source: BFI DVD

Masks and Faces

UK 1969 Colin Ford (compiler)

90 mins

35mm B&W / tinted / Col

A compilation of extracts taken from Shakespeare adaptations held in the National Film Archive, showing the changes that have taken place in film acting styles. All silent extracts stretched. Including Richard III (UK 1911) With F.R. Benson. Hamlet (UK 1913) directed by Hay Plumb. With Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson. Othello (Germany 1922) directed by Dimitri Buchowetzki. With Emil Jannings. Romeo and Juliet (US 1936) directed by George Cukor for MGM. With Leslie Howard, Norma Shearer, John Barrymore. Richard III (UK 1955) directed by Laurence Olivier. With Laurence Olivier, John Gielgud, Ralph Richardson.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Angelic Conversation

1985 UK Dir Derek Jarman

78 mins

35mm, VHS and DVD Col

The imagery of young male figures in a variety of locations and pursuits is counterpointed with Judi Dench's readings of fourteen Shakespearean sonnets, almost all from those of the first 126 sonnets addressed to a young man. Also inspired by the Anglo-Saxon poem The Wanderer, the project began as a series of improvisations and experiments shot on Super-8 in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sonnets in the City

UK 1997

3mins each

VHS Col

A series of five daily readings of Shakespearean sonnets as a prelude to the live transmission of Henry V, Act 4, from Shakespeare's Globe theatre in London on Sunday 15th June at 8 pm.

1. Robert Gore Langton outside Westminster.
2. A version of a Shakespeare sonnet in which a young man realises the wretchedness of drug addiction.
3. The city of London is waking up. A pregnant woman performs Shakespeare's Sonnet No. 143 to her lover who has deserted her leaving her alone to face an uncertain future.
4. A tramp 'beweeps his outcast state' on Hungerford Bridge, a classic Shakespearean

sonnet, here performed to a dog.

5. Concluding the week's short poetry readings, Nabil Shaban muses on death in this Shakespearean sonnet, set in the Temple Church.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Set Speeches and Soliloquies (Playing Shakespeare)

UK 1984 Dir John Carlaw

35 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

One programme from a nine-part guide to Shakespeare. On the problem of playing very well-known speeches. With members of the RSC, including Judi Dench.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Edward II

UK 1991 Dir Derek Jarman

90mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Christopher Marlowe (1564 – 1593) was the foremost Elizabethan playwright next to Shakespeare. His work is marked by his 'blank' verse and his overreaching protagonists. Adapted from Marlowe's play, Jarman's film emphasises the relationship between the King and Piers Gaveston, and the political controversy which surrounds it.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Faust

Germany 1926 F W Murnau

116 mins

35 mm B&W

Story of a man who sells his soul to the devil for eternal youth. Based on Goethe, Marlowe and German folk sagas, Murnau's version of the story is visually extraordinary, and sits among the greatest technical achievements of the silent era. With Emil Jannings.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Special Collections

From the Collection of Lindy Hemming, costume designer, rehearsal scripts for:

Richard III

UK/US 1995 Dir Richard Loncraine

Script: Ian McKellen, Richard Eyre, Richard Loncraine (based upon the Richard Eyre Production of 'Richard III' for the Royal National Theatre);

LHE/16

- Screenplay, October 1993

Hamlet

US/UK 1996 Written and directed by Kenneth Branagh

LHE/18/1

- First Draft Shooting Script, 20 September 1995 [with pink revisions, January 1996]

LHE/18/2

- Scene/Day Breakdown, nd.

Elizabeth

UK 1998 Dir Shekhar Kapur

Script: Michael Hirst

LHE/21

- Screenplay 'Draft 15', with working title 'Elizabeth I', 11 August 1997.

Seventeenth to nineteenth century playwrights

Molière (1622 – 1673)

Despite his own preference for tragedies, French playwright Molière (Jean-Baptiste Poquelin) became renowned as one of the great masters of comedic writing in western theatre.

Tartüff

Germany 1926 Dir F W Murnau

83 mins [at 20fps]

35mm B&W

A morality lesson about greed and hypocrisy, based on Molière's play of 1664. Murnau presents the play as a film-within-a-film, placing the material in a contemporary setting. A devious housekeeper convinces her master to cut his worthy grandson out of his will and to leave the riches to her instead. The grandson, disguised as the projectionist of a travelling cinema show, flatters his way into the home to project a film of Tartuffe in an attempt to open his grandfather's eyes. Emil Jannings plays Tartuffe with creepy panache in a tour-de-force turn alongside Lil Dagover and Werner Krauss. Scenario by Carl Meyer.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tartuffe or the Imposter (Theatre Night)

UK 1985 Dir Bill Alexander

115 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

RSC production, adapted by playwright Christopher Hampton.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

John Gay (1685 – 1732)

The English poet and dramatist John Gay is best remembered for his play The Beggar's Opera (1728), whose characters Captain Macheath and Polly Peachum would become household names. It is one of the watershed plays in Augustan Drama (early eighteenth century British plays) and is the only example of the once thriving genre of satirical ballad opera to remain popular today. The play satirized Italian opera, which had become popular in London. In 1928, on the 200th anniversary of the original production of The Beggars Opera, Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill created a popular new musical adaptation of the work in Germany entitled Die Dreigroschenoper (The Threepenny Opera). In this work, the original plot is followed fairly closely (although updated a hundred years), but the music is almost all new, and specially composed.

The Beggar's Opera

UK 1953 Dir Peter Brook

94 mins

35mm Col

Peter Brook made his debut in the British cinema with an adaptation of John Gay's satirical play *The Beggars Opera* (1953), written in 1728. With Laurence Olivier as the highwayman MacHeath.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Beggar's Opera

UK 1983 Dir Richard Eyre

140 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV version of the National Theatre production of John Gay's play.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Henrik Ibsen (1828 – 1906)



Terje Vigen (1917)

Ranked as one of the great playwrights in the European tradition, a figure to be placed alongside Shakespeare, the Norwegian Henrik Ibsen examined the realities that lay behind many of society's facades, and brought a critical eye and free inquiry into examining the conditions of life and issues of morality. He was an important exponent of 'the Problem Play', a form of drama that emerged during the nineteenth century as part of the wider movement of realism in the arts. It deals with contentious social issues through debates between the characters on stage, who typically represent conflicting points of view within a realistic social context.

Brand (BBC Television World Theatre)

UK 1959 Dir Michael Elliott

90mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

BBC Television production of Ibsen's 1866 play, this is set in a small village by a fjord in Norway in the late nineteenth century. A fanatical and devout young priest Brand travels across the mountains to spread his message and on the way comes to the

village where he was born. He is persuaded by the villagers to stay there as their priest, but his uncompromising stance leads to tragedy for which he is rejected by the villagers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Peer Gynt

US 1941 Dir David Bradley

84mins

Col 16mm

Based on Ibsen's play of 1867. With (a young) Charlton Heston, Betty Hanisee, Rose Andrews.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Peer Gynt

UK 1964

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Theatre production by London Festival Ballet, freely adapted from Ibsen for television by Charles R. Rogers, with choreography by Vaslav Orlikowsky.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Peer Gynt (Stage 2)

UK 1972 Dir Alan Cooke

120 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

From Ibsen's play. With Colin Blakely, Wendy Hiller, Francesca Annis, Sara Kestelman. Music by Percival.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Pillars of Society

US 1911 Thanhouser Film Corporation

12mins (at 16fps)

35mm B&W

From Ibsen's 1877 play. With James Cruze, Marguerite Snow.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Doll's House (Saturday Night Theatre)

UK 1970 Dir Joan Kemp-Welch

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Television production of Ibsen's 1879 play. Nora Helmer seems happy in her marriage to Torvald, but she is keeping something from him. With Anna Massey, Julian Glover. Directed by Joan Kemp-Welch for Yorkshire Television.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Doll's House (Performance)

UK 1992 Dir David Thacker

135 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Television performance of the play by Henrik Ibsen. With Juliet Stevenson, Trevor Eve, Geraldine James, Patrick Malahide, David Calder.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ghosts

US 1915 Dir George Nichols, John Emerson

23mins (at 16fps)

16mm B&W

From Ibsen's 1881 play. With Henry B Walthall, Erich von Stroheim, Monte Blue, Juanita Archer, Mary Alden.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ghosts (Theatre Night)

UK 1987 Dir Elijah Moshinsky

104mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Translated by Michael Meyer. With Judi Dench, Kenneth Branagh, Freddie Jones, Natasha Richardson, Michael Gambon.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Wild Duck (Play of the Month)

UK 1971 Dir Alan Bridges

105 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Ibsen's 1884 play adapted by Max Faber. BBC production with Denholm Elliott, Rosemary Leach and Jenny Agutter as Hedvig.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Lady from the Sea

UK 1974 Dir Basil Coleman

109 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

From Ibsen's 1888 play. With Eileen Atkins, Denholm Elliott.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hedda Gabler

USA/UK 1963 Dir Alex Segal

75 mins

35mm B&W

TV adaptation of Ibsen's 1890 play. With Ingrid Bergman, Ralph Richardson, Trevor Howard and Michael Redgrave.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hedda Gabler (Play of the Month)

UK 1972 Dir Waris Hussein

112 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

When General Gabler's daughter Hedda realises the oppressive consequences of her recent marriage to the provincial and ineffectual Tesman, she embarks on a wilful and dreadful course of destruction. With Janet Suzman, Ian McKellen, Jane Asher, Tom Bell.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hedda Gabler

UK 1981 Dir David Cunliffe

84 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Adaptation for TV by John Osborne. With Diana Rigg, Alan Dobie & Kathleen Byron.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hedda Gabler (Performance)

UK 1993 Dir Deborah Warner

130 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Ibsen's play is transplanted to an Irish setting. With Fiona Shaw, Donal McCann, Stephen Rea, Brid Brennan.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Master Builder (Theatre Night)

UK 1988 Dir Michael Darlow

140 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Adaptation of Ibsen's 1892 play. With Sebastian Shaw, Leo McKern, Jane Lapotaire, Miranda Richardson.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Little Eyolf (Play of the Month)

UK 1982 Dir Michael Darlow

155 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Adaptation of Ibsen's 1894 play. Rita and Alfred Allmers are led to confront their unhappy marriage after the tragic death of their son Eyolf. With Anthony Hopkins, Diana Rigg, Peggy Ashcroft, Charles Dance.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

See also:

Terje Vigen

SE 1917 Dir Victor Sjöström

49mins (at 16fps)

35mm B&W

Based on the 1862 poem by Henrik Ibsen, the great Swedish director Sjöström's film tells the story of a young seaman during the Napoleonic wars. With Victor Sjöström. German intertitles

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Henrik Ibsen (The Modern World: Ten Great Writers)

UK 1988 Dir Nigel Wattis

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look at the development of Ibsen's work: the early years of failure; the epic dramas of the 1860s and 1870s; his "sociological" plays - A Doll's House and Ghosts; and his concern with the human soul. The programme includes extracts from televised drama productions, and a recent National Theatre production of Rosmersholm. D.M.

Thomas, Anthony Storr and John Mortimer consider the impact and complexity of Ibsen's work. With Brian Cox as the voice of Ibsen.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Anton Chekhov (1860 – 1904)

In Russian writer Chekhov's stories and plays, plot originates not from events, but from the private, internal lives of his characters, and he is a key figure in the transition from plot-driven literature of the nineteenth century towards modernism. In this his influence can be felt throughout cinema. As he famously wrote: "Don't tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass."

Platonov (Play of the Month)

UK 1971 Dir Christopher Morahan

115 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Platonov (also known as Fatherlessness and A Play Without a Title) is the name in English given to Chekhov's early, untitled play written in 1878, his first large-scale drama, unpublished until 1923. The lead character is "Mikhail Platonov", a disillusioned provincial schoolmaster, and his name is used for the title in English translations. In 1976 writer Aleksander Adabashian and director Nikita Mikhalkov adapted the play as An Unfinished Piece for Mechanical Piano. In 1990 this was reworked by Trevor Griffiths into a new stage version called Piano, starring Stephen Rea as Platonov. Michael Frayn's widely-performed 1984 adaptation was entitled Wild Honey.

This British television version stars Rex Harrison, Sian Phillips.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Medved (The Bear)

USSR 1938 Dir Isier Annensky.

45mins

35mm B&W

Farce based on Chekhov's one-act comedy of 1888. A boorish landlord (the 'bear') seeks back rent owed by a lovely widow's deceased husband. She tames him with her charm. According to the cast list all the actors were holders of the Soviet "Order of the Republic". NB no English language subtitles.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Seagull (1896) – a comedy in four acts

The Seagull

UK 1968 Dir Sidney Lumet

141mins

35mm Col

Tragedy set in nineteenth century Russia, where Konstantin, a sensitive young man, lives on his uncle's estate. He adores his mother, an actress who gives all her attention to her lover, a writer. Konstantin is in love with Nina who later becomes an actress and does not respond to his love. Konstantin shoots himself. With James Mason, Vanessa Redgrave, Simone Signoret, David Warner, Denholm Elliott.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Chaika

SU 1971 Dir Yuli Karasik

98mins

35mm Col

Russian language version of *The Seagull*, with Lyudmila Savelyeva, probably best known to world audiences for her work in Sergei Bondarchuk's *War and Peace*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Seagull (Play of the Month)

UK 1978 Dir Michael Lindsay-Hogg

62mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

BBC TV production of the play by Anton Chekhov. With Anthony Bate, Georgina Hale, Michael Gambon, Zoe Caldwell, Stephen Rea

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Uncle Vanya (1899 - 1900) — based on the four act comedy The Wood Demon**Uncle Vanya**

UK 1963 Dir Stuart Burge

112mins

16mm B&W

Translated by Constance Garnett. With Michael Redgrave and Joan Plowright.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Uncle Vanya (Play of the Month)

UK 1970 Dir Christopher Morahan

50mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

BBC production with Freddie Jones, Anthony Hopkins.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Uncle Vanya (Performance)

UK 1991 Dir Gregory Mosher

129 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Adapted by screenwriter David Mamet from a literal translation by Vlada Chermorodik. With Ian Bannen, Ian Holm, Rachel Kempson, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, David Warner

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Three Sisters (1901) — a drama in four acts**Three Sisters (Play of the Month)**

UK 1970 Dir Cedric Messina

82mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

BBC production, with Michele Dotrice, Janet Suzman, Eileen Atkins, Joss Ackland, Anthony Hopkins

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Three Sisters

UK 1981 Dir Trevor Nunn

193mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company, recorded in Thames TV Teddington studios. With Susan Tracey, Emily Richard, Edward Petherbridge, Bob Peck, Roer Rees, Timothy Spall, Suzanne Bertish

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Paura E Amore (Three Sisters)

Italy/DR/Denmark 1988 Dir Margarethe von Trotta

112 mins

35mm Col

The sisters are transferred to modern times and placed in a northern Italian university town. With Fanny Ardant, Greta Scacchi.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Cherry Orchard (1904) — a comedy in four acts**The Cherry Orchard**

UK 1962 Dir Michael Elliott

128 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

BBC production from the play written by Anton Chekhov in 1904. Telerecording of the Royal Shakespeare Company's production at the Aldwych Theatre, London. Theatre production by Michel St. Denis, adapted for the stage by John Gielgud, adapted for television by Norman James. With Peggy Ashcroft, Judi Dench, John Gielgud, Ian Holm, Dorothy Tutin.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Cherry Orchard

UK 1981 Dir Richard Eyre

128mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

English version adapted for television by playwright Trevor Griffiths, from a translation by Helen Rappaport. With Bill Paterson, Timothy Spall, Judi Dench, Harriet Walter, Anna Massey, Anton Lesser

Archive source: BFI National Archive

See also literary adaptations:

The Duel

USSR 1961 Dir Tatiana Berezatseva (Mosfilm)

78mins

35mm Col

Set among the Russian intelligentsia in the early twentieth century. Based on the story by Chekhov. English-language subtitles.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

If Only the Trains Came (Playhouse)

UK 1968 Dir Barry Davis

81mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Granada Television production based on a story by Chekhov. For Gromov, behind the bars of a mental ward, the railway is the one hope of escape. For the doctor in charge, Andrei, it is the link with civilization, which alone could rouse him from the lethargy of life in provincial Russia.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Full House [16/12/72]

UK 1972 Dir Vernon Lawrence

135 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A programme with six different items on different artworks or plays, including Zinotchka, a film adaptation of a short story by Anton Chekhov, which stars Charlotte Rampling in the title role.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Full House [13/01/73]

UK 1973 Dir Ken Loach

135 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Includes A Misfortune. Film adaptation of a Chekhov story, which touches on adultery. With Lucy Fleming, Ben Kingsley, Peter Eyre.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

An Artist's Story (2nd House)

UK 1974 Dir David Jones

75mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Adaptation of a Chekhov short story about the clash of ideas between Anton, a landscape painter and Lydia, an aristocratic girl devoted to good works. With Meg Wynn Owen, Patrick Stewart. In the studio, Melvyn Bragg leads a discussion on the contemporary relevance of the story with the Rt Rev Trevor Huddleston, Bishop of Stepney and John Berger.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Plokhoy Khoroshyi Chelovek (The Duel)

USSR 1974 Dir Iosif Heifitz

90 mins

35mm Col

Film adaptation of Chekhov's 1891 novella, which tells about unhappy love and human relationships. The film is treasured by Russian audiences because it contains one of the very few screen appearances of the beloved star Vladimir Vysotsky (he plays Von Koren). The film concerns two intellectuals: Layevsky, an idealistic, high-minded individual; and Von Koren, a driven, ambitious zoologist who espouses a grim creed of Darwinian eugenics. Their encounters rob them of faith in their creeds, which were shallow enough to begin with. English language subtitles.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Moi Laskoviy I Niejnie Zver (The Shooting Party)

USSR 1978 Dir Emil Lotianou

107mins

35mm Col

Based on Chekhov's 1884 novella. A love affair ends in tragedy, when the woman is murdered in a jealous fury by her lover. With Galina Belyayeva, Oleg Yankovsky, Leonid Markov. English dubbed version

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Step

USSR 1978 Dir Sergei Bondarchuk

132mins

35mm Col

Based on Chekhov's 1888 novella. A young boy named Yegor is travelling with his uncle and a priest on a journey that will end in him continuing his education at school. Offloaded temporarily to the care of a group of workmen employed by his uncle, he continues his journey and observes their way of life. Catching a chill during a storm he hallucinates about characters he has met, including the Countess Dranitskaya. On reaching his destination and being reunited with his uncle and the priest, he is left at a friend of his mother's to stay while he is educated.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rasskaz Neizvestnogo Cheloveka (Story of an Unknown Man)

USSR 1980 Dir Vitautas Zalakevicius

98mins

35mm Col

Based on Chekhov's 1893 novella. A naval officer, his career in ruins after an aborted uprising, becomes a valet in the house belonging to the son of the general who ruined him. English language subtitles.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Visit From Vanya (Bookmark)

UK 1987

50mins

Single VHS only Col

Documentary programme on the work of Anton Chekhov. Oleg Efremov of the Moscow Arts Theatre visited Oxford during 1987 to give masterclasses for the British American Drama Academy on the performance of Chekhov. Produced by Richard Denton, presented by David Jones.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Arthur Schnitzler (1862 - 1931)

La Ronde

France 1950 Dir Max Ophüls

100 mins

35 mm B/W

An irresistible version of the 1900 play by Austrian writer Arthur Schnitzler (1862-1931), which examines love's impermanence and the fate of women living in an oppressively patriarchal society. Inter-linked episodes examining the joys and pains of seduction and separation based on the motifs of the carousel and the waltz are

drawn together by an omniscient narrator (Anton Walbrook), who edits the story, explaining and wandering through the action as he comments on the theme of love with suave, ironic wit.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Frank Wedekind (1864 - 1918)



Pandora's Box (1928)

Born in 1864, German playwright Frank Wedekind lived most of his life in Munich. His work was highly critical of bourgeois attitudes, and was particularly controversial for its examination of bourgeois hypocrisies regarding sex. His work anticipated many of the traits that would later distinguish expressionism in theatre, and he was also a major influence on the development of epic theatre.

Pandora's Box (Die Büchse Der Pandora)

Germany 1928 Dir G W Pabst

132 mins (at 20fps)

16mm B&W Silent (with soundtrack) with English inter-titles

35mm B&W Silent (no soundtrack) with English inter-titles (requires live musical accompaniment)

With Louise Brooks, Fritz Kortner, Franz Lederer.

An enduring classic of world cinema, this tells the story of Lulu, a woman driven by insatiable desires, who destroys all lives around her, and her own. Louise Brooks' legendary performance and Pabst's brilliantly incisive direction ensure that this film is still loved by audiences all over the world. Based on Wedekind's Lulu plays (Erdgeist, 1895, and Die Busche der Pandora, 1904), this is the most humanely tragic portrait of obsession that cinema can boast.

Archive source: BFI National Archive and BFI Distribution

Frank Wedekind

UK 1988 Dir Micha Bergese and George Snow

12 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Mini biopic of playwright Frank Wedekind, author of the celebrated late nineteenth century German plays Spring's Awakening and Lulu.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

The Empress (TV Operas)

UK 1994 Dir Jane Thorburn

53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Based on Wedekind's play. Young Empress Filissa is prescribed marriage as the only cure for her depression, but she rejects a succession of suitors representing power, intellect and money in favour of muscleman Holtoff.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

See also:

Innocence

France/UK/Belgium 2004 Dir Lucile Hadzihalilovic

115 mins

DVD Col

Inspired by Wedekind's novella Mine-Haha. Innocence is the strikingly unique debut feature by writer director Lucile Hadzihalilovic. Hadzihalilovic so far has been known for her association with the French director Gasper No  . She edited No  's debut *Seul Contre Tous* (I Stand Alone), and No   has shot one of Hadzihalilovic's mini features *The Eyes Of Jean-Pierre*. With the release of Innocence Lucile Hadzihalilovic will be regarded as a new French talent to watch. Innocence is a dark yet beautiful fable that contrasts the atmosphere of the dark gothic horror writings of both Mary Shelley and Poe, with the light of youthful purity. Innocence is a startling debut feature, that explores themes of maturity, understanding, friendship, loss and happiness as young girls prepare for their ascent into womanhood. A subterranean rumbling resonates in the heart of a forest. Hidden by foliage, a metal grate reveals underground passageways, which lead to the cellars of five houses scattered throughout a great park. The park is cut off from the outside world by a huge wall with no door. In one of these houses, a group of girls aged between seven and twelve gathers around a coffin. The coffin lid opens, revealing a six-year-old girl. Her name is Iris. Bianca, the eldest of the group, introduces Iris into this strange but pleasant boarding school, home to some thirty little girls. There are no adults here, save for several old servants and two young teachers: Mademoiselle Edith and Mademoiselle Eva.

Iris, a young girl, wakes up in a girls' boarding school where leaving is forbidden.

Inspired by Wedekind's novella Mine-Haha.

Archive source: BFI Distribution (Non-theatrical screenings only)

Circus, Pantomime and Puppet Theatre

Archaos

UK 1989 Dir Julie Kuzminska

11 mins

Video Col

Part of the series Archaos. A highly original document of the anarchic and challenging circus Archaos.

Archive source: LUX

Bye Bye Blackbird

Luxembourg/UK/Germany/Austria 2008 Dir Robinson Savary [circus]

99 mins

DVD Col

A tragic and unforgettable love story set within the colourful and dramatic world of a turn-of-the-century travelling circus, *Bye Bye Blackbird* follows the attempt of one young man to remain true to his ideal of Love. When Josef falls in love with Alice, a young and beautiful trapeze artist, he is inspired to join Dempsey's Circus in an attempt to win her hand. Soon he realises that the only way Alice will take notice of him is if he too becomes a trapeze artist-and he sets about making this come to pass. Archive source: BFI Distribution (Non-theatrical screenings only)

Dance 4: Dance House

UK 1991 Dir Emma Burge

5 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Laurie Booth explores the slow-motion world of circus with Russell Maliphant and Sue Hawksley. Performed to a haunting score played on the didgeridoo by Stephen Kent. Sponsored by BBC Television and Arts Council Great Britain.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Midnight Party; The Children's Party; Cotillion

USA 1940s-1969 Dir Joseph Cornell & Lawrence Jordan

19 mins

16mm B&W + colour-tinted Silent

Three films given to Larry Jordan to finish by Joseph Cornell before he died. 'I have not changed the editing structure. I have made the films printable. They are the first known fully collaged films, i.e., films made from found footage, and were done sometime in the '40s. Cornell combines Vaudeville jugglers, animal acts, circus performers, children eating and dancing, science demonstrations, mythical excerpts, and crucial freeze-frames of faces into a timeless structure, totally unconcerned with our usual expectations of "montage" or cinematic progression. He collects images and preserves them in some kind of cinematic suspension that is hard - impossible - to describe. But it's a delight to anyone whose soul has not been squashed by the heavy dictates of Art.' - L.J

Archive source: LUX

Parade

France-Sweden 1974 Dir Jacques Tati

89 mins

35mm Col

The legendary French comic auteur Jacques Tati's last film, *Parade*, was shot on video for Swedish television. The semi-documentary presents a joyful look at the circus as well as the behind-the-scenes antics that go into its production. With Tati himself contributing several of his own subtly outrageous mime routines, the film bounces back and forth between the appreciative audience and the various expert performers. *Parade* stands as Tati's earnest homage to the circus, displaying his reverence for film as a form of pure entertainment. With Jacques Tati, Karl Kossmayer, Pierre Brama.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Pantomime Dame, The

UK 1982 Dir Elizabeth Wood

47 min

16mm + DVD Col

The evolution of the British pantomime dame from the 1880s as told by a number of contemporary “Dames”, Arthur Askey (1900-1982), Douglas Byng (1893-1988), Billy Dainty (1927-1986), Ian Evans, George Lacy, Paul Laidlaw, Terry Scott (1927-1994), and Jack Tripp (1922-2005). Shows actors making up and getting into costume. Victoria Wood describes the strange characters of pantomime, including the Dame.
Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

Punch and Judy: Tragical Comedy or Comical Tragedy

UK 1980 Dir Keith Griffiths and Brothers Quay

47 mins

Digibeta + DVD + 16mm

A history of Punch and Judy since 1827 and homage to Giovanni Piccini, probably the greatest punchman to have lived. Includes extract from Harrison Birtwistle opera with animation by brothers Quay. Filmed on 16mm.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

European Playwrights of the Twentieth Century



Threepenny Opera (1931)

The importance of innovative playwrights such as Artaud, Genet and Brecht to modern drama is incalculable. Many contemporary directors refer to them as influences, and many versions of their plays have been produced on stage and in film and television.

What is important to remember is that their innovations were during the age of cinema. The transformation of theatre in the twentieth century took place within the context of developments within other areas of the avant garde – in Dada, in Bauhaus design, in Futurist ideology and in the influence of new psychological thinking or industrial, social and political concepts.

Although some of the key influences in twentieth century theatre are not recorded directly on film, their importance can be felt in developments in cinema – the work of Russian theatre director Stanislavski, for example, is indicated through its translation into the teaching of method acting in British and American theatre and cinema (and in the training of film stars such as Marlon Brando and James Dean).

Antonin Artaud (1896 - 1948)

The French writer and artist Antonin Artaud had a nihilistic view of life, and believed that the theatre should affect the audience as much as possible, as he detailed in his conception of a 'Theatre of Cruelty'. To achieve that he used a mixture of strange and disturbing forms of lighting, sound and performance. Imagination, to Artaud, was reality; he considered dreams, thoughts and delusions as no less real than the "outside" world. Artaud appeared briefly in film, and his influence can still be felt in the work of performance artists in the later twentieth century.

The Passion of Joan of Arc (La Passion De Jeanne D'arc)

France 1927 Dir Carl Th. Dreyer

114 mins

35mm B&W

Danish director Dreyer's film about the trial and execution of Joan of Arc. Renée Falconetti gives one of cinema's greatest performances as the young maiden who

died for God and France. Thought lost to fire, Dreyer's original version was miraculously found in perfect condition in 1981—in a Norwegian psychiatric hospital. French playwright, poet and actor Antonin Artaud appears as Jean Massieu. Danish intertitles.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Seashell & the Clergyman

France 1928 Dir Germaine Dulac

40mins

35mm B&W

A study in surrealism, reproducing the dream imagery of a frustrated celibate clergyman, *The Seashell & the Clergyman* is considered by many to be the first surrealist film. It was directed by Dulac from an original scenario by Antonin Artaud and premiered in Paris on 9 February 1928. The film follows the erotic hallucinations of a priest lusting after the wife of a general.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bertholt Brecht (1898 - 1956)



Kuhle Wampe (1932)

Born in Bavaria in 1898, Bertolt Brecht became a hugely influential theatre practitioner of the twentieth century. Along with his contemporary Erwin Piscator, Brecht created the influential epic theatre theory, which proposed that a play should not cause the spectator to identify emotionally with the characters or action before him or her, but should instead provoke self-reflection and a critical view of the action on the stage.

To this end, Brecht employed the use of techniques that remind the spectator that the play is a representation of reality and not reality itself. By highlighting the constructed nature of the theatrical event, Brecht hoped to communicate that the audience's reality was equally constructed and, as such, was changeable.

One of Brecht's most important principles was the alienation or "distancing effect". This involved, Brecht wrote, "stripping the event of its self-evident, familiar, obvious quality and creating a sense of astonishment and curiosity about them". To achieve this, Brecht employed techniques such as the actor's direct address to the audience, harsh and bright stage lighting, the use of songs to interrupt the action, explanatory placards, and speaking the stage directions out loud. Such ideas would have a profound influence on the cinema.

Cinema directors who have been particularly influenced by Brechtian ideas include Jean-Luc Godard, Nagisa Oshima, Lars Von Trier and Rainer Werner Fassbinder.

The Threepenny Opera

Germany 1931 Dir G. W. Pabst

111 mins

35mm + 16mm + DVD B&W

Based on the musical play by Berthold Brecht and Kurt Weill, a rewriting of John Gay's play *The Beggar's Opera*. In nineteenth century London Mack the Knife, a womanising gentleman thief, marries the daughter of the king of thieves and attempts to set up a bank with both his father-in-law and the chief of police. The social satire of Brecht and Weill's musical remains intact and is joined by the visual eloquence of the sets and photography and some charismatic performances from the cast. However Brecht and Weill jointly sued Pabst's production company for his treatment of their opera – an entertainment “for beggars, by beggars” rather than a lavish and lyrical cinema feature. BFI also holds the French version of the film *Opera a Q'at Sous*.

Archive source: BFI Distribution; BFI DVD

Kuhle Wampe

Germany 1932 Dir Slatan Dudow

68 mins

35mm, 16mm B&W

Screenplay by Bertolt Brecht and Ernst Ottwald. The film follows the tribulations of the Bönike family during the Depression. Conceived by Brecht at the political and artistic watershed of the waning Weimar Republic in inter-war Germany, the film is still remarkably fresh and accessible, with its subversive humour, exquisite photography by Günther Krampf, and Hanns Eisler's dynamic musical score. *Kuhle Wampe* was the name of a camp for the dispossessed. The film's heroine rejects the docility of the camp – filmed in semi-documentary style – in favour of class solidarity and revolution.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Hangmen Also Die!

US 1943 Dir Fritz Lang

135 mins

35mm B&W

Dark, taut, oppressively atmospheric film full of typically Langian touches. The film is essentially an anti-Nazi propaganda film, in which the man who assassinated Heydrich in 1942 is hiding out with the Resistance in Prague while the Gestapo implement a retributory reign of terror. The story was written by Lang and Brecht, though Brecht later claimed that his ideas were betrayed by the final film. Note: The Archive copy includes, in the last few minutes, the shooting of hostages, including the Professor, and the laying of flowers on the mass graves, which are not in most copies.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lotte Lenya Sings Kurt Weill (Monitor)

UK 1961 Dir Ken Russell and Humphrey Burton

17 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Lyrics by Bertolt Brecht. A record of a live performance. (Extracts used in Omnibus: Lotte Lenya 24.5.79)
Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Rise and Fall of the City Of Mahagonny

UK 1965 Dir Philip Saville

90mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

TV production of the musical play by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Gangster Show – The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui

UK 1972 Jack Gold

109 mins

16mm B&W

TV adaptation of Brecht's play, written in 1941. With Nicol Williamson, Sam Wanamaker.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Galileo

US 1974 Dir Joseph Losey

145 mins

35mm Col

Based on Brecht's play about the battle between scientific theory and religious dogma, specifically Galileo's battle with the hierarchy of the Catholic Church. Losey had already directed Brecht's play in 1947 in Los Angeles; here, Charles Laughton (who collaborated with the writer on the English version) is replaced in the title role by Topol. Made for the American Film Theater, the movie retains much of its Brechtian theatricality, including a revolving set and Hanns Eisler's music. With Topol, Edward Fox, Tom Conti, Judy Parfitt, Michael Gough, John Gielgud, Margaret Leighton, Mama Cass.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Life Story of Baal

UK 1978 Dir Edward Bennett

58 mins

16mm Col

An experimental film loosely based on Brecht's play of 1918. With Neil Johnston as Baal. Features early performances by Timothy Spall and Jim Broadbent.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

David Bowie in Baal

UK 1982 Dir Alan Clarke

63 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

BBC adaptation of Brecht's play by John Willet. With David Bowie, Jonathan Kent and Zoe Wanamaker.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Farewell: Brecht's Last Summer

Germany/Poland 2000 Dir Jan Schutte

93 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

At the end of an exceptionally hot summer, Bertolt Brecht is about to leave his lakeside house in Brandenburg to return to Berlin for the forthcoming theatre season. Most of the women in his life are there - wife, daughter, lovers. They swim, eat, drink and philosophise - but in the background the Stasi are waiting. With Josef Bierbichler as Brecht, Monica Bleibtreu as Helene Weigel, Elfriede Irrall as Elisabeth Hauptmann, and others.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Third Front. Political theatre: Erwin Piscator

UK 1978 Dir Peter Wyeth

36 min

16mm + DVD Col

A dramatisation of the life and work of German theatre director-producer, Erwin Piscator (1893-1966), the leading exponent of epic theatre and an influence on Brecht. Erwin Piscator worked as a theatre director/producer in Berlin in the 1920s. He took domestic theatre into the political arena using a range of multimedia techniques. His ideas changed the way that theatre is presented. The film covers his work and examines its relevance to contemporary cultural work in London.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

The Chairs (Dancemakers)

UK 1988 Dir Jose Montes-Baquer

62mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Based on the play by Eugène Ionesco (1909-94) with music by Richard Wagner. On-screen participants include Eugène Ionesco and choreographer Maurice Béjart.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jean Genet (1910 – 1986)



Un Chant d'amour (1950)

Genet was born in Paris in 1910, and abandoned by his parents as a child. At the age of 10 he was sent to a reformatory for stealing; thereafter he spent time in the prisons

of nearly every country he visited in thirty years of prowling the European underworld. Eventually turning to writing, as a novelist, poet and playwright, Genet examined the underbelly of French society, a world he knew from personal experience. His work had a crucial influence on twentieth century theatre, literature and film. Much of Genet's work has been adapted for cinema, and has had a particularly strong influence on gay and experimental film-makers.

Un Chant d'amour

France 1950 Dir Jean Genet

26 mins

16mm + 35mm + DVD+ Digibeta B&W (Silent)

The only film directed by Genet is a silent, sexually explicit fantasy about a prison warder spying on male inmates. The film contains many images, themes and motifs familiar from Genet's plays and literature, including the eroticisation of the prison wall, flowers, smoking, and the rough textures of men's bodies.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution + BFI DVD

The Maids

UK 1974 Dir Christopher Miles

94 mins

35mm Col

Based on Genet's 1946 play. Deals with the murderous fantasies of two maids who scheme to destroy the relationship of their mistress and her lover. With Glenda Jackson and Susannah York.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Maids (Blow Your Mind – See a Show)

UK 1995 Dir Coky Giedroyc

4mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Excerpt from the play by Jean Genet. With Kathy Burke and Frances Barber.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Balcony

US 1963 Dir Joseph Strick

84mins

35mm B&W

Adaptation of Genet's 1955 play. Set in a brothel in Europe during a revolution in which most officials have been killed. The customers take over the roles of power they had only fantasised before. With Shelley Winters, Lee Grant and Peter Falk.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

See also:

Mademoiselle

UK/France 1966 Dir Tony Richardson

103 mins

35mm B&W

Scripted by Genet, the film Jeanne Moreau star as a repressed village schoolteacher who secretly commits arson, and watches the blame put on itinerant workmen.

Archive source: BFI National Archive.

Querelle

Germany 1982 Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder

108 mins

16 mm + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Fassbinder's final feature film. Based on Genet's 1947 novel. Querelle is a sexually arrogant sailor and drug smuggler visiting the port of Brest in search of sexual satisfaction. In a brothel, he is reunited with his brother Robert and makes the acquaintance of Robert's lover Lysiane and her husband Nono. Querelle later inexplicably kills another man, putting the blame on the well-known homosexual Gil. But when Querelle gets himself in a sexual relationship with Gil, his risky situation develops into something even more intricate.

Archive source: BFI National Archive, BFI Distribution

Jean Genet (South Bank Show)

UK 1993 Dir Jack Bond

52mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The American writer Edmund White is writing a biography of the master French thief, novelist and political agitator, Genet. This film is a double portrait, shot on location in Paris, of one man in pursuit of another.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pre-War British and Irish Writers



Importance of Being Earnest (1952)

Plays by British and Irish playwrights proved popular source material for cinema adaptations in the 1930s and 40s in Hollywood, as well as in British films of the 1930s (where the strength of the theatre-cinema relationship can be felt in the many direct transpositions of certain stage productions to film). Works by such playwrights as Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw, Sean O'Casey and Noël Coward remain popular sources for cinema adaptation ever since.

As cinema developed into a respected profession for British actors and directors, theatre producing companies in the UK began to create a foundation for their own productions in cinema; and this foundation in theatre created an important basis for

acting in British cinema of the 1930s and 40s. Several theatre productions were transferred directly to film, often retaining the same directors, crew and cast.

BFI Special Collections hold many personal collections of paper documents of key film directors working in Britain who collaborated with British writers and playwrights, including director Carol Reed with Graham Greene, David Lean with Noël Coward and later Joseph Losey with Harold Pinter.

Oscar Wilde (1854 – 1900)

Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde was an Irish writer, poet, and prominent aesthete whose plays proved a rich and popular source for adaptation since the silent era, and remains a model of inspiration and wit for screenwriters and film-makers across the world. Wilde's life has been brought to the screen in three British films *Oscar Wilde* and *The Trials of Oscar Wilde*, both 1960; and *Wilde*, 1997, all of which have depicted him as an authentic tragic hero.

Lady Windermere's Fan

UK 1916 Dir Fred Paul

65mins

35mm + DVD + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W (Also on BFI DVD release of *The Fan*, 1949)

Silent version of Wilde's 1892 play. Director Fred Paul specialised in reworking popular novels and plays, and his adaption of *Lady Windermere's Fan*, starred a host of major stars from the London stage. This version features a specially commissioned new musical score composed and conducted by Nicholas Brown and performed by the Triptych piano trio.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution + BFI DVD

The Fan

US 1949 Dir Otto Preminger

75 mins

DVD B&W

Adaptation of *Lady Windermere's Fan*, written by Dorothy Parker. With Jeanne Crain, George Sanders, Madeleine Carroll.

Archive source: BFI DVD

Salomé

UK 1992 Peter Hall

105 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Peter Hall's acclaimed Royal Opera Production from Covent Garden, regarded by many critics as the definitive version of Strauss' dark musical drama, based on Wilde's 1894 play.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

An Ideal Husband

UK 1947 Dir Alexander Korda

96 mins

35mm Col

1890s high society provides the setting for Oscar Wilde's sparkling comedy of morals and manners, in which an 'ideal' husband must fight to save both his marriage and reputation when a blackmailing adventuress threatens him with a political scandal. Cecil Beaton designed the costumes for Alexander Korda's wonderfully stylish and entertaining screen version of Wilde's 1895 play. With Paulette Goddard, Michael Wilding, Diana Wynyard.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Importance of Being Earnest

UK 1952 Anthony Asquith

95 mins

35mm Col

Wilde's play *The Importance of Being Earnest* opened in London on Valentine's Day 1895. Its initial run, however, was cut short by Wilde's prosecution for immorality, which was brought by the then Home Secretary (and later Prime Minister) Herbert Asquith. In a bizarre turn, Asquith's son Anthony eventually made the first film version. Asquith's enduringly popular film opens with members of a Victorian theatre audience taking to their seats. Once the curtain rises, one of the viewers uses her eyeglasses to take us into the action, shortly after which we are shown a mixture of location and studio shots. The curtain falls again at the end of the last act.

Although this might have made the film seem too stage-bound, it actually helps in giving the eccentric characters and outrageous plot the grounding in theatrical tradition that any faithful adaptation needs to succeed. With Michael Redgrave, Edith Evans, Dorothy Tutin and Joan Greenwood.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

See also:

The Picture of Dorian Gray

US 1945 Dir Albert Lewin

110 mins

35mm B&W with Col inserts

The finest screen adaptation to date of Wilde's Faustian fable about a young gentleman selling his soul in return for enduring physical beauty. Lewin's film boasts a perfectly cast Hurd Hatfield in the lead, a brilliantly epigrammatic George Sanders as Lord Henry, elegant camerawork and superb fin-de-siècle sets. Wisely, Lewin's script never overplays the Wildean wit, allowing the darker ironies to speak for themselves. Ivan Le Lorraine Allbright painted the titular portrait.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950)



My Fair Lady (1964)

George Bernard Shaw was notoriously reluctant to allow his writing to be adapted for the cinema, yet thanks to the persistence of Hungarian producer Gabriel Pascal, he finally agreed to collaborate on a series of screen versions of his witty, socially minded plays, starting with the Oscar-winning *Pygmalion*. A number of other adaptations followed after Shaw's death, including Audrey Hepburn's star turn in *My Fair Lady*, which was adapted from *Pygmalion*.

Caesar and Cleopatra

UK 1945 Dir Gabriel Pascal

138 mins

35mm Col

Pascal's lavish, epic version of Shaw's 1901 play about love and politics in ancient Rome and Egypt stars Vivien Leigh and Claude Rains, who pop off the screen in vivid Technicolor. At the time the most expensive British film ever produced (complete with real imported Egyptian sand).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pygmalion

UK 1938 Anthony Asquith

96 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Adaptation of Shaw's 1913 play about a professor of phonetics who transforms Cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle into a poised and desirable woman in society. The screenplay and dialogue were written by George Bernard Shaw. The theatre cast from the Malvern Festival Theatre production, under the supervision of Bernard Shaw, was transposed to Ealing in 1936, except for the one change of Stewart Grainger, who was replaced by Leslie Howard. The famous Ball scene, absent from the play, was written especially for the film.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

My Fair Lady

US 1964 Dir George Cukor

175 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) + 16mm Col

This enchanting and sumptuous musical based on Pygmalion boasts a great cast including Rex Harrison and Audrey Hepburn, and has sets and costumes designed by Cecil Beaton. Scope print only.

Archive source: BFI Distribution, BFI Archive

Pygmalion

UK 1993 Dir David Giles

26mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col (Off-air recording)

Sir Ian McKellen in the guise of Sir George Bernard Shaw investigates where the money from Shaw's will to various public institutions has gone. Includes comments from Michael Holroyd, Shaw's biographer, Will Hutton economics editor of The Guardian, and Mark Fisher MP.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Seán O'Casey (1880 – 1964)



Juno and the Paycock (1930)

O'Casey was a major Irish dramatist and memoirist. A committed socialist, he was the first Irish playwright of note to write about the Dublin working classes.

Juno and the Paycock

UK 1930 Dir Alfred Hitchcock

95 mins

35mm B&W

From O'Casey's 1924 play. The tragedy of an Irish family who believe they are beneficiaries under a will but discover there is no legacy. Hitchcock filmed a faithful reproduction of the play using few of the directorial touches he had incorporated in his previous films. Instead he often held the camera for long single shots. Warmly received on its release, *Juno and the Paycock* (1930) is seen now as a disappointing early Hitchcock film. Celebrated drama critic James Agate thought it completely justified the talking picture, but Hitchcock himself dismissed it as "just a photograph of a stage play". O'Casey was apparently the inspiration for the prophet of doom in the diner in Hitchcock's later *The Birds*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Juno and the Paycock (BBC Sunday Night Theatre)

UK 1951
130 mins
35mm B&W
BBC Television production. With Sheila Ward
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Juno and the Paycock

UK 1980 Dir Roger Cheveley
115 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
BBC TV production with Frances Tomelty.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Young Cassidy

UK 1965 Dir Jack Cardiff
110 mins
35 mm Col
A romantic view of the early Dublin life of Sean O'Casey, culminating in the opening night of his play *The Plough and the Stars*. With Rod Taylor, Maggie Smith, Edith Evans, Julie Christie.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Noël Coward (1899 – 1973)



Blithe Spirit (1948)

Several of Coward's comedies and musicals were adapted by others for the screen in the 1920s and 1930s, but Coward himself scorned the majority of these productions. Until the Second World War, he had little interest in film-making and only the most limited regard for cinema generally. That changed with 1942's *In Which We Serve*, which Coward developed with the intention of contributing to the war effort. The film inaugurated the production team of Coward and David Lean as co-directors, Ronald Neame as cinematographer and Anthony Havelock-Allan as producer. Lean, Neame and Havelock-Allan would go on to make three fine films based on Coward's plays (*This Happy Breed* in 1944 and *Blithe Spirit* and *Brief Encounter* in 1945), with

David Lean taking over as the sole director. A number of Coward's plays were also adapted for television.

The Vortex

UK 1927 Dir Adrian Brunel

80 mins

35mm B&W

Coward's controversial 1924 play told of a woman who has a lover and her drug-taking son but, the film version was modified for the censors and became the story of a woman with a close male companion and a son who nearly turns to drugs. Ivor Novello stars as Nicky Lancaster.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cavalcade

US 1933 Dir Frank Lloyd

111 mins

35mm B&W

In what became the film Cavalcade, Noël Coward's popular stage production was filmed in order to provide reference for the Hollywood production filmed in 1933.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Design for Living

US 1933 Dir Ernst Lubitsch

86 mins

35mm B&W

Sophisticated comedy of girl in love with two men, a painter and a playwright. With Gary Cooper. From the play by Noël Coward.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Brief Encounter

UK 1945 Dir David Lean

86 mins

35mm B&W

Written by Coward, this remains one of the best loved British films of all time. The story of unconsummated middle-class adultery began life as a one-act play, *Still Life*, in the compilation *Tonight at 8.30*. With Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard (in his first starring role).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Blithe Spirit

UK 1948 Dir David Lean

95 mins

35mm Col

From Noël Coward's play. The second of three Coward adaptations produced by Lean's new company Cineguild. Coward himself performed the witty introductory voice-over. Following a seance held by a writer at his country house as part of the research for his new novel, the ghost of his late first wife materialises, and soon begins to cause trouble for him and his new wife. With its cast of distinguished comedy actors (Rex Harrison and Constance Cummings), the film did well with post-war audiences, but Coward professed himself disappointed with the result.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Choice of Coward

UK 1964 Joan Kemp-Welch

74 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Four TV plays by Noël Coward, who also introduces each one. 1: Present Laughter; 2. Blithe Spirit; 3. The Vortex; 4. Design for Living. All directed by Joan Kemp-Welch.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Song by Song by Noël Coward (Song by Song)

UK 1980 Dir Vernon Lawrence

75 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Coward is also known for his musical stage acts with Gertrude Lawrence, which are reflected in this programme. Featuring songs by Noël Coward, and Cole Porter.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Present Laughter

UK 1981 Dir Rick Gardner

175 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of a performance of Noël Coward's play at the Vaudeville Theatre.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

See also:

In Which We Serve

UK 1942 Dir Noël Coward, David Lean

116 mins

35mm B&W

The story of a destroyer and the men who sail in her, seen in flashback through the memories of some of the men following the sinking of the ship during the battle for Crete. Noël Coward wrote, co-directed and produced the film, as well as writing its musical score and acting in the lead role, alongside John Mills. It gave Lean his first directorial credit, after more than a decade as a highly respected editor.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Noël Coward: A Profile (The South Bank Show)

UK 1992 Dir Chris Hunt

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of Coward and his work.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Noël Coward Trilogy (Arena)

UK 1998 Dir Adam Low

DVD (Reference copy only) + DVD Col

Three-part profile of Noël Coward: Part 1: 'The Boy Actor': 58 mins, Part 2: 'Captain Coward': 60 mins, Part 3: 'Sail Away': 58 mins

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Goldenhurst 1

UK 1935

4 mins (100ft)

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Amateur film taken at the home of Noël Coward; includes shots of Norma Shearer, Irving Thalberg, Katherine Cornell, Guthrie McClintock, Gloria Swanson, and Gladys Calthrop. Original footage 16mm

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hawaii

UK 1935

226ft

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Amateur film of Noël Coward and friends, including Gloria Swanson, in Hawaii. Original footage 16mm.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Riviera

UK 1935

74ft

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Amateur footage of Noël Coward, Gertrude Lawrence and Jack Wilson bathing near Monte Carlo. Original footage was shot on 16mm.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Coward also appeared as an actor in other British films:

Our Man in Havana

UK 1959 Dir Carol Reed

107 mins

35mm B&W

When a vacuum-cleaner salesman named Warmold (Alec Guinness) in Havana is recruited as a Secret Service agent, he justifies his salary by inventing a whole series of assistants, counter-spies and secret information; this causes the death of a friend of his and he pulls the whole fabrication to pieces – only to find himself rewarded by officialdom. Noël Coward played Hawthorne. Based on Graham Greene's novel.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Bunny Lake is Missing

UK 1965 Dir Otto Preminger

107 mins

35mm B&W

Preminger's thriller opens just as Ann Lake (Carol Lynley), an American newly arrived in England, has dropped off her four-year-old daughter at a small private school. When she returns a short time later, her daughter, Bunny, is not only missing, but no one at the school recalls ever having seen her. Eventually, both Ann's brother, Stephen (Keir Dullea), and the police, led by Superintendent Newhouse (Laurence Olivier) arrive but there's simply no trace

of Bunny Lake at all. Noël Coward plays Wilson, the Lake's flamboyant, alcoholic landlord.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Post-War Theatre in Britain and Ireland



The Caretaker(1963)

With the creation of the English Stage Company at the Royal Court Theatre in London in the 1950s, British writers found a forum for new writing. This became an important arena for British writing, as well as attracting several international playwrights.

Some of the most celebrated playwrights of the twentieth century were associated with the Royal Court Theatre from the 1950s onwards, whether working within the company and writing for it – as with playwrights John Osborne, Howard Barker, Edward Bond, Howard Brenton, Caryl Churchill, David Hare, Joe Orton – or others who worked with the Royal Court on various productions, including Harold Pinter, Samuel Beckett, and the director Peter Brook who worked between France and Britain, or playwrights from abroad such as Sam Shepard.

The social realities of the post-war period provided a new subject matter, rooted in representing class realities in Britain, and often focused on working class issues, in what became known as the 'Kitchen Sink Drama' of the 1960s.

John Osborne and other playwrights working with George Devine, who had set up the Company, gave voice to people different from those found in the plays of Wilde and Coward. Many of the writers and actors working at the Court in these years became associated with the development of an extremely strong body of work in new writing and literary theatre culture; but many of them, including theatre directors Lindsay Anderson and Tony Richardson, also began to turn their attention to film.

The first of these came in the adaptation of plays from the stage for versions in television and cinema, but quickly developed with new writing for cinema.

Famous films of the period include Pinter's *The Caretaker*, the 'kitchen sink' dramas such as *Room at the Top*, *Saturday Night Sunday Morning*, *A Taste of Honey* and *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner*.

In parallel, the Theatre Workshop company run by Joan Littlewood at Theatre Royal Stratford East produced a legendary series of productions using improvisation. Her techniques demonstrated a style of visual and musical theatre that was echoed in the work of the touring 7:84 and Shared Experience Theatre Companies; John Godber and Hull Truck Theatre Company; Son et Lumiere; and later Theatre de Complicite.

The BFI holds superb collections of the working papers of British cinema directors David Lean, Joseph Losey, and John Schlesinger from this period. These are complemented by the collections of others working on the production of their films, including Ann Skinner, who worked as 'Continuity' for directors Losey and Schlesinger. Her Polaroid photographs of the cast provide behind-the-scenes snapshots of the work that was being done in this period of cinema drama in Britain.

Samuel Beckett (1906 – 1989)



Film (1965)

Although his novels and stage works form the bulk of his creative output, Beckett also wrote one cinema script *Film* (1964) and several television plays. His television work commenced with *Eh Joe* (BBC, tx. 4/7/1966), in which Jack MacGowran silently listens to the voice of a possibly deceased loved one. In the 1970s Beckett supervised television adaptations of *Krapp's Last Tape* (BBC, tx. 29/11/1972) and *Not I* (BBC, tx. 17/4/1977), preserving the definitive performances of Patrick Magee and Billie Whitelaw. The last of these was shown in a triple bill with *Ghost Trio* and *...but the clouds*, two original television plays that depicted isolation, loneliness and longing in memorably stark, almost abstract images. The non-narrative "piece for four players, light and percussion", *Quad* (1982), was also written specifically for television and first shown on Arena (BBC, tx. 16/12/1982).

Ten years after his death in 1989, an ambitious project by Blue Angel Films in association with Channel Four, RTE and the Irish Film Board saw the creation of filmed adaptations of all nineteen of Beckett's plays, involving Atom Egoyan, Damien Hirst, John Hurt, Jeremy Irons, Neil Jordan, David Mamet, Anthony Minghella, Julianne Moore, Harold Pinter, Karel Reisz, Alan Rickman, Kristin Scott-Thomas, Timothy Spall and Juliet Stevenson, with *Catastrophe* (directed by David Mamet in 2000) also containing John Gielgud's last screen performance.

Film

US 1965 Dir Alan Schneider

21 mins

Digibeta + 35mm + 16mm + DVD B&W

Samuel Beckett's one script written for film takes its basis from Berkeley's theory *Esse est percepti*, that is "to be is to be perceived". Buster Keaton plays a man who tries to shut out the world but cannot avoid the horror of his own reflection. The dialogue-free film was written by Beckett in 1963 and filmed in New York in the summer of 1964.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Film (aka: Beckett's Film, 1979)

UK 1979 Dir David Rayner Clark

26mins

Digibeta + 16mm + DVD (Reference copy only) + DVD Col

BFI produced version of Samuel Beckett's only film script. Max Wall played O. Though highly interesting in its own right, David Rayner Clark's version added a number of elements counter to the direction Beckett took in the 1965 film. For example, he shot in colour, he added music, he reintroduced sounds Beckett deliberately cut from his script, and added vaudeville scenes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive, BFI Distribution

Quad (Arena)

UK 1982 Dir Samuel Beckett

20 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The play was first transmitted by the *Suddeutscher Rundfunk* in Germany on 8 October 1981. Beckett himself directed. The four performers, all members of the Stuttgart Preparatory Ballet School, were, Helfried Foron, Juerg Hummel, Vladia Knupfer and Susanne Rehe. The same performance was rebroadcast on 16 December 1982, by BBC Two.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rockaby (Arena)

UK 1982 Dir D.A. Pennebaker, Chris Hegedus

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The rehearsal and performance of the play in an American production, starring Billie Whitelaw, filmed by documentary filmmaker D. A. Pennebaker.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Wake for Sam

UK 1990 Dir Donald McWhinnie

Part 1 85 minutes

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

BBC tribute to Beckett with readings and interpretations by Ronald Pickup, Billie Whitelaw, Jack MacGowan and Patrick Magee. Includes Act 2 of the Open University production of *Waiting for Godot* (1970s) with Max Wall and Leo McKern. Also includes a brief film of Beckett in BBC studio.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Wake for Sam (aka Krapp's Last Tape : Eh Joe)

UK 1990 Dir Donald McWhinnie, Alan Gibson

53mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Features Eh Joe, Beckett's script written for television (previously transmitted 4/7/66) and a performance of Krapp's Last Tape (previously transmitted 29/11/72).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Not I (A Wake for Sam)

UK 1990 Dir Tristram Powell

15min

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Billie Whitelaw introduces a rebroadcast of her 1973 performance of Samuel Beckett's play Not I.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Happy Days (A Wake for Sam)

UK 1990 Dir Tristram Powell

96 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Features the 1979 Royal Court production of Happy Days (previously transmitted 13/10/79).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Happy Days (In Performance)

UK 1979 Dir Samuel Beckett

100 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Film of the Royal Court Theatre production, London, May 1979. Included as part of the Peter Adam-produced A Wake for Sam, shown on the BBC in February 1990.

Billie Whitelaw plays Winnie.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Happy Days

UK 1995 Dir Coky Giedroyc

3 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Kathy Burke performs a version of Beckett's solo play, also performed in Beckett's lifetime by Billie Whitelaw.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Endgame (Samuel Beckett on Film) (4 Learning)

Ireland 2000/2002

81 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) (off-air) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

See also:

Paris in the Twenties (The Twentieth Century series)

US 1960 Dir Benjamin Burton

26 mins

16mm B&W

The cultural life of Paris in the 1920s. Includes Beckett getting out of a taxi, followed by a medium close-up shot of him.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Theatre [18.02.76] (Arena) (aka Arena : Theatre (18.02.76))

UK 1976 Dir Denis Moriarty

35 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

What is great acting? Claire Bloom and Kenneth Tynan discuss three performances: Peggy Ashcroft in Samuel Beckett's *Happy Days*, Judi Dench in George Bernard Shaw's *Too True To Be Good* and Irene Worth in Tennessee Williams *Sweet Bird of Youth*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Joan Littlewood (1914-2002) and the Theatre Royal Stratford East



Oh What a Lovely War (1969)

Joan Littlewood has been called "The Mother of Modern Theatre", and is perhaps most noted for developing the Theatre Workshop. Littlewood trained as an actress at RADA but left after an unhappy start and moved to Manchester in 1934 where she met and married folk singer Jimmie Miller (later known as Ewan MacColl) with whom she set up the Theatre Union in 1936.

They formed the Theatre Workshop in 1945, and in 1953 it took up residence at the Theatre Royal in Stratford, East London, gaining an international reputation and performing international plays across Europe and in the Soviet Union. One of Littlewood's most famous productions was the British première of Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children* (1955). The works for which she is now best remembered include Shelagh Delaney's *A Taste of Honey* (1958) and the satirical musical *Oh, What a Lovely War!* (1963). Both were subsequently made into films.

Oh What a Lovely War!

UK 1969 Dir Richard Attenborough

144 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Attenborough's directorial debut, based on the Theatre Workshop production by Joan Littlewood. Attenborough inherited the project from John Mills, who had developed the screenplay with Len Deighton from Littlewood's musical stage production. The film is a savage, satirical indictment of the First World War.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Late Night Line Up: Fun Fair (aka Playground For All Ages)

UK 1968 Ed. Rowan Ayers

40 mins

DVD + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

On the setting up of a 'playground for all ages' by the Joan Littlewood Trust to celebrate the City Festival at Tower Place.

Archive source: BFI National Archive.

Joan Littlewood Directing the Youth Theatre

UK 1968

16 mins

DVD + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

On stage at the Theatre Royal improvising scenes with Nigel Hawthorne, Jimmie Winston and Peter Rankin. Littlewood appears briefly. There is no sound on this film. Joan Littlewood directs the youth theatre on the stage of the Theatre Royal Stratford East. The boys act out a scene in a cinema. The girls dress up and pretend to be elegant ladies.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Everybody's an Actor, Shakespeare Said

UK 1968 Dir Barney Platts-Mills

30 mins

DVD Col

By the director Bronco Bullfrog and Private Road, a short film about Littlewood's local youth drama workshops at 48 Martin Street, E15 aka 'The Playbarn' where Platts-Mills discovered much of the cast for his first feature.

Onstage Footage of 'The Projector'

UK 1970 Dir Joan Littlewood

5 mins

DVD + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A scene from the play *The Projector*, written by John Wells and based on the Ronan Point disaster.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Laurence Olivier & the National Theatre

English actor, director, and producer Laurence Olivier (1907 - 1989) was one of the most famous and revered actors of the twentieth century. He played a wide variety of roles on stage and screen, from Greek tragedy, Shakespeare and Restoration comedy to modern American and British drama. From 1963-73 he was the first artistic director of the National Theatre of Great Britain and its main stage is named in his honour. Here is a short selection of material featuring Olivier, and others from the history of the National Theatre.

Laurence Oliver Home Movies

UK 1932 Dir Laurence Olivier

29 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) (Original footage is 16mm) B&W

Locations include Hollywood, California, during the shooting of *Thirteen Women* (1932), Nassau, Miami, Sandy Key, Hogg Island (renamed Paradise Island in the 1960's), Catalina Island, Avalon, Santa Monica and Babelsberg Studios, Berlin. Those filmed usually make only brief appearances.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

This Week in Britain 615: National Theatre

UK 1970

5 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

An edition of the Central Office of Information's long running magazine series that focuses on the construction of the National Theatre on the South Bank. Liz Ferris introduces the programme, and talks to the Theatre's architect Denys Lasdun about his designs. Lasdun uses a scale model of the Theatre to talk us through his plans, and describes his vision of the Theatre as a 'city landscape rather than monumental building'.

Archive Source: BFI DVD (COI Collection: Volume Two – Design for Today)

Some Views of the British Theatre (2nd House)

UK 1973 Sheldon Larry

105 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Kenneth Tynan and Peter Hall discuss plans for the National Theatre's future.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Theatre [01.10.75] (Arena)

UK 1975 Dir Julian Jebb

35 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) + Digibeta Col

Kenneth Tynan talks to Laurence Olivier about Lillian Baylis, the founder of the Old Vic Theatre in London. There is also film about David Hockney's set designs for the Glyndebourne Opera House's production of Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Theatre [29.10.75] (Arena)

30 mins

UK 1975 Dir David Buckton

35mm Col

The programme reviews the National Theatre's history. Prior to the opening of the National Theatre's new 'home' on the South Bank, director Peter Hall talks to Kenneth Tynan, who worked as the theatre's literary adviser for 11 years.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Theatre [10.12.75] (Arena)

UK 1975 Dir Mike Sparrow

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Mikhail Baryshnikov rehearses with Natalia Makarova for a gala performance for the BBC for the New Year. Kenneth Tynan gives a profile of actor Albert Finney who opens in Hamlet at the National Theatre in London.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Laurence Olivier 1907 - 1989: A Tribute (Omnibus)

UK 1989

Part 1: 26 mins, Part 2: 35 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) + Digibeta Col

A tribute to Olivier broadcast on the day of his funeral. Introduced by Anthony Hopkins. Part 1 comprises critical assessments and reminiscences from actors and directors who had worked with Olivier; Part 2 is an interview Olivier gave to theatre critic Kenneth Tynan at the Old Vic in 1966.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Larry & Vivien – the Oliviers in Love

UK 2001 Dir James Kent

77mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary looking at the relationship and marriage of Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh and the impact it had on their lives and careers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gambon & Hytner (The South Bank Show) (Henry IV, National Theatre)

UK 2005 Dir Gerald Fox

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A fly-on-the wall view of rehearsals for the National Theatre's production of Shakespeare's Henry IV Part 1 & 2. Directed by Nicholas Hytner and starring Michael Gambon as Falstaff with Matthew MacFadyen as Prince Hal.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Peter Brook (1925 -)



Lord of the Flies (1962)

Celebrated British theatre director Peter Brook started working in Britain in the 1950s - 1960s but relocated to France in the 1970s. He worked regularly in film and television, either to make recordings of the stage plays of his company (as with US in

1967), or to work directly in film (as with *Lord of the Flies* in 1962 and *King Lear* in 1970) or in television (as with *The Mahabharata* in 1989).

Brook's work has been recognised for its visual staging, particularly his concept of 'the empty space' of the stage (as seen in his *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in London in the early 1970s) and celebrated for his inclusive approach to world theatre.

See also Peter Brook entries in Shakespeare section (After The Dream – Omnibus, UK 1978; King Lear - The South Bank Show UK 1987; Peter Brook on Hamlet UK 2002) and Classical Music: Opera (Peter Brook and the Tragedy Of Carmen - The South Bank Show UK 1983).

Tell Me Lies: A Film About London

UK/US 1967 Dir Peter Brook

116 mins

35mm Col

Based on Denis Cannan's 1966 protest play on the Vietnam war, US, which Brook directed for the Royal Shakespeare Company. The film adaptation is a fascinating insight into how Vietnam was lived in London at that time. With songs by Adrian Mitchell, the cast includes Kingsley Amis, Glenda Jackson, Paul Scofield and Peggy Ashcroft.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Mahabharata

France 1989 Dir Peter Brook

171 mins/309 mins

Digibeta + BSP + DVD Col

The Mahabharata is at the very heart of Indian culture – in religion, myth and legend. One of the oldest stories in the world, with the first known written versions dating back to the fifth century BC, it is also the longest poem ever written – at more than one hundred thousand stanzas long it is fifteen times the length of the Bible. The central story is of the feud between the Pandavas and the Kauravas, two closely related regal families, but the many subplots, diversions, fables and legends turn this mythological epic into a story of and for all mankind. Long-time collaborators director Peter Brook and screenwriter Jean-Claude Carrière created the three separate plays that comprise this version of the epic, producing a globally successful nine-hour stage production, a three-hour TV version and a five-hour version available on BFI DVD.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI DVD

See also:

Lord of the Flies

UK 1963 Dir Peter Brook

91 mins

35mm + DVD B&W

Brook's cinema debut was the first screen version of William Golding's 1955 novel (even then recognised as a modern classic). Characteristically for Brook, the film was developed unconventionally via a series of workshops based on the original novel, without going through the usual screenplay stage, and featured an entirely non-professional cast.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution + BFI Special Collections: storyboards

After the Dream (Omnibus)

UK 1978 Dir Dennis Marks

60mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV documentary about Brook's work since his 1970 production of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Stages (Arena)

Australia 1981

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on the staging of The Ik in a quarry near Adelaide in Australia by Brook's travelling theatre company. Tribal Aboriginal performers travelled thousands of miles to see the performance, along with popular plays presented by them

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Peter Brook (Levin Interviews)

UK 1982 Dir Tamasin Day-Lewis

30mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Bernard Levin talks to Brook about his 35 year career as a director in theatre, film and television.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Peter Brook (South Bank Show Special)

UK 1989 Dir David Thomas

53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of Brook, including film of him directing the Mahabharata.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Greatest Story (Signals)

UK 1989 Andrew Holmes (exec prod)

38 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Programme on the making of The Mahabharata, including an interview with Brook.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jane Arden (1927 – 1982)

One of the most outspoken radical feminist voices in British theatre and cinema in the 1960s and 70s, Jane Arden's began her career writing for TV in the 1950s, during which time she married director Philip Saville. That marriage broke down in the mid-1960s when Arden met director Jack Bond, and became increasingly interested in radical politics, the ideas of R. D. Laing, travel and the rhetoric of movements such as Black Power. In 1969 she wrote and directed Vagina Rex and the Gas Oven, at Jim Haynes' short-lived experimental Arts Lab in London's Covent Garden. Following

Arden's suicide in 1982, her plays and films fell out of circulation until a revival in 2009.

The Other Side of the Underneath

UK 1972 Dir Jane Arden

106 mins

DVD Col

Arden's all-women theatre group Holocaust created their first and possibly only stage production *A New Communion* – for *Freaks, Prophets and Witches* in 1971. It formed the basis of Arden's extraordinary film, *The Other Side of the Underneath*. 'It's near-impossible to make sense of *The Other Side*... as a 'feminist' film without an awareness of its Laingian dimension, theatrical genesis and the chaotic conditions of production. Although billed as an exploration of the trauma and psychotherapeutic rebirth of a young woman labelled as schizophrenic, it's not so much a narrative, more a series of confrontationally sexual performative set-pieces alternated with raw, uncomfortable, and at times exploitative documentary footage and some sublimely realised images.' Clare Monk, *Sight & Sound*, 2009

Archive source: BFI DVD

See also:

Separation

UK 1967 Dir Jack Bond

89mins

35mm + DVD + Blu-Ray B&W and Col

Scripted by and starring Jane Arden, the film explores the inner life of a woman during a period of marital and mental breakdown. Past, present and future collide in a cool, swinging 60s London landscape.

Archive source: BFI National Archive, BFI DVD

Anti-Clock

UK 1979 Dir Jane Arden, Jack Bond

87 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Based on Arden's extraordinary writings on the limitations of rational thought, the film combines pioneering video techniques with colour footage to create a densely woven, dream-like narrative that explores issues of personal identity and social conformity.

Archive source: BFI DVD

John Osborne (1929 - 94)



Look Back in Anger (1959)

John Osborne's seminal play *Look Back in Anger* (1958) gave its name to the new writing of 'the angry young men' in British theatre of the post-war period. Osborne also formed the Woodfall production company with Royal Court theatre director Tony Richardson, which went on to produce many of the most acclaimed British films of the 1960s, including films from his own plays (*Look Back in Anger*, *The Entertainer* and others), and plays or films by other writers associated with the Royal Court Theatre (including *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*, *A Taste of Honey*, *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner*, *Girl with Green Eyes*, *Tom Jones*, *One Way Pendulum*, *The Knack ...* and *How to Get It*, *Laughter in the Dark* and *Kes*.) Osborne appeared as an actor in *Get Carter* (1971), among other films.

Look Back in Anger

UK 1959 Dir Tony Richardson

101 mins

35mm B&W

John Osborne's play *Look Back in Anger*, directed by Tony Richardson, had caused a storm at the Royal Court in 1956, and the pair formed Woodfall Films to make this film version, starring Richard Burton, Mary Ure and Claire Bloom. A disillusioned, angry university graduate comes to terms with his grudge against middle-class life and values. Screenplay by Nigel Kneale, based on the play by John Osborne.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Look Back in Anger (Play of the Month)

UK 1976 Dir John Glenister

125 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV production of the play by John Osborne

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Entertainer

UK 1960 Dir Tony Richardson

96 mins

35mm B&W

Archie Rice, third-rate variety performer in a failing summer show in 1950s Britain, tries to revive his flagging fortunes but alienates his family and loses everything. Tony Richardson originally directed *The Entertainer* at the Royal Court in 1957 with Laurence Olivier playing Archie Rice. The film version, also starring Olivier, was Richardson's second feature. John Osborne's stage play continued the critique of postwar English life he had begun in *Look Back in Anger*. Written by John Osborne and Nigel Kneale.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Entertainer (Performance)

UK 1993 Dir Nicholas Renton

120 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Inadmissible Evidence

USA/UK 1968 Dir Anthony Page

96 mins

35mm B&W

Osborne's adaptation of his 1964 play about a middle-aged solicitor oppressed by a sense of failure and feeling that the whole world is conspiring to exclude him. Nicol Williamson repeats his stage performance in the anti-heroic main role. With Jill Bennett, Peter Sallis, Lindsay Anderson.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Luther

USA/UK/Canada 1973 Dir Guy Green

112 mins

35mm Col

From Osborne's 1961 play. Martin Luther, a monk in a Saxony monastery in 1506, is tormented with doubts about his imaginary sins. His rise to prominence as a scholar increases his influence on religious history.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

See also:

The Picture of Dorian Gray (Play of the Month)

UK 1976 Dir John Gorrie

100 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV production of the novel by Oscar Wilde. Dramatised by John Osborne.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

John Osborne (The Levin Interviews)

UK 1981 Dir Christopher Lewis

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Bernard Levin talks to John Osborne about his work.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

John Osborne (The South Bank Show)

UK 1991 Dir Frances Dickenson

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile on John Osborne, featuring an interview with Osborne and contributions by Kenneth Tynan.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Harold Pinter (1930 - 2008)



The Go-Between (1971)

One of the key figures in British drama of the twentieth century, Pinter adapted his own stage plays for film and television, wrote plays specifically for television, and adaptations and original filmscripts for a series of films made in conjunction with director Joseph Losey.

A Night Out (Armchair Theatre)

UK 1960 Dir Philip Saville

52 mins

16mm B&W

Harold Pinter's first stage plays, *The Room* and *The Birthday Party*, bemused and infuriated critics. Conventional wisdom has it that it was 1960's *The Caretaker* that turned the tide, but Pinter's first work for television, broadcast a few days before *The Caretaker* opened at the Arts Theatre in London, is at least as significant. Adaptation of Harold Pinter's television play, *A Night Out* (ITV, tx. 24/4/1960) was viewed by an audience of 6.4 million, a record for a single television drama and, as the author admitted, considerably more than ever saw a Pinter play in a theatre. Stars Tom Bell.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Caretaker

UK 1963 Dir Clive Donner

105 mins

35mm + DVD B&W

Clive Donner's film of Harold Pinter's play was funded by celebrities, including Peter Sellers and Elizabeth Taylor. In a café Aston meets Davies, an irascible tramp, and offers him a bed in the house he shares with his brother Mick. The ensuing three become embroiled in a complex power struggle. The film was shot on location in

Hackney, and photographed by Nicolas Roeg. "This is a single-minded film," wrote the Sunday Times' Dilys Powell in 1963, "you have the feeling that writer, director, producer, cameraman and players have worked in harmony."

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive + BFI DVD

The Caretaker

UK 1981 Dir Kenneth Ives

120 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

From Harold Pinter's stage play. With Jonathan Pryce, Warren Mitchell and Kenneth Cranham.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Night Out (Theatre 625)

UK 1967 Dir Christopher Morahan

66 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Play by Harold Pinter, produced for the BBC strand Theatre 625.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Collection (Laurence Olivier Presents)

UK 1976 Dir Michael Apted

63 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Television play about sexual jealousy, written by Harold Pinter. With Malcolm McDowell, Alan Bates, Laurence Olivier, Helen Mirren.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

See also:

The Servant

UK 1963 Dir Joseph Losey

114 mins

35mm B&W

Adapted from a short story by Robin Maugham, *The Servant* (1963) was the first of three Collaborations between Joseph Losey and Harold Pinter. The film is a savage indictment of the English class system, and its waning hold over all aspects of the working and cultural life of Britain. Set almost entirely within the smart new townhouse of foppish aristocrat Tony (James Fox), the film plays out the struggle for power and dominance ignited by his duplicitous manservant Barrett – an energetic and genuinely ominous Dirk Bogarde.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Accident

UK 1967 Dir Joseph Losey

105 mins

35mm Col

Winner of a Grand Jury Prize at Cannes, *Accident* (1967) is one of Joseph Losey's most penetrating and pessimistic studies of human frailty. He is superbly served by Harold Pinter's screenplay and the subtle performances of his two favourite British actors, Dirk Bogarde and Stanley Baker. Bogarde plays Stephen, a middle aged Oxford

professor in the midst of a mid-life crisis, who yearns for an affair with Anna, the Austrian girlfriend of William, one of his students (played by Michael York).

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

The Go-Between

UK/US 1971 Dir Joseph Losey

116 mins

Digital copy available only Col

A study of early adolescence when an old man looks back on his boyhood and recalls a summer visit to a Norfolk country house at the beginning of the century. Printer wrote the script from the novel by L.P. Hartley.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Special Collections: Production materials

Harold Pinter with Benedict Nightingale (Writers in Conversation)

UK 1985

46 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Harold Pinter discusses, with theatre critic Benedict Nightingale, his work in the theatre, with particular reference to his play *One for the Road*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Harold Pinter (Face to Face)

UK 1997

39 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Interview with Jeremy Isaacs Harold Pinter talks about his childhood in Hackney, his obsession with language, events that have inspired his work, and his relationship with the Establishment.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Joe Orton (1933 - 67)



Entertaining Mr Sloane (1968)

John Kingsley (Joe) Orton was an English playwright whose short but prolific and hugely influential career lasted just three years, from 1964 until his murder at the age of 34. If John Osborne was the original 'Angry Young Man' of British theatre in the 1950s, then Orton was probably the 'Naughty Young Man' of the 1960s who shocked,

enraged and amused audiences with his scandalous black comedies, his name becoming a synonymous term for 'outrageously macabre'.

The Ruffian on the Stair

UK 1973 Dir David Cunliffe

53mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Television version of Joe Orton's 1963 play. Wilson, the ruffian, seeks revenge for the death of his sister.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Entertaining Mr Sloane

UK 1968 Dir Peter Moffatt

84mins

35mm B&W

A faithful adaptation of Orton's 1964 play, produced for television by Associated Rediffusion. There is no attempt to open up the setting, which remains one room in an ordinary little suburban house. The play concerns middle-aged nymphomaniac Kath and her homosexual brother Ed, who fight for possession of Sloane, a young psychopath, who lodges with Kath. Stars Sheila Hancock, Edward Woodward, Clive Francis and Arthur Lovegrove.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Entertaining Mr Sloane

UK 1970 Dir Douglas Hickox

94mins

35mm Col

Based on Orton's 1964 play, scripted by Clive Exton. A sexually frustrated middle-aged lady picks up a young man in the local cemetery and brings him home. Her brother is also interested in him. Brother and sister fight for him and finally marry him in turn. Stars Beryl Reid, Harry Andrews, Peter McEnery, Alan Webb.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Loot

UK 1970 Dir Silvio Narizzano

101mins

35mm Col

Based on Orton's blackly comic play of 1965 about two young men who, after robbing a bank, stow the loot in a coffin, and hide the body in the lavatory. Stars Richard Attenborough, Lee Remick, Hywel Bennett, Milo O'Shea, Dick Emery.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Erpingham Camp (Seven Deadly Sins)

UK 1966 Dir James Ormerod

54mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Orton's 1966 play. Mr Erpingham's holiday camp has regimented games and enforced gaiety. Two hundred campers run riot in protest.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Good and Faithful Servant (Seven Deadly Virtues)

UK 1967 Dir James Ormerod

60mins

35mm B&W

Orton's 1967 play. A chance encounter between two long-serving members of a large organisation sets off a chain of unexpected incidents.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Funeral Games (Playhouse)

UK 1968 Dir James Ormerod

53mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Joe Orton's last play for television, a farce in which Pringle, leader of the Brotherhood, receives an anonymous letter accusing his wife of adultery. He employs a private investigator, Caulfield, who discovers that things are not quite as they seem.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

What the Butler Saw (Theatre Night)

UK 1987 Dir Barry Davis

82mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Set in Dr. Prentice's Home for the Disturbed where the administrators are crazier than the patients. Based on Orton's 1969 play.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

What the Butler Saw (Blow Your Mind: See a Show)

UK 1995 Dir Coky Giedroyc

3mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Excerpt from Orton's 1969 play

Archive source: BFI National Archive

See also:

Prick Up Your Ears

UK, 1987 Dir Stephen Frears

110 mins

16mm + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A biopic based on John Lahr's biography of Orton. Told largely in flashback, the story of Orton and Kenneth Halliwell's tempestuous relationship is recounted through various interviews and entries from Orton's notorious diaries. Rather than providing a thorough account of the writer, Alan Bennett's script jumps back and forth in time, presenting an episodic overview of the key elements in Orton's life. Gary Oldman stars as Orton, Alfred Molina as Halliwell.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Genius Like Us: A Portrait of Joe Orton (Arena)

UK 1982 Dir Nigel Williams

72mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary portrait of the life of playwright Joe Orton, who was murdered by his lover Kenneth Halliwell in April 1967. Contributors include Orton's sister Leonie,

actors Kenneth Williams and Kenneth Cranham, Orton's agent Margaret Ramsay, publisher Charles Monteith, director Charles Marowitz and Orton's biographer John Lahr. Incorporates readings of unpublished extracts from Orton's diary and scenes from the film of *Entertaining Mr Sloane* (1969), the TV productions of *What the Butler Saw* and *Ruffian on the Stair* (1973), and specially filmed scenes of *Loot*.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Eamonn Andrews Show [23/04/67]

UK 1967 Dir Ronald Fouracre

43mins

DVD (Reference copy only)

Eamonn Andrews talks with guests Eva Gabor, Barbara Kelly, Bernard Braden and Joe Orton. Music from Vikki Carr and The Bachelors.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Special Collections: LHE/6 – Screenplay of *Prick up Your Ears*, revised 22 May 1986.

Edward Bond (1934 -)

Bond began writing plays in the late 1950s, and made his reputation at the Royal Court Theatre in London. His first produced play had the provocative title *The Pope's Wedding* (1962), and although it was given only one performance attracted admiring critical attention from the likes of Kenneth Tynan. He came to full prominence with his 1965 play *Saved*, which presented a poetic portrait of working-class London, and was instrumental in the abolition of theatre censorship in the UK. He has been interested in cinema, and adapted Nabokov's *Invitation to a Beheading* for Tony Richardson in 1968; contributed dialogue to Antonioni's *Blow-Up* in 1966 and collaborated with Nicolas Roeg.

Walkabout

UK 1971 Dir Nicolas Roeg

100 mins

DCP, DVD Col

Nicolas Roeg's rapturous, dreamlike vision of Australia. A young sister and her brother are stranded in the Australian outback. They meet a young aborigine on his "walkabout," a rite of passage in which adolescent boys are initiated into manhood by journeying into the wilderness alone. With Jenny Agutter and David Gulpilil. Written by Edward Bond.

Archive Source: BFI Distribution

Nicholas and Alexandra

UK 1971 Dir Franklin J. Schaffner

189 mins

35mm Col

Epic about Tsar Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra, set against the historical background of the Russian revolution. Written by Edward Bond.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Bingo. Scenes of money and death (Theatre Night) (aka Bingo (Theatre Night) (30.6.90))

UK 1990 Dir Don Taylor

125mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A disillusioned William Shakespeare retreats to Warwickshire, but finds that things are no better. Screenplay by Edward Bond, with David Suchet as Shakespeare.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Tom Stoppard (1937 -)



Squaring the Circle (1984)

Best known his play *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, a rewriting of *Hamlet* from the point of view of the bit-part messengers, the Czech-born British playwright Stoppard (Tomáš Straussler) is also a prolific writer of new scripts and adaptations for film and television.

Professional Foul (Play of the Week)

UK 1977 Dir Michael Lindsay-Hogg

95 mins

U-Matic Lo Band DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Stoppard's 1977 play in which three philosophy professors travel to Prague for a conference. One of them, Anderson, is forced to rethink his ideas on ethics when a former student is arrested by the Czech authorities for writing about individualist approaches to morality.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Every Good Boy Deserves Favour

UK 1979 Dir Roger Bamford

70mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Stoppard's 1977 play, commissioned by André Previn (who also wrote the music), is "a piece for actors and orchestra". With Ian McKellen.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Dog It Was that Died

UK 1988 Dir Peter Wood

80 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) (off-air) Col

Double, triple and sometimes quadruple bluffs become a bit of a headache for Q6's

Rupert Purvis. He has to get out and so he decides to throw himself off the Albert Bridge. Adapted by Stoppard from his 1982 radio play.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Squaring the Circle

UK 1984 Dir Mike Hodges

115 mins

Digibeta + DVD Col

Adaptation of Stoppard's 1984 play for television about the Solidarity movement in Poland.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Steven Berkoff (1937-)

English actor, playwright and director Steven Berkoff has been described as “one of the major minor contemporary dramatists in Britain and – due to his self-fashioning as a bad boy of British theatre and the ensuing attention of the media – a phenomenon in his own right” (Annette Pankratz).

Metamorphosis (Theatre Night)

UK 1987 Dir Jim Goddard

90mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An adaptation of Franz Kafka's story Metamorphosis, where George Samsa wakes to find that he has been changed into a giant dung beetle, to the horror of his dependent family. This TV production was scripted by Steven Berkoff, based on his play of the same name, which was first produced for the stage in 1969. Metamorphosis was staged again at the Mermaid Theatre in 1987 with Tim Roth in the lead role of George Samsa, and he takes the lead in this TV production, along with Stephen Berkoff and Linda Marlowe as Mr and Mrs Samsa.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Silent Night

UK 1991 Dir Bob Baldwin

30mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Scripted by Steven Berkoff, and based on his play Harry's Christmas. One man play starring Berkoff as Harry who, depressed and lonely, contemplates spending another awful Christmas with his mum.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Greek (Music on Two)

UK 1990 Dir Peter Maniura

85 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Opera by Mark-Anthony Turnage, based on the play by Steven Berkoff – the Oedipus myth updated and set in London's East End. Performed by the Almeida Ensemble conducted by Richard Bernas.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Decadence

UK/Germany/Luxembourg 1993 Dir Steven Berkoff
108mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Written and directed by Steven Berkoff. A social satire based on a stage play about two couples – an adulterous upper middle-class pair and a cheated and vengeful nouveau-riche wife and her spivvy private detective lover. Starring Steven Berkoff and Joan Collins, who play both couples.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

See also:

Tell-tale Heart (Without Walls)

UK 1991 Dir John Carlaw

60 mins (total)

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

In Tell-tale Heart, Steven Berkoff interprets Edgar Allen Poe's nineteenth century horror story. Shot in a disused eighteenth century synagogue behind Brick Lane in London, a man delivers his account of a chilling murder to a panel considering his sanity. Steven Berkoff both wrote the script and stars as 'The Man'.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Steven Berkoff (The South Bank Show) (22.10.89))

UK 1989 Dir Margy Kinmoth

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary portrait of Steven Berkoff, looking at his career and his preparations for the opening of Salome at the National Theatre. Winner of the Gold Plaque Award at the Chicago International

Film Festival 1990.

One Man Show : The Dramatic Art Of Steven Berkoff (Blow Your Mind: See a Show)

UK 1995 Dir Nicola Bruce

21mins

DVD (Reference copy only) + Beta SP Col

Steven Berkoff discusses performance and presents characters from his plays, Decadence, East, Greek and Actor. He also considers Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Caryl Churchill (1938 -)

English playwright Caryl Churchill is known for her use of non-naturalistic techniques and for the ways in which her work explores feminist themes and sexual politics. Her early work developed Brecht's modernist techniques of 'Epic theatre' to explore issues around gender and sexuality. From A Mouthful of Birds (1986) onwards, she began to experiment with forms of Artaud-inspired dance-theatre.

The After Dinner Joke (Play for Today)

UK 1978 Dir Colin Bucksey

65mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Unfolding through a sequence of 66 short, episodic scenes and utilising a large number of characters, Churchill's 1978 television drama explores the politics of charity through the story of a young woman called Selby who wants "to do good." She studiously avoids becoming embroiled in political issues, only to discover during the course of the action that this is impossible. With Paul Wilcox, Richard Vernon as Price, Clive Merrison as Dent and Derek Smith as the Mayor.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Legion Hall Bombing (Play for Today)

UK 1978 Dir Roland Joffé

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

At a trial in Belfast in 1976, two men are convicted of a bombing purely on the basis of contested verbal confessions. The play made detailed use of court transcripts (edited by Caryl Churchill) to document a trial of suspected terrorists in Northern Ireland. Recorded entirely in the studio, Roland Joffé's film respected the innate power of the documented evidence and subtly built atmosphere through visual claustrophobia and measured performances, including that of Jim Norton as a Detective Sergeant. Nervousness portraying the 'Troubles' prompted the BBC to make cuts to the play, to such an extent that writer Caryl Churchill and director Roland Joffé removed their credits in protest.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Top Girls (Performance)

UK 1991 Dir Max Stafford-Clark

111mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

BBC television production of Churchill's hugely influential play, directed by Max Stafford-Clark, as it was for its first success at the Royal Court Theatre in 1982. A play centring on the achievements of women and an assessment of high and low profile women. Marlene celebrates her new position as managing director of the Top Girls Appointment Agency by giving a dinner party for five oddly assorted women from centuries past.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Fugue (Dance on Four)

UK 1988 Dir Ian Spink

26mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Ballet inspired by Bach's Contrapunctus 10 from the "Art of the Fugue". The dance explores the effect of a death on a family and reflects on the circumstances of Bach's own funeral. Script by Caryl Churchill.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

See also:

Beryl Cook + Joint Stock Theatre Group (The South Bank Show)

UK 1979 Dir Andrew Snell

56mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Looks at the life and work of Beryl Cook in her home town of Plymouth. Film of the last week of rehearsal of Joint Stock in Churchill's 1979 play Cloud Nine about to open at the Royal Court. Melvyn Bragg talks to members of cast and crew about the workshop method of working which they used.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Caryl Churchill (Omnibus)

UK 1988 Prod Anna Benson Gyles and James Runcie

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An exploration of the work of playwright Caryl Churchill, through dramatised extracts from her plays, and a rehearsal workshop at the Royal Court Theatre.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Shelagh Delaney (1939 -)



A Taste of Honey (1961)

English playwright Shelagh Delaney remains best known for her debut work *A Taste of Honey*, which was first performed at the Theatre Royal Stratford East in 1958. Delaney's other screenplays include *Charlie Bubbles* (1967) and *Dance with a Stranger* (1985).

A Taste of Honey

UK 1961 Dir Tony Richardson

100 mins

35mm B&W

Rita Tushingham is unforgettable in this screen adaptation of the play by Shelagh Delaney. A Salford-set 'kitchen sink' drama in which a young girl leaves home and her selfish mother, and becomes pregnant after a short romance with a black sailor who then departs. She befriends Geoffrey, a gentle, kind-hearted gay man and sets up home with him. Delaney adapted her own 1958 play with director Tony Richardson.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The White Bus

UK 1967 Dir Lindsay Anderson

46 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col/B&W

Shelagh Delaney adapted a short story in her 1963 collection *Sweetly Sings the Donkey* for this delightful short in which a young woman hops a ride on a white bus for a tour of Manchester. Stars Patricia Healey, Anthony Hopkins and Arthur Lowe. The film was intended to form a third of *Red, White and Zero*, alongside shorts by Tony Richardson and Peter Brook. All three shorts were made, but never released as a trilogy.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

See also:

Shelagh Delaney's Salford (tx. 15/9/1960)

UK 1960 Dir Ken Russell

15 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Made for the BBC Monitor arts series, Ken Russell's portrait of Shelagh Delaney was broadcast exactly two months before her 21st birthday. Despite her youth, at the time of filming she already had two plays to her credit, *A Taste of Honey* (1957) and *The Lion in Love* (1960). A love letter to the place of her birth, and a polemic on education.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

David Hare (1947 -)

One of England's most respected playwrights, David Hare has also had success as a film and television screenwriter and director. Hare's debut play, *Slag*, was first performed in 1970. He worked with the Portable Theatre Company from 1968 - 1971. He was Resident Dramatist at the Royal Court Theatre, London, from 1970-1971, and in 1973 became resident dramatist at the Nottingham Playhouse, a major provincial theatre. In 1975, Hare co-founded the Joint Stock Theatre Company with David Aukin and Max Stafford-Clark, and shortly after began writing for the National Theatre, of which he became the Associate Director in 1984. He founded a film company called Greenpoint Films in 1982, and has written numerous screenplays for films such as *Plenty*, *Wetherby*, *Strapless*, and *Paris by Night*. Aside from cinema he has also written teleplays for the BBC such as *Licking Hitler*, and *Saigon: The Year of the Cat*.

Brassneck (Play for Today)

UK 1975 Dir Mike Newell

80mins

DVD (Reference copy only) + Digibeta Col

Based on the 1973 play by Howard Brenton and David Hare. Set in England between 1945 - 75, builder Alfred Bagley makes a fortune, with a little help from his friends

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Knuckle (Theatre Night)

UK 1989 Dir Moira Armstrong

62mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Television production of Hare's 1974 play. With Tom Roth, Emma Thompson.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Licking Hitler (Play for Today)

UK 1978 Dir David Hare

64mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Hare's directorial debut, from his own script. 1941. Anna, from a sheltered home, is sent deep into the countryside to work in secret with a Glaswegian journalist. She finds herself in a brutal and sinister world.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Dreams of Leaving (Play for Today)

UK 1980 David Hare

60mins

16mm Col

With Bill Nighy. Script by David Hare.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

The Absence of War (Screen Two)

UK 1995 Dir Richard Eyre

91mins

DVD (Reference copy only) + Digibeta Col

Political drama, concerned with the battle for the soul of the Labour Party during a hectic general election campaign. George Jones who has reunited the party finds that when an election is called it is not enough for him to be honest decent and truthful.

Hare wrote the script, adapted from his 1993 play.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

See also:

Saigon: Year of the Cat

UK 1983 Dir Stephen Frears

105mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

David Hare's television drama set during the American evacuation of Saigon.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Wetherby

UK 1985 Dir David Hare

103mins

35mm Col

Hare's big-screen debut, which he both wrote and directed. The film has been viewed as either a political allegory about the nature of Thatcherism, or a Pinteresque examination of memory and time. Stars Vanessa Redgrave, Judi Dench and Tom Wilkinson.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Paris by Night

UK 1988 Dir David Hare

104mins

35mm + 16mm Col

About the remorseless ambition of Clara Paige, a Tory MP. The accidental death of Michael Swanton, a one-time business partner, turns her life into nightmare. With Charlotte Rampling, Michael Gambon, Iain Glen, Robert Hardy and Jane Asher.

Written and directed by David Hare

Archive Source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Heading Home (Screen Two)

UK 1991 Dir David Hare

89mins

DVD (Reference copy only) + Digibeta Col

Written and directed by David Hare. Young Janette Wheatland from the provinces comes to make a life in London immediately after the Second World War, and finds herself mixed up in both literary and criminal London. With Gary Oldman and Joely Richardson.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Art Review '88 (The South Bank Show)

UK 1988 Dir Daniel Willes

104mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Arts review of 1988. Among other items, playwright David Hare talks about his political play *The Secret Rapture*.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Face to Face – David Hare (The Late Show)

UK 1989 Dir Rena Butterwick

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Jeremy Isaacs talks to playwright and film director David Hare about his work.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Heroes and Villains (Notes in the Margin 1980 - 89)

UK 1990

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Writer Malcolm Bradbury considers the television drama, plays and novels of the 1980s, along with the help of other writers, including David Hare, looking at their themes, characters and concepts and principles evoked.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

The Guardian Interview: David Hare and Juliet Stevenson

UK 1994

80 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Guardian Interview with Juliet Stevenson and David Hare, recorded at the National Film Theatre on 4th May 1995.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Timberlake Wertenbaker (1951-)

Wertenbaker grew up in the Basque Country of France. She attended schools in Europe and the US before settling permanently in London. She was the Royal Court Theatre's writer-in-residence in 1985. Her most successful play, *Our Country's Good*, (based on the novel *The Playmaker* by Thomas Keneally) was performed there in 1988.

The Children

UK/Germany 1990 Dir Tony Palmer
89 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The tale of a middle-aged engineer who is due to marry his life-long love who has been recently widowed. On his voyage home he meets a group of children, and is greatly attracted to one of them. He decides to head back to his village and the woman he is to marry, despite his feelings for the other girl. Based on the novel by Edith Wharton. Screenplay by Timberlake Wertenbaker.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Joe Penhall (1967 -)

London-born playwright Joe Penhall's first major play was *Some Voices*, for the Royal Court in 1994, which he adapted in 2000 for the film version by Simon Cellan-Jones. Penhall adapted Ian McEwan's novel *Enduring Love* for a 2004 film, and wrote the screenplay for BBC2's dramatisation of Jake Arnott's East-End gangster novel *The Long Firm*. Penhall adapted *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy for the screen in 2009. He also wrote the BBC2 detective series *Moses Jones*. His first short film *The Undertaker* premiered at the London Film Festival in 2005.

Blue/Orange

UK 2005 Dir Howard Davies
87mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Penhall adapted his 2000 play for this BBC television version, a sardonically comic piece which touches on race, mental illness, and twenty-first century British life.

Stars Brian Cox, John Simm, Shaun Parkes.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

See also:

The Long Firm (Teddy's Story, Ruby's Story, Jimmy's Story, Lenny's Story)

UK 2004 Dir Billie Eltringham

240 mins – in four parts of 60 mins each

DVD (Reference copy only) + Digibeta Col

Four-part adaptation of Playwright Joe Penhall's adaptation of Jake Arnott's popular, acclaimed crime novel set in 1960s London.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Sarah Kane (1971 – 1999)

The English playwright Sarah Kane's work typically deals with themes of redemptive love, sexual desire, pain, torture — both physical and psychological — and death.

They are characterised by a poetic intensity, pared-down language, exploration of theatrical form and, in her earlier work, the use of extreme and violent stage action. Critics have seen her work as part of a movement that broke away from the naturalistic tendencies of much twentieth century English theatre. Kane's published work consists of five plays, one short film, *Skin*. She suffered throughout her life from severe depression and in 1999, two days after taking an overdose of prescription drugs, she committed suicide by hanging herself in a bathroom at London's King's College Hospital

Skin

UK 1997 Dir Vincent O'Connell

11mins

DVD (Reference copy only) + Digibeta Col

Billy, a young skinhead, joins in a racist attack on a mixed-race wedding party in Brixton. But he finds himself drawn to Marcia, a black woman whose flat is visible from his window. He and Marcia begin a relationship, but she finally rejects him, and Billy unsuccessfully takes an overdose. *Skin* was directed by Vincent O'Connell, Kane's friend and mentor (her first two plays were dedicated to him). Made for the Channel 4 short film strand, *Short & Curlies*.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

BFI Special Collections

With the collections of directors Carol Reed, David Lean, Joseph Losey and John Schlesinger preserved in the Special Collections at the BFI National Archive, the material that can be drawn on for research, and in some cases exhibition, is vast. Relevant material here includes:

Joseph Losey Collection:

Production material for *The Go Between*;

Scripts by Harold Pinter for films made with Joseph Losey;

Annotated scripts belonging to Dirk Bogarde for the films *Victim*, *The Servant*.

Carmen Dillon Collection:

Designs for:

Hamlet (UK 1948), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (UK 1952), *Doctor in the House* (UK 1954), *Accident* (UK 1967), *Lady Caroline Lamb*, *Henry V*

Lindy Hemming (Costume Designer) Collection:

Scripts for:

Mike Leigh's *Meantime* (UK, 1983), David Hare's *Wetherby* (UK, 1985).

Other Dramatists:

The Boy Friend

US/UK 1971 Ken Russell

125 mins

35mm Col

From Sandy Wilson's 1953 musical stage-play, a pastiche of 1920s and 1930s

musicals. The nervous stage-manager of a production of *The Boyfriend* is obliged to take the place of the leading lady who has sprained her ankle. Stars Twiggy, Christopher Gable, Barbara Windsor.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

W Hole

UK 1972 Dir Mike Leggett

8 mins

16mm Col

An attempt to recall in cinema the experience of a theatre performance. Occurring in the street with a defined performer to audience relationship, the latter's role was outside that which it is usually forced to accept; passivity, ignorance, naivete etc. The extent of the encounter both mental and physical was entirely decoded by each individual. The performers were dedicated, variable weather conditions, long hours and sporadic audience. The only apparent reward was complete liberty to decide strategies within the performing role.

Archive source: LUX

Love is Like a Violin: A Film about Community Theatre and the Common Stock Theatre Company

UK 1977 Dir Jana Bokova

55 min

16mm + DVD Col

How the Common Stock Theatre Company director Ruth Chattie Salaman (1935-2007), works with a group of older people in West London to create a play about their experiences.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

The Phantom Captain Appears

UK 1978 Dir Ian Johnson

42 min

16mm + DVD Col

Examples of the work of the Phantom Captain theatre company as they stage audience-interactive, site-specific events.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

No Problem: The Theatre Of Ken Campbell

UK 1981 Dir Ian Johnson

33 min

16mm + DVD Col

The work of British actor, writer, director, Ken Campbell (b.1941). Shows Campbell directing rehearsal of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, and performance scenes from his production of *The Warp*, with comment from author Douglas Adams.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

Easy Money (Playhouse)

UK 1982 Dir Gillian Lynne

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Play by the writer Michael Abbensetts (b. Guyana, 1938), a resident dramatist at the Royal Court. Terry learns about the secret life of his new friend Marcia and dare not

tell his friends. With Imelda Staunton.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Eternal Day of Michel de Ghelderode 1892-1962 (Synthesis-Mask-Spectacle)

UK 1981 Dir Quay Brothers

29 min

16mm + DVD Col

A dramatised account, incorporating puppets, animation and archive film, of the life and work of Belgian avant garde dramatist, Michel de Ghelderode (1898-1962).

Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

Pastorale

UK 1982

42 mins

16mm + DVD Col

Musical theatre performance by Trevor Wishart, adapted for television. First performed in London at the ICA in 1980.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Refuse to Dance: Howard Barker

UK 1986 Dir Ann Foreman

53 mins

DVD Col

Profile of the fringe playwright. Alternates various filmed scenes from his plays with comments on him from actors, directors and critics.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

The Browning Version

UK 1985 Dir Michael Simpson

84mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

BBC adaptation of the 1948 play by Terence Rattigan. On the eve of his retirement, a classics professor (Ian Holm) is forced to recognise that he has failed as both a teacher and a husband. Judi Dench plays his wife, Millie Crocker-Harris.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Polishing Black Diamonds

UK 1988 Dir Susannah Lopez

22 mins

DVD

The history and activities of Munirah Theatre Company as they explore aspects of black culture in Britain through their choreopoems.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Roots (Performance)

UK 1992 Dir Simon Curtis

107mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Adaptation of Arnold Wesker's 1958 play. A young girl returns to her family home in Norfolk, having been educated in cultural and political matters by her boyfriend Ronnie. Through trying to pass on what she has learned, she discovers her own voice

and views.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

D'art programme 7

UK 1992 Dir Chris Ryder

25mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The seventh programme in an eight-part series. Deaf actor Tim Barlow demonstrates visual theatre skills in a performing arts workshop for deaf teenagers. Humorous moments are provided by silent movie clips, and Ray Harrison Graham talks to actor Ian McKellen about access to the theatre for deaf actors and audiences.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Six Characters in Search Of an Author (Performance)

UK 1992 Dir Bill Bryden

95mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

New version of the 1921 satirical tragicomedy by Luigi Pirandello (1867-1936). Set in a film studio in 1950, the story of six characters whose personal tragedy unfolds before a cinema producer who is initially reluctant to hear their tale.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

In the Making

UK 1995 Dir Sita Ramamurthy

15 min

DVD Col

Observes the rehearsal period of Philip Osment's play Who's Breaking, about a young man who discovers he is HIV positive, performed by a group which includes one actor who is deaf. Osment talks and signs about the origin of the play, which was to be about masculinity, not AIDS or deafness. Actors discuss sign language and the role of signing in the play, and consider it in relation to dance. A disability and the arts video project.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

The Late Show [01/02/95]

UK 1995 Dir Stanley Appel, Mike Dibb

40 mins

Beta SP Col

Includes an interview with John Berger about the adaptation of his work, Three Lives of Lucie Cabrol by Theatre de Complicite.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

American Theatre



A Streetcar Named Desire (1951)

Eugene O'Neill (1888 – 1953)

O' Neill was among the first playwrights to introduce into American drama the techniques of realism, and was strongly influenced in his approach by Chekhov, Ibsen and Strindberg. His plays were among the first to include speeches in American vernacular and involve characters on the fringes of society.

The Long Voyage Home

US 1940 Dir John Ford

105 minutes

35mm B&W

A story of a voyage of a ship, based on O'Neill's Glencairn Plays, (Bound East for Cardiff, 1914; In the Zone, 1917; The Long Voyage Home, 1917; Moon of the Caribbees, 1918). Starring John Wayne as Ole Olsen and Thomas Mitchell as Aloysius Driscoll.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Emperor Jones (Armchair Theatre)

UK 1958 Dir Ted Kotcheff

75 mins

16mm B&W

Adapted from O'Neill's 1920 play, his first major hit, by the 1960s cult novel writer Terry Southern and starring Kenneth Spencer as Brutus Jones and Harry H. Corbett as Smithers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mourning Becomes Electra

US 1947 Dir Dudley Nichols

160mins

35mm B&W

Adapted from O'Neill's 1931 play in which the themes of Greek tragedy – doom, guilt and murder – are applied to a New England family at end of the Civil War. Starring Rosalind Russell as Lavinia Mannon and Michael Redgrave as Orin Mannon.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Summer Holiday

US 1947 Dir Rouben Mamoulian

93 minutes

35mm Col

Musical based on O'Neill's 1933 comedy play *Ah, Wilderness!* and starring Mickey Rooney as Richard Miller and Gloria De Haven as Muriel McComber. The daily life of a typical family, with a son's growing pains and the redemption of a lovable, drunkard uncle.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Long Day's Journey into Night

UK/US 1973 Dir Michael Blakemore (stage production) and Peter Wood (TV staging)

180 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The National Theatre's production of O'Neill's 1956 drama (considered to be his masterpiece), starring Laurence Olivier as James Tyrone and Constance Cummings as his wife, Mary Cavan Tyrone.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Long Day's Journey into Night

Canada 1996 Dir David Wellington

173 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Adaptation of O'Neill's play in which both William Hutt as James Tyrone and Martha Henry as his wife, Mary Cavan Tyrone, won Genie Awards for acting. Family drama about one day in the life of two sons and their parents; the mother is addicted to morphine and the father is an alcoholic.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Strange Interlude Parts 1-2-3

UK/US 1988 Dir Herbert Wise

95mins; 100 mins; 95 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An adaptation of O'Neill's experimental play of 1923 (first staged in 1928). Part 1: Nina Leeds' (Glenda Jackson) pilot fiancé is killed in the war. She has a nervous breakdown, later marrying Sam Evans. However, more tragedy follows. Part 2: Nina has had an abortion because of inherited insanity in her husband's family, but she still longs for a child. Part 3: Nina's son grows up, and tensions develop.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Langston Hughes (1902 – 67)



Looking for Langston (1989)

A key figure in the Harlem Renaissance and a Civil Rights activist, Hughes collaborated with others on various plays including *Mule* with writer Zora Neale Hurston, *Black Nativity*, *Jericho-Jim Crow* 1964, and on the opera *Street Scene* with Kurt Weill in 1947.

Black Nativity

UK 1961 Dir Langston Hughes

1975 Feet

16mm B&W

Black American presentation of the nativity story. From the New York stage production by Langston Hughes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Looking For Langston

UK 1989 Dir Isaac Julien

46 mins

DVD B&W

Writer-director Isaac Julien describes *Looking for Langston* as neither documentary nor narrative, but a meditation on the gay black American poet Langston Hughes and the repressed lives of similar artists, as lived beyond the public gaze. Julien marries images of documentary footage seamlessly with reconstructed party scenes, and fleshed-out interpretations of Hughes' and other writers' work, illuminating the large part played by the artists' sexuality, all presented in grainy black and white.

Archive source: BFI DVD + BFI Distribution

Lillian Hellman (1905 - 1984)

Dead End

US 1937 Dir William Wyler

35mm B&W

Based on a Lillian Hellman play. The depressing life of those who live in squalor and crime on the waterfront on New York's East Side. Criminal Baby Face Martin returns to the district where he grew up to find his mother and old girlfriend Francey. However, his mother spurns him and he discovers that Francey is now a prostitute.

Aspiring architect Dave Connell is torn between two women, Kay, who is the kept woman of a wealthy man and Drina, respectable and struggling to keep her younger brother Tommy out of trouble. Tommy belongs to a gang of streetwise boys and gets into trouble when they beat up the son of a wealthy man from nearby luxury apartments and steal a watch. Tommy returns the watch but the man insists on pressing charges and is wounded by a knife when Tommy escapes. Connell kills Martin when the latter attempts to kidnap the rich boy, and with the reward money he receives he helps Drina and Tommy by persuading the latter to give himself up and getting him a good lawyer.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Little Foxes

US 1941 Dir William Wyler

116 mins

35mm + 16mm

In the attempt to make her fortune, the sister of two avaricious brothers blackmails them and lets her husband die, but her only daughter leaves her alone, bereft of family and friends. Adapted from her own play by Lillian Hellman.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections (Press Book)

North Star (aka **Armoured Attack**)

US 1943 Dir Lewis Milestone

106 mins

35mm B&W

Drama of the Nazi occupation of a Soviet Ukrainian village and the heroic resistance of the collective farmers, peasants and the local doctor. Screenplay and story by Lillian Hellman

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Another Part of the Forest

US 1948 Dir Michael Gordon

107 mins

35mm B&W

Family drama based on the events preceding those of *The Little Foxes*. Based on an original work by Lillian Hellman

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lillian Hellman (Omnibus)

UK 1979 Prod BBC

54 mins

DVD Col

Interview with Lillian Hellman, with extracts from some of her plays.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tennessee Williams (1911 – 83)



Cat On a Hot Tin Roof (1958)

Born Thomas Lanier Williams, American writer Tennessee Williams received many of the top theatrical awards for his dramatic works, including the Pulitzer Prize for drama for *A Streetcar Named Desire* in 1948 and for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* in 1955. In addition, *The Glass Menagerie* (1944 in Chicago, 1945 in New York) and *The Night of the Iguana* (1961) received New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards. His 1952 play *The Rose Tattoo* received the Tony Award for best play.

A Streetcar Named Desire

US 1951 Dir Elia Kazan

127 mins

35mm B&W

Adapted by Oscar Saul from Williams' 1947 stageplay, "this is also one of the finest, thanks partly to the intensely claustrophobic hot-house atmosphere created by Kazan's intimate direction, and partly to the young Marlon Brando's trademark blend of subtle detail and charismatic power. He's simply electrifying as Stanley Kowalski (a part he played in the Broadway play's debut), brutishly in conflict with the fragile Blanche (Vivien Leigh), who comes to visit her pregnant younger sister, Stanley's wife Stella, in New Orleans. The first of several collaborations between director and star, it remains the most satisfying, not least because they surrounded themselves with such a marvellous cast (Kim Hunter as Stella, Karl Malden as Blanche's suitor Mitch) and creative team: Harry Stradling behind the camera, Richard Day as art director, Alex North as composer – and, of course, Williams himself ensuring a faithful transition from stage to screen". (Geoff Andrew)

Archive Source: BFI Distribution

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

US 1958 Dir Richard Brooks

108 mins

35mm Col

Tennessee Williams's 1955 family drama made it to the big screen in an exemplary adaptation, though all references to homosexuality hit the cutting room floor. Elizabeth Taylor gives the performance of her life as 'Maggie the Cat'; Paul Newman brilliantly portrays her impotent husband; and Ives is extraordinary as the patriarch who is dying of cancer. Rarely straying from the confines of Ives's Southern mansion,

the heat and claustrophobia hit in from the credit sequence onwards and never let hold of their grip.

Archive Source: BFI Distribution

The Night of the Iguana

US 1964 Dir John Huston

118 mins

35mm B&W

Burton's defrocked priest becomes the object of desire for a hotel owner (Ava Gardner), a frustrated artist (Deborah Kerr) and a teenager (Lolita's Sue Lyon) in Huston's excellent adaptation of Tennessee Williams' 1961 play (itself adapted from his own short story of 1948). Despite the usual Williams maelstrom of passions and sweatiness, Huston injects some pleasurably sly humour and is repaid with great performances. MGM's publicity department used a campaign that promised "One man...three women... one night!"

Archive Source: BFI Distribution

Arthur Miller (1915 – 2005)



On the Waterfront (1954)

American playwright and essayist, a prominent figure in American theatre and cinema, who wrote a wide variety of celebrated plays. Miller was often in the public eye, most famously for refusing to give evidence against others to the anti-Communist House Un-American Activities Committee, for being the recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for drama, and for his marriage to Marilyn Monroe.

All My Sons

US 1948 Dir Irving Reis

94 mins

35mm B&W

A man acquitted for selling defective equipment during the war is exposed by his son. Based on the 1947 play by Miller. With Edward G. Robinson and Burt Lancaster.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Death of a Salesman

US 1951 Dir Laslo Benedek

112 mins

35mm B&W

The failure of a salesman to relate to his family and his surroundings any longer leading to his mental disintegration. Adapted from the 1949 play by Arthur Miller, for which he won the Pulitzer Prize.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

On the Waterfront

US 1954 Dir Elia Kazan

108 mins

35mm B&W

The story of a crook's domination of a longshoreman. Original screenplay by Arthur Miller. Winner of eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Actor for Brando, Best Actress for Eva Marie Saint, and Best Director for Kazan.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Crucible (Royal Court, May 80)

1980 Dir Don Taylor

90mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

BBC production of the 1953 play by Arthur Miller. Starring Michael N. Harbour as John Proctor and Sarah Berger as Abigail Williams.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

See also:

The Misfits

US 1961 Dir John Huston

125mins

35mm B&W

Screenplay by Arthur Miller, a romantic psychological drama about misfits brought together by circumstances. With Clark Gable, Marilyn Monroe, Montgomery Clift.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Edward Albee (1928 -)



Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf (1966)

Edward Albee's plays are considered well crafted, often unsympathetic examinations of the modern condition. His early works reflect a mastery and Americanization of the Theatre of the Absurd that found its peak in works by European playwrights such as Jean Genet, Samuel Beckett, and Eugène Ionesco. Albee typically combined theatricality with biting dialogue and helped to reinvent post-war American theatre in the early 1960s.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

US 1966 Dir Mike Nichols

132 mins

35mm B&W

From Albee's 1962 play detailing the bitter quarrels of a middle-aged couple and their effect on a young couple visiting for the evening. Stars Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

The Living Theatre

Founded in 1947 and based in New York City, The Living Theatre is the oldest experimental theatre group still existing in the U.S. For most of its history it was led by its founders, actor Judith Malina and painter/poet Julian Beck; after Beck's death in 1985, company member Hanon Reznikov became co-director with Malina.

Newsreel: Jonas in 'The Brig'

US 1964

5 mins

B&W 16mm

A newsreel of Jonas Mekas shooting his filmed version of *The Brig* on the set of the Living Theatre's production. "Anyone who remembers the historic contribution that the living theatre made to the New York scene couldn't possibly forget their production of *The Brig* which was running when the government seized the theatre for non-payment of taxes. Jonas Mekas decided to make a film of the production to preserve its brilliance and in-depth dynamism. Actors, stage hands, and camera crew broke into the seized locked theatre with its impounded properties during the middle

of the night. They recorded the play from start to finish in one night. Storm De Hirsch was there and she made a short newsreel called Jonas in the Brig. Not only was she able to capture a study of Mekas while he was filming, but also in the newsreel there is a tension and apprehension of the moment and even the panic of the possibility of not being able to finish the film.” - Bob Lehmann.

Archive source: LUX

Television Drama



Abigail's Party (1977)

Holdings of British television programmes make up one of the most extensive parts of the BFI National Film Archive, which keeps a copy of all terrestrial television productions, building on a vast quantity of material dating back to the early development of television.

As well as documentaries and arts programmes, the Archive contains key collections of TV drama, including early studio productions of plays originally produced on stage by the Royal Shakespeare Company and new dramas written specifically for television.

Television drama was an important part of the enormous developments that occurred in post-war drama generally in Britain, with new subjects such as class and social issues now being addressed. These one-off dramas usually appeared in (or were commissioned for) early drama strands of broadcasting (in what were until the 1970s only two existing public channels – the BBC and LWT (or its sister channels across Britain, Granada, Grampian etc.).

In addition to single dramas, series and serials written or adapted specially for the television, there exist occasional direct transmissions of stage performances (for example, productions from the Royal Opera House).

The Royal Shakespeare Company at the BBC

The BBC commissioned and broadcast studio productions of many of the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) stage productions. The broadcasts drew from a wide range of plays from the classical repertoire, including Shakespeare, Ibsen and others. These broadcasts provide a valuable record of some of the productions and producing

styles of the time, and introduce many of the classical actors (Glenda Jackson, Derek Jacobi) to roles in television. Here are two examples of the collection.

An Age of Kings

UK 1960 Dir Michael Hayes

Fifteen parts – 58 mins each

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

When *An Age of Kings* was first broadcast, it was the most conceptually ambitious Shakespeare project ever attempted for either film or television. Its fifteen parts encompassed Richard II, both parts of Henry IV, Henry V, all three parts of Henry VI and Richard III, effectively presenting a chronological history of British royalty from 1377 to 1485. Unlike many BBC productions of the time, *An Age of Kings* has been preserved in its entirety, and it makes fascinating viewing. Adapter Eric Crozier cut the text into schedule-friendly 60 and 75 minute episodes. These mostly comprised half a complete play, though Henry VI Part I was reduced to a single hour-long episode. Although the television treatment was conventional for the most part, largely consisting of medium and close shots of a theatre-style performance, there were occasional striking visual moments. The repertory cast included Hermione Baddeley, Geoffrey Bayldon, Paul Daneman, Judi Dench, Patrick Garland, Julian Glover, Robert Hardy, Esmond Knight, Frank Windsor and a young Sean Connery (two years before James Bond made him a star).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Wars of the Roses

UK 1965 Dir Michael Hayes, Robin Midgley

Part 1: Henry VI: 85 mins

Part 2: Edward IV: 185 mins

Part 3: Richard III: 155 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

RSC productions directed by Peter Hall and John Barton, broadcast by the BBC.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Merry Wives of Windsor (Play for Today)

UK 1982 Dir David Jones

175 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Alan Bennett plays Justice Shallow in this production for BBC Television Shakespeare.

Also starring Richard Griffiths, Ben Kingsley, Prunella Scales.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Television Drama

The commissioning by BBC and LWT of single dramas created some of the best known dramas, in any form, of the 1950s and 60s. The 'Play for Today', 'Armchair Theatre' and 'the Wednesday Play' strands were the vehicle for a parallel body of work in British Television drama and television culture. These, dramas often broke new ground in narrative subject matter, creating public debate on youth homelessness and other social issues.

The BBC's 'The Wednesday Play' strand is synonymous with 1960s TV drama. Launched in 1964, it became known for confrontational drama that both reflected and challenged modern Britain. Among its many celebrated productions were Ken Loach's influential dramas *Cathy Come Home* and *Up the Junction*.

The Wednesday Play ran until May 1970, when it was moved to a different day of the week, and renamed 'Play for Today', a series that would run until 1984. Dramas from the 'Play for Today' strand are now being showcased in the BFI Southbank and other national Mediatheques.

A collection of titles specific to the early broadcast channel Rediffusion is held uniquely by the BFI. This includes classic pieces written specifically for television by playwrights such as Harold Pinter.

Cathy Come Home (The Wednesday Play)

UK 1966 Dir Ken Loach

79 mins

16mm + DVD + DVD (Reference copy only) + Beta SP B&W

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Up the Junction (The Wednesday Play)

UK 1965 Dir Ken Loach

72 mins

16mm/DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Master publicity album; Stills; Reference books: scenes, off-set scenes, portraits.

Horror of Darkness (The Wednesday Play)

UK 1965 Dir Anthony Page

61mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Peter Young and his girlfriend Cathy live happily together until, Robin, an old art college friend of Peter's comes to stay. Soon, the purpose behind Robin's visit becomes clearer, and a love triangle emerges, with Robin favouring Peter. With Glenda Jackson.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Let's Murder Vivaldi (The Wednesday Play)

UK 1968 Dir Alan Bridges

67mins

16mm B&W

Gerald, a senior civil servant, and his wife enjoy a "civilised" marriage, until he decides to seduce Julie, a young colleague. This disrupts Julie's delicate relationship with Ben, a violent and jealous man. Written by David Mercer. With Glenda Jackson.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Talking to a Stranger (Theatre 625)

UK 1966 Dir Christopher Morahan

35mm B&W

Part 1: Any Time You're Ready I'll Sparkle: 98 mins

First of a quartet of plays about a suburban family's weekend. Events are seen through the eyes of mother, father, son and daughter. Judi Dench plays Terry, 30-year-old daughter of the Stephens family, showing her relationships with the other family members, her flatmate, and the men in her life. With Michael Bryant, Maurice Denham, Emrys James, Margery Mason. (Also Parts 2, 3 and 4)

One of the best examples of early 1960s Television Drama, and part of the sequence of Judi Dench performances at the BBC. "The first authentic TV masterpiece." – Steve Bryant

Part 2: The Innocent Must Suffer: 96 mins

Part 3: No Skill or Special Knowledge Is Required: 96 mins

Part 4: Gladly My Cross-Eyed Bear: 102 mins

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lena, Oh My Lena (Armchair Theatre)

UK 1960 Dir William T. Kotcheff

58 mins

16mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Alun Owen's *Lena, O My Lena* completed a loose trilogy with his two previous works for Armchair Theatre, *No Trams to Lime Street* and *After the Funeral* (transmitted 3/4/1960). The three plays were all concerned with characters "evading the truth about themselves," as Owen later put it. The play is set in a Lancashire factory, still an unusual background for television drama in 1960. Student Tom longs to mix with 'real' people rather than his fellow students. Tom is smitten by factory girl Lena (an electric performance from rising star Billie Whitelaw). But to her, he is only a "bit of fun", and a way of winding up her macho, possessive Welsh boyfriend, Glyn. Brushed aside and humiliated by Glyn – to the cruel laughter of the factory workers – and rejected by Lena, the bewildered Tom has no option but to rejoin his 'own sort': the other students pea-picking up the road.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Key British Television Playwrights

Alan Bennett (1934 -)

English playwright, screenwriter and author. At Oxford University he studied history and performed with The Oxford Revue. His collaboration as writer and performer with Dudley Moore, Jonathan Miller and Peter Cook in the satirical revue *Beyond the Fringe* at the 1960 Edinburgh Festival brought him instant fame. He gave up academia, and turned to writing full time, his first stage play *Forty Years On* being produced in 1968. His stage to screen output includes *The Madness of George III* (*The Madness of King George*) and *The History Boys*.

Six Plays By Alan Bennett:

Me! I'm Afraid of Virginia Woolf

UK 1978 Dir Stephen Frears

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Part of a sequence of six plays by Alan Bennett written for and produced by London Weekend Television (LWT) (and held uniquely in the BFI National Archive.) "A lecturer at the local Polytechnic is not happy. People make him uneasy and literature isn't much help. Hopkins is, however, about to turn a corner."

NB Archive also has the other five plays (all Col):

No.2: Doris and Doreen: 80 mins

No.3: The Old Crowd: 70 mins

No.4: Afternoon Off: 45 mins

No.5: One Fine Day: 100 mins

No.6: All Day on the Sands: 70 mins

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sunset Across the Bay (Play for Today)

UK 1975 Dir Stephen Frears

73 mins

16mm/DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Play by Alan Bennett, about an elderly couple who retire to Morecambe and find it hard to settle down in a new environment with a lower income. The story of a miracle told from three different points of view, written in such a way as to use the intimacy of television. With Bob Peck.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Mediatheque

A Day Out

UK 1972 Dir Stephen Frears

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

BBC production of Bennett's play

Archive source: BFI National Archive

See also:

Alan Bennett (The South Bank Show)

UK 1984 Dir David Hinton

107 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on Bennett

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dinner at Noon

UK 1988 Dir Jonathan Stedall

38 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Bennett observes the guests at the Crown Hotel, Harrogate.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Portrait Or Bust

UK 1994 Dir Jonathan Stedall

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Bennett observes members of the public looking around Leeds Art Gallery.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dennis Potter (1935-1994)

English dramatist, whose widely acclaimed television dramas mixed fantasy and reality, the personal and the social, often using themes and images from popular culture.

Pennies from Heaven

UK 1978 Dir Piers Haggard

Episode 1: Down Sunnyside Lane: 75 mins

Episode 2: The Sweetest Thing: 80 mins

Episode 3: Easy Come, Easy Go: 90 mins

Episode 4: Better Think Twice: 80 mins

Episode 5: Painting the Clouds: 80 mins

Episode 16: Says My Heart: 85 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

With the six-part serial *Pennies from Heaven*, distinguished TV playwright Dennis Potter achieved his first real popular success. The serial was conceived as the equivalent of a 'television novel', giving Potter a larger canvas than the one-off television plays with which he had made his name.

In *Pennies*, characters intermittently step out of the drama to mime and dance to original recordings from the 1930s.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pennies from Heaven

US 1981 Dir Herbert Ross

108 mins

35 mm Col

Film version of Potter's TV drama, adapted for cinema by Potter.

"Dennis Potter's remarkably intelligent transatlantic adaptation of his BBC serial turns the pitfalls of 'Hollywoodisation' into profit...[he locates] Arthur Parker's grubby melodrama in the Chicago of the Depression, culling his liberating daydreams not only from the era's popular music, but from its even more culturally resonant musicals, recreated with a combination of MGM opulence and biting Brechtian wit."

Time Out

With Steve Martin, Bernadette Peters, Christopher Walken, Jessica Harper

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mike Leigh (1943-)

Studied acting at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) and filmmaking at the London Film School in the 1960s. In 1965 he began to devise and direct his own plays, including *Bleak Moments* at the Open Space Theatre in 1970. *Bleak Moments* became the basis for Leigh's first feature film in 1971, although it is his plays for television throughout the 1970s that became the best-known precursor of his later cinematic work.

Bleak Moments

UK 1971 Dir Mike Leigh

110 mins

35mm Col

Leigh's first feature is a quiet film that speaks volumes about repressed feelings in its story of a girl caring for her retarded sister while trying to work out her own communication problems.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hard Labour (Play for Today)

UK 1973 Dir Mike Leigh

68 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Leigh's first television drama, an everyday account of the unceasing work undertaken by a harassed wife and mother. Cast: Liz Smith (Mrs Thornley); Clifford Kershaw (Jim Thornley); Polly Hemingway (Ann Thornley); Bernard Hill (Edward Thornley); Alison Steadman (Veronica)

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Abigail's Party (Play for Today)

UK 1977 Dir Mike Leigh

150 mins / 98 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Leigh's adaptation of his own stageplay remains a cornerstone of the genre. Alison Steadman stars in this study in social pretension. While Abigail throws her first teenage party two doors away, the grown-ups gather for their own quiet beano, but marital and social tensions build up.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Nuts in May (Play for Today)

UK 1976 Dir Mike Leigh

82 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Trying to get back to nature, Keith Pratt and his wife Candice Marie go camping in Dorset. Everything is fine until other campers arrive at the site and start to disregard the country code and shatter the peace and quiet. Cast: Roger Sloman (Keith); Alison Steadman (Candice Marie); Anthony O'Donnell (Ray); Sheila Kelley (Honky); Eric Allan (quarryman).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Who's Who (Play for Today)

UK 1979 Dir Mike Leigh

75 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Grown-Ups (Playhouse)

UK 1980 Dir Mike Leigh

93 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A young couple in Canterbury dream of moving into a council house, but their dream is threatened by their relationship with the wife's unmarried sister and the next-door neighbour, their former teacher. Cast: Philip Davis (Dick); Lesley Manville (Mandy); Brenda Blethyn (Gloria);

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Meantime

UK 1983 Dir Mike Leigh

DVD (Reference copy only)

Col

90 mins

The travails of an East London family, all of whose members are unemployed. Cast: Marion Bailey (Barbara); Phil Daniels (Mark); Tim Roth (Colin); Pam Ferris (Mavis); Jeff Robert (Frank); Alfred Molina (John); Gary Oldman (Coxy)
Archive source: BFI National Archive

See also:

Mike Leigh Making Plays (Arena Special)

UK 1982 Dir Alan Yentob (Series Editor)

78 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mike Leigh (The South Bank Show)

UK 2002 Dir Leo Burley

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Missing Believed Wiped

In an unprecedented collaboration between the Library of Congress and the BFI, nearly 70 rare recordings from 1957 to 1969 were returned to the UK in late 2010 and are being catalogued, assessed and copied from film prints to digital formats at the time of this catalogue going to print. The BFI's ongoing 'Missing, Believed Wiped' campaign led to the recovery of these lost treasures of British television history. Many of the films reflect adaptations of literary classics, including works by Shakespeare, Ibsen, Chekhov and Jean Anouilh. The roster of recovered dramas also includes episodes of The Wednesday Play, Thursday Theatre and Play of the Month.

Please note:

As cataloguing is currently in progress, the following data does not include running times, and it is as yet unknown whether all of the titles are complete, but the BFI National Archive is aiming to make these films available as DVD viewing copies.

Classical Theatre**Antigone** (BBC, 27.10.1959)

Television version of play by Jean Anouilh, updating Sophocles. Stars Dorothy Tutin and David McCallum, with Sam Kydd in a minor role.

William Shakespeare

A Winter's Tale (BBC, 20.4.1962)

Shakespeare's play, produced and directed by Don Taylor, with a cast including Robert Shaw, Patrick McNee and Ron Moody.

For Schools: Twelfth Night (Associated-Rediffusion, 18.3.59)

Television version of Shakespeare's play for school children.
Cast includes Bernard Horsfall, John Wood and Emrys James.

For Schools: Romeo And Juliet (Associated-Rediffusion)

Shakespeare's play, directed for TV by Prudence Nesbitt.
Cast includes Jane Asher, David Weston, Peter Ellis and Jerome Willis.
Part 1 (23.10.62); Part 2 (6.11.62); Part 3 (13.11.62); Part 4 (20.11.62) ; Part 5 (27.11.62)

For Schools: Hamlet (Associated-Rediffusion)

Shakespeare's play, directed for TV by Tania Lieven.
Cast includes Sydney Taffler, Michael Aldridge, Barry Foster.
Part 1 (22.10.63); Part 2 (5.11.63); Part 3 (12.11.63); Part 4 (19.11.63); Part 5 (26.11.63)

Much Ado About Nothing (BBC, 5.2.67)

Shakespeare's play with a cast including Derek Jacobi, Ronald Pickup, Maggie Smith and, in minor roles, Frank Finlay, Michael Gambon and Christopher Timothy.

Seventeenth to Nineteenth century playwrights (and subjects)

The Young Elizabeth (24.12.64) Thursday Theatre (BBC)

Television play adapted from 1959 work by Francis Letton and Jenette Dowling on the life of Elizabeth I, produced by Cedric Messina and directed by Charles Jarrott. Stars Valerie Gearon in the title role.

The Killing of the King (27.1.59)

Historical drama about the death of Charles I. Written by Hugh Ross Williamson and directed by Ronald Marriott. Stars John Phillips and Edgar Wreford.

Blood And Thunder: The Changeling (Granada, 4.1.65)

TV version of the Jacobean drama by Thomas Middleton and William Rowley.
Produced by Philip Mackie. Stars Derek Godfrey, Kika Markham Nerys Hughes and Patrick Troughton.

Rembrandt (BBC, 18.12.69)

Play about the painter, starring Richard Johnson, Jill Bennett and Wilfred Brambell.
Directed by Rudolph Cartier.

The Rivals (21.1.62)

Richard Sheridan's classic C18th comedy in a new production by Hal Burton, starring Jeannie Carson, with Betty Marsden as Mrs Malaprop, and also featuring Dinsdale Landon and Barrie Ingham.

The Wild Duck (Play Of The Week) (Rediffusion) (30.1.57)

Television version of the Saville Theatre production of Ibsen's play. Stars Emlyn Williams, Dorothy Tutin and Michael Gough. Directed by Charles Crichton.

Rosmersholm (26.9.65) Theatre 625 (BBC)

Television adaptation of Ibsen's play starring Peggy Ashcroft and Knut Wigert with Angela Baddeley and John Laurie. Directed by Michael Barry and produced by Cedric Messina.

The Duel (16.10.63)

A television play based on the short story by Anton Chekhov, starring Philip Madoc and John Wood and directed by Charles Jarrott.

The Three Sisters (3.9.63)

Leo Lehman's adaptation of Chekhov's play starring Jill Bennett, Kenneth Griffith and Griffith Jones. Directed by Joan Kemp-Welch.

The Seagull (27.3.66)

Second in a trilogy of Russian plays produced for Theatre 625, this version of Chekhov's play stars Pamela Brown and Robin Phillips with Gemma Jones and Annette Crosbie. Directed by Alan Cooke and produced by Cedric Messina.

Anatol (18.3.65) Thursday Theatre (BBC)

Television version of Arthur Schnitzler play about a bourgeois playboy set in Vienna, produced by Bernard Hepton, directed by Christopher Morahan. Stars Robert Hardy, John Wood and Moira Redmond

The Lower Depths (Sunday Night Theatre) (BBC, 16.11.58)

TV adaptation of the play by Maxim Gorky (1868-1936) set in a Russian dosshouse, with a cast featuring Leo McKern and Diane Aubrey and produced by Michael Elliott.

The First Gentleman (Southern Television, 1.7.1961)

TV staging of an Old Vic play set in Regency England, starring Charles Gray and Susannah York.

The Victorians (Granada TV Network Production)

Series produced by Philip Mackie and performed by The Company of Seven, a group specifically formed to present this collection of dramas just as they would have been performed to Victorian audiences at the time. Each play reflects contemporary theatrical style and social attitudes and is representative of its decade, starting with the 1830s through to the 1880s.

The Company of Seven consists of Michael Barrington, Geoffrey Bayldon, Barrie Ingham, Charles Kay, John Wood, Patricia Garwood and Ingrid Hafner.

The Rent Day (31.5.63)

Set in the English countryside in the 1830s with a strong and complicated plot revolving around a farmer's struggle to avoid eviction. Adapted from Douglas Jerrold's play by Gerald Savory. Directed by Herbert Wise.

London Assurance (7.6.63)

Debt-ridden young rake Charles Courtly flees 1840s London to Oak Hall in Gloucestershire and falls in love with a charming young woman - who is about to marry his father. Adapted from Dion Boucicault's play by Gerald Savory. Directed by Stuart Latham.

Society (14.6.63)

London in the 1860s. Impoverished gentleman Sidney Daryl, is approached by social climber and *nouveau riche* Chodd Junior but finds him to be a rival for the girl he loves. Adapted by Gerald Savory from the play by T.W. Robertson. Directed by Graeme McDonald.

The Ticket -of -Leave Man (21.6.63)

London in the 1860s. North-country lad Bob Brierly seeks justice when he is framed by villain Dalton and imprisoned. Adapted by Gerald Savory from the story by Tom Taylor. Directed by Stuart Latham.

Two Roses (28.6.63)

Kent, the 1860s. When roguish charlatan Digby Grant inherits a fortune he withdraws his two beautiful daughters from the marriage market, forbidding them to see the young men they really love. Adapted from James Albery's play by Gerald Savory. Directed by Richard Everitt. Features Joan Hickson.

Still Waters Run Deep (5.7.63)

London, the 1860s. When nice but dull John Mildmay discovers that dashing Captain Hawksley is after his young wife and the family fortune, he devises a subtle plot to discredit him. Adapted by Gerald Savory from the play by Tom Taylor. Directed by Cliff Owen.

The Silver King (12.7.63)

London, the 1870s. The plot thickens as dissolute Wilfred Denver, forced into further ruin by the vengeful Geoffrey Ware, is found pistol in hand next to Ware's dead body. Adapted by Gerald Savory from the play by Henry Arthur Jones and Henry Herman. Directed by Philip Mackie.

Victoria Regina (Granada)

Series based on Laurence houseman's plays about Queen Victoria, directed by Stuart Latham and starring Patricia Routledge as Victoria.

Summer (20.11.64); Autumn (27.11.64)

European Playwrights of the Twentieth Century

Paris 1900 (Granada TV)

Series based on the farces of Georges Feydeau, adapted and produced by Philip Mackie.

Cast includes Alfred Marks, Kenneth Griffith, Adrienne Corri, Zena Walker, Henry McGee and Judy Cornwall.

The Ribadier System (2.10.64)

Fashion For Ladies (9.10.64)

Also stars Joan Hickson

The Lambert Affair (16.10.64)

Half a Husband (23.10.64)

The Ribbon (30.10.64)

Also stars Nicky Henson

The Luck of the Game (6.11.64)

Also stars Robert Dorning

Dr. Knock (2.1.66)

Leonard Rossiter and John Le Mesurier star as village doctors in this television version of the translation by Harley Granville-Barker (1877-1946) of the satire by Jules Romain (1885-1972). Directed by Herbert Wise and produced by Cedric Messina.

The Typewriter (20.11.62)

Giles Cooper's adaptation of the play by Jean Cocteau (1889-1963). Stars Jeremy Brett and Margaret Johnston. Directed by Joan Kemp-Welch.

Colombe (17.1.60) Twentieth Century Theatre (BBC)

Television version of play by Jean Anouilh (1910-87), produced by Naomi Capon. A tragicomedy set backstage at the theatre, pitting idealism against realism and sensitivity against practicality, starring Francoise Rosay (in her first British TV performance), Dorothy Tutin and Sean Connery, also featuring Peter Sallis and Patrick Wymark.

Insect Play (19.6.60) Twentieth Century Theatre (BBC)

Television version of the satirical play by the Czech writers, Josef and Karel Capek (1890-38). Hal Burton's ambitious production used two studios, with one needed for the flying apparatus for the butterfly scenes. The cast of nearly a hundred includes Patrick Troughton, Jack Smethurst and Gretchen Franklin.

Pre-War British and Irish Writers

Charley's Aunt (16.4.61) The Sunday Night Play (BBC)

A television version of the 1892 farce by Brandon Thomas (1848-1914), produced by Stuart Burge. It stars Bernard Cribbins, Donald Wolfit, Barrie Ingham, Rosalie Crutchley and John Warner.

Dandy Dick (28.7.59)

Television adaptation of the play by Arthur Wing Pinero (1855-1934). Stars Newton Blick and Jack Allen. Directed by Tania Lieven.

Sweet Lavender (19.7.63)

London, the 1880s. Gentleman and aspiring lawyer, Clement Hale falls for his housekeeper's daughter but social attitudes stand in the way of their love match. Adapted by Gerald Savory from the play by Arthur W. Pinero. Directed by Graeme McDonald. Featuring Gwen Watford.

Fallen Angels (9.10.63) Festival (BBC)

Nöel Coward's controversial comedy about two young wives' thoughts on love and marriage and their shared memories of a dashing young Frenchman, starring Moira Redmond, James Villiers and Richard Thorp (Emmerdale's Alan Turner).

The World of George Orwell: 1984 (28.11.65)

An updated version of Nigel Kneale's adaptation of 1984, directed by Christopher Morahan and produced by Cedric Messina. Stars David Buck, Jane Merrow, Joseph O'Connor and Vernon Dobtcheff.

The Flowering Cherry (2.2.60)

Television adaptation of the play by Robert Bolt (1924-95). Stars Michael Hordern, Charles Lamb and Amanda Walker. Directed by Toby Robertson.

Other Dramatists**The Blood Knot** (12.6.76)

Athol Fugard stars in his play about racial tensions in South Africa. Directed by Robin Midgley and produced by Michael Bakewell.

Freedom in September (18.9.62)

Play about political asylum by Leo Lehman. Stars Joseph Furst and Patrick Troughton. Directed by Joan Kemp-Welch.

The Queen and the Welshman (10.4.66)

Historical play by Rosemary Anne Sisson. Cast includes Dorothy Tutin, Jeremy Brett and Jack Wild. Directed by Basil Coleman and produced by Cedric Messina.

Naked Island (11.2.65)

Thursday Theatre (BBC)

Play by Russell Brandon, based on his best-selling book, set in Singapore's Changi Jail, August 1945. Producer Bernard Hepton, director John Gorrie. Stars James Bolam, Ray Barrett and Burt Kwouk.

Auto Stop (21.4.65)

The Wednesday Play (BBC)

Play about a young couple hitch hiking in Europe, written by Ian Seymour. Directed by Brian Parker, produced by James McTaggart and starring David Hemmings.

The Bond (1.12.65)

The Wednesday Play (BBC)

Play about a young married couple seen as representing "New Britain" by politicians and the media. Produced by James McTaggart and directed by Mary Ridge. Stars Hannah Gordon.

Thirteen Against Fate (BBC)

Some of the best of Georges Simenon's short stories exploring the criminal mind are adapted for this series produced by Irene Shubik. Writers include Clive Exton, Hugh Leonard, Stanley Miller, Julia Jones and Leo Lehman. Eileen Diss who created the

atmospheric sets for the Inspector Maigret series, heads the design team. Music composed and conducted by Tony Russell.

Trapped (Cour d'Assises) (26.6.66)

Petty criminal Louis Bert finds his past catching up with him when his convenient arrangement with the woman he lives with is violently disrupted.

The Widower (Le Veuf) (10.7.66)

The fourth play in the series dwells on a wife's suicide and a husband's self delusion. Cast includes Joss Ackland. Directed by Silvio Narizzano.

The Judge (Le Temoins) (17.7.66)

President of the Assizes Judge Lhomond finds his own experiences mirrored by those of the young prisoner in the dock. Cast includes Alexander Knox. Directed by Naomi Capon.

The Schoolmaster (L'Evade) (24.7.66)

Dramatised by Alun Richards.

The Witness (Le Haut Mal) (31.7.66)

Jean Naliers lives with his unorthodox family on a Breton farm. An epileptic fit provides an opportunity for murder.

The Friends (Chemin Sans Issue) (7.8.66)

A suspense thriller set in the south of France. Vladimir Dobranski, captain of the yacht Electra, owned by wealthy alcoholic Madame Papelier and also her lover, is attracted to her daughter but she prefers the company of his best friend Blinis. Incidental music by Tubby Hayes.

The Survivors (Les Rescapes du Telemaque) (14.8.66)

Leading French actress, Russian-born Lila Kedrova plays in English for TV for the first time as bawdy-house keeper Emma Martens, caught up in a bitter vendetta between the widow of a trawler skipper and the sole survivor of the trawler's wreck. Directed by Rudolph Cartier.

The Murderer (L'Assassin) (28.8.66)

Dr Hans Kuperus practices medicine in an eminently respectable Dutch town but when he murders his wife's lover there is more to the killing than *crime passionnel*. Directed by Alan Bridges. Cast includes Frank Finlay and Annette Crosbie.

The Suspect (Les Fiancailles de M. Hire) (4.9.66)

A recluse becomes the victim of society following a brutal murder. Cast includes Marius Goring.

The Consul (Les gens d'en face) (11.9.66)

Set in Batum, a Black Sea Port 1933, Adil Bey arrives to take up his post in the Turkish Consulate but discovers an atmosphere of intrigue and suspicion. Unable to trust anyone he suspects poison when he suddenly feels unwell. Cast includes Michael Pennington and Michele Dotrice.

Chapter 3: Dance



The Red Shoes (1948)

Introduction

It's appropriate that one of the oldest human art forms has been a staple of moving-image culture ever since the invention of cinema in the late nineteenth century. Indeed, for obvious reasons, dance was better suited to the medium of cinema in its early silent period than dialogue-driven drama. Some of the earliest technical experiments by Thomas Edison in the US, the Lumière Brothers in France and R.W. Paul in Britain featured a dance, usually as the film's sole *raison d'être*. In the cinema's first decade alone, numerous dances were captured, including ones staged specifically for the camera, records of existing productions, or even field trips to capture traditional dances in their local surroundings.

The coming of sound led to exciting innovations in the treatment of dance on film, not least thanks to the rise of the Hollywood musical (see the Musicals section, below and Chapter 4), and new forms of choreography that took full advantage of cinema's dynamic potential. A good example of this is the uniquely cinematic ballet at the heart of Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger's *The Red Shoes* (1948), which also remains one of mainstream cinema's most potent films about dance. Other developments are seen in the techniques developed by Busby Berkeley to choreograph movement to be seen from above, and in the choreography of the camera itself and the techniques of design and lighting that were devised to frame the steps of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

A key contrast within the range of material in this chapter lies in the difference between stage recordings, or dances filmed by choreographers choosing to record their own choreography, and dance as it appears in experimental films or feature films. The chapter is organised according to this difference, with the first part

containing records of dance, and the second showing dance in other forms of film-making: feature films and musicals, as well as dance for camera and avant-garde film-making.

In addition, BFI Special Collections hold various materials relating to individual choreographers, designers and film-makers.

Classical Dance

Ballet is human movement at its most formalised, an art form of surpassing grace and beauty masking extreme technical difficulty. Formal court dance performances from the time of the late Renaissance in Italy were developed as ballet traditions in France, Denmark, Italy and Russia from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century, with the Russian tradition brought back to France by the Ballets Russes in the early twentieth century and to Britain through the work of the Royal Ballet founded in 1931 by Ninette de Valois. Two contrasting ways of filming these productions are shown in particular collections held by the BFI: the rehearsal footage and productions recorded by Lord Wakehurst (1957 - 68) and the productions televised by Margaret Dale (1953 - c. 70).

The Lord Wakehurst Collection, filmed from 1957-1968, which documented productions at the Royal Ballet from the 1950s to the 1960s, provides an insight into key productions and performers of that period, succeeded by the broadcast films of Margaret Dale, who substantially developed the language of filming dance for television. Dale's films document and restage for the television studio productions of many of the famous classical ballets of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, by composers including Tchaikovsky, followed by Stravinsky and Prokofiev, which had been brought into the Royal Ballet repertoire, and performed by the Royal Ballet and by visiting companies. The Margaret Dale collection in BFI Special Collections contains her life's work in shooting scripts, photographs and other documents.

Contemporary ballet features the work of choreographers who include both classical ballet and elements of modern and contemporary choreography in their approach, including Wiliam Forsythe, with the Frankfurt Ballet and the Forsythe Company, and Jiri Kylian, Artistic Director of Nederlands Dans Theatre (since 1976), as well as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Mark Morris and others. From the 1960s Ballet Rambert developed a new focus on contemporary dance, in 1987 renaming itself the Rambert Dance Company. The Kirov Ballet now also performs contemporary works.

The titles in this section are ordered chronologically by film production date, and the personalities are listed chronologically by birthdate.

Ballet Film Collections

Lord Wakehurst (1895 – 1970)

The Lord Wakehurst Ballet Film Collection spans the period from 1957-68 and

includes 35 reels of amateur films made independently by John de Vere Loder (Lord Wakehurst) in Britain, many of them documenting performances at the Royal Ballet. The films are shot on 16mm colour stock and are often of rehearsals as well as stage performances, where the camera is placed in the front circle, the dancers appearing quite small and seen from a downward angle. A selection has been made below.

Although these are amateur films, they contain footage of some of the great choreographers of the twentieth century in rehearsal, including Bronislava Nijinska, George Balanchine and Frederick Ashton, and dancers including Tamara Karsavina, Margot Fonteyn, Rudolf Nureyev, Robert Helpmann, Svetlana Beriosova, Carla Fracci, Christopher Gable.

The Sleeping Beauty

UK 1952 Dir John de Vere Loder

9 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Extracts from *The Sleeping Beauty* danced by members of Sadler's Wells Ballet at Covent Garden; with Beryl Grey, John Field, Margaret Dale, Violetta Elvin, and Alexis Racine.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Prince Of the Pagodas

UK 1957 Dir John de Vere Loder

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

29 mins

Amateur film of members of the Royal Ballet dancing *The Prince of the Pagodas* in November 1956 and June 1957. With Svetlana Beriosova, David Blair. The emperor makes his entrance reprimanding the jester who is sitting on his throne. ... Music by Benjamin Britten, choreography by John Cranko.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Wakehurst Ballet Film Collection Reel 1

UK 1957

399 feet

16mm Col silent

Bill Haley and His Comets performing in Belfast 1957. *Miracle in the Gorbals* with Robert Helpmann and Annette Page. Gala performance. Margot Fonteyn and Michael Somes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Wakehurst Ballet Film Collection Reel 6

UK 1957 (1962)

16mm Col

Lusillo and his Spanish dancers performing *Storm*. The Sons of Aymon performed at the Edinburgh Festival 1962. Jerome Robbins Ballet USA in a performance of *Events*, with solo by John Jones.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Wakehurst Ballet Film Collection Reel 7

UK 1961

16mm Col

The Sleeping Beauty performed by the Kirov Ballet, with dancers including Igor Chernishev, Natalia Makarova, Galina Ivanova. Madame Nijinsky at the London School of Contemporary Dance, Kirov dancers at Hampton Court. Ceylon Kandy Dancers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Wakehurst Ballet Film Collection Reel 11

UK 1962 Dir John de Vere Loder

10 mins

16mm Col

Nureyev in Flower Festival at Genzano and La Bayadere. Also in the same ten-minute reel: Don Quixote pas-de-deux, Napoli e Divertissement.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Wakehurst Ballet Film Collection Reel 13

UK 1962

16mm Col

Amateur film of the Folk Dance Festival in London 1963; the French Folk Dance company; the Canadian National Ballet School in rehearsal for Romeo and Juliet; Mellissa Hayden being taught the part of Lise in La Fille Mal Gardee; a rehearsal for Bal des Voleurs; an Edinburgh Festival fringe performance. With dancers including Carla Fracci, Gillian Lynne. On-screen participants Leonide Massine, John Field.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Wakehurst Ballet Film Collection Reel 14

UK 1962 Dir John de Vere Loder

428ft

16mm Col

Rehearsal for Daphnis and Chloe; Robert Helpmann directing a rehearsal of *Electra*; the Martha Graham Company at the Edinburgh Festival 1963 in performances of Seraphic Dialogue and Phaedra. With dancers Michael Somes, Margot Fonteyn, Ronald Hund, Nadia Nerina. On-screen participants Robert Helpmann, Martha Graham.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Wakehurst Ballet Film Collection Reel 15

UK 1964 Dir John de Vere Loder

11 mins

16mm Col

Raymonda in performance and rehearsal. The Netherlands Dance Theatre in Pierrot Lunaire, Septet and Symphony in Three Movements. With dancers Margot Fonteyn, Glen Tetley and others.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Wakehurst Ballet Film Collection Reel 16

UK 1964

496ft

16mm Col

Amateur film of the Patricia Mulholland Company in The Flauter's Ball; and includes a dress rehearsal of Les Biches at Covent Garden; The Paul Taylor Dance Company in Junction, Three Epitaphs and Duet. With dancers including Patricia Mulholland,

Svetlana Beriosova, David Blair, Paul Taylor, Twyla Tharp. On-screen participants include Bronislava Nijinska, Frederick Ashton.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Wakehurst Ballet Film Collection Reel 18

UK 1965

415ft

16mm Col

Beryl Grey and Karl Musil rehearsing *Les Sylphides*; members of The Royal Ballet rehearsing *A Ballet For All* at the Theatre Royal, Stratford, with members of the Martha Graham Company. A dress rehearsal for *Summer's Night* at Covent Garden.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Wakehurst Ballet Film Collection Reel 19

John De Vere Loder.

UK 1965

297ft

16mm Col Silent

Shows the New York City Ballet at Covent Garden: George Balanchine taking a rehearsal of *Symphony in C* (by Bizet); a rehearsal of *Agon* (ballet for twelve dancers, with music by Igor Stravinsky, choreography by Balanchine); a rehearsal of *Liebeslieder Walzer* (Balanchine's ballet to music by Johannes Brahms); and a performance of *Symphony in C*. With dancers Suzanne Farrell, Conrad Ludlow and others.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Wakehurst Ballet Film Collection Reel 22

UK 1966

16mm Col

The last performance by the Ballet Rambert before its reorganisation including extracts from *Czernyana*, *Sweet Dancer* and *Les Sylphides*; the first performance after reorganisation; extracts from *Numeros* and *The Judgement of Paris*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Wakehurst Ballet Film Collection Reel 23

UK 1960

16mm Col

The Western Ballet Theatre in 1960, and in 1964 rehearsing and performing *Carnival*, *Non-Stop*, *Love Duet*, *One in Five*, *Chiaroscuro* and *Mods and Rockers*. With on-screen participant Tamara Karsavina.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Wakehurst Ballet Film Collection Reel 27

UK 1965

16mm Col

The 1965 Commonwealth Arts Festival; a dance Gala at the Albert Hall with the Abbots Bromley Horn Dancers and dancers from Sierra Leone and Trinidad and the Feux Follets from Canada. The Australian Ballet Company rehearsing at Covent Garden for *Namoura*. Display, Yugen and Melbourne Cup.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Wakehurst Ballet Film Collection Reel 29

UK 1968 Dir John de Vere Loder

722 feet

16mm Col Silent

Dress rehearsal of *La Boutique Fantastique* by Leonide Massine and Mamzelle Angot by the Royal Ballet touring company at Stratford upon Avon. With dancers including Doreen Wells.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Wakehurst Ballet Film Collection Reel 30

UK 1968

16mm Col

Excerpts from various performances of *Swan Lake*. With dancers Svetlana Beriosova, Philip Chatfield, Beryl Grey.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Wakehurst Ballet Film Collection Reel 31

UK 1968 Dir John de Vere Loder

12 mins

16mm Col

Nureyev in Royal Ballet dress rehearsal of *The Nutcracker*. Also contains rehearsal footage of *Spectrum* and *Carnival* by the Western Theatre Ballet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Wakehurst Ballet Film Collection Reel 33

UK 1968

16mm Col

The Royal Ballet rehearsals of *Enigma Variations* and *Lilac Garden* at Covent Garden, and *Knight Errant* at Manchester. On-screen participant Kenneth Ashton.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Wakehurst Ballet Film Collection Reel 35

UK 1968 Dir John de Vere Loder

8 mins

16mm Col

A record of *Jazz Calendar* danced by members of the Royal Ballet, including Rudolf Nureyev and Antoinette Sibley; Ballet Rambert dance *Free Fall*, with Glen Tetley; and *L'Après-Midi d'un Faune* with Christopher Bruce and Sandra Craig.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Margaret Dale (1922 - 2010)

One of the first producers and directors of ballet for television, Margaret Dale had been a dancer with the Sadler's Wells Ballet in the 1940s and early 50s before joining the BBC in 1953, where she produced studio productions of existing ballets as well as inviting choreographers to make new works for television. Many of the films made by Dale for the BBC in the 1950s and 60s were based on productions created for the Royal Ballet or performed by visiting companies, under the directorship of the Royal Ballet by Ninette de Valois, who had founded the company in 1931.

The Royal Ballet (in its earlier incarnation as the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet) was the first company to introduce to Britain the classical repertoire from Russian ballet, aided by the notations made by Nicolai Sergeyev as a regisseur at the Mariinsky Ballet, whom de Valois employed to advise on revivals. Dale's films include televised versions of most works in the repertoire including interpretations and new pieces by the first two resident choreographers for the Company, Frederick Ashton and Kenneth MacMillan (including Ashton's *Coppelia*, 1957, *Petruschka*, 1962 and *La Fille Mal Gardée*, 1962), and broadcast versions of de Valois' key choreographic works *The Rake's Progress* (1935, revived in 1961) and *Checkmate* (1937, revived in 1963) as well as new works for television by Ashton, John Cranko and other choreographers. She also made a number of documentaries on dancers and choreographers including de Valois, Massine and Nureyev.

The Margaret Dale collection in BFI Special Collections gives an overview of her work for the BBC and includes set designs, camera scripts and photographs of such key choreographic works as Ashton's *Coppelia* (1957), *Petruschka* (1962) and *La Fille Mal Gardée* (1962), De Valois' *The Rake's Progress* (1961) and *Checkmate* (1963), and Dale's own new projects for television *Ballet Class* (1964) and *House Party* (1964), as well as the later colour TV transmissions *The Dream* (1967), *Monotones* (1968) and *Anatomy Lesson* (1968).

The Bolshoi Theatre Ballet of Moscow (aka Bolshoi Ballet Swan Lake (Music at Ten))

UK 1956 Dir Margaret Dale

34 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Originally filmed for the BBC's Music at Ten slot, this showcases excerpts from Act 2 of *Swan Lake*, plus Prince Igor, *Cinderella* and *Romeo and Juliet*. The television performance is preceded by excerpts of Soviet films of other performances. Galina Ulanova dances for the Bolshoi, and the second act of *Swan Lake* is transmitted live on television.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Margaret Dale: *Swan Lake Act II* (tx 21/10/56) Camera Script, October 1956. Photographs.

Coppélia

UK 1957 Dir Margaret Dale

50 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Live studio performance of the ballet, performed by Robert Helpmann, Nadia Nerina, Donald Britton, Rudolph Offenbach and Alexis Chesnakov.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Camera Script October 1957; Scenario; Pen & Ink sketch of the set by Guy Sheppard; Photographs.

The Nutcracker

UK 1958 Dir Margaret Dale

59 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Live studio production of the Tchaikovsky ballet. Directed and produced by Margaret Dale, designer Guy Sheppard. Script by Marius Petipa, choreography by Lev Ivanov, revised choreography by Peter Wright. With Margot Fonteyn, Michael Somes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Camera Script December 1958

Pineapple Poll

UK 1959 Dir Margaret Dale

48 mins

35mm B&W

Live studio broadcast of John Cranko's ballet, based on W.S. Gilbert's *The Bumboat Woman's Story*, with music by Arthur Sullivan, arranged and conducted by Charles Mackerras, in which Pineapple Poll falls in love with Captain Belaye of H.M.S. Hot Cross Bun. Performed by members of the Royal Ballet. Penman catalogue no. 33. With dancers David Blair, Merle Park. Décor and costumes by Osbert Lancaster.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Camera Script November 1959

Graduation Ball

UK 1960 Dir Margaret Dale

40 mins

Beta SP B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

Studio performance of David Lichine's ballet, by London's Festival Ballet. Set in a Viennese girls' boarding school in the 1850s at their graduation ball, to which the local military cadets have been invited.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

The Sylphide - Ballet Rambert

UK Dir Margaret Dale 1961

71 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Ballet by the Danish choreographer Auguste Bournonville (1836) performed by Ballet Rambert with principal dancers Lucette Aldous and Flemming Flindt.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Camera Script January 1961

The Stone Flower (Alternative title: The Leningrad State Kirov Ballet in the Stone Flower Act 1)

UK 1961 Dir Margaret Dale

45 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

The first part of the ballet danced by the Leningrad State Kirov ballet, presented for television by Margaret Dale.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Camera Script July 1961; Photographs

The Rake's Progress

UK Dir Margaret Dale 1961

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Ballet in five scenes, danced by the Royal Ballet, choreography by Ninette de Valois.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Camera Script October 1961; Photographs

La Fille Mal Gardée

UK 1962 Dir Margaret Dale

89 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

The Royal Ballet. Producer Margaret Dale, Choreographer Frederick Ashton, Dancers Nadia Nerina, David Blair.

Televised under the supervision of Frederick Ashton with the original cast.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Camera Script September 1962. Photographs and Mounted photographs.

Checkmate

UK 1963 Dir Margaret Dale

42 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

The Royal Ballet. TV presentation of the 1937 (revised 1947) ballet by Ninette De Valois. Danced by the Royal Ballet. Original scenery and costumes by E McKnight Kaufmann, conductor John Lanchbery.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Camera Script July 1963

Stars of the Bolshoi Ballet

UK 1963 Dir Margaret Dale

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

A studio presentation of highlights from the repertoire of the Bolshoi ballet, including extracts from Don Quixote, Giselle, Cinderella, Gayaneh.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Camera Script July 1963

Ballet Class

UK 1964 Dir Margaret Dale

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Stylised ballet documentary written and produced by Margaret Dale, designer, Roger Andrews, ballet master Peter Wright. Peter Wright conducts a masterclass with ten leading dancers from the Royal Ballet in BBC Studio 4: Maryon Lane, Merle Park, Georgina Parkinson, Lynn Seymour, Doreen Wells, Anthony Dowell, David Drew, Christopher Gable, Bryan Lawrence and Derek Rencher. Penman catalogue no 69.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Camera Script October 1963, Commentary Script nd.

Houseparty

UK 1964 Dir Margaret Dale

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

30 mins

TV special. An experimental ballet created especially for television and inspired by Poulenc's score for Les Biches (a ballet commissioned by Diaghilev and choreographed by Bronislava Nijinska in 1924). A group of friends meet at a weekend house party. With scenario and choreography by Peter Darrell, dance performed by Western Theatre Ballet Company.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Scenario, Camera Script March 1964, Pressbook, Photographs

The Firebird

UK 1965 Dir Margaret Dale

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Studio recording of the Royal Ballet's production of Stravinsky's *The Firebird*, with choreography by Fokine.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Eugene Onegin

UK 1966 Dir Peter Wright + co-prod Margaret Dale

37 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Ballet staged for television based on Pushkin's poem, to the score by Tchaikovsky, with choreography by John Cranko. Penman catalogue no. 94.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cranko's Castle

UK 1967 Dir Margaret Dale

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

A profile of John Cranko at the Stuttgart State Theatre Ballet. He is seen working on *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *Jeu de Cartes* (Card Game). With the first British performance of his *Opus 1* to music by Webern. Producer Margaret Dale, with a commentary by Humphrey Burton.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Rehearsal and filming schedule; Camera Script November 1966 & February 1967, mounted photographs.

The Dream

UK 1967 Dir Margaret Dale

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

A performance in the television studio of Frederick Ashton's ballet *The Dream*, from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, with music by Felix Mendelssohn arranged by John Lanchbery, danced by The Royal Ballet. With Antoinette Sibley, Anthony Dowell. (Penman catalogue no. 99.)

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Camera Script 1966, Schedule for sound recording July 1966, mounted photographs.

The Anatomy Lesson

UK 1968 Dir Margaret Dale

45 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

A ballet by Glen Tetley from the repertoire of the Nederlands Dans Theater Holland. Producer Margaret Dale. Introduced by comments from Tetley and members of the company. Tetley explains how he came to do a ballet in which the central character is a corpse – which lies dissected in Rembrandt's painting *The Anatomy Lesson*. The ballet is performed by members of the Nederlands Dans Theater, to Marcel Landowsky's *Symphony no. 1*

Archive source: BFI National Archive

BFI Special Collections: Camera Script 1968, Video recording order February 1968. Photographs.

Monotones (Contrasts)

UK 1968 Dir Margaret Dale

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Studio production of Sir Frederick Ashton's Royal Ballet production of Monotones, to the music of Erik Satie. Preceded by a brief introduction in which Ashton talks about his work and rehearses the dancers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Rehearsal script, Camera Script October 1967, Notes on VT recording, Lighting plot September 1967, Photographs.

Helpmann (Omnibus)

UK 1973 Dir Julia Matheson + Prod Margaret Dale

53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary profile of Robert Helpmann, dancer who worked with Ninette de Valois and danced with Anna Pavlova and Rudolf Nureyev; covering his childhood in Australia and his career in ballet, drama and the cinema. Short extracts from The Tales Of Hoffman (1951), The Soldier's Tale (1964), The Quiller Memorandum (1966) and Nureyev's Don Quixote (1973).

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Camera Script 1973, Background notes, Lists of slides/photographs.

Ballet Class (Festival 40)

UK 1976 Dir Margaret Dale

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

50 mins

A series of outstanding programmes to mark forty years of BBC Television. The leading dancers from the Royal Ballet take class in a studio at the Television Centre.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Thank You Madam (Dance Month)

UK 1978 Dir Bob Lockyer + Prod Margaret Dale

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV programme on the story of the Royal Ballet. Eightieth birthday tribute to Dame Ninette de Valois including a repeat of Checkmate originally tx 31/7/63.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Leonide Massine

UK 1979 Dir Margaret Dale

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

25 mins

TV Interview with the great dancer and choreographer Leonide Massine, presented by Melvyn Bragg. Margaret Dale producers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: large format photographs.

Classical Performers



Margot Fonteyn in *The Little Ballerina* (1947)

Anna Pavlova (1882-1931)

In 1907 the choreographer Mikhail Fokine, then working with the Imperial Ballet in Russia, choreographed what became one of the most famous short ballets, *The Dying Swan*, to music by Saen-Saens, for the legendary dancer Anna Pavlova. This is said to be one of the most difficult ballets to perform, and the role has been handed on to only three other ballerinas working in Britain: Ninette de Valois, Marguerite Porter and recently Marinella Munoz. For two-and-a-half minutes it is almost all *en pointe*, and the dancer is travelling and moving across the stage throughout this process.

Pavlova

UK 1928 Dir unknown

8 mins

16mm B&W, silent

Amateur film of Anna Pavlova and her company on tour, including performances of *The Fairy Doll* and *Don Quixote*. NB: This was transferred from 9.5mm material, hence poor picture quality.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Immortal Swan (aka Anna Pavlova)

UK 1935 Dir Edward Nakhimoff

56 mins

35mm B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

A compilation, introduced by Aubrey Hitchins, on the life and art of ballet dancer Anna Pavlova. A documentary record which includes all known footage of Pavlova dancing. Pavlova recorded several short ballets in 1924 on the Hollywood set for *The Black Pirate*, through the introduction of Douglas Fairbanks. These all appear in this film, *The Immortal Swan*, and include *Chopiniana* and *The Dying Swan* choreographed by Fokine.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Alicia Markova (1910-2004)

English ballerina and choreographer, director and teacher of classical ballet, who worked with Diaghilev's Ballets Russes and was considered to be one of the great classical ballet dancers of the twentieth century. She was a founder dancer of the Ballet Rambert, the Royal Ballet and the American Ballet Theatre, and was co-founder and director of the English National Ballet. She cites the dancer Olga Spessivtseva as one of her great influences.

Lord Burleigh

UK c. 1931 Prod Ballet Rambert

37ft

16mm silent B&W

With Diana Gould, Alicia Markova, William Chappell, Frederick Ashton and Rollo Gamble rehearsing for the Ballet Lord Burleigh.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Markova and Ashton

UK c. 1931 or 1936 Prod Ballet Rambert

170ft

16mm silent

Alicia Markova and Frederick Ashton perform a pas de deux from Swan Lake, followed by a solo from Markova.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Foyer de Danse

UK 1932 Dir Walter Duff

17 mins

16mm B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

Amateur film showing Alicia Markova, Frederick Ashton, Elizabeth Schooling, and Walter Gore dancing in the ballet Foyer de Danse.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Giselle

UK 1952 Dir Henry Caldwell

31 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

A shortened and popularised version of the ballet. The leading parts are danced by Alicia Markova and Anton Dolin. The London Symphony Orchestra is conducted by Sir Malcolm Sargent.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Graduation Ball [*Also featured in the section on Margaret Dale*]

UK 1960 Dir Margaret Dale

40 mins

Beta SP B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

Studio performance of David Lichine's ballet, by London's Festival Ballet. Set in a Viennese girls' boarding school in the 1850s at their graduation ball, to which the local military cadets have been invited.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Margot Fonteyn (1919-1991)

Margot Fonteyn. Prima Ballerina Assoluta of the Royal Ballet, danced with the company from the 1930s to the 1970s, taking the leading female roles in Giselle, Swan Lake and other ballets. She had notable dancing partnerships with Robert Helpmann, Michael Somes and later Rudolf Nureyev.

Aurora - Pas de Deux - Fonteyn

UK after 1936 Dir unknown

5 mins

16mm B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

A performance by Margot Fonteyn (and probably Robert Helpmann, her partner at the Sadlers Wells Ballet in 1936) of the pas de deux Aurora depicting the wedding of Princess Aurora, a piece later incorporated into the ballet The Sleeping Beauty.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Giselle - Fonteyn (1945)

UK c. 1945 Dir unknown

12 mins

16mm B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

Margot Fonteyn and Leslie Edwards in Act I of Giselle at Sadler's Wells.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

The Nutcracker *[also featured in section on Margaret Dale]*

UK 1958 Dir Margaret Dale

59 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Live studio production of the Tchaikovsky ballet. Directed and produced by Margaret Dale, designer Guy Sheppard. Script by Marius Petipa, choreography by Lev Ivanov, revised choreography by Peter Wright. With Margot Fonteyn, Michael Somes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Camera Script

December 1958

Cinderella

UK 1960 Dir Mark Stuart

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

The Royal Ballet Company in Frederick Ashton's production of Sergei Prokofiev's Cinderella, the title role danced by Margot Fonteyn, the prince by Michael Somes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Margot Fonteyn introduces the London Festival Ballet

UK 1961 Dir Rodney Greenberg, Julian Field

65 mins

Beta SP B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

Two ballets performed by The London Festival Ballet. The Sanguine Fan (music: Edward Elgar) with Ben Van Cawenbergh, Nigel Burgoine, Manola Asensio and Graduation Ball (music: Johann Strauss) with Trevor Wood, David Long, Andria Hall, Lucia Truglia. The Sanguine Fan setting: Carlton House Terrace, a summer evening 1905. 'Graduation Ball' setting: an end-of-term party at a girls' school, Vienna 1840.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Bolshoi Ballet in London

USSR 1966 Dir Anatoly Koloshin

33 mins

16mm B&W

The Bolshoi Ballet's trip to London, including rehearsals and performances. Dancers include Margot Fonteyn (in a scene from The Firebird) and Galina Ulanova.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Margot Fonteyn: Birthday of a Ballerina (Omnibus)

UK 1969 Prod Patricia Foy

63 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A profile of ballerina Margot Fonteyn on her fiftieth birthday, with interviews from colleagues and excerpts from television recordings of ballets in which she has appeared. These include The Sleeping Beauty (tx 20/12/59), Act I Rose Adagio: Margot Fonteyn, John Chesworth, Bob Stevenson, Peter Wright, Jelko Yuresha; Giselle (from Music in Camera tx 11/6/62), Act II pas de deux: Margot Fonteyn, Rudolf Nureyev; Swan Lake (from Gala Performance tx 19/11/63), Act II pas de deux: Margot Fonteyn, Rudolf Nureyev; Ondine (from Gala Performance tx 22/4/66), Act I Shadow Dance pas de deux: Margot Fonteyn, Attilio Labis; Romeo and Juliet (from Gala Performance tx 18/3/65), Act I balcony scene pas de deux: Margot Fonteyn, Rudolf Nureyev (Penman catalogue no. 128). Titles: Omnibus Presenting Margot Fonteyn; Birthday of a Ballerina: Fonteyn dancing the Rose Adagio; Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev dance the pas de deux from Act II of Swan Lake, and the pas de deux from Act 1 of Romeo and Juliet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Magic Of Dance: Reflections By Dame Margot Fonteyn

UK 1979 Dir Patricia Foy

6 x 60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Six episodes, 60 mins each:

1 The Scene Changes

2 The Ebb and Flow

3 What Is New?

4 The Romantic Ballet (see below for more details)

5 The Magnificent Beginning (see below for more details)

6 Out in the Limelight, Home in the Rain (with Rudolf Nureyev, Margot Fonteyn)

A series on aspects of the history and development of ballet. A personal survey by Dame Margot Fonteyn from the time of Louis XIV to the present day, with examples from all forms of dance and all types of dancers; including footage of performances by Nureyev, Baryshnikov and others.

The Magic of Dance: The Romantic Ballet

UK 1979

60 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Margot Fonteyn charts the story of the Romantic Ballet and its greatest exponents. Looks at Marie Taglioni, who epitomised the Romantic Age which was later revived by the Russians in 1909 when they brought Les Sylphides to Paris. Includes part of this ballet, danced in its original setting by Margot Fonteyn, Marguerite Porter, Yoko

Morishita and Ivan Nagy.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Magic of Dance: The Magnificent Beginning

UK 1979

60 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Margot Fonteyn introduces the programme from King Louis XIV's great palace at Versailles. (King Louis founded the first real ballet school in 1669). She tells the story of how seventeenth century courtly dancing in France led to contemporary ballet. She visits the Court Theatre at Drottningholm in Sweden where ballet is performed in the original settings and under the original conditions. The programme also includes performances of parts of *La Fille Mal Gardee*, (first performed in 1789 just two weeks after the outbreak of the French Revolution), and a much more recent French ballet, Roland Petit's *Carmen* (1948)

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Fonteyn and Nureyev: The Perfect Partnership

UK 1985 Dir Peter Batty

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

115 mins

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Documentary on the partnership between Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev between the years 1962 and 1979. Extracts from *Romeo and Juliet*; *Marguerite and Armand*; *Les Sylphides*; *Birthday Offering*; *Hamlet*; *Prelude*; *Lucifer*.

Margot Fonteyn (Dance on Four)

Patricia Foy

UK 1989

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

88 mins

Profile of the ballerina Margot Fonteyn to mark her 70th birthday. She talks about her life and recalls memorable events from her personal life and career. Among those with her are Ninette de Valois, Frederick Ashton and Rudolf Nureyev.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Secret Lives: Margot Fonteyn

UK 1997 Dir Madonna Benjamin

51 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

The secret life of ballerina Margot Fonteyn, charting the history of her marriage to playboy Roberto Arias and her love affair with Rudolf Nureyev, which ended when Arias was crippled in an assassination attempt by the husband of one of his mistresses, and Fonteyn left Nureyev to nurse her husband for the next 25 years.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rudolf Nureyev (1938-1993)

Nureyev's stage performances were filmed on many occasions, from early film documents to the TV studio productions of the 1960s and 70s (for British and various

international television stations), and from commercial films documenting European ballet productions on stage to his own film of *Don Quixote* (1973), designed for camera, in which one can see dance movement and camera working in tandem.

The BFI National Archive collection's holding of films by Margaret Dale includes the Omnibus documentary of 1974, which is based on a live interview with Nureyev by the film-maker Lindsay Anderson and contains archive footage of Nureyev's early life and performances in the USSR, newsreel footage of his defection to the West in 1961, and dance footage from other documentary films as well as rehearsal footage. Nureyev himself was keenly aware of the visual image created by his movement on stage; and it is clear that he used this visual imagination in directing and choreographing his own production of *Don Quixote* for cinema in 1973 (also excerpted here in this Omnibus documentary). Nureyev's partnership with Fonteyn began with a performance of *Giselle* in 1962 and is explored in the Omnibus biography of Fonteyn, *Birthday of a Ballerina* (1969).

Rudolf Nureyev (Monitor)

UK 1962 Dir Nancy Thomas

6 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

An interview with Rudolf Nureyev by Clive Barnes. Barnes interviews Rudolf Nureyev at the Arts Educational School in London about the differences between dancing in Russia and in the West. Nureyev and others are seen in rehearsal.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gala Performance

UK 1963 Prod Patricia Foy

c. 51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

First programme in a series showcasing classical music and dance, presented in the television studio. Includes Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev dancing a pas de deux from Khachaturyan's *Gayaneh Suite* and a pas de deux from *Swan Lake*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gala Performance

UK 1965 Prod Patricia Foy

c. 53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Classical music and dance in the television studio. Yehudi Menuhin plays 'Havanaise' by Saint-Saëns, and later introduces Nureyev and Margot Fonteyn, who dance the balcony scene from Act I of Prokofiev's ballet 'Romeo and Juliet', choreography by Kenneth Macmillan.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Nureyev's Nutcracker/ De Stijl (Release)

UK 1968 Prod Colin Nears

10 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

With Rudolf Nureyev, Merle Park. Choreography to Tchaikovsky's score by Rudolf Nureyev, Vassily Vainonen.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gala Performance

UK 1970 Prod Patricia Foy

c. 61 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Classical music and dance acts, introduced from the Sadler's Wells Opera at the London Coliseum. Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev in the pas de deux from *Le Corsaire*; Plácido Domingo and Teresa Stratas.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gala Performance

UK 1971 Prod Patricia Foy

c. 64 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Classical music and dance introduced from the London Coliseum. Includes Nureyev and Makarova, dancing together for the first time. They dance the black swan pas de deux and variations from Act 3 of Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*, choreography by Lev Ivanov and Marius Petipa.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Nureyev (Omnibus)

UK 1974 Dir Margaret Dale

47 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Nureyev talks to Lindsay Anderson. Documentary based on an interview between Nureyev and Lindsay Anderson at the Royal Ballet School, with extracts from commercial films and BBC programmes. Includes archival footage and comments from Nureyev about his early life and training in Russia, his defection to the West in 1961, and his views on modern dance and classical ballet, including his belief in the expansion of the male role. Includes footage of Nureyev dancing in Russia, in rehearsal in London with Merle Park for *The Nutcracker* (choreographer Frederick Ashton), and dancing with Margot Fonteyn in *Marguerite and Armand*. Extracts also from *Field Figures* choreographed by Glen Tetley; and from *Le Corsaire* choreographed by Petipa. Extracts from Nureyev's film of *Don Quixote*, intercut with production scenes. Film sequences from *Captivated By Siberia*, *Down the Belaya River*, *When the Spirit Soars in Flight*, *I Am a Dancer*, *An Evening with the Royal Ballet* and *Don Quixote*. Extracts from BBC programmes *Monitor* (Tx 25/2/62), *Release* (Tx 2/3/68) and *Review* (Tx 29/11/69.)

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Commentary Script January 1974, Background notes. Large format photographs.

Don Quixote

UK 1976 Dir Robert Helpmann and Rudolf Nureyev

110 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Adaptation of Marius Petipa's 19th century Russian ballet by Rudolf Nureyev, with Robert Helpmann and Rudolf Nureyev. Co-directed by Nureyev, who uses the camera to reflect and enhance the balletic movement.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Aureole (Invitation to the Dance)

UK 1980 Dir Thomas Grimm

25 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

The first programme in a series of short ballets. Rudolf Nureyev and members of the Royal Danish Ballet perform Aureole to the music of Handel's Concerti Grossi.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Nureyev

Bob Ando

UK 1981

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile on the ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev, who, in conversation with Mavis Nicholson, talks about his life and career on the twentieth anniversary of his defection from Russia.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Double Work (Dancer)

Derek Bailey

UK 1984

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Second programme in a four part series looking at the art of the male dancer, introduced by Peter Schaufuss. He considers the male dancer's work as a partner. Excerpts shown from various ballets, including Romeo and Juliet, Act I balcony scene.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Fonteyn and Nureyev: The Perfect Partnership

UK 1985 Dir Peter Batty

115 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on the partnership between Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev between the years 1962 and 1979. Extracts from Romeo and Juliet; Marguerite and Armand; Les Sylphides; Birthday Offering; Hamlet; Prelude; Lucifer.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rudolf Nureyev (The South Bank Show)

Patricia Foy

UK 1991

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of and interview with Rudolf Nureyev, presented by Melvyn Bragg.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dancing for Dollars: The Kirov in Petersburg (Dancing for Dollars)

Angus MacQueen

UK 1997

124 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The second part of Dancing for Dollars takes a look at the difficulties faced by the Kirov Ballet under the leadership of chief choreographer Oleg Vinogradov, set against a rich artistic history. As communism gives way to capitalism, artistic integrity faces

new problems. Combines personal accounts with archive footage of notable performers, including Mikhail Barishnikov and Rudolf Nureyev. Those reminiscing include backstage workers, the ticket collector who started as a dancer but whose ambitions were thwarted when he contracted scarlet fever, and wardrobe mistress Antonia Arefyeva who came temporarily during the war but is still there. With Archive footage of Mikhail Baryshnikov and Rudolf Nureyev.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance on Four: Nureyev Unzipped

UK 1998 Dir Ross MacGibbon

26 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

A profile of the dancer Rudolf Nureyev which asks whether he was truly great or a mediocre technician who beguiled audiences by force of personality. It also looks at the role played by the media in shaping his public image.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bourne to Dance

UK 2001 Dir Ross MacGibbon

76 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Matthew Bourne looks at a history of male dance and some of the influences on his own work as a dancer and choreographer, including Nijinsky, Nureyev and Baryshnikov, and dance in Hollywood films.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Natalia Makarova (1940 -)

Russian-born American prima ballerina, who also won awards as an actress portraying a prima ballerina in the Rodgers and Hart stage musical *On Your Toes*.

Swan Lake

UK Dir John Michael Phillips 1980

135 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performance of Tchaikovsky's Ballet from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Choreography by Lev Ivanov, Marius Petipa, with additional choreography by Frederick Ashton, Rudolf Nureyev. With dancers Natalia Makarova, Anthony Dowell.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Natalia Makarova (Omnibus)

UK 1979 Dir Derek Bailey

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

50 mins

Documentary about ballerina Natalia Makarova, dancer with the Royal Ballet Company, which features her with Anthony Dowell in Los Angeles; working on new choreography with Glen Tetley; performing *Giselle* with Baryshnikov; and performing the pas de deux from Act II of *'Swan Lake'* with Ivan Nagy.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Body and Soul (Ballerina)

UK 1987 Dir Derek Bailey

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

First programme in four-part documentary series on the art of the ballerina, written and presented by Natalia Makarova. She examines what it means to be a great ballerina: "You must bring into an ideal balance the body of a superb athlete and the soul of an artist". With on-screen participants Frederick Ashton, Maurice Béjart, Kirsten Ralov, Jerome Robbins, Maya Plisetskaya. Dancers Carla Fracci, Sylvie Guillem, Antoinette Sibley and others.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Natasha

UK 1985 Dir Derek Bailey

65 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Dance programme hosted by Russian ballerina Natalia Makarova, featuring extracts from a number of ballets and a performance of Natasha a dance number choreographed for this programme by Norman Maen.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Great Roles (Ballerina)

UK 1987 Dir Derek Bailey

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Third programme in four-part series on the art of the ballerina, written and presented by Natalia Makarova. The great classical roles that are the pinnacle of the ballerina's art – Swan Lake, Giselle and Sleeping Beauty – and the classics of the future. Makarova dances with Reid Anderson, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Anthony Dowell, Stephen Jefferies and Derek Rencher.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Handing on the Torch (Ballerina)

UK 1987 Dir Derek Bailey

58 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Fourth programme in four-part series on the art of the ballerina, written and presented by Natalia Makarova. Makarova looks to both the past and future, emphasising the essential tradition of classical ballet, and profiles three young dancers she believes could be the great ballerinas of tomorrow: Cecilia Kerche from Rio de Janeiro, Mette Bodtcher from Copenhagen and Sylvie Guillem from Paris.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Swan Lake

UK/Denmark 1989 Dir Thomas Grimm

116 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Natalia Makarova introduces her production of Tchaikovsky's ballet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

La Bayardère

UK 1991 Dir Derek Bailey

121 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

A performance by the Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House of the Russian ballet.

Choreography by Natalya Makarova, dancers include Altynai Asylmuratova, Darcey Bussell and Irek Mukhamedov.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mikhail Baryshnikov (b.1948)

Originally a dancer with the Kirov Ballet in Russia, Baryshnikov defected to Canada in 1974, dancing briefly with the National Ballet of Canada. From 1974-78 he was principal dancer with the American Ballet Theatre and worked with Balanchine in the New York City Ballet, and as a guest dancer with the Royal Ballet. He became Artistic Director of the American Ballet Theatre in 1980, promoting modern dance and working with choreographers including Twyla Tharp and others. He founded the touring company the White Oak Project in 1990.

Theatre [10/12/75] (Arena)

UK 1975 Prod Julian Jebb

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Mikhail Baryshnikov rehearses with Natalia Makarova for a gala performance for the BBC for the New Year. Kenneth Tynan gives a profile of actor Albert Finney who opens in Hamlet at the National Theatre in London.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gala Performance [02/01/76]

UK 1976 Dir Patricia Foy

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Classical music and dance acts, introduced from Sadler's Wells Theatre by Joseph Cooper. Includes Natalia Makarova and Mikhail Baryshnikov dancing together for the first time in Britain. They dance the pas de deux from Act III of Don Quixote, choreography Marius Petipa, and the pas de deux from Act II of Giselle (concert version without corps de ballet).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Turning Point

US 1977 Dir Herbert Ross

119 mins

35mm Col

Twentieth Century-Fox fiction film, with Shirley MacLaine, Anne Bancroft and Mikhail Baryshnikov. Deedee and Emma are rivals in the dance trade, and their lives take a different turning when Emma continues with her career as a ballet dancer while Deedee sacrifices her career for marriage and motherhood. Choreography by Kenneth MacMillan.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Carmen (Invitation to the Dance)

UK/FR 1980 Dir Dick Sanders

44 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Zizi Jeanmaire and Mikhail Baryshnikov perform in the modern version of Roland Petit's ballet, Carmen.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dancing for Dollars: The Kirov in Petersburg (Dancing for Dollars)

Angus MacQueen

UK 1997

124 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The second part of Dancing for Dollars takes a look at the difficulties faced by the Kirov Ballet under the leadership of chief choreographer Oleg Vinogradov, set against a rich artistic history. As communism gives way to capitalism, artistic integrity faces new problems. Combines personal accounts with archive footage of notable performers, including Mikhail Barishnikov and Rudolf Nureyev. Those reminiscing include backstage workers, the ticket collector who started as a dancer but whose ambitions were thwarted when he contracted scarlet fever, and wardrobe mistress Antonia Arefyeva who came temporarily during the war but is still there. With Archive footage of Mikhail Baryshnikov and Rudolf Nureyev.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sylvie Guillem (1965 -)

French ballet dancer, the top-ranking female dancer with the Paris Opera Ballet from 1984 to 1989, before becoming a principal guest artist with the Royal Ballet in London and performing contemporary dance as an Associate Artist of London's Sadler's Wells Theatre. Her most notable performances have included those in Giselle and in Rudolf Nureyev's stagings of Swan Lake and Don Quixote.

Zoltan Solymosi and Sylvie Guillem: Manon Lescaut (Artists for Bosnia)

UK 1993 Dir Nigel Wattis

9 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Solymosi and Guillem dance the pas de deux from Act I, scene II of Manon Lescaut.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sylvie Guillem (The South Bank Show)

UK 1993 Dir Nigel Wattis

53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of Sylvie Guillem who left the Paris Opera ballet company to become Principal Guest Artist with the Royal Ballet in 1989 because it gave her the freedom to perform with other companies. Her loss to France was debated in the National Assembly. Despite her star status, she shuns publicity and has hardly ever allowed her work to be filmed. She performs extracts from Swan Lake with the Kirov; her solo ballet Sissi; and a new collaboration with the choreographer Mats Ek.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sylvie Guillem: Smoke [tx26/12/95]

UK/Fra 1995 Dir Mats Ek, Gunnilla Wallin

Dance piece exploring the relationship between a man and a woman. Dancers Niklas Ek, Sylvie Guillem. Music by Arvo Part.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Darcey Bussell (1969 -)

Marnie Mercedes Darcey Pembleton Crittle (Darcey Bussell) was a Principal Dancer of t, widely considered to be one of the greatest English ballerinas of all time and has appeared as a guest artist with leading ballet companies worldwide.

Prince of the Pagodas 1990

UK 1990 Dir Derek Bailey

130 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performance of Kenneth Macmillan's ballet by the Royal Ballet, to the score by Benjamin Britten, recorded at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Call Me Madam

UK 1998 Dir Ross MacGibbon

Documentary celebrating the 100th birthday of Dame Ninette de Valois. The programme includes archive footage and interviews with friends, colleagues, and former pupils. The archive footage includes Dame Ninette in interview, teaching at the Royal Ballet School and rehearsing two of her best known ballets *The Rake's Progress* and *Checkmate*. The tribute also includes Darcey Bussell, Sarah Wildor and Joseph Cipolla rehearsing roles from her ballets *The Gods Go A-begging* and *The Prospect Before Us*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Omnibus: Darcey Bussell

UK 1998

Col

Video

A profile of Darcey Bussell, now at the peak of her career as an international ballerina.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

3 Minute Wonder: Farewell, Darcey Bussell Creative Partnerships

UK 2007 Dir Michael Nunn, Billy Trevitt

Third of four short films celebrating the career and imminent retirement of ballerina Darcey Bussell. Looks at how she was admired by and inspired choreographers such as Sir Kenneth Macmillan and Christopher Wheeldon, who were fascinated by her technical abilities and her natural on-stage combination of confidence and vulnerability.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Choreographers & Companies

Marius Petipa (1822 – 1910) and the Imperial Ballet

Marius Petipa was the influential Ballet Master of St Petersburg's Imperial Russian Ballet (known as the Mariinsky Ballet and then the Kirov) between 1871-1903, and choreographer of the best known classical ballets including *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *Le Corsaire*, *Raymonda*, *The Nutcracker*, *La Bayadere*, *Don Quixote*, *Harlequinade*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*. Dancers for the Kirov include: Anna Pavlova, Theodore Kosloff, Tamara Karsavina, Mikhail Fokine, Olga Spessivtsaya, Vaslav Nijinsky, Galina Ulanova, Konstantin Sergeyev, Natalia Makarova, Rudolf Nureyev, Mikhail Baryshnikov.

The Dance of the Moods

UK 1926 Spectrum Films

26 secs

35mm + DVD B&W, silent

Two women wearing sarong-type costumes with large veils, and flowers in their hair, perform a dance consisting of very slow movements, mainly the raising of their arms and legs. Performed on a black set so that only the two performers (Lydia Kyasht, Henry Cooper) are visible. Lydia Kyasht joined the Mariinsky Theatre soon after graduating from the Imperial Ballet School in 1902. She claimed to be the first to dance Fokine's *Dying Swan* in 1905. In 1908 she travelled to London to perform as prima ballerina at the Empire Theatre (as part of the Edwardian music hall ballet tradition), where she stayed until 1913. She danced with Diaghilev's *Ballets Russes* in 1912 and 1919, returning to Russia between 1914 and 1917 to dance concert performances, then founding her own ballet school and touring company in London. Archive source: BFI National Archive

Spessivtseva

UK 1932

4 mins

16mm B&W

Olga Spessivtseva makes a celebrated appearance dancing the part of *Giselle* in London (choreography Marius Petipa), partnered by Anton Dolin as Albrecht. Extracts from Act 1; the pas de deux with Albrecht and *Giselle* solo by Spessivtseva. Archive source: BFI National Archive

Coppélia

UK 1957 Dir Margaret Dale

50 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Live studio performance of the ballet first choreographed by Petipa in 1885, performed by dancers with the Royal Ballet Robert Helpmann, Nadia Nerina, Donald Britton, Rudolph Nureyev and Alexis Chesnakov. Music by Leo Delibes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Camera Script October 1957; Scenario; Pen & Ink sketch of the set by Guy Sheppard; Photographs.

The Nutcracker

UK 1958 Dir Margaret Dale

59 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Live studio production of the Tchaikovsky ballet. Directed and produced by Margaret Dale, designer Guy Sheppard, script by Marius Petipa, choreography by Lev Ivanov, revised choreography by Peter Wright. With Margot Fonteyn, Michael Somes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Camera Script December 1958

The Stone Flower (Alternative title: The Leningrad State Kirov Ballet in the Stone Flower Act 1)

UK 1961 Dir Margaret Dale

45 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

The first part of the ballet danced by the Leningrad State Kirov ballet, presented for Television by Margaret Dale.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Camera Script July 1961; Photographs

The Sleeping Ballerina

UK 1963 Dir Ludovic Kennedy

27 mins

16mm B&W

Documentary about the life of ballet dancer Olga Spessivtzeva.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Mania of Giselle

Russia 1995 Dir Alexei Utchitel

94 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Biography of Russian ballerina Olga Spessivtseva, trained at the Imperial Ballet Academy in St. Petersburg and was a soloist and ballerina at the Mariinsky Theatre from 1916 - 24, where she took the leading roles in Giselle and Swan Lake. She toured with the Ballets Russes in 1916 - 23, dancing with Nijinsky in *Le Spectre de la Rose*, *Les Sylphides* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. She left Russia to become prima ballerina at the Paris Opera Ballet from 1924 - 32, while continuing to tour with the Ballets Russes and other companies. Renowned as a romantic dancer with perfect technique, and famous for her interpretation of Giselle in the 1920s, she appeared in London in Diaghilev's *The Sleeping Princess* in 1921 and in *Giselle* in 1932, partnered with Anton Dolin. The film charts her rise to fame and ultimate deterioration in an American mental institution as well the vicissitudes of her private life.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gala Performance[02/01/76]

UK 1976 Dir Patricia Foy

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Classical music and dance acts, introduced from Sadler's Wells Theatre by Joseph Cooper. Includes Natalia Makarova and Mikhail Baryshnikov dancing together for the first time in Britain. They dance the pas de deux from Act III of *Don Quixote*,

choreography Marius Petipa, and the pas de deux from Act II of Giselle (concert version without corps de ballet).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Don Quixote

UK 1976 Dir Robert Helpmann, Rudolf Nureyev

110 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Adaptation of Marius Petipa's nineteenth century Russian ballet with Robert Helpmann and Rudolf Nureyev.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

La Bayardère

USSR 1979 Dir Helena Macheret

135 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

The Soviet production of the three-act ballet by Marius Petipa from the Kirov Theatre, Leningrad, with music by Ludwig Minkus.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Swan Lake

UK 1980 Dir John Michael Phillips

135 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performance of Tchaikovsky's ballet from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Choreography by Lev Ivanov, Marius Petipa, with additional choreography by Frederick Ashton, Rudolf Nureyev. With dancers Natalia Makarova, Anthony Dowell.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gala Evening at the Kirov Ballet

USSR 1980 Dir Yuri Bogatyryov

140 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Performance of Raymonda, a ballet by Marius Petipa to the music of Alexander Glazunov, performed by the Kirov Ballet in Leningrad. With Irina Kolpakova, Sergei Bereznoi, Gennadi Selyutski.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gala Night at the Kirov

USSR/UK 1981 Dir Helena Macheret

100 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Special gala performance from the Kirov Ballet in Leningrad, with extracts from La Vivandiere, Esmerelda, Diana and Actaeon, Pas-de-Quatre, Carnival in Venice, Pasquita.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Swan Lake

UK 1980 Dir John Michael Phillips and Norman Morrice

134 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Royal Ballet performance of the Tchaikovsky ballet from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, based on the original choreography by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, adapted by Frederick Ashton.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dancing for Dollars: The Kirov in Petersburg (Dancing for Dollars)

Angus MacQueen

UK 1997

124 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The second part of *Dancing for Dollars* takes a look at the difficulties faced by the Kirov Ballet under the leadership of chief choreographer Oleg Vinogradov, set against a rich artistic history. As communism gives way to capitalism, artistic integrity faces new problems. Combines personal accounts with archive footage of notable performers, including Mikhail Barishnikov and Rudolf Nureyev. Those reminiscing include backstage workers, the ticket collector who started as a dancer but whose ambitions were thwarted when he contracted scarlet fever, and wardrobe mistress Antonia Arefyeva who came temporarily during the war but is still there. With Archive footage of Mikhail Baryshnikov and Rudolf Nureyev.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The South Bank Show: Fighting for Fokine

UK 1997 Dir Gerald Fox

53 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

In 1995 Isabelle Fokine, the granddaughter of the great Russian choreographer, Michel Fokine, collaborated with a member of the Kirov Ballet to recreate two of her grandfather's revolutionary ballets. However, on opening night at the Coliseum, as a result of stylistic differences and a lack of rehearsal time, the Kirov performed their own versions of the ballet rather than Fokine's.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Serge Diaghilev (1872 - 1929) and the Ballets Russes

Sergei Diaghilev founded the Ballets Russes in Russia in 1909 and managed the company until his death, taking residence in different countries outside Russia. The company included the celebrated dancers Anna Pavlova, Alfred Dolin, Vaslav Nijinsky, Tamara Karsavina and many others, many of whom had danced with the Imperial Ballet of St. Petersburg; and Diaghilev nurtured the talent of choreographer Mikhail Fokine, who had also been with the Imperial Ballet. After Diaghilev's death the company continued as the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo under Wassily de Basil.

Diaghilev discovered and nurtured five major choreographers, premiering works by Marius Petipa and Mikhail Fokine as well as commissioning new works from Vaslav Nijinsky, Leonide Massine, Bronislava Nijinska and the young George Balanchine. He commissioned new ballet scores from contemporary composers including Igor Stravinsky and Erik Satie, which have left their mark on twentieth-century music, and worked with a range of contemporary artists as designers, including Leon Bakst, Natalia Goncharova, Mikhail Larionov, Picasso, Matisse, de Chirico and Rouault, and the designer Leon Bakst.

Dancing Grace - Studies of Madame Lopokova

UK 1922

86 feet

35mm B&W, silent

A study of Lydia Lopokova dancing in a crinoline dress is followed by a repeat in slow motion and finally in double exposure within a picture frame.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Rite of Spring

UK 1962

47 mins

16mm B&W

The Royal Ballet rehearses the entire ballet. Includes an appendix with some repeated sections filmed more closely.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Houseparty

UK 1964 Dir Margaret Dale

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

TV special. An experimental ballet created especially for television and inspired by Poulenc's score for *Les Biches* (a ballet commissioned by Diaghilev and choreographed by Bronislava Nijinska in 1924). A group of friends meet at a weekend house party. With scenario and choreography by Peter Darrell, dance performed by Western Theatre Ballet Company.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Scenario, Camera Script March 1964, Pressbook, Photographs

The Firebird

UK 1965 Dir Margaret Dale

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Studio recording of the Royal Ballet's production of Stravinsky's *The Firebird*, with choreography by Fokine from 1910. Royal Ballet production revived by Serge Grigoriev and Lubov Tchernicheva. Dancers from the Royal Ballet; *The Firebird*: Nadia Nerina.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Diaghilev: The Years Abroad (Omnibus)

UK 1968 Prod John Drummond

53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

First part in a two part documentary on the Russian impresario. This episode looks at Diaghilev's early life and the first seasons of his renowned Ballet Company from 1909 until the start of World War I. His story is told by friends and colleagues, with participants including Alexandre Benois, Tamara Karsavina, Lydia Sokolova, Marie Rambert, Ninette de Valois, Sacheverell Sitwell, Leonide Massine, Cecil Beaton, Anton Dolin, Alicia Markova and others.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Diaghilev: The Years in Exile (Omnibus)

UK 1968 Prod John Drummond

54 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Diaghilev's life and work from 1914 onwards. No dance film, but stills, illustrations and theatre designs throughout. Photographs and music from *Tricorne*, *Parade*, *La Boutique Fantastique*, *The Rite of Spring*, *The Sleeping Princess*, *Le Train Bleu*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *La Chat*. Interviews with Lydia Sokolova, Leonide Massine, Ninette de Valois, Alicia Markova, Marie Rambert and others.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Diaghilev (1872-1929)

UK 1979 Prod Peter Adam

75 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Biographical film on the great twentieth century innovator in the world of dance, Serge Diaghilev: a portrait of him built up through the eyes of eleven people who knew him and worked with him and through the recreation of some of his ballets.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Legend of Joseph

West Germany 1979 Dir Humphrey Burton

70 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Richard Strauss's ballet, originally commissioned by Diaghilev in 1912, has been recreated by American choreographer John Neumeier.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

George Balanchine (1904 – 1983) and the New York City Ballet

Born in Russia, George Balanchine defected to Western Europe in 1924, joining Diaghilev's Ballets Russes as a choreographer in Paris, soon becoming ballet master to the company. A key influence on the development of ballet in the United States from the 1930s onward, Balanchine pioneered contemporary ballet through a neoclassical approach, combining structure with more open and varied movement. He opened a new ballet school on his arrival in the US in 1934 and two new companies in 1935 and 1946 which led to the founding of the New York City Ballet in 1948. He worked alongside modern dance choreographers such as Martha Graham and favoured the work of Stravinsky and Kurt Weill among other composers. Dancers with Balanchine include Mikhail Baryshnikov, who went on to become Artistic Director of the American Ballet Theatre in 1980, and Paul Taylor, who founded his own company in 1954.

Dark Red Roses

UK 1929 Dir Sinclair Hill

48 mins

35mm B&W

This early British sound film tells the story of a sculptor who becomes jealous when his wife comes to admire a young cellist. Taking his inspiration from a ballet he has just seen, he plans to destroy his rival's abilities, but eventually relents and they are reconciled. The film is incomplete, with occasional poor sound quality and some picture loss at the edge of frames on occasion. Recorded under British Talking

Pictures Phonofilm process. Music to the ballet The Persian Dance by Modest Mussorgsky; Russian Ballet specially arranged by George Balanchine. With Stewart Rome, Frances Doble, George Balanchine, Lydia Lopokova, Anton Dolin. The film has been reconstructed from material held in the BFI National Archive and material discovered in Ireland during the making of a US television programme on George Balanchine. Note: Jack Clayton, acting with his real sister Jill, is the future feature film director of Room at the Top, The Innocents etc. The ballet credited as The Persian Dance in the film is a Tartar ballet entitled Jealousy danced to music from Mussorgsky's Khovanshchina and choreographed by Balanchine.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Toumanova

UK 1933 Dir Walter Duff

16mm

46ft Silent

Tamara Toumanova dancing a solo, wearing practice clothes, on the stage of the Ballet Club (founded by Marie Rambert in 1930). She performs extracts from Mozartiana, choreographed by George Balanchine, and Les Sylphides, choreographed by Mikhail Fokine.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Balanchine and Stravinsky: Apollon Musagète

West Germany 1966 Dir Jamila Patten

55 mins

Beta SP B&W

Complete recording of George Balanchine's landmark ballet Apollo. The ballet is preceded by documentary material showing preparations for the performance, including orchestra rehearsals directed by Igor Stravinsky and George Balanchine choreographing cast members including Jacques D'Amboise, Suzanne Farrell, Gloria Govrin, Patricia Neary and Karin von Aroldingen.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Balanchine and the New York City Ballet

US 1979 Dir Merrill Brockway

60 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Documentary on the New York City Ballet and their director George Balanchine who choreographed for Diaghilev's Ballet Russes. With performances of Tzigane, Divertimento No. 15 and The Four Temperaments.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Balanchine: Dance From America (Dance International)

UK 1987 Dir Merrill Brockway

124 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Re-edited version of the two-part profile of George Balanchine, founder of the New York City Ballet, transmitted as part of the Dance International series 1985/06/20 and 1985/06/27. (Introduction is different but content of programme is the same). Includes interviews with Dame Ninette de Valois, Balanchine dancing and rehearsing, sequences with Stravinsky and excerpts from his most famous ballets including

Apollo, Serenade, Agon, Four Temperaments, Chaconne, Stravinsky Violin Concerto. With on-screen participants Mikhail Baryshnikov and others.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mikhail Baryshnikov

US 1988 Dir Thomas Grimm

55 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The American Ballet Theatre perform two works by major American choreographers: Duets by Merce Cunningham and La Sonnambula by George Balanchine. Presented by Mikhail Baryshnikov, artistic director of the Company.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ninette de Valois (1898 – 2001) and the Royal Ballet

Dancer and choreographer, Ninette de Valois worked with Diaghilev at the Ballets Russes in 1923 - 6 to learn how a major dance company was run, dancing a number of roles in Nijinska's Les Biches and other ballets, and frequently standing in for Nijinska when the ballet was being choreographed. Collaborating with Lillian Baylis in London in the late 1920s, she founded the Vic-Wells Company with Baylis in 1931, laying the foundation for the Sadlers Wells Royal Ballet company and the Royal Ballet company which opened in 1946 Covent Garden.

Many of the films made by director-producer Margaret Dale at the BBC in the 1950s and 60s were based on productions created for the Royal Ballet, the first company to introduce to Britain the classical repertoire from Russian ballet, aided by the notations made by Nicholas Sergeyev at the Mariinsky Ballet.

Foyer de Danse

UK 1932 Dir Walter Duff

17 mins

16mm B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

Amateur film showing Alicia Markova, Frederick Ashton, Elizabeth Schooling, and Walter Gore dancing in the ballet Foyer de Danse.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

As You Like It

UK 1937 Dir Paul Czinner

92 mins

35mm B&W

Featuring the best of British talent from the 1930s, the film is noteworthy for two reasons: it was the first feature-length British sound Shakespeare film, and it contains the earliest of Laurence Olivier's Shakespeare performances to be recorded for posterity. Czinner directed his wife, Elisabeth Bergner, as a tomboyish Rosalind, alongside heavyweights of British theatre Leon Quartermaine as Jacques and Henry Ainley as the Duke. The magical Forest of Arden, created by renowned art director Lazare Meerson, is a fantasy world where wit and romantic repartee sparkle against William Walton's elegant score. David Lean worked as editor (brilliantly) and Jack Cardiff as cameraman.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Steps of the Ballet

UK 1948 Dir Muir Mathieson

25 mins

16mm + 35mm B&W

The basic positions and movements of ballet dancing, with Robert Helpmann and dancers of the Covent Garden and Sadlers Wells ballet. Presented by Robert Helpmann. Production company is the Crown Film Unit.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Red Shoes

UK 1948 Dir Michael Powell, Emeric Pressburger

35mm

Fantasy of a young woman who achieves fame in a ballet company dancing in the story of Hans Andersen's Red Shoes. Torn between love for a composer and artistic devotion to the ballet master, she dances to her death. With Anton Walbrook, Marius Goring, Moira Shearer, Robert Helpmann, Leonide Massine, Ludmilla Tcherina.

Madame Rambert as herself. The Ballet of the Red Shoes: choreography by Robert Helpmann, part of the shoemaker created and danced by Leonide Massine.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Stars of the Ballet

UK 1959 Dir Naomi Capon

25 mins

Beta SP B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

Ballet performances, introduced by Peggy van Praagh, with Carla Fracci and John Gilpin. Includes Cha cha cha (choreography Paddy Stone), Polka (choreography John Cranko) and La Spectre de la Rose (choreography Fokine).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cinderella (aka The Royal Ballet in Cinderella)

UK 1960

105 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy)

Devised and produced by Frederick Ashton. Presented by John Vernon.

The Royal Ballet Company in Frederick Ashton's production of Sergei Prokofiev's Cinderella, the title role danced by Antoinette Sibley, the prince by Anthony Dowell, Cinderella's step-sisters by Frederick Ashton, Robert Helpmann.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Rake's Progress

UK 1961 Dir Margaret Dale

40 mins

Beta SP B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

Inspired by William Hogarth's paintings, Ninette de Valois' ballet charts the path to the madhouse trodden by an eighteenth century profligate. Music by Gavin Gordon, with Donald Britton in the title role.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Royal Ballet in Rehearsal: The Rite of Spring

UK 1962 Dir Sidney Nolan

47 mins

16mm B&W

The Royal Ballet rehearses the entire ballet. Includes an appendix with some repeated sections filmed more closely. Décor and costumes Sidney Nolan, music Igor Stravinsky, choreography Kenneth MacMillan. With Monica Mason as the Chosen Maiden.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Postscript to the Ballet

UK 1964 Dir Pamela Lonsdale

22 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Dance programme specially written by Peter Brinson as a tribute to Dame Ninette de Valois and the Royal Ballet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Enigma Variations

UK 1970 Dir James Archibald

35 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Film of the ballet by Sir Frederick Ashton based on Sir Edward Elgar's music, Enigma Variations. Performed by the Royal Ballet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tales of Beatrix Potter

UK 1971 Dir Reginald Mills

90 mins

DVD Col

Five of Beatrix Potter's stories for children provide the narrative thread for this filmed ballet, which includes guest appearances by some of her other animal characters and a short wordless interlude in which the young Beatrix is shown drawing her pet mouse. Adapted for the screen by Richard Goodwin, Christine Edzard. Music by John Lanchbery, performed by the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House. Choreography by Frederick Ashton. Made at Elstree Studios.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Festival 40: Ballet Class

UK 1976

50 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

The leading dancers from the Royal Ballet take class in a studio at the Television Centre.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Thank You Madam (Dance Month)

UK 1978 Dir Bob Lockyer

65 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

TV programme on the story of the Royal Ballet. An 80th birthday tribute to Dame Ninette de Valois including a repeat of Checkmate (originally tx 31/7/63).

Dame Ninette de Valois, founder of the Royal Ballet discusses the history of the

famous company. This is followed by a Royal Ballet performance of Checkmate as a tribute to her life and work.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Swan Lake

UK 1980 Dir John Michael Phillips, Norman Morrice

134 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Royal Ballet performance of the Tchaikovsky ballet from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, based on the original choreography by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, adapted by Frederick Ashton. [See notes under Performers: Natalia Makarova above.]

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Lot of Happiness: Kenneth MacMillan Creates

UK 1981 Dir Jack Gold

64 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary which follows the creation of three ballet pieces by choreographer Kenneth MacMillan, from rehearsal to final recording, with dancers Birgit Keil and Vladimir Klos and accompanist Philip Gammon.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Comrade Lady

UK 1987 Dir Nobby Clark

10 mins

B&W

Dance film about a woman and her memories, performed by Marguerite Porter, principal ballerina at The Royal Ballet. Music composed and performed by saxophonist John Harle.

Archive Source: BFI Distribution

Out of Line

UK 1990 Dir Derek Bailey

65 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

A tribute to Sir Kenneth MacMillan, principal choreographer of the Royal Ballet, who celebrated his 60th birthday in December 1989. The film gives a portrait of the man, following his progress from a classical ballet dancer to a choreographer who flouted convention, and includes extracts from some of his ballets and rehearsals for his latest work 'The Prince and the Pagoda'.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Prince of the Pagodas

UK 1990 Dir Derek Bailey

130 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Performance of Kenneth MacMillan's ballet for the Royal Ballet, recorded at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, set to music by Benjamin Britten. With Darcey Bussell, Jonathan Cope.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Judas Tree

UK 1998 Dir Ross MacGibbon

38 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

A production of Sir Kenneth MacMillan's last ballet, recorded by the Royal Ballet in March 1997, set to a score by Brian Elias. With dancers Irek Mukhamedov, Leanne Benjamin.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Call Me Madam

UK 1998 Dir Ross MacGibbon

Documentary celebrating the 100th birthday of Dame Ninette de Valois. The programme includes archive footage and interviews with friends, colleagues, and former pupils. The archive footage includes Dame Ninette in interview, teaching at the Royal Ballet School and rehearsing two of her best known ballets *The Rake's Progress* and *Checkmate*. The tribute also includes Darcey Bussell, Sarah Wildor and Joseph Cipolla rehearsing roles from her ballets *The Gods Go A-begging* and *The Prospect Before Us*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Marie Rambert (1882 – 1982) and the Ballet Rambert

Inspired by Isadora Duncan and engaged by Serge Diaghilev as assistant to choreographer Vaslav Nijinsky, the dancer, teacher and choreographer Marie Rambert founded the first ballet company in Britain in the form of a dance troupe in 1926, which became the Ballet Club in 1930, soon becoming known as the Ballet Rambert. She aimed to produce classical and contemporary work, and in 1987 the company was renamed the Rambert Dance Company, with a new focus on contemporary dance. The work of the company has continued under the directorship of Artistic Directors Robert North, Christopher Bruce and Richard Alston.

A small collection of Ballet Rambert films were produced by the company in the 1930s, all silent 16mm.

Lord Burleigh

UK c. 1931 Prod Ballet Rambert

37ft

16mm silent

With Diana Gould, Alicia Markova, William Chappell, Frederick Ashton and Rollo Gamble rehearsing for the Ballet *Lord Burleigh*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Markova and Ashton

UK c. 1931 or 1936 Prod Ballet Rambert

170ft

16mm sil

Alicia Markova and Frederick Ashton perform a pas de deux from *Swan Lake*, followed by a solo from Markova.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Andrée Howard - Pompette (1931)

UK 1931

2 mins

16mm B&W, silent

A solo ballet dance by Andrée Howard, produced for Ballet Rambert.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Television Demonstration Film

Dallas Bower

UK 1937

Publicity film for manufacturers and retailers of television equipment. With excerpts from performances of Boy David and Façade, with Margot Fonteyn, Frederick Ashton, Robert Helpmann. On-screen participants Ballet Rambert and many others.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Masque

UK post-1945 Ballet Rambert

1 min, 16mm B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

Robert Helpmann, Sally Gilmour and Marie Rambert at rehearsals for the ballet Les Masques.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Giselle

Walter Gore

UK 1948

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Act I of 'Giselle' danced by the Ballet Rambert on their Australian tour of c. 1948.

Ballet Rambert in China

China 1957

8 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) + Beta SP B&W

Ballet Rambert dance extracts from Les Sylphides and Gala Performance on a visit to China in 1957.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Two Brothers

UK 1959 Dir Christian Simpson

27 mins

Beta SP B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

Ballet Rambert performance, with Gillian Martlew, John Chesworth and Norman Morrice. Choreography by Norman Morrice.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Monitor: Marie Rambert

UK 1960 Dir Ken Russell

22 mins

Beta SP B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

Huw Wheldon talks to Marie Rambert about her legendary dance company and her work with existing and future ballet legends, including many of her own discoveries. Includes extracts from Foyer de Danse with Alicia Markova and

performances by Frederick Ashton and others.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

2nd House[16/11/74] : 2nd House (aka First Performance)

UK 1974

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

90 mins

The artistic directors of two of London's contemporary dance companies create new works for television. Cohan, of the London Contemporary Dance Theatre, explores the human body, after taking inspiration from a poem by William Blake. Chesworth, of the Ballet Rambert, uses noises from sporting events to explore the relationship between man and woman (fantasy and reality). Both ballet companies are shown working in their studios. This segment also includes rare footage of the "high priestess of modern dance" Martha Graham.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Imprint

UK 1974 Dir Clive Myer and John Chesworth

46 mins

DVD Col

An experimental dance film, featuring members of the Ballet Rambert performing to music by Gavin Bryars.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Dancers

UK 1978 Dir John Chesworth and Yutaka Yamazaki

29 mins

DVD Col

Experimental film of members of the Ballet Rambert in rehearsal, in performance, in class and at home. Includes an extract from *Cruel Garden* (1977). Choreographer Christopher Bruce. Rehearsal room: dancer pixillated, and otherwise non-linear footage intercut with credits. Dancer continues.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Ballet Rambert and Lindsay Kemp (Tonight in Town)

UK 1979 Prod Tom Gutteridge

43 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Inserts of Ballet Rambert (performing *La Paloma*); Rick Wakeman interviewed (two versions) and Dudley Moore playing *Summertime* on piano.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Richard Alston (Dancemakers) [tx 13/7/1986]

UK 1986

44 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Richard Alston, newly appointed artistic director of the Ballet Rambert talks about his ideas, his career and his ballet *Wildlife*, performed by the Ballet Rambert.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pulcinella [tx 22/10/1988]

UK 1988 Dir Bob Lockyer

44 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performance of Richard Alston's Pulcinella, to Stravinsky's score, by the Rambert Dance Company.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sergeant Early's Dream

UK 1990 Dir Thomas Grimm

46 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

The Ballet Rambert perform a suite of dances to British, Irish and American folk music, to choreography by Christopher Bruce.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Maurice Béjart (1927 - 2007)

Bejart was a French/Swiss choreographer, who worked closely with the Persian Ballet repertoire in the 1960s and 70s and founded several dance schools. His work includes a revised version of The Nutcracker (2000) which used Tchaikovsky's score but rewrites the plot and characters (one of whom is Marius Petipa).

Béjart

BE 1961 Dir François Weyergans

18 mins

35mm B&W

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Belgium (Them and Us)

UK 1975 Prod Peter Adam

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Proper Job (Dancer)

UK 1984 Dir Derek Bailey

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

New Moves (Dancer)

UK 1984 Dir Derek Bailey

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Peter Schaufuss (Dancer)

UK 1984 Dir Derek Bailey

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Chairs (Dancemakers)

UK 1988 Dir José Montez-Baquer

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Twyla Tharp (1941 -) and the American Ballet Theatre

Mikhail Baryshnikov became Artistic Director of the American Ballet Theatre in 1980, promoting modern dance and working with choreographers including Twyla Tharp and others. Twyla Tharp danced with the Paul Taylor Dance Company from 1963 before forming her own company in 1965. Known for creating cross-over ballets that use both modern dance and classical ballet techniques, and for working with classical music, jazz and contemporary popular music, Twyla Tharp Dance merged with the American Ballet Theatre in 1985. She has choreographed works for many other ballet companies including the The Royal Ballet, New York City Ballet, Joffrey Ballet and Martha Graham Dance Company.

Mikhail Baryshnikov

US 1988 Dir Thomas Grimm

55 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The American Ballet Theatre perform two works by major American choreographers: Duets by Merce Cunningham and La Sonnambula by George Balanchine. Presented by Mikhail Baryshnikov, artistic director of the Company.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The South Bank Show: Mark Morris - The Hidden Soul of Harmony

UK 1990 Dir Nigel Wattis

52 mins

DVD Col

Follows the famous American choreographer Mark Morris at work currently in Brussels with his company. It looks at his work and career over the past ten years and includes scenes at rehearsals with Mikhail Baryshnikov, with whom he went on to establish The White Oak Dance Project.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Metro [28/03/92]

UK 1992 Prod Frances Dickenson

124 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

This edition looks at Baryshnikov's new company, the White Oak Dance Project (and at Theatresports, an archaic form of improvisation theatre.)

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Nederlands Dans Theatre

The Anatomy Lesson

UK 1968 Dir Margaret Dale

45 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

A ballet by Glen Tetley from the repertoire of the Nederlands Dans Theater Holland. Producer Margaret Dale. Introduced by comments from Tetley and members of the company. Tetley explains how he came to do a ballet in which the central character is a corpse - which lies dissected in Rembrandt's painting The Anatomy Lesson. The ballet is performed by members of the Nederlands Dans Theater to Marcel Landowsky's Symphony no. 1.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

BFI Special Collections: Margaret Dale: Camera Script 1968, Video recording order February 1968, Photographs.

Symphony of Psalms

Netherlands 1980 Dir Fred Bosman

30 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

The Netherlands Dance Theatre perform Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms.

Choreography by Jiri Kylian.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Netherlands Dance Theatre; Road to the Stamping Ground (Dance on Four)

NL 1984 Dir Hans Heulscher

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Presentation of the Stamping Ground, choreographed by Jiri Kylian, danced by the Netherlands Dance Theatre with Nora Kimball, Glen Ebby, Mary Knoben, James Vincent, Helene Perback and Nacho Duato.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Watermark (4dance)

UK 2002 Dir Margaret Williams

23 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Contemporary dance film shot on location around The Hague, combining the talents of choreographer Jiri Kylian, performers NDT3 and film-maker Margaret Williams.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

William Forsythe (1949 -) and the Ballet Frankfurt

American dancer and choreographer William Forsythe danced with the Joffrey Ballet and the Stuttgart Ballet before becoming director of the Ballet Frankfurt in 1984 and the Forsythe Company in 2004. His early dance works are acknowledged for re-orienting the practice of ballet from its identification with classical repertoire to a dynamic twenty-first-century art form, and he has also developed new approaches to dance documentation, research and education.

William Forsythe (Just Dancing Around?)

UK 1996 Dir Mike Figgis

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Mike Figgis (director of the Oscar-winning *Leviathan* Las Vegas) filmed for six weeks with William Forsythe and the Ballet Frankfurt to produce an intimate portrait of a rare choreographic talent whose work is both intellectually and physically challenging. Figgis's film won the first prize in the documentary category at the 1996 IMZ International Dance Screen competition in Lyon.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance on Four: From a Classical Position

UK 1998 Dir William Forsythe, Dana Caspersen

25 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

A specially commissioned dance piece by choreographer Bill Forsythe, performed by Forsythe himself and Dana Caspersen of the Ballet Frankfurt, with music by Thomas Willems.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance Theatre of Harlem

Ballet company and school of the allied arts founded in Harlem, New York City, USA in 1969 by Arthur Mitchell and Karel Shook. The company is known for its productions of *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1986); *Creole Giselle* (1988)

Parade: The Dance Theatre of Harlem

UK 1974 Dir Peter Potter

33 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

The Dance Theatre of Harlem perform a selection of dances including *Le Corsaire* (pas de deux) and *Douglas*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Royal Variety Performance

UK 1974

140 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Royal Variety Performance

UK 1976

165 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance Theatre of Harlem: Lively Arts - in Performance

Merrill Brockway

US 1977

62 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Founded by New York City Ballet soloist Arthur Mitchell, the Dance Theatre of Harlem is the world's first all black classical ballet company. The programme includes documentary sequences with the Company and excerpts from five works including Dougla, Forces of Religion, Balanchine's Bugaku and Arthur Mitchell's Holberg Suite.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance Theatre of Harlem (The South Bank Show)

UK 2004 Dir Gerald Fox

54 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Arts documentary series. A behind-the-scenes look at one of the most extraordinary ballet companies in the USA today.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mark Morris (1956 -)

American dancer and choreographer who formed his own dance group with friends in 1980 and established the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov in 1990 and the Mark Morris Dance Centre in 2001. Has worked as a choreographer for many companies including the San Francisco Ballet, the American Ballet Theatre and the Paris Opera Ballet, as well as working extensively in opera. Known for the musicality of his dancing and the delicacy of his movement, key productions include Gloria 1981, Dido and Aeneas 1989, Four Saints in Three Acts 2001, Mozart Dances 2006 and Romeo & Juliet 2008.

The South Bank Show: Mark Morris - The Hidden Soul of Harmony

UK 1990 Dir Nigel Wattis

52 mins

DVD Col

Follows the famous American choreographer Mark Morris at work currently in Brussels with his company. It looks at his work and career over the past ten years and includes scenes at rehearsals with Mikhail Baryshnikov, with whom he went on to establish The White Oak Dance Project.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dido and Aeneas: A Danced Opera

Barbara Willis Sweete

UK 1995

Choreographer Mark Morris takes a new approach to Henry Purcell's opera with a performance combining dance and opera in a production staged for television – an approach which also returns to the roots of opera and dance. Morris himself dances Dido and the Sorceress, and as choreographer for the company presents the dramatic narrative on a stage raised and lit as if for the events of classical Greek tragedy, and with movements in profile that recall Egyptian figure painting.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The South Bank Show: Mark Morris Dance Group

UK 2000

51 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Five filmmakers, including two from LWT's new production unit, The Lab, lived in close proximity to the dancers for a month. Using the latest hand-held digital cameras the Group was filmed from rehearsals in New York for their new show Four Saints in Three Acts to its world premiere in London.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Matthew Bourne (1960 -)

British classical and contemporary ballet and dance choreographer Matthew Bourne is best known for his productions with the company Adventures in Motion Pictures, including Nutcracker!, Swan Lake with an all-male cast in the 1990s (as seen in the feature film Billy Elliot), The Car Man, Cinderella and Mary Poppins. Bourne has also worked on feature films including Tim Burton's Edward Scissorhands.

Drip. A Narcissistic Love Story

UK 1994 Dir Frances Dickinson

14 mins

DVD

Dance piece exploring the posturing of handsome men and women, set in a London boarding house. Choreography by Matthew Bourne.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

Mariella Frostrup's Brunch [16/11/97] (Brunch)

UK 1997 Prod Helen Swift

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Matthew Bourne's Adventures in Motion Pictures (The South Bank Show)

UK 1997 Dir Leo Burley

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Duet for the Betterment of 'A'

UK 1999 Dir Brothers Quay

19 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pointe Blank (4 Dance)

UK 1999 Dir Rupert Edwards

23 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tablecloth Garden (4 Dance)

UK 1999

24 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
52 mins with 13 Different Keys
Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Car Man

UK 2001
89 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Based on Bizet's opera Carmen.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bourne to Dance

UK 2001 Dir Ross MacGibbon
76 mins
DVD Col (Reference copy only)
Matthew Bourne looks at a history of male dance and some of the influences on his own work as a dancer and choreographer, including Nijinsky, Nureyev and Baryshnikov, and dance in Hollywood films.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ballet Films

A chronological listing of various ballet films ranging across genre, including recordings of performances and documentaries, Dance for the Camera (by ballet choreographers); Avant-Garde film-making; Ballet Feature films (dance-based dramas).

Ballet des Sylphides

France 1902 Dir Ferdinand Zecca
73 feet
35mm B&W
A ballerina and corps de ballet perform on stage.
Archive Source: BFI National Archive

A Nymph of the Waves

US 1903
9 feet
16mm B&W
A woman wearing a hat appears to dance on the sea. This is believed to be Cathrina Bartho performing her Speedway dance, augmented here by double exposure.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Some Classical Dancing by the Pupils of Margaret Morris

UK 1922
81 feet
35mm B&W, silent
Dancers perform around a lily pond.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Analysis of Motion

US 1924

439 feet

35mm B&W, silent

The ballerina Albertina Rasch is studied with the slow motion camera in her exercises and various practice steps. Contrasting real-time and slow motion camera shots illustrate various movements.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mime Dance by Miss Mary Montgomery

UK c1928

1 mins

35mm B&W, silent

Modern dance performed by Mary Montgomery.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Opera in Rehearsal 1936-38

UK c.1938

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only only) B&W + Col, silent

Amateur film footage of opera dress rehearsals at Sadler's Wells and the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo at Covent Garden.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lady Into Fox

UK 1945

25 mins

16mm B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

A performance of the ballet based on David Garnett's novel, with Sally Gilmour and Walter Gore and choreography by Andrée Howard.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Sorcerer's Apprentice

US/West Germany 1955 Dir Michael Powell

13 mins

35mm Col

Ballet fantasy, based on Goethe tale and danced by Sonia Arova and others. The first ballet film in Cinemascope.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Les Collants Noirs (1960) (Grandes Projections Cinematographiques/Talma Films/Doperfilm)

A ballet-film containing four episodes, the first La Croqueuse de Diamants (The Diamond Cruncher) features lyrics by Raymond Queneau.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Margot Fonteyn introduces the London Festival Ballet

UK 1961 Dir Rodney Greenberg and Julian Field

65 mins

Beta SP B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

Two ballets performed by The London Festival Ballet. The Sanguine Fan (music: Edward Elgar) with Ben Van Cawenbergh, Nigel Burgoine, Manola Asensio and Graduation Ball (music: Johann Strauss) with Trevor Wood, David Long, Andria Hall, Lucia Truglia.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Sleeping Ballerina

UK 1963 Dir Ludovic Kennedy

27 mins

16mm B&W

Documentary about the life of ballet dancer Olga Spessivtzeva.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

El Fantastico Mundo del Dr. Coppelius

Spain/US 1966 Dir Ted Kneeland

97 mins

35mm Col

Abbreviated film version of the ballet drawn from Delibes' Coppelia. Choreography by Jo Anna Kneeland. Artistic consultant Alicia Markova.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Nine Variations on a Dance Theme

US 1966 Dir Hilary Harris

11 mins

16mm B&W

A ballerina rehearses, and the camera twines itself around her flowing body and graceful limbs, like a convulvulus round a rose. The intricate counterpoint of choreography between dancer and camera becomes a revelation. For the lover of modern ballet and anyone who can derive the least pleasure from the brilliant use of film form.

Archive source: LUX

The Bolshoi Ballet in London

USSR 1966 Dir Anatoly Koloshin

33 mins

16mm B&W

The Bolshoi Ballet's trip to London, including rehearsals and performances. Dancers include Margot Fonteyn (in a scene from 'The Firebird') and Galina Ulanova.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cranko's Castle

UK 1967 Dir Margaret Dale and Peter Wright

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

A profile of choreographer John Cranko at the Stuttgart State Theatre Ballet. He is seen working on Swan Lake, Giselle, Jeu de Cartes (Card Game). With the first British performance of his Opus 1 to music by Webern.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance

Canada 1970 Dir David Rimmer

5 mins

16mm B&W

Two dancers turn and pirouette in true competition style. Their routine is extended...and extended, competing enthusiastically they whirl beyond the point of credibility... on and on they go... in perfect repetition, a final masterly and endless spin.

Archive source: LUX

The Miraculous Mandarin

Hungary 1971 Dir Miklós Szinetár

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Hungarian television presentation of Béla Bartók's ballet. A prostitute encounters a mandarin who has supernatural powers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Taming of the Shrew

West Germany 1972 Dir John Cranko

85 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A recording of John Cranko's ballet of The Taming of the Shrew, after William Shakespeare, filmed in the Württemberg State Theatre with the Stuttgart Ballet and the Stuttgart State Theatre Orchestra with musical director Bernard Kontarsky.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Parade

UK 1973 Dir Basil Coleman

39 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

A performance of two ballets by the Paul Taylor Dance Company (Duet and Noah's minstrels), with Carolyn Adams, Betty Dejong, Senta Driver, Eileen Cropley, Ruby Shang, Monica Morris, Daniel Williams, Nicholas Gunn, and Paul Plumadore. Performed and recorded on the opening night of Manchester Festival '73.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Moor's Pavane

DK 1976 Dir Preben Montell

22 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

José Limón's dance version of Shakespeare's Othello set to music by Purcell, with soloists of the Royal Danish Ballet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pas de Deux from Sylvia

UK 1976 Dir Ben Harrison

9 mins

16mm Col

Delibes' pas de deux from Sylvia, danced by Doreen Wells and Donald MacLeary, at Wynyard Park, Cleveland.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Royal Birthday at the Ballet

UK 1980

65 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Queen Mother spends the evening at the Ballet, to celebrate her 80th birthday.

Included are three scenes by Leonide Massine.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dreams

Switzerland 1980 Dir Fred Bosman

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Basel Theatre Ballet performs this love story which inspired Wagner's

Wesendonk songs, filmed in the original Swiss setting.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Georgian State Dance Company

UK 1980

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Programme recorded at the Wembley Conference Centre.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

China: Ballet

UK 1980 Dir Charlie Nairn

49 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Documentary on the history of the Peking Ballet Company and the way in which that story mirrors the history of post-revolutionary China.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ballet Black

UK 1986 Dir Steve Dwoskin

85 mins

DVD Col

The history of Les Ballets Nègres, the first black ballet troupe in Europe, created in 1946 by Berto Pasuka (born Jamaica, d.1963), with the participation of surviving members of the company, including choreographers Richie Riley, Raymond Maclean.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

Omnibus: The Bolshoi Ballet

UK 1986 Dir Michael Houldey

127 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Interviews with leading figures in Soviet ballet and specially filmed excerpts from the Bolshoi's current repertoire. Extracts include Giselle, Don Quixote, Ivan the Terrible, Raymondo and The Seagull.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Natasha

UK 1985 Dir Derek Bailey

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Dance programme hosted by Russian ballerina Natalia Makarova, featuring extracts from a number of ballets and a performance of Natasha a dance number choreographed for this programme by Norman Maen.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Body and Soul (Ballerina)

UK 1987 Dir Derek Bailey

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

First programme in four-part series on the art of the ballerina, written and presented by Natalia Makarova. She examines what it means to be a great ballerina: "You must bring into an ideal balance the body of a superb athlete and the soul of an artist".

With on-screen participants Frederick Ashton, Maurice Béjart, Kirsten Ralov, Jerome Robbins, Maya Plisetskaya. Dancers Carla Fracci, Sylvie Guillem, Antoinette Sibley and others.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Great Roles (Ballerina)

UK 1987 Dir Derek Bailey

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Third programme in four-part series on the art of the ballerina, written and presented by Natalia Makarova. The great classical roles that are the pinnacle of the ballerina's art – Swan Lake, Giselle and Sleeping Beauty – and the classics of the future. Makarova dances with Reid Anderson, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Anthony Dowell, Stephen Jefferies and Derek Rencher.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Handing on the Torch (Ballerina)

UK 1987 Dir Derek Bailey

58 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Fourth programme in four-part series on the art of the ballerina, written and presented by Natalia Makarova. Makarova looks to both the past and future, emphasising the essential tradition of classical ballet, and profiling three young dancers she believes could be the great ballerinas of tomorrow – Cecilia Kerche from Rio de Janeiro, Mette Bodtcher from Copenhagen and Sylvie Guillem from Paris.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Simple Man

UK 1987 Dir Gillian Lynne

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A ballet to celebrate the centenary of the painter L.S. Lowry. Music composed by Carl Davis, choreography by Gillian Lynne.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Still Life at the Penguin Café

UK 1989 Dir Keith Beckett and David Bintley

39 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performance of David Bintley's ballet set to the music of the Penguin Café Orchestra and using 23 dancers including top dancers from The Royal Ballet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Amazing Adventures of Christopher Gable

UK 1989 Dir Tony Bulley

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A documentary about the ballet star Christopher Gable, who starred in Ken Russell films before directing Northern Ballet Theatre. This documentary examines his battle with the Arts Council of England at a time when they are threatening to cut his company's grant and redistribute it in London.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The South Bank Show: Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

UK 1998 Dir Daniel Wiles

52 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

A profile of the all-male comedy ballet company as they perform at the Edinburgh Festival. (NB: The running time includes a profile of actress Maxine Peake that formed the first half of the programme)

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The South Bank Show: Wayne Sleep

UK 1998 Dir Leo Burley

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A celebratory documentary to mark Wayne Sleep's 50th birthday, focusing on a gala performance of his Classical Ballet Tour at Her Majesty's Theatre, together with extracts from famous ballets which moulded his career as a Royal Ballet star of the 1960s-70s.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Point Your Toes, Cushla!

New Zealand 1998 Dir Simon Marler

10 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A little girl messes up her performance in a ballet competition.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bourne to Dance

UK 2001 Dir Ross MacGibbon

76 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Matthew Bourne looks at a history of male dance and some of the influences on his own work as a dancer and choreographer, including Nijinsky, Nureyev and Baryshnikov, and dance in Hollywood films.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The South Bank Show: Irek Mukhamedov

UK 2003 Dir Matthew Tucker

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A profile of the Russian dancer Irek Mukhamedov as he oversees a new production of Swan Lake in Warsaw.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Power Behind: The Dance

UK 2003

3 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A portrait of ballet dancer Jonathan Cope as he mentors and prepares two up and coming ballerinas – Lauren Cuthbertson and Edward Watson – for their debuts in Romeo and Juliet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Yvette

UK 2003

11 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Yvette is a pupil of the Royal Ballet School who dreams of becoming the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Real Billy Elliott Diaries

Future Time Productions, Universal Studios

UK 2005

23 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Follows the nationwide search to find a young dancer to play Billy Elliot in a West End musical version of the film.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

La Danse

US/France 2010 Dir Frederick Wiseman

159 mins

DVD Col

The **Paris Opera Ballet** is one of the world's great ballet companies. LA DANSE shows how a ballet company functions from administration, technical support, and classes, to the rehearsal and/or performance of seven ballets – Paquita by Pierre Lacotte, The Nutcracker by Rudolf Nureyev, Genus by Wayne McGregor, Medea by Angelin Preljocaj, The House of Bernarda Alba by Mats Ek, Romeo and Juliet by Sasha Waltz and Orpheus and Eurydice by Pina Bausch. The film is a profile of all aspects of the ballet company, one of France's principal cultural institutions. The film immediately draws us into the rehearsals and shows preparations for performances of seven ballets, including The Nutcracker by Rudolf Nureyev and Medea by Angelin Preljocaj, widely considered to be the most important contemporary choreographer working in ballet today. It is a testament to both Wiseman's love of dance and the respect of the Opera that he was allowed full access to film all facets of this revered institution from the administration offices to the costumers' department,

illustrating the sometime tensions between a commercial sensibility and creative integrity.

Archive source: BFI Distribution (Non-theatrical screenings only)

Composers

Pyotr Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Russian composer of the Romantic era. Tchaikovsky's wide-ranging output includes symphonies, operas, ballets, instrumental and chamber music and songs. He wrote some of the most popular concert and theatrical music in the classical repertoire, including the ballets Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty and The Nutcracker, the 1812 Overture, his First Piano Concerto, his last three numbered symphonies, and the opera Eugene Onegin.

Aurora

UK 1932

75 feet

16mm B&W, silent

A performance of the pas de deux Aurora from Act 3 of Tchaikovsky's ballet The Sleeping Beauty. Aurora is danced by the Russian ballerina Toumanova partnered probably by a male dancer from de Basil's Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, to which she belonged.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Mariage d'Aurore

UK 1936

13 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Sections from a performance of Aurora's wedding from Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty by Colonel de Basil's company of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. Dancers include Tamara Toumanova and Irina Baronova.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Opera in Rehearsal 1936-38

UK c. 1938

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only only) B&W + Col, silent

Amateur film footage of opera dress rehearsals at Sadler's Wells and the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo at Covent Garden.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Bolshoi Theatre Ballet of Moscow in an Excerpt from Act Two of Swan Lake (aka Bolshoi Ballet Swan Lake) (Music at Ten)

UK Dir Margaret Dale 1956

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Sleeping Beauty

UK 1952 Dir John de Vere Loder

9 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Extracts from *The Sleeping Beauty* danced by members of Sadler's Wells Ballet at Covent Garden; with Beryl Grey, John Field, Margaret Dale, Violetta Elvin, and Alexis Racine.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Sleeping Beauty

USSR 1964 Dir Appolinari Dudko, Konstantin Sergeyev

87 mins

35mm Col

Film adaptation of the Tchaikovsky ballet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Eugene Onegin

UK 1966 Dir Peter Wright

37 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Ballet staged for television based on Pushkin's poem, to the score by Tchaikovsky, with choreography by John Cranko. Penman catalogue no. 94.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Nureyev's Nutcracker/ De Stijl (Release)

UK 1968 Prod Colin Nears

10 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

With Rudolf Nureyev, Merle Park. Choreography to Tchaikovsky's score by Rudolf Nureyev, Vassily Vainonen.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Nutcracker

UK 1975 Dir Ben Harrison

10 mins

16mm Col

Pas de deux from *The Nutcracker* danced by Doreen Wells and Cyril Atanassof, at Wynyard Park, Cleveland.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Nutcracker

UK 1976 Dir John Vernon

102 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV presentation of the new production of Tchaikovsky's Christmas classic, performed by the London Festival Ballet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Swan Lake

UK 1980 Dir John Michael Phillips and Norman Morrice

134 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Royal Ballet performance of the Tchaikovsky ballet from the Royal Opera House,

Covent Garden, based on the original choreography by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, adapted by Frederick Ashton.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Swan Lake

UK/Denmark 1989 Dir Thomas Grimm

116 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Natalia Makarova introduces her production of Tchaikovsky's ballet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

Russian-born, naturalised French, later naturalised American composer, pianist, and conductor. widely acknowledged as one of the most important and influential composers of 20th century music. First performed with the Ballets Russes in Paris in 1913, *The Rite of Spring* caused a revolution in performance and the development of a new form of rhythmic composition. Other works include *Petrushka*, *The Firebird*, *The Soldier's Tale*, *The Rake's Progress*, *Pulcinella*, *Apollo* and other ballets.

The Rake's Progress

UK 1961 Dir Margaret Dale

40 mins

Beta SP B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

Inspired by William Hogarth's paintings, *Ninette de Valois'* ballet charts the path to the madhouse trodden by an eighteenth century profligate. Music by Gavin Gordon, with Donald Britton in the title role.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Petrushka

UK 1962 Dir Margaret Dale

36 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Royal Ballet production, under the direction of Dame Ninette de Valois, of the ballet revived by Serge Grigoriev and Lubov Tchernicheva. Director (The Royal Ballet)

Ninette de Valois Director and Producer Margaret Dale, A Ballet by Alexandre Benois.

Royal Ballet production revived by Serge Grigoriev. Choreography by Michel Fokine, Principal Choreographer (The Royal Ballet) Frederick Ashton.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Rehearsal Script, May 1962; Camera Script May 1962; Crowd Plans. Photographs and Mounted photographs.

The Royal Ballet in Rehearsal: The Rite of Spring

UK 1962 Dir Sidney Nolan

47 mins

16mm B&W

The Royal Ballet rehearses the entire ballet. Includes an appendix with some repeated sections filmed more closely. Décor and costumes Sidney Nolan, music Igor Stravinsky, choreography Kenneth MacMillan. With Monica Mason as the Chosen Maiden.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Firebird

UK 1965 Dir Margaret Dale

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

40 mins

Television version of the Royal Ballet's production of The Firebird by Michel Fokine, to the music of Stravinsky.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Balanchine and Stravinsky: Apollon Musagète

West Germany 1966 Dir Jamila Patten

55 mins

Beta SP B&W

Complete recording of George Balanchine's landmark ballet Apollo. The ballet is preceded by documentary material showing preparations for the performance, including orchestra rehearsals directed by Igor Stravinsky and George Balanchine choreographing cast members including Jacques D'Amboise, Suzanne Farrell, Gloria Govrin, Patricia Neary and Karin von Aroldingen.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Balanchine: Dance From America (Dance International)

UK 1987 Dir Merrill Brockway

124 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Re-edited version of the two-part profile of George Balanchine, founder of the New York City Ballet, transmitted as part of the Dance International series 1985/06/20 and 1985/06/27. (Introduction is different but content of programme is the same). Includes interviews with Dame Ninette de Valois, Balanchine dancing and rehearsing, sequences with Stravinsky and excerpts from his most famous ballets including Apollo, Serenade, Agon, Four Temperaments, Chaconne, Stravinsky Violin Concerto. On-screen participants include Mikhail Baryshnikov.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Symphony of Psalms

Netherlands 1980 Dir Fred Bosman

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Netherlands Dance Theatre perform Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms.

Choreography by Jiri Kylian.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Rite of Spring (Invitation to the Dance)

West Germany 1980 Dir Pit Weyrich

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Dance Theatre of Wuppertal, choreography by Pina Bausch

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pulcinella (tx 22/10/1988)

Dir Bob Lockyer

44 mins

Video Col

Performance of Richard Alston's Pulcinella, to Stravinsky's score, by the Rambert Dance Company.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Firebird

Barbara Willis Sweete

CA 2003

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Choreography by James Kudelka to Stravinsky's score, combining classical ballet with graceful special effects; performed by the Canadian National Ballet, with the Kirov Orchestra conducted by Valery Gergiev.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sergei Prokofiev (1891 - 1953)

Russian composer, pianist and conductor who mastered numerous musical genres and is regarded as one of the major composers of the twentieth century.

Cinderella

UK 1960 Dir Mark Stuart

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

The Royal Ballet Company in Frederick Ashton's production of Sergei Prokofiev's Cinderella, the title role danced by Margot Fonteyn.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Monitor: Prokofiev (Item) (aka Portrait of a Soviet Composer)

UK 1961 Dir Ken Russell

29 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Documentary about the life of Sergei Prokofiev, composer of the Ballets Romeo and Juliet, Peter and the Wolf, Cinderella and others.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pencil Dance

1988 Dir Chris Casady

3 mins

Video (originally on 16mm) B&W

A ballet of black and white organic and geometric shapes, dancing to a contemporary arrangement of Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf suite. Presented at the London Film Festival 1989.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Benjamin Britten (1913 - 76)

Best known for his orchestral and choral music and operas, Britten's ballet The Prince of the Pagodas (1956) is also part of the classical repertoire in Britain.

The Prince Of the Pagodas

UK 1957 Dir John de Vere Loder

29 mins

Digitbeta or DVD Col (Reference copy only) Col

Amateur film of members of the Royal Ballet dancing the Prince of the Pagodas in November 1956 and June 1957. With Svetlana Beriosova, David Blair. The emperor makes his entrance reprimanding the jester who is sitting on his throne ... Music by Benjamin Britten, Choreography by John Cranko.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Siobhan Davies: The Choreographer and the Dance (Dancemakers) (1986) BBC

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Siobhan Davies, choreographer at the London Contemporary Dance Theatre, talks about the origins of the work *Bridge the Distance* which is performed by members of the LCDT. Music by Benjamin Britten.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Prince of the Pagodas

UK 1990 Dir Derek Bailey

130 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performance of Kenneth MacMillan's ballet set to music by Benjamin Britten, performed by The Royal Ballet and recorded at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. With Darcey Bussell, Jonathan Cope.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Modern, Postmodern and Contemporary Dance



Isadora (1968)

Modern dance developed in the early twentieth century as European and American dancers started to rebel against the rigid constraints of Classical Ballet. Shedding the authoritarian controls surrounding classical ballet technique, costume and shoes, these early modern dance pioneers focused on creative self-expression rather than on rigid technical virtuosity.

Postmodern dance was at its height during the 1960s and 70s, a reaction to the compositional and presentation constraints of modern dance, and hailed the use of everyday movement as valid performance art and advocated novel methods of dance composition.

Contemporary dance is a genre of concert dance that employs compositional philosophy, rather than choreography, to guide unchoreographed movement. It uses dance techniques and methods found in ballet, modern dance and postmodern dance, and it also draws from other philosophies of movement that are outside the realm of classical dance technique.

Modern, postmodern and contemporary dance also found new ways of working in parallel with artists from other disciplines, such as music composition (as in the work of Merce Cunningham in tandem with the conceptual approach of composer John Cage) and film, particularly experimental film-making.

Modern Performers

Isadora Duncan (1877-1927)

American dancer who moved to Paris in 1899 and was internationally known, setting up her own dance school, and teaching in the new Soviet Union from 1922-24. An early influence in the creation of modern dance, Duncan rejected classical ballet steps, danced barefoot and used improvisation and emotion.

Isadora Duncan - The Biggest Dancer in the World

UK 1966 Dir Ken Russell

64 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Ken Russell's flamboyant dramatised documentary about the eccentric life and bizarre death of the dancer Isadora Duncan (Vivian Pickles), whose obsession with the importance of art and complete disdain for decorum proved a perfect subject. With Greek sequence (archive footage) by Leni Riefenstahl.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Isadora (aka Loves of Isadora)

UK 1968 Dir Karel Reisz

With Vanessa Redgrave, James Fox.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Isadora

1981

Performance of the ballet choreographed by Kenneth MacMillan based on the life of Isadora Duncan, recorded at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, with Merle Park, Mary Miller, and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House conducted by Barry Wordsworth.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Clive James – Fame in the 20th Century: Part 1

UK 1993

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A study of fame in the twentieth century, employing archive footage. Covering the period from the invention of cinema to the death of Valentino, the first part features footage of (among others) Queen Victoria, Tolstoy, Caruso, Sara Bernhardt, Isadora

Duncan (apparently her dancing before a group of French people by some trees), Douglas Fairbanks Snr, Mary Pickford, Rudolph Valentino, Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin and Greta Garbo.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rudolph Laban (1879-1958)

Hungarian dancer and theorist, a founder of modern dance who developed influential forms of movement and dance notation. Laban studied sculpture and the movement arts, established the Choreographic Institute in Zurich in 1915 and published a dance notation system in 1928. In addition to the analysis of movement and dance experimentation he was also a proponent of dance for the masses, the movement choir, where large numbers move together in a choreographed manner. Appointed director of the Deutsche Tanzbuehne in Nazi Germany he directed festivals of dance under Goebbels from 1934 - 6, but left Germany in 1937 and joined other refugees teaching at Dartington Hall in Devon, eventually forming the Laban Guild for Movement and Dance and a Movement Studio in 1946.

Laban Manoeuvres

UK 2006 Dir Tony Hill

10 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Great Buildings: Laban (3 Minute Wonder)

UK 2005 Dir Imogen Howell

3 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Martha Graham (1894-1991)

One of the key choreographers and dancers of the twentieth century, whose work across seven decades invented a new language of movement and used it to reveal the passion, the rage and the ecstasy common to human experience. Graham laid the foundations for the development of modern and contemporary dance, influencing many subsequent generations of dancers, including Merce Cunningham, Glen Tetley and Paul Taylor.

2nd House[16/11/74] : 2nd House (aka First Performance)

UK 1974

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The artistic directors of two of London's contemporary dance companies create new works for television. Cohan, of the London Contemporary Dance Theatre, explores the human body, after taking inspiration from a poem by William Blake. Chesworth, of the Ballet Rambert, uses noises from sporting events to explore the relationship between man and woman (fantasy and reality). Both ballet companies are shown working in their studios. This segment also includes rare footage of Martha Graham.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Martha Graham and her Dance Company: Lively Arts - In Performance

UK 1976 Prod Bob Lockyer

91 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Merce Cunningham (1919-2009)

American dancer and choreographer considered a pioneer of postmodern dance through an attention to the intrinsic value of movement, and who worked alongside other artists, notably his partner, the composer John Cage, with whom he explored ideas of chance composition. Cunningham was also a pioneer in envisaging dance choreography on film.

Visual Variations of Noguchi

US 1945 Dir Marie Menken

5 mins

16mm, B&W

Made for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, in response to a request from the Merce Cunningham/John Cage partnership for a movie background to their ballet *The Seasons*, this film of Noguchi's abstract sculpture spins and floats as if made weightless by the buoyancy of the camera.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

The Merce Cunningham Travelogue (The South Bank Show)

UK 1980 Dir Bob Bee and Geoff Dunlop

53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Film portrait of Merce Cunningham, built around his work *Travelogue* designed by Robert Rauschenberg, with music by John Cage. (Re-transmitted in the series *Dance on Four*.)

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Points in Space

UK 1987 Dir Elliot Caplan and Merce Cunningham

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Merce Cunningham ballet, specially commissioned by BBC2 and shown on the eve of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company's first appearance at the Proms and a season at Sadler's Wells Theatre, London. Cunningham directs as well as being choreographer and dancer. Music by and on-screen participation from John Cage. Dance-film created by Cunningham with film-maker Elliot Caplan.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mikhail Baryshnikov

US 1988 Dir Thomas Grimm

55 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The American Ballet Theatre performs two works by major American choreographers: Duets by Merce Cunningham and La Sonnambula by George Balanchine. Presented by Mikhail Baryshnikov, artistic director of the Company. Archive source: BFI National Archive

Double Bill From New York: Dance International (aka Changing Steps)

US 1989 Dir Elliot Caplan

67 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

TV world premiere of Changing Steps by Merce Cunningham, using music by John Cage; plus My Folks by David Gordon. Director of Changing Steps, Elliot Caplan: an adaptation for television of the 1973 dance piece. Combines archival footage from the Cunningham Studio with newly recorded interior and exterior footage filmed on location at the Sundance Institute in Utah.

Double Bill From New York (Dance International) (aka Changing Steps; My Folks)

US 1989 Dir John Sanborn

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

TV world premiere of Changing Steps by Merce Cunningham, using music by John Cage; plus My Folks by David Gordon. Director of My Folks, John Sanborn.

Dancemakers: Cage and Cunningham [tx13/09/92]

Dir Bob Lockyer

Partnership between composer John Cage and choreographer Merce Cunningham that revolutionised how we see and think about dance. Features Points in Space, a dance commissioned by the BBC and first shown in 1987. Dance Directors Elliot Caplan and Merce Cunningham.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Blessing and Curse: Doc Strange

UK 1998

26 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The panel discuss blessings, curses, sex and death. Participants include Merce Cunningham, Damien Hirst.

Alvin Ailey (1931-1989)

American choreographer and activist who founded the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York. Ailey is credited with popularizing modern dance and revolutionizing African-American participation in twentieth century concert dance.

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (The South Bank Show)

UK 1986 Dir Thomas Grimm

Documentary about the work of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and their dedication to the expansion and preservation of the great tradition of black dance in the USA with extracts from the Stack Up and Revelations (Ailey's story of faith from

slavery to freedom through a sequence of dances set to spirituals and blues music).
With on-screen participants Alvin Ailey, Talley Beatty.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Yvonne Rainer (1934-)



Kristina Talking Pictures(1976)

American dancer, choreographer and film-maker Yvonne Rainer, and dancer and choreographer Trisha Brown were among a group of dancers who performed at the Judson Memorial Church in New York 1962-64, developing a new form of postmodern dance; and in Rainer's case focusing on the body's potential for movement rather than its expressive potential.

Lives Of Performers

US 1972 Dir Yvonne Rainer

90 mins

16mm B&W

Unfolding in fourteen episodes, each section has, according to Rainer, "a different cinematic approach towards integrating real and fictional aspects of my roles as director and choreographer, and performers' real and fictional roles during the making of previous work and the film itself." The eternal triangle is seen from the point of view of each performer and the director as the relationships are juxtaposed with the performances. Rehearsal footage, stills, tableaux vivants, voice-over commentaries and intertitles are all interwoven in this, Rainer's first feature film.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Film About a Woman Who ...

US 1974 Dir Yvonne Rainer

105 mins

16mm Col/B&W

Like a number of other Rainer works, this film takes performing as its central theme and metaphor and deals with the contrast of emotional life set against the appearances of everyday behaviour. Ironic and witty throughout, the title itself is indicative of the fragmented narrative and hints at the role Rainer wants the audience to play in deciphering and interpreting the film's complexities. To create a multi-layered composite of images, text, music and speech, Rainer utilises a host of formal devices such as inter-titles, written texts, off-screen voices, stills and jump-cuts, as well as narration and acted sequences featuring performed slow-motion and freezes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Kristina Talking Pictures

US 1976 Dir Yvonne Rainer

90 mins

16mm Col

Kristina, a lion-tamer from Budapest, goes to New York to become a dancer and choreographer. A shifting collage of narrations (some visual, mostly verbal, based on the works of Samuel Beckett, Simone de Beauvoir, John Cage, Susan Sontag, Albert Speer and others) is loosely anchored in the central relationship between Kristina and her lover Raoul.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Journeys From Berlin 1971

US 1980 Dir Yvonne Rainer

16mm col/B&W 125 mins

"A perpetually recreating narrative that proceeds as it consumes its own ashes..." – Yvonne Rainer. The film furthers the political themes of Rainer's earlier work and continues to explore complex narrative structures, focusing on the dichotomy of public and private action, and using the Baader-Meinhof group to illustrate this. Rainer effectively subverts cinematic convention, playing with the viewer's expectations of sound synchronisation, and creating choreographic movement through editing. An intricate, textured study of ambiguity as well as political thought.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

See also:

Trisha Brown (Just Dancing Around?)

UK 1996 Dir James Mark

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Mark James examines the career and methods of former avant-garde doyenne, Trisha Brown who, unusually, has progressed from dance experimentalism in the sixties to internationally regarded mainstream choreography.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pina Bausch (1940 - 2009) and Dans Theatre Wuppertal

German modern dance choreographer who trained and worked with German Expressionist choreographer Kurt Jooss, and performed in America before becoming artistic director of the Wuppertal Opera Ballet, later called Tanztheater Wuppertal. A key influence of the later twentieth century, touring a repertoire of original works using large-scale visual staging and sometimes ironic but powerfully affecting group and singular movement.

The Green Table

UK 1967 Dir Peter Wright

36 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

BBC Studio performance of Kurt Jooss' ballet, performed by the Folkwang Ballett Essen. A satire on war and politicians, attacking the debates that went on at the League of Nations (the piece dates from 1932) while War and Death continue to affect everyone. Performed by Winfried Krisch, Pina Bausch, Michael Diekamp and others. Stage production designed by Hein Heckroth. Designed for television by Peter Brachacki. Music by Frederic A Cohen. Choreography Kurt Jooss.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Rite Of Spring (Invitation to the Dance)

DE 1980 Dir Pit Weyrich

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Dance Theatre of Wuppertal, choreography by Pina Bausch

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Primer for Pina

UK 1984 Dir Jolyon Wimhurst

35 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Television essay on the work of choreographer Pina Bausch, presented by Susan Sontag.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pina Bausch's Bluebeard: Dance on Four

DE 1985 Dir Jolyon Wimhurst

115 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Ballet by Pina Bausch, based on Béla Bartók's opera Bluebeard's Castle and employing a play back of the music which is stopped and started by the dancers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Café Müller: Dance on Four

DE 1987

59 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Dance piece created by Pina Bausch based on her experiences in post-war Germany, featuring Pina Bausch, Malou Airaudou, Dominique Mercy, Jan Minarek, Nazareth Panadero, Jean-Laurent Sasportes and the Dance Theatre of Wuppertal. Café Müller is considered one of Bausch's most autobiographical works, reflecting her father's café, where she spent many hours watching the ways the adults tried to survive in a devastated and dislocated society. This film contains Bausch's last appearance as an actor in one of her own stage works – she also 'appeared' in Pedro Almodovar's film Talk to Her (Spain, 2002) in which scenes from Café Muller are repeated alongside Bausch's work Masurca Foco.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Klage Der Kaiserin: Dance on Four (aka Complaint Of an Empress)

UK/France 1989

99 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A pastiche of scenes from life with the ensemble of the Wuppertal Dance Theater. Shot on location over 6 months, it takes on the form of a succession of images of humanity's encounter with the forces of nature, the joy and desolation of childhood, the turmoil of young love and the crises of middle age.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Fensterputzer

UK 2002 Dir Peter Lindbergh
48 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Richard Alston (1948-)

British choreographer who formed the first independent dance company, Stride, in 1972, studied at the Merce Cunningham Dance Studio in 1976, and in 1980 was appointed resident choreographer for the Ballet Rambert and its Artistic Director from 1986-92. In 1981 his company Stride merged with choreographer Siobhan Davies' company to form Second Stride. Alston created works for Rambert, the Royal Danish Ballet, the Royal Ballet and Michael Clark; and formed the Richard Alston Dance Company in 1994 when he became Artistic Director at The Place. Has choreographed works from the music of Brahms, Britten, Hoagy Carmichael, Handel, Monteverdi, Astor Piazzola, Schumann, Shostakovich and Stravinsky. Choreographed The Rite of Spring for BBC in 2002.

Richard Alston (Dancemakers) [tx: 13/7/1986]

Dir Bob Lockyer
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
44 mins
Performance of Richard Alston's Pulcinella, by the Rambert Dance Company.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Richard Alston (Just Dancing Around?)

UK 1996 Dir Mark Kidell
51 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Archive source: BFI National Archive
Mark Kidell presents a personal portrait of the English choreographer whose creative influences range from T'ai Chi to Merce Cunningham. Alston now has his own dance company at The Place theatre in London. His latest creation Sometimes I Wonder, consists of dances set to eleven different versions of the song Stardust. Choreography by William Forsythe, Richard Alston.

Pulcinella [tx 22/10/1988]

Dir Bob Lockyer
44 mins
Video Col
Performance of Richard Alston's Pulcinella, to Stravinsky's score, by the Rambert Dance Company.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Siobhan Davies (1950-)

British dancer, and choreographer with London Contemporary Dance Theatre before opening her own company Siobhan Davies Dance in 1988. Trained as an artist, she has collaborated with companies and artists from other disciplines including music, visual art and film, and has taken her work from the stage into a space shared with the audience.

The Story of Job (The Wednesday Special)

UK 1977 Dir Anton Bowler

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

London Contemporary Dance Theatre (Dance Month)

UK 1980 Dir Bob Lockyer

67 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Siobhan Davies [tx 20/7/1986]

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance-Lines [tx 26/04/87] (Dance on Four)

UK 1987 Dir Terry Braun

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Siobhan Davies Dance Company (Dance on Four)

UK 1989 Dir Peter Mumford

57 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dwell Time

UK 1995 Dir David Buckland

5 mins

DVD Col

“Dwell time” is defined as the period during which a dynamic process remains halted in order that another process may occur. A group of dancers is in search of a tune. Their journey takes them through interior and exterior locations, the choreography bridging time and space. Dance film with choreography by Siobhan Davies.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

13 Different Keys (4 Dance)

UK 1999

52 mins with Tablecloth Garden

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Rosemary Butcher (1947 -)

British choreographer, educator, and company director. She studied dance at Dartington College of Arts in Devon (1965-8), in Maryland (1968-9) and in New York with Elaine Summers and Yvonne Rainer (1970-2), which brought her into contact with the Judson Church movement. She founded her own company, the Rosemary Butcher Dance Company, in London in 1975-6. She was resident choreographer at London's Riverside Studios (1977-8). She has made more than 40 works, most of which reflect her strict minimalist approach to dance and her interest in both visual arts and architecture. Her pieces have frequently been performed in art galleries and have utilized art installations.

Entertainment UK [tx 25/02/93]

UK 1993 Prod Jonathan Challis and John Needham

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Vanishing Point

UK 2003 Dir Rosemary Butcher and Martin Otter

15 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The film addresses navigation – the geographical process of a journey; and the emotional demands of travel. The narrative is expressed through the experiences of a woman traveller, presented as an abstract journey.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Of Shadows and Walls

UK 1992 Dir Nicola Baldwin and Rosemary Butcher

17 mins

Video

Not filmed dance, but choreographed film. A four dimensional collage, of gestures made now, set against historical fragments. This tape is about the individual's relationship to the moment of history. About displacement, nostalgia, and the desire to return home, when home no longer exists.

Archive source: LUX

Bill T Jones (1952 -)

American dancer and choreographer touring with his partner Arnie Zane before forming the Bill T Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company in 1982. The recipient of a MacArthur Genius award in 1994.

Bill T. Jones

US 1989

10 mins

Video

Michael Clark (1962 -)

Scottish born dancer Michael Clark left home aged 13 to study at the Royal Ballet School in London. In 1979 Clark he joined the Ballet Rambert, working primarily with Richard Alston, who created roles for him in Bell High (1979), Landscape (1980), Rainbow Ripples (1981) and, subsequently, two solos: Soda Lake (1981) and Dutiful Ducks (1982). Later, attending a summer school with Merce Cunningham and John Cage led him to work with Karole Armitage, through whom he met film-maker Charles Atlas. The first concert of his own choreography was in 1982 at London's Riverside Studios, where he became resident choreographer. By 1984 Clark had made 16 original pieces for himself, his friends, and various small-scale companies. Clark has also famously collaborated with fashion designers, musicians and artists including Leigh Bowery and Sarah Lucas.

Hail the New Puritan: Dance on Four

UK 1986 Dir Charles Atlas

88 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Dance fantasy created by Charles Atlas, which presents a "document" of an imaginary day in the life of dancer Michael Clark drawing on Clark's choreography from the past two years. Includes twelve dance sequences. Choreography by Michael Clark, with dancers Clark, Gaby Agis, Leslie Bryant, Matthew Hawkins, Julie Hood. Settings designed by Lucy Morahan; Copped It set designed by Trojan; costumes Leigh Bowery; music Glenn Branca, The Fall, Bruce Gilbert, Jeffrey Hinton. Choreography Michael Clark.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ex-Romance : Dance on Four

US 1987 Dir Charles Atlas

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Fantasy which mixes dance, fantasy, life and drama. It tells of arrivals and departures, romance and infidelity. Choreography by Karole Armitage, with dancers Michael Clark, Susan Blankensop, Jean-Marie Didière, Brenda McPherson, Luis Viana. Produced by WUK Dir H, transmitted on Channel Four.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Alter Image [05/05/87]

UK 1987

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

First in the new series of the arts magazine. Includes the big band The Happy End, glass designer/artist Danny Lane, the kinetic sculptures of Tim Lewis, and Michael Clark in The Shivering Man and ballroom dancing.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Comrades

UK 1987 Dir Bill Douglas

183 mins

35mm, DVD Col

In the 1830s six Dorset farm workers formed a union in an attempt to win a fair wage for a fair day's work. They called a strike and were arrested and sentenced to be transported to Australia for seven years. They became known as the Tolpuddle Martyrs. With Imelda Staunton, Stephen Bateman, Philip Davis, Vanessa Redgrave, James Fox. Michael Clark dances the role of a sailor.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI DVD

Degrees of Blindness

UK 1988 Dir Cerith Wyn Evans

19 mins

35mm Col

A short experimental film inspired by a poem by William Blake, about the perception of vision, from the reading of a braille map by a blind child to the newest forms of visual representation. With BJ Edwards, Talviner Kambo, Michael Clark, Leigh Bowery, Tilda Swinton.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Walkie Talkie

UK 1989 Dir Steve Connolly

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Interviewee Michael Clark.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

South Bank Show Arts Review '89

UK 1989

103 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Showcase for the best in the world of the arts in 1989.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Because We Must

UK/France 1990 Dir Charles Atlas

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A specially commissioned television version of Michael Clark's 1987 Christmas stage show which transports the dancers from the theatre to a painted forest, the back room of a pub and into a dazzling video sequence. The show features a range of music from Chopin to a children's band. Costumes and performance by Leigh Bowery and the Michael Clark company dancers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Prospero's Books

UK 1991 Dir Peter Greenaway

125 mins

16mm + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

In a controversial and innovative adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, Greenaway uses then contemporary computer paintbox technology to achieve spectacular effects that counterpoint John Gielgud's classical interpretations of the text. (With architectural set design allowing deep planes of focus and the

participation of dancer Michael Clark as Caliban.) Crammed with provocative visual and conceptual ideas, it is arguably barely comprehensible to those unfamiliar with the play, as Greenaway's images tend to swamp rather than illuminate the text (much of which is delivered offscreen, with Gielgud performing all the parts). Clark comes across most effectively as Caliban; the rest of the supporting cast have largely decorative roles.

Archive source: BFI National Archive (DVD (Reference copy only)) + BFI Distribution

Anne Teresa de Keersmaecker (1960 -)

Belgian choreographer de Keersmaecker is one of the most prominent choreographers in contemporary dance, focusing closely on the relationship between music and dance, and often working directly with film-maker Thierry de Mey, as well as envisaging some of her performances as installations in relation to visual art. The minimalist music of composer Steve Reich (American, b. 1936) inspired de Keersmaecker's seminal work *Fase: Four Movements to the Music of Steve Reich* (1982).

Hoppla! : Dance on Four

UK 1989 Dir Anne Teresa de Keersmaecker

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Set to the music of Béla Bartók, *Hoppla!* features the choreography of Anne Teresa de Keersmaecker, known for the work of her company Rosas.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rosa

Belgium 1992 Dir Peter Greenaway

Greenaway's film of a performance by dancers, choreographed by Anne Teresa de Keersmaecker with her company Rosas.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lloyd Newson (1957 -) & DV8

Dancer, choreographer and founder of the dance company DV8 Physical Theatre in 1986. As well as creating productions for the company, Newson was involved in the following films: as a dancer in *My Sex Our Dance* (TV film 1986); dancer, choreographer in *Dead Dreams of Monochrome Men* (video 1989); choreographer and dancer in *Edward II* (UK 1991 Dir Derek Jarman); writer, creator for the stage by and adaptor for the screen in *Strange Fish* (1993); choreographer for *Enter Achilles* (1996); writer and director in *The Cost of Living* (TV short 2005).

Never Again

UK 1989 Dir Bob Bentley

27 mins

DVD Col

A performance about lesbian and gay relationships and their effect on the straight world. An original work created and realised collectively by Lloyd Newson and DV8 Physical Theatre.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Dead Dreams of Monochrome Men (The South Bank Show)

UK 1990 Dir David Hinton

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Full film version of DV8's Dead Dreams of Monochrome Men, devised and created collaboratively under the direction of Lloyd Newson, with performers Lloyd Newson, Nigel Charnock, Russell Maliphant, Douglas Wright. Film-maker Hinton works with Newson to create a powerful piece of dance choreography designed for television; a reference point in dance film-making.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Edward II

UK 1991 Dir Derek Jarman

90 mins

16mm + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Christopher Marlowe (1564 - 1593) was the foremost Elizabethan playwright next to Shakespeare. His work is marked by his 'blank' verse and his overreaching protagonists. Adapted from Marlowe's play, Jarman's film emphasises the relationship between the King and Piers Gaveston and the political controversy which surrounds it. Choreography and dancers: Lloyd Newson, Nigel Charnock.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Jonathan Burrows (1960 -)

One of the UK's leading choreographers, Burrows started his career as a soloist with the Royal Ballet in London, and formed the Jonathan Burrows Group in 1988 to present his own work.

Touch the Earth [tx 29/10/1988]

Dir Bob Lockyer

46 mins

Video Col

Performance of Touch the Earth by the Rosemary Butcher Dance Company, music by Michael Nyman. With dancers Helen Rowsell, Jonathan Burrows, Rosemary Butcher.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Far End of the Garden

UK 1991 Dir Ross MacGibbon

53 mins

DVD Col

A profile of British Royal Ballet soloist, Jonathan Burrows, choreographer of radical new work which draws on Morris dancing and everyday gestures as well as classical techniques. The programme includes excerpts from Stoics and Dull Morning performed by the Jonathan Burrows Group, and ends with Hymns, a duet for Burrows and Simon Rice. With cast member Michael Clark.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

Hands (Dancelines)

UK 1995 Dir Adam Roberts

5 mins

DVD Col

The performer, dancer-choreographer Jonathan Burrows, uses only his hands in creating rhythmic patterns.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Shobana Jeyasingh

Born in Chennai, India and now living in London, Shobana founded Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company in 1988. She has produced numerous works for the stage, theatre and camera, and site specific work.

Duets with Automobiles: Dance for the Camera

UK 1993 Dir Terry Braun

14 mins

DVD Col

Dance piece exploring Indian classical dance forms. Set in high-tech office blocks in London, the dancers move in and around the buildings at different times throughout the day. Choreography by Shobana Jeyasingh.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

The Colour Of Britain

UK 1994

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

In Between: 3 Dance Pieces By Shobana Jeyasingh

UK 1997 Dir Deborah May

48 mins

DVD Col

Shobana Jeyasingh discusses the ways in which she adapts traditional Indian dance forms and incorporates aspects of other disciplines such as sports into her work.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

Akram Khan (1974 -)

Born into a London family of Bangladeshi origin, Khan began dancing at the age of seven. He studied with Sri Pratap Pawar, later becoming his disciple. He began his stage career at the age of 14, when he was cast in Peter Brook's production of Mahabharata, touring the world between 1987 and 1989 and appearing in the televised version of the play broadcast in 1988. Following later studies in contemporary dance at De Montfort University and the Northern School of Contemporary Dance and a period working with Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker's Brussels based X-Group project, he began presenting solo performances of his work in the 1990s and later became an Associate Artist of both the Southbank Centre and Sadlers Wells.

South Bank Show [20.10. 2002]

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Programme on choreographer Akram Khan. British-born dancer of Bangladeshi origin, Khan began dancing at an early age and studied Kathak dance with a renowned teacher in London. His work combines classical Kathak and modern elements. He launched Akram Khan Dance Company in 2000, has collaborated with artists from different disciplines and training, and is Associate Artist at Sadler's Wells Theatre.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Modern Dance Films

A chronological selection of modern, postmodern and contemporary dance films.

Terpsichorean Technicalities

UK 1922

184 feet

35mm B&W, silent

Two dances performed by Helen May, the second repeated in slow motion.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mime Dance by Miss Mary Montgomery

UK c1928

1 mins

35mm B&W, silent

Modern dance performed by Mary Montgomery.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Between Two Worlds

UK 1952 Dir Guy L. Côté

19 mins

16mm + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A blind artist is in love with a woman, but a mysterious guide takes him to an operation table where his sight is restored. The visible world appears to the artist more frightening than his blind one.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Stabat Mater

UK 1979 Dir Bob Lockyer

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Dance based on Vivaldi's setting of Jacopone da Toda's poem, choreographed by Robert Cohan and performed by London Contemporary Dance Theatre.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cell

UK 1983 Prod Bob Lockyer

36 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Ballet made in 1969 about six people trapped in their own world of non-

communication. Choreography by Robert Cohan, with London Contemporary Dance Theatre.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The South Bank Show: The Dream is Over

UK 1986 Dir Daniel Wiles

51-52 mins, DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Programme which features a ballet called The Dream is Over specially commissioned for TV about the life of John Lennon, choreographed by Christopher Bruce, later artistic director of the Ballet Rambert.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Body Language

UK 1989 Dir Graham Moore

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Nadine Senior's Northern Contemporary Dance School, based in inner-city Leeds, trains dancers in many kinds of dance, including contemporary and jazz. This programme looks at the changing world of entertainment dance and catches the exuberance of young dancers at their Gala Night.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Eat the Kimono

UK/Japan 1989 Dir Kim Longinotto

61 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the Japanese dancer Hanayagi Genshu, who has defied right-wing death threats and denounced the authority of Emperor Hirohito. The film follows her as she gives performances around Japan.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Harmonica Breakdown: Speaking about the Dance

UK 1995 Dir Darshan Singh Bhuller

15 mins

DVD Col

American dancer and choreographer Jane Dudley explains the origin of her solo work, Harmonica Breakdown (1938). The dance, a statement of the hardship and courage of ordinary people, was inspired by the music of Blues harmonica player, Sonny Terry and the black and white photographs of sharecroppers in the deep south of America during the Depression taken by Dorothea Lange.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

T-Dance

UK 1995 Dir John Davies

5 mins

DVD Col

The floor of an old church-hall is swept, the tea-urn is steaming, the little electric heater takes the edge off the chill. When the music starts at their weekly tea dance, the couples are transformed as they glide through the dances of their youth.

Choreography by Terry John Bates.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Anaphase

Israel/Germany 1996 Dir Levi Zini

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Israeli modern dance company Batsheva in performance. With music by Aaron Copland and Arvo Part. Filmed at Tel-Ad Jerusalem Studios, associate production company ARTE. The Batsheva Dance Company was established in 1965 by Bethsabée de Rothschild, a close associate of Martha Graham, who became its first director.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Memories of Mirrors/Theatrical Personalities after Mary Wigman and Madame D'Ora

UK 2007-08 Dir Ursula Mayer

5 mins

16mm B&W + Col

A restaging of the gestures and performative poses found in the photographs taken by photography pioneer Madame D'Ora (Dora Kalmus) of expressive dancer and choreographer Mary Wigman and her dance company.

Archive source: LUX

Dance for the Camera - Arts Funded; Broadcast Commissions and Documentaries

The BBC's support for televised productions by Margaret Dale in the 1950s and 60s continued in the 1970s and 80s with documentary recordings by Bob Lockyer, Bill Bailey, Ross MacGibbon and others for the BBC. Excerpts from stage recordings were broadcast in arts programmes or items from the 1950s onwards; and original works for camera were funded by the Arts Council from the 1980s, broadcast on and often co-commissioned with the BBC and later C4.

Early arts programmes included First Performance/ 2nd House and Tonight in Town and later Dance on Four. The documentary series Dancemakers (BBC2 1986 - 92) focused on the work of contemporary choreographers and includes four programmes of work by choreographers from the London School of Contemporary dance; with studies of choreographers Maurice Béjart, Wim Vandekeybus, Merce Cunningham, Jonathan Burrows, Antony Tudor, Martha Graham, Lar Lubovitch, Siobhan Davies, Richard Alston, Tom Jobe and Robert North.

ITV's The South Bank Show also sponsored some newly commissioned pieces within its documentary programming, eg. The South Bank Show: The Dream is Over (1986); DV8 Physical Theatre (1990); and Sylvie Guillem (1993).

From 1983 Channel Four began their own dance series, Dance on Four, including new works for television, broadcast recordings and documentaries, with films on Margot Fonteyn (1984), Rudolf Nureyev (Nureyev Unzipped 1998), Ballet Rambert (1986), Anne-Teresa de Keersmaeker (Hoppla! 1989), Trisha Brown ('Newark' 1988), Mark Morris (1987), Pina Bausch (Café Müller 1987, Bluebeard 1985, 1980 1984), Alvin Ailey (1983), Twyla Tharp (1983), and the Kirov (1983), among others. They sponsored new works for television in the series Dance Lines, and other C4 series included Tights, Camera, Action and 4 Dance.

2nd House [16/11/74]: 2nd House (aka First Performance)

UK 1974

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The artistic directors of two of London's contemporary dance companies create new works for television. Cohan, of the London Contemporary Dance Theatre, explores the human body, after taking inspiration from a poem by William Blake. Chesworth, of the Ballet Rambert, uses noises from sporting events to explore the relationship between man and woman (fantasy and reality). Both ballet companies are shown working in their studios. This segment also includes rare footage of the "high priestess of modern dance" – Martha Graham.

Also includes extracts from Willy Russell's hit musical about The Beatles: John, Paul, George, Ringo ... and Bert, from London's Lyric Theatre.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ballet Rambert and Lindsay Kemp (Tonight in Town)

UK 1979 Prod Tom Gutteridge

43 mins

Inserts of Ballet Rambert (performing La Paloma); Rick Wakeman interviewed (two versions) and Dudley Moore playing Summertime on piano.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Troy Game: Ghost Dances: Dance on Four

UK 1983 Dir Jolyon Wimhurst

Ben Kingsley introduces this recording of the performance of Robert North's ballet Troy Game for the London Contemporary Dance Theatre and Christopher Bruce's Ghost Dances for the Ballet Rambert. Includes footage of the warm-up and rehearsal for Troy Game under the direction of Robert Cohan, and the ballet in performance.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance International: Nymphs [09/12/1983]

UK 1983 Dir Bob Lockyer

32 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Repeat tx. in 1997 in the Summer Dance slot.

Recording of the ballet inspired by the Water Lily paintings of Monet performed by the London Contemporary Dance Theatre Company to the music of Debussy.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The South Bank Show: The Dream is Over

UK 1986 Dir Daniel Wiles

51-52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Programme which features a ballet called The Dream is Over specially commissioned for TV about the life of John Lennon, choreographed by Christopher Bruce, later artistic director of the Ballet Rambert.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Points in Space

UK 1987 Dir Elliot Caplan and Merce Cunningham

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Merce Cunningham ballet, specially commissioned by BBC2 and shown on the eve of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company's first appearance at the Proms and a season at Sadler's Wells Theatre, London. Cunningham directs as well as being choreographer and dancer. Music by and on-screen participation from John Cage. Dance-film created by Cunningham with film-maker Elliot Caplan.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dancemakers (BBC2 Series 1986-1992)

Robert North [tx date: 29/6/1986]

UK 1986

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Choreographer Robert North, one of the first generation trained at the London School of Contemporary Dance talks about his career, and dances a lead role in *Death and the Maiden* with members of the Ballet Rambert, of which he was artistic director for 5 years.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tom Jobe [tx date: 06/7/1986]

UK 1986

44 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Tom Jobe talks about his career as a dancer and choreographer and performs in *Liquid Assets* and *Rite Elektrik* with members of the London Contemporary Dance Theatre.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Richard Alston [tx date: 13/7/1986]

UK 1986

44 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Richard Alston, newly appointed artistic director of the Ballet Rambert talks about his ideas, his career and his ballet *Wildlife*, performed by the Ballet Rambert.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Siobhan Davies [tx date: 20/7/1986]

UK 1986

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Siobhan Davies, choreographer at the London Contemporary Dance Theatre, talks about the origins of the work *Bridge the Distance* which is performed by members of the LCDT.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pulcinella [tx date: 22/10/1988]

UK 1988 Dir Bob Lockyer

44 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performance of Richard Alston's Pulcinella, to Stravinsky's score, by the Rambert Dance Company.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Touch the Earth [tx date 29/10/1988]

UK 1988 Dir Bob Lockyer

46 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performance of Touch the Earth by the Rosemary Butcher Dance Company, music by Michael Nyman. With dancers Helen Rowsell, Jonathan Burrows, Rosemary Butcher.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lar Lubovitch [tx date 15/11/1988]

UK 1988 Dir Bob Lockyer

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Lar Lubovitch Dance Company from New York perform Concerto Six Twenty Two to the Mozart Clarinet Concerto, and North Star to music by Philip Glass.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Chairs [tx date 12/11/1988]

UK 1988 Dir Jose Montes-Baquer

62 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Based on the play by Eugène Ionesco with music by Richard Wagner. On-screen participants include Eugène Ionesco and choreographer Maurice Béjart.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Points in Space

UK 1987 Dir Elliot Caplan and Merce Cunningham

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Merce Cunningham ballet, specially commissioned by BBC2 and shown on the eve of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company's first appearance at the Proms and a season at Sadler's Wells Theatre, London. Cunningham directs as well as being choreographer and dancer. Music by and on-screen participation from John Cage. Dance-film created by Cunningham with film-maker Elliot Caplan.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance Films for the Camera

Arts Council Dance-Film Commissions

The Arts Council's series of commissions between 1983 and 2003 for dance on film included the series: Dance on Four, Dance for the Camera (a collaboration with BBC2 1994 - 2001), Dancelines (with Channel Four 1991 - 5) and others. These include films

by British film-makers working with dancers (Bob Bentley, David Hinton, Ross MacGibbon, Deborah May, Margaret Williams), choreographers filming their own work (Darshan Singh Bhuller, Nigel Charnock, Miranda Pennell, Lloyd Newson/DV8, Mike Stubbs), and choreographer-film-maker partnerships (Jonathan Burrows with Adam Roberts, Rosemary Lee with Peter Anderson, Nicola Baldwin with Rosemary Butcher). Commissions also supported dance in film as part of artists' film and video (Alison Murray, Jayne Parker).

Dance on Four

Troy Game: Ghost Dances: Dance on Four

UK 1983 Dir Jolyon Wimbhurst

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Ben Kingsley introduces this recording of the performance of Robert North's ballet Troy Game for the London Contemporary Dance Theatre and Christopher Bruce's Ghost Dances for the Ballet Rambert. Includes footage of the warm-up and rehearsal for Troy Game under the direction of Robert Cohan, and the ballet in performance.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ballet Rambert (Dance on Four)

UK/DK 1986 Dir Thomas Grimm

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

65 mins

Programme of works performed by the Ballet Rambert; Lonely Town, Lonely Street by Robert North featuring a jazz music score by Bill Withers; and Intimate Pages by Christopher Bruce set to Janacek's Second string quartet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance on Four: Dance-lines [tx26/04/87]

UK 1987 Dir Terry Braun

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only)

First in the new season of Dance On Four. Director Terry Braun and designer, Peter Mumford, handed over a fully equipped TV studio to a group of Britain's leading choreographers, including Siobhan Davies and Ian Spink. The result is an experimental dance which exploits the versatility, fun and ingenuity of video.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance on Four: Ex-Romance [03/05/87]

US 1987 Dir Charles Atlas

DVD (Reference copy only)

Fantasy which mixes dance, fantasy, life and drama. It tells of arrivals and departures, romance and infidelity. Choreography Karole Armitage, with dancers Karole Armitage, Michael Clark.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance on Four: Freefall

UK 1988 Dir Bob Bentley

26 mins

Digibeta + DVD (BFI's DVD is a Reference copy only) Col

A dance piece by British choreographer and dancer Gaby Agis.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

Exit No Exit (Dance on Four)

UK 1988 Dir Julian Henriques

26 min

DVD (Reference copy only)

The London Contemporary Dance Theatre in a fantasy set on the London Underground.

Choreographer Darshan Singh Bhuller.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance on Four: The Judas Tree

UK 1998 Dir Ross MacGibbon

38 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A production of Sir Kenneth MacMillan's last ballet, performed by the Royal Ballet in March 1997, set to a score by Brian Elias. With dancers Irek Mukhamedov, Leanne Benjamin. The film won an International Emmy Award 1998.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Summer Dance: Harmonica Breakdown [tx 29/08/97]

(aka **Harmonica Breakdown, Speaking About the Dance**)

UK 1995 Dir Darshan Singh Bhuller and Ton Hurwitz

14 mins

DVD + Digibeta Col

American dancer and choreographer, Jane Dudley (1912 - 2001), explains the origin of her solo work, Harmonica Breakdown (1938) Part performance and part documentary. Features the dance Harmonica Breakdown choreographed and first performed as a solo stage piece by Jane Dudley in 1938. The dance, a statement of the hardship and courage of ordinary people, was inspired by the music of blues harmonica player, Sonny Terry and the black and white photographs of sharecroppers in the Deep South of America during the Depression taken by Dorothea Lange. In interview, Jane Dudley describes the origins of the work and provides an insight into the choreographic process. The dance is performed by Sheron Wray.

Archive Source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

Dancelines

Dance House 1-12 (Dancelines)

UK 1991 Dir Tim Albery, Emma Burge, David Hinton, Joanna Hogg, Ross MacGibbon, Anthony Minghella, Peter Mumford, Chris Nash

6 mins each

DVD Col

A series of twelve short dance films designed specifically for television.

Choreographers include Laurie Booth, Kim Brandstrup, Nick Burge, Carolyn Choa, Paul Clayden, Aletta Collins, Gary Lambert, Jonathan Lunn, Jacob Marley, Frank McConnel, Belinda Neave and Nahid Siddiqui and composers include Orlando Gough, John-Marc Gowans, Steven Kent, John Lunn, Steve Martland and John Thorne.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Dance House 1 (Dancelines)

David Hinton

UK 1991

6 mins

Choreographer Jacob Marley

One of a series of twelve short dance films designed specifically for television. A man in lies in bed with hip hop dancers around him.

Other films in the series include films by Tim Albery, Peter Mumford, Emma Burge, Joanna Hogg, Anthony Minghella, Ross MacGibbon, Chris Nash.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Dwell Time (Dancelines)

David Buckland

UK 1995

5 mins

DVD

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: “dwell time” is defined as the period during which a dynamic process remains halted in order that another process may occur.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Echo (Dancelines)

Ross MacGibbon

UK 1995

5 mins

DVD

Solos by four dancers

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Hands (Dancelines)

Adam Roberts

UK 1995

5 mins

DVD Col

The camera glides to a figure sitting quietly. The viewer can only see arms and hands, which begin a subtle dance of gestures, both intimate and abstract.

Choreography and performance by Jonathan Burrows.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Never Say Die (Dancelines)

Nigel Charnock

UK 1995

5 mins

DVD

Love leads to murder.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Dance for the Camera (1994-2001)

Greenman (Dance for the Camera)

UK 1996 Dir Peter Anderson

9 mins

DVD Col

Tattoo (see Miranda Pennell entries for more information)

UK 1999 Dir Graeme Millar and Miranda Pennell

DVD

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: a military band and other soldiers march in formation.

Series: Dance for the Camera 6

Archive source: Arts Council of England + LUX

Horizone

UK 2001 Dir. William MacGregor and Gillian Lacey

9 mins

DVD

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: an awkward alien desert creature finds and absorbs more fluid movement.

Series: Dance for the Camera 6

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Motion Control

UK 2001 Dir David Anderson

9 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television; with Liz Aggiss. An ageing dancer's physical and emotional entrapment, filmed with a Motion Control camera.

Series: Dance for the Camera 6

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Snow (Dance for the Camera: Body Of Water)

UK 2003 Dir David Hinton

8 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: actuality footage of skaters edited to build a sequence of rhythmic movements.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Contemporary Dance Film-Makers

While film-makers Bob Lockyer, Ross MacGibbon and Margaret Williams have often filmed ballet productions, film-makers working with contemporary dance include Peter Anderson, Nicola Baldwin, Bob Bentley, David Hinton, Miranda Pennell, Adam Roberts and Margaret Williams, among others.

Bob Bentley

Freefall

UK 1988 Dir Bob Bentley

26 mins

DVD Col

A dance piece by British choreographer and dancer Gaby Agis.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Beethoven in Love

UK 1993 Dir Bob Bentley

15 mins

DVD Col

An expressionist work which derives its inspiration from the composer's difficult relationships with woman and explores the nature of the outsider. Choreography by Liz Aggiss and Billy Cowie.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

To a Woman's Heart

UK 2000 Dir Bob Bentley

9 mins

DVD Col

A woman dines with a wealthy man whilst his personal chef and waiter lavish attention on her, but she has other plans. Fantasy and reality are explored over the dinner table.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Ross MacGibbon

Should Accidentally Fall

UK 1993 Dir Ross MacGibbon

14 mins

DVD Col

Dance piece set in the world of the Hollywood Western. Choreography by Yolande Snaith.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Echo (Dancelines)

UK 1995 Dir Ross MacGibbon

5 mins

DVD Col

Solos by four dancers. Dance inspired by Anish Kapoor's miniature music-box sculptures. The rhythms of the dancers' movements, the music and the film itself are designed to form a harmonious whole. Choreography by Mark Baldwin.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Swinger

UK 1996 Dir Ross MacGibbon

28 mins

DVD Col

A combination of dance and drama which tell a story about love and its dangers.

Inspired by French philosopher and semiotician Roland Barthes' *A Lover's*

Discourse (1979), the dialogue is a translation of the original text by the poet Craig Raine.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Margaret Williams

Outside In

UK 1994 Dir Margaret Williams

14 mins

DVD Col

Dance work exploring physicality, identity and movement, performed by Celeste Dandeker and other members of the CandoCo Dance Company. Choreography by Victoria Marks.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Cover-Up

UK 1995 Dir Margaret Williams

5 mins

DVD Col

Battling through an alphabet snowstorm and blizzard of words, to reach the land beyond language, Victoria Marks, performing her own choreography, sweeps the snow aside to make a place without words to find the dance and herself.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Men

UK 1997 Dir Margaret Williams

20 mins

DVD Col

An original dance film for television, conceived and filmed in the Canadian Rockies. It is performed by seven men, all in their 70s, who live there and have never performed before. Humour and the wonders of human character are at its heart.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Fountain

UK 2001 Dir Margaret Williams

9 mins

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: people beside a

public fountain.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Watermark

UK 2002 Dir Margaret Williams

23 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Contemporary dance film shot on location around The Hague, combining the talents of choreographer Jiri Kylian, performers NDT3 and film-maker Margaret Williams.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Nicola Baldwin

Falling Under

UK 1987 Dir Nicola Baldwin

15 mins

Video Col

A collaborative dance piece between Baldwin and choreographer Suzanne Watson. Using the music of John Surman, the piece is a lyrical improvisation by four dancers perfectly translated into video by a poetic use of super 8 and natural lighting.

Archive source: LUX

Of Shadows and Walls

UK 1992 Dir Nicola Baldwin and Rosemary Butcher

17 mins

Video

Not filmed dance, but choreographed film. A four dimensional collage, of gestures made now, set against historical fragments. This film is about the individual's relationship to the moment of history. About displacement, nostalgia, and the desire to return home, when home no longer exists.

Archive source: LUX

David Hinton

Long-term dance film-maker working with choreographers Wendy Houston, Lloyd Newson, Russell Maliphant and others.

Dead Dreams of Monochrome Men (The South Bank Show)

(aka DV8 Physical Theatre – Dead Dreams of Monochrome Men)

UK 1990 Dir David Hinton

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Full film version of DV8's Dead Dreams of Monochrome Men, devised and created collaboratively under the direction of Lloyd Newson, with performers Lloyd Newson, Nigel Charnock, Russell Maliphant, Douglas Wright. Film-maker Hinton works with Newson to create a powerful piece of dance choreography designed for television; a reference point in dance film-making

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance House 1 (Dancelines)

David Hinton

UK 1991

6 mins

Choreographer Jacob Marley

One of a series of twelve short dance films designed specifically for television. A man in lies in bed with hip hop dancers around him.

Other films in the series include films by Tim Albery, Peter Mumford, Emma Burge, Joanna Hogg, Anthony Minghella, Ross MacGibbon, Chris Nash.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Touched

UK 1994 Dir David Hinton

14 mins

DVD Col

Dance piece set in a bar in North London, focusing on the behaviour of people at a party. An exploration of the ways in which people touch each other. Choreography by Wendy Houston.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Critical Mass

UK 1999 Dir David Hinton

19 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

A dance duet for two men, conceived by choreographer Russell Maliphant and performed with Jordi Cortes Molina. Produced for Channel Four. Hinton's film makes use of tracking shots and all-encompassing lighting to showcase Maliphant's choreography as the two men pass through, and are momentarily contained within.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Birds

UK 2000 Dir David Hinton

9 mins

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: edited footage of birds creates rhythmic patterns of movement. Choreographic Consultant Yolande Snaith; Composer Adrian Johnston.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Snow (Dance for the Camera: Body of Water)

UK 2003 Dir David Hinton

8 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: actuality footage of skaters edited to build a sequence of rhythmic movements. Series: Dance for the Camera: Body of Water

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Peter Anderson

Film-maker collaborating with choreographer Rosemary Lee.

Boy (Dance for the Camera)

UK 1995 Dir Peter Anderson

5 mins

Digibeta + DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television, a boy playing in sand dunes moves with stealth and grace through a dramatic coastal landscape. He responds to this empty universe, manipulating it and conjuring up his own imaginary world. Choreography by Rosemary Lee.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

Greenman (Dance for the Camera)

UK 1996 Dir Peter Anderson

9 mins

DVD Col

In an attic room in an empty stone tower, a solitary man paces and listens. He is joined by a magical companion, a large desk, which begins to reveal its secrets. It is a gateway to another world, which begins to spill over into his. Choreography by Rosemary Lee.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

Adam Roberts

Film-maker who has an extensive relationship with the work of choreographer Jonathan Burrows.

Hands

UK 1995 Dir Adam Roberts

5 mins

DVD Col

The camera glides to a figure sitting quietly. The viewer can only see arms and hands, which begin a subtle dance of gestures, both intimate and abstract.

Choreography by Jonathan Burrows.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Mike Stubbs**The Sweatlodge**

UK 1991 Dir Mike Stubbs

7 mins

Video Col

Shot as a document of a performance by Man Act titled Sweatlodge, this work, shot on super-8, is an expressive account of male behaviour dramatically choreographed in swirling, fluid camerawork.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution + LUX

Pants Make Spam

UK 1992

20 mins

Video

In this intimate and lively work, Mike Stubbs shows us not only performance art as it appears in the Sweatlodge, but also the processes behind its creation. He interviews the performance troupe Pants, tapes rehearsals and almost becomes one of them. Stubbs and Pants comment on the making of the performance and the video as they both take shape, the latter with the addition of slow-motion Super-8 film of the performances which give a heightened sense of the work, quite removed from the down-to-earth atmosphere of rehearsals.

Archive source: LUX

The Lakes of Eyes

UK 1993 Dir Mike Stubbs

8 mins

Video Col + B&W

This interpretation of the Sanchari Dance Company's performance, The Lakes of the Eyes, was made for the camera. Mike Stubbs combines black and white with colour footage and wave-like effervescence with monumental stillness to elicit the unique quality of South Asian dance.

Archive source: LUX

Man Act

UK 1995 Dir Mike Stubbs

5 mins

DVD Col

Performed by real-life fathers and sons, an edgy look at male behaviour. The relationships are about power and control, the threat of violence handed on from one generation to the next. Choreography by Man Act.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Resistor

UK 2000 Dir Mike Stubbs

8 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television, with Maria Voortman and Roberto de Jonge. A man and a woman circle each other.

Series: Dance for the Camera

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Alison Murray

Bloody Mess

UK 1996 Dir Alison Murray

14 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: a shoot-out at a petrol station that explores our complex relationship with screen violence and raises questions about the violent imagery of many contemporary movies. Choreography by Alison Murray.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Horseplay

UK 1996 Dir Alison Murray

5 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: three young women become car thieves. Choreography by Alison Murray.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Miranda Pennell

Tattoo

UK 2001 Dir Miranda Pennell and Graeme Millar

9 mins

Video + DVD B&W

Breaking the tranquillity of a timeless natural landscape, a lost regiment of soldiers engages in a never-ending ritual. Tattoo reveals the senseless beauty of military drill, performed by the Light Division of the British Army. "Tattoo is a gem of military movement and body language, wittily filmed and edited" – Jill Sykes, Reeldance Festival at Sydney Opera House Studio 2002 "Filming on a wide open expanse of land and evincing a brilliant use of light and shadow, Pennell perfectly captures the severe conformity and geometric precision of the regiment." –Glenn Sumi, review of 'Moving Pictures Festival' Toronto 2002 Series: Dance for the Camera 6

Archive source: Arts Council of England + LUX

Human Radio

UK 2001 Dir Miranda Pennell

10 mins

Video + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Short dance film featuring ordinary people dancing in private moments of personal abandon. The film is the result of the director's work with respondents to a local advertisement seeking 'living-room dancers' - people who love to dance behind closed doors. "What I think I like most about Human Radio is the pacing of its filming and the intimate sympathy of its connection with the dancers.... Human Radio is the result of Pennell's work with the respondents to an advertisement seeking 'living-room dancers' – people who like to dance behind closed doors. She combines perfect telling details to show us just what we need to see to connect deeply with these people whose dancing is private. The shots are beautifully framed, taking advantage of the limited spaces of these people's homes. The camera angles emphasise the dance...These 'ordinary' people are filmed with a love and attention fit for Baryshnikov. Their dances become ours – as exuberant, halting, skilled, or wistful as they, and we, maybe." - Charlotte Shoemaker, San Francisco, Notes on Curating Innovative International Dance films "Dance on Camera Journal" 2003 Awarded 'Best International Short Film' at the 47th Cork Film Festival

Archive source: BFI National Archive + LUX

Magnetic North

UK 2003 Dir Miranda Pennell

9 mins

DVD Col

Adolescent rituals are played out in the wintry landscapes of Northern Finland. A teenage girl skates on a frozen lake, while a teenage boy poses with a guitar in his

room. Moving between the city and the wilderness, the film weaves a pattern of imagined 'calls and answerings' between its characters, across distances, through sound and movement. One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television, and funded by the Arts Council.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + LUX

Fisticuffs

UK 2004 Dir Miranda Pennell

11 mins

Video Col

A bloke walks into a pub... Six actors punch, kick and wrestle their way through the Wild West of an East London drinking establishment. A formal approach (to choreography, framing and editing) ensures that the viewer is made aware of the choreographed nature of the violence. This violence appears to have no consequences, the actors' bodies being as rubbery and invulnerable as those in the TV Westerns that inspired the film.

Archive source: LUX

You Made Me Love You

UK 2005 Miranda Pennell

3 mins

Video Col

Twenty-one dancers are held by your gaze. Losing contact can be traumatic.

Archive source: LUX

Dance Films For Camera A-Z

Adam and Eve

Sweden 1971

45 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Birgit Cullberg piece conceived especially for Swedish television. Niklas Ek and Mona Elgh move seamlessly from innocent playfulness to adult passion, a couple expelled from Eden but rejecting God as well.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Alistair Fish

UK 1994 Dir Tom Cairns

14 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: a young man takes a train to follow his girlfriend. Choreography by Aletta Collins.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Attitude

UK 1995 Dir Anne Parouty

5 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: two women find each other's company preferable to that of men. Choreography by RJC Dance Theatre.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Attraverso

Italy 1998 Dir Gino Sgreva

14 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Dance piece choreographed and performed by Enzo Procopio. In a place whose confines are indecipherable, between segmented spaces and inclined floors, individuals encounter each other in their search for a way out.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Aziliz

France 1999 Dir Thierry Salvert

5 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A short experimental dance film inspired by African puppetry and staged in an spectacular ballroom setting.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Baby Girl

UK 1996 Dir Louise Stevens

10 mins

Video

Baby Girl - a long-limbed, pouting Pierrot figure - goes dancing on the streets of Amsterdam, to the strains of an achingly beautiful song.

Archive source: LUX

La Balayeuse

Netherlands 1992 Dir Janneke Draisma

4 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The story of Bala, a dancing streetsweeper who lives under a bridge across the Seine in Paris.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Billy Boys

UK 1997 Dir Tony Keane

9 mins

DVD Col

A group of girls set off through the streets of Belfast for their Irish dancing classes. On the way, they encounter a group of Protestant boys who, in turn, are on their way to drumming rehearsals at the Orange Lodge for the 12th July parades. On the dance floor the two traditions can meet. Choreography by Dominic Graham.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Bound

UK 1994 Dir Kimi Takesue

15 mins

DVD Col

Dance and poetry combine in a dramatic narrative in which a young Chinese-British woman undertakes a symbolic journey of self-discovery.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Dice Life

UK 2004 Dir Nick Mead

23 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

A dance piece based on Luke Rhinehart's cult novel *The Dice Man* with music by Mick Jones (The Clash). A man lost in the 'crossroads' of his life is led on a philosophical journey by the Dice Man, experiencing a series of life-defining moments as dictated by the random throw of the dice.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dirge - Variation 3

UK 1989 Dir Don Tichenor

7 mins

Video

An unusual and highly original dance piece in which the camera itself is dancing. The motion, sound and editing are based on the concept of a dirge.

Archive source: LUX

Duets with Automobiles

UK 1993

See Modern & Contemporary Companies: Shobana Jeyasingh.

Dust

UK 1998 Dir Anthony Atanasio

9 mins

35mm + Video Col

A performance/dance piece tracing the journey of a stranded, long distance swimmer surrealistically battling the elements across a lunar-like environment. Hallucinatory visuals, uncomfortable motion and an atmosphere of intense foreboding are matched with a massive soundscape that seems to reverberate through the very heart of planet Dust.

Archive source: LUX

Enclosed

UK 2000 Dir Marijke Jonbloed

9 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: two young women are trapped on a mechanical bridge.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Exit

UK 1997 Dir Clara van Goole

9 mins

DVD Col

Five performers make separate journeys down the Greenwich Foot Tunnel, a pedestrian passageway running under the Thames, built in 1903, becoming increasingly absorbed in its brooding presence and the resonance of the structure. Choreography by Jamie Watton.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Exit No Exit

UK 1988 Dir Julian Henriques

26 mins

DVD Col

The London Contemporary Dance Theatre performs a fantasy set on the London Underground. A boy meets the girl of his dreams and their journey is followed against the background rhythms of the train and tunnel sounds. Choreography by Darshan Singh Bhuller.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

The Fall

UK 1990 Dir Darshan Singh Bhuller

10 mins

A dance piece devised for television, inspired by the story of British dancer Celeste Dandeker, whose career was abruptly ended by an accident, and who went on to found CandoCo Contemporary Dance Company of disabled and non-disabled dancers in 1991.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

The Fish and the Bicycle

UK 1984 Dir David Finch

23 mins

Video Col

The performance artist / dancer Francoise Sergy dances with her bicycle and acts out roles which relate to a well-known graffito 'a woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle'.

Archive source: LUX

Focci

UK 1974 Dir Jeanette Iljon

6 mins

Video

A woman dances and mimes, her stark white image moving across a red floor, reflected in a fractured wall of mirrors. As she performs, her mirror image gradually assumes an autonomous identity so that what was a central relationship of self to self has become one self to other. "It's an emotional shift made possible by the physical properties of the film."

Archive source: LUX

4 Solos For Four Women

UK 1980 Dir Amy Greenfield

28 mins

Video Col

Choreographer Amy Greenfield shifted her focus from live dance to film and saw the shift as a way to reveal the dancer's inner self rather than the external appearance stressed by dance training.

Archive source: LUX

Fragments 2

US 1991 Dir Katrina McPherson

4 mins

Video

An abstracted exploration of the movements of two female dancers. In a split-screen tableau, the pair grapple, almost as though in conflict. Combined with a soundtrack composed of amplifications of the dancers' own impacts on the floor, the overall effect is to make the viewer aware of the great efforts and physical strength which provide such a graceful spectacle.

Archive source: LUX

Freeze

UK 2003 Dir Lucy Baldwyn

8 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: a combination of real action combined with video images.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Heaven or Montreal (The Unfinished Video)

Canada 1993 Dir Dennis Day and Ian Middleton

5 mins

Video

Reflecting on the premature death of a young dancer and artist, Heaven or Montreal points to unfinished ideas, creating 'outlines' of lost energy and imagination. As a finale, it summons all its desperation, and asks for silence to speak, and stillness to dance. Ian Middleton, its co-author, died in 1993 of AIDS-related causes.

Archive source: LUX

Horizone

UK 2001 Dir Gillian Lacey

9 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: an awkward alien desert creature finds and absorbs more fluid movement. With William MacGregor.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

The Human Voice

UK 1999 Dir Tom Carins

40 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Dancer Aletta Collins collaborates with director Tom Carins to produce a dance piece based on Poulenc's opera The Human Voice.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

I Want You Not the Money

UK 2000 Dir Paula van der Oest

8 mins

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: a woman fantasises about a relationship with a man.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

The King's Breakfast

UK 1963 Dir Wendy Toye

28 mins

35mm Col

Dramatisation in dance and mime, of the A.A. Milne poem about a king who had no butter for the royal slice of bread. Director Wendy Toye was a former dancer who became one of Britain's leading female film directors of the mid-twentieth century.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Kontakion

UK 1973 Dir Anton Bowler

29 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A performance of Kontakion, depicting events in the life of Christ, danced by William Louthier, Robert North and the London Contemporary Dance theatre, with music conducted and played by Peter Maxwell Davies with The Fires of London.

Lapse

UK 2001 Dir Daniel O'Neill

4 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

A solo dance illustrating the kinetic qualities of basketball with time-lapse photography.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Life Cycle

US 1983 Dir Dana Salisbury

10 mins

Video

A recording of a performance based on the life cycle of the Sockeye Salmon.

Archive source: LUX

Lift

UK 2000 Dir Jane Thorburn

9 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: an identity crisis in a lift.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

The Linesman

UK 2000 Dir Brett Turnbull

9 mins

DVD Col

Set on the sidelines of an amateur football match where the linesman starts to echo the players' movements and becomes more and more involved in the game.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Lost Dances of Egon Schiele

UK 2001 Dir Kevin McKiernan

9 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: what a dance created by Austrian figurative painter Egon Schiele might have looked like.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Love Me Not

UK 2001 Dir Thomas Gray

10 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Two women while away their time in a huge living room where love and affection co-habit with jealousy and frustration.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

The Madness of the Dance

UK 2006 Dir Carol Morley

18 mins

35mm Col

Historic and contemporary examples of mass hysteria narrated by a fictional professor and expressed through different types of dance.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Men of Good Fortune

UK 2000 Dir Dick Hauser

9 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: two men fight but are eventually reconciled.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Minou

UK 2002 Dir Magali Charrier

6 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Dance film. The domestic life of a solitary young woman is explored through her romantic aspirations and quirky relationships with the objects in her flat. Featuring Marie-Louise Lloyd and Benjamin Lord.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Motion Control

UK 2001 Dir David Anderson

9 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: an ageing dancer's physical and emotional entrapment, filmed with a Motion Control camera. With Liz Aggiss.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Never Say Die

UK 1995 Dir Nigel Charnock

5 mins

DVD Col

A cautionary tale of passion, set behind the scenes at a ballet school. An unstable, ageing ballerina jealous of her beautiful young protégée, finally cracks, trailing havoc and mayhem behind her. Choreography by Nigel Charnock.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

No Waiting on an Angel

UK 2003 Dir Hans Beenhakker

7 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: the consequences of self-realisation.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

A Nymph of the Waves

US 1903

9 feet

16mm B&W

A woman wearing a hat appears to dance on the sea. This is believed to be Cathrina Bartho performing her Speedway dance, augmented here by double exposure.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pace

UK 1995 Dir Katrina McPherson

5 mins

DVD Col

A solo dancer moves, breathes, sweats, falls, stops, starts again. Her intense gaze draws the audience in with every turn of her head. Relentless speed is punctuated with moments of tension-filled calm. Choreography by Marisa Zanotti.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Pas de Deux de Deux

UK 2001 Dir Paul Bush

5 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

An interpretation on the White Swan pas de deux from Swan Lake for stop-motion camera and four dancers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Passover

UK 1995 Dir Jamil Dehlavi

29 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of films combining music and images: a flamenco drama, set in Spain during Passion week. Choreography by Paco Peña.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Plane-Song

UK 1994 Dir Deborah May

25 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of films combining music and images: everyday life in South Africa explored in music and dance. Choreography by Vincent Mantsoe
Archive source: Arts Council of England

Pointe Blank

UK 1999 Dir Rupert Edwards

23 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A choreographed variation of classic espionage thrillers is filtered through Mark Baldwin's unique dancing style, a fusion of modern and classical.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pull: A Sculptural Dance

UK 1997 Dir Jane Thorburn

9 mins

DVD Col

A slyly comic look at the obsession with the body beautiful in the final years of the twentieth century. Two ballet dancers, an Olympic gymnast, two sculptors and a model search for perfect health and fitness in a partly constructed, partly electronic environment. Choreography by Bruce McLean, David Proud, Ashley Page, Jane Thorburn and Mark Lucas.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Restoration

Australia 1999 Dir Cordelia Beresford

12 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Short film set in nineteenth century Australia about a maid and a photographer who have an affair. Performed as a dance.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

UK 1993 Dir Milfid Ellis

15 mins

DVD Col

Dance adaptation of the poem by Samuel Taylor Coleridge about guilt and redemption. Choreography by William Tuckett.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

R.I.P.

UK 2000 Dir Annick Vroom

9 mins

DVD Col

Short dance film about a group of siblings at the funeral of their parents who make a surprise discovery.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Sarah

Canada 1999 Dir Allen Kaeja and Mark Adam

6 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

A dance choreographed for the camera.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sense-8

UK 2001 Dir Katrina McPherson

10 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Eight dancers improvise in and out of physical contact. The camera colludes to create a visual and aural study that shifts the audience's perception through the layers of the dance.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sense of Gravity

UK 2003 Dir David Alexander Anderson

8 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: gravity and anti-gravity. With Itzic Galili.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Sensuelle Solitude

France 1995 Dir Nils Tavernier

8 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Dances performed by dancers from l'Opéra National de Paris.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Shelter

UK 2003 Dir Boris Paval Conen

9 mins

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: a man and woman shelter from the rain in a concrete bunker.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Shepherd's Calendar

UK 1996 Dir Milfid Ellis

9 mins

DVD Col

Set in the Shropshire countryside, the soloist, using movements derived from traditional dance patterns, enacts the human journey from cradle to grave. A real Morris dancing team provides a counterpoint, ushering in the seasons and showing the enduring power of ritual. Choreography by William Tuckett.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Snowball Effect

UK 1997 Dir Brett Turnbull

9 mins

A male performer hurtles forward through an obstacle-course of household furniture which stretches before him in an endless line. Along the way, he is interrupted by other performers who draw him into increasingly tangled relationships.

Choreography by Mark Murphy.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Storm

UK 1995 Dir Tom Cairns

5 mins

DVD Col

A woman runs through a Wagnerian storm and washes through the doors of a restaurant. Is she late for dinner or running for her life? The diners are oblivious, the waiters ominous; the doors crash open again... Choreography by Aletta Collins.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

T-Dance

UK 1995 Dir John Davies

5 mins

DVD Col

The floor of an old church-hall is swept, the tea-urn is steaming, the little electric heater takes the edge off the chill. When the music starts at their weekly tea dance, the couples are transformed as they glide through the dances of their youth.

Choreography by Terry John Bates.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Ten Men Dancing

UK 2003 Dir Gary Rowe

9 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

A dance collaboration which draws its inspiration from Tommy Cooper.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Terra Firma

UK 2002 Dir Nic Sandiland, Simon Aeppli

7 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Dance film. A security guard carries out a series of personal and secretive routines as the world around him begins to break down.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Thursday's Fictions

Australia 2006 Dir Richard James Allen

52 mins

35mm + DVD Col

Thursday puts all her possessions in a trunk when she discovers that she'll be reincarnated. Seven characters come into contact with the trunk and the film follows their adventures.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tides

US 1982 Dir Amy Greenfield

12 mins

16mm Col

A cinema-dance dealing with the theme and image of woman and ocean. A woman is first seen rolling into the heart of the wave, then moving with, against, under, into

the waves, until her whole body shouts with joy. The film was shot with a high speed camera, creating extreme slow motion two to twenty times slower than normal.

Archive source: LUX

To Be Born Through Our Own Hands

UK 1987 Dir Jane Prophet

7 mins

Video Col

A performance-based work in which the artist reuses elements of Tai-Chi and yoga exercises to enact, very simply and precisely, being reborn through her own hands.

Archive source: LUX

Tus Ojos Negros. Your Dark Eyes

UK 2000 Dir Wolke Kluppell

9 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: a woman remembers her past.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Two Men Walking

UK 2003

10 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: two men walking across the Wadden Sea become estranged.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Warstars

UK 2001 Dir Bruno Martelli

10 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

A dance sci-fi movie set on an alien planet populated with bizarre creatures in an amazing landscape.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Waterman

UK 2003 Dir Rein Hazewinkel

3 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: morning activities interrupted by a workman's mistake.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

What People Do

UK 1981 Dir Andrew Barr McKay

22 mins

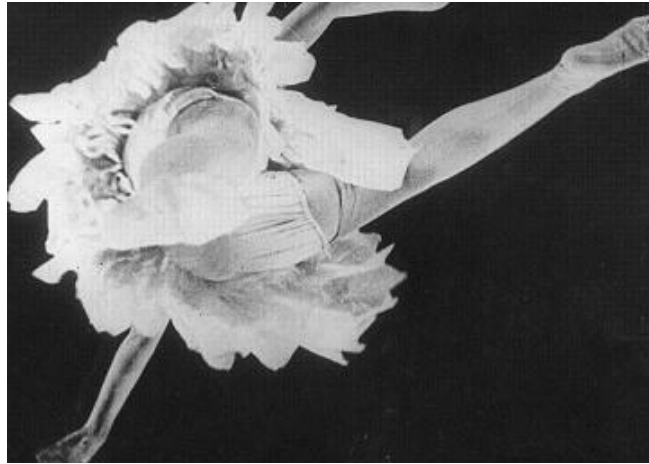
16mm B&W

A commentary upon the human tendency to deliberately create cycles of behaviour, and of alienating consequences of habit, using "gestural symbolism" and

choreographed figures in movement. The central character, a woman, has a series of accumulative reactions which range through curiosity, detachment, cynicism, mimicry, infatuation, anger, disbelief, and finally dementia.

Archive source: LUX

Avant-Garde Dance Films



Entr'acte (1924)

In early twentieth century Avant-Garde film, the exploration of abstract rhythms and movements was often linked to music and to dance, as in the films of Len Lye, Lotte Reiniger and Norman McLaren. McLaren's films transform the physical world of the dancer into the world of the film, with its own layers of time and movement. Maya Deren's films of the 1940s reflect an interest in choreography, dance movement and rhythm. Steve Dwoskin's films of the 1980s include dance subjects and movement in front of the camera, but are as much concerned with camera movement and point of vision, giving an insight into the film-maker's sense of the body and point of view.

Early twentieth century dance experimentation, and its social context, appears in documentary film-making in relation to developments in visual art, as in the documentaries *Vita Futurista*, *Blast*, *Europe After the Rain*, *Paris 2000s*, which locate early twentieth century dance concepts within broader art movements, while Leni Reifenstahl's 'documents' of the 1936 Olympics in Berlin and the political rallies of the late 1930s and wartime Germany also show how movement training can be used to suggest or to present specific ideals.

Entr'acte

France 1924 Dir René Clair

23 mins

35/16mm sil B&W

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Shown during the intermission of Picabia's Dadaist ballet *Relache*, *Entr'acte* is an encyclopaedia of cinema magic, a frivolous celebration of (slow and fast) motion, its cast a who's who of the Dada movement in Paris at that time, including artists Marcel Duchamp and Man Ray, and composer Erik Satie (the film was originally accompanied by an orchestral score by Satie.) The improbable adventures are merely an excuse to explore the limits of the medium: the camera is run forward and in

reverse, tipped side to side and upside down; the film is single-framed, undercranked and run at high speed; the visuals are superimposed and transformed through various matte frames; and the viewer is assaulted by the frantic pace of the edited image. Picabia himself appears at one point dancing above a glass screen or table top, or the lens. "A charming and challenging vision of Paris as a world of the imagination and the Dadaist intellectual conceit." – Lucy Fischer
Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Le Ballet Mécanique

France 1924 Dirs Fernand Léger, Dudley Murphy

10 mins

16mm + 35mm B&W, silent

Cubist film creating a kinetic ballet from the movements of mechanical objects and facets of the human form.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Vita Futurista. Italian Futurism 1909-44

Lutz Becker

UK 1987

52 min

Tango dancers on railway station; black and white footage of train wheels. Dancers and train pistons; train driver, train, railway lines, etc. VO shouts "A basta con tango e Parsifal! Down with tango and Parsifal!", and more from the 1914 Tango Manifesto. Exterior of the house in Milan where Filippo Tommaso Marinetti launched his Futurist manifestoes. Reconstruction of a "robotic ballet", L'Agonia della Macchina / Agony of the Machine, devised by Ivo Pannaggi in 1922. Credits, intercut with ballet.
Archive source: Arts Council of England

Blast

Series

Scotland 1975 Dir Murray Grigor

23 min

Video

The history of the British Vorticist movement, founded in 1914 and destroyed by the First World War about three years later.

Newsreel and other film from the period of the First World War. Trains, pistons, printing machinery ... Photograph of Edward Wadsworth, one of those "determined to pioneer an art more appropriate to an age of machines ... Six paintings showing the Vorticists' use of dance as "a harsh, mechanised, strident expression of the twentieth century industrialised world."

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Hokusai an Animated Sketchbook

Tony White

UK 1978

5 min

Animated sequences based on 60 images from the work of Japanese artist and print-maker, Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849).

A tribute to an "Old Man Mad About Drawing". Animated Hokusai prints including The Wave (one of Hokusai's views of Mount Fuji) and versions of some of Hokusai's drawings of insects, a frog, a caterpillar, a snail, cat, birds, etc. Commentary says he produced more than 30,000 drawings and designs. Commentary quotes Hokusai's

own words on his “mania for drawing” which began when he was only six years old. Drawings of archers, warriors with spears ... Man hopping. Drawings showing the facility with which Hokusai worked, using both hands and feet, painting on a grain of rice, painting a giant Buddhist patriarch on a courtyard floor, etc. Landscape drawings. Drawings representing the old Hokusai at work. Sketch of man dancing. Archive source: Arts Council of England

Lotte Reiniger (1899 - 1981)



Adventures of Prince Achmed (1926)

One of the century’s major animation artists, Reiniger pioneered a distinctive style of black and white silhouette animation in her interpretations of classical myths and fairy tales. She began working in her native Germany in the late 1910s, eventually moving to Britain in the 1930s, where she joined the famous GPO Film Unit.

The Adventures of Prince Achmed

Germany 1923 - 1926

65 mins

16mm + DVD (Col and B&W versions)

The first full-length animated film in the history of cinema is still outstanding in its ingenious and revolutionary use of the film medium. Walther Ruttmann and Bertold Bartosch were among the German cineastes who were collaborators in its making over a three-year period. The story is taken from The Arabian Nights, and tells of the love of a poor tailor for a beautiful princess and the battle between the white spirit of the magic lamp and the mythical and monstrous djinns and afreetes. The film retains the original silent titles and has a specially composed musical score. The colour washes have been recreated from the original descriptions of the hand-tinting done in the 1920s. The delicate tracery of the silhouette figures gives to each a specific character that enhances the plot; with subtle and shaded backgrounds.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Carmen

Germany 1933

10 mins

16mm B&W Silent

A silhouette film based on themes from Bizet’s opera Carmen. No dialogue.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Papageno

Germany 1935

16mm B&W 11 mins

Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute* supplies the music and the remarkable character, Papageno the bird catcher, for this enchanting fantasy, one of the most famous of Lotte Reiniger's films. Here, her feeling for musical timing comes through in the way the movements of the silhouettes coincide with the pace of Papageno's aria with glockenspiel accompaniment.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

The Tocher: A Film Ballet By Lotte Reiniger

UK 1938

A silhouette fairy tale film about a man who wins his true love with the help of the "wee folk". Produced for the GPO Film Unit, with Rossini themes arranged by Benjamin Britten.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lotte Reiniger Fairytale, The

1922-1961 Dir Lotte Reiniger

197 mins

DVD B&W tinted

Lotte Reiniger, together with her husband Carl Koch, created a series of fairy-tale films based on the Brothers Grimm, Wilhelm Hauff, Hans Christian Andersen and the stories from *One Thousand and One Nights*. Includes the following titles: *Cinderella* (1922); *The Death Feigning Chinaman* (1928); *The Golden Goose* (1944); *Aladdin and his Magic Lamp* (1954); *The Frog Prince* (1954); *The Gallant Little Tailor* (1954); *Sleeping Beauty* (1954); *Snow White and Rose Red* (1954); *Cinderella* (1954); *Puss in Boots* (1954); *The Magic Horse* (1954); *The Grasshopper and the Ant* (1954); *The Three Wishes* (1954); *Thumbelina* (1954); *The Caliph Stork* (1954); *Hansel and Gretel* (1954); *Jack and the Beanstalk* (1955); *The Little Chimney Sweep* (1956); and *The Frog Prince* (1961)

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI DVD

The Art Of Lotte Reiniger

UK 1970 Dir John Isaacs

12 mins

16mm Col B&W

A fascinating record of Lotte Reiniger at work in her studios in Friern Barnet, showing how she designs and cuts out the silhouette figures, manipulates them, movement by movement for the camera, and how she has developed the use of coloured gelatines for silhouette films in colour. An important glimpse of a great artist at work.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dancing Silhouettes – A Film About Lotte Reiniger

UK 1983

Interviewee Lotte Reiniger. Documentarary film based on a series of taped interviews with the artist Lotte Reiniger at her home in North London. She talks about her childhood fascination with films and her involvement with experimental film makers in post-World War I Berlin. She talks about her life and work in Germany, Britain (with Grierson) and Canada from 1919 to the present day. Shots of her cutting,

assembling and moving her cutout figures are accompanied by extracts of her films dating from 1926-1976.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Oskar Fischinger (1900-67)

Inspired by the first public screening of Walther Ruttmann's *Opus I* in 1921, Oskar Fischinger resigned his engineer's job and moved to Munich to become a full-time film-maker. He produced the remarkable series of black-and-white studies tightly synchronized to music. By 1932 Fischinger and his brother Hans (1909-44) had their own film studio, where Oskar pursued experiments with drawn synthetic sound and collaborated with Bela Gaspar on a three-color film process, GasparColor, which allowed him in 1933 to complete his first colour film *Kreise*. Fischinger's subsequent colour films *Muratti Marches On* and *Composition in Blue* gained so much critical and popular acclaim that Paramount offered him a contract, and in February 1936 he set sail for Hollywood never to return to Germany. Fischinger found it extremely difficult to work in studio situations, enduring episodes at Paramount (1936), MGM (1937), and Disney (1938-9). His frustration at not being able to produce independent film turned him to painting.

Pink Guards on Parade

Germany 1934 Dir Oskar Fischinger

c. 29 mins 1138 ft

35mm silent Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance of the Colours (Tanz Der Farben)

Dir Hans Fischinger

Germany 1938

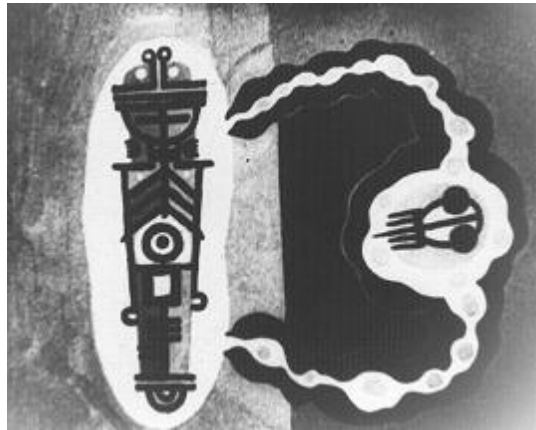
5 mins

16mm Col

Shot in GasparColor, the film is an interpretation of *Tanz der Stunden* from Ponchielli's *La Gioconda* and contains both elements familiar from the Fischinger brothers' various collaborations, and elements unique to Hans' work.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Len Lye (1901 - 80)



Tusalava (1929)

Highly influential New Zealand-born artist known primarily for his experimental films and kinetic sculpture.

Tusalava

New Zealand 1929 Dir Len Lye

9 mins

16mm, B&W, silent

Lye's first film, is a pioneering example of experimental animation. It is a unique combination of modern art and tribal art. After its first screening in 1929, art critic Roger Fry warmly praised *Tusalava* for its originality and strong feeling for motion. For two years between 1926-8, Lye completed more than 9,500 drawings for this nine-minute animated film. The techniques of animation attracted him because of the freedom they gave him to experiment with pattern and image. His interest was in finding new ways to 'carry' the kinetic feelings that could be discovered in the body, instead of merely imitating familiar forms of nature. He was, therefore, excited to discover tribal art, which he interpreted as the work of people very much in touch with their own bodies. Tribal dancing, which explicitly involves movement, influenced his choice of imagery. *Tusalava* remains a classic of "fine art" animation. Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

A Colour Box

UK 1935 Dir Len Lye

3 mins 30 secs

35 mm + 16mm Col

Abstract shapes 'dance' to the music of the Cuban Orchestra of Don Baretto.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Rainbow Dance

1936 Dir Len Lye

35mm Col

Abstract shapes and figures painted and stencilled directly onto the celluloid, and adapted with optical printing are used to advertise Post Office Savings, in a film structured around a jazz score.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Trade Tattoo

UK 1937 Dir Len Lye

35 mm + 16mm

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Swinging the Lambeth Walk

1940 Dir Len Lye

3 mins

35mm Col

Lye creates a swing version of Doing the Lambeth Walk with colour synchronisation, using re-edited newsreel footage.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Colour Cry

US 1952 Dir Len Lye

3 mins

16mm Col

Inspired by Man Ray's "shadowcast" experiments, Len Lye discovered a whole range of new applications for this process in Colour Cry and created the best and most elaborate "shadowcast" film ever made. For years he tracked down materials and experimented with new effects. The complex textures and shapes he creates reflect Lye's masterful sense of abstract movement. Its colour is very pure. The dramatic music interacts with the visuals to create a very powerful film.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Norman McLaren (1914 - 87)

Pas de Deux (1968)

Scottish-born Canadian animator and film director known for his work for the National Film Board of Canada (NFB).

Polychrome Fantasy

CA 1935

3 mins

16mm

Dancers and crystal formations combined on film.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hen Hop

Chapter 3: Dance

CA 1942

3 mins

16mm

Hand-drawn on film with pen and ink, with colour added optically, a hen and sometimes an egg dance to barn music. Used by travelling movie shows on the rural circuits of the Canadian National Film Board.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Two Bagatelles

CA 1953

2 mins

16mm

Two short Norman McLaren films in which animation is employed with live action. In the first, *On the Lawn*, a male dancer waltzes to synthetic music. In the second, *In the Backyard*, he is accompanied by an old-fashioned musical instrument, the air-organ calliope.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pas de Deux

CA 1968

13 mins

35mm B&W

Two leading dancers with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens dance a pas de deux against a black background, their bodies lit in luminous outline. Through multiple exposure and optical printing, their movements are relayed in rhythmic images of infinite grace and beauty, as the whole shape of the dance composition – the ‘Pas de Deux’ – is revealed in its development from solo movement to transcendent dialogue.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Ballet Adagio

Canada 1971 Dir Norman McLaren

10 mins

16mm Col

Originally devised as an instructional film for ballet, *Ballet Adagio* shows the classical steps of the pas de deux in slow motion, as if advised by the musical score to perform this passage more slowly (*Adagio*), and here four times more slowly than normal. The logic of this treatment of the pas de deux, itself a difficult balletic form, is borne out by the beauty of the dancers’ movement and its trace images, and by the phased, unfolding rhythm of the composition. The choreographer was Asaf Messerer and the dancers David and Anna Marie Holmes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Narcissus

Canada 1983 Dir Norman McLaren

22 mins

16mm Col

Balletic interpretation of the Greek myth of the beautiful youth who condemns himself to a trapped existence through excessive self-love.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Eye Hears, the Ear Sees

UK 1970 Dir Gavin Millar

58 mins

16mm

Gavin Millar interviews experimental film-maker and animator Norman McLaren and his National Film Board associate Grant Munro, in a tribute which shows many examples of McLaren's visual style and its development.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Creative Process: Norman McLaren

Donald McWilliams

Canada/UK 1990

116 mins

16mm

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Maya Deren (1917-61)



A Study in Choreography for the Camera (1945)

Born Eleanora Derenkowsky, Deren was an American avant-garde filmmaker and film theorist of the 1940s and 1950s, also a choreographer, dancer, poet, writer and photographer. Her film work in particular has remained highly influential. See also the Politics to Poetry chapter for *Meshes Of the Afternoon* and *At Land*.

A Study in Choreography for Camera

US 1945 Dir Maya Deren

3 mins

16mm B&W

In her third film, Deren collaborated with the dancer Talley Beatty to make what Deren called "film-dance – that is, a dance so related to camera and cutting that it cannot be 'performed' as a unit anywhere but in this particular film." A cinematographic dance which explores the creative possibilities of the camera, of space and of film time.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Ritual in Transfigured Time

US 1946 Dir Maya Deren

14mins

16mm

Ritual in Transfigured Time silently follows Rita Christiani's perspective as she enters an apartment to find Maya Deren immersed in the ritual of unwinding wool from a

loom. Deren includes another expression of the external invading the internal with a strange wind that surrounds and entrances her as she becomes transported by the ritual. The film's continuity is established by an emphasis on gesture and dance throughout, and links the looming ritual with the ritual of the social greeting. Photographed by Hella Hayman, with choreographic collaboration with Frank Westwood. "Ritual is about the nature and process of change." – Maya Deren. In this film Deren develops her dance movement/ gesture to its highest form. One individual begins a movement while another in another frame continues it and yet another completes it. Further movement is established through the camera. Time is achieved not in narrative or spatial terms, but is manipulated through purely cinematic means. It is a film that focuses on women and the woman's point of view and the ritual Deren chooses to explore is the universal one of courtship and marriage. With Maya Deren, Rita Christiani, Frank Westwood, Anaïs Nin and other friends.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution + LUX

A Study in Choreography for the Camera Outtakes

US 1945 Dir Maya Deren

16 mins

16mm B&W Silent

All of the rejected material from Maya Deren's simplest and purest film offers the student of cinema and those interested in Maya Deren a vivid lesson in how she constructed a film. When shown together with a completed film it provides a model for economy in editing. - Anthology Film Archives.

Archive source: LUX

A Meditation on Violence

US 1948 Dir Maya Deren

15 mins

16mm

A dance poem based on the traditional training movements of the Wu-tang and Shao-in schools of Chinese boxing. The philosophical principles of the Chinese martial arts and their grace and balletic quality clearly attracted Deren, who commented that an essential part of Wu-tang was that it "never extends movement to the extreme – but always rounds it about ... Chinese classical flute music and drums recorded in Haiti by Deren. Performance by Ch'ao-li chi.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

The Very Eye of Night

US 1958 Dir Maya Deren

15 mins

16mm

A shimmering constellation of stars establishes the background for images shot in negative of figures resembling Greek Gods superimposed on and magically transported along the milky way. Deren called it her 'ballet of night', an ethereal dance within a nocturnal space that focused on the spectacle rather than the narrative. Deren's last film was completed in 1959, two years before she died. The film was shot entirely in negative and set a high standard for following dance films.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution + LUX

Divine Horsemen: the Living Gods of Haiti

1947-1951 Dir Maya Deren

Archive source: LUX + BFI Distribution

Invocation: Maya Deren

UK 1987 Dir JoAnn Kaplan

54 mins

DVD Col

Profile of the American experimental film maker Maya Deren who completed six films between 1943 and 1955, and who had a seminal influence on the emerging film avant garde in America.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

Marie Menken (1909-70)

Marie Menkevicius was an American experimental film-maker and socialite.

Visual Variations Of Noguchi

US 1945 Dir Marie Menken

5 mins

16mm B&W

Made for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, in response to a request from the Merce Cunningham/John Cage partnership for a movie background to their ballet The Seasons, this film of Noguchi's abstract sculpture spins and floats as if made weightless by the buoyancy of the camera. Menken and her husband Willard Maas were prime movers, with Norman McLaren briefly involved, behind the Gryphon Group, a pioneering attempt at collective film production which was later superseded by the New York Film-maker's Co-operative.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Hurry! Hurry!

US 1957 Dir Marie Menken

3 min

16mm

Experimental soundtrack: continuous bombardment.

'A daring film ballet danced by human spermatozoa under powerful magnification ... a dance of death made from scientific footage, printed over murky fire.' - Cinema 16

Archive source: LUX

Stan Vanderbeek (1927-84)

Experimental film-maker who used projection in an expanded architectural environment, also working with John Cage and Merce Cunningham in interdisciplinary performances for studio audiences.

Electric Collage for Dance

US 1961 Dir Stan Vanderbeek

10 mins

16mm B&W

Film of a multi-media dance piece.

Archive source: LUX

Spherical Space

US 1967 Dir Stan Vanderbeek

4 mins

16mm Col

A dance filmed with Elaine Summers, in which the nude figure is placed against nature, in this case a particular and spherical sense of nature as produced by a special lens that takes in 195 degrees of sight.

Archive source: LUX

Film Form

US 1970 Dir Stan Vanderbeek

6 mins

16mm Col

A hypnotic dance film of colours, dancers, forms, music, all sweeping through the TV tube eye, mixed together into a flow of female bodies and colours, a brilliant study of colour printing from black and white.

Archive source: LUX

Marilyn Halford (1951 -) and William Raban (1948 -)

See also: titles in Performance Art chapter

Moving Studies in Black and White

UK 1979 Dir Marilyn Halford

25 mins

16mm B&W

Dancers: Miranda Tufnell, Dennis Greenwood, Martha Grogan, Maede Dupres.

The relation between the dancers and camera is the essence of the film - they give their attention, turn to it as focus, distanced from it by its opposition to them: static when they move, animated when they stand.

Archive source: LUX + Study Collection (Image collection): film still; (Paper materials): article, funding application.

Black and Silver

UK 1981 Dir Marilyn Raban (Marilyn Halford) and William Raban

75 mins

16mm + DVD (Reference copy only) Col/B&W

This beautifully shot experimental film is based on Oscar Wilde's story *The Birthday of the Infanta*, and mixes mime and dance.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution + BFI Special Collections: Film-makers' documents + Study Collection (Image collection): reference material, film strip still, film stills; (Paper materials): articles and reviews, book.

Sally Potter (1949 -)



The London Story (1986)

Potter joined the London Film-Makers' Co-op and started making experimental short films, including *Jerk* (1969) and *Play* (1970). She later trained as a dancer and choreographer at the London School of Contemporary Dance, making both film and dance pieces, including *Combines* (1972), before founding Limited Dance Company with Jacky Lansley. Potter became an award-winning performance artist and theatre director and was a member of several music bands working as a lyricist and singer. Her feature films include *Orlando* and *The Tango Lesson*.

The London Story

UK 1986 Dir Sally Potter

15 mins

35mm Col

Potter creates a wonderful absurdist musical story set against famous London backdrops. To the strains of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, a woman enlists the assistance of a bowler-hatted civil servant and a doorman to help Britain decide whether its political allegiances should lie with Europe or the United States.

"Miraculously outrageous ... One of a handful of films which successfully mine and deconstruct Hollywood's production values." – Walker Art Centre, Minneapolis.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution + Study Collection (Image collection): production stills

The Gold Diggers

UK 1983 Dir Sally Potter

86 mins

16mm + DVD B&W

Experimental feminist drama. A musical adventure about two women searching for information. One of the women works in a bank and is investigating the nature of money and gold and their relation to imperialism. The other woman is the daughter of a gold rush entertainer, chasing her own memories. Their quests increasingly converge. "A feminist sci-fi musical extravaganza... Remains consistently fresh and unpredictable." – Sight and Sound. Screenplay by Lindsay Cooper, Rose English, Sally Potter; Director of Photography Babette Mangolte; Art Director and Costumes Rose English; Music by Lindsay Cooper; Choreography by Sally Potter. With Julie Christie, Colette Lafont, Hilary Westlake, David Gale; tap dancer Jacky Lansley, dancers in dream Siobhan Davies, Juliet Fisher, Maedee Dupres, musicians in ballroom Lol Coxhill, David Holland, and other contributors.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution + BFI DVD

The Tango Lesson

UK/France/Argentina/Japan/Germany 1997 Dir Sally Potter

102 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W/Col

Whilst working on the script of a thriller, the film-maker takes time out to attend a dance recital in Paris given by the Argentinian dancer Pablo Verón. She asks him to give her tango lessons. Gradually her involvement with the music, the dance and her teacher deepens. She abandons her original film and starts to prepare a movie about the tango starring herself and Verón.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution + BFI DVD + Study Collection (Video Collection)

Sally Potter Study Collection materials include:

Video Collection: Play, The London Story, The Tango Lesson;

Image Collection: production stills from The London Story, Thriller, The Gold Diggers;

Paper materials: articles and reviews about and by the artist; programmes, cards/fliers; funding applications, letters/writings.

Mary Perillo and John Sanborn

Video Shuffle

US 1987

8 mins

Video

In Video Shuffle Charles Moulton's choreography becomes part of a fantastic landscape of floating pop icons and symbols.

Archive source: LUX

Cause and Effect

US 1988 Dir Mary Perillo and John Sanborn

14 mins

Video

A vivid hybrid of dance, performance and special effects featuring performers Robert Ashley and Julia Heyward, Cause and Effect was exhibited as a 35mm short at the New York Film Festival and the Venice Biennale.

Archive source: LUX

Joelle Bouvier and Regis Obadia

La Chambre (The Room)

France 1988 Dir Joelle Bouvier

9 mins

16mm B&W

A translation of the French stage performance of The Bedroom into a cinematic piece. In a room, a woman dreams about weariness, expectation and the rising of desire. This French choreography duo have perfectly translated their stage performance of The Bedroom into a cinematic piece, which reveals a sensitive understanding of film's aesthetic and formal qualities. In beautiful, slow-motion, black and white it creates a haunting atmosphere of passion and violence. Women

in a room are pinned to a wall, making sharp and relentless movements, almost desperate and breathless. As rain transforms the room, the bodies descend to the ground, exhausted and abandoned in mud.

Archive source: LUX

L'etreinte (The Embrace)

France 1988 Dir Joelle Bouvier and Regis Obadia

4 mins

16mm B&W

Falling into a dream, a man and woman lie clasped in each other's arms on a sofa.

Archive source: LUX

La Lampe

France 1990 Dir Joelle Bouvier and Regis Obadia

8 mins 30 secs

35mm B&W

A shaft of light traps a body, piercing its nakedness. In a flash, a gossamer gap appears through which one enters a dream. The choreographers star as a man and a woman locked in a dance of voyeurism and sensuality, whirling in an endless embrace.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

La Noce (The Wedding)

France 1991 Dir Joelle Bouvier and Regis Obadia

8 mins 30 secs

35mm Col

"The ecstasy of vertigo lays my body down in the ashes of my silent wedding." A powerful dissection of the institution of marriage. Brides in dishevelled gowns tussle with their grooms, while flames lick at the edges of the banquet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Jayne Parker (1957 -)

Parker's work as an artist is above all about felt experience. For more than two decades she has made films that give poetic form to intense inner feelings, which by their very nature defy representation. The language of her poetics is necessarily uncompromising, rigorous and precise in its formal self-examination, and sometimes disturbing in its use of imagery.

The Whirlpool

UK 1997 Dir Jayne Parker

8 mins

16mm Video Col

The Whirlpool is a short choreographed underwater dance spectacle. Accompanied by the pianist Katharina Wolpe, playing music by Schumann, the underwater performer Deborah Figueiredo puts on a pair of red ballet shoes and walks en pointe across the pool floor. Captivated by the magic of this underwater world she begins to dance, unaware of the danger that lies ahead.

Archive source: LUX + BFI DVD

Reunion

UK 1997 Dir Jayne Parker

9 mins

DVD Col

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television. The story of the shifting power within a relationship, chronicling the reunion between a woman and her former lover. Choreography by Ian Spink.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Reprise

UK 2001 Dir Jayne Parker

7 mins

16mm + Video Col

Lynn Seymour dances to the piano version of Ravel's Pavane pour une infante défunte, composed in 1899, which recalls the Spanish custom of solemn ceremonial dance at times of mourning. Her dance is one of desolation, a sadness expressed and then reconciled, as if evoked by the room itself.

Archive source: LUX

World Turned Upside Down

UK 2001 Dir Jayne Parker

9 mins

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television: men and women performing on their heads or hands, though their dogs stay the right way up. Series: Dance for the Camera 6

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Jane Parker

UK 1980 – 2005 Dir Jayne Parker

DVD Col + BW

A compilation of artists films 1980-2005, including Free Show, I Cat, RX Recipe, I Dish, Snig, Almost Out, En Route, The Cat and the Woman, K, The Pool, Cold Jazz, Crystal Aquarium, The Reunion, The Whirlpool, Thinking Twice, Strong Women, FoxFire Eins, Reprise, The World Upside Down, Stationary Music, Catalogue of Birds: Book 3. Includes a 28 minute documentary (The Frame) where Jayne Parker talks about her work.

Archive Source: BFI DVD

Tanya Syed

Delilah

UK 1995 Dir Tanya Syed

12 mins

16mm B&W

Through choreographed and improvised movements, this film is a 'meditation on violence': the fear of invasion, and an exploration into lesbian expressions of power and desire. Fear of invasion (of love) of the body/home is a point of reference for our understanding of strength and vulnerability. There is difference with regards to the demarcation of what is inside and what is outside. As the film progresses through ritualised gestures so control shifts, and relations evolve from one to another.

Archive source: LUX

Folk Dance

An A-Z selection of folk, traditional and indigenous dance films.

African Dance Company

UK 1961 Dir Mark Stuart

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

The African Dance Company from Senegal presents Rhythms of Africa.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Ahi Ataahua

New Zealand 1998 Dir Waka Attewell

6 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A short Maori dance film.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bharata Natyam

India 1954 Dir Jagat Murari

10 mins

35mm B&W

An explanation and the significance of the Bharata Natyam, India's great dedicational dance based on ancient dance scriptures.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Brazil Tropical

UK 1976

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Stage show of music, rhythm and dancers from Brazil, recorded at the Sadler's Wells Theatre.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Capoeira Quickstep

UK 1992 Dir Gillian Lacey and Roberto Mader

26 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Capoeira is a Brazilian dance performed to African-based music. The film is a part documentary, part docu-drama about the way this tropical dance is transformed when it reaches Britain.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Chinese Dancers

China 1974 Dir Marc Maurette, Victoria Mercanton

15 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Artists of Peking Opera and People's Theatre of Liaoning perform three pieces: Red

Ribbon Dance, Chasing of Butterflies and Picking Tea, Battle for the Fortress Yen Tan Chang.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Coolbaroo Club

Australia 1995 Dir Roger Scholes

55 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The story of Australia's most successful Aboriginal dance club that spanned the 1940s to the 1960s in Perth.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Dancers of the Ring

UK 1929

185 feet

35mm B&W, silent

The woman of the Sara Djinge in southern Chad in Africa demonstrate traditional dances to homemade musical instruments.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dancing Thru

UK 1946 Dir Victor M. Gover

35 mins

35mm B&W.

A comparison is made between various forms of dancing, including the Palais Glide at Hammersmith Palais, clog-dancing, ballroom dancing, the rhumba and a jiving competition. The latter is compared with traditional Zulu dancing.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Emerald Shoes

UK 2000

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The history and growth of traditional Irish dance.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Here's a Health to the Barley Mow: A Century of Folk Customs and Ancient Rural Games

UK c.1910s – c.1980s Dir Various

DVD B&W + Col (released mid-July 2011)

c. 360 mins

This collection draws on films collected over many years by the British national and regional film archives. It features a rich, idiosyncratic and wide ranging collection of films from the 1910s to the 1980s that document, celebrate and reflect on the folk customs, songs and dances of Great Britain, from a 'sexy, savage Spring-time rite' performed in Cornwall on Mayday to the highly anarchic and often violent folk football games played in Leicester, Ashborne and Kirkwall – not forgetting the Mummers plays of Derbyshire, Dorset and Dartmoor; the dangerous cheese chases down the exceedingly steep hill in Brockworth, Gloucestershire, and the Step-Dances of the Life Boatmen from Cromer. Films featured include Oss Oss Wee Oss (Alan Lomax, 1954), One Potato Two Potato (Leslie Daiken, 1957) and Here's a Health to the Barley

Mow (Peter Kennedy, 1955).

Archive source: BFI DVD

Highland Reel

UK 1899

43 feet

35mm B&W, silent

This dance (the reel of Tulloch) was executed at Balmoral by the pick of Scotland's dancers before Her Majesty the Queen and Ladies and Gentlemen of Her Majesty's household who are depicted in the background.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Kathakali

India 1944

9 mins

16mm B&W

Gestures and pantomime of Kathakali, the dance drama of Malabar, one of the schools of classical Indian dancing, including scenes from Mahabharata.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Kiddies' Cake Walk

UK 1903 Dir R.W. Paul

60 feet

35mm + DVD B&W, silent

A little boy and girl dance the cake walk on stage

Archive source: BFI National Archive/BFI DVD Publishing (R.W.Paul: The Collected Films 1895-1908)

Koiari Dance

UK 1904

52 feet

35mm B&W, silent

Record of a drumming dance performed by men of the Koiari tribe, Papua. Believed to have been filmed at the "durbar" of the Central Division tribes organised by Captain Francis Rickman Barton at Port Moresby in 1904.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Koita Bamboo Dance, Maginogo

UK 1904

298 feet

35mm B&W, silent

Various dances performed by Koita tribespeople of Papua from Hodohoi village, almost certainly filmed at the "durbar" of the Central Division tribes, organised by Capt. Francis Rickman Barton at Port Moresby in 1904.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Koita Dance

UK 1904

46 feet

35mm B&W, silent

Dance performed by men and women of the Koita tribe, Papua. In the background a

boy tries to shin up a greasy pole. Almost certainly filmed at the "durbar" of the Central Division tribes organised by Capt. Francis Rickman Barton at Port Moresby in 1904.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Kotia Dance, Eluhasi

UK 1904

69 feet

35mm B&W, silent

Record of a dance performed by men and women of the Koita tribe from Eholasi village, Papua. Almost certainly filmed at the "durbar" of the Central Division tribes organised by Capt. Francis Rickman Barton at Port Moresby in 1904.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Koita Dances

UK 1904

54 feet

35mm B&W, silent

Men and women of the Koita tribe, Papua, perform a drumming dance. The dancers are possibly from the villages of Pari, Akorogo and Kila Kila. Almost certainly filmed at the "durbar" of the Central Division tribes organised by Capt. Francis Rickman Barton at Port Moresby in 1904.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lakwaharu Dance, Tupuselei Village

UK 1904

73 feet

35mm B&W, silent

Lakwaharu men and women from Tupuselei village, Papua, perform a dance. Almost certainly filmed at the "durbar" of the Central Division tribes organised by Capt. Francis Rickman Barton at Port Moresby in 1904.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Siva Danced

UK 1948 Dir Sarah Erulkar

21 mins

16mm + 35mm B&W

An introduction to Indian classical dancing. The film outlines the importance of dance in India, where it combines religion, philosophy and folklore, with movements governed by precise rules. The four great classical schools of Indian dancing are looked at, while Ram Gopal shows in his own Dance of the Setting Sun, how new dances based on classical traditions are being created.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Maginogo Dancing

UK 1904

45 feet

35mm B&W, silent

Record of maginogo dancing by men and women of the Koita tribe. Believed to have been filmed at the 'durbar' of the Central Division tribes organised by Captain Francis Rickman Barton at Port Moresby in 1904.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Motu Dances in Hanuabada Village

UK 1904

4 mins

35mm B&W, silent

A large number of male and female tribespeople from Motu and Koita tribes in Papua perform a Motu dance at Hanuabada. Almost certainly filmed at the "durbar" of the Central Division tribes organised by Capt. Francis Rickman Barton in 1904 at Port Moresby, Papua.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Native Dancing - New Zealand

UK c. 1920

376 feet

35mm B&W

Ten Maori women in traditional dress perform a dance in front of a grass hut, swinging pom-poms. Bare-chested Maori men, wearing traditional skirts, then perform a war dance and a fighting routine with staves.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Oss Oss Wee Oss

UK 1953 Dir Alan Lomax

12 mins

16mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W + Col

The May Day ritual of the hobby horse "Oss Oss Wee Oss" in Padstow, Cornwall.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Over Here

UK 1980 Dir Carlo Gébler

50 mins

DVD Col

A celebration of Irish culture, particularly music and dance, as it exists in England. These include a ceilidh in Newcastle, an Irish music class in Luton, a marathon Feis (step dancing) competition in Brent, an interview with traditional fiddle player Lucy Farr, a set by Wexford mummers, and a recording session by traditional musicians Brian Rooney and John Carty.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Passage of Life

UK 1987 Dir Laurens C. Postma

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary which portrays the cycle of life through the medium of Indian dance.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Pickaninnies

US 1894 Edison

40 feet

35mm B&W, silent

Edison Kinetoscope loop featuring three black men, one of whom plays a mouth

organ, clap their hands, dance and tumble.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Port Moresby: Dance of Men of the Armed Native Constabulary from the Mamare District

UK 1904

107 feet

35mm B&W, silent

Four groups of two men dance backwards and forwards from each other and then dance in a circle. They carry long thin drums which they beat with a stick. Dancers then squat and proceed to bounce up and down on their haunches. This was almost certainly filmed at the "durbar" of the Central Division tribes of Papua New Guinea organised by Capt. Francis Rickman Barton at Port Moresby in 1904.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Red Army Dances

USSR 1936

4 mins

35mm B&W

A selection of popular Russian dances under the direction of I. Moyseef, accompanied by a tambourine and balalaika players. All dancers are men and are dressed in soldier's uniforms.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Revival in Classical Dancing

UK 1928

184 feet

35mm B&W, silent

From the British Screen Tatler newsreel, a performance of The Dance of the Dee and the Maidens of the Sea, shot on location at the river Dee. Note that the dancing is not 'classical' in the ballet sense: it seems to owe more to the ancient Greeks.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rio Watford

UK 1998 Dir Mufadzi Nkomo

9 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about housewives in Watford who have taken up salsa dancing.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Riverdance: A Journey

UK 1997 Dir Ciarán Tanham

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The story of the Irish dance troupe as it moved from the Eurovision Song Contest to a successful stage dance show. The programme talks to the producers, choreographers and cast and celebrity fans including Liam Neeson, John Hurt and Gabriel Byrne.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ropa Dance by Koita

UK 1904

33 feet

35mm B&W, silent

Record of what is probably a Ropa dance by Koita from the village of Kido, almost certainly made at the "durbar" of the Central Division tribes, organised by Capt. Francis Rickman Barton in 1904 at Port Moresby, Papua. The dance, which is filmed in medium shot on an open lawn, with sea and peninsula in background, is performed by men and women, with drummers, and several native onlookers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Royal Earsdon Sword and High Spen Short Sword

UK 1928

311 feet

16mm B&W, silent

Two traditional sword dances.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rumanian Folk Dances

UK 1939

34 mins

16mm B&W

A record of the Calusari dancers of Romania performing at village festivals. The film also includes scenes of peasant and city life.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Salsa!

UK 1998 Dir Madeleine Hall

23 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

First of a two-part special looking at Salsa dancing and its popularity, and following five dance partners in the run-up to the Salsa Dance Championship finals.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sam Sherry - Stepdancer

UK 1980 Dir John Tchalenko

16 mins

The life and career of British step- and clog-dancer, Sam Sherry, including performances of a traditional jig, the music-hall song I Want To Be a Sausage, and a routine by The Five Sherry Brothers

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Scotch Hop

US 1959 Dir Christopher Maclaine

A cine-poem documenting an authentic highland gathering in the town of Petaluma, California. The pastimes include speed walking, tossing the caber, traditional dances, bagpipe and drum troops. Using unlikely camera angles and tight, rhythmic cutting, Maclaine performs an impromptu dance with the camera, cut to the tuneful droning of the pipes and drums.

Archive source: LUX

Singsing Tambuan

Papua New Guinea 1995 Dir Marsha Berman

170 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

The story of the mask dance of Birap, a village located in the Madang Province of Papua New Guinea.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Steel'n'Skin

UK 1979 Dir Steve Shaw

The community-level work of Steel'n'Skin, a music and dance group of African, West Indian and British participants, which their founder Peter Blackman believes can contribute to good inter-racial relations.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Stratford 1929

UK c. 1929

430 feet

35mm B&W, silent

Performance by the Bampton Morris Dancers at Stratford on Avon, accompanied by Warwickshire fiddler Sam Bennett.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Thousand Borrowed Eyes

UK 1994 Dir Shakila Maan

15 mins

Kathak exponent Nahid Siddiqui offers her personal analysis of the origins of this dance form, which embodies both Hindu and Muslim culture and is one of their most intense forms of expression.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

A Troupe of Russian Dancers

UK 1903 Charles Urban Trading Company

65 feet

35mm B&W, silent

Two male Cossack dancers, with a female partner, perform on a theatre stage

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Vale: Danced by the Villagers of the Hood Peninsula

UK 1904

51 feet

35mm B&W, silent

Record of a dance by the natives of Papua, believed to have been filmed at the "durbar" of the Central Division tribes organised by Captain Francis Rickman Barton at Port Moresby in 1904.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Waima Dance, Kovea

UK 1904

21 feet

35mm B&W, silent

Native women dancers in two lines of four each. They dance back and forth from each other trailing sticks on the ground. Believed to have been filmed at the "durbar"

of the Central Division tribes organised by Captain Francis Rickman Barton at Port Moresby in 1904.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Popular Dance and Entertainment



Josephine Baker

A focus on two performers followed by a chronological selection, this section surveys the BFI National Archive's early film collections as well as television titles to highlight material on popular entertainers and dancers from the early twentieth century, such as Loie Fuller and Josephine Baker, and their contexts in cabaret. Emerging popular twentieth century dance styles and their social context are reflected in a small selection from a wide range of documentary feature films and television documentaries.

Loie Fuller (1862-1928)

American actress and dancer of the 1890s who choreographed her own shows for vaudeville using improvisation and free dance. She moved to France in the 1890s and her Serpentine Dance was filmed by the Lumiere Brothers, also performing regularly at the Folies Bergere.

Loie Fuller - Fire Dance

FR 1900

30 secs

35mm Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A woman is dancing on a bare stage, a 'serpentine' dance using her robe to create movements. She goes off-stage right and returns, blowing kisses to the audience and bowing. She goes off-stage again. The empty stage. She returns and begins to bow again (35ft).

Loie Fuller

FR 1905

90 secs

35mm Col

A stage set shows trees, a pillared building and a low terrace wall. A bat appears and swoops up and down, landing on the wall. A woman appears from the bat and jumps down. She performs a 'serpentine dance' using her robe, which changes colour as she moves it about her. She slowly disappears. Her body can be very faintly seen against the background of the stage set for a few seconds. Note: According to Terry Ramsaye in *A Million and One Nights* Vol. 1 p. 253, Loie Fuller never appeared on film - the dances were performed by her sister (not named).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Josephine Baker (1906-75)

American dancer who moved to France and was one of the most popular entertainers in Paris in the 1920s and 30s. Decorated by the French Government for her activities both as an entertainer and as an ambulance driver during World War II and for her work among refugees at the end of the war.

Revue des Revues (aka Paris on Parade)

FR 1927 Dir Alex Nalpas

35mm B&W/Col

Drama including actuality footage of Paris nightlife and colour sequences from the revues of the Folies Bergere, Moulin Rouge and Palace Theatres. Reel 2 (col, 10 mins, silent) features Josephine Baker

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Royal Variety Performance

UK 1974

140 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

BBC coverage of Royal Variety show with on-screen participants Josephine Baker, Perry Como, Dance Theatre of Harlem and others.

Les Grands Moments du Music-Hall (In Performance)

UK 1978

62 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

BBC TV programme from 'L'Olympia' music hall in Paris, with performances of French 'chansons' by some of France's most talented 'Chansonniers'. Uses archive film of Josephine Baker, Mireille Mathieu, Zizi Jeanmaire, Edith Piaf and others.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Chasing a Rainbow : The Life Of Josephine Baker (aka Josephine Baker)

UK 1986 Dir Christopher Ralling

79 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

C4 Documentary about the celebrated French singer and her career at the Folies Bergere in Paris and her work for the Resistance in France during the Second World War. Based on rare archive film and stills, it tells the story of the woman who was

married four times, one of the first nude dancers at the Folies Bergere, campaigner for civil rights and mother to 12 adopted children.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Josephine Baker Story (aka Black Venus; Josephine Baker)

US/UK/Canada 1991 Dir Brian Gibson

135 mins

DVD Col

A musical biography. Born in East St. Louis in 1906, Josephine Baker escapes a life of danger and poverty to become a dancer in Europe. Her exotic and daring dance routines make her the toast of Paris. With Lynn Whitfield, Ruben Blades, David Dukes. Originally intended as a Turner Network production to star Diana Ross and to be directed by Richard Attenborough.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Clive James – Fame in the 20th Century: Part 2

UK 1993

49 mins

Video

1927-1933: the people who emerged from all walks of life to become international figures, including Fred Astaire, Noël Coward, Coco Chanel, Louis Armstrong, the Marx Brothers, Mae West, Mahatma Gandhi, Pablo Picasso, George Gershwin and Charles Lindbergh. With archive footage of Josephine Baker, Charles Chaplin, Sigmund Freud, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Charles A Lindberg.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Around the World in 80 Minutes (Century in Song)

UK 1999

79 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

BBC documentary which uses newly restored archive film and unique musical performances from around the world to capture the spirit of the twentieth century. Featuring performances from a range of artists, including Frank Sinatra, Shirley Temple, Judy Garland, The Rolling Stones, Joan Baez, the Japanese Factory Workers Ensemble, the Red Army Choir singing Those Were The Days, and Josephine Baker dancing to Chick, Chick, Chick, Chick, Chicken.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Miscellaneous Dance Titles (Chronological order)

Fatima's Danse Du Ventre 1893

In: Early Edison Shorts (1894-1903)

Archive source: BFI National Archive

New Dance Introduced to London

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Brewster Troupe of High Kickers and Dancers

UK 1902

68 feet

35mm B&W, silent

A team of eight female dancers perform a series of 'can-can' dances on a theatre stage.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Valse Excentrique

France 1903 Pathé Frères

119 feet

35mm silent Col

Parisian dancers Boldoni and Solinski, a man and a woman, perform an acrobatic dance in two parts. The man in a suit and the woman in a yellow dress perform a dance in which the woman passes several times over the man's head. (Danced by the Bodoni-Solinski.)

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Last But Not Least

UK c. 1924

293 feet

35mm B&W, silent

Slow motion ballet, Percy Athos presents Frivolities of 1924 at the New Princes restaurant, Piccadilly. The Two Martells perform The Toy Soldier and the Empire Girls perform the Scarf Dance.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Night at the Regent Dance Hall, Brighton

UK 1924 Pathé Frères

709 feet

35mm B&W, silent

Dancers are showered with balloons prior to taking part in a fox-trot competition. There is also a march-past of women impersonating Mary Pickford.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Daly Girls

UK 1926

67/176 feet

16 + 35mm B&W, silent

Pantomime dances performed by the Daly Girls.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mistinguett as the Bird of Paradise

France c. 1926

56 feet

Stencil 35mm Col, silent

Mistinguett, dressed in an elaborate feathered costume, performs a high-kicking dance backed by eight fan dancers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dancers of the 1920s

UK 1927 Dir Harry B. Parkinson

665 feet

35mm B&W, silent

Cinemagazine item featuring various star dancers: Laddie Cliff, Phyllis Monkman, Leslie Sarony, Billie Hill, Bobbie Howes, Billy Mayerl, Luise Blackburn, Dorothy Ellis, Billie Sloan, the Gertrude Hoffman Girls. All dances, except Luise Blackburn's, are fast two-steps.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Chorus Girls at Exhibition

UK c. 1928

117 feet

35mm B&W, silent

Twenty chorus girls, in white costumes and feather head-dresses, perform assorted dances.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Victoria Girls

UK c. 1929

8 mins

35mm B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

A night club band strikes up, and the Victoria Girls enter to perform a high-kicking dance routine.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Silken Suppleness

UK 1930

2 mins

35mm B&W

Dance movements by Marika Rokk, the Budapest dancing star, filmed at the London Coliseum. Some movements are gymnastic, and one is shot in slow motion.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Balletomines (from Mining Review 7th Year No 12)

UK 1954 Dir John Reid

3 mins

35mm + 16mm + Digibeta + on BFI DVD (Portrait of a Miner: National Coal Board Collection vol 1) B&W

Mining Review often cast an eye on what miners got up to in their spare time, and this delightful item shows a troupe of burly Yorkshiremen donning tutus and performing a scene from Delibes' ballet 'Coppélia'. We see them rehearsing under the tutelage of 18-year-old producer Averil Panton, and then excerpts from the final performance at Normanton Central Town Club in front of the miners' colleagues.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI DVD

Momma Don't Allow

UK 1956 Dir Karel Reisz & Lindsay Anderson

22 mins

35mm B&W

Momma Don't Allow, a key film of the Free Cinema movement in Britain, is an exploration of the emergence of working class youth culture in the mid-50s and focuses on young people jiving the night away in a north London pub. The Teddy Boys may now look rather tame, but the film's exposure of class divisions when a group of 'well-dressed' middle-class goovers arrives to spend a night out slumming it,

is genuinely shocking. Using close-ups, the camera draws the viewer into the bar as a participant, picking out the details, the spinning mirror-ball on the ceiling, the men thoughtfully sipping their beer as they listen to Otile Paterson sing, a young couple's tiff made up as they continue dancing. The last song ends, and the dancing stops; hot and tired, they go home.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Dancing Time

UK 1957 Dir Robert Henryson

14 mins

35mm B&W

Illustrates many forms of dancing and introduces a unique animal ballet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Monitor: Light Fantastic

UK 1960 Dir Ken Russell

23 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Ken Russell's affectionate survey of the British dance scene, including ballroom dancing, rock'n'roll, Morris dancing, Spanish dancing, jazz, tap and various traditional dances including Russian folk dance, Lancashire clog dancing and a 'horn dance' whose participants sport real antlers.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

The World Amateur Modern Ballroom Dancing Championships

UK 1977

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The World Amateur Modern Ballroom Dancing Championship at the Royal Albert Hall. Also the Final of the United Kingdom Professional Ten Dance-Championship and the United Kingdom Formation Team Championship.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

World Disco Dancing Championship

UK 1978 Dir Steve Minchin

54 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

From the Empire Ballroom, Leicester Square. Contestants from around the world, dance to the music of the Ray McVay band, before a panel of celebrity judges.

Dancing for Britain is the current UK Dir champion Grant Santino.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Time for Dancing

UK 1979 Dir Malcolm Clarke

26 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

About the people of Buxton, Derbyshire, and their great passion for ballroom dancing.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The World's Amateur Latin American Dancing Championships

UK 1979

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Coverage of the annual Championships from the Royal Albert Hall. Also featuring the United Kingdom Professional Ten Dance and Formation Team Championships.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

World Disco Dancing Championship

UK 1980 Dir Steve Minchin

53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Final of the EMI World Championship for Disco dancing, live from the Empire Ballroom, Leicester Square, London.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Yorkshire Disco Dancing Championship

UK 1980 Dir Burt Budin

26 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Yorkshire Disco Dancing Championship where twelve contestants compete to go to the final for the UK title. From the Romeo & Juliet club in Doncaster.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Best in the Ballroom

UK 1980

35 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

From London's Lyceum ballroom, the presentation of The Carl-Alan Awards by Princess Anne to champion ballroom dancers. Among the champions: Richard and Janet Gleave, Alan and Hazel Fletcher, Michael and Vicky Barr, Donnie Burns and Gaynor Fairweather.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The United Kingdom Disco Dancing Championships

UK 1980 Dir Steve Minchin

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Final of a nation-wide competition to find the best disco-dancer in the UK, the winner to represent the UK in the World final. Recorded at the Empire, Leicester Square.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The World Amateur Latin Dance Championships

UK 1981

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Coverage of the championship from the Royal Albert Hall.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Very Hot Gossip Show

UK 1983 Dir Mike Mansfield

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Specially recorded at the London Lyceum, featuring dance troupe Hot Gossip.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Weltbuhne Berlin: The Twenties

Germany 1986 Dir Irmgard von zur Muhlen
B&W 90 mins English commentary or German commentary
The second of Irmgard von zur Muhlen's four documentary films on the history of Berlin, *Weltbuhne Berlin: The Twenties* shows life in Berlin between 1920 and 1930. Against the background of the prevailing political and social conditions in the early years of the Weimar Republic and the economic crisis, the film concentrates on cultural developments during the 'Golden Twenties'. Theatre, cabaret, vaudeville and film were very popular at the time and after the First World War the former capital of the empire soon developed once again into an exciting cultural metropolis.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Arena: Paris is Burning

US/UK 1990 Dir Jennie Livingston
58 mins
Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col
New York 1987. In a nightclub in Harlem young gay black men get ready for the competitive dance called Vogueing, which combines the acrobatic character of break-dancing with moves based on fashion models' poses. The contestants are all members of 'Houses', small gay gangs. The members, known as 'children' compete for the glory of their 'House'.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

We Jive Like This

UK 1991 Dir Deborah May
54 mins
The cultural clubs of the South African townships offer opportunities to children to engage in dance, mime, theatre, music, and poetry; commentators on this phenomenon include singer Sophie Mgcina, choreographers Carly Dibokoane and Jackie Semela, poets Lesogo Rampolokeng and Siphiwe Ngwenya, and actor James Mthoba.
Archive source: Arts Council of England

We Sing and We Dance: The Nicholas Brothers

UK 1992 Dir Chris Bould, Michael Martin
53 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
The Nicholas Brothers, Harold and Fayard, are acknowledged as one of the greatest dance teams, with a career spanning over 60 years which began at the Cotton Club in Harlem. Includes home movie of the brothers with Fred Astaire, the only dance footage of them together.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Capoeira Quickstep

UK 1992 Dir Gillian Lacey and Roberto Mader
26 mins
Col

“Wryly shows how the sweaty vitality of Brazilian dance has been interpreted into stiff ballroom routines over here, neatly making a wider cultural point.” - Big Issue BFI (Sales Catalogue)

Dance Hall Vibes

UK 1992 Dir Rose Finn-Kelcey

DVD Col

A non-broadcast series which ended in 1995. Gave rise to Black Tracks. It ran for five years. Filmmakers retained rights. The ACE got non-exclusive non-theatrical rights.

Archive Source: Arts Council of England

Little Sister What Colour Flower Are You Wearing in Your Hair?

UK 1993 Dir Hi Ching

20 mins

DVD

An experimental version of the story of Liang Shan-po and Chu Ying-tai, combining drama and traditional Chinese music and dance.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Digging the Dancing Queens

UK 1994 Dir Paul Smith

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary tribute to the dance troupe Pans People including archive footage, interviews with the girls from Pans People, and interviews with musicians and DJs.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Flamenco (Opening Shot)

UK 1994 Editor Gerald Fox

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

25 mins

Follows two young British flamenco dancers on a visit to the Andalusian town of Jerez de la Frontera for the annual Feria.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance!

UK 1996 Dir Keith Beckett

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Programme featuring a wide variety of dance, including ballet, Irish dancing, tap dancing, Highland dancing, ballroom dancing and jive.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Making of Torvill and Dean

UK 1997

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The story of Britain's most successful ice-dancers, who achieved a perfect score for artistry when winning gold at the Sarajevo Olympics in 1984.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Harry's Passion

UK 1997

10 mins

Beta SP Col

Made for the Frieze Frame series, this is a profile of Bristol-based Harry West, who is so passionate about ballroom dancing that he is studying for a PhD in the subject.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

The South Bank Show: Michael Flatley - Lord of the Dance

UK 1997 Dir Bryan Izzard

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of and interview with dancer Michael Flatley while on his world tour.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

In the Fire: The Making of Feet of Flames

UK 1998 Dir David Mallett

62 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

On the set of Michael Flatley's latest dance spectacular, Feet of Flames.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance on Four: Flamenco Women

UK 1998 Dir Mike Figgis

51 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Film-maker, writer and composer, Mike Figgis goes in search of the authentic flamenco spirit in the heaving urban centres of modern Spain. Figgis and a minimal crew went to Madrid and set up a small company of flamenco dancers and musicians, none of whom had ever worked together before as a group. They were given six days to produce an original public performance, and the film shows their collaboration and the process involved in creating a finished dance spectacle.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dancehall Queens

UK 2000

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A love of dancing has brought Carol, Natalie and Pinky to Jamaica, but Kingston resident Jackie – who spends all her time dancing – cannot wait to leave. The four women tell of their shared passion for music and dancing.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Variety

UK 2001 Dir Ian Breakwell

Charts the demise of the variety tradition, while demonstrating how it informs much of the most adventurous contemporary art. Video film made with archived footage as part of a BFI Year of the Artist residency.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections

You Askin'? I'm Dancin'

UK 2002

76 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A history and celebration of memorable dance moves from across the ages from the Birdie Song dance to Vogueing, Moonwalking to the Macarena, and break dancing and moshing.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Films with Dance Sequences



Piccadilly (1929)

This section outlines a chronological selection of non-dance orientated films that combine notable dance sequences or content, including a short focus on British and Hollywood musicals.

Tango Tangles (aka Music Hall and Charlie's Recreation)

US 1914 Dir Mack Sennett

35mm 16mm B&W 10 mins at 18fps

With Charlie Chaplin, Ford Sterling, Fatty Arbuckle, Chester Conkin. Shot in a real ballroom, the film features the new dance rage of 1914. Chaplin and Sterling appear without their usual make-up and compete for the attentions of the young hat-check woman, with much chasing, sliding and tumbling among the dancers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Two Columbines

UK 1914 Dir Harold Shaw

33 mins

35mm + Beta SP B&W, silent

A mother decorating her modest home for Christmas tells her daughter of the by-gone days when she was a dancer in pantomime. She recounts, in flashback, how she injured her leg and how a doctor called from the audience tells her she will never dance again. But at a rehearsal of the ballet Harlequin and Columbine she seizes the chance to recapture her former glory.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Golden Butterfly

Austria/Germany 1926 Dir Michael Curtiz

7,365 feet

35mm + DVD B&W, silent

The story of a dancer's rise to fame, based on a P.G. Wodehouse story and the stage production *The Golden Moth*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Charleston

France 1927 Dir Jean Renoir

1596 feet

35mm B&W, silent

2028 A.D. A story based on the decline of Western Civilisation, in which a black explorer discovers the Charleston being danced by a white aborigine.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Moulin Rouge

E. A. Dupont

UK 1928

16mm B&W music track 85 mins at 24fps

An eternal triangle, set in the world of entertainment ... Although British in origin, the elaborate sets and rich, shadowy lighting recall the German cinema of the day.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Piccadilly

UK 1929 Dir E. A. Dupont

113 mins

35mm + DVD B&W

One of the pinnacles of British silent cinema, *Piccadilly* is a sumptuous showbiz melodrama which seethes with sexual and racial tension. The Chinese-American screen goddess Anna May Wong stars as Shosho, a scullery maid in a fashionable London nightclub whose sensuous tabletop dance catches the eye of suave club owner Valentine Wilmot. She rises to become the toast of London and the object of his erotic obsession – to the bitter jealousy of Mabel, his former lover and star dancer (played by Ziegfeld Follies star Gilda Gray).

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

The Threepenny Opera

Germany 1931 Dir GW Pabst

113 mins

35mm + 16mm

Based on Brecht and Weill's stage play of the same name.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Grand Hotel

US 1932 Dir Edmund Goulding

115 mins

B&W

A portmanteau film where an interwoven group of stories follows the lives of different characters, one of them a ballet dancer played by Greta Garbo.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

A Midsummer Night's Dream

US 1935 Dir Max Reinhardt and William Dieterle

133 mins

35mm B&W

With James Cagney, Dick Powell, Olivia de Havilland, Mickey Rooney. Choreography by Bronislawa Nijinska and Nini Theilade.

In one of the most memorable of Hollywood's Shakespeare adaptations. Hal Mohr's Academy Award-winning photography shows off the art direction of Anton Grot and the all-star cast meets the challenge of playing the classics with glamour and respect. Notable for being de Havilland's screen debut.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

On Your Toes

US 1939 Dir Ray Enright

94 mins

Beta SP B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

Ballet comedy concerning composer who falls in love with ballet prima donna and the subsequent unsuccessful plot to murder him.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Little Ballerina

UK 1947 Dir Lewis Gilbert

60 mins

35mm B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

The story of a London schoolgirl's fight to achieve her ambition of becoming a famous ballerina. Despite her family's financial troubles she finally realises her aim and dances for Margot Fonteyn at a charity show. Adult dancers appear in five scenes including Les Sylphides and Prince Igor.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Red Shoes

UK 1948 Dir Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger

135 mins

35mm Col

Powell and Pressburger's stunning Technicolor transposition of Hans Christian Andersen's story of a girl who cannot stop dancing into a dazzling multi-layered saga of a Svengali-like impresario (Anton Walbrook) ruthlessly exploiting the genius of a young ballerina (Moirà Shearer). The central ballet scene is still regarded as a high point in the creative treatment of dance on film. The Red Shoes is a key film in the shift from ballet filming to the use of choreography, camera, lighting, design and direction to tell a narrative story.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

See also:

BFI Stills, Posters and Designs (Special Collections)

Two costume designs, sketches by Ivor Beddoes from Hein Heckroth's designs for set and costumes. Sketch of the red ballet shoes. Sketches by Beddoes for dance sequences, including one for an Indian dance. Three Sketches used to produce an animated sequence, one by Heckroth, two by Beddoes.

The Red Shoes Sketches

UK 1948 Dir Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger

12 mins

35mm Col

Hein Heckroth's designs for The Red Shoes ballet set to music.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Tales of Hoffman

UK 1951 Dir Michael Powell, Emeric Pressburger

123 mins

35mm Col

A version of the opera by Jacques Offenbach. Photographed by Christopher Challis, Designed by Hein Heckroth, Choreography by Frederick Ashton. With Robert Rounseville, Monica Sinclair, Pamela Brown, Robert Helpmann, Moira Shearer, Leonide Massine, Frederick Ashton, Ludmilla Tcherina.

Archive source: BFI National Archive+ BFI Distribution + BFI Stills, Posters and Designs: Sketches by Hein Heckroth

Oh Rosalinda! (aka Fledermaus)

UK 1955 Dir Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger

Starring Anton Walbrook and Ludmilla Tcherina. Based on the operetta Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss but updated to take place in post-war Vienna as occupied by the four powers of Britain, America, France and Russia. Production designer Hein Heckroth, choreography Alfred Rodrigues. With Anthony Quayle, Anton Walbrook, Ludmilla Tcherina, Michael Redgrave.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Madame Bovary

1949 Dir Vincente Minnelli

114 mins

B&W

With Jennifer Jones, Van Heflin, James Mason, Louis Jourdan "Whatever it is that French women have – Madame Bovary had more of it!" ran the MGM publicity campaign. This once-controversial adaptation of Flaubert's 19th century novel – with a heroine who sacrifices her husband and security for love – looks better every year. The justifiably celebrated ballroom scene is among the greatest of its kind.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Black Orpheus (Orfeu Negro)

France/Italy/Brazil 1958 Dir Marcel Camus

107 mins

In recreating the Orpheus legend in Rio de Janeiro with an all black cast, Camus celebrates both the universality of the story and the exoticism and poetry of Brazil. Here the doomed lovers weave their way through a carnival-mad Rio, amidst the relentless onslaught of colour, noise, and frenetic movement which climaxes in the visual splendour of the poignant ending.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

The Leopard

Italy/France 1963 Dir Luschino Visconti

188 mins

35mm + DCP + DVD

Based on the novel by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, this incredibly rich historical epic story of an aristocrat of impeccable integrity who tries to preserve his family and class amid the tumultuous social upheavals of 1860s Sicily features an extraordinary, climactic dance sequence in a ballroom. Stars Burt Lancaster, Alain Delon, Claudia Cardinale.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution + BFI DVD

The Turning Point

US 1977 Dir Herbert Ross

119 mins

35mm Col

Deedee and Emma are rivals in the dance trade, and their lives take a different turning when Emma continues with her career as a ballet dancer while Deedee sacrifices her career for marriage and motherhood.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jubilee

UK 1978 Dir Derek Jarman

Contains a short scene, early in the film and shot on Super-8, of the punk actor Jordan dancing a short ballet sequence around a bonfire, witnessed by masked classical figures; also used by Jarman as the short film *Jordan's Dance* (1977).

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Wild Style

US 1982 Dir Charlie Ahearn

82 mins

16mm

In the very early days of hip-hop culture, independent film-maker Ahearn decided to dramatise the events that were taking place around him.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Flashdance

US 1983 Dir Adrian Lyne

98 mins

35mm Col

A young woman goes to work in a steel mill in Pittsburgh while saving up to get into a dance college. In the evenings, she goes to a local bar to dance and let off steam.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hairspray

US 1988 Dir John Waters

92 mins

16mm

Teenagers compete in a dancing competition to become Queen of the 1962 Auto Show. With Rikki Lake, Debby Harry, Sonny, Divine.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ballroom

UK 1989 Dir Alan Clayton

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Every Monday evening Ellis and his younger brother Dick tell their wives they are going to the local pub. Instead they travel down to Cardiff to attend singles' ballroom dancing.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Josephine Baker Story

US/UK/Canada 1991 Dir Brian Gibson

135 mins

DVD Col

A musical biography. Born in East St. Louis in 1906, Josephine Baker escapes a life of danger and poverty to become a dancer in Europe. Her exotic and daring dance routines make her the toast of Paris.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Strictly Ballroom

Australia 1992 Dir Baz Lurhmann

94 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Set in the world of ballroom dancing competition in Australia. Scott, a 21-year-old ballroom dancer, upsets the all-powerful Ballroom Dancing Federation by dancing his own steps, causing him to lose his partner Liz. He finds he has no choice but to team up with Fran, the 'ugly duckling' of the beginners class.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance Lexie Dance

Northern Ireland 1996 Dir Tim Loane

14 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Short film about a young girl who yearns to be a Riverdancer - but can the innocence of her desire overcome the cultural divide in Northern Ireland?

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Flanell No. 5

Germany 1998 Dir Karin Köster

58 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Five absurd stories about the reality of a dancer's existence. It shows the "back stage" life of five women who – each in her own way – are caught up in the pains and pleasures of the banalities of an artist's routine. A shared flat and the daily struggle for survival are what binds these figures together.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Point Your Toes, Cushla!

New Zealand 1998 Dir Simon Marler

10 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A little girl messes up her performance in a ballet competition.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Real Billy Elliott Diaries

Future Time Productions, Universal Studios

UK 2005

23 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Follows the nationwide search to find a young dancer to play Billy Elliot in a West End musical version of the film.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Chapter 4: Music



Jailhouse Rock (1957)

Introduction

The musical accompaniment of silent film quickly became a standard part of its public presentation and played an important role in cinema's effectiveness and popularity (for example, by supporting the pacing of narrative, amplifying drama and clarifying emotion). In practical terms, live music also masked the sound of the projector and the noise of the audience. Musical themes and performances soon became a popular part of filmed content, with some ambitious early features set among the entertainment world, famously the first synchronised sound feature, *The Jazz Singer* (1927), also *Moulin Rouge* (1928) and *Piccadilly* (1929).

This chapter focuses on one of cinema's most famous genres, the Musical, and ranges across fiction and non-fiction with other sections covering key performers, composers and musical forms on film and television. Some key titles may also be found in other chapters, particularly Dance.

Musicals



On the Town (1949)

Core collections include British Musicals of the 1930s and classic Hollywood Musicals, but this very diverse A-Z selection also includes titles from other countries and unexpected corners of the genre.

42nd Street

US 1933 Dir Lloyd Bacon

89mins

35mm B&W

Dances and ensembles created and staged by Busby Berkeley. Berkeley's early acquaintance with the twin influences of musical revue and of massed military formation is evident in his staging of the large-scale dance numbers, designed to be shot from a high vantage point to display the movement of the performers as visual spectacle.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Alexander's Ragtime Band

US 1938 Dir Henry King

106 mins

35mm B&W

A young violinist turns dance-band leader and works his way up from cheap cabaret to Carnegie Hall. Music and lyrics by Irving Berlin.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

An American in Pasadena

US 1978 Dir Marty Pasetta

52 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

A tribute to Gene Kelly recorded at the Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena, California which contains many film and television clips showing highlights of his career.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

An American in Paris

US 1951 Dir Vincente Minnelli

108 mins

35mm Col

With Gene Kelly, Leslie Caron. In perhaps the greatest dance musical made in Hollywood, Kelly stars as a young artist who finds love on the Left Bank. As well as the Gershwin songs and score, including the beautiful song 'S' Wonderful, An American in Paris is memorable for its famous climactic ballet sequence inspired by the work of Paris painters (including Renoir, Dufy, Utrillo, Rousseau and Toulouse-Lautrec). Winner of six Academy Awards including Best Film.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Animal Crackers

US 1930 Dir Victor Heerman

96 mins

16mm B&W

The Marx Brothers' second film, based on their anarchic stage hit, is a farcical intrigue concerning copied and stolen paintings, and rivalry between society matrons - with plenty of musical numbers along the way.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Annie Get Your Gun

US 1950 Dir George Sidney

107 mins

35mm Col

The film version of Irving Berlin's stage musical about legendary circus sharpshooters Annie Oakley (Betty Hutton) and Frank Butler (Howard Keel).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Are You With It?

US 1948 Dir Jack B. Hively

93 mins

35mm B&W

Musical comedy in which Donald O'Connor's sacked insurance man ends up joining a travelling carnival.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

At the Circus

US 1939 Dir Edward Buzzell

87 mins

35mm B&W

The Marx Brothers end up in what many would consider their natural home for a rambunctious musical comedy whose highlight is Groucho's rendition of Lydia the Tattooed Lady.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Aunt Sally

UK 1933 Dir Tim Whelan

80 mins

35mm B&W

Slapstick meets the Folies Bergère in this Cicely Courtneidge vehicle.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Mediatheque

Babes in Toyland

US/West Germany 1986 Dir Clive Donner

91 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Drew Barrymore and Keanu Reeves star in this present-day update of the famous musical play by Victor Herbert.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Babushka

UK 1979

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Musical Christmas fable about a woman who gives hospitality to the three wise men on their way to Bethlehem.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Bamboo Blonde

US 1946 Dir Anthony Mann

68 mins

35mm B&W

Musical about a nightclub singer (Frances Langford) who is accidentally adopted as the mascot of a bomber crew, and her romance with the pilot (Ralph Edwards).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Band Wagon

US 1953 Dir Vincente Minnelli

112 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Has-been Hollywood song and dance man Tony Hunter (Fred Astaire) tries to make his Broadway debut in a light musical comedy, but the show's director, the highbrow Jeff Cordova (Jack Buchanan), turns it into an overblown Faust allegory. Meanwhile, Hunter initially fails to see eye to eye with his co-star, ballerina Gabrielle Girard (Cyd Charisse)...

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Band Waggon

UK 1940 Dir Marcel Varnel

80 mins

35mm/16mm B&W

Arthur Askey musical comedy (spun off from his popular radio series) about a pair of chancers (the other being Richard Murdoch) who start a pirate TV station in order to challenge the BBC's then monopoly. The resulting show is crammed with musical numbers by the likes of Jack Hylton and teenage stage star Pat Kirkwood.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Barkleys of Broadway

US 1949 Dir Charles Walters

109 mins

35mm Col

With Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Billie Burke, Oscar Levant. Working together after a gap of ten years, and now with MGM rather than RKO, Astaire and Rogers still shine as a performing couple who break up only to make up again. The witty Comden and Green script keeps the pace up aided by great songs from Harry Warren and Ira Gershwin.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Be My Guest

UK 1965 Dir Lance Comfort

82 mins

35mm B&W

A family try to run a guest house at Brighton and make it popular. Dave Martin (David Hemmings) meets American entertainer Erica Page (Andrea Monet) and lets her stay in the guest house rent free.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Beggar's Opera

UK 1953 Dir Peter Brook

94 mins

35mm Col

Peter Brook's famous adaptation of the comic operetta by John Gay. Notorious highwayman MacHeath (Laurence Olivier) is betrayed by tavern doxies in the pay of his wife's family, but is reprieved at the last moment.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bell-Bottom George

UK 1944 Dir Marcel Varnel

97 mins

35mm B&W

Comedy in which George (Formby) has his clothes 'borrowed' by a friend and is forced to dress up in a sailor's uniform which leads to his being arrested by the naval police.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Big Store

US 1941 Dir Charles F. Riesner

83 mins

35mm B&W

A young man hires the Marx Brothers as his bodyguards after the crooked manager of a large store hires thugs to rob him of his holdings in it. The musical highlight is the elaborate choral number Tenement Symphony.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bill and Coo

UK 1931 Dir John Orton

42 mins

35mm B&W

Musical comedy vehicle for music-hall star Billy Merson. It's set during the rehearsals in a theatre, during which Merson's strongman the Great Bendo falls asleep and dreams he is married to the leading lady.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Bohemian Girl

US 1936 Dir James W. Horne, Charles Rogers, Hal Roach

71 mins

35mm B&W

Laurel and Hardy in a version of M.W. Balfe's operetta about a child of noble birth being stolen and raised by gypsies.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Boots! Boots!

UK 1934 Dir Bert Tracy

70 mins

35mm B&W

The boot-boy (George Formby) at a big hotel falls for the scullery maid who turns out to be the long-lost niece of wealthy guests.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Boys from Syracuse

US 1940 Dir A. Edward Sutherland

73 mins

35mm + 16mm B&W

Rodgers and Hart's musical update of Shakespeare's 'The Comedy of Errors', with Allan Jones and Joe Penner playing two sets of twins.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Break the News

UK 1938 Dir Thornton Freeland

78 mins

35mm B&W

Jack Buchanan and Maurice Chevalier team up as a small-time song-and-dance double-act – and decide to stage a pretend murder in a desperate bid for publicity.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Britannia of Billingsgate

UK 1933 Dir Sinclair Hill

80 mins

35mm B&W

Musical comedy starring music-hall legend Violet Loraine in one of just two screen roles. This film tells the story of the Bolton family, who work in the fish trade, and their encounter with the Phoenix Film Company who are filming in Billingsgate Market.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cabin in the Sky

US 1943 Dir Vincente Minnelli

98 mins

35mm B&W

Musical set in the Deep South. Little Joe struggles to be a good husband and repent from his gambling ways, as angels and devils do their best to win his soul. Little Joe's wife, Petunia, is a great help; the seductive Georgia Brown is not.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Calabacitas Tiernas

Mexico 1948 Dir Gilberto Martinez Solares

101 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Musical comedy vehicle for Mexican star Germán Valdés, better known as Tin Tán. Here, he's a musician down on his luck who gets involved with putting on a show.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Calling All Stars

UK 1937 Dir Herbert Smith

79 mins

35mm B&W

Following the accidental destruction of some master recordings, double act Flotsam and Jetsam are hired by the record company to track down the stars concerned for repeat performances. These include Ambrose and his orchestra, Evelyn Dall, Sam Browne, Max Bacon, Larry Adler, Carroll Gibbons, Allen and Broderick, Billy Bennett, the Nicholas Brothers, Turner Layton, the Twelve Aristocrats, Leon Cortez and his Coster Band, Ethel Revnell, Gracie West, Elisabeth Welch and more.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Capriccio

Germany 1938 Dir Karl Ritter

111 mins

35mm B&W

Operetta-like comedy starring Lilian Harvey as an heiress who flees an arranged marriage and pretends to be a young man to avoid detection. Hitler and Goebbels reputedly hated it, which is a definite feather in its cap.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cabaret

US 1972 Dir Bob Fosse

123 mins

35mm

The last days of the Weimar Republic, with its bittersweet blend of decadence and definance, are clearly conveyed in this adaptation of Christopher Isherwood's novel about 1930s Berlin. Liza Minnelli plays cabaret performer Sally Bowles, travelling far from her Home Counties background, with a star quality that makes the film, matched by Joel Grey as Master of Ceremonies. The film won eight Academy Awards, including Best Direction, Music, Actress (Minnelli) and Supporting Actor (Joel Grey).

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Carmen Jones

US 1954 Dir Otto Preminger

103 mins

16mm + 35mm + DVD Col

The original Carmen, which premiered in 1875, was set in Spain and tells the story of a gypsy woman who works in a cigarette factory. She falls for a soldier, but eventually transfers her affections to a bullfighter with tragic results. In 1943, Oscar Hammerstein II adapted the opera as a Broadway musical. Setting it in the contemporary southern states of the USA, with an all-black cast, it ran for over five hundred performances. For his 1954 film version of the show, Otto Preminger gives it a wartime setting, with the heroine Carmen a worker in a parachute factory and her lover Joe, a soldier; the toreador is changed into a professional boxer. The all-black cast is led by Dorothy Dandridge, whose vibrant performance resulted in the first Oscar nomination for a black actress.

Archive source: BFI DVD + BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Car of Dreams

UK 1935 Dir Graham Cutts and Austin Melford

69 mins

35mm + Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

A young John Mills stars in this breezy musical comedy of errors.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Mediatheque

Casanova in Burlesque

US 1943 Dir Leslie Goodwins

74 mins

35mm B&W

A professor of Shakespearean literature becomes a music hall performer during vacations, and is blackmailed by a chorus girl to give her a part in one of his productions, *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Cat and the Fiddle

US 1933 Dir William K. Howard

88 mins

35mm B&W

A couple of music students (Ramon Novarro and Jeanette MacDonald) search for fame and fortune.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cavalcade of Variety

1941

59 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only)

Ventriloquism, tap dancing and drag acts a go-go. That's variety!

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Mediatheque

Cheer Up!

UK 1936 Dir Leo Mittler

72 mins

35mm B&W

Stanley Lupino (best known today as Ida's father) stars in this musical comedy about a struggling author who is mistaken for a millionaire - and asked to help fund a stage musical. With his own career to think about, he agrees, but has to keep up the pretence.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

City of Song

UK 1931 Dir Carmine Gallone

99 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

The story of a singing Neapolitan guide (Jan Kiepura) and an English girl (Betty Stockfield) who makes him her protege.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Come Dance with Me

UK 1950 Dir Mario Zampi

58 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

A valet, a lady's maid posing as a baronet and the Honourable Francesca meet at a night club, watch various turns, and are finally asked to join the show.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Come Out of the Pantry

UK 1935 Dir Jack Raymond

71 mins

35mm B&W

Jack Buchanan Musical in which a British nobleman goes to New York to sell some pictures and deposits the money in the bank just before it crashes. As a result, he is stranded penniless and faced by angry creditors.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Congress Dances

1931

35mm

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cranford

UK 1976 Dir Pamela Lonsdale

64 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV musical adaptation of the novel by Elizabeth Gaskell, with music and lyrics by Carl Davis and John Wells.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Countess of Monte Cristo

US 1948 Dir Frederick De Cordova

75 mins

35mm B&W

Musical comedy about the trials of a hotel manager when faced with masquerading barmaids and hotel thieves.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Daddy Long Legs

US 1955 Dir Jean Negulesco

126 mins

35mm Col

Musical about a rich American (Fred Astaire) and a young French orphan (Leslie Caron) whom he adopts.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Damsel in Distress

US 1937 Dir George Stevens

100 mins

35mm B&W

George and Ira Gershwin's musical comedy about a peer's daughter in love with an American but dominated by a hostile aunt.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Date with a Dream

UK 1948 Dir Dicky Leeman

53 mins

35mm B&W

Hey, kids, let's put on a show! Musical extravaganza featuring an array of pre-fame stars, including Terry-Thomas and Jeannie Carson.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Mediatheque

The Devil's Brother

US 1933 Dir Hal Roach, Charles Rogers

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Daniel-Francois-Esprit Auber's comic opera is turned into a musical comedy vehicle for Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, in which bandits pose as a marquis in order to extract some loot from its hiding place.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Don't Fence Me In

1945

35mm

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Down Melody Lane

UK 1943 Dir Frank Dormand

60 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Variety film that combines extracts from the Butchers' productions Variety (1935), Cock o'the North (1935), Variety Parade (1936), Lily of Laguna (1938) and Music Hall Parade (1939), with a linking story that recounts the history of a variety theatre.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Du Barry was a Lady

US 1943 Dir Roy Del Ruth

100 mins

35mm Col

Lucille Ball and Red Skelton star in this comedy-fantasy about a cloakroom attendant dreaming that he's Louis XV.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Evensong

UK 1934 Dir Victor Saville

82 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

This Rodgers and Hart musical comedy about a girl masquerading as her own stage-legend mother was a major breakthrough for its star Jessie Matthews, while revealing that the British could make superb screen musicals even without Hollywood resources.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Evergreen

UK 1934 Dir Victor Saville

94mins

35mm B&W

The story of a music-hall star who was blackmailed into retirement, and the 1934 success of the daughter who exploited her fame. Art Direction Alfred Junge. Lyrics and music Harry M Woods, Richard Rodgers, Lorenz Hart. Dances and ensembles Arranged by Buddy Bradley. With Betty Balfour, Jessie Matthews.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Every Day's a Holiday

UK 1964 Dir James Hill

94 mins

35mm Col

A group of young people work at a holiday camp. One of them is persecuted by her aunt to train for opera, but her father joins with the youngsters to outwit her.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Everybody's Dancin'

US 1950 Dir Will Jason

65 mins

35mm B&W

Country and Western musical about a large-scale television show.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Expresso Bongo

UK 1959 Dir Val Guest

111 mins

16mm B&W

Cliff Richard's breakthrough film, in which he plays a new singing star manipulated by an unscrupulous agent (Laurence Harvey).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Fairy of the Phone, The

UK 1936 Dir William Coldstream

12 mins

35mm + DVD B&W (BFI DVD We Live in Two Worlds: The GPO Film Unit Collection Volume 2)

The Fairy of the Phone is an example of the 'good humoured' publicity that Stephen Tallents, the GPO Film Unit's founder, encouraged the post office to produce.

Conceptually, The Fairy of the Phone is a Highway Code of telephone manners, but the government 'fairy' is also a figure of fun. In the musical number that ends the film she puts her back out by falling down some stairs and is then presented with some wilting flowers. The influence of artist-director and future Arts Council luminary William Coldstream was perhaps also responsible for the film's unexpected surrealist borrowings. Mice live in an old telephone directory, a Cocteau-esque sequence sees a statue tell off the constantly munching child, and an attractive young woman accidentally phones a mad professor. GPO's telephone films like Fairy of the Phone fall into an alternative feminine, domestic and cheeky strand of the Film Unit's work. This is a low-modernist, ironic and whimsical celebration of the virtues of being practical, polite and sensible.

Archive source: BFI DVD + BFI National Archive

Falling for You

UK 1933 Dir Jack Hulbert and Robert Stevenson

78 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Jack Hulbert and Cicely Courtneidge play two rival journalists on the same newspaper who compete for a story from a heiress who has run away from a marriage.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Far Frontier

US 1949 Dir William Witney

67 mins

35mm B&W

Singing cowboy Roy Rogers stars in this musical comedy set on the Mexican border, in which a criminal-smuggling gang seems to be outwitting the police.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Finders Keepers

UK 1966 Dir Sidney Hayers

94 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Pop-musical adventure set mainly in Spain and featuring Cliff Richard and the Shadows. A group finds a lost bomb and hide it from foreign agents until its rightful American owners claim it.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

First a Girl (aka Victor and Victoria)

UK 1935 Dir Victor Saville

92mins

35mm B&W

An elaborately produced musical comedy designed as a starring vehicle for Jessie Matthews. A woman pretends to be a man pretending to be a woman, winning fame as a female impersonator. The original British version of Victor/Victoria. Art Direction O Werndorff. Dances Ralph Reader. With Anna Lee, Jessie Matthews, Sonnie Hale, Griffith Jones, Alfred Drayton.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Folies Bergère de Paris

US 1935 Dir Roy Del Ruth

85 mins

35mm B&W

Musical comedy featuring Maurice Chevalier in two roles: the wealthy and amorous Baron Cassini and an artist from the Folies Bergere who does a famous impression of him. When the baron is called away to London the performer is asked to impersonate him at an important party...

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Follow the Fleet

US 1936 Dir Mark Sandrich

109 mins

16mm B&W

Musical comedy. When his proposal of marriage is turned down, Bake (Fred Astaire) joins the navy. Reconciliation with Sherry (Ginger Rogers) occurs in the final dance numbers. The design of set and lighting as the backdrop to Astaire and Rogers' dancing was intensified in this film by architectural shadows painted on the floor of the set. Musical score by Irving Berlin.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Forget Me Not

UK 1936 Dir Zoltán Korda

72 mins

35mm B&W

Musical concerning a woman (Joan Gardner) who marries a widowed tenor (Beniamino Gigli) and remains true despite the return of her ex-fiancé.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

For Love of You

UK 1933 Dir Carmine Gallone

76 mins

16mm B&W

In Venice, two holidaying Englishmen become involved in the stormy relationship between an Italian operatic tenor and his wife.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

For Me and My Gal

US 1942 Dir Busby Berkeley

B&W 104 mins

With Judy Garland, Gene Kelly, George Murphy, Stephen McNally

Set just before WW1, an ambitious dancer, Kelly, joins Garland and Murphy in the hope of performing at the prestigious Palace Theatre and gets caught in a hopeless love triangle. Kelly's film debut, in which he sings the title song.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

The Funny Face of Broadway

US 1997 Dir Remy Bauteault

57 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Musical documentary about Broadway musicals.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

US 1966 Dir Richard Lester

98 mins

16mm Col

Richard Lester's screen version of Stephen Sondheim's musical comedy of the same name. The scene is an unfashionable suburb of ancient Rome and the central character is Pseudolus, a fat and scheming slave to Senex, his wife Domina, and their callow son Hero.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Flying Down to Rio

US 1933 Dir Thornton Freeland

89mins

16mm B&W

Lavish song and dance spectacle, with Astaire and Rogers in one of their earliest appearances as a dancing partnership for RKO Radio Pictures.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Gangway

UK 1937 Dir Sonnie Hale

89 mins

35mm B&W

Jessie Matthews musical comedy in which her sassy film journalist is given an assignment and finds herself mixed up with gangsters, jewel thieves and a handsome Scotland Yard detective.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gay Divorcee

US 1934 Dir Mark Sandrich

105mins

16mm B&W

A young man in love with the young woman he meets on the way to London is mistaken for the professional correspondent who is to help her get a divorce. Art Deco sets and costumes provide the lavish visual backdrop in this film to Astaire and Rogers' dynamic and fluent footwork.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Gene Krupa Story

US 1959 Dir Don Weis

99 mins

35mm B&W

Sal Mineo stars in this biopic of the legendary American jazz drummer.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

George in Civvy Street

UK 1946 Dir Marcel Varnel

79 mins

35mm B&W

George Formby musical comedy about the business and romantic rivalry between the managers of two village pubs.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gigi

US 1958 Dir Vincente Minnelli

117 mins

35mm Col

Big screen adaptation of the Lerner and Loewe musical, with Leslie Caron as the young girl, trained to be a courtesan, who disappoints her guardians by making a respectable marriage.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Girl Crazy

US 1943 Dir Norman Taurog

99 mins

35mm B&W

A girl crazy boy (Mickey Rooney) is sent to agricultural college in the West, where he gets involved with the Principal's daughter (Judy Garland) and saves the college from closing.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Glad Day - A Celebration for William Blake

UK 1978 Dir John Michael Phillips

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Musical drama whose plot concerns William Blake (Jonathan Pryce) returning from the grave, and broadcasting his ideas to everyone. An investigator, Branch (Antony Sher), is sent to track him down.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Glamour Girl

US 1948 Dir Arthur Dreifuss

68 mins

35mm B&W

A talent scout loses her job by finding a new singer instead of the requested trio, but she makes a success of her own company and is reconciled with her husband.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Going My Way

US 1944 Dir Leo McCarey

126 mins

35mm B&W

A young assistant priest (Bing Crosby) brings new life and vitality to his church and its parishioners.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gold Diggers of Broadway

US 1929 Dir Roy Del Ruth

35mm B&W

Musical remake of a 1923 silent film about a stuffed shirt who objects to his nephew's marriage to a showgirl.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gold Diggers of 1933

US 1933 Dir Mervyn Le Roy

96 mins

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Good Night Vienna

UK 1932 Dir Herbert Wilcox

70 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Jack Buchanan's musical romance about two lovers in Vienna, separated by the 1914 war, but reunited.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Goodbye, Mr. Chips

UK 1969 Dir Herbert Ross

147 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Peter O'Toole stars in the musical remake of the 1939 Hollywood classic, in which a shy, withdrawn schoolteacher falls for a flashy showgirl (Petula Clark).

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Gospel Road

US 1972 Dir Robert Elfstrom

93 mins

35mm Col

Musical documentary about the public life of Christ, filmed in Israel and intended for church audiences.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Great Caruso

US 1951 Dir Richard Thorpe

109 mins

35mm Col

Mario Lanza headlines this biopic of Enrico Caruso, which includes numerous renditions of arias from Pagliacci, Tosca, Aida, Rigoletto, La Boheme, Martha, and Cavalleria Rusticana.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Great Muppet Caper

UK 1981 Dir Jim Henson

97 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Kermit, Fozzie Bear and the Great Gonzo are in London after a major jewel robbery involving fashion world magnate Diana Rigg. Kermit mistakes Miss Piggy for Lady Holiday and falls in love with her.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Greek Street

UK 1930 Dir Sinclair Hill

85 mins

35mm B&W

Musical romance set in London's Italian community, when the protégé of a Soho restaurateur becomes a star.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gypsy Melody

UK 1936 Dir Edmond T. Gréville

77 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

In the Duchy of Seeburg, Captain Eric Danilo is sentenced to prison following a duel with the court chamberlain, not least on account of his gypsy blood. In prison he finds himself in the same cell as a milliner by the name of Madame Beatrice. When both escape they meet up with a gypsy band, and Danilo makes a great success of their music.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Happy

UK 1934 Dir Friedrich Zelnik

82 mins

35mm B&W

Musical set in Paris. A band leader (Stanley Lupino) poses as a millionaire to sell a gadget for foiling car thieves.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Harmony Heaven

UK 1930 Dir Thomas Bentley

56 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Backstage romance of a singer/songwriter's rise to fame.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Hard-Boiled Canary

US 1941 Dir Andrew L. Stone

80 mins

35mm B&W

Musical comedy about a girl who is rescued from a police raid on a burlesque theatre, who later gets her chance in a school musical summer camp.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Heart of the Golden West

US 1942 Dir Joe Kane

65 mins

35mm B&W

Roy Rogers undertakes to protect the ranchers of Cherokee City from unjust motor transport charges levied against them for conveyance of their cattle to the stock yards.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hello Frisco, Hello

US 1943 Dir H. Bruce Humberstone

35mm Col

By hard work and a little blackmail John Cornell, member of a quartet in a mall cafe, becomes the owner of places of entertainment and marries into society. Trudy, another member of the quartet is heartbroken, but when Cornell's business fails and he divorces his wife they are re-united.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Her First Romance

US 1940 Dir Edward Dmytryk

78 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Musical comedy that begins with a Cinderella scenario in which a young girl becomes the 'belle of the ball' despite being forbidden by her less attractive guardian stepsister from going. Both sisters then fall for the same man...

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hey, Rookie

1943

35mm

Archive source: BFI National Archive

His Lordship

UK 1932 Dir Michael Powell

68 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Eccentric early Michael Powell musical comedy "quota quickie" in which a Cockney plumber discovers that blue blood flows in his veins – much to the annoyance of his Bolshevik-sympathising girlfriend Leninia.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hitting a New High

US 1937 Dir Raoul Walsh

85 mins

35mm B&W

An impresario finds a singer planted by his secretary and tries to train her as an opera star, but she returns to cabaret singing.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hollywood Hotel

US 1937 Dir Busby Berkeley

110 mins

35mm B&W

A singer and a stand-in achieve fame after a brush with the temperamental leading star at the studio.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hollywood Newsreel

US 1934 Dir George Bilson

9 mins

35mm B&W

With on-screen participants Ginger Rogers, Dick Powell, Busby Berkeley and others.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Hollywood Revue of 1929

1929

35mm

Archive source: BFI National Archive

I Have a Dream Today

UK 1981 Dir Nigel Warrack

53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Musical special based on the life of Martin Luther King, written and performed by staff and children from Queensbridge School in Moseley, Birmingham.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

I Married an Angel

US 1942 Dir W.S. Van Dyke

84 mins

35mm B&W

Jeanette MacDonald/Nelson Eddy musical comedy, in which the most eligible bachelor at a party falls for a junior typist dressed as an angel, and dreams that they are married.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ice Capades Revue

US 1942 Dir Bernard Vorhaus

80 mins

35mm B&W

A country girl is left an ice show in New York, but after a young man tries to make her hand it over to racketeers, she reforms him and makes a success of it.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Idaho

US 1943 Dir Joe Kane

68 mins

35mm B&W

A reformed bank robber re-educating delinquent boys is nearly framed by gangsters he has refused to shelter, but is rescued by Roy Rogers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

If I'm Lucky

UK 1946 Dir Lewis Seiler

80 mins

35mm B&W

A crooner put up for governor by a gang of racketeers outwits and exposes them.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ignace

1937

35mm

Archive source: BFI National Archive

I'll See You in My Dreams

US 1951 Dir Michael Curtiz

109 mins

35mm B&W

The life of a successful songwriter and his happy marriage from 1910 to after the stock market crash of 1929.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Indiscretions of Eve

UK 1932 Dir Cecil Lewis

63 mins

35mm B&W

Musical comedy about an earl who falls in love with a girl who models for shop window dummies.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

It Started with Eve

US 1941 Dir Henry Koster

90 mins

35mm B&W

Musical comedy that uses an unlikely combination of Deanna Durbin and Charles Laughton to terrific effect. He's a millionaire on his deathbed, she's pretending to be his son's fiancée to fulfil his dying wish...

Archive source: BFI National Archive

It's All Over Town

UK 1963 Dir Douglas Hickox

55 mins

35mm Col

A theatre electrician visits the London nightspots and meets all sorts of show people (including The Springfields, Lance Percival, William Rushton, The Bachelors, The Hollies, Frankie Vaughan, Acker Bilk and His Paramount Jazz Band, April Olrich, Jan and Kelly, Caroline Maudling, Clodagh Rodgers, Ingrid Anthofer, Ivor Cutler, Alan Davison, The Paul Raymond Bunnies and Wayne Gibson), but wakes up to find it is all a dream.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

It's Love Again

UK 1936 Dir Victor Saville

84mins

35mm B&W

Musical comedy, and the complications that arise when an aspiring musical performer adopts the guise of a mysterious woman who is in all of the papers, a Mrs Smythe-Smythe, who turns out to be a fictitious character invented by two reporters for a story. Art Director A Junge. Dances arranged by Buddy Bradley. With Sonnie Hale, Jessie Matthews.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

It's Trad, Dad!

UK 1962 Dir Richard Lester

73 mins

35mm + 16mm B&W

Two years before his breakthrough with *A Hard Day's Night*, Richard Lester directed this teenage musical about the conflict between a small town mayor who wants the place to be culture-conscious and the teenagers who are only interested in jazz and pop music.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jack of All Trades

UK 1936 Dir Jack Hulbert and Robert Stevenson

76 mins

35mm B&W

Jack Hulbert musical comedy in which his unemployed wastrel resolves to support his ageing mother by taking on a number of jobs, bluffing his way through them all.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jailhouse Rock

US 1957 Dir Richard Thorpe

97 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

One of Elvis Presley's best-known films: a young truck driver kills a man in a fight and is sent to prison. In jail he learns to sing, and on his release he sets out to break into show business.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Jamboree

US 1957 Dir Roy Lockwood

86 mins

35mm B&W

Pop music variety film with a linking storyline concerning two teenage singers, Honey and Pete. Auditioning for a show at a theatre, the managers of the two singers turn out to be a divorced couple. When both singers fail their auditions, both they and their managers meet by accident in a diner where the latter come up with the idea of pairing the two singers together under the name America's Singing Sweethearts.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jessie Matthews

UK 1937

4mins

35mm B&W

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Kalozok

Hungary 1999 Dir Tamás Sás

96 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Romance comes between two friends who run a radio station and spend their leisure time at a nightclub where one, Max, plays drums. The other, Pipi, gets a job as a DJ – and both fall in love with the same girl, Marta, a flautist who happens to live in a nearby flat.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Keep Your Seats, Please!

UK 1936 Dir Monty Banks

81 mins

35mm + Digibeta B&W

An aunt leaves her money hidden in a set of dining room chairs leaving a note for her nephew (George Formby) to buy them at an auction. Unfortunately they are sold separately as he arrives too late to bid.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Mediatheque

The King and I

1956

DVD (Reference copy only)

Archive source: BFI National Archive

King of Jazz

US 1930 Dir John Murray Anderson

16mm B&W

Musical revue with comedy sketches and an animated sequence, the latter opening the film by illustrating how Paul Whiteman was crowned the King of Jazz.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Land Without Music

UK 1936 Dir Walter Forde

80 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Ruritanian musical comedy in which the Grand Duchess of Lucco bans all music after finding that her state is penniless because its citizens all make music instead of money.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Last Waltz

UK 1936 Dir Leo Mittler, Gerald Barry

70 mins

35mm B&W

Musical romance about a prince who has to get married to improve his status with his subjects – but has to choose between four daughters.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Leave Him to Heaven

UK 1979 Dir Philip Hedley

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV version of a stage musical by Ken Lee, set in a 1950's high school.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Let George Do It!

UK 1940 Dir Marcel Varnel

82 mins

35mm B&W

George Formby musical comedy in which his Dinkie Doo Concert Party lands at Dover only to be mistakenly sent to Bergen to replace a British Intelligence agent.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Let's Make a Night of It

UK 1937 Dir Graham Cutts

93 mins

35mm B&W

Musical comedy. Henry Boydell is left a nightclub in lieu of a bad debt, but doesn't tell his wife. In the meantime, she is inveigled into buying a rival club...

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lilacs in the Spring

UK 1954 Dir Herbert Wilcox

94 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Musical romance starring Anna Neagle and a succession of male co-stars including Errol Flynn and David Farrar. Based on the stage production of Robert Nesbitt's *The Glorious Days*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Limelight

UK 1936 Dir Herbert Wilcox

80 mins

35mm B&W

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Little Nellie Kelly

US 1940 Dir Norman Taurog

35mm B&W

Judy Garland musical comedy in which she plays a young Irish girl in New York whose father and grandfather are constantly at daggers drawn.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Live It Up!

UK 1963 Dir Lance Comfort

75 mins

35mm B&W

Post Office messenger boy Dave (David Hemmings) and his friends pool their resources to make a tape recording of their original song, Live It Up, and is given a month by his unsympathetic father to get it published. After numerous setbacks it finally ends up in the hands of an influential film producer. The film showcases musical numbers by Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen, Heinz, Patsy Ann Noble, Gene Vincent, Jennifer Moss, Sounds Incorporated, The Outlaws, Kim Roberts and Andy Cavell and the Saints.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Look Up and Laugh

UK 1935 Dir Basil Dean

80 mins

35mm + Digibeta B&W

Slapstick comedy with music. Revue star Grace Pearson (Gracie Fields) returns to her home town to find that her father's market stall is to be closed down to make way for competition. Naturally, Grace doesn't take this lying down.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lord Babs

UK 1932 Dir Walter Forde

77 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Based on the musical farce by Keble Howard, this features a man who manages to get himself certified in order to get out of potential marriage to a magnate's daughter.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Love, Life & Laughter

UK 1934 Dir Maurice Elvey

83 mins

35mm B&W

Gracie Fields musical comedy in which she plays an English publican's daughter whose impersonation of Nell Gwynn in a local pageant attracts the attention of Price Charles of Granau.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lucky Boy

US 1929 Dir Norman Taurog and Charles Wilson

85 mins

35mm B&W

George Jessel plays himself in this musical comedy about the challenges a jeweller's son from the Bronx faces when he tries to break into showbusiness.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Mad about Money

US 1938 Dir Melville Brown

78 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Madcap musical comedy in which two hard-up film producers manage to find the money to buy the option on a new colour process in the nick of time. With fantasy interludes and Busby Berkeley dance numbers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Marry Me

UK 1932 Dir Wilhelm Thiele

85 mins

35mm B&W

Musical comedy set in Berlin in which a sound recordist in a gramophone company wins the hand of a co-worker when she becomes the housekeeper of him and his two brothers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Maytime

US 1937 Dir Robert Z. Leonard

113 mins

35mm B&W

Jeanette MacDonald stars as a prima donna who falls in love with a young student – but she's engaged to marry her teacher.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Meet Miss Bobby Socks

US 1944 Dir Glenn Tryon

68 mins

35mm B&W

A crooner finds that his penfriend is only a young girl. She becomes an ardent fan, but he succeeds in sending her back to her own boyfriend, whereupon he falls in love with her sister.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Midshipmaid

UK 1932 Dir Albert de Courville

82 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Jessie Matthews musical comedy set in Malta, in which a naval commander falls in love with the already engaged daughter of the chairman of the Naval Economy Committee.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Mikado

UK 1939 Dir Victor Schertzinger

91 mins

35mm Col

The first official Gilbert and Sullivan feature film, shot in Technicolor and mainly cast with D'Oyly Carte veterans. It was intended to be the first in a series, but the war intervened.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Miracle Car

UK 2000 Dir Random Spanners

10 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Musical film about the 1990s obsession that men have for their cars – in this case to the extent of the protagonist ditching his wife for a life on the road.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Miss Glory

US 1936 Dir Tex Avery

35mm Col.

Avery's first colour animation is an Art Deco pastiche of Busby Berkeley's musical extravaganzas laden with Warner Bros in-jokes. The animators themselves make an appearance at the end with Avery, Robert Clampett and Chuck Jones as three of Miss Glory's suitors.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mister Quilp

UK 1975 Dir Michael Tuchner

119 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Anthony Newley's musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' *The Old Curiosity Shop*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Moon Over the Alley, The

UK 1975 Dir Joseph Despins

102 minutes

DVD + Blu-Ray B&W (on Flipside 15, paired with *Duffer* (Dumaresq UK 1971))

The Moon Over the Alley is an unconventional musical about the problems faced by the multicultural residents of a ramshackle boarding house, with magic realist musical numbers by Galt MacDermot, the award-winning musician and composer of the Broadway hit *Hair*. *The Moon Over the Alley* captures the human energy and community spirit of London's Portobello Road with a wit, strangeness and charm.

Archive source: BFI DVD + BFI National Archive

Mughal-E-Azam

India 1960 Dir Karim Asif

173 mins

35mm

The last of the grand historical epics to emerge from Bombay, this film is a version of the much-filmed romance between Prince Salim (later the emperor Jahangir) and courtesan Anarkali. Nine years in the making, the cult status of this film seems to have justified every extra hour spent in dreaming it up. The memorable dialogue between Emperor Akbar and his wayward son marked the pinnacle of Urdu melodrama's profitable relationship with Indian cinema. The song *Pyaar Kiya To Darna Kya* has become an anthem of rebellious youthful love and the feather-tickling scene between prince and courtesan was symptomatic of the changing mores of Bombay cinema's depiction of sexuality.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

The Muppet Movie

UK 1979 Dir James Frawley

97 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The story of how the Muppets got together and how Kermit got into showbusiness.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Murder in the Music Hall

UK 1946 Dir John English

85 mins

35mm B&W

Backstage murder mystery with a music-hall setting.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Music Hath Charms

UK 1936 Dir Thomas Bentley

70 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Henry Hall rehearses with his band in the BBC studios and takes a party of children into the country for a picnic where the band leader is mistaken for an escaped lunatic. Meanwhile, Hall's music is broadcast over the airwaves and helps to quell a native uprising in deepest Africa, assists some injured mountain climbers in finding refuge, accompanies a shipboard romance, and causes a rift between young lovers who are also neighbours.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Must Wear Tights

UK 1978 Dir Keith Beckett

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV musical which tells the story of a famous TV star (Lewis Collins) and an unknown young actress (Gemma Craven). Their paths cross, they fall in love, and it ends happily ever after.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

My Heart is Calling

UK 1935 Dir Carmine Gallone

83 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Musical set in Monte Carlo. A tenor (Jan Kiepura) and a female stowaway (Marta Eggerth) save an itinerant opera company.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

My Song for You

UK 1934 Dir Maurice Elvey

85 mins

35mm + 16mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Musical set in Vienna, in which a chorus girl exploits a tenor's affections to get her pianist lover a job in the opera.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Mysteries

UK 2003 Dir Mark Dornford-May

127 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Musical version of the Chester Mystery Plays filmed at the Queen's Theatre in London, with a cast of 40 young South African actors. With a score compiled from traditional African songs by Charles Hazelwood, the play is performed in English, Xhosa, Zulu and Afrikaans.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

New Wine

US 1941 Dir Reinhold Schünzel

84 mins

35mm B&W

The life story of composer Franz Schubert, framed by a contemporary story with two people meeting at a concert of his music at Carnegie Hall after being stood up by their dates.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Night at the Opera

US 1935 Dir Sam Wood

94 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Classic Marx Brothers farce in which Groucho, Harpo and Chico get embroiled in a romantic plot that takes place initially aboard ship and then against a backdrop of the most chaotic opera production ever seen.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

No Limit

UK 1935 Dir Monty Banks

80 mins

DVD B&W

George Formby musical comedy in which his character borrows enough money to go to the Isle of Man and enter his home-made bike in the T.T. Races. His brakes give way in the trials, causing him to go too fast and win easily. But when the big race comes, despite him being the favourite, he is too scared to ride again...

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Oklahoma!

US 1955 Dir Fred Zinnemann

148 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Big-screen adaptation of the classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musical.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

On the Town

US 1949 Dir Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen

97 mins

35mm Col

Classic Gene Kelly-Frank Sinatra musical about sailors on shore leave and the girls they encounter.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

One Exciting Night

UK 1944 Dir Walter Forde

89 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Musical comedy about a singer (Vera Lynn) who accidentally meets the victim of a kidnap plot and is assumed by the gang to be his girlfriend.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

One Hundred Men and a Girl

US 1937 Dir Henry Koster

84 mins

35mm B&W

Musical drama in which Deanna Durbin tries to find work for a hundred unemployed musicians. Featuring conductor Leopold Stokowski as himself.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

One Night With You

UK 1948 Dir Terence Young

92 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Romantic comedy about an opera tenor (Nino Martini) being stranded with a beautiful girl (Patrica Roc) but without identity papers, and their subsequent adventures.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

L'Opera de Quat'sous

France 1931 Dir G.W. Pabst

100 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Made at the same time as the better-known German version, this restages Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill's 'The Threepenny Opera' with French actors.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Orfeu

Brazil 1999 Dir Carlos Diegues

112 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A retelling of the legend of Orpheus and Eurydice set against the background of the Rio Carnival. In this version Orfeu is a famous songwriter, considered the King of the Carnival. Although already betrothed, Orfeu becomes smitten with Eurydice, a girl newly arrived from the provinces.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Over She Goes

UK 1937 Dir Graham Cutts

75 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Music-hall star Harry inherits a title, and invites his friends to stay in his house – where they are targeted by three gold-digging women with designs on a rich marriage.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Paramount on Parade

1930

16mm

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pepys

UK 1983 Dir Vernon Lawrence

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Harry Secombe stars in this musical about the life of Samuel Pepys, adapted from J.B. Fagan's stage play *And So to Bed*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Please Teacher

UK 1937 Dir Stafford Dickens

77 mins

35mm B&W

Farce about a search in a girls' school for two treasures, conducted both by the rightful owners and a sinister Chinese man.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Presenting Lily Mars

US 1943 Dir Norman Taurog

35mm B&W

Musical romance about a girl (Judy Garland) who achieves stardom after many setbacks, not least the leading lady's jealousy of the producer's clear interest in her.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Queen's Affair

UK 1934 Dir Herbert Wilcox

77 mins

35mm B&W

While both incognito, the president of a country falls in love with its queen - whom he deposed. Early musical comedy from the prolific Herbert Wilcox-Anna Neagle partnership.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Quincy's Quest

UK 1979 Dir Robert Reed

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Musical staged by Tommy Steele which follow's Quincy's journey from the basement of a large deparment store to Santa's Grotto in the toy department, on the top floor, including a battle between toy soldiers and a fight with giant robots on the way.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Radio Stars on Parade

US 1945 Dir Leslie Goodwins

69 mins

35mm B&W

In order to evade the attentions of gangster Lucky Maddox, New York-based singer Sally Baker travels to Los Angeles after she is promised radio work by agent Lou Merwin. Maddox, after discovering where she has gone, sends two of his men to bring her back.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Redskins and Redheads

US 1941 Dir Harry D'Arcy

18 mins

35mm B&W

Hillbilly musical short with Ray Whitley.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ride'em Cowboy

US 1941 Dir Arthur Lubin

85 mins

16mm B&W

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rio Rita

US 1942 Dir S. Sylvan Simon

91 mins

35mm B&W

Abbott and Costello foil Nazi spies in South America.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The RKO Story – Tales from Hollywood

Part 2 - Let's Face the Music and Dance

65mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Six-part series charting the history of RKO Radio Pictures. This edition discusses in detail the staging and filming of the Astaire-Rogers pictures, through interviews with their RKO cameraman and the choreographer Hermes Pan, among others. Since panning shots were not yet available, the camera relied on tracking shots and framing; with the dancers' steps and the shots designed together to suggest the shape and speed of movement. (In contrast to the spectacles of Busby Berkeley or the later close-ups of Powell and Pressburger) Astaire insisted on being filmed in full figure.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rock All Night

US 1957 Dir Roger Corman

63 mins

35mm B&W

As a new singer auditions in a bar, two criminals break in and hold the teens hostage, and it's up to the diminutive Dick Miller to save them.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rock'n'Roll High School

US 1979 Dir Allan Arkush

93 mins

35mm Col

Rock musical comedy about rebellious California high school students who enlist the help of punk band The Ramones to overthrow the evil headmistress Miss Togar.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sailing Along

UK 1938 Dir Sonnie Hale

94 mins

35mm B&W

Jessie Matthews musical about a bargee's adopted daughter gives up stardom for the love of his son.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Salad Days

UK 1983 Dir John Bruce

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Television adaptation of Julian Slade's wildly successful musical.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sam Small Leaves Town

UK 1937 Dir Alfred Goulding

72 mins

35mm B&W

A famous actor takes a bet that he can remain undiscovered for a week, and takes a job in a holiday camp. He helps true love work for a young couple.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sarafina!

South Africa/US/France/UK 1992 Dir Darrell Roodt

116 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Musical based on Mbongeni Ngema's Broadway theatrical production and set on location in Soweto. Sarafina sees a fellow student shot dead by police, and the film follows her subsequent participation in rioting and her imprisonment as she struggles against the strictures of apartheid.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Second Chorus

US 1941 Dir H.C. Potter

85 mins

35mm B&W

Mad comedy about the efforts of a girl agent to help two professional students whose playing rivals Artie Shaw's (he appears as himself).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Seven Hills of Rome

US/Italy 1957 Dir Roy Rowland

103 mins

35mm Col

A famous tenor (Mario Lanza) travels to Rome in search of an American girlfriend. But there, his reputation means nothing, and he has to start again from scratch, aided by a lovely Italian girl.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

She Shall Have Music

UK 1935 Dir Leslie Hiscott

91 mins

35mm B&W

Musical romance centred on the Jack Hylton band and the nefarious attempts to wreck a special broadcast.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Shooting Stars

UK 1937 Dir Eric Humphriss

69 mins

35mm B&W

Variety revue featuring Scott and Whaley, Fred Duprez, Phyllis Robins, Vadio and Hertz Karina, Veronica, The Five Cycling Lyntons, Harry Robin, The Sherman Fisher Girls, Debroy Somers and his Band

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Show Boat

US 1936 Dir James Whale

115 mins

35mm B&W

Irene Dunne and Allan Jones star in this romantic melodrama with music, set on a Mississippi showboat.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Show Boat

US Dir George Sidney

107 mins

35mm Col

With Kathryn Grayson, Ava Gardner, Howard Keel, and Joe E. Brown

Archive source: BFI Distribution

The Show Boat Story [transmission date: 23/4/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir Christopher Swann

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

This documentary charts the colourful but troubled history of the musical *Show Boat*, from its Broadway premiere in the 1920s through to its revival and Hollywood remakes during the 1930s and 1950s. In London in 1988, John McGlinn brought together some of the world's greatest opera stars to sing the first-ever complete recording of Jerome Kern's musical. TV Series: Celebration

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Show Goes On

UK 1937 Dir Basil Dean

93 mins

35mm + DVD B&W

Musical romance charting Gracie Fields' progress from mill girl to music hall star.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Silk Stockings

US 1957 Dir Rouben Mamoulian

117 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Mamoulian's last picture, a remake of Lubitsch's *Ninotchka* with a witty Cole Porter score, alternates extraordinarily intimate dance sequences with a brash satire on the philistine mentality of contemporary Hollywood.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sing Boy Sing

US 1958 Dir Henry Ephron

90 mins

35mm B&W

A young pop singer is exploited by his agent. The boy comes to realise this and vows to give up his career, but his aunt persuades him otherwise.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Singapore Sue

US 1932 Dir Casey Robinson

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Four American sailors visit a club and meet Singapore Sue.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Singing Fool, The

US 1928 Dir Lloyd Bacon

105 mins

16mm B&W

A singing waiter (Al Jolson) becomes a Broadway star – but after his wife leaves him, he becomes a derelict, and is rescued by a loyal female fan. From the play by Leslie S. Barrows.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Singin' in the Rain

US 1952 Dir Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly

102 Mins

35mm + HD Digital Col

With Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds.

Probably the most treasured musical in the history of cinema, *Singin' in the Rain* is a satire on the dawning age of talking pictures, but that description doesn't begin to describe its importance in the hearts of film lovers. Given its origins – producer Arthur Freed wanted a framework on which to hang a selection of the hits he'd written in the early part of his career with Nacio Herb Brown – it should have been an uncomfortable melange of a picture. But somehow, with its combination of endearing performances, a razor-sharp script by Adolph Green and Betty Comden, inspired direction from Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen and a dazzling array of show-stopping song and dance sequences, *Singin' in the Rain* remains a triumphant and exhilarating cinema experience.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Six-Five Special

UK 1958 Dir Alfred Shaughnessy

85 mins

35mm B&W

Pop music variety film with a slender plot to link the musical numbers together. Two young women catch the six-five special train from Glasgow bound for London, with the intention of making a singing career for one of them. Performers include Lonnie Donegan, Jim Dale, Dickie Valentine, Petula Clark, Russ Hamilton, Joan Regan, The King Brothers, Johnny Dankworth, Cleo Laine, Jackie Dennis, The Ken-Tones and others.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sleepless Nights

UK 1932 Dir Thomas Bentley

71 mins

35mm B&W

Musical set in Nice concerning a reporter who poses as an heiress' husband and prevents her from eloping with a thief.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Soft Lights and Sweet Music

UK 1936 Dir Herbert Smith

86 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

A musical revue featuring Ambrose and His Orchestra, Turner Layton, Elisabeth Welch, Three Rhythm Brothers, Western Brothers, Harry Tate, Billy Bennett, Wilson, Keppell & Betty, Five Charladies, Sandy Powell's Harmonica Band, Jimmy Fletcher, Max Bacon, Jack Cooper, Karina & Co, Four Flash Devils, Four Robinas, Donald Stewart and The Hollywood Beauties from The Dorchester Hotel.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Song of Freedom

UK 1936 Dir J. Elder Wills

80 mins

35mm B&W

Musical drama starring Paul Robeson as a former docker of African origin who becomes a well-known opera singer. He is astonished to find he is actually the descendant of an African queen, and resolves to return to his native country to save the inhabitants from the corrupt rule of a group of unscrupulous witch doctors.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Song of Texas

US 1943 Dir Joe Kane

70 mins

35mm B&W

Western involving Roy Rogers masquerading as a ranch owner, with a singing act as his cowboys.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Southern Roses

UK 1936 Dir Friedrich Zelnik

75 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Comedy of false identities, involving four naval officers, a cabaret dancer, a society beauty, and a wealthy paint manufacturer.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Star Fell From Heaven

UK 1936 Dir Paul Merzbach

70 mins

35mm + Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

The story of a musical film star who loses his voice and is dubbed by a student trying to break into films - who eventually becomes a star in his own right.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Star is Born

US 1954 Dir George Cukor

182 mins

35mm Col

Esther (Judy Garland), a young singer, rescues Norman Maine (James Mason), a celebrated star, from making himself ridiculous onstage. Maine is an alcoholic whose career is fading but who recognises Esther's talent and assists her in starting a Hollywood career. But as her star ascends and his wanes, Maine's depression increases.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Starlight Ballroom

UK 1983 Dir Bryan Izzard

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Alvin Stardust headlines this musical set in the late 1940s, concerning the host of radio show The Starlight Ballroom.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Stars on Parade

UK 1936 Dir Oswald Mitchell and Challis N. Sanderson

81 mins

35mm/DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Variety film showcase for popular stars of the time, including Old Mother Riley, Jimmy James, acrobatic dancers Sid and Max Harrison, Robb Wilton, The Act Superb, John Rorke, Debroy Summers and his Band, and many others.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle

US 1939 Dir H.C. Potter

93 mins

35mm B&W

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers star in this biographical romance about a pair of dancers and their influence on their times.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Strictly Dynamite

US 1934 Dir Elliott Nugent

70 mins

35mm B&W

A struggling poet (Jimmy Durante) achieves fame by his sarcasm on the air. He leaves his wife (Lupe Velez) but they are eventually reconciled.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sud Side Stori - La Storia Vera di Romea e Giulietto

Italy 2000 Dir Roberta Torre

87 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Musical comedy set in Palermo, Sicily, based on a real-life incident. Fate arranges a chance meeting between Toni Giulietto, a down-at-heel street singer, and Romea, a stunning Nigerian girl working as a prostitute. It is love at first sight, but the family and friends of both are appalled...

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Summer Holiday

UK 1963 Dir Peter Yates

109 mins

35mm Col

Four London Transport mechanics decide to take an old double decker bus across Europe as a trial run for do-it-yourself holidays. They plan originally to go to the South of France but an accident involving them with an old car belonging to three girls results in a change of plan to go to Athens where the girls have a singing engagement. In Paris a fourth girl joins the party. After many adventures they reach Athens. Complications still arise but eventually all is sorted out and the bus with its passengers sets off to return to London. Features Cliff Richard and most of the juvenile cast of The Young Ones.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sun Valley Serenade

US 1941 Dir H. Bruce Humberstone

86 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

After being down on their luck, Phil Corey's band secures a big engagement at the Sun Valley Hotel through the help of a well-known singer, who takes a fancy to the band's pianist.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sunset on the Desert

US 1942 Dir Joe Kane

63 mins

35mm B&W

Roy Rogers and Gabby Hayes find land being taken illegally by a gang. One of the gang members is Rogers' double, which he uses to his advantage.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sunshine Ahead

UK 1935 Dir Wallace Orton

64 mins

35mm B&W

Variety film concerning a producer at UK Radio who plans a spectacular variety broadcast to counter the attacks made by a critic (his love rival). The critic, however, schemes to render the broadcast a disaster by hiding the letters of invitation that were intended for the many artists involved...

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sweeney Todd the Demon Barber of Fleet Street

US/UK 2007 Dir Tim Burton

116 mins

35mm Col

Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter star in Tim Burton's adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's stage musical about the murderous barber Sweeney Todd and the sinister arrangement he has with fellow tenant Mrs Lovett, who makes meat pies.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Swing Kids

US 1993 Dir Thomas Carter

112 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The story of two 16-year-olds in Hamburg, Germany during 1938 who rebel against the Hitler Youth with jazz.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Swingtime Johnny

US 1943 Dir Eddie Cline

60 mins

16mm B&W

The Andrews Sisters shift from nightclubs to do their duty for the war effort in an ammunitions factory, and try to keep it running despite the efforts of a saboteur.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tailor of Gloucester

UK 1989 Dir John Michael Phillips

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Musical version of Beatrix Potter's Eve of Christmas story. A poor tailor receives a last-minute commission to make a coat for the Mayor of Gloucester for his wedding on Christmas Day. The tailor becomes ill and is unable to complete the work, but his little friends the mice come to the rescue...

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Take My Tip

UK 1937 Dir Herbert Mason

74 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Musical comedy in which Jack Hulbert and Cicely Courtneidge star as Lord and Lady Pilkinton, who catch a swindler while acting as servants in their rich butler's hotel.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tales of Beatrix Potter

1971

DVD

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tano da morire

Italy 1997 Dir Roberta Torre

76 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Musical on the life and crimes of a Mafia gangster.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tell It to a Star

US 1945 Dir Frank McDonald

67 mins

35mm B&W

A cigarette girl wants to become singing star. Her uncle, posing as a wealthy man, obtains a wardrobe for her and gets her an engagement – but will her ambitions be defeated by his financial difficulties?

Archive source: BFI National Archive

That Midnight Kiss

US 1949 Dir Norman Taurog

93 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Musical romance of a singer who becomes a star overnight in an operatic production.

Loosely based on the life of Mario Lanza.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

That's entertainment!

US 1974 Dir Jack Haley

137 mins

B&W/Col

With Fred Astaire, Bing Crosby, Gene Kelly, Liza Minnelli, Debbie Reynolds, Frank Sinatra, Elizabeth Taylor. Documentary celebrating 50 years of the MGM company which also commemorates its film musicals. Great compilation of extracts from MGM's extraordinary stable of musicals, narrated by the star performers. "No other film in town offers such a harvest of undiluted joy" – Sunday Express.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

That's Entertainment Part II

US 1976 Dir Gene Kelly

126 mins

B&W/Col

Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly introduce more musical numbers plus comedy from the Marx Brothers and Laurel and Hardy. Gene Kelly directs new sequences. Animation by Hanna-Barbera Productions. Special lyrics by Howard Deitz. Music arranged and conducted by Nelson Riddle.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

That's Right – You're Wrong

US 1939 Dir David Butler

94 mins

35mm B&W

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Threepenny Opera

Germany 1931 Dir G.W. Pabst

113 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

G.W. Pabst's famous big-screen adaptation of the Bertolt Brecht-Kurt Weill musical The Threepenny Opera, which in turn was based on John Gay's eighteenth-century classic The Beggar's Opera.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Thing Called Love

US 1993 Dir Peter Bogdanovich

116 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Samantha Mathis and River Phoenix star in this musical romance about a young girl heading for Nashville to start a new life and career.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Thoroughly Modern Millie

US 1967 Dir George Roy Hill

138 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Musical comedy set in the 1920s of a young innocent (Julie Andrews) who stumbles on a white slave trade ring operating from her hotel, and routs them single-handedly.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Three Musketeers

US 1939 Dir Allan Dwan

73 mins

35mm B&W

Don Ameche and the Ritz Brothers star in this romantic musical update of the famous Dumas story.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tin Pan Alley

US 1940 Dir Walter Lang

95 mins

35mm B&W

Alice Fay and Betty Grable star in a musical comedy about two down-on-their-luck songwriters encountering two girls with their own music-hall act.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Too Many Girls

US 1940 Dir George Abbott

85 mins

35mm B&W

Musical comedy about three footballers hired to act as a bodyguard to a millionaire's daughter (Lucille Ball).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Top Hat

US 1935 Dir Mark Sandrich

99 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Classic Fred Astaire-Ginger Rogers musical. A tap dancer arouses the temper of the woman in the room below when his dancing prevents her from sleeping. After many misunderstandings, true love triumphs.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Tread Softly

UK 1952 Dir David MacDonald

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Story of a chorus girl who is "discovered" and finds romance during the unravelling of a mystery in a once derelict theatre.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Turned Out Nice Again

UK 1941 Dir Marcel Varnel

81 mins

DVD B&W

George Formby musical comedy in which his foreman is promoted to buyer but dismissed when his predecessor sells him a useless yarn. But his wife makes suits from it and all ends well.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Two Tickets to Broadway

US 1951 Dir James V. Kern

106 mins

35mm Col

A small town college girl (Janet Leigh) finds success and romance on Broadway.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Under Your Hat

UK 1940 Dir Maurice Elvey

79 mins

35mm B&W

Jack Hulbert and Cicely Courtneidge star in this musical comedy about a screen star and his wife recovering a secret carburettor stolen by enemy agents.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Up Jumped a Swagman

UK 1965 Dir Christopher Miles

88 mins

35mm Col

An Australian singer comes to London but fails to find fame and fortune.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Various Ends of Mrs F's Friends

UK 1981 Dir Gillian Lynne

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A musical by John Fletcher and Guy Woolfenden.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Victory Wedding

UK 1944 Dir Jessie Matthews

35mm B&W

18mins

Made for the National Savings Committee's Salute the Soldier campaign. A young couple prepare for post-war marriage. Directed and narrated by Jessie Matthews.

With John Mills, Beatrice Varley, Vincent Holman, Dulcie Gray.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Viktor and Victoria

Germany 1933 Dir Reinhold Schunzel

B&W 100 mins

An entertaining comedy set in the world of theatres, stages and variety clubs. Victor works in cheap variety theatres dressed as a woman to earn a few Marks each evening. When his voice fails him he persuades Susanne to appear as Mr. Viktoria in his stead. Unexpectedly, her act turns out to be hugely successful. Her career takes off and, given a contract as 'Mr Viktoria', she never manages to explain that she is in fact a woman playing a man playing a woman.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Waltzes From Vienna (aka Strauss's Great Waltz)

UK 1934 (Re-issued in 1942) Dir Alfred Hitchcock

80mins

35mm B&W

Musical set in Vienna in 1840. Story of the clash between the Johann Strauss Senior and Johann Strauss Junior, his son. Based on the musical arrangement of Julius Bittner and WE Korngold. Art direction by Alfred Junge and Oscar Werndorff. With Jessie Matthews, Edmund Gwenn, Fay Compton, Esmond Knight.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Waltz Time

UK 1945 Dir Paul L. Stein

99 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Musical romance, set in Vienna, in which the Imperial Council tries to stop the young Grand Duchess from marrying the man she loves.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

We'll Meet Again

UK 1942 Dir Phil Brandon

85 mins

35mm B&W

Best known for its iconic title song, this WWII musical romance stars Vera Lynn as a dancer who gets her first big chance as a singer during an air raid and wins the attention of the BBC.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Who is this Man?

UK 1974 Dir Ronald Fouracre

27 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A musical special for Good Friday which looks at the continuing relevance of the spectators at Calvary (the soldier, the prostitute, the mother).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Witches!

UK 1981 Dir Mary McMurray and Jeremy James Taylor

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Children's Music Theatre perform a musical play about a dispute between the witches of Pendle and the local constabulary.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Words and Music

US 1948 Dir Norman Taurog

121 mins

With Mickey Rooney, Tom Drake, Judy Garland, Lena Horne. In this biopic about the great songwriters Richard Rogers and Lorenz Hart, plot is fortunately kept to the minimum, and the 19 musical numbers themselves are at the fore. Standouts include Garland and Rooney's *I Wish I Were in Love Again*, Horne's *The Lady is a Tramp* and Gene Kelly and Vera-Ellen's electrifying eight-minute ballet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Yellow Mask, The

UK 1930 Dir Harry Lachman

95 mins

35mm B&W

Screen version of the Edgar Wallace musical play, about a villainous Chinese plan to steal the Crown Jewels from the Tower of London.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Yes, Madam?

UK 1938 Dir Norman Lee

77 mins

35mm B&W

Musical comedy about two cousins who have to take service to earn a legacy, in spite of their villainous rival to the fortune, and end up in the same house with him.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

You Were Meant for Me

US 1948 Dir Lloyd Bacon

92 mins

35mm B&W

Comedy about a bandleader who marries a young college student and during the depression works in the brickyard to earn a living.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Young Man with a Horn

US 1949 Dir Michael Curtiz

112 mins

35mm B&W

Inspired by the life of jazz player Bix Biederbecke, who died at 28 after a long battle with chronic alcoholism, this charts a jazz trumpeter's rise to fame, his moral disintegration after an unhappy marriage and his last-minute rehabilitation.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

You're a Sweetheart

US 1937 Dir David Butler

96 mins

35mm B&W

Musical comedy about attempts to publicise a show.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ziegfeld Follies

US 1946 Dir Vincente Minnelli

100 mins

35mm Col

With William Powell, Fred Astaire, Judy Garland, Lucille Ball

From high up in his celestial penthouse the Great Ziegfeld conceives one final, magnificent revue. Bursting at the seams with MGM's most heavenly bodies – including Gene Kelly, Lena Horne, Esther Williams and the original Ziegfeld star, Fanny Brice – Follies comprises thirteen numbers including the sumptuous, and classic Minnelli Traviata turn and Ball's bizarrely erotic battle with the cat women. Although Minnelli received the directorial credit, sequences were directed by six others including Norman Taurog and George Sidney.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Opera



A Night at the Opera (1935)

A selection of adaptations and filmed performances, arranged alphabetically.

Aida

UK 1968

240 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Covent Garden's production of Verdi's Egyptian epic, with Gwyneth Jones in the title role and conducted by Edward Downes, was the first complete colour broadcast of a live opera in Britain. Includes an interval discussion about the production.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Albert Herring

UK/US 1979 Dir Lou Galterio, Brian Large

145 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Benjamin Britten's comic opera, staged by the Opera Theatre of St Louis. The cast includes Pauline Tilsley, David Ward and James Hoback in the title role, and the conductor was John Moriarty.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

All the King's Men

UK 1973 Dir Peter Plummer

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Richard Rodney Bennett and Beverley Cross's children's opera about the English Civil War, performed by Trinity Boys' Choir and conducted by David Squibb.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Amahl and the Night Visitors

UK 1974 Dir Brian Large

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Christmas opera by Gian-Carlo Menotti, about Amahl, a crippled shepherd boy, whose life is altered when three wise men stop outside his hut. With Paul Maurel, April Cantelo, Michael Langdon, Edward Byles, Michael Maurel and John Tomlinson, conducted by Nicholas Braithwaite.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Andrea Chenier

UK 1985 Dir Humphrey Burton
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Placido Domingo and Anna Tomowa-Sintow headline a performance of the opera by Umberto Giordano, at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, performed by the Royal Opera Chorus and the orchestra of the Royal Opera House conducted by Julius Rudel.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Attila

UK 1987 Dir Brian Large
110 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Opera by Giuseppe Verdi, performed in the Arena di Verona, with the Verona Chorus and Orchestra, conducted by Nello Santi. Cast includes Yevgeny Nesterenko, Silvano Carroli, Maria Chiara and Veriano Luchetti.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Aventures/Nouvelles Aventures

UK 1990 Dir David Freeman
95 mins (double bill with Eight Songs for a Mad King)
Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Staged adaptation of György Ligeti's nonsense vocal works. The three singers (Helen Charnock, Christine Botes, Omar Ebrahim) appear first as human beings at a cocktail party communicating their neuroses to each other, then as animals unable to communicate through language. Conducted by Paul Daniel
Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Barber of Seville

West Germany 1976 Dir Jean-Pierre Ponnelle
88 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Performance of Rossini's opera, with the chorus and orchestra of La Scala, Milan, conducted by Claudio Abbado. The cast includes Teresa Berganza, Luigi Alva, Stefania Malagú, Enzo Dara and Paolo Montarsolo.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Beggar's Opera

UK 1953 Dir Peter Brook
94 mins
35mm Col
Adaptation of the comic operetta by John Gay, with Hugh Griffith, Dorothy Tutin, George Devine, Mary Clare and Athene Seyler. A notorious highwayman is betrayed by tavern doxies in the pay of his wife's family, but is reprieved at the last moment.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Billy Budd

UK 1966 Dir Basil Coleman

160 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Production of the opera by Benjamin Britten with Peter Pears, Peter Glossop, Michael Langdon, John Shirley-Quirk.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Blond Eckbert

UK 1994 Dir Margaret Williams

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Judith Weir's psychological opera. Eckbert and wife Berthe are visited by their friend Walther. To pass the time during the evening, Berthe tells the story of her early life to Walther - a long, involved tale she tells with total recall leading to ultimate catastrophe.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

La Boheme

UK 2000 Dir David McVicar

117 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Glyndebourne production of Giacomo Puccini's opera, conducted by Louis Langrée and performed as the composer intended, with young performers in the roles and without make-up or sumptuous costumes and sets.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Boheme

UK 1999 Dir Tony Britten

100 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A reworking of the Puccini opera, sung in English, and set in an urban, contemporary setting.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Boris Godunov

France 1980 Dir Joseph Losey

180 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col/DVD

Stage production of Modest Mussorgsky's opera (in the Dmitri Shostakovich orchestration) by the Theatre National Opera de Paris, with Ruggero Raimondi, Zehava Gal, Christine Barbaux, Anna Ringart and Kenneth Riegel, conducted by Rauslan Raytcheff

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Boris Godunov

UK 1988 Dir Derek Bailey

Recording of the Bolshoi Theatre production of Mussorgsky's opera, with Yevgeny Nesterenko, Vladislav Piavko, Yuri Mazurok and Tamara Sinyavskaya, conducted by Alexander Lazarev.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Boris Godunov

UK 1990 Dir Humphrey Burton

240 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Live television broadcast of Andrei Tarkovsky's production of Mussorgsky's opera Boris Godunov, performed for the first time in the USSR in a completely uncut version at the Kirov Opera in Leningrad. Valery Gergiev conducts, and the cast includes Robert Lloyd, Olga Borodina and Sergei Leiferkus.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Callas Sings Tosca

UK 1964

60 mins

Beta SP + DVD + VHS B&W

Recording of Maria Callas singing Act 2 of Tosca, with Renato Cioni, Tito Gobbi, Dennis Wicks, Robert Bowman and the Orchestra and Chorus of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Camera

UK 1994 Dir Jane Thorburn

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Anthony Moore and Peter Blegvad's specially commissioned television opera, set in an imaginary country and tax-haven based inside a suburban house. With Dagmar Krause and John Harris.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Carmen

UK 1978 Dir John Copley

170 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV recording of the English National Opera's Carmen from the London Coliseum, with Katherine Pring, Robert Ferguson, Geoffrey Chard and Linda Esther Gray, conducted by Charles Mackerras

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Christmas Carol

UK 1980 Dir Michael Hayes

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Operatic adaptation of Charles Dickens' story, with music by Norman Kay and libretto by John Morgan. The cast includes Geraint Evans, Gwynne Howell, Elizabeth Gale and Ryland Davies.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Le Comte Ory

UK 1997 Dir Jérôme Savary and Brian Large

174 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Andrew Davis conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra while Jérôme Savary directs this Glyndebourne version of Rossini's comedy opera with Marc Laho, Ludovic Tezier, Annick Massis, Julien Robbins, Diana Montague and Jane Shaulis.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Così fan tutte

UK 1968

195 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Record of the Covent Garden production of Mozart's comic opera, with Pilar Lorengar, Josephine Veasey, Lucia Popp, Donald Grobe, Wladimiro Ganzarolli and Keith Engen, conducted by Georg Solti.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Countess Maritza

ITV 1959 Dir Mark Lawton

27 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Highly condensed version of Emmerich Kálmán's operetta with Sadler's Wells singers and orchestra.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Damnation of Faust

UK 1997 Dir David Alden, Humphrey Burton

155 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A special television presentation of Berlioz's darkly comic opera in a production staged by the English National Opera in early 1997. Conducted by Mark Elder, it features Bonaventura Bottone, Louise Winter, Williard White and Graeme Danby.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Death of Klinghoffer

UK 2003 Dir Penny Woolcock

125 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Adaptation of John Adams opera based on the 1985 hijacking of a cruise ship by four Palestinians. Featuring Sanford Sylvan, Christopher Maltman, Yvonne Howard, Tom Randle and Kamel Bourtos.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Devil's Brother

US 1933 Dir Hal Roach, Charles Rogers

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy star in this comic story of bandits who pose as noblemen in order to get loot from its hiding place. From the opera by Daniel-François-Esprit Auber.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dido and Aeneas

UK 1965

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

The Glyndebourne production of Henry Purcell's Carthage-set opera, adapted by Benjamin Britten and Imogen Holst and featuring Janet Baker, Thomas Hemsley, Elizabeth Robson and Yvonne Minton.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dido and Aeneas

UK 1978 Dir John Copley

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV programme of the Scottish Opera production of Henry Purcell's opera, featuring Janet Baker, Alan Titus and Norma Burrowes. Charles Mackerras conducts the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. John Currie directed the Scottish Opera Chorus.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dido and Aeneas: A Danced Opera

UK 1995 Dir Barbara Willis Sweete

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Choreographer Mark Morris takes a new approach to Henry Purcell's opera with a performance combining dance and opera.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Don Carlos

Italy 1978 Dir Mario Conti, Luca Ronconi

235 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV presentation of the La Scala production of Verdi's opera by Luca Ronconi, conducted by Claudio Abbado and featuring Plácido Domingo, Margaret Price, Elena Obratsova, Yevgeny Nesterenko, Renato Bruson and Nikolai Ghiaurov.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Don Carlo at Covent Garden

UK 1985 Dir Brian Large

215 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Luchino Visconti's production of Verdi's Don Carlo, revived at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, conducted by Bernard Haitink and featuring Ileana Cotrubas, Patricia Parker, Luis Lima, John Dobson, Matthew Best, Giorgio Zancaro and Robert Lloyd..

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Don Giovanni

Italy/France/German Federal Republic 1979 Dir Joseph Losey

184 mins

16mm Col

Film version of Mozart's opera, shot on location in and around Vicenza. Archive source: BFI Distribution

Don Giovanni

UK 1988 Dir John Vernon

220 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Live transmission from Covent Garden Royal Opera House of Mozart's opera, conducted by Colin Davis and featuring Thomas Allen, Kiri Te Kanawa, Makvala Kasrashvili, Joan Rodgers, Stafford Dean and Stuart Burrows. The interval includes interviews with Kiri Te Kanawa, Thomas Allen and Sir John Tooley, retiring General Director of the Royal Opera House.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Don Giovanni

UK 1991 Dir David Freeman, Derek Bailey

168 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Specially staged version of the Mozart opera, filmed in a derelict chapel. Conducted by Paul Daniel, it features Omar Ebrahim, Marie Angel, Christine Bunning, Clive Bayley and Tom McDonnell.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Don Giovanni

UK 1995 Dir Derek Bailey

221 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Deborah Warner's Glyndebourne production of the opera, conducted by Yakov Kreizberg and featuring Gilles Cachemaille, Steven Page, John Mark Ainsley, Adrienne Pieczonka and Hilleve Martinpelto. The running time includes an interval discussion on seduction in the 1990s.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Don Giovanni Unmasked

Canada 2001 Dir Barbara Willis Sweete

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performance of an adaptation of Mozart's opera Don Giovanni set in 1930s Hollywood on the set of a film set in the 1620s. The cast includes Dmitri Hvorotovsky, Barbara Dunn Prosser and Gary Relyea.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Don Pasquale

UK 1980 Dir Basil Coleman

112 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Production of the opera by Donizetti, performed by the Welsh National Opera with the Welsh Philharmonic Orchestra. The cast includes Geraint Evans, Ryland Davies, Lillian Watson and Russell Smythe.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Down by the Greenwood Side

UK 1972 Dir Barrie Gavin

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Musical version of an ancient British mummers play with music by Harrison Birtwistle and words by Michael Nyman.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dylan Thomas's Me and My Bike

UK 1979

55 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Inspired by the work of Dylan Thomas, this operetta about the fantasies of a young stable lad by Richard Roderick Jones (music) and Michael Davies (libretto) is brought to life by puppets and electronic effects.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Eight Songs for a Mad King

UK 1990 Dir David Freeman

95 mins (double bill with Adventures)

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Peter Maxwell Davies' opera about a man who is suffering from the delusion that he is George III. Featuring Richard Stuart, Helen Charnock and Christine Botes, with the London Sinfonietta conducted by Paul Daniel.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Empress

UK 1994 Dir Jane Thorburn

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Orlando Gough's specially commissioned TV opera, based on Wedekind's play. Young Empress Filissa is prescribed marriage as the only cure for her depression, but she rejects a succession of suitors representing power, intellect and money in favour of musclemán Holtoff. With Amanda Dean, Mike Ahearne, Valerie Morgan and the Flying Pickets

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ermione

UK 1995 Dir Alex Marengo, Graham Vick

175 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

British premiere of Rossini's little known two-act tragic opera, originally staged at Glyndebourne by Graham Vick and conducted by Andrew Davis with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. The cast includes Anna-Caterina Antonacci, Diana Montague, Jorge Lopez-Yanez, Bruce Ford, Paul Austin Kely and Gwynne Howell.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Eugene Onegin

UK 1994 Dir Humphrey Burton

195 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Glyndebourne production of Tchaikovsky's opera, performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Andrew Davis. The cast includes Wojciech Drabowicz, Louise Winter, Martin Thompson and Elena Prokina.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Falstaff

UK 1972 Dir Basil Coleman

125 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Presentation of Verdi's comic opera, with Geraint Evans and Regina Resnik in the lead roles and featuring the English Chamber Orchestra, conducted by James Lockhart, and the Ambrosian Opera Chorus.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Falstaff

UK 1978 Dir David Heather

135 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Glyndebourne festival production of Verdi's Falstaff, with Donald Gramm, Benjamin LUXon and Elizabeth Gale, and the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by John Pritchard.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Faust

UK 1996 Dir Derek Bailey

181 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An English-language version of Gounod's opera celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Welsh National Opera, conducted by Charles Mackerras and featuring Paul Charles Clarke, Janice Watson and Alistair Miles.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Die Fledermaus

UK 1977 Dir Brian Large

245 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Zubin Mehta conducts the chorus and orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in Strauss' operetta. The cast includes Ryszard Karczykowski, Kiri Te Kanawa, Hermann Prey, Hildegard Heichele, Benjamin LUXon and Robert Tear.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Die Fledermaus

UK 1990 Dir Humphrey Burton

255 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Live coverage of the performance of Die Fledermaus from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, featuring the Australian soprano Joan Sutherland in her farewell performance before retiring.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Flight

UK 1999 Dir Humphrey Burton

150 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Glyndebourne production of the Jonathan Dove opera set in an airport departure lounge. The cast includes Anne Mason, Claron McFadden, Mary Plazas, Ann Taylor and Nuala Willis.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Flood

Netherlands 1987 Dir Jaap Drupsteen

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

In 1960, Igor Stravinsky was commissioned to write an opera for television, and conceived a dance/drama based on the Biblical allegory of Noah and the Flood. Using video effects available 20 years later, Dutch video artist Jaap Drupsteen has created an innovative production to honour the original 1962 recording with Robert Craft conducting the Columbia Symphony Orchestra.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Flying Dutchman

UK 1975 Dir Brian Large

140 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Interval-free performance of Wagner's opera by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Ambrosian Opera Chorus, conducted by David Lloyd-Jones and featuring Norman Bailey, Gwyneth Jones, Stafford Dean, Keith Erwen, Joan Davies and Robert Ferguson.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

La Gioconda

UK/US 1979 Dir Kirk Browning

82 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The San Francisco Opera Company performs Ponchielli's opera, conducted by Bruno Bartoletti and featuring Renata Scotto, Margarita Lilova, Ferruccio Furlanetto, Stefania Toczyska and Luciano Pavarotti.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gloriana

UK 1984 Dir Derek Bailey

170 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of the ENO production of Benjamin Britten's opera Gloriana, with the English National Open Orchestra and Chorus, conducted by Mark Elder and Sarah Walker, Anthony Rolfe Johnson, Jean Rigby, Richard Van Allen, Neil Howlett, Elizabeth Vaughan and Alan Opie.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Golden Cockerel

UK 1980

140 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of Rimsky-Korsakov's opera performed by the Scottish Opera at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow. Sung in English translation.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Good Friday 1663

UK 1995 Dir Frank Cvitanovich

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV opera by Mike and Kate Westbrook. As Parson Snakepeace delivers his doom and gloom sermon on Good Friday, 17-year-old Belinda reflects on the past – of meeting handsome Celadon, the discovery of their tryst and being banished to Suffolk to marry uncouth Squire Clodpoll. But she vows to remain in good spirits.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Greek

UK 1990 Dir Peter Maniura

85 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Opera by Mark-Anthony Turnage, based on the play by Steven Berkoff that updates the Oedipus myth to London's East End. Performed by the Almeida Ensemble conducted by Richard Bernas.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Gypsy Princess

West Germany 1979 Dir Miklos Biro

105 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Film of the operetta by Emmerich Kálmán, conducted by Miklós Szinetár, with Anna Moffo, René Kollo, Dagmar Koller and Sándor Nemeth.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hansel and Gretel

UK 1990 Dir Barrie Gavin and Stefanos Lazarides

115 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

David Pountney's English National Opera production of Englebert Humperdinck's opera, conducted by Mark Elder and featuring Ethna Robinson, Cathryn Pope, Felicity Palmer, Norman Bailey, Maureen Braithwaite and Janis Kelly

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hansel and Gretel

UK 1998 Dir Humphrey Burton and Richard Jones

115 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Welsh National Opera's production of the opera by Englebert Humperdinck, directed by Richard Jones, conducted by Wladimir Jurowski and featuring Imelda Drumm, Linda Kitchen, Nigel Robson, Mary Lloyd-Davies and Robert Poulton.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Horse Opera

UK 1994 Dir Bob Baldwin

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Specially commissioned television opera by Stewart Copeland and Jonathan Moore, inspired by *Cowboys* by Anne Caulfield. It recounts the fantasies of an office clerk who suffers a blow to the head and enters a Wild West adventure. With Gina Bellman, Philip Guy-Bromley, Silas Carson, Siobhan McCarthy, Edward Tudor-Pole and Rik Mayall.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Idomeneo

UK 1970 Dir Brian Large

170 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

English Opera Group production of Mozart's opera, conducted by Benjamin Britten and featuring Heather Harper, Anne Pashley, Rae Woodland, Robert Tear and Peter Pears.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Impresario

UK 1980

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A comedy with music in one act, adapted for television by Francis Coleman and Kenneth Corden, based on Mozart's comic opera, performed by the English Chamber Orchestra conducted by Wilem Tausky.

Jenufa

UK 1990 Dir Derek Bailey

135 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Glyndebourne production of Janacek's opera, conducted by Andrew Davis.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Jolly Beggars

UK 1979 Dir Jim McCann

37 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Scottish Opera production of Robert Burns' *The Jolly Beggars*, with music by Cedric Thorpe Davie.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Julius Caesar

UK 1985 Dir John Michael Phillips

205 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A studio recording of a production by the English National Opera staged to mark Handel's tercentenary. Conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras and featuring Janet Baker, Valerie Masterson and James Bowman, it follows the modern practice of casting women in leading roles originally performed by castrati.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Juno and Avos

UK 1983 Dir Michael Houldley

95 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of the popular Russian rock opera by Alexei Rybnikov and Andrei Voznesdensky. The cast includes Nikolai Karatchensov, Kris Kelmi, Yelena Shanina and Aleksandr Abdulov.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Katya Kabanova

UK 1982 Dir Peter Butler

95 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of David Pountney's Welsh National Opera production of Janacek's opera, recorded at the New Theatre, Cardiff, conducted by Richard Armstrong and featuring Elisabeth Söderström in the title role.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Kat'a Kabanova

UK 1989 Dir Derek Bailey

115 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Glyndebourne Festival production of Janacek's tragic opera, directed by Nikolaus Lehnhoff and featuring Nancy Gustafson, John Graham-Hall, Christine Bunning, Donald Adams, Barry McCauly and Linda Ormiston.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Khovanshchina

USSR 1979 Dir L.V.Baratov

175 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Bolshoi Theatre production of Musorgsky's opera in the Rimsky-Korsakov completion, conducted by Yuri Simonov and featuring Yevgeny Nesterenko.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Khovanshchina

UK 1989 Dir Brian Large

185 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Shostakovich orchestration of Musorgsky's opera, with the final scene by Stravinsky, in a Vienna State Opera production.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

King of Hearts

UK 1995 Dir Christopher Rawlence

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Specially commissioned television opera by Michael Torke about a teacher who combats loneliness by trawling public places for discarded love letters and notes, which help him fantasise about the love life of others. With Hilton McRae, Omar Ebrahim and Lynne Davies.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

King Priam

UK 1986 Dir Robin Lough

140 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Production of Sir Michael Tippett's opera for the Kent Opera, directed by Nicholas Hytner, conducted by Roger Norrington and featuring Janet Price, Rodney Macann, Sarah Walker, Omar Ebrahim and Howard Haskin.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Little Sweep

UK 1989 Dir Basil Coleman

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Short opera written by Benjamin Britten for children, about an eight-year-old chimney sweep who is saved from a life of Dickensian misery by a group of children and their governess.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Love of Three Oranges

UK 1980 Dir Brian Large

125 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Television version of Prokofiev's comic opera, with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Ambrosian Opera Chorus conducted by Robin Stapleton and a cast that includes Robin Leggate, Alexander Oliver, Joseph Rouleau, Pauline Tinsley and Dennis Wicks.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Love for Three Oranges

BBC 1989 Dir Barrie Gavin

120 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performance of Prokofiev's opera by Opera North at the Grand Theatre, Leeds in Richard Jones' production.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lucrezia Borgia

UK 1980 Dir Brian Large

155 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Donizetti's opera staged at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, with a cast including Joan Sutherland, Alfredo Krauss, Anne Howells, Stafford Dean, Francis Egerton, Roderick Kennedy and Paul Hudson.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lulu

UK 1996 Dir Humphrey Burton and Graham Vick

214 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

First staging of Alban Berg's work at Glyndebourne, performed by the London Philharmonic orchestra, conducted by Andrew Davis and featuring Christine Schäfer,

Kathryn Harries, Patricia Bardon, Jonathan Veira, Stephan Drakulich and Wolfgang Schöne. During the interval, Natasha Walter explores the obsession with fallen women.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Madame Butterfly

West Germany/France 1974 Dir Jean-Pierre Ponnelle

155 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

One of the first opera films to combine superb musical performances with imaginative film techniques. Herbert von Karajan conducts the Wiener Philharmoniker and a cast that includes Mirella Freni, Placido Domingo and Christa Ludwig.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Madame Butterfly

France/Japan/Germany/UK Dir Frédéric Mitterrand

130 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Film adaptation of Puccini's opera, with the Orchestre de Paris conducted by James Conlon. The cast includes Ying Huang, Richard Troxell, Ning Liang, Richard Cowan and Jing Ma Fan.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Makropulos Case

UK 1995 Dir Brian Large and Nikolaus Lehnhoff

110 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Glyndebourne Festival production of Janacek's opera, conducted by Andrew Davis and featuring Anja Silja, Kim Begley, Andrew Shore, Victor Braun and Anthony Roden.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat

UK 1987 Dir Christopher Rawlence

85 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Michael Nyman's 'chamber opera', based on neurologist Oliver Sacks' case history of a man whose disease makes him unable to recognise everyday objects. The cast includes Emile Belcourt, Frederick Westcott and Patricia Hooper.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Manon Lescaut

UK 1997 Dir Graham Vick and Humphrey Burton

170 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Glyndebourne Festival Opera production of Puccini's opera, conducted by John Eliot Gardiner and featuring Antonello Palombi, Patrick Denniston, Paolo Montarsolo, Roberto de Candia and Adina Nutescu. The interval includes interviews with singers and members of the production team.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Marriage Contract

UK 1986 Dir Haldane Duncan

75 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Scottish Opera production of Rossini's comic opera, with Bill McCue, Meryl Drower, Deborah Stuart-Roberts and Eric Roberts, conducted by Richard Honner.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Marriage of Figaro

UK 1974 Dir David Heather

180 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of the 1973 Glyndebourne production of the Mozart opera, performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by John Pritchard and starring Kiri Te Kanawa, Benjamin LUXon, Ileana Cotrubas, Knut Skram and Frederica von Stade.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Marriage of Figaro

UK 1989 Dir John Michael Phillips

200 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The opera broadcast from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in two parts.

Conducted by Bernard Haitink, it features Claudio Desderi, Marie McLaughlin, Stella Kleindienst and Thomas Allen.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Marriage of Figaro

UK 1990 Dir Derek Bailey and Peter Hall

180 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Glyndebourne Festival Opera production of Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, performed on period instruments. During the interval, conductor Simon Rattle talks to fellow conductors Nicholas Kok and Charles Mackerras and singers, as to how performing the opera on period instruments affected the production.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Marriage of Figaro

UK 1991 Dir David Freeman

195 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Opera Factory production of Mozart's opera, staged at the Royal Opera House and featuring Marie Angel, Geoffrey Dolton, Janis Kelly, Lyndon Terracini, Susanna Walters, Hugh Hetherington and Tom McDonnell.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Marriage of Figaro

UK 1994 Dir Derek Bailey

195 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performance of the opera to mark the opening of the new opera house at Glyndebourne. Bernard Haitink conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra and a cast that includes Gerald Finley, Alison Hagley, Andreas Schmidt, Marie-Ange Todorovitch and Renée Fleming.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Mastersingers of Nuremberg

Sweden 1979 Dir Thomas Olofsson

315 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV relay of Wagner's comic opera from the stage of the Swedish Royal Opera House, Stockholm, in a new production by Gotz Friedrich. Conducted by Berislav Klobucar, the cast includes Leif Roar and Sven-Olaf Eliasson.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Medium

US 1951 Dir Gian Carlo Menotti and Alexander Hackenschmied

85 mins

35mm B&W

Gian Carlo Menotti's original film opera, the story of a fake woman medium who, at one of her seances, realises something genuinely supernatural has happened and is subsequently tormented by fears.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Merry Widow

UK 1959 Dir Mark Lawton

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Highly condensed version of the operetta with Sadler's Wells singers and orchestra conducted by William Reid. The cast includes Peter Grant, June Bronhill, Marion Lowe and Howell Glynne.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Merry Widow

UK 1980 Dir Ian Engelmann

160 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performance of operetta by Franz Lehar, by the English National Opera, from the London Coliseum. Conducted by Henry Krips, it features Anne Howells, Emile Belcourt, Della Jones and Graham Clark.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Midsummer Marriage

UK 1989 Dir Elijah Moshinsky

170 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Production of Michael Tippett's visionary story of renewal and enlightened love. Performed by the London Sinfonietta, conducted by David Atherton and featuring Philip Langridge, Lucy Shelton, David Wilson-Johnson and Janet Suzman.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Midsummer Night's Dream

UK 1978 Dir Vincent Dowdall

165 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Television presentation of the opera by Benjamin Britten, performed by the Welsh National Opera, conducted by Anthony Hose.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Midsummer Night's Dream

UK 1983 Dir David Heather

170 mins

Beta SP + VHS Col

Recording of the Glyndebourne production of Britten's opera produced by Peter Hall, conducted by Bernard Haitink and featuring Ileana Cotrubas, Damien Nash, James Bowman, Ryland Davies, Dale Duesing, Cynthia Buchan and Felicity Lott.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Mikado

UK 1939 Dir Victor Schertzinger

91 mins

35mm Col

The first screen version of this or any Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, originally planned as the first of a series until WWII intervened. The cast comprises D'Oyley Carte veterans including Kenny Baker, Martyn Green, Sydney Granville, John Barclay, Gregory Stroud, Jean Colin, Constance Willis, Elizabeth Paynter and Kathleen Naylor.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Mikado

UK 1987 Dir John Michael Phillips

140 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Jonathan Miller's famous English National Opera update of the Gilbert & Sullivan operetta, featuring Richard Van Allan, Richard Angas, Bonaventura Bottone, Susan Bullock, Lesley Garrett, Eric Idle, Felicity Palmer and Mark Richardson.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mitridate

France 1987 Dir Jean-Pierre Ponnelle

140 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Production of the early Mozart opera, conducted by Nikolaus Harnoncourt and featuring Gosta Winbergh, Ann Murray, Anne Gjevang, John Rodgers, Yvonne Kenny and Massimiliano Roncato.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Night at the Chinese Opera

UK 1988 Dir Barrie Gavin

110 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Opera based on the 13th century Chinese play The Chao Family Orphan, performed by the Kent Opera at the Theatre Royal, Bath. Words and music by Judith Weir.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Nixon in China

US 1988 Dir Brian Large and Peter Sellars

163 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of Peter Sellars' original production of John Adams' opera about President Nixon's historic visit to China in 1972. The cast includes James Maddalena, Sanford Sylvan, John Duykers, Thomas Hammons and Carolann Page

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Noye's Fludde

UK 1971 Dir Walter Todds

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Benjamin Britten's opera based on the Chester miracle play and performed in the English Opera Group production in the Maltings Hall, Snape, Suffolk, conducted by Steuart Bedford.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Oedipus Rex

Japan 1995 Dir Peter Gelb and Pat Jaffe

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Japanese production of Stravinsky's opera-oratorio using striking visual elements such as a set which floats above a reflecting pool, huge puppets and sculptures. Seiji Ozawa conducts the Saito Kinen Orchestra and eighty-strong Shinyukai Chorus. The Cocteau narration is in Japanese.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Old Father Christmas

UK 1994 Dir Richard Sharples

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An original modern opera which examines Santa's long forgotten pagan and animalistic roots. Before his smart, consumer-friendly image, he was a wood god – wild and unpredictable. The jolly old soul we are so used to is in fact a character of chaos, struggling with his primal instincts.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Orfeo ed Euridice

West Germany 1987 Dir Hans Hulscher

83 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Television recording of a production of Gluck's opera first staged at the Komische Oper, Berlin. The cast includes Jochen Kowalski and Gillian Webster, and it won the Laurence Olivier Award for Most Outstanding Achievement in Opera in 1989.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Orpheus in the Underground

UK 1977 Dir Kenneth Gorden

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV pop opera. A young busker (Julian Littman) quarrels with and loses his girl (Joanna Carlin) in the London Underground. Music by Carl Davis

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Orpheus in the Underworld

UK 1983 Dir Derek Bailey and Christopher Renshaw

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Christopher Renshaw's staging of Jacques Offenbach's opera, performed by the BBC Concert Orchestra, conducted by Alexander Faris and featuring Denis Quilley, Honor Blackman and Christopher Gable.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Othello

UK 1969 Dir Basil Coleman

150 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Television production of Verdi's *Otello*, performed by the New Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by Jack Rothstein and featuring Richard Cassilly, Peter Glossop and Teresa Stratas.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Owen Wingrave

UK 1971 Dir Colin Graham, Brian Large

110 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An opera written for and premiered on television based on the short ghost story by Henry James. Recorded at the Maltins and conducted by Benjamin Britten himself, it features Benjamin Luxon, John Shirley-Quirk, Nigel Douglas, Sylvia Fisher, Heather Harper, Janet Baker, Peter Pears and Geoffrey West.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Owen Wingrave

UK 2001 Dir Margaret Williams

92 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

New production of the 1971 Benjamin Britten opera, performed by the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, conducted by Kent Nagano, and featuring Gerald Finley, Charlotte Hellekant and Josephine Barstow.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pagliacci

UK 1952

75 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Performance of the opera by Leoncavallo starring Arthur Servent, Eric Whitley, Eugenie Castle, Graham Clifford and John Cameron, conducted by Eric Robinson.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pelléas et Mélisande

UK 1999 Dir Humphrey Burton and Graham Vick

177 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Graham Vick's Glyndebourne production of Debussy's opera, performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Andrew Davis and featuring Christiane Oelze, Richard Croft, John Tomlinson, Jean Rigby and Gwynne Howell.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

La Perichole

UK 1980

110 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Production of Offenbach's opera recorded in the Chichester Festival Theatre, conducted by John Owen Edwards and featuring Eirian James, Mike Bulman, Alan Watt, Charles Metcalfe, Nigel Beavan and Tom Lawlor. Production by Peter Knapp, who supervises the dress rehearsal seen in the film.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Powder Her Face

UK 1999 Dir Margaret Williams

125 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Thomas Ades' modern opera about the rise and fall of Margaret, Duchess of Argyll. The cabaret-style tale involves a series of flashbacks tracing her extraordinary life from the 1920s to the 1990s, including her sexual extravagances and infamous divorce.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Rape of Lucretia

UK 1988 Dir Michael Simpson and Graham Vick

108 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of the English National Opera's production of Benjamin Britten's opera, conducted by Lionel Friend and featuring Anthony Rolfe Johnson, Kathryn Harries, Jean Rigby, Richard Van Allan, Cathryn Pope, Russell Smythe and Alan Opie.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Return of Ulysses to his Homeland

UK 1975 Dir David Heather

143 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A performance of Monteverdi's opera with Janet Baker, Benjamin LUXon, Anne Howells, and Richard Lewis, the Glyndebourne Festival Chorus and the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Raymond Leppard.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rigoletto

West Germany 1985 Dir Jean-Pierre Ponnelle

120 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's production of Verdi's opera, conducted by Riccardo Chailly and featuring Ingvar Wixell, Edita Gruberova, Luciano Pavarotti, Feruccio Furlanetto and Victoria Vergara.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Ring Reduced

UK 1995 Dir Declan Lowney

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Reduced Shakespeare Company's version of Wagner's Ring Cycle, compressing 16 hours into less than 30 minutes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rodelinda

UK 1998 Dir Humphrey Burton and Jean-Marie Villegier

207 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Glyndebourne Festival Opera performance of Handel's opera, with Anna Caterina Antonacci in the title role. Musical performance by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, conducted by William Christie. The running time includes an interview with Handel expert Jonathan Keates and members of the production team.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rusalka

UK 1986 Dir Derek Bailey

170 mins

Beta SP Col

David Pountney's English National Opera production of Dvorak's opera, set in the Edwardian era, conducted by Mark Elder and featuring Eilene Hannah, John Treleaven, Ann Howard, Rodney McCann and Edward Byles.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Salome

UK 1992 Dir Peter Hall and Derek Bailey

105 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Sir Peter Hall's acclaimed Royal Opera Production from Covent Garden, conducted by Edward Downes and featuring Maria Ewing, Michael Devlin, Kenneth Riegel, Gillian Knight and Robin Leggate.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Satyagraha

Germany 1984 Dir Hugo Käch and Joachim Augustin

170 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Philip Glass' opera about the early life of Gandhi, recorded at the Staatstheater, Stuttgart. This adaptation for Channel 4 includes Glass's own comments on the work, plus video "enhancement" and Sanskrit and English subtitles.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Silver Tassie

UK 2000 Dir Peter Maniura and Bill Bryden

122 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The English National Opera production of Mark-Anthony Turnage's opera; based on Sean O'Casey's play, about a close-knit Dublin community enduring the tragedy of World War One. Conducted by Paul Daniel. The running time includes interviews with Turnage, Daniel, adapter Amanda Holden, director Bill Bryden and designer William Dudley.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Simon Boccanegra

UK 1992 Dir Brian Large

137 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Production of the Verdi opera with Kiri Te Kanawa and Alexandru Agache, conducted by Georg Solti.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Simon Boccanegra

UK 1998 Dir Robin Lough and Peter Hall

168 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Glyndebourne Festival Opera production of Verdi's opera, directed by Peter Hall and performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Mark Elder. The cast includes Giancarlo Pasquetto, Elena Prokina, Peter Sidhom, Daniel Borowski, David Rendall and Alastair Miles.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sophie's Choice

UK 2002

253 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Live television premiere of Nicholas Maw's opera, based on the William Styron's novel, starring Angelika Kirchschlager as the Polish woman who survives a concentration camp but is forever haunted by the terrible choice she was forced to make. The running time includes interviews with Maw, Styron, director Trevor Nunn and conductor Simon Rattle.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Tales of Hoffmann

UK 1951 Dir Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger

115 mins

35mm Col

Powell and Pressburger's lavishly imagined feature film version of Jacques Offenbach's opera, in many ways the purest example of what Powell called "composed film", previously attempted in *Black Narcissus* and *The Red Shoes*, in which every visual and aural element is meticulously pre-scored to create an overwhelming aesthetic experience.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Tales of Hoffman

UK 1971 Dir John Gorrie

130 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Television production of Offenbach's opera, performed by the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Charles Mackerras and featuring Geraint Evans, Elizabeth Harwood, Michael Molese and Gillian Ramsden.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tannhäuser

Germany 1995 Dir Brian Large

193 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

David Alden's production of Wagner's opera for the Bayerische Staatsoper, conducted by Zubin Mehta and featuring René Kollo, Jan-Hendrik Rootering, Bernd Weikl, Claes-Haakon Ahnsjö, Gerhard Auer, Nadine Secunde and Waltraud Meier.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Theodora

UK 1996 Dir Peter Sellars

235 mins (inc. interviews)

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Peter Sellars' Glyndebourne production of Handel's oratorio, sung in English in a contemporary setting, performed by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, conducted by William Christie and featuring Dawn Upshaw, David Daniels, Frode Olsen, Richard Croft and Lorraine Hunt.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tobias and the Angel

UK 1960 Dir Rudolph Cartier

80 mins

35mm B&W

Arthur Bliss' opera, set in the age of the Old Testament. Israel has been overrun by the Assyrians. Tobit, a member of the Nephtali tribe, and his family are living in exile in Ninevah, the Assyrian capital.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tosca

Italy/UK 1985 Dir Brian Large

145 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Puccini's opera, recorded at the open air arena in Verona. The Chorus and Orchestra of the Arena di Verona is conducted by Daniel Oren, and the cast includes Eva Marton, Giacomo Aragall and Ingvar Wixell.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

La Traviata

UK 1927 Dir Harry B. Parkinson

25 mins

35mm B&W

Excerpts from the Verdi opera made for the Cameo Operas series, featuring Antony Ireland, Peggy Carlisle and Booth Conway

Archive source: BFI National Archive

La Traviata

UK 1988 Dir Peter Hall

150 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Televised version of Glyndebourne's 1987 production of Verdi's opera, conducted by Bernard Haitink and featuring Marie McLaughlin, Jane Turner, Gordon Sandison, David Hillman, Walter Macneil, Enid Hartle and Brent Ellis.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

La Traviata

UK 1994 Dir Richard Eyre and Humphrey Burton

220 mins (inc. intervals)

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Live broadcast of the Verdi opera from the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, conducted by Sir Georg Solti and featuring Angela Gheorghiu and Frank Lopardo.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Trial by Jury

UK 1974 Dir Peter Potter

34 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Television production of Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta, conducted by Charles Mackerras and featuring Norma Burrowes, John Brecknock, Eric Shilling, Dennis Dowling, Harold Blackburn and Peter Lehmann Bedford.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Triumph of Beauty and Deceit

UK 1995 Dir Donald Taylor Black

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

For this specially composed television opera, Gerald Barry and Meredith Oakes were inspired by Handel's oratorio The Triumph of Truth and Time to create a bizarre world where Beauty, encouraged by Deceit and Pleasure, hopes to become immortal – but is opposed by Truth and Time. Features Richard Edgar-Wilson, Adrian Clarke, Nicholas Clapton, Denis Lakey and Stephen Richardson.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Il Trovatore

UK 1964

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Highlights from the Covent Garden production conducted by Carlo Maria Giulini and featuring Gwyneth Jones, Bruno Prevedi, Giulietta Simionato, Peter Glossop, Joseph Rouleau, Elizabeth Bainbridge and John Dobson.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Il Trovatore

UK 1987 Dir Brian Large

155 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Verdi's opera staged in 1985 in the vast Roman arena at Verona. With Rosalind Plowright, Fiorenza Cossotto, Franco Bonisolli, Giorgio Zancanaro, conducted by Reynald Giovaninetti.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Turandot

US 1967

3 mins

16mm B&W

An excerpt from Puccini's opera during a dress rehearsal in Seattle. With Giovanni Martinelli as the Emperor.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Turandot

US 1994 Dir Brian Large

120 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The 1993 production of Puccini's opera from the San Francisco Opera with sets and costumes designed by David Hockney. Featuring Eva Marton, Michael Sylvester, Kevin Langan and Lucia Mazaria.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Turn of the Screw

UK/Czechoslovakia 1983 Dir Petr Weigl

117 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Film version of the opera by Benjamin Britten, conducted by Sir Colin Davis and featuring a Czech cast dubbed by the singers Helen Donath, Ava June, Robert Tear, Heather Harper, Lilian Watson, Michael Ginn and Philip Langridge.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

When She Died... Death of a Princess

UK 2002 Dir Rupert Edwards

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An opera specially written for television explores how Princess Diana and her image became such a powerful presence in the lives of ordinary people. The traumatic news of the death of the Princess hits each of the characters in very different ways, drawing them all to Kensington Gardens on the night before the funeral.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Wozzeck

UK 1988 Dir Brian Large

110 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of the 1987 Vienna State Opera production of Alban Berg's opera, conducted by Claudio Abbado, and featuring Franz Grundheber, Peter Jelostis, Aage Haugland, Walter Raffeiner, Hildegard Behrens and Philip Langridge.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Xerxes

UK 1989 Dir John Michael Phillips

185 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The English National Opera's production of Handel's opera set in the Vauxhall Pleasure gardens, conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras. With Ann Murray, Christopher Robson, Valerie Masterson, Christopher Booth-Jones and Lesley Garrett.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Yeomen of the Guard

UK 1975 Dir John Gorrie

120 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Production of the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, conducted by David Lloyd-Jones.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Concert Performances**English National Opera Gala**

UK 1978 Dir Francis Coleman

54 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

For the first time on television, highlights of the annual Gala of the English National Opera. Performers include Margaret Curphey, John Tomlinson, Josephine Barstow and dancer Anthony Dowell.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Golden Hour from the Royal Opera House

An evening of opera and ballet from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, accompanied by the Royal Opera House Orchestra conducted by Carlo Felice Cillario and featuring performances by Renato Cioni, Rudolf Nureyev, Merle Park, Antoinette Sibley, Graham Usher, Jose Iturbi, Tito Gobbi, Dennis Wicks, Robert Bowman and Maria Callas (in Tosca).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Three Tenors at Wembley

UK 1996 Dir Hefin Owen

85 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Edited highlights of Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti entertaining a Wembley Stadium audience with a repertoire of arias and popular songs as part of the trio's nine-month world tour.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Three Tenors in Concert 1994

US 1994

118 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Concert with Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti from the Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, held as a prelude to the World Cup final.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Three Tenors – Paris 1988

UK 1998

119 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A concert given by tenors José Carreras, Plácido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti in what has become a regular feature of the World Cup competition. Here they perform in front of the Eiffel Tower, accompanied by L'Orchestre de Paris under the baton of James Levine.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Documentaries

An A to Z of Wagner

UK 1995 Dir Peter Webber

51 mins

Beta SP + VHS Col

An introduction to the life and work of the composer Richard Wagner. Includes a look at the David Alden production of *Tannhäuser*, and interviews with Peter Jonas, former English National Opera chief; conductor Zubin Mehta; tenor René Kollo; soprano Nadine Secunde, and Rosalind Leitch of the British Wagner Society. Filmed at Munich, Bayreuth, Neuschwanstein and Linderhoff.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Armonie Pucciniane

Italy 1938 Dir Giorgio Ferrone

20 mins

35mm B&W

Scenes around Puccini's home town and extracts from his operas complement the local landscape.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Behind the Mask

UK 1987 Dir Andrew Snell

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on Harrison Birtwistle's life and his opera *The Mask of Orpheus*.

Extracts from the work, which took 11 years to write and was technically the most complicated production ever mounted in Britain, are performed by the English National Opera. The film includes the only footage of the opera's premiere and a performance of the specially composed work *The Artifex Postage Stamp*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Birth of Opera

UK 2000 Dir Rupert Edwards

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Howard Goodall looks at the history of opera from the early attempts by Peri in 1600 through Monteverdi, Mozart, Beethoven, Verdi, Wagner, Offenbach and John Adam, explaining how opera responded to historical events, proving it to be a universal artform with a civilising and enriching role to play in society.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Carmen: The Dream and the Destiny

UK 1973 Dir Christopher Nupen

84 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A film about Georges Bizet and his masterpiece based on a production of the opera by Regina Resnik, at the Hamburg State Opera. The film has two themes – the opera itself and what Bizet was trying to do, intercut with an account of the disastrous premiere and Bizet's death three months later.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Critical Condition: Opera

UK 1998 Dir Simon Everson

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Leading opera critics argue over productions, question one another's judgement, and bemoan opera's declining reputation. Those critics appearing include Martin Hoyle, Rodney Milnes, David Fingleton, and Tom Sutcliffe.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Kiri Te Kanawa

UK 1975

75 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Kiri Te Kanawa talks to Bernard Levin and sings scenes from various operas.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Geraint Evans - A Life in Opera

UK 1985 Dir John Mead

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Sir Geraint Evans talks to John Morgan about his career in opera from the early days in London after the war to the emotional farewell performances of L'elisir d'Amore at Covent Garden in 1984.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Omnibus: Gershwin's Porgy

UK 1973 Dir Rodney Greenberg

75 mins, colour

Documentary to mark what would have been George Gershwin's 75th birthday. It includes some of Gershwin's best known compositions, notably Rhapsody in Blue and scenes from his opera Porgy and Bess.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Lost Kingdom

Taiwan 1998 Dir Lee Hsiang-Hsiu

98 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

The story of the "Kung Yue Society", a well known Taiwanese opera troupe, whose popularity and gradual disappearance not only mirrors the history of Taiwanese opera after 1945, but also symbolizes the loss of cultural traditions experienced by Taiwan in the last few decades.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Maestro: Grand Opera and the Nineteenth Century

UK 1994 Dir Tony Sutcliffe

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look at the work of Gioacchino Rossini and Giuseppe Verdi, presented by John Julius Norwich and H.C. Robbins Landon.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Master Class: Thomas Allen

UK 1998

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Baritone Thomas Allen works with three students on Mozart's opera Don Giovanni.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mozart - Birtwistle - Mozart

BBC 1971 Dir William Fitzwater and Roy Tipping

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Two sequences of Mozart 'lollipops' sandwich a film about Harrison Birtwistle. A Couple of Things about Harry also includes performance of the composer's work.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Music International

BBC 1967 Dir Kenneth Corden and David Gladwell

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Italian tenor Giovanni Martinelli talks about his career, shows excerpts from his early films and gives a masterclass to a young student tenor. In a segment on opera for children, Owen Brannigan sings the part of Noah in a report on Britten's Noye's Fludde, accompanied by the Finchley Children's Music Group. The last segment looks at a new ballet choreographed by Ernest Berk.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Opera Fanatic

Germany 1999 Dir Jan Schmidt-Garre

93 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A study of ten Italian opera stars who dominated their art in the 1950s, but are now largely forgotten. However, Stefan Zucker, opera fanatic of the title, tracks them down to ask what they feel about today's performers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Opera - Front and Back

UK 1971 Dir Derek Bailey

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

With the help of a few props and a piano, soprano Ava June and tenor John Wakefield help to recreate the atmosphere of an opera rehearsal when they talk to Humphrey Burton.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Opera in Rehearsal 1936 - 1938

UK c.1938

66 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Amateur film. Silent footage of opera dress rehearsals at Sadler's Wells and the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo at Covent Garden.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Opera in Rehearsal: The Marriage of Figaro

UK 1973 Dir Rodney Bennett

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Anthony Besch leads Jill Gomez, Pat Hay, Tom McDonnell, Stafford Dean and Michael Rippon in a rehearsal of Act II of Mozart's opera.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pavarotti Returns to Llangollen

UK 1996 Dir Jay Marvin Williams

77 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A special programme combining documentary and performances featuring Luciano Pavarotti. Pavarotti returns to Wales to sing at the Llangollen Festival forty years to the day since his last appearance.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Philip Glass: The Making of an Opera

US/UK 1985 Dir Michael Blackwood

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of the composer Philip Glass, and a record of the making of his opera about the life of the Egyptian pharaoh, Akhnaten.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Placido

UK 1984 Dir Revel Guest

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about a year in the career of opera star Placido Domingo.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Prince Charles Backstage at Covent Garden

UK 1979 Dir Drummond Challis

34 mins

35mm Col

The Prince of Wales looks at the backstage activities, facilities and working conditions at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Includes sequences filmed on stage during dress rehearsals of *L'Africaine* and *Jazz Calendar* and interviews with various artists including Placido Domingo and Joan Sutherland.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Punch and Judy: Tragical Comedy or Comical Tragedy

UK 1980 Dir Keith Griffiths

47 mins

DVD Col

An examination of the Punch and Judy show - its history and popularity. Includes extracts from Harrison Birtwistle's opera version of the tale and animated sequences by the Quay Brothers.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

The Real Don Giovanni

UK 1999 Dir Rupert Edwards

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Baritone Thomas Allen explores the parallels between the life of the 18th-century Italian adventurer Casanova and the hero of Mozart's opera *Don Giovanni*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sherrill Milnes

UK 1973

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

American baritone Milnes talks about his early life working the farmlands in the mid-west, and how his career as an opera superstar has developed. He is also heard singing some of his most famous roles.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Signals: New Opera

UK 1989 Dir Terry Braun and Emma Burge

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

This programme looks at a creative forum to inspire new ways of bringing opera to the people. Also includes a performance of a new eight minute opera for TV which resulted from that forum; *The Mathematics of a Kiss* by Anthony Minghella and musicians Orlando Gough and John Lunn.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Solti Era

UK 1971

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The day after Sir Georg Solti's final appearance as a member of the Royal Opera House, he talks to Bryan Magee about his time there and his future plans. He also conducts excerpts of some of his favourite operas.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Soprano

UK 1995 Dir Dani Williams

8 mins

DVD Col

Short film capturing the passion, colour and drama of opera, looking behind the scenes, and examining the joys and pains of being a black soprano singer in contemporary Britain. With Maureen Braithwaite.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

The South Bank Show: The Aida File - The Making of the Opera

UK 1987 Dir Derek Bailey

78 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on the history of the creation and performance of Verdi's opera Aida. Participants include Luciano Pavarotti, Lorin Maazel, Grace Bumbry, Carlo Bergonzi, Eva Turner and George Baker.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The South Bank Show: Beethoven in the Big Top

UK 2002 Dir Nigel Wattis

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of the Birmingham Opera Company and its director Graham Vick, as they prepare for a production of Beethoven's Fidelio in Aston Park, a deprived area of the city.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The South Bank Show: Carmen

UK 2000 Dir Daniel Wiles

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look at what has made the Georges Bizet opera 'Carmen' such an enduring success.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The South Bank Show: Hail Bop! - A Portrait of John Adams

UK 1998

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A profile of the American minimalist composer, whose work includes the operas Nixon in China and The Death of Klinghoffer. This film follows Adams over the course of 1997, the year in which he celebrated his 50th birthday.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tito Gobbi's Opera Workshop

UK 1977 Dir Patricia Foy

55 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary for the BBC's The Lively Arts strand, about opera singer Tito Gobbi's summer school for young singers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Trojans

UK 1991 Dir Tony Bulley

78 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the five year effort by three British opera companies (Opera North, Scottish Opera and Welsh National Opera) to stage Berlioz's opera The Trojans.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Understanding Opera: Don Giovanni

UK 1992 Dir John Carlaw

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look at emotional realism in Mozart's Don Giovanni. Presented by Stephen Oliver, participants include Thomas Allen, Elizabeth Gale, Robin Leggate, Felicity Palmer and Rosalind Plowright.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Zeffirelli's Otello: From Stage to Screen

UK 1986

75 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on the making of Franco Zeffirelli's film version of Verdi's opera Otello.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Composers



Amadeus(1984)

Some key names from the world of music composition, as represented in film and television.

Ades, Thomas

Thomas Ades: Music for the 21st Century [transmission date: 29/12/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Gerald Fox

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A portrait of the 28-year-old composer Thomas Ades, focusing on the works Asyla and Powder Her Face, showing rehearsals for the latter's performance at the

Aldeburgh Festival. Ades reveals the ideas, experiences and visual images that have inspired his eclectic compositions.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Arnold, Malcolm

Malcolm Arnold [transmission date: 25/9/2004 (T)]

UK 2004 Dir Tony Palmer

99 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Tony Palmer's two-part profile of the composer. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bach, Johann Sebastian

J.S. Bach: Fantasy in G minor [transmission date: 1965 (C)]

Czechoslovakia 1965 Dir Jan Svankmajer

10 mins

35mm + DVD B&W

Bach's music is set in provocative counterpoint to the detritus of our civilisation – decaying walls, forbidding door locks, wire-meshed windows.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Barrios, Agustin

John Williams [transmission date: 10/10/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Herbert Chappell

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Guitarist John Williams talks to Peter Sensier about the Paraguayan composer and guitarist Agustin Barrios and plays some of his music.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bax, Arnold

Secret Life of Arnold Bax, The [transmission date: 22/11/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir Ken Russell

60 mins

Digibeta + DVD Col

The life of the composer Arnold Bax telling the story of how Bax was caught between loyalty to concert pianist Harriet Cohen and his quest for inspiration through Annie, a young cockney fan-dancer. Glenda Jackson appears in her last full role before becoming an MP. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Beethoven, Ludwig Van

Wounded Genius [transmission date: 4/10/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Nicola Black

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Ludwig van Beethoven composed some of his greatest works after he started to lose his hearing but he was determined to keep his condition a secret, worried that his status as a composer would be discredited. As a result he became ever more isolated from society and suffered extended periods of depression, yet he succeeded in composing works of complexity and introspection. TV Series: Post Mortem

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Berlin, Irving

Lyrics and Music by Irving Berlin [transmission date: 11/5/1975 (T)]

UK 1975 Dir Kenneth Corden

75 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Benny Green examines not only why the self-taught Russian-born Jewish immigrant got to the peak of the song-writing profession but how he managed to stay there for over half a century.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Britten, Benjamin

St Nicolas Cantata, op.42 [transmission date: 22/12/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Margery Baker

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Special performance for the centenary of Lancing College, recorded at St. Albans Cathedral with Wandsworth School Choir, led by Russell Burgess and soloist Ian Partridge.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Britten, Benjamin

The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra [transmission date: 18/12/1985 (T)]

UK 1985 Dir Barry Bevens

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

New television version with computer graphics of Benjamin Britten's musical piece explaining the instruments of an orchestra. The music is played by the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Bryden Thomson.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Britten, Benjamin

The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra [transmission date: 2003C (T)]

UK 2003 Dir Felicity Maton

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Introduced by Brian Blessed and played by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Charles Groves.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Chopin, Frédéric

Talent Pot I... [transmission date: 1996 (C)]

Poland 1996 Dir Jerzy Bonajowski

22 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Students are taught to play Chopin piano music at the Music Academy. The teacher is Andrzej Jasinski; the students are Zbigniew Raubo, Michal Ferber, and Rafal Luszezewski.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Couperin, Francois

Music for a Dying King [transmission date: 17/4/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir Tony Scull

58 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary which explores the unknown religious masterpieces of Francois Couperin who composed music for Louis XIV of France. Includes organ and harpsicord music and the masterpiece Lecon de Tenebres No. 3.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Delius, Frederick

Song of Summer [transmission date: 15/9/1968 (T)]

UK 1968 Dir Ken Russell

74 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Television film based on Eric Fenby's 1936 memoir Delius as I Knew Him, which traces the last years of the composer Frederick Delius, and Fenby's dedication in giving up five years of his life to helping the blind, paralysed composer set down unfinished scores.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dickinson, Peter

Peter Dickinson [transmission date: 13/3/1988 (T)]

UK 1988 Dir Mark Holloway

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary profile of British composer Peter Dickinson. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dvorak, Antonin

Rostropovich Plays the Dvorak Concerto [transmission date: 22/9/1974 (T)]

UK 1974 Dir Rodney Greenberg

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Mstislav Rostropovich performs Dvorak's Cello Concerto in B minor with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Eastley, Max

Clocks Of the Midnight Hours: The Work Of Max Eastley

UK 1988 Dir Simon Reynell

27 min

DVD

Work by Max Eastley (b.1944), kinetic sound sculptor. A record of artefacts placed in nature making sound, voices speaking different languages, and collaboration with musicians including Steve Beresford, David Toop, Kazuko Hohki, Evan Parker.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Emidy, Joseph

Joseph Emity: The Lost Composer [transmission date: 24/3/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Steve Cole

51 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Film about the life of the little-known 19th-century black composer Joseph Emidy, who was born in Guinea, but lived as a slave in Portugal and Brazil, was a ship's musician on board a British naval frigate, and eventually settled in the West Country.

Archive Source: Arts Council

Erber, Joseph

The Secret Diary of Joseph Erber (Aged 12 3/4) [transmission date: 3/1/1998 (T)]

UK 1998

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The life and thoughts of Joseph Erber, a child with a mild form of autism. Last year, he became the youngest composer ever to have his work performed by the London Symphony Orchestra.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Goodwin, Ron

Serenade for a City [transmission date: 28/1/1980 (T)]

UK 1980 Dir John Bartlett

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on the Drake 400 celebrations in Plymouth in 1980. Composer Ron Goodwin composed the Drake 400 suite as part of the celebrations, and this is performed along with more traditional songs about Plymouth and the sea. Performers include Cyril Tawney and Peasants All.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gurney, Ivor

Soon Comes Night [transmission date: 3/6/1983 (T)]

UK 1983

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An impression of Ivor Gurney, the West Country composer and poet (1890 - 1937).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Handel, George Frederick

Israel in Egypt [transmission date: 17/3/1979 (T)]

UK 1979 Dir Vincent Dowdall

120 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV recording of Handel's oratorio from the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, during the St David's Music Week. Performers include sopranos Jennifer Smith and Wendy Eathorne, contralto Bernadette Greevy, tenor Philip Langridge, basses Brian Rayner Cook and Gwynne Howell, and the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra is conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Handel, George Frederick

Messiah [transmission date: 31/3/1972 (T)]

UK 1972 Dir Brian Large

115 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

In a performance specially recorded for television in Ely Cathedral, Handel's oratorio is illustrated by the architecture of the cathedral and the paintings of Rubens, Murillo, Rembrandt and Titian.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Handel, George Frederick

My Night with Handel [transmission date: 3/8/1996 (T)]

UK 1996 Dir Alex Marengo

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A presentation of some of the composer's most beautiful arias by Handel biographer, Jonathan Keates. Music includes; Rinaldo (Cara sposa); Ottone (False imagine); Giulio Cesare (Al Lampo dell'armi); Rodelinda (Pastorello d'un povero armento); Sosarme (Per le porte del tormento); Orlando (Sorge Infausta); Ariodante (Scherza infida); and Il Moderato (As Steals the Morn).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Harris, Roy

Roy Harris [transmission date: 10/5/1981 (T)]

UK 1981 Dir Peter Bartlett

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of American composer Roy Harris, introducing his symphonies, choral and chamber music and discussing his importance to 20th-century music. With his widow, the pianist Johanna Harris, and fellow composers Aaron Copland and William Schuman.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Honegger, Arthur

Pacific 231 [transmission date: 1949 (R)]

France 1949 Dir Jean Mitry

10 mins

35mm + 16mm B&W

A visual interpretation of Honegger's orchestral piece, inspired by the physical excitement and drama of an express train as it leaves the station and rushes through the countryside.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Jacob, Gordon

Gordon Jacob [transmission date: 29/3/1959 (T)]

UK 1959 Dir Ken Russell

18 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Profile of composer Gordon Jacob at work and at his New Forest home. TV Series: Monitor

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lambert, Constant

In Search of Constant Lambert [transmission date: 26/7/1965 (T)]

UK 1965 Dir Barrie Gavin

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

A portrait of Constant Lambert and his music by his friends and colleagues. TV

Series: Workshop

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lyte, Henry Francis

The Story of Abide With Me [transmission date: 1947 (R)]

UK 1947 Dir Victor MacClure

20 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

A reconstruction of episodes in the life of the Rev. Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847), combined with documentary footage of occasions at which Abide with Me has been sung. Includes an early sound recording of the voice of Clara Butt and a contemporary rendering of the hymn in Wembley Stadium.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mahler, Gustav

Mahler's 8th Symphony Live from Salisbury [transmission date: 28/7/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir David Heather

92 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A performance of Mahler's 8th Symphony live from Salisbury Cathedral, introduced by The Prince of Wales.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mekas, Adolfas

Windflowers

US 1967 Dir Adolfas Mekas

64 mins

16mm B&W

With Pola Chapelle, John Dramer, Ronnie Gilbert, Tina Stoumen. Music by Adolfas Mekas. "An elegy for a draft dodger in 20 tableaux."

Archive source: LUX

Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus

In Mozart's Footsteps [transmission date: 1938C (R)]

UK 1938

10 mins

35mm B&W

A travelogue of Salzburg, and sites connected with the composer Mozart. These include the house in which he was born, the marketplace, the residence of the Prince Archbishop of the city, the cathedral, Hellbrunn Palace, St Peter's Cellar, Mozart's Wohnhaus, the Mirabell gardens and the Mozarteum music academy with its library and models of original opera sets.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus

J'Accuse Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart [transmission date: 15/1/1991 (T)]

UK 1991 Dir Andrew Forrester

27 mins

DVD/DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look at the hype behind the Mozart bicentennial celebrations. TV Series: Without Walls

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus

Minuet by Mozart [transmission date: 1933 (R)]

Germany 1933 Dir Oskar Fischinger

7 mins

35mm B&W

Abstract film interpreting Mozart's music by the movement of abstract visual patterns.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus

Mozart - Birtwistle - Mozart [transmission date: 4/4/1971 (T)]

UK 1971 Dir William Fitzwater/Roy Tipping

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Offenbach, Jacques

The O De Cologne Show [transmission date: 17/11/1974 (T)]

UK 1974 Dir Barrie Gavin

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Musical tribute to the life and work of Offenbach. TV Series: Omnibus

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Prokofiev, Sergei

Prokofiev – Portrait of a Soviet Composer [transmission date: 18/6/1961 (T)]

UK 1961 Dir Ken Russell

29 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Documentary about the life of Sergei Prokofiev, part of which was spent in France before he voluntarily decided to return to the Soviet Union in the mid-1930s. TV Series: Monitor

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

The Royal Concert [transmission date: 23/11/1980 (T)]

UK 1980 Dir Rodney Greenberg

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Concert recorded on St. Cecilia's day at the Royal Albert Hall, with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Simon Rattle with soloist Emil Gilels (Piano) playing Piano Concerto No. 1 (Tchaikovsky).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rachmaninov, Sergei

Rachmaninov [transmission date: 1/4/1973 (T)]

UK 1973 Dir Herbert Chappell

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Television programme celebrating the centenary of the composer Rachmaninov's birth, featuring the London Symphony Orchestra playing some of his music, conducted by André Previn, with Vladimir Ashkenazy.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rachmaninov, Sergei

Sergei Rachmaninov Memories [transmission date: 1999 (R)]

UK 1999 Dir Tony Palmer

102 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about Rachmaninov, using archive footage and his own music and reminiscences. Rachmaninov's letter and other reminiscences spoken by Sir John Gielgud.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rossini, Gioacchino

Rossini's Miniature Mass [transmission date: 12/5/1974 (T)]

West Germany 1974

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performed by Kari Lövass, Brigitte Fassbaender, Peter Schreier, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Münchener Vokalsolisten, conducted by Wolfgang Sawallisch. Recorded in the Baumburg Monastery Chapel.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rossini, Gioacchino

The Thieving Magpie [transmission date: 11/6/1981 (T)]

UK 1981

15 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An animated version of Rossini's overture.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Schoenberg, Arnold

The Language of the New Music [transmission date: 19/10/1986 (T)]

UK 1986 Dir Christopher Nupen

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the music of Arnold Schoenberg in relation to the philosophies of Ludwig Wittgenstein. Although neither of these Viennese thinkers ever met, the developments in their thinking paralleled each others to an incredible extent. This documentary examines their corresponding ideas.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Schubert, Franz

Over the Top with Franz [transmission date: 28/12/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Peter West

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the making of *The Winter's Journey* from the first rehearsal to the final day, as seen through the eyes of tenor Ian Bostridge, who kept a diary of events. The film also follows accompanist Julius Drake, director David Alden and designer Ian MacNeil.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Schubert, Franz

The Winter's Journey [transmission date: 28/12/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Peter West and David Alden

73 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A dramatisation of *The Winter's Journey* (Winterreise), made to celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of Austrian composer Franz Schubert. A contemporary interpretation of Schubert's epic cycle of 24 songs from controversial American opera director David Alden, designer Ian MacNeil, tenor Ian Bostridge and accompanist Julius Drake.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Schumann, Robert

Schumann Cello Concerto [transmission date: 31/12/1998 (T)]

Canada 1998

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performance of Schumann's Cello Concerto by Steven Isserlis and the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie, conducted by Christoph Eschenbach.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Schumann, Robert

Schumann's Lost Romance [transmission date: 31/12/1998 (T)]

Canada 1998 Dir Steve Ruggi

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Cellist and Schumann enthusiast Steven Isserlis travels to Germany to reconstruct the last years of the composer's life. Includes Isserlis rehearsing for a Schumann recording and dramatised scenes from the composer's life.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Shostakovich, Dmitri

Testimony

UK 1987 Dir Tony Palmer

175 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Dramatised life of Russian composer, Dmitri Shostakovich, particularly his relationship with Stalin.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sibelius, Jean

A Matter of Life and Death [transmission date: 12/2/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Barrie Gavin

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Conductor Colin Davis talks about the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sondheim, Stephen

A Little Night Music [transmission date: 2/1/1977 (T)]

UK 1977 Dir Ian Engelmann

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

André Previn talks to Stephen Sondheim about his work, with songs performed from A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Anyone can Whistle, Company, Follies, A Little Night Music and Pacific Overtures.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Stravinsky, Igor

Rattle on Stravinsky [transmission date: 26/10/1985 (T)]

UK 1985 Dir Barrie Gavin

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Simon Rattle explores the story behind the creation of Stravinsky's The Symphony in Three Movements, and conducts a complete performance.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Stravinsky, Igor

Stravinsky's Rite [transmission date: 19/8/1979 (T)]

UK 1979 Dir Rodney Greenberg

20 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Traces the background to the writing of Igor Stravinsky's Rite of Spring, including the composer's own account of the riotous premiere.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tavener, John

John Tavener [transmission date: 12/4/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Bryan Izzard

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A profile of composer John Tavener, widely recognised for his spiritual music, looking at his musical development, his life on the Greek Island of Evia, and his forthcoming work, which includes a new opera and a project for the Millenium Commission. TV

Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tchaikovsky, Pyotr Ilyich

Tchaikovsky Night [transmission date: 24/12/1974 (T)]

UK 1974 Dir Geoffrey Haydon

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A performance of the Polonaise and Waltz from Eugene Onegin and the Piano Concerto Number 1, in B flat minor, played by Tamas Vasary and the London

Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Bernard Haitink. From the Fairfield Halls Croydon.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

The Sunday Prom [transmission date: 31/8/1975 (T)]

UK 1975 Dir David Buckton

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The fifth of six visits to the Royal Albert Hall for the 1975 season of Henry Wood Promenade Concerts, which features Mozart's Symphony No 36 and Bartok's Piano Concerto No 1, performed by Michel Beroff and the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Colin Davis.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Vaughan Williams, Ralph

Vaughan Williams: A Symphonic Portrait [transmission date: 8/4/1984 (T)]

UK 1984 Dir Ken Russell

60 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the composer Ralph Vaughan Williams with illustrations and comments from his widow Ursula and with his own music. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Wagner, Richard

Turning Point: A Prelude to the Flying Dutchman [transmission date: 8/11/1975 (T)]

1976 Dir Peter Butler

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

As a prelude to the BBC production of the opera The Flying Dutchman, David Wilde, pianist and Wagner enthusiast, tells the story of the opera. The programme includes a preview of the BBC production.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Weill, Kurt

I'm a Stranger Here Myself: Kurt Weill in America [transmission date: 31/12/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir Barrie Gavin

60 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The story of Kurt Weill's relationship with the American popular theatre. Weill re-made himself in America after fleeing Nazi Germany.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Weill, Kurt

September Song [transmission date: 9/9/1964 (T)]

UK 1964 Dir Gordon Flemyng

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Television presentation of Martha Schlamme and Will Holt's stage show based on the songs of Kurt Weill.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Williams, John

Star Wars: Music by John Williams [transmission date: 1980C (T)]

UK 1980 Dir David Buckton

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on the work of John Williams composer of music for over 45 major feature films with extracts from some of the films he has worked on and a look at his methods of work.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Performers



Hilary and Jackie (1998)

Allen, Thomas

Thomas Allen: In Touch with Life [transmission date: 21/7/1988 (T)]

UK 1988 Dir Tony Kysh

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of baritone Thomas Allen

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Angelite Choir

The Voices of Sofia

France/Belgium 1998 Dir Philippe Cornet

52 mins

Beta SP Col

Documentary about the Angelite choir of Bulgaria and the women who sing it.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Beecham, Thomas

Never Forget Me... Sir Thomas Beecham 1879-1961 [transmission date: 28/4/1979 (T)]

UK 1979 Dir Mary McMurray

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Centenary tribute to the conductor Sir Thomas Beecham. Musicians who knew him talk of their memories of him, and Simon Rattle conducts some of Beecham's favourite music.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bernstein, Leonard

Leonard Bernstein: Reaching for the Note

US 1998 Dir Susan Lacey

116 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The life and music of Leonard Bernstein.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Birmingham Clarion Singers

Speak With One Voice [transmission date: 1/5/1976 (T)]

UK 1976

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Socialist music group, The Birmingham Clarion Singers, present a programme for May Day, the first of May. May Day is to become a national holiday. The day has progressed from a medieval fete, to a symbol of Trade Union and Labour aspirations. Clarion trace the story of May Day in contemporary music and song, on this, the fiftieth anniversary of the General Strike.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bocelli, Andrea

World of Andrea Bocelli [transmission date: 26/12/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary looking at the life and work of popular and classical singer Andrea Bocelli.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Böhm, Karl

Last Champion of Richard Strauss, The [transmission date: 5/5/1985 (T)]

West Germany 1986 Dir Norbert Beilharz

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Karl Böhm was the last of the great conductors who worked closely with the composer Richard Strauss. In later life, he was thought of as the grand old man of the Vienna Philharmonic, with whom he worked for almost half a century. This documentary shows Böhm rehearsing in Vienna and Friedrich staging an opera in a disused locomotive factory.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bow Gamelan Ensemble

Great Noises That Fill the Air

UK 1988 Dir Simon Reynell

26 mins

DVD Col

How the Bow Gamelan Ensemble build their instruments and create spectacular avant garde musical performances.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Bream, Julian

Julian Bream [transmission date: 10/8/1986 (T)]

UK 1986 Dir David Heather

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Julian Bream took up guitar almost by accident. Today he has a worldwide reputation. Jill Cochrane talks to him about his music and life.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Burrows, Stuart

Voice for the World, A [transmission date: 20/7/1977 (T)]

UK 1977 Dir Geraint Jones

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of opera singer Stuart Burrows.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Chevalier, Maurice

Maurice Chevalier [transmission date: 24/1/1999 (T)]

UK 1999

5 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A short profile of the legendary French entertainer. TV Series: Twentieth Century Hall of Fame

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Choirs

Remember You're Ladies [transmission date: 21/4/1979 (T)]

UK 1979 Dir Nick Barratt

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary following the trip by the girls from the chapel choir of Harrogate College, to the International Music Eisteddfod at Llangollen.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Coleman, Michael

The Pilgrimage of Ti-Jean [transmission date: 30/8/1978 (T)]

UK 1978 Dir Philip Donnellan

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV documentary on the French-Canadian fiddler, Jean Carignan, who visits Ireland in search of the music of Michael Coleman whom he has idolised for half a century.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Come Alive Choir

Sing for Joy [transmission date: 18/7/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Jack Williams

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A miscellany of music and poetry to praise the world, courtesy of the Come Alive Choir.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Domingo, Placido

Placido Domingo – A Musical Life [transmission date: 16/4/1995 (T)]

UK 1995 Dir Mick Csáky

77 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary profile of Placido Domingo, following him to Vienna, Madrid, New York and London, with clips of his musical performances and comments from friends and colleagues.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dry Weave

White Dog Blues [transmission date: 1999 (R)]

Italy 1999 Dir Sonia Nulchis

19 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Jazz music by Dry Weave. Featuring: Marco Collazzoni, alto sax; Marco Cocchiero, tenor sax; Bruno Erminera, organ; Matti Norlin, guitar; Gandro Rogati, bass; Giulio Proietti, drums; Christina Bellettini, Marina Piselli and Sandro Rosati.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Du Pre, Jacqueline

Jacqueline du Pré – Playing with Fire [transmission date: 6/2/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Mandy Chang

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Twelve years after her death, the feature film Hilary and Jackie is causing controversy about the life of virtuoso cellist Jacqueline du Pré. In this programme, friends and family discuss du Pré's legacy, her complex personality and musical genius.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Du Pre, Jacqueline

Who Was Jacqueline du Pré? [transmission date: 18/2/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Christopher Nupen

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on the cellist Jacqueline du Pré featuring rehearsal footage and contributions from her friends and family.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Evans, Geraint

A Ladies Knight! [transmission date: 26/12/1987 (T)]

UK 1987 Dir Bryan Izzard

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Music special featuring Sir Geraint Evans. Includes a tribute to Leonard Bernstein and a look at some of the women who starred in ENSA - including Ivy Benson and Anne Zeigler. An hour of operetta, Broadway reviews, parlour songs, spiritual and light opera classics.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Farrow, Sue

Sue Farrow Plays Mozart [transmission date: 12/4/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir Geoff Wonfor

28 mins

DVD Col

Sue Farrow conducts Mozart's 40th Symphony and introduces a Bruckner Choral.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Galway, James

James Galway [transmission date: 24/10/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Nigel Wattis

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A profile of the Irish flautist James Galway. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Galway, James

James Galway: A 50th Birthday Celebration [transmission date: 21/9/1991 (T)]

UK 1991 Dir John Michael Phillips

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A tribute to flautist James Galway. The programme shows him at his hometown in Belfast, on stage, in rehearsal and coaching. Includes performances from Prokofiev, Mancini, and Debussy.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Galway, James

Magic Flute of James Galway [transmission date: 23/12/1978 (T)]

UK 1978 Dir Yvonne Littlewood

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An evening of music with James Galway and guests John Williams, Mary O'Hara, the Cambridge Buskers and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by David Measham.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Garrett, Lesley

Lesley Garrett [transmission date: 22/11/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Nigel Wattis

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A profile of British opera singer Lesley Garrett, featuring footage of her performing and backstage at the English National Opera. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Genovesi, Alfredo

Urban Improviser - Alfredo Genovesi [transmission date: 22/11/1999 (T)]

UK 1999

38 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A profile of Alfredo Genovesi, underground guitarist and avant-garde composer.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Globokar, Vinko

Solo

UK 1968 Dir Misha Donat

8 mins

35mm B&W

Experimental film. Features a composition for the trombone, written by Luciano Berio and played by Vinko Globokar, as a tribute to the clown Grock. Shot in black and white and in Cinemascope, it includes a variety of camera shots and angles, designed to complement and be reflective of the mood and nature of the music being played.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Guthrie, Woody

Woody Guthrie [transmission date: 8/1/1988 (T)]

UK 1988 Dir Paul Lee

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on the life and work of American folk singer Woody Guthrie, and his influence on other writers and singers. TV Series: Arena

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hess, Myra

Myra Hess [transmission date: 1945 (R)]

UK 1945 Dir Humphrey Jennings

10 mins

35mm/DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Dame Myra Hess in a lunchtime concert at the National Gallery playing the opening movement of Beethoven's Piano Sonata in F minor.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hughes, Owain Arwel

Make a Joyful Noise [transmission date: 28/9/1975 (T)]

UK 1975 Dir Herbert Chappell

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Young Welsh conductor Owain Arwel Hughes directs the Hallé Orchestra and Choir during an open rehearsal at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Kennedy, Nigel

Kennedy and Co [transmission date: 18/11/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir Barrie Gavin

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Violinist Nigel Kennedy plays along with and accompanies a variety of performers on film clips, including Harpo Marx, the Bournemouth Sinfonietta, and Angela Richards.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Kennedy, Nigel

Nigel Kennedy [transmission date: 15/2/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Nigel Wattis

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Violinist Nigel Kennedy talks to Melvyn Bragg about his return to the concert platform with works by Bach, Bartók and Jimi Hendrix. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Kennedy, Nigel

Nigel Kennedy Plays Brahms [transmission date: 6/6/1991 (T)]

UK 1991 Dir Geoff Wonfor

47 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Nigel Kennedy plays Brahms' Violin Concerto in D with the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Klaus Tennstedt.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Kennedy, Nigel

Nigel Kennedy Plays Bruch [transmission date: 25/12/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir Alan Benson

39 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Nigel Kennedy with the London Sinfonia plays Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Klien, Walter

Walter Klien [transmission date: 15/2/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Peter Butler

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The distinguished Austrian pianist Walter Klien plays works by Mozart.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lenya, Lotte

Lotte Lenya Sings Kurt Weill [transmission date: 26/3/1961 (T)]

UK 1961 Dir Ken Russell

16 mins

Digibeta B&W

Lotte Lenya performs songs by her husband Kurt Weill: Mack the Knife, Pirate Jenny, Surabaya Johnny, Alabama.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lindsay String Quartet

Lindsay String Quartet: Britten String Quartet No.3 [transmission date: 3/12/1986 (T)]

UK 1986 Dir Alister Hallum

35 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performance of the String Quartet No.3. (Opus 49) by Benjamin Britten.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lympany, Moura

Vintage Moura [transmission date: 22/4/1984 (T)]

UK 1984 Dir Jonathan Fulford

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary which looks at the circumstances which led to the creation of the 1983 music and wine festival at Rasiguieres in France, organised by British pianist Moura Lympany.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lynn, Vera

Vera Lynn Sings [transmission date: 26/12/1977 (T)]

UK 1977 Dir Keith Beckett

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Vera Lynn is joined by George Shearing and his quintet, for a nostalgic musical evening. She sings Too Many Rivers, Any Time, Who's Sorry Now?, Try a Little Kindness and Mistakes. Shearing and his quintet play a medley of their hits, including East of the Sun, Roses of Picardie, I'll remember April, September in the Rain, Lullaby of Birdland. Together Lynn and Shearing recreate the Nat King Cole/George Shearing arrangement of Let There Be Love.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Moore, Gerald

The Unashamed Accompanist: Gerald Moore [transmission date: 28/12/1969 (T)]

UK 1969 Dir Patricia Foy

55 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Gerald Moore talks about his role as a musical accompanist, and how he is considered the equal of the soloist in interpreting the composer's original intention.

TV Series: Omnibus

Archive source: BFI National Archive

New World Symphony

New World Symphony [transmission date: 29/1/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir Ken Howard

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the New World Symphony, America's first permanent National Training Orchestra. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Nilsson, Harry

Little Touch of Schmilsson in the Night, A [transmission date: 10/6/1973 (T)]

UK 1973 Dir Stanley Dorfman

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Harry Nilsson sings a selection of "old favourites" including special arrangements of Lazy Moon and Somewhere over the Rainbow.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ogdon, John

John Ogdon [transmission date: 19/3/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir Tony Knox

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary profile about the musical career of John Ogdon who shared first prize with Vladimir Ashkenazy in the first Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in Moscow in 1962. He was subsequently struck down by mental illness and, though it took ten years to overcome, he recently returned to the concert platform and the recording studio to perform one of the most demanding works ever written for the piano, Sorabji's Opus Clavicembalisticum. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Opera Babes

Opera Babes in Jerusalem, The [transmission date: 11/4/2004 (T)]

UK 2004 Dir Peter Minns

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Operatic duo Karen Knight and Rebecca England visit Jerusalem to retrace the steps of Jesus during Easter week. Performing beautiful and moving duets from the Holy City, Karen and Rebecca delve into the events and characters of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, discovering the often neglected role played by women, and visit the spot where Jesus was crucified.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Orde, Valentine

Valentine's Day [transmission date: 12/9/1980 (T)]

UK 1980 Dir Jeremy Lack

27 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about Valentine Orde, music/cello teacher and how she became a musician. The programme documents her life and her career during the First and Second World Wars until the present day, still teaching the cello at the age of 90 [1980].

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pavarotti, Luciano

Pavarotti in Modena [transmission date: 25/12/1996 (T)]

UK 1996

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of a gala concert recorded earlier in 1996 hosted by Luciano Pavarotti in his home town of Modena.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pavarotti, Luciano

Pavarotti in the Park [transmission date: 25/12/1991 (T)]

UK 1991 Dir Christopher Swann

99 mins

DVD Col

Record of the free concert that Pavarotti gave in Hyde Park and which, despite heavy rainfall, was attended by huge crowds as well as Prince Charles, Princess Diana and Prime Minister John Major.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pavarotti, Luciano

Pavarotti Returns to Llangollen [transmission date: 26/12/1996 (T)]

UK 1996 Dir Jay Marvin Williams

77 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A special programme combining documentary and performances featuring Luciano Pavarotti. Pavarotti returns to Wales to sing at the Llangollen Festival forty years to the day since his last appearance.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pavarotti, Luciano

Verdi's Requiem with Pavarotti [transmission date: 25/12/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Rodney Greenberg

92 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A performance of Verdi's choral work, given at the Royal Festival Hall to mark the 40th anniversary of the Philharmonia Chorus. The highlight of the Royal Festival Hall's 97/98 season.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pears, Peter

The Tenor Man's Story [transmission date: 27/8/1985 (T)]

UK 1986 Dir Barrie Gavin

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Filmed in his Suffolk home, Sir Peter Pears looks back over a long and brilliant career in music and his long and close relationship with composer Benjamin Britten.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Previn, André

Meet André Previn [transmission date: 21/3/1969 (T)]

UK 1969 Dir Helen Standage

54 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

An interview with André Previn. He is seen conducting the London Symphony Orchestra and accompanying saxophonist Tubby Hayes on the piano. Includes a performance of Aaron Copland's Rodeo.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rattle, Simon

Rattle on the Record [transmission date: 15/5/1988 (T)]

UK 1988 Dir Jim Berrow

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of Simon Rattle, who burst on to the music scene at the age of 19 when he won the Player Conductor award. His appointment as Principal Conductor of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra was a nine day wonder that has lasted eight years.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Savage, Tony

The Seaside Organist [transmission date: 14/6/1991 (T)]

UK 1991 Dir Dominic Savage

26 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A profile of seaside organist, Tony Savage, who has played at the Oval Bandstand in Margate, Kent for the last 35 years.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Secombe, Harry

Secombe at Christmas [transmission date: 26/12/1982 (T)]

UK 1982 Dir Vernon Lawrence

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Musical show about Christmas, featuring Harry Secombe and his guests Gemma Craven, Christopher Gable and Ray C. Davis. Also features the Choirs of Leeds Parish and Malsis School.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Seeger, Pete

Pete Seeger and Friends

UK 1962 Dir H.K. Lewenhak

14 mins

16mm/DVD B&W

Folk songs by Pete Seeger and others.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Seeger, Pete

Pete Seeger on the Hudson [transmission date: 28/10/1979 (T)]

UK 1979 Dir Geoffrey Baines

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Concert given by Pete Seeger in June 1979 in support of his campaign to clean up the River Hudson. Also featured are his guests Taj Mahal, John Hartford and Hedy West.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Settlers, The

Sing Choirs of Angels [transmission date: 24/12/1973 (T)]

UK 1973 Dir Christopher Palmer

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Settlers together with the Choir of St. Richards sing carols in the church of St. Andrews school. They also sing against the backgrounds of Richmond Park, Ham House, Ham Common and from beside the Thames.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Shirley-Quirk, John

John Shirley-Quirk [transmission date: 12/9/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Denis Moriarty

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Baritone John Shirley-Quirk sings English, French and German songs by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Franz Schubert, Benjamin Britten and Maurice Ravel, accompanied by Martin Isepp.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Solti, Georg

Solti: The Making of a Maestro [transmission date: 28/9/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Peter Maniura

92 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary film biography about the conductor Georg Solti, who died during the making of the film. Solti talks about his life and work, with contributions from various family members, friends and professional colleagues. TV Series: Omnibus

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tate, Jeffrey

Let's Take That Infernal Risk! [transmission date: 4/1/1987 (T)]

UK 1987 Dir John Ingram and Patricia Ingram

62 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about Jeffrey Tate, a talented musician and doctor who faced a career decision complicated by the risky nature of the music business and his own severe physical handicaps. He is now conducting appointments to both the Royal Opera House and English Chamber Orchestras.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tauber, Richard

This was Richard Tauber

UK 1971 Dir Charles Castle

58 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col/B&W

Documentary on the life of the singer Richard Tauber. With contributions from Elisabeth Bergner, Eric Robinson, Vanessa Lee, music critic Felix Aprahamian, Tauber's second wife Diana Napier Tauber, Sir David Webster, Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, singer Lea Seidl, Jane Baxter, Evelyn Laye, Bernard Grun, Carole Lynne, Peter Graves, and Alexa Weir, Tauber's secretary for the last ten years of his life. TV Series: Omnibus

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Three Tenors, The

The Three Tenors at Wembley [transmission date: 14/7/1996 (T)]

UK 1996 Dir Hefin Owen

85 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Edited highlights of Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti entertaining a Wembley Stadium audience with a repertoire of arias and popular songs as part of the trio's nine-month world tour. Includes the Nessun Dorma anthem and medleys of Maria and Tonight from West Side Story.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Three Tenors, The

Three Tenors in Concert [transmission date: 17/7/1994 (T)]

UK 1994

118 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Concert with Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti from the Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, held as a prelude to the World Cup final.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Toscanini, Arturo

Toscanini

US 1944 Dir Alexander Hackenschmied

28 mins

35mm B&W

Verdi's Hymn of the Nations interpreted by Arturo Toscanini and the NBC Symphony Orchestra in a studio performance.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Uchida, Mitsuko

Mozart in Japan [transmission date: 16/9/1987 (T)]

UK 1987 Dir Tony Palmer

80 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about Mitsuko Uchida, the young pianist much admired for her performances of the Mozart concertos. She performs in Japan with the English Chamber Orchestra.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Vienna Boys Choir

The Vienna Boys Choir [transmission date: 16/12/1979 (T)]

UK 1979 Dir Len Lurcuck

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Programme of Christmas songs, sung during their UK tour.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

The New Year Concert [transmission date: 2/1/1984 (T)]

Austria 1984 Dir Hugo Kaech

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The traditional New Years Day concert of music by the Strauss family, performed by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra at the Musikvereinssaal in Vienna. Conducted by Lorin Maazel.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

New Year's Day Concert from Vienna [transmission date: 1/1/1970 (T)]

Austria/UK 1970 Dir Hermann Lanske

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The traditional concert of music by the Strauss family, which took place in the Main Hall of the Musikverein with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. Led and conducted by Willi Boskovsky with members of the Vienna State Opera Ballet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Wallowitch, John

Wallowitch & Ross this Moment

US 1998 Dir Richard Morris

77 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A film about John Wallowitch, pianist, and his partner for 30 years, choreographer and dancer Bertram Ross.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Watson, Russell

Russell Watson at Christmas [transmission date: 25/12/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Bryan Izzard

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The tenor, Russell Watson, sings some seasonal music favourites.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Welch, Elisabeth

Keeping Love Alive [transmission date: 22/12/1987 (T)]

UK 1987 Dir David Robinson, Stephen Garrett

58 mins

Beta SP/DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary profile of singer Elisabeth Welch, whose career spans more than 60 years. She looks back on her career and performs songs by Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin and Jerome Kern.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Welsh choirs

Were You There? [transmission date: 18/4/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Geraint Jones

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An anthology of words and music for Easter from the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool, performed by Elizabeth Vaughan and the North Wales Association of Male Choirs.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Welsh choirs

Were You There? [transmission date: 24/3/1978 (T)]

UK 1978 Dir Hugh Brian Williams

35 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An anthology of words and music for Easter, featuring twelve Welsh male voice choirs. From St. David's Cathedral, Dyfed.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Welsh choirs

The World Still Sings

UK 1965 Dir Jack Howells

38 mins

35mm B&W

An impression of the 1964 Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod and visits to some of the competitors in their own countries. The music festival is an annual event with hundreds participating and thousands spectating.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Welsh choirs

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UK 1965 Dir Jack Howells

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35mm B&W

An impression of the 1964 Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod and visits to some of the competitors in their own countries. The music festival is an annual event with hundreds participating and thousands spectating.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Welsh choirs

1,000 Welsh Voices [transmission date: 28/2/1981 (T)]

UK 1981 Dir Rick Gardner

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Harry Secombe introduces the seventh festival of massed male voice choirs. Includes performances of The Drinking Song from the musical The Student Prince, and All Through the Night.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Welsh choirs

Master Singers: Two Choirs and a Valley [transmission date: 7/11/1965 (T)]

UK 1965 Dir Robert Vas

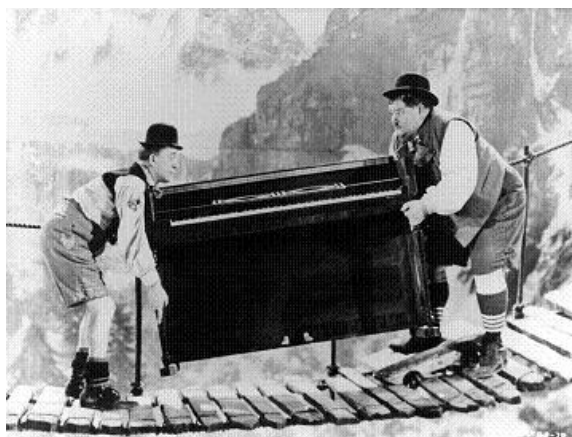
46 mins

Digibeta + Beta SP + DVD B&W

The part played by choral singing in the life of the mining valleys of South Wales, filmed at Senghenydd and featuring the Treharris and Aber Valley Male Voice Choirs.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Instruments



Swiss Miss(1938)

Brass band

Up the Brass with Arthur Smith [transmission date: 24/5/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Anthony Palmer

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary in which writer and comedian Arthur Smith follows members of the Vaux Samson Brass Band from Silksworth, near Sunderland, as they prepare to take part in the North of England Brass Band Championship.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Brass band

Youth and Brass [transmission date: 6/6/1979 (T)]

UK 1979

44 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

From the City Hall in Hull, bands featured in this programme are Holmfirth High School Band, Glossop School Band and Wakefield Met School Band.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mechanical instruments

Variations on a Mechanical Theme [transmission date: 27/9/1959 (T)]

UK 1959 Dir Ken Russell

13 mins

Beta SP + Digibeta B&W

The history of mechanical musical instruments. TV Series: Monitor

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Orchestra

Zbig Conducts the Orchestra [transmission date: 14/12/1991 (T)]

UK 1991 Dir Pierre-Oscar Levy

25 mins

DVD Col

Profile of Zbigniew Rybczynski and how he made the film The Orchestra.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Orchestral instruments

Instruments of the Orchestra

UK 1946 Dir Muir Mathieson

20 mins

35mm B&W

An analysis, instrument by instrument, of the composition of a symphony orchestra. Sir Malcolm Sargent, introduces, conducts and comments on a performance by the London Symphony Orchestra of Britten's Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Purcell.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Piano

Pictures on the Piano [transmission date: 13/4/1995 (T)]

UK 1995 Dir Michael Grigsby

28 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary musical exploring one of music's most important social functions – entertainment. Features three people, their musical aspirations and the significance the piano has in their lives and dreams. Dialogue is minimal, with personality, imagination and individual experience expressed through the music and the juxtaposition of images.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Harmonica

Love of the Harmonica

Germany 1935 Dir Ulrich Kayser

13 mins

35mm B&W

Musical short featuring the harmonica and the accordion, which includes a sequence on their manufacture at the Hohner factory.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Indian instruments

Melody of Hindustani

India 1944

12 mins

35mm + 16mm B&W

Description in picture and sound of some of India's musical instruments, a Bansari, a flute, Mridanga, a drum, Sarangi, a fiddle, and Jaltarang, bowls filled with water.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Indian instruments

Musical Instruments of India

India 1944

10 mins

35mm B&W

Some of India's more popular musical instruments including the saraswati veena, the senai, the sursagar, and the sitar, the tabla and baya.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Piano

Piano Prodigies [

UK 1937

7 mins

35mm B&W

A record of the young Russian pianists who won honours at the International Chopin Contest, held in Warsaw. Seen playing are Jacob Zak, Rosa Tamarkina, Tatiana Goldfarb, and Nina Emilanova.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Piano

Strike a Note

UK 1946

10 mins

35mm B&W

How a piano is made.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Synthesiser

Shape of Things That Hum, The [transmission date: 15/1/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Jacques Peretti

11 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Cult electronic instruments that have shaped modern music. Focuses on the Mini Moog.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Folk Music

Scottish folk

Sing of the Border [transmission date: 1964 (R)]

UK 1964 Dir Tony Thompson and Muir Mathieson

20 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The history and traditions of the Scottish border country still live in the folk-songs of the border people. This film combines the songs and the scenes which they depict.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Burns, Robbie

The Tree of Liberty [transmission date: 29/1/1987 (T)]

UK 1987 Dir Timothy Neat

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about Serge Hovey, a researcher into the songs of Robert Burns who has restored original words, united songs with tunes and adapted Burns' work to his own music. Singer Jean Redpath, who has recorded six albums of the Burns/Hovey songs joins Hovey in this film.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Clancy Brothers

It's a Long Way from Tipperary and Armagh [transmission date: 31/12/1985 (T)]

UK 1985 Dir Derek Bailey

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the singing musical group from Ireland, the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem, and the anniversary reunion concert at the Lincoln Center, New York.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cornwall

Oss Oss Wee Oss

UK 1953 Dir Alan Lomax

12 mins

16mm + DVD Col/B&W

The May Day ritual of the hobby horse Oss Oss Wee Oss in Padstow, Cornwall.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Irish rebel songs

Rebellion at Easter

UK 1966 Dir John Sheppard

41 mins

35mm + 16mm B&W

The 50th anniversary of the Easter Rising in Dublin, using songs of the time as commentary. Singers include Dominic Behan, Billy Boyle, James Caffrey, Eileen Colgan, Gerry Fox, Joe Lynch, Maeve Mulvanney, Michael Flynn, Eddie McGinley and Patrick Duggan.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

McCull, Ewan

The Shoals of Herring [transmission date: 15/9/1972 (T)]

UK 1972 Dir Philip Donnellan

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col/B&W

A documentary film based on a Radio Ballad called Singing the Fishing by Ewan McColl, Peggy Seeger and Charles Parker, about the rise and decline of the herring industry on the east coast of Scotland and East Anglia. Contemporary footage of the fishermen at work is intercut with interviews and archive photos

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mining

Songs of the Coalfields

UK 1964 Dir Data Film Productions

14 mins

DVD B&W (Portrait of a Miner: National Coal Board Collection vol 1)

In 1957, Data filmed the great Ewan MacColl and Isla Cameron performing songs, illustrating them with little proto-pop-promos featuring local people in the relevant regions as their casts. These six 'Songs of the Coalfields' were released as stories in separate Mining Review issues. Proving quite popular non-theatrical bookings, in 1964 they were released as a single 16mm compilation film.

Archive source: BFI DVD

Northumbria

Songs of Northumbria [transmission date: 12/11/1993 (T)]

UK 1993 Dir Andy Matthews

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Centres around a live performance of Northumbrian songs by the British singers Thomas Allen and Sheila Armstrong with music composed and conducted by David Haslam, and performed by the Northumbria Concert Orchestra and Chorus. The songs are performed in Durham Cathedral and are intercut with scenes of the Northumbrian countryside.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Overview

Ken Russell in Search of the English Folk Song [transmission date: 31/8/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Ken Russell

50 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Ken Russell investigates English folk music and seeks to give it a better image.

Musicians appearing in the programme include guitarist Aaron Lowe, Carole Harwood (singer of bawdy songs and a political activist), Bob Appleyard (folk singer from Boldre village), Chris King and Lynne Fortt (activists who joined the Greenham Common protest), June Tabor (traditional folk singer) and Fairport Convention. TV Series: Music Journeys

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Overview

The Other Music [transmission date: 27/10/1981 (T)]

UK 1981 Dir Philip Donnellan

68 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Programme which chronicles the folk song revival from 1945-1981 from its roots in the British tradition with Frankie Armstrong, Ian Campbell Group, Martin Carthy, Roy Harris, A.L. Lloyd, Alan Lomax, Ewan McColl, Peggy Seeger, The Watsons, Steeleye Span.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Overview

Serious Folk [transmission date: 1/11/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Elizabeth Bennett

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Schools' programme that asks "what is folk music?" In trying to find an answer, the programme looks at many uses of British folk music, from the classical composer to electric pop/rock groups. TV Series: People's Music

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Scottish folk

Songs and Stories of a Scots Family Group [transmission date: 24/9/1980 (T)]

UK 1980 Dir Philip Donnellan

53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary portrait of the Stewart family from Blairgowrie, Perthshire, all gifted in traditional music, and the effect of their music.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Somerset

Sweet Somerset [transmission date: 9/1/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Derek Clark

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A line-up of West Country folk music artists: Mechanical Horse Trough (Alan Briars and Pee Wee Hunt), Fred Wedlock, Brenda Wootton with Mike Silver, Strange Fruit, Joanna Carlin. Mike Evans on violin and Henry Davies on piano and double bass.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

West Country

The Rumble Strips [transmission date: 25/6/2009 (T)]

UK 2009 Dir Giorgio Testi

11 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

West Country band The Rumble Strips retrace their origins in Tavistock, then chat to Nick Grimshaw in Exeter and perform an exclusive show for their friends, fans and family. TV Series: Grassroot Gigs

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jazz Music



All Night Long (1962)

Akiyoshi, Toshiko

Jazz is My Native Language

US 1983 Dir Renée Cho

58 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the life and art of jazz musician Toshiko Akiyoshi, a Japanese woman who leads a 16 piece all male big-band, and also writes and arranges all the music they perform. Numbers featured include Son of Road-time, Feast in Milano, Village, Minimata and Count your Blessings.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Armstrong, Louis

Louis Armstrong with his All Stars [transmission date: 22/9/1968 (T)]

UK 1968 Dir Michael Hurl

50 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The second of two shows by Louis Armstrong and the All Stars recorded while they were in England during the summer of 1968. Armstrong performs as bandleader, trumpet player and singer, while the All Stars in this performance are: Tyree Glenn (trombone), Joe Muranyi (clarinet), Marty Napoleon (piano), Buddy Catlett (bass), and Danny Barcelona (drums). Also singing is Jewel Brown.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Art Farmer Quartet

Art Farmer Quartet

US 1982 Dir Clark Santee and Delia Gravel Santee

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A performance by the Art Farmer Quartet consisting of Art Farmer on trumpet and flugel horn, Fred Hersch on piano, Dennis Irwin on bass and Billy Hart on drums. The numbers performed include, You Know I Care, Red Cross, Cherokee Sketches, Record Me, Blue Monk and Firm Roots. TV Series: Jazz at the Smithsonian

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Basie, Count

To the Count of Basie

UK 1979 Dir John Jeremy and Angus Trowbridge

52 mins

16mm Col

Documentary record of Count Basie in rehearsal and performance.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Blakey, Art

Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers

US 1982 Dir Clark Santee and Delia Gravel Santee

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A performance by Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers consisting of Art Blakey on drums, Donald Brown on piano, Charles Fambourgh on bass, Branford Marsalis on alto sax, Bill Pierce on tenor sax and Wynton Marsalis on trumpet. The numbers performed include Little Man, My Ship, New York and Webb City. TV Series: Jazz at the Smithsonian

Archive source: BFI National Archive

British Jazz

Jazz All the Way

UK 1963

9 mins

35mm Col

A look at the state of jazz in Britain, with Humphrey Lyttelton, Acker Bilk, Dick Charlesworth, Mike Cotton, and coverage of jazz festivals at Cleethorpes and Manchester.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bruce Turner Jump Band

Living Jazz [transmission date: 7/8/1961 (T)]

UK 1961 Dir Jack Gold

40 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Documentary about the Bruce Turner Jump Band. The band is observed rehearsing at the Six Bells, Chelsea, and on the road playing a one-night stand in Hatfields new town's dance hall.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Carter, Benny

Benny Carter

US 1982 Dir Clark Santee, Delia Gravel Santee

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A performance by Benny Carter on alto sax, Joe Kennedy Jr. on violin, Kenny Barron on piano, George Duvivier on bass and Ronnie Bedford on drums. Numbers performed include Honeysuckle Rose, Misty, Take the A Train, Cottontail and Autumn Leaves. TV Series: Jazz at the Smithsonian

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Documentary

Jamming

US 1997 Dir John Kao

66 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An essay on improvisational creativity in both music and the world of business and industry, though predominantly concentrating on the business aspects. Pianists Oswald Russell and Bill Evans, the latter through the use of archive footage, are shown talking about and demonstrating improvisation techniques.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ellington, Duke

Duke Ellington [transmission date: 24/2/1973 (T)]

UK 1973 Dir Roger Ordish

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Michael Parkinson interviews American Jazz musician, composer and bandleader Duke Ellington. TV Series: Parkinson

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ellington, Duke

The Sacred Music of Duke Ellington [transmission date: 1/4/1983 (T)]

UK 1983 Dir Terry Henebery

85 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of a live concert of sacred music by Duke Ellington at St. Paul's Cathedral, which features the three Ellington Sacred Concert Suites. Performing in the Alan Cohen Orchestra were Stan Tracy, Tony Coe and Ronnie Scott. Artists taking part include Tony Bennett, Phyllis Hyman, Jacques Loussier and Wayne Sleep with the New Swingle Singers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ellington, Duke

Salute to Duke Ellington

US 1950 Dir Will Cowan

15 mins

35mm B&W

Duke Ellington and his Orchestra play Things Ain't What They Used to Be, A History of Jazz in Three Minutes, She Couldn't be Moved, Take the A Train, and Violet Blue.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

French Jazz

Le Jazz Hot - The Story of Jazz in France [transmission date: 9/1/1987 (T)]

UK 1987 Dir Philip Speight

100 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Survey of jazz music in France, past and present.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gillespie, Dizzy

A Night in Havana: Dizzy Gillespie in Cuba

US 1988 Dir John Holland

84 mins

35mm Col

Documentary following trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie and his small group to the Fifth International Jazz Festival in Havana.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gillespie, Dizzy

The Spitball Story [transmission date: 1997 (C)]

US 1997 Dir Jean Bach

20 mins

35mm/DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The story of Dizzy Gillespie being fired from Cab Calloway's band, and the fight that followed.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Heath, Ted

Listen to My Music: A Tribute to Ted Heath [transmission date: 7/7/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Daphne Shadwell

58 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A tribute to British band leader Ted Heath including an interview with his widow, Moira. Songs include Well, Git It, Fascinatin' Rhythm, Bakerloo Non-Stop, Hot Toddy, Swingin' Shepherd Blues and Opus One.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hunter, Alberta

Alberta Hunter

US 1982 Dir Clark Santee and Delia Gravel Santee

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A performance by singer Alberta Hunter with Gerald Cook on piano and Jimmy Lewis on bass. Numbers performed include My Castle's Rocking, Downhearted Blues, Handman, When You're Smiling, Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out, Without Rhythm, Without a Song, Darktown Strutters' Ball, Rough and Ready Man, Time Waits for No One, Blackman, You Can't Tell the Difference After Dark, Remember My Name. TV Series: Jazz at the Smithsonian

Archive source: BFI National Archive

International Sweethearts of Rhythm

International Sweethearts of Rhythm

US 1986 Dir Greta Schiller and Andrea Weiss

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the 1940s all-female international jazz band, the International Sweethearts of Rhythm, including interviews with former members of the band.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jazz

Sugar Chile Robinson, Billie Holiday, Count Basie and His Sextet

US 1950 Dir Will Cowan

15 mins

35mm + Beta SP B&W

Count Basie introduces: Billie Holiday singing God Bless the Child and Now Baby or Never; Sugar Chile Robinson on piano and singing with Numbers Boogie and After School Boogie; and the Count Basie Sextet performing One O'Clock Jump.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jazz clubs

Jazz [transmission date: 18/7/1982 (T)]

UK 1982 Dir David W. Rolfe

26 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look at the new free-form Jazz clubs (especially the Beat Bop club in Camden Town), the fans, and one of the bands Rip, Rig and Panic. Interviews with Richard Williams (music critic The Times), Dave Kitson (independent record producer and label owner), Chris Hunter (Sax-player) and with Jan Kopinsky (musician). Also interviews with members of Rip, Rig and Panic and Biting Tongues. TV Series: Twentieth Century Box

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jazz Documentary

What is Jazz? [transmission date: 25/7/1974 (T)]

UK 1974 Dir Tim Jones

55 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Humphrey Lyttleton, his band, and his guests sing, play and discuss how to define jazz.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lage, Julian

Jules at Eight

US 1996 Dir Mark Becker

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Documentary about jazz/blues guitarist Julian Lage, who at the age of eight is a strikingly poised musician who plays live gigs.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lewis, Mel and the Jazz Orchestra

Mel Lewis and the Jazz Orchestra

US 1982 Dir Clark Santee and Delia Gravel Santee

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A performance by Mel Lewis and the Jazz Orchestra consisting of Mel Lewis on drums, Earl Gardner, Joe Mosello, John Marshall and Tom Harrell on trumpets, John Mosca, Ed Neumeister, Douglas Purviance, Earl McIntyre on trombones, Stephanie Faulber on French horn, Dick Oats, Kenneth Garrett, Joe Lovano, Gary Pribeck and Gary Smulyan on reeds, Jim McNeely on piano and Marc Johnson on bass. Numbers performed include One Finger Snap, Eye of the Hurricane and Make Me Smile. TV Series: Jazz at the Smithsonian

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Monk, Thelonious

Thelonious Monk - Playful Keys [transmission date: 10/5/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Nick Bray

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of the American jazz pianist and composer Thelonious Monk

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Monterey Festival

Monterey Jazz Festival - Forty Legendary Years

US 1998 Dir William Harper

80 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Forty years of the Monterey Jazz Festival recalled by the interviewees and illustrated by brief footage of the many hundreds of musicians who have played there since the first festival in October 1958.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Montreux Festival

Music from Montreux [transmission date: 26/12/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Don Sayer

45 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Humphrey Lyttelton presents coverage of the 10th annual International Music Festival in Montreux and talks to some of the artists performing, including Sarah Vaughan, Newport All Stars, Jimmy Witherspoon, Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, Shakti, Stan Getz Quartet, Odetta, Weather Report, The New Hampshire Big Band, Clarke Terry and The Swinging Sextet.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

National Youth Jazz Orchestra

North with NYJO [transmission date: 17/6/1977 (T)]

UK 1977 Dir Martin L. Bell and Bill Hook

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An impression of the National Youth Jazz Orchestra's 1977 tour of Scotland, when the 26 young jazz musicians crammed into a coach for a series of one-off performances just like the big-bands of the 1930s. The programme includes music from their final date at Edinburgh University.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Newcastle Jazz Festival

Newcastle Jazz Festival, The [transmission date: 13/11/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Robin Lough

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Spike Milligan introduces extracts from four concerts recorded at the Newcastle University Theatre. The performers are: The Alex Walsh Band (with guest tenor-saxophonist Bud Freeman), Soft Machine, The Syd Lawrence Orchestra (with guest singer Annie Ross) and The Roland Kirk Quintet. TV Series: The Lively Arts - In Performance

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Overview

...And All That Jazz [transmission date: 8/11/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Elizabeth Bennett

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Schools' programme looking at Jazz music from its origins in West African tribal music to the international concert halls of today, and how it has influenced classical composers and the world of pop music. TV Series: People's Music

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Overview

Jazz is Our Religion

US/UK 1972 Dir John Jeremy

50 mins

35mm B&W

Still photographs accompany the jazz musicians featured on the soundtrack, both talking and playing. Performers include – Lol Coxhill, Dizzy Reece, Jon Hendricks and the Clarke-Boland Band. Poems written by Langston Hughes and Ted Joans.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Overview

Jazz Juke Box [transmission date: 15/2/1983 (T)]

UK 1983 Dir Anthony Wall

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

George Melly presents a number of short films made in the 1940s of some of the greatest and most popular jazz artists of the era, including Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Fats Waller, Bessie Smith, Mead LUX Lewis, Albert Ammons, and Pete Johnson. Some of the footage originates from "soundies" - films made for visual jukeboxes and the precursors of the pop promotional video. TV

Series: Arena

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rollins, Sonny

Sonny Rollins Live at Laren '73 [transmission date: 24/5/1986 (T)]

Netherlands 1986 Dir Frans Boelen

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of the Sonny Rollins Quintet performing four numbers at the International Jazz Festival at Laren in August 1973. Numbers include St Thomas, Don't Stop the Carnival, There is no Greater Love and Alfie.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Scott, Ronnie

Ronnie Scott... And All That Jazz [transmission date: 27/10/1989 (T)]

1989 Dir Bob Portway

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Celebration of the 30th birthday of Ronnie Scott's Club in Soho. Includes interviews with some of the club's admirers and archive footage and home movie clips of past performances at the club.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Smith, Jimmy

Jimmy Smith Midnight Special

Japan 1992 Dir Yasutsune Kikuchi

55 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Concert recorded on 29 January 1992 at the Blue Note, Tokyo, featuring Jimmy Smith (organ), Herman Riley (reeds), Carl Rocket (guitar) and James Levi (drums). Songs featured: The Organ Grinder's Swing, Mood Indigo, St Thomas, The Days of Wine and Roses, It's All Right with Me, Midnight Special and Things Ain't What They Used To Be.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Soho Jazz Festival

Ten Days that Shook Soho [transmission date: 28/12/1986 (T)]

UK 1986 Dir Steve Cleary and Rob Lemkin

64 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the first Soho Jazz Festival in 1986, its organisation and its events, including contributions from Team Ten, Tommy Chase Quartet, Yes/No

People, Marc Almond, Levine Hudson, Jazz Defektors, Marie Murphy, Stan Tracey, the Clark Tracey Quintet, El Sondido de Londres, Georgie Fame and Courtney Pine.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sullivan, Maxine

Love to Be in Love [transmission date: 17/7/1990 (T)]

US 1990 Dir Greta Schiller

46 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A portrait of Maxine Sullivan

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tracey, Stan

Stan Tracey Original [transmission date: 31/3/1977 (T)]

UK 1977 Dir Geoffrey Haydon

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on jazz musician Stan Tracey. Tracey tells his life story, plays solo piano, duets with Mike Osborne and leads his quartet and octet. Tracey also talks about his teaching methods.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

Sass and Brass [transmission date: 1/1/1988 (T)]

UK 1988 Dir Len Dell'Amico

56 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Jam session featuring some of the finest jazz musicians in the world, including Sarah Vaughan, Dizzy Gillespie, Don Cherry and Herbie Hancock.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

London

UK 1959 Dir Richard Lester

33 mins

35mm B&W

Various numbers played by two jazz bands, intercut with London Street scenes, including Soho coffee bars, cinema queues, Covent Garden and London parks. Filmed on location at Jeff Kruger's Flamingo Club, London.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Vaughan, Sarah

Sarah Sings and Basie Swings [transmission date: 2/10/1963 (T)]

UK 1963 Dir Henry Kaplan

35 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Sarah Vaughan and The Kirk Stuart Trio, plus Count Basie and his Orchestra with Jimmy Rushing in a concert performance from the Free Trade Hall, Manchester.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Watkins, Lovelace

Let There Be Love [transmission date: 9/1/1973 (T)]

UK 1973 Dir John Scofield

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Lovelace Watkins and guests jazz singer Elaine Delmar and Roy Castle in a musical tribute to love.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Wilson, Cassandra

Late at Night

Germany 1996 Dir Stefanie Saghri and Claudia Zoller

5 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Animated film to accompany song by American jazz singer Cassandra Wilson.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Young, Lester

Prez – A New Jazz Opera [transmission date: 2/6/1985 (T)]

UK 1985 Dir John Jeremy

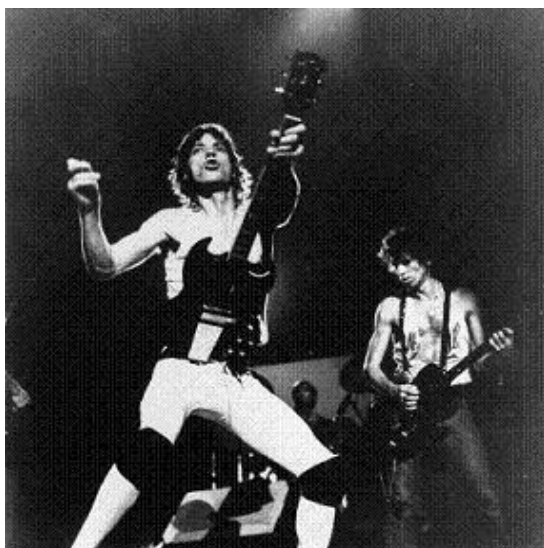
60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Lester Young, who has inspired generations of saxophonists, is known to jazz enthusiasts as 'Prez'. The subject for this programme is his jazz opera based on the story of his life. Includes rare documentary footage of Young. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Popular music



Rolling Stones from 'Time is on Our Side' (1983) (aka Let's Spend the Night Together)

ABBA

ABBA in Switzerland [transmission date: 16/4/1970 (T)]

1979

55 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Concert showcase for ABBA, who perform many of their greatest hits. Also includes guest appearances by Kate Bush and Roxy Music.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Abbey Road Studios

The Abbey Road Story [transmission date: 4/1/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Scotty Meade

59 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the 65-year history of one of the world's most famous recording studios.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Adams, Bryan

Bryan Adams: Waking Up the World [transmission date: 22/11/1996 (T)]

Canada 1996

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A behind-the-scenes look at life on tour with Canadian rock star Bryan Adams who is also shown performing in concert.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Agnelli & Nelson

Agnelli & Nelson [transmission date: 20/1/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Hamish Balfour

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Ireland's dance musicians performing their live set, making music, re-mixing tracks and attending the Irish dance music awards. TV Series: The Other Side

Archive source: BFI National Archive

All Saints

An Audience with All Saints [transmission date: 15/11/1998 (T)]

UK 1998

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Davina McCall talks to the four-piece all-girl band from London about their fame.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Alpert, Herb

Welcome Back Mr Alpert [transmission date: 17/12/1974 (T)]

UK 1974 Dir John Pullen

54 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Live recording from the Birmingham Hippodrome of Herb Alpert and his band, Tijuana Brass.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ama, Shola

Shola Ama [transmission date: 27/7/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Leo Burley

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Eighteen-year-old R&B singer Shola Ama enjoyed seven weeks in the charts with the number 4 single You Might Need Somebody, but her career began when D-Influence star Kwame Kwaten overheard her humming on the platform at Hammersmith tube station.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Andy, Horace

Horace Andy – Living in the Flood [transmission date: 18/5/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Jon Clements

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Film dedicated to reggae legend Horace Andy, featuring tracks from his latest album Living in the Flood.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Annoying records

Really Annoying Records [transmission date: 3/4/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Carie Rosen

77 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Keith Chegwin presents the most irritating songs ever to hit the airwaves, from novelty one-hit wonders to funny-voiced foreigners and TV cops-turned-crooners.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Arab, Leila

Leila Arab [transmission date: 19/9/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Christopher Walker

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary featuring Leila Arab as she creates new songs, re-mixes tracks and shoots her first video. Singer Bjork is one of Arab's collaborators. TV Series: Sampled

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Arlen, Harold

Somewhere Over the Rainbow

US 1999 Dir Don McGlynn

72 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on the life and work of composer Harold Arlen. Those being interviewed also include Rita Arlen, Sam Arlen and Aljean Harmetz.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Armatrading, Joan

Acoustic [transmission date: 14/12/1988 (T)]

UK 1988 Dir Geoff Wonfor

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Interview with Joan Armatrading about her development as one of the world's leading singer-songwriters. Also includes contributions from Elton John and Bobby McFerrin.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Armatrading, Joan

Joan Armatrading: The Concert [transmission date: 29/12/1988 (T)]

UK 1988 Dir Nick Bigsby

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Joan Armatrading and her band recorded at London's Hammersmith Odeon at the end of a world tour. Includes songs from her 'The Shouting Stage' album.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Arnold, P.P.

PP Arnold: If You Think You're Groovy [transmission date: 15/1/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

PP Arnold is a soul singer bursting with so much musical energy she regularly breaks microphones every time she opens her mouth to sing. This documentary focuses on both her rock-and-roll past (she sang with The Small Faces, Tina Turner and The Rolling Stones) as well as her drive to reinvent herself today.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Arrested Development

Arrested Development in the House [transmission date: 29/12/1994 (T)]

UK 1994 Dir Joan Churchill

80 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A documentary focusing on Grammy award-winning American rap collective Arrested Development as they rehearse and go on tour in America. The ten members of the band range in age from 19 to 62 and take their music into diverse communities.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ash

Ash in Profile [transmission date: 19/2/2002 (T)]

UK 2002

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of the pop group Ash, with members of the band talking about their careers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Asian Dub Foundation

Asian Dub Foundation [transmission date: 11/5/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

11 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A profile of the fusion music group. TV Series: 4Play

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Atkins, Chet

Chet Atkins: Certified Guitar Player [transmission date: 29/7/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir Jim Warner

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Session featuring Chet Atkins, Mark Knopfler, Emmy Lou Harris, Michael Macdonald and Waylon Jennings.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Atlantic Records

Atlantic Records: Hip to the Tip [transmission date: 2/9/1993 (T)]

UK 1993 Dir Uri Fruchtmann and John T. Davis

110 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The history of Atlantic Records, comprising archive footage and interviews with the executives and recording artists. Contributors include Aretha Franklin, Mick Jagger, Ben E. King, Rufus Thomas, Don Covay, Keith Richards, Robert Plant, Steve Cropper, Solomon Burke and Ruth Brown. Archive footage of John Coltrane, Ray Charles, Booker T and the MGs, Otis Redding, Buffalo Springfield, Carla Thomas, The Coasters, Sonny and Cher and Cream.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

B*Witched

B*Witched Christmas Special [transmission date: 20/12/1999 (T)]

UK 1999

23 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary following the chart-topping all-girl group on tour in the UK. Includes interviews and glimpses backstage.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

B*Witched

B*Witched [transmission date: 7/10/1999 (T)]

UK 1999

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Josie D'Arby meets Irish group B*Witched, fresh from a coast-to-coast tour of the USA.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bacharach, Burt

One Amazing Night [transmission date: 27/12/1998 (T)]

UK 1998

71 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Special tribute concert to Burt Bacharach. Performers include Elvis Costello, Barenaked Ladies, Sheryl Crow, Chrissie Hynde, All Saints, Dionne Warwick.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bacharach, Burt & Costello, Elvis

Because It's a Lonely World [transmission date: 26/12/1998 (T)]

UK 1998
51 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Documentary recording the musical collaboration between Burt Bacharach and Elvis Costello.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Baez, Joan

Joan Baez [transmission date: 22/7/1973 (T)]

UK 1973 Dir Terry Hughes
45 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Joan Baez recorded in concert.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Band Aid

Band Aid [transmission date: 7/12/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Ryan Minchin
58 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
A look at the fortunes of some of those behind the 1984 Band Aid single Do They Know It's Christmas? and the charity concert Live Aid since those events.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Banditz Challenge

Banditz [transmission date: 25/3/2000 (T)]

UK 2000
50 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
A diverse bunch of Glasgow-based musicians are set the task of writing and producing a new song in a day, despite the fact that they have never met each other and all come from totally different musical backgrounds. TV Series: The Other Side
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Barlow, Gary

Andi Meets Gary Barlow [transmission date: 8/6/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Angela Jain
24 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Andi Peters interviews the former Take That singer and now equally successful solo artist, who talks frankly about his ongoing feud with Robbie Williams and the drugs and sex stories from his boy band days.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bassey, Shirley

Stormy Weather

UK 1955
4 mins
35mm B&W
Item from an unidentified variety show. Shirley Bassey sings 'Stormy Weather' accompanied by Billy Ternent and his Orchestra.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bay City Rollers

Rollermania [transmission date: 30/4/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Mike Benyon and John Bush

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

1975 was the year of the Bay City Rollers. Has their popularity past its peak? Why haven't they given a concert in Britain since July 1975? TV Series: Newsround Update
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bay City Rollers

Who Got the Rollers' Millions? [transmission date: 8/6/2004 (T)]

UK 2004 Dir Norman Hull

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about successful 1970s group The Bay City Rollers that speculates as to where the huge sums they should have earned might have gone. Singer Les McKeown leads the investigation, which includes contributions from fellow band members Stuart Wood and Alan Longmuir, and their former manager Tam Paton.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Beatles, The

Around the Beatles [transmission date: 6/5/1964 (T)]

UK 1964 Dir Rita Gillespie

60 mins

16mm + Beta SP B&W

Pop music show featuring The Beatles, with Cilla Black, Sounds Incorporated, Long John Baldry, P.J. Proby and Millie.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Beatles, The

Beatlemania [transmission date: 4/1/1983 (T)]

UK 1983 Dir Sandra Gregory

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary which looks at the phenomenon of the worship of The Beatles during the group's existence from their first fans in Liverpool to their world-wide following.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Beatles, The

John Lennon's Jukebox [transmission date: 14/3/2004 (T)]

UK 2004 Dir Christopher Walker

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A guide to some of the Beatles' major influences, based on John Lennon's personalised jukebox. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Beatles, The

Magical Mystery Tour [transmission date: 26/12/1967 (T)]

UK 1967 Dir Bernard Knowles and The Beatles

54 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

FICTION: Fantasy/comedy film featuring The Beatles and their music.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Beatles, The

Sgt. Pepper: It Was Twenty Years Ago Today [transmission date: 1/6/1987 (T)]

UK 1987 Dir John Sheppard

105 mins

DVD Col

Documentary about the creation and impact of the Beatles album 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band', as well as the social context of its making and release in Britain in 1967.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Beatles, The

The Beatles Playing on the Cavern Club Stage [transmission date: 17/10/1962 (T)]

UK 1962

2 mins

16mm B&W

Originally made for Granada's series 'People and Places', this is thought to be the only film of The Beatles playing at the Cavern Club in Liverpool, and their first appearance on television. They perform 'Some Other Guy'. TV Series: People and Places

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Beatles, The

The Making of Sgt Pepper [transmission date: 14/6/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir Alan Benson

45 mins

DVD Col

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of probably the most famous rock album of all time, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, Ringo Starr and the producer George Martin explain how Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band came about. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bee Gees, The

Bee Gees a Message to You [transmission date: 29/11/1998 (T)]

UK 1998

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A behind-the-scenes look at the making of the charity Bee Gees tribute album, Gotta Get a Message to You.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bee Gees, The

The Bee Gees [transmission date: 2/3/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Tony Cash

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of pop band The Bee Gees, travelling with them from Manchester, where they grew up, to Miami, where they now have large houses and where they record their material. They talk about life since the 60s, their music, and the tragic death of their brother, Andy Gibb. TV Series: The South Bank Show
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bellson, Louie

Louie Bellson and the Big Band Explosion [transmission date: 18/11/1980 (T)]

UK 1980

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

In concert performance by Louie Bellson and the Big Band Explosion recorded at The Spinney Hill Hall, Northampton.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bennett, Tony

Tony Bennett and the Count Basie Orchestra [transmission date: 15/6/1969 (T)]

UK 1969 Dir Terry Henebery

50 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Music 'spectacular' featuring Tony Bennett and Count Basie. TV Series: Show of the Week

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bennett, Tony

Tony Bennett Sings... [transmission date: 8/7/1971 (T)]

UK 1971

50 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Tony Bennett backed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra. TV Series: Show of the Week

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bennett, Tony

Tony Sings and Buddy Swings [transmission date: 21/6/1982 (T)]

UK 1982 Dir Yvonne Littlewood

44 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Musical special in which singer Tony Bennett meets the Buddy Rich Orchestra.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bhangra

Bhangra – London's Bombay Jungle [transmission date: 1/10/1994 (T)]

UK 1994

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A visit to the Wag club in London on a Bhangra night, where young Asians meet regardless of caste, religion and chaperones. TV Series: Mind the Gap

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Björk

Björk [transmission date: 9/11/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Christopher Walker

52 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of Icelandic pop star Björk, featuring interviews in Iceland and Spain, and comments from musicians she has worked with. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bjorn Again

Bjorn Again Live at the Royal Albert Hall [transmission date: 25/12/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Martin R. Smith

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The ABBA tribute band Bjorn Again in concert at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Black Divas

Black Divas [transmission date: 1/9/1996 (T)]

UK 1996 Dir Dominique Harvie

30 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The insistent rhythms and larger-than-life personas of black singers such as Aretha Franklin, Grace Jones, Donna Summer and Gloria Gaynor have attracted a gay following. Singers David McAlmont, George Melly and Elizabeth Welch cite lack of inhibitions, escapism, extravagance and club culture as reasons for their fascination.

TV Series: Celluloid Icons

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Black music in NW England

And It Wasn't a Dream [transmission date: 3/8/1991 (T)]

UK 1991 Dir Dani Jacobs and John Clayton

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only)/DVD

A look at the flourishing black music scene in the north-west of England, featuring political rap group Ruthless Rap Assassins.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Black music in SE London

Step Forward [transmission date: 26/6/1988 (T)]

UK 1988 Dir Carol Jacobs

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about young black musicians in South East London, which features musicians playing and talking about their music. Featuring Gail Thompson, Adina Thomas, Zinnia, Bunny Duncan, Smiley Culture, UB40, Courtney Pine, Maxi Priest, Harare Dread and Jan Foundation.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Black, Mary

Mary Black Live at the Albert Hall [transmission date: 7/11/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir Mark Over

60 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Irish singer Mary Black recorded in concert at the Royal Albert Hall.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Blades, Ruben

The Return of Ruben Blades [transmission date: 18/5/1986 (T)]
UK/US 1986 Dir Robert Mugge
90 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Documentary about Ruben Blades, a Panamanian salsa music star and, more recently, a film actor.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Blue

Blue: Live in Concert [transmission date: 13/4/2003 (T)]
UK 2003 Dir Matt Asken
90 mins
Digibeta Col
Blue in concert in Sheffield, complete with behind the scenes footage.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Blues

I Hear the Blues [transmission date: 18/12/1963 (T)]
UK 1963 Dir Philip Casson
45 mins
Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W
Memphis Slim introduces a session by some of the world's best blues musicians, including Lonnie Johnson, Big Joe Williams, Muddy Waters, Victoria Spivey, Sonny Boy Williamson, Matt 'Guitar' Murphy, Willie Dixon, Otis Spann and Bill Stepney.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Blur

Blur for One Night Only [transmission date: 2/11/2000 (T)]
UK 2000
64 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Highlights from Blur's December 1999 Wembley concert.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Blur

Blur in Concert [transmission date: 25/4/1997 (T)]
UK 1997
45 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Blur in concert in London, recorded in February 1997.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bonzo Dog Band

Adventures of the Son of Exploding Sausage [transmission date: 1969 (R)]
UK 1969 Dir David Korr

13 mins

Digibeta Col

The Bonzo Dog Band drive into the country in a truck, unload their equipment in some woods only to find some of it taken away by some children. They eat and play at a party, and the Bonzos play a number of instrumentals in a stableyard, including Rockaliser Baby, We are Normal and Quiet Walks and Summer Talks.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bowie, David

Bowie at the BBC [transmission date: 24/9/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Chris Cowey

59 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

David Bowie in concert at the BBC Radio Theatre. Songs include Wild is the Wind, Ashes to Ashes, Absolute Beginners, The Man Who Sold the World and Fame.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bowie, David

Cracked Actor – A Film About David Bowie [transmission date: 26/1/1975 (T)]

UK 1975 Dir Alan Yentob

53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary covering pop singer David Bowie's tour of America in 1974, at a time when he was discarding his previous 'Ziggy Stardust' persona. Bowie makes various pronouncements on his music, his image, and the world, and is seen performing in concert. TV Series: Omnibus

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bowie, David

Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars [transmission date: 1982 (C)]

US 1982 Dir D.A. Pennebaker

90 mins

35mm Col

Film record of David Bowie's 1973 concert at London's Hammersmith Odeon, the last in the 'Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars' tour, which marked the end of the Ziggy Stardust character.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bowlly, Al

Impressions of Al Bowlly [transmission date: 6/1/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Tony Staveacre

58 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A recollection of the life of Al Bowlly from those who knew and worked with him, and his fans, with Stuart Damon singing the songs Bowlly made famous. There is no archive footage of Bowlly in this programme, nor does his singing feature on the soundtrack. All songs are performed by Stuart Damon. With contributions from Sid Colin, Joe Crossman, Hilda Dawes, Lilian Dawes, Roy Fox, Nat Gonella, Monia Liter, Ray Noble, Joyce Stone, and Tiny Winters.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Boy bands

Andi Meets Boy Bands [transmission date: 20/2/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Andrew Llinares

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Members of Boyzone, Sive, Westlife, AI, Backstreet Boys and Another Level. talk about the different elements that make a successful boy band. The show also features newcomers Point Break, Britpack and Northern Line and follows a new boy band as they audition for their final member to complete the group.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Boy bands

Daydream Believers [transmission date: 29/8/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Ian MacMillan

29 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

In August 1965, 437 people responded to an ad in an LA paper and the four successful applicants became The Monkees. The programme returns to five of the 433 wannabes to find out the other side of the story, and the highs and lows of the US music business.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Boyce, Max

Max Boyce in Concert [transmission date: 17/2/1978 (T)]

UK 1978 Dir Jack Williams

34 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Max Boyce in concert, recorded at the Rhydycar Leisure Centre, Merthyr Tydfil.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Boyzone

Boyzone in Brazil [transmission date: 4/10/1997 (T)]

UK 1997

19 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Interview with Irish pop group Boyzone from Brazil as they undertake their first promotional tour of South America. Includes footage of the band's first television appearance on Ireland's The Late Show in 1993. TV Series: The Noise

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Boyzone

Boyzone Just For You [transmission date: 29/5/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Ben Fuller

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A special performance from the Irish band in which Boyzone fans receive the opportunity to phone the band and ask for their favourite songs. The group perform their latest single You Needed Me, and Ronan Keating performs his single When You Say Nothing At All from the film Notting Hill.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bragg, Billy

Billy Bragg and Michelle Shocked in Concert [transmission date: 30/5/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir Don Coutts

50 mins

DVD + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Billy Bragg in concert at the Dominion Theatre, London, in November 1988, supported by Texan singer Michelle Shocked. TV Series: The Late Shift

Archive source: BFI National Archive

British Invasion

Rock UK [transmission date: 18/4/1989 (T)]

UK 1989

44 mins

DVD Col

How British rock music invaded America in the late 60s and early 70s and why American bands failed to develop in the same way. Featuring archive footage of contemporary British bands such as The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Kinks and Manfred Mann.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

British music circa 1986

Miles Copeland [transmission date: 9/2/1986 (T)]

UK 1986 Dir Nicholas Fraser

60 mins

DVD Col

Documentary in which rock entrepreneur Miles Copeland offers his personal view of Britain and the British in 1986, with special reference to the music world of London and the City of Liverpool.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

British pop music, late 80s

The Great British Pop Machine [transmission date: 25/12/1988 (T)]

UK 1988 Dir Gordon Elsbury

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Celebration of the booming success of 1980s British pop music, with exclusive performances from top acts including Eurythmics, Rick Astley, Bananarama, Bros, Def Leppard, Erasure, Wet Wet Wet and Kim Wilde.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

British soul

New Soul Nation [transmission date: 12/11/1993 (T)]

UK 1993 Dir Susan Shaw

64 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Lenny Henry hosts a celebration of the best British soul music from the last 15 years with a mix of live performance, interviews and clips. Performers include Omar, Mica Paris, Max Beesley and Nu Colours.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Britpop

Live Forever

UK 2002 Dir John Dower

86 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary, which uses a mixture of archive footage, live performances and interviews to explore the 'Britpop' music scene of the 1990s, and its effects on British popular culture in general. Contributors include the Gallaghers, Damon Albarn, Jarvis Cocker, The Stone Roses and Massive Attack.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Brooks

Sounds of Summer [transmission date: 23/7/1979 (T)]

UK 1979 Dir Derek Fairhead

27 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Brooks perform a variety of songs.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bros

Bros – The Big Push Tour [transmission date: 21/1/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir Andy Horahan

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Bros in concert on their Big Push tour, recorded at the Hammersmith Odeon in July 1988. Includes I Owe You Nothing, Drop the Boy and I Quit.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Brown, James

Brown, James [transmission date: 8/8/1987 (T)]

UK 1987 Dir Don Coutts

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Live recording of the concert given by James Brown at the Hammersmith Odeon in 1985.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Brown, Joe

Joe Brown in Concert [transmission date: 28/5/1994 (T)]

UK 1994

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Highlights of Joe Brown in concert at the Kenton Theatre, Henley-on-Thames, in 1993.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bush, Kate

Kate [transmission date: 28/12/1979 (T)]

UK 1979 Dir Roy Norton

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Programme in which Kate Bush sings some new songs written for the show. Special guest singer Peter Gabriel.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bush, Kate

Kate Bush Live at the Hammersmith Odeon [transmission date: 6/7/1984 (T)]

UK 1984 Dir Keith MacMillan

60 mins

Digibeta Col

Recording of a concert featuring Kate Bush from the Hammersmith Odeon, London in 1979.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Byrne, David

David Byrne [transmission date: 22/8/1994 (T)]

UK 1994 Dir Edward Morgan

26 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Former Talking Heads singer David Byrne talks about his vision of the future of popular music. He talks about how music can liberate, oppress, inspire or heal. TV

Series: The Vision Thing

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cannibals, The

Trail of Trash [transmission date: 9/12/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Since the late 1970s, Mike Spenser and The Cannibals have been performing Garage Trash rock'n'roll, but with a 21st century dominated by dance music and

manufactured pop groups is there a future for Trash? TV Series: The Other Side

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Carey, Mariah

Andi Meets Mariah Carey [transmission date: 8/3/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Andrew Llinares

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Andi Peters interviews the American pop singer as she prepares for her first concert tour in Britain for three years.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Carey, Mariah

Mariah Carey: The Billion Dollar Babe [transmission date: 28/10/2003 (T)]

UK 2003 Dir John Akomfrah

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of singer Mariah Carey. Includes contributions from Jay Z and Walter Afanasieff – key record industry executives, Mariah's friends and biographers, and music critics Paul Morley and Caroline Sullivan.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Carpenters, The

Carpenters in Concert [transmission date: 3/12/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Yvonne Littlewood

45 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A specially recorded concert from the New London Theatre as The Carpenters conclude their British tour. TV Series: A World of Music

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Carpenters, The

Close to You: The Story of The Carpenters [transmission date: 26/8/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Andy Baybutt

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of the brother and sister duo The Carpenters, uses archive film and interviews with Richard Carpenter, friends and fans.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Carpenters, The

Carpenters, The [transmission date: 3/3/1974 (T)]

UK 1974 Dir Johnnie Stewart

45 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Carpenters perform at The Talk of the Town, London.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Carpenters, The

Carpenters, The [transmission date: 6/11/1971 (T)]

UK 1971 Dir Stanley Dorfman

50 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Richard and Karen Carpenter in performance, with special guest Tony Joe White.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cash, Johnny

Johnny Cash in San Quentin [transmission date: 9/9/1969 (T)]

UK 1969 Dir Michael Darlow

50 mins

Digibeta + Beta SP + DVD Col

Johnny Cash sings folk songs in one of America's most notorious prisons. Other performers include June Carter Cash, The Tennessee Three, Carl Perkins, W.S. Holland, Bob Wootton, Marshall Grant.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cash, Johnny

Johnny Cash Went to Glastonbury [transmission date: 1/1/1995 (T)]

UK 1995

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

From the 1994 Glastonbury Festival, the set from "the man in black", Johnny Cash, featuring songs from his album American Recordings.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cassidy

Reality Check [transmission date: 26/6/2003 (T)]

UK 2003

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Tough-talking group dynamics expert Kate Marlow turns her attention to Struggling Liverpool indie rockers Cassidy. Two brothers, lead singer Paul and guitarist Dave dream of a record deal and a place in the charts but their differences are blocking their path to success. Enter acting coach Kate Marlow to restore harmony and retune their thinking.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cave, Nick

Nick Cave [transmission date: 10/8/2003 (T)]

UK 2003 Dir Archie Powell

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of the Australian-born musician and songwriter. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Charts

How to Have a Number One [transmission date: 23/3/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Sean Doherty

76 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Vic Reeves takes a light-hearted look back at the fabled 'No.1' slot in the UK music charts, which began in 1952. Stories include Bruce Dickinson telling Iron Maiden fans to unite in sending Daughters to the Slaughter to the top by toppling Cliff Richard's Saviour's Day, the battle between Blur and Oasis for the top spot, and the insider dealings that conspired to keep the Sex Pistols' God Save the Queen off the top spot when it was released on Jubilee Day, 1977.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Chicago rock

Out of the Loop [transmission date: 1997 (C)]

US 1997 Dir Scott Petersen

86 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on the Chicago rock music scene.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Chieftains, The

Chieftains and Guests, The [transmission date: 15/3/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir David Donaghy

60 mins

DVD Col

Concert from the Grand Opera House in Belfast to mark St Patrick's Day. The Chieftains are supported by Roger Daltrey and Nanci Griffith.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Clapton, Eric

Eric Clapton [transmission date: 25/2/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir Robert Khodadad

30 mins

DVD Col

Eric Clapton talks about his life in music, his battle with drink and drugs and the death of his son, in whose memory he gives the first TV performance of the song Tears in Heaven. TV Series: Sue Lawley

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Clapton, Eric

Eric Clapton [transmission date: 6/12/1987 (T)]

UK 1987 Dir Chris Hunt

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Portrait of Eric Clapton, from his childhood days, the various groups he played in, fame, drug abuse and re-emergence on to the music scene in the 80s. At the show's request he teams up with his hero, blues player Buddy Guy, and Jack Bruce, whom he hasn't played with since Cream's farewell concert 20 years ago. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Club music (Glasgow)

Lucid [transmission date: 1/7/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Nicola Black

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Club music and visuals from the best of Glasgow's DJs, designers, and filmmakers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cobain, Kurt

Kurt & Courtney [transmission date: 31/10/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Nick Broomfield

95 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary profile of the rock icon Kurt Cobain and his widow Courtney Love which sets out to test the theory that Courtney Love had Cobain killed. Includes home tapes made by Cobain as a child and adolescent, home movies, and interviews with friends and family.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cocker, Joe

Joe Cocker – Have a Little Faith [transmission date: 20/11/1994 (T)]

UK 1994 Dir Julian Caidan

55 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Story of Joe Cocker, once dubbed 'the wild man of rock' and the survivor of 30 years of recording. Includes archive footage and interviews with members of his family and other musicians.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Coldplay

Coldplay – Live in Sydney [transmission date: 15/11/2003 (T)]

UK 2003 Dir Russell Thomas

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The band Coldplay performs live at Sydney's Horden Pavillion in July 2003.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Collins, Phil

Phil Collins Live by Request [transmission date: 1/10/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Bob Massie

54 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Phone-in programme in which music fans around the country can talk to their idols and request their favourite numbers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Collins, Phil

Phil Collins Live in Paris [transmission date: 17/12/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir David Mallet

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Highlights of Phil Collins' Parisian date from his massive European tour with tracks from his latest album 'Dance Into the Light'.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Commodores, The

Natural High - The Commodores on Tour [transmission date: 1978 (R)]

UK 1978 Dir Des Good

11 mins

35mm Col

Promotional film about the American pop group, the Commodores, who are seen arriving in Britain and performing numbers from their then-new record, Natural High.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Connolly, Brian

Don't Leave Me this Way [transmission date: 2/11/1996 (T)]

UK 1996 Dir James Marsh

26 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on Brian Connolly, leader singer of 70s glamrock band The Sweet, who after the pressures of success (and subsequent failure) affected his health, is now attempting a comeback after years spent out of the public eye.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Corrs, The

The One and Only Corrs [transmission date: 4/11/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Corrs perform some of their biggest hits, including Dreams and Runaway at the London Studios.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cowell, Simon

Being Simon Cowell [transmission date: 9/8/2003 (T)]

UK 2003 Dir Tim Quicke

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the Pop Idol judge.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cream

Cream [transmission date: 5/1/1969 (T)]

UK 1969 Dir Tony Palmer

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Footage of the Royal Albert Hall concert of the group before they disbanded in 1968, intercut with interviews with each of the musicians in turn. TV Series: Omnibus

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Crow, Sheryl

Sheryl Crow [transmission date: 11/7/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Archie Powell

23 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Sheryl Crow performing live at the Blue Note and on her US tour, and an interview in which she talks about her background and music.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Culture Club

Culture Club - A Kiss Across the Ocean

UK 1984 Dir Keith MacMillan

64 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of Culture Club in concert at the Hammersmith Odeon, London in December 1983.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Culture Club

Culture Club in Japan [transmission date: 31/12/1984 (T)]

UK 1984 Dir Geoff Wonfor

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Pop group Culture Club on tour in Japan.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Cypress Hill

Cypress Hill [transmission date: 25/5/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Documentary about rap music band Cypress Hill.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance

Creamfields 1 [transmission date: 7/9/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Fiona Cotter Craig

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Over 45,000 clubbers join the world's best DJs and live dance acts at the Old Liverpool Airfield, Merseyside. Two DJs remix the show thus giving two unique views on the festival. The first re-mix is 'Creamfields 1', mixed and presented by Seb Fontaine.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dance

Zero Gravity [transmission date: 22/7/2001 (T)]

UK 2001

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Highlights of a recent dance event held at a secret location in London. Features Sister Bliss of Faithless, Groove Armada, Armand Van Helden and live performances from Ian Brown and the Fun Lovin' Criminals.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Darkness, The

Making Love with The Darkness [transmission date: 23/3/2004 (T)]

UK 2004

19 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Rock band The Darkness shoot a video in the Australian outback.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dave Clark Five

Hold on - It's the Dave Clark Five [transmission date: 1968 (T)]

UK 1968 Dir Dave Clark

39 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col/B&W

The lives and music of British pop group The Dave Clark Five.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

David, Craig

Craig David - Off the Hook [transmission date: 25/3/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Hamish Hamilton

63 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A film shot at Wembley Arena on the last of Craig David's three back-to-back sell-out shows. Includes interviews and documentary footage.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Davies, Ray

Starmaker [transmission date: 4/9/1974 (T)]

UK 1974 Dir Peter Plummer and Dougie Squires

37 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A rock musical. Ray Davies of The Kinks plays The Star, who tries to take control of the life of an accountant in order to make him a star. Ray Davies wrote eight new songs for the play.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Davies, Ray

Story of the Kinks, The [transmission date: 10/5/1989 (T)]

UK 1989

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Programme looking at the life of Ray Davies and his band, The Kinks. TV Series: The Late Shift

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Davis Jr, Sammy

963 [transmission date: 1973 (P)]

UK 1973 Dir Dwight Hemion

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Sammy Davis Jr sings a variety of songs and, with the help of his father, looks back on his childhood and career.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

De Burgh, Chris

Chris De Burgh - Live in Dublin [transmission date: 27/3/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir Crescenzo Notarile

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Highlights of Chris De Burgh in concert at Dublin's RDS. Filmed over two nights with thirteen cameras, it captures him performing live on his Flying Colours world tour.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

De La Soul

De La Soul [transmission date: 17/8/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

9 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Two videos for De La Soul songs: The Magic Number (123 mix) and Oooh. The latter parodies The Wizard of Oz. TV Series: 4Play

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Death in Vegas

Death in Vegas [transmission date: 27/4/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary following the band Death in Vegas.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Del Amitri

Del Amitri - No Better Location [transmission date: 19/11/1997 (T)]

UK 1997

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of a concert by Del Amitri at Aberdeen's Capitol Theatre. This gig is the first one of their UK tour.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dickson, Barbara

Barbara Dickson at the Royal Albert Hall

UK 1987

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Concert footage of Barbara Dickson filmed at the Royal Albert Hall in November 1987.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dietrich, Marlene and Piaf, Edith

In Search of Cabaret [transmission date: 10/5/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir Michael Houldey

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Singer Ute Lemper explores the cabaret of the late Marlene Dietrich and Edith Piaf and performs the songs the pair made famous. TV Series: Celebration

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dire Straits

Dire Straits - Alchemy Live [transmission date: 7/1/1991 (T)]

UK 1991 Dir Peter Sinclair

55 mins

DVD Col

Record of a 1983 Dire Straits concert.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Disco

Disco Top Ten [transmission date: 12/9/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Ken McGill

62 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Programme recalling ten influential acts from the original disco era of the late 1970s and early 1980s: The Bee Gees, Gloria Gaynor, Odyssey, KC and the Sunshine Band, Kool and The Gang, Earth Wind and Fire, Donna Summer, The Village People, Chic, The Jacksons.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Disco

Discomania [transmission date: 19/6/2004 (T)]

UK 2004 Dir Simon Staffurth

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

One-off music special in which pop stars and TV stars perform hits from the disco era. Performers include Jamelia, Girls Aloud, Rachel Stevens, Liberty X, Donna Summer, Westlife, Kool and The Gang, Tina O'Brien, Lucy-Jo Hudson, Nikki Sanderson.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Disco

The Day Britain Turned Disco [transmission date: 25/3/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Kate Barker

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV documentary celebrating the 21st anniversary of the release of the film 'Saturday Night Fever', which launched the disco craze in Britain.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Donegan, Lonnie

Putting on the Style [transmission date: 22/10/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir John Barlow

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Looks at the life of the skiffle legend Lonnie Donegan TV Series: The Human Factor

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dr John

Dr John Special [transmission date: 18/6/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Sean Rowley

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Legendary New Orleans blues singer Mack Rebennack, also known as Dr John, comes to London to record his brand new album with a range of Brit Pop superstars, including Paul Weller, Supergrass, Spiritualized and Primal Scream.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dr John

Mardi Gras Funk [transmission date: 19/12/1984 (T)]

UK 1984 Dir Michael Houldey

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about New Orleans musician Mac Rebennack (also known as Dr. John) set against the background of the Mardi Gras and New Orleans.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Duran Duran

Duran Duran Xtraordinary World [transmission date: 17/9/1993 (T)]

UK 1993

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A profile of Duran Duran, following their career from its start, through the period when they were at the cutting edge of music video development to their latest album Duran Duran.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dury, Ian

Hold on to Your Structure

1985 Dir James Ewart

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of a Hammersmith Odeon concert in 1985 featuring Ian Dury and the Blockheads.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dury, Ian

Ian Dury [transmission date: 3/11/1983 (T)]

UK 1983 Dir Franco Rosso

55 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of rock singer Ian Dury, who talks about the effects of polio on his life, and how he overcame negative feelings about himself and about his life and music. He is also seen during recording sessions for his latest album.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dylan, Bob

Hard Rain [transmission date: 28/9/1976 (T)]

US 1976 Dir Bob Corcoran

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV film shot for NBC of Bob Dylan's Rolling Thunder Revue, taped in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dylan, Bob

Renaldo & Clara

US 1977 Dir Bob Dylan

245 mins

35mm Col

Sprawling account of Bob Dylan's 'Rolling Thunder Revue' tour of 1975/76 (in which he performed alongside Joan Baez, Ronee Blakley, Ronnie Hawkins and Jack Elliott), interspersed with semi-improvised scenes in which Dylan, his wife Sara and various musicians act out tableaux inspired by his life and lyrics.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Easy Listening

The Middle of the Road Hour [transmission date: 5/1/1987 (T)]

UK 1986 Dir Bryan Izzard

55 mins

DVD Col

A programme of easy listening music, including the works of Gershwin, Ivor Gurney, Rodgers and Hart, Bransby Williams, Stephen Sondheim, Emmerich Kálmán, Fritz Kreisler and Franz Lehar.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Egypt

Chilled Out in Cairo [transmission date: 3/5/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

In a country of religious and political strife, where raves and vinyl DJs are unheard of, Cairo sees a massive celebration of international musicians put together by Britain's foremost 'sounds', The Big Chill. Their club-based multicultural experience arrived in Autumn 1999 to perform in the grounds of Cairo's Opera House and sponsored by the British Council. TV Series: The Other Side

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Elvis impersonator

The Ballad of Ritchie Venus [transmission date: 12/1998 (P)]

New Zealand 1998 Dir Nathan Pohio

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about an Elvis Presley impersonator.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Eminem

Eminem: Please Stand Up [transmission date: 4/5/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Janice Broxup and Ian McLeish

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about Eminem, looking at the controversy surrounding him, his behaviour, and performances from his Up in Smoke tour. Also includes an interview with him and with All Saints, Craig David and Victoria Beckham about him.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Eurovision Song Contest

A Song for Eurotrash [transmission date: 2/5/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Peter Stuart

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Antoine de Caunes and Katie Boyle look back at some unforgettable moments churned up by the Eurovision Song Contest.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Eurovision Song Contest

Nul Points: A Brief History of the Eurovision Song Contest [transmission date: 31/8/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir Helen Gallacher

35 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Brief history of the 36-year old programme, with many extracts including Cliff Richard (Congratulations), Sandie Shaw (Puppet on a String) and Abba (Waterloo).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Eurythmics

Eurythmics - Peacetour [transmission date: 8/1/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir David Barnard

76 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Live performance from the musical reunion of Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart recorded at the London Docklands Arena.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Evans, Maureen

Mamma Wouldn't Like It

UK 1960
5 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) B&W
Maureen Evans sings the song Mamma Wouldn't Like It twice, with different settings for each version.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Fabulous Singlettes, The

The Fabulous Singlettes [transmission date: 1989 (C)]

UK 1989 Dir John Kaye Cooper
48 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Musical special featuring the all-girl group The Fabulous Singlettes, who recreate the music of The Supremes, Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, The Shangri-Las and other all-girl groups of the sixties.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Fatboy Slim

Big Beach Boutique [transmission date: 14/7/2001 (T)]

UK 2001
49 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Fatboy Slim and Groove Armada on stage at a free open-air concert held on Brighton Beach in early July 2001.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Fatboy Slim

Fatboy Slim and the Chemical Brothers [transmission date: 17/10/1999 (T)]

UK 1999
35 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Concert footage from July 1999 when Fatboy Slim and The Chemical Brothers played at Red Rocks, a Colorado amphitheatre carved out of the Rockies. Includes interviews with the musicians.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Fatboy Slim

We've Got to Get Out of this Business [transmission date: 15/7/2001 (T)]

UK 2001
39 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Documentary following DJ and musician Fatboy Slim at work on a hectic schedule.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Female musicians

For the Love of Rock

US 2000 Dir Wendy Tumminello and Lynda Allen

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary film looking at the world of female musicians in rock, rap, folk and R&B, and what they have in common irrespective of race or sexuality. Includes interviews with Amy Ray of the Indigo girls, Kate Schellenbach of Luscious Jackson, Jane Siberry, Janice Robinson, Doria Roberts, Michelle Lewis, Melissa Ferrick, Brenda Kahn and Toni Blackman.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Female pop groups

Anything Boys Can Do...

US 1996 Dir Ethan Minsker

71 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about underground women's pop groups in New York City's Lower East Side.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Feminist rock

Righteous Babes, The [transmission date: 23/12/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Pratibha Parmar

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Polemical documentary arguing that feminism in the 1990s is at its most vibrant in popular culture and in particular, in rock music. Features interviews with performers and writers including Tori Amos, Sinéad O'Connor, Chrissie Hynde, Ani DiFranco and Skin.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ferry, Bryan

Bryan Ferry [transmission date: 6/4/1989 (T)]

UK 1989

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Interview footage and music covering Bryan Ferry's early days with Roxy Music, plus a look at his solo career. TV Series: Music Special

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Festival - Aquarius

Nearly Normal Nimbin

Australia 1995 Dir Jeni Kendell and Paul Tait

154 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A documentary about the Australian town of Nimbin and the long term effects of the Aquarius pop music festival held there in 1973. In three parts: Part 1 Peace, Love & Burnt Rice (52 mins); Part 2 Sects, Drugs & Rock 'n' Roll (51 mins); Part 3 Sensitive New Age Guise (51 mins).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Festival - Creamfields

The Chilling Fields [transmission date: 26/1/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Stuart Mitchell

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary following events leading up to last year's Creamfields dance festival which took place in an outdoor venue during the wettest April in history. Millionaire entrepreneurs Darren Hughes and James Barton took Liverpool's most successful club, Cream, to an outdoor venue in Hampshire.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Festival - Glastonbury

Glastonbury: The Trip Continues [transmission date: 15/10/1994 (T)]

UK 1994 Dir Declan Lowney and Gavin Taylor

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Coverage of the Glastonbury Festival of 24-26 June, 1994. Performers include Pulp, Echobelly, Blur, Inspiral Carpets, Oasis, James, Orbital and Madder Rose.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Festival - Glastonbury

Avalon [transmission date: 20/3/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Glastonbury music festival and how, away from the main commercial stages, a band of hippies, punks and ravers come together to keep the flame of the original Glastonbury festival alive.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Festival - Isle of Wight

Message to Love [transmission date: 26/8/1995 (T)]

UK/US 1995 Dir Murray Lerner

120 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Footage of the 1970 Isle of Wight pop festival including performances and the chaotic atmosphere of the occasion.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Festival - Knebworth

Knebworth '90 [transmission date: 6/8/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir Larry Jordan and Bruce Gowers

125 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Coverage of the Knebworth rock concert. Performers include Eric Clapton, Genesis, Elton John, Mark Knopfler, Paul McCartney, Pink Floyd, Robert Plant, Cliff Richard, The Shadows, Status Quo and Tears for Fears.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Festival - O2 Wireless

Wireless Festival [transmission date: 6/7/2008 (T)]

UK 2008 Dir Matthew Amos

50 mins

DVD Col

Coverage of the 2008 O2 Wireless Festival from Hyde Park, London. Features Sam Sparro, the Wombats, and the Courteeners, plus a look at highlights from the event, including Jay-Z and Fat Boy Slim.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Festival - Reading

The Reading Festival [transmission date: 30/8/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Mark Hurry

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Highlights from the year's Reading Festival, featuring Travis, Eminem, Manic Street Preachers, Mogwai, Ash and Mercury Rev, plus backstage interviews.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Festival - Reading

The Reading Festival [transmission date: 6/9/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir David Barnard

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Featuring performances from headliners Travis and The Manic Street Preachers, plus backstage interviews

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Festival - Tribal Gathering

Flock Rockin' Beats [transmission date: 7/9/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Leo Telling

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on the build-up to 1997's Tribal Gathering, a dance-music event held near Luton.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Festival - V99

V99 [transmission date: 26/8/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Nikki Parsons

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Behind the scenes at the V99 music festival taking place in Staffordshire and Essex. Performers include James Brown, Mel C, Eagle-Eye Cherry, Massive Attack, Faithless, Travis, Cast, Suede and Happy Mondays.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Festival - Wakestock

Wakestock Festival [transmission date: 20/7/2008 (T)]

UK 2008 Dir Emyr Afan

23 mins

DVD Col

Coverage of the large wakeboarding music festival at Abersoch, North Wales. Includes live performances from Duffy, Calvin Harris, and Pendulum.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Festival - Wakestock

Wakestock Music 2009 [transmission date: 18/8/2009 (T)]

UK 2009

24 mins

DVD Col

Selected highlights from the Wavestock festival in Wales. Featuring music from Calvin Harris, NERD, Dizzee Rascal and Moby.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Festival - Woodstock

Woodstock

US 1970 Dir Michael Wadleigh

184 mins

35mm Col

The official record of the Woodstock Festival, held in 1969 at Bethel, New York. Performers include Joan Baez, Joe Cocker, Country Joe and the Fish, Crosby, Stills and Nash, Santana, Sha-na-na, Sly and The Family Stone, Ten Years After, The Who and Jimi Hendrix.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Festival - Woodstock

My Generation

US/Italy/Germany 2000 Dir Barbara Kopple and Tom Haneke

103 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Chronicles one of the mythic cultural events of the twentieth century, the Woodstock festivals of 1969, 1994 and 1999. Compares the later festivals with the original event.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Fistful of Alice

Fistful of Alice [transmission date: 25/11/1999 (T)]

UK 1999

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary following the group Fistful of Alice, an Alice Cooper tribute act made up of five men from the west Midlands. They are sponsored by a plastic turd manufacturer. TV Series: The Other Side

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Five

Five - Part One [transmission date: 2/10/2001 (T)]

UK 2001

23 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Five in concert at Manchester's Evening News Arena.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Five

Five - Part Two [transmission date: 9/10/2001 (T)]

UK 2001

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Second programme featuring footage from 5ive in concert at Manchester's Evening News Arena.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Five

One and Only Five, The [transmission date: 15/7/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Julia Knowles

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Pop group 5ive perform some of their greatest hits, meet some of their fans, and answer questions from their fans.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Franklin, Aretha

The Cliff Richard Show [transmission date: 31/8/1970 (T)]

UK 1970 Dir Michael Hurl

50 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Cliff Richard presents performances by Aretha Franklin and The Breakaways

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Fugs, The

The Fugs [transmission date: 1966 (C)]

US 1966 Dir Edward English

12 mins

16mm Col

Documentary about The Fugs, a pop group specialising in protest songs. Includes a performance at the Waldorf Astoria in New York.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Funk

Lenny Henry Hunts the Funk [transmission date: 12/1/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir Tony Knox

53 mins

DVD Col

Lenny Henry visits America and meets many leading funk music exponents and experts, including James Brown, George Clinton, Bootsy Collins and Chuck D. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gabriel, Peter

Peter Gabriel [transmission date: 31/10/1982 (T)]

UK 1982 Dir Nigel Wattis

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Programme which looks at the career of rock singer, Peter Gabriel, and the progress of the recording of his new record, plus material from his live performance at the World Music and Dance Festival during the summer of 1982.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gabriel, Peter

PoV Peter Gabriel [transmission date: 19/12/1992 (T)]

UK 1992

87 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Peter Gabriel's 1987 concert at the foot of the Acropolis taken from his PoV (Point of View). Includes his own 8mm footage during two Amnesty International world tours and a trip to the USSR.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gainsbourg, Serge

Serge Gainsbourg: France's Secret Vice [transmission date: 3/3/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir Peter Stuart

26 mins

DVD Col

Profile of Serge Gainsbourg, poet and song writer, best known in Britain for his song Je t'aime. TV Series: Without Walls

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Garage

DJ Diaries [transmission date: 18/5/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Ben Turner and Grant Fleming

11 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Dreem Teem's DJ Spooky and his guide to UK garage music featuring clubs, labels, shops and producers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gaynor, Gloria

Gloria Gaynor in Concert [transmission date: 1/5/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir John G. Smith

42 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Gloria Gaynor in a concert recorded specially for BBC TV at the International Music Festival at the NEC, Birmingham. She performs her previous chart successes including I Will Survive.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Geldof, Bob

Bob Geldof [transmission date: 20/6/1993 (T)]

UK 1993

55 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Bob Geldof talks about his healthy disrespect for pop music, his new record, his old television show and his work with Band-Aid. TV Series: The New Music

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Geldof, Bob

Bob Geldof [transmission date: 12/6/1979 (T)]

UK 1979 Dir John Woods

26 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Mavis Nicholson interviews Bob Geldof, at the time when he was the lead singer of the new wave pop group The Boomtown Rats. TV Series: Mavis... Wanting to Know

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Genesis

Genesis Songbook [transmission date: 29/4/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Bob Smeaton

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary tracing the story of the rock band Genesis, interviewing its members and featuring a performance.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Girl Groups

Dolly Mixtures [transmission date: 1983 (R)]

UK 1983 Dir Simon West

29 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary which follows the progress of three 19 year-old girls as they try for success as one of the few all-girl pop bands. Over the two years, they go from busking in the underground to appearing on Top of the Pops in their number one single Happy Talk.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Glam Rock

Glam and Glitter [transmission date: 25/2/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Rick Thomas

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A celebration of the pop music from the 1970s including footage of T Rex, David Bowie, The Sweet and Slade.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Glitter, Gary

Did You Miss Me? [transmission date: 4/4/1981 (T)]

UK 1981 Dir Nigel Finch

34 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of pop singer Gary Glitter, who "retired" in 1976 and who was soon hopelessly in debt, but whose career has shown recent signs of revival. TV Series: Arena

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Goldie

When Saturn Returnz [transmission date: 14/12/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir John Akomfrah

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of the drum'n'bass enfant terrible Goldie. Retracing his rags-to-riches past, Goldie lays to rest the demons which have plagued him since his adolescence in a series of Midlands foster homes. Additional contributors include David Bowie, Noel Gallagher, and 3D of Massive Attack.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gorillaz

Gorillaz [transmission date: 12/12/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Laura Hastings-Smith

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary looking at the animated pop group Gorillaz and its creators Damon Albarn and Jamie Hewlett.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gorky's Zygotic Mynci

Gorky's Zygotic Mynci [transmission date: 14/9/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

12 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A profile of the music of the Welsh alternative rock group. TV Series: 4Play

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gospel

The Gospel of Gospel [transmission date: 27/4/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir David Upshal

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look at the impact Gospel has had on music history through its influence on some of the world's music legends. Includes performances from Blind Boys of Alabama and a duet with Mica Paris and Chaka Khan.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Granada music specials

Don't Knock the Rock [transmission date: 3/12/1977 (T)]

UK 1977 Dir Philip Casson

51 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Compilation of material from two Granada music specials from 1964, It's Little Richard and Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On, with Jerry Lee Lewis, Little Richard, Gene Vincent, Sounds Incorporated, The Shirelles, The Animals, the Nashville Teens etc.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gray, David

David Gray - Live [transmission date: 1/6/2001 (T)]

UK 2001

53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Irish singer brings his White Ladder and Lost Songs albums to the listening public.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gray, Les

Les Gray [transmission date: 7/5/1974 (T)]

UK 1974 Dir Jill Roach

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Les Gray, the lead singer of Mud, is interviewed by Valerie Singleton and an audience of children.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gray, Macy

Macy Gray - In Profile [transmission date: 26/1/2002 (T)]

UK 2002

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of the soul singer. TV Series: In Profile

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hall, Lynden David

Lynden David Hall [transmission date: 25/5/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

11 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of R&B artist Lynden David Hall.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Halliwell, Geri

Geri Halliwell - Behind the Music [transmission date: 29/10/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

21 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A profile of the ex-Spice Girl.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hear'Say

Meet the Popstars [transmission date: 7/4/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir John Northover

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A celebration of the launch of Hear'Says's career that followed their selection for stardom in Popstars. The group perform some of their songs including Pure and Simple and are joined by other Popstars candidates for a rendition of Monday, Monday. Popstars judge, Nigel Lythgoe, makes a contribution to the show via satellite.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Heavy Metal

When Rock Ruled the World [transmission date: 13/3/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Chris Wilson
60 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Documentary recalling the late 1970s and early 1980s when heavy metal music dominated the charts.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hendrix, Jimi

Band of Gypsies [transmission date: 22/6/2000 (T)]

US 2000
52 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Documentary about the life and work of rock guitarist Jimi Hendrix.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hendrix, Jimi

Jimi Hendrix [transmission date: 1/10/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir Barnaby Thompson and Tom McGuinness
64 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Documentary about the rock guitarist Jimi Hendrix. TV Series: The South Bank Show
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hendrix, Jimi

Jimi Hendrix Plays the Isle of Wight [transmission date: 3/8/1995 (T)]

UK 1995 Dir Murray Lerner
56 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Filmed in August 1970 at the Isle of Wight festival, this is a record of Jimi Hendrix's final European show, and one regarded by many as his finest. Includes All Along the Watchtower, God Save the Queen and Voodoo Chile.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Herman's Hermits

My Generation: Herman's Hermits [transmission date: 14/11/1995 (T)]

UK 1995 Dir John Piper
30 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Portrait of one of the great British bands of the 1960s. Manchester's Herman's Hermits were the original manufactured British pop band. TV Series: Without Walls
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Higher Ground

Higher Ground [transmission date: 5/3/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir Kevin Crooks
30 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Documentary about a Cornish pop group, Higher Ground, who are being backed by Dangerous Records based at the Sawmills Studios in Golant. Kevin Crooks talks to Andrew Gilbert, vocalist, Robert Lucas, bass guitarist, Steve Dingle, drummer and

Claus Bohling, lead guitarist as well as Simon Frazer of Sawmills studio. Shows a live concert of the group aboard HMS Ark Royal at Devonport.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Holly, Buddy

Buddy Holly [transmission date: 24/6/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Mel Morpeth and Peter Jamieson

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Buddy Holly died in a plane crash in Iowa 3 February 1953. The documentary cannot give a definitive account of what happened on the fatal flight but all the people interviewed believe it was an accident. TV Series: The Final Day

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Holly, Buddy

Not Fade Away [transmission date: 23/4/1996 (T)]

UK 1996 Dir Robin Lough

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A personal search by Philip Norman into Buddy Holly, known as Mr Squeaky Clean, the rock 'n' roll legend who inspired British rock and pop from the Beatles onwards. With archive material and interviews with Holly's older brother, Little Richard and Niki Sullivan of The Crickets.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

House music

Club Culture [transmission date: 7/12/1988 (T)]

UK 1988 Dir Jamie Rose

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about house music, its influences and its arrival in the U.K.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Houston, Whitney

Whitney Houston: The True Story [transmission date: 17/9/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Sam Kingsley

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary portrait of the music superstar whose personal life has been subject to a turbulent marriage, rumours of drug abuse and increasingly erratic behaviour. The film traces her career from a 12-year-old leading her church choir to the present day.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Humperdinck, Englebert

Englebert - King of Romance [transmission date: 15/2/1998 (T)]

Canada 1998

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look at the life of ballad-singer Englebert Humperdinck, who performs some of his songs.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ibiza

Ibiza Memories [transmission date: 15/9/2001 (T)]

UK 2001

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Programme in which Fatboy Slim, Zoe Ball and others reminisce about some of their favourite moments or memories from the dance music scene in Ibiza.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ibiza club scene

Ibiza: A Short Film About Chilling [transmission date: 31/8/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir Angus Cameron

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The club scene on the Balearic Island of Ibiza.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ink

Breaking Records [transmission date: 23/3/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Stuart Everett

3 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Pop group Ink had difficulty selling their album to the major record producers so they released their album on the internet. Now the major record producers are pursuing the group for a record deal. TV Series: Living in the E-World

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Irish folk musicians

Four Voices [transmission date: 2/12/1988 (T)]

UK 1988 Dir Barry Devlin

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about four very different female musicians; Mary Coughlan, Philomena Begley, Dolores Keane and Lesley Dowdall, looking at their lifestyles and examining why each has chosen her particular musical form. TV Series: Irish Reel

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ja Rule

Ja Rule - In Profile [transmission date: 6/9/2002 (T)]

UK 2002

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A portrait of the (then) 24-year old singer, reputed to be king of the street anthem

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jackson, Mahalia

The Mahalia Jackson Show [transmission date: 24/5/1961 (T)]

UK 1961 Dir Mark Stuart

54 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

American gospel singer Mahalia Jackson performs on her first appearance on British television.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jackson, Michael

Michael Jackson - King of Pop [transmission date: 26/6/2009 (T)]

UK 2009

43 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Five News documentary about Michael Jackson, broadcast the day after he died, featuring interviews with colleagues and friends. These include Berry Gordy (Motown founder), Jonathan Morrish (former PR representative), Uri Geller, Trevor Nelson, Mat Everitt (journalist), Michael Eavis (Glastonbury Festival founder), Dr Wallace Goodstein (Hollywood plastic surgeon), Paul Gambaccini, Brian Oxmen (Jackson's lawyer), Ruth Liptrot (Five News reporter), Max Clifford and David 'Kid' Jensen.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jackson, Michael

Michael Jackson's Last Days [transmission date: 12/7/2009 (T)]

UK 2009

46 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Jacques Peretti investigates the speculations about what happened during the preparations for the singer's ill-fated final tour and in the weeks leading up to his death.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jackson, Michael

Network 7: Michael Jackson [transmission date: 26/6/1988 (T)]

UK 1988 Dir Keith MacMillan

120 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look behind the scenes on the Michael Jackson tour, presented by Kim Wilde, who supports Jackson on the UK dates of his tour.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jackson, Millie

The Complete Millie Jackson [transmission date: 20/1/1985 (T)]

UK 1985 Dir Andrew Holmes

55 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of a concert given by soul singer Millie Jackson at the Dominion Theatre in London in February 1984.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jackson, Millie

The Outrageous Millie Jackson [transmission date: 30/5/1983 (T)]

UK 1983 Dir David G. Hillier

55 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of a concert at the Garter, Manchester

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jacksons, The

The Jacksons [transmission date: 9/11/1979 (T)]

UK 1979

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Jacksons, formerly known as the Jackson Five – Michael, Marlon, Jackie, Randy and Tito – are recorded in concert at the Rainbow Theatre. Hits performed include Blame It On The Boogie, Ben, ABC and Destiny.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jagger, Mick

Being Mick [transmission date: 22/11/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Kevin Macdonald

63 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary following Mick Jagger for the period of about a year, in which he produces the film Enigma and completes a new solo album.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jam, The

That's Entertainment: The Jam Now and Then [transmission date: 12/12/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Simon Halfon

35 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A documentary homage to The Jam, the influential and highly popular punk-based mod trio of the late 1970s and early 1980s. The programme features archive footage, photographs and interviews with contemporary artists including Noel and Liam Gallagher, members of Ocean Colour Scene and Paul Weller.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jamaica

Stir It Up! [transmission date: 29/12/1994 (T)]

UK 1994 Dir Uri Fruchtmann

76 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look at the musical and cultural landscape of Jamaica - "the little island with the big sound" - and the development of Jamaican music from African drums to the latest digital dance hall beats, from Ska to Slackness, from Rocksteady to Reggae.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

James Bond music

Nobody Does It Better: The Music of James Bond [transmission date: 28/12/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Ellie Pole

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A celebration of the music featured in the James Bond films, following the stories behind the original soundtracks and the recording of the 'Shaken Not Stirred' album of cover versions by contemporary artists, the brainchild of composer David Arnold.

Interviewees include Jarvis Cocker of Pulp, Martin Fry, and The Propellerheads, plus Bond composer John Barry and lyricist Don Black.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jarre, Jean-Michel

The Making of Destination Docklands [transmission date: 1/10/1989 (T)]

UK 1989

38 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about Jean-Michel Jarre's recent concert in the London Docklands.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jay-Z

A Tribute to Jay-Z [transmission date: 30/5/2004 (T)]

2004 Dir Susan Maxwell

31 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of hip-hop artist Jay-Z, including interviews with him in which he talks about a wide range of subjects, and some of his performances. TV Series: Prince's Trust

Urban Music Festival

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jethro Tull

Fish'n'Sheep'n'Rock'n'Roll [transmission date: 15/9/1987 (T)]

UK 1987 Dir Chris Potter

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary portrait of Ian Anderson, leader of the rock group Jethro Tull. Although Jethro Tull still go on tour to packed stadiums, and still release albums, Anderson prefers to spend most of his time developing his magnificent Highland estate on the isle of Skye. Three days of the week he spends on his huge estate, the rest of the time he continues to compose and record his special brand of music in own studio in Buckinghamshire.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jethro Tull

Too Old to Rock'n'Roll, Too Young to Die [transmission date: 16/7/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Mike Mansfield

44 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Concert by Jethro Tull

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Joel, Billy

A Masterclass with Billy Joel [transmission date: 2/1/1995 (T)]

UK 1995

75 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recorded at London University, Billy Joel holds a masterclass for students and music lovers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

John, Elton

An Audience with Elton John [transmission date: 27/9/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Jonathan Glazier

76 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Elton John entertains a celebrity studio audience, answering questions from the audience and singing songs with his guests (who include the Spice Girls, the Pet Shop Boys and Sting).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

John, Elton

Elton John - Tantrums and Tiaras [transmission date: 7/7/1996 (T)]

UK 1996 Dir David Furnish

61 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary covering a year in the life of rock star Elton John, made by his partner David Furnish, including footage from his world tour, and interviews with his mother and therapist.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

John, Elton

Elton John (At Wembley) [transmission date: 7/11/1987 (T)]

UK 1987

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Elton John in concert.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

John, Elton

Elton John in Australia [transmission date: 1987 (R)]

UK 1987

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Elton John performs with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in this specially recorded Sydney concert. Before 14,000 fans, Elton John performs Nikita, Your Song, Goodbye Yellow Brick Road, The Bitch Is Back, I'm Still Standing and more.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

John, Elton

Elton John in Verona [transmission date: 27/1/1992 (T)]

UK 1992

60 mins

DVD Col

Elton John in concert at the Roman amphitheatre in Verona. TV Series: Cue the Music

Archive source: BFI National Archive

John, Elton

One on One with Elton John [transmission date: 26/12/1999 (T)]

UK 1999

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Interview with Elton John, in which he talks about the highs and lows of his career, his relationship with Princess Diana, and his views on sex and drugs.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jones, Jack

Jack Jones [transmission date: 7/1/1973 (T)]

UK 1973

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Jack Jones in performance with his special guest Susan George and Joe Kloess and his Orchestra.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jones, Tom

An Audience with Tom Jones [transmission date: 25/9/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Jonathan Glazier

75 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An entertainment special in which the singer performs a selection of his greatest hits from his long career before an invited celebrity audience.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jones, Tom

For One Night Only - Tom Jones [transmission date: 24/12/1996 (T)]

UK 1996 Dir Declan Lowney

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Tom Jones and guests Toni Braxton, Mark Knopfler and Bryn Terfel perform some of his greatest hits.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jones, Tom

The Real Tom Jones [transmission date: 28/10/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Janice Sutherland

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about singer Tom Jones, looking at his life, character and career, and his relationships.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jones, Tom

This is Tom Jones [transmission date: 2000 (P)]

UK 2000

90 mins

Beta SP Col

Compilation of material from the television series 'This Is... Tom Jones', originally transmitted between 1969 and 1971.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jones, Tom

Tom Jones [transmission date: 28/12/1972 (T)]

UK 1972 Dir Stewart Morris

45 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performances by Tom Jones, Dusty Springfield, Johnnie Spence and His Orchestra.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jones, Tom

Tom Jones [transmission date: 31/12/1971 (T)]

UK 1971 Dir Stewart Morris

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Tom Jones in performance, supported by the Treorchy Male Choir and The Blossoms.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jones, Tom

Tom Jones [transmission date: 24/12/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir David Thomas

57 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Welsh superstar talks with Melvyn Bragg. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jones, Tom

Tom Jones Live at this Moment [transmission date: 28/12/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir Declan Lowney

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Tom Jones in concert at London's Hammersmith Odeon.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Keating, Ronan

Ronan Live at Wembley [transmission date: 15/12/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir David Mallet

59 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Pop singer Ronan Keating performs in a live concert recorded in 2002 during his Destination tour.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

King, B.B.

King of the Blues [transmission date: 21/9/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir Ian Potts

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on the legendary Blues guitarist B.B. King, looking at his life and music, tracing a 40 year career, and following him to Indianola, Mississippi as he travels around the state performing. As well as the Indianola concert, the film include performances from two other venues, Club Ebony and Parchman Prison.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Kinks, The

The Kinks [transmission date: 7/10/1980 (T)]

UK 1980

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Highlights of a concert given by the Kinks at Providence, Rhode Island, USA.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Kinks, The

Kinks at the Rainbow [transmission date: 21/7/1972 (T)]

UK 1972 Dir Mel Cornish

45 mins

Digibeta/DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Kinks in concert at the Rainbow theatre, with The Mike Cotton Brass and Joe's Lights.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Kravitz, Lenny

Lenny Kravitz: Supersoulfighter [transmission date: 28/6/2001 (T)]

UK 2001

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary including music and interviews with rock star Lenny Kravitz.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Kula Shaker

Kula Shaker Special [transmission date: 13/5/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Rupert Style

42 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Filmed in the studio for the recording of their album Peasants, Pigs and Astronauts intercut with interviews made during a recent trip to New York.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lacey, Bruce and The Alberts

Morse Code Melody

UK 1963 Dir Bob Godfrey

4 mins

16mm B&W

Animated short film visualising Bruce Lacey and The Alberts' song Morse Code Melody

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Laine, Frankie

Frankie Laine [transmission date: 20/8/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Tony Harrison

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Special solo performance recorded during Frankie Laine's U.K. tour; features Cheatin' Heart, Jealousy and Jezebel.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

lang, k.d.

k.d. lang [transmission date: 1/10/1995 (T)]

UK 1995 Dir Caz Gorham and Frances Dickinson

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Portrait of the singer-songwriter k.d. lang, shot in her studio in Vancouver and Los Angeles. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lanterns, The

Lanterns Illuminate Edinburgh, The [transmission date: 22/7/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Nicola Black

15 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A film profiling new Scottish band The Lanterns on the eve of the release of their first album. The programme features interviews with the group where they talk about the inspiration for their music and creativity.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lauder, Harry

Roamin' in the Gloamin'

UK 1931 Dir George Pearson

12 mins

16mm B&W

Harry Lauder, on studio stage with unseen audience, sings Roamin' In The Gloamin' and The End of the Road.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lee, Peggy

Peggy [transmission date: 27/12/1977 (T)]

UK 1977 Dir Royston Mayoh

57 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV special featuring singer Peggy Lee.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lee, Peggy

Peggy Lee and Roberta Flack in Concert Live at City Hall [transmission date: 1/1/1985 (T)]

UK 1985 Dir Terry Henebery, Ian Bolt

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of four days of concerts at the Sheffield City Hall with Roberta Flack, Peggy Lee, Brook Benton, Stan Getz, Astrud Gilberto, Buddy Greco, The Edwin Hawkins Singers, Gerry Mulligan, Nancy Wilson, Jimmy Witherspoon and The National Youth Jazz Orchestra.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Leftfield

Leftfield [transmission date: 19/8/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Chris Cunningham

11 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A profile of the electronic band Leftfield with some of their videos including their new single Afrika Shox.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lennon, John

John Lennon Live in New York City [transmission date: 22/6/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir Steve Gebhard

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Record of John Lennon's last concert on August 30th 1972 in Madison Square Gardens.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lennon, John

Lennon [transmission date: 9/12/1980 (T)]

UK 1980 Dir David Liddiment

39 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Tribute to John Lennon, broadcast the day after he was murdered. Includes archive footage of the Beatles and Lennon and comments and reminiscences from guests in the studio.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lennon, John

Shine On [transmission date: 30/9/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Geoff Wonfor

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Assorted interpretations of favourite John Lennon tracks performed by Paul Weller (Instant Karma), Noel Gallagher (Tomorrow Never Knows), Stereophonics (I'm Only Sleeping, How), Beth Orton (Julia) and Moloko (Day in the Life). Also includes interviews with people who knew, admired and worked with Lennon.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lennon, John

The Real John Lennon [transmission date: 30/9/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Richard Denton

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary tracing John Lennon's life from his childhood in Liverpool, through his music with The Beatles, to his reclusive life in New York.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lewis, Jerry Lee

A Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On [transmission date: 30/9/1964 (T)]

UK 1964 Dir Philip Casson

50 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Special television music event featuring Jerry Lee Lewis, with the Animals, the Breakaways, the Flintstones and the Nashville Teens, and special guest Gene Vincent.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Leyton, Johnny

The Johnny Leyton Touch [transmission date: 1961 (R)]

UK 1961 Dir Norman Harrison

11 mins

35mm B&W

Musical short showcasing songs performed by Johnny Leyton (Geoffrey Goddard's Son, This Is She and Wild Wind, Robert Duke's Can't You Hear the Beat of a Broken Heart? and Margarita Lecuona's Taboo.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Liars, The/Les Rhythmes Digitales

The Liars and Les Rhythmes Digitales [transmission date: 21/2/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A behind-the-scenes rockumentary with two quite different bands: quirky indie English student novelty popsters The Liars (formerly The Dreaming Liars) are an unsigned act struggling to get a manager, a demo together, and a record deal; Gallic-flavoured retro analogue knob-twiddlers Les Rhythmes Digitales aren't exactly household names, but they do get to take their own tourbus to festivals in Reading and Amsterdam. TV Series: The Other Side

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lindisfarne

Lindisfarne Rock'n'Roll Christmas Party [transmission date: 25/12/1987 (T)]

UK 1987 Dir Gavin Taylor

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Concert of Lindisfarne at the end of their annual Christmas tour, from the City Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lindisfarne

The Other Lindisfarne [transmission date: 1/3/1972 (T)]

UK 1972 Dir Ken Stephenson

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The rock group Lindisfarne discuss their music, ambitions and the importance of their roots in Tyneside.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lloyd Webber, Andrew

Andrew Lloyd Webber's 50th Birthday - A Celebration [transmission date: 6/6/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Andy Pincheta

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A concert recorded at the Royal Albert Hall in London earlier this year to celebrate the 50th birthday of composer Andrew Lloyd Webber. Includes songs from his then-new musical *Whistle Down the Wind* which opened at the Aldwych Theatre, London, on 1st July 1998.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lopez, Jennifer

Jennifer Lopez: The Story [transmission date: 26/8/2003 (T)]

UK 2003 Dir Lenor Evans

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Biographical documentary looking at the life, career and success of Jennifer Lopez.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lowe, Nick & Edmunds, Dave

Nick Lowe, Dave Edmunds & Rockpile - Born Fighters [transmission date: 3/11/1979 (T)]

UK 1979 Dir Peter Carr

60 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Film about two veteran rock musicians, Nick Lowe and Dave Edmunds (with his band, Rockpile, including drummer Terry Williams and bassist Billy Bremner). The programme looks at how records are made and how long-standing friendships work.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lulu

An Audience with Lulu [transmission date: 18/5/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Jonathan Bullen

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Lulu sings duets with Elton John and Sting, respectively *Teardrops* and *Sail on Sailor*. She teams up with Enrique Iglesias and Ronan Keating in a set including *The Man Who Sold the World*, *To Sir with Love*, *First of May*, *Light my Fire* and *Shout*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Madness

Madstock 99 [transmission date: 14/11/1999 (T)]

UK 1999

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Madness in concert at London's Finsbury Park.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Madness

Madstock: The Movie [transmission date: 1/1/1993 (T)]

UK 1993 Dir Gavin Taylor

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The ska/mod-based pop group Madness, who split up in 1986, reunited for this concert recorded at London's Finsbury Park in August 1992. For this gig they

performed their greatest hits including One Step Beyond, It Must Be Love, Razor Blade Alley, Take It or Leave It, House of Fun and Our House.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Madness

The Madness, Story [transmission date: 4/8/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Leo Burley

23 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The rise of Madness, tracing their North London roots and diverse musical influences through to their splitting up. TV Series: Smash!

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Madonna

Johnny Meets Madonna [transmission date: 16/12/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Eugene O'Connor

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Presenter Johnny Vaughan talks to singer and film star Madonna about turning 40, trading fame for love, and her proposed move to London.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Madonna

Madonna Live: The Drowned World Tour [transmission date: 1/9/2001 (T)]

US 2001 Dir Hamish Hamilton

115 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Coverage of Madonna's concert in Michigan in August 2001 during her world tour.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Madonna

Madonna Meets.. Notus [transmission date: 25/2/1998 (T)]

UK 1998

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Pop superstar Madonna talks about her life and career.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Madonna

Ross Meets Madonna [transmission date: 21/10/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir Chris Cowey

53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A one-hour special in which Madonna talks frankly to Jonathan Ross about her life, work, and her then-new album 'Erotica' and book, 'Sex'.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Manic Street Preachers

Our Manics in Havana [transmission date: 24/3/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Jo Pilkington

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Following the Manic Street Preachers as they become the first-ever Western rock band to perform in Fidel Castro's Cuba. This programme follows the band's journey to Cuba, from rehearsals in London to behind-the-scenes footage leading up to the gig, a meeting with Castro himself and finally the performance itself. The documentary provides a unique insight into the band, their political views, and why they have decided to perform in Cuba.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Manilow, Barry

Manilow's Christmas Magic [transmission date: 28/12/1984 (T)]

UK 1984 Dir John G. Smith

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Concert recorded at the International Arena at the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre. Songs include Merry Christmas Wherever You Are, Have Yourself A Very Merry Little Christmas, Paradise Café, Big City Blues, When Love Is Gone, When October Goes, Stay, White Christmas, Read 'Em and Weep and Run To Me.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Marley, Bob

Bob Marley: Legend [transmission date: 12/5/1991 (T)]

UK 1991 Dir Keith MacMillan

53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A collection of performance footage of Bob Marley over two decades, shown as a tribute on the tenth anniversary of his death.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Marley, Bob

Rebel Music: The Bob Marley Story [transmission date: 5/8/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Jeremy Marre

95 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of reggae singer Bob Marley with contributions from his wife, friends and former band members.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Marley, Bob

The Music of Bob Marley [transmission date: 12/5/1981 (T)]

UK 1981

26 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Special programme about Bob Marley, reggae musician, who died of cancer on May 11th, with concert footage of his 1977 Rainbow concert in London and short biographical notes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Marquee, The

25th Anniversary of The Marquee [transmission date: 8/1/1996 (T)]

UK 1996

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A 25th-anniversary look at London's celebrated music venue. Includes comments from and performances by some of the musicians who have played there, including The Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix, Phil Collins, Alexis Korner and Kenney Jones.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Martin, Ricky

An Audience with Ricky Martin [transmission date: 10/2/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Jonathan Bullen

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Latin superstar, Ricky Martin, performs in front of an audience of TV celebrities. He performs She Bangs, Maria and Loaded. He also duets with Kylie Minogue (Livin' La Vida Loca) and Frances Ruffelle (A Little Fall of Rain). Celebrities asking questions include Cilla Black, David Baddiel, Emma Bunton, Cat Deeley, Julian Clary, Steve Redgrave and Ian Wright.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Martyn, John

John Martyn [transmission date: 12/8/1981 (T)]

UK 1981 Dir Steve Poole

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

John Martyn and his band performing live in Bristol. TV Series: A Little Night Music

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mathis, Johnny

Johnny Mathis [transmission date: 24/10/1974 (T)]

UK 1974

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Johnny Mathis in performance with The Alan Peters Orchestra at the Apollo Centre, Glasgow.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mathis, Johnny

Johnny Mathis [transmission date: 19/9/1961 (T)]

UK 1961

55 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

A personal appearance by Johnny Mathis, featuring him singing.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

McCartney, Paul

From Rio to Liverpool [transmission date: 17/12/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir Peter Christopherson

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Follows the world tour of Paul McCartney across the USA, Brazil and home to Liverpool.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

McCartney, Paul

James Paul McCartney [transmission date: 10/5/1973 (T)]

UK 1973 Dir Dwight Hemion

53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An one off show where Paul McCartney sings, dances and does some comedy, along with film clips and a nostalgic rendition of Yesterday.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

McCartney, Paul

McCartney: Standing Stone [transmission date: 25/12/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Christopher Swann

81 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of the premiere of Paul McCartney's symphony Standing Stone, performed at the Royal Albert Hall in October 1997 by the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, and conducted by Lawrence Foster.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

McCartney, Paul

Movin' On [transmission date: 18/4/1993 (T)]

UK 1993 Dir Aubrey Powell

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the making of Paul McCartney's new album, Off the Ground, It also features clips of rehearsals at Abbey Road, Kevin Godley directing a video for C'mon People and a look at the special effects created by Matthew Robbins.

McCartney is also seen relaxing at his wife Linda's photographic exhibition in Los Angeles.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

McCartney, Paul

Paul McCartney in Red Square [transmission date: 27/12/2003 (T)]

UK 2003

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Behind-the-scenes footage and highlights from Paul McCartney's first ever concert in Russia, in May 2003.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

McCartney, Paul

Paul McCartney Live [transmission date: 13/11/1993 (T)]

US 1993 Dir Aubrey Powell

121 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The pop concert of 15th June 1993 from Charlotte, North Carolina.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

McCartney, Paul

Paul McCartney: In the World Tonight [transmission date: 18/5/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Geoff Wonfor

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about musician Paul McCartney, focussing on the making of his latest album *Flaming Pie*

at his home and studio in Sussex.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

McCartney, Paul

Paul McCartney: Songsmith [transmission date: 14/1/1978 (T)]

UK 1978 Dir Bruce Gowers and Peter Walker

52 mins

DVD Col

Melvyn Bragg speaks to Paul McCartney in Abbey Road studios, where McCartney is recording Wings' new single *Mull of Kintyre*. McCartney plays the first song he ever wrote and talks about writing *Eleanor Rigby*, *Michelle*, *When I'm 64* and many others. He also talks about the influence of his father on his life and work. TV Series: *The South Bank Show*

Archive source: BFI National Archive

McCartney, Paul

Paul McCartney's Liverpool Oratorio [transmission date: 14/12/1991 (T)]

UK 1991 Dir Geoff Wonfor and Andy Matthews

102 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Chronicles the performance of the premiere at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral of Paul McCartney's classical work - *Liverpool Oratorio*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

McCutcheon, Martine

Martine McCutcheon: This is My Moment [transmission date: 5/4/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Helen Williams

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV documentary in which the former *EastEnders* star gives a revealing account of the recording, promotion and release of her debut single, *Perfect Moment*. Including footage from the studio and the video shoot in New York

Archive source: BFI National Archive

McTell, Ralph

Ralph McTell Sings [transmission date: 5/8/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Tony Harrison

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Singer Ralph McTell performs a selection of his own compositions, including *Streets of London*.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Meat Loaf

Bat Out of Hell [transmission date: 23/10/1999 (T)]

US 1999 Dir Bob Smeaton

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary looking into the production and release of the album Bat out of Hell in 1977, considering the background to its production, the struggle to get it produced and its phenomenal success. Includes interviews with Meat Loaf and some of the other vocalists and musicians involved, as well as with songwriter Jim Steinman and producer Todd Rundgren. TV Series: Classic Albums

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Meek, Joe

The Legendary Joe Meek [transmission date: 8/2/1991 (T)]

UK 1991 Dir Alan Lewens

60 mins

Digibeta + DVD Col

The background, life and story of Joe Meek, one of the most influential figures of the British pop music world in the 1950s and 1960s. It includes an interview with Meek discussing his work, and interviews with some of the stars he helped to success, including Jess Conrad, Heinz, Jonathan King, John Leyton and Screaming Lord Sutch..

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Melanie C

Melanie C Northern Star [transmission date: 30/8/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Hamish Hamilton

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV documentary following Spice Girl Mel C (Sporty Spice) as she records her new solo album in Los Angeles.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mercer, Johnny

Words by Johnny Mercer [transmission date: 14/7/1974 (T)]

UK 1974 Dir Tony Cash

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Humphrey Lyttelton in conversation with lyricist Johnny Mercer talking about his songs (which include That Old Black Magic, Blues in the Night, Something's Gotta Give, One for my Baby, Skylark, and Moon River). Mercer's work is illustrated with film clips featuring Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire, Judy Garland, Stubby Kaye and Louis Armstrong. In the studio, some of Mercer's songs are performed by Marian Montgomery and Georgie Fame.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mersey bands

The Mersey Sound [transmission date: 9/10/1963 (T)]

UK 1963 Dir Don Haworth

30 mins

16mm B&W

Documentary history. The Beatles perform Twist and Shout, Love Me Do and She Loves You and are interviewed collectively and individually alongside interviews with

Liverpudlians, a club manager, editor Bill Harry, a guitar shop manager, Brian Epstein and TV producer Jim Casey. Also includes a performance by The Undertakers.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mersey bands

Who Put the Beat in Merseybeat? [transmission date: 5/3/1996 (T)]

UK 1996 Dir Sharon Pemberton and Rosemary Boateng

30 mins

DVD Col

A look at the 1960s pop revolution and the emergence of the Merseybeat sound. Street poet and rap musician Curtis Watt time travels through the archives, meeting Little Richard, Matt "Guitar" Murphy, Lonnie Johnson, Lonnie Donegan, The Beatles and others.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Merseybeat

The Story of the Mersey Beat [transmission date: 23/5/1989 (T)]

1989

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Nostalgic documentary about the Liverpool music scene in the 1960's using archive material. Features The Beatles, Cilla Black and many others. TV Series: The Late Shift

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Michael, George

George Michael and Jonathan Ross Have Words [transmission date: 19/6/1987 (T)]

UK 1987 Dir Gordon Elsbury

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Special interview with rock star George Michael about his life and career, commenting on the controversy surrounding his new single and video.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Milligan, Spike

Milligan'n'Melly [transmission date: 16/9/1973 (T)]

UK 1973 Dir Derek Bailey

45 mins

Digibeta/DVD Col

George Melly and Spike Milligan backed by John Chilton and the Feetwarmers in a concert performance at Queen Mary College in Mile End Road before an audience of 3,000, without script or rehearsal. Includes Milligan playing cornet while Melly sings Nuts, and Milligan performing I've got those Rheumatism Blues!. TV Series: Aquarius

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Minogue, Kylie

An Audience with Kylie Minogue [transmission date: 6/10/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Tony Gregory

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Kylie Minogue performs a selection of her greatest hits before an invited celebrity audience.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Minogue, Kylie

Kylie [transmission date: 22/11/2003 (T)]

UK 2003 Dir Simon Marsh

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Highlights of Kylie Minogue's concert at London's Hammersmith Apollo (on 15 November 2003) in front of an audience of ticket winners and invited guests.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Minogue, Kylie

Kylie - on the Go [transmission date: 24/12/1989 (T)]

UK 1989

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Highlights of Kylie Minogue's first live concert tour of Japan and England.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Minogue, Kylie

Kylie Entirely [transmission date: 7/12/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Ian Russell

95 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The story behind the rise of Kylie Minogue from teenage actress in Australian soap Neighbours to pop star.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Minogue, Kylie

Kylie Intimate and Live [transmission date: 17/2/1999 (T)]

Australia 1999 Dir Mark Adamson

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Kylie Minogue in concert in Sydney; and behind-the-scenes footage.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Minogue, Kylie

Kylie: Feel the Fever [transmission date: 27/10/2002 (T)]

UK 2002

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

This hour-long documentary takes a peek backstage at Kylie Minogue's most recent live tour, following her through countless photoshoots, rehearsals and parties, and looks back over the key turning points of her career.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Minogue, Kylie

Kylie: Fever 2002 [transmission date: 27/10/2002 (T)]

UK 2002

59 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Kylie Minogue in concert, filmed at Manchester.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Minogue, Kylie

Kylie Videodrome, The [transmission date: 7/10/2001 (T)]

UK 2001

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Pop star Kylie Minogue looks at her acting and music career.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Minstrels

Minstrel Days

US 1941 Dir Bobby Connolly

21 mins

35mm B&W

A look at the history of the black-faced minstrel.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mister Roadrunner

Mister Roadrunner [transmission date: 6/6/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir Geoff Wonfor

90 mins

DVD/DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Jools Holland visits the states of Tennessee and Mississippi looking for the music of America.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Moby

Moby [transmission date: 15/6/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

12 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A recording of the American dance-music artist performing live in Germany.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Moby

Moby [transmission date: 7/7/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Matthew Tucker

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of the bald Christian vegan and best-selling rock artist whose album Play has sold more than ten million copies. Features an exclusive interview as Moby talks about his new album, 18, and his life so far. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Monkees, The

The Monkees Special [transmission date: 12/4/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Mike Nesmith

37 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Peter Tork, Mike Nesmith, Davy Jones and Mickey Dolenz meet up for a one-off comedy special to recall the heady days of their sixties superstardom.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Moon, Keith

The Real Keith Moon [transmission date: 26/8/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Rob Lemkin

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of drummer for the pop group The Who, Keith Moon.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Morrison, Jim

No One Here Gets Out Alive [transmission date: 7/1/1982 (T)]

US 1982 Dir Gordon Forbes

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary profile of singer Jim Morrison, who with this group The Doors made a great impression on the rock music scene of the late 1960s, with comments from other members of the group, and film and TV appearances.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Morrison, Van

Van Morrison and the Chieftains

UK 1988 Dir Bruce Milliard

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Van Morrison and The Chieftains perform at the Ulster Hall in Belfast in 1987, in a performance fusing traditional tunes and instruments with several of Morrison's own songs. This would eventually become the album 'Irish Heartbeat'.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Motown

The Motown Story [transmission date: 31/12/1987 (T)]

UK 1987 Dir Rod Taylor

87 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the rise of Berry Gordy and Motown Records. Features filmed interviews and archive clips.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Motown tribute

Soul by the Sea [transmission date: 3/8/1991 (T)]

UK 1991 Dir Terry Jervis

95 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Film made from four days of concerts staged in Montego Bay, Jamaica, to celebrate 30 years of the Motown record company.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Music industry

The Music Industry [transmission date: 10/3/1991 (T)]

UK 1991

45 mins

DVD Col

A special report on the music industry, asking whether it's less "sex, drugs and rock'n'roll" and more "corporate enterprise, nostalgia and advertising". Performers (including Toyah Willcox, Julee Cruise, Bill Drummond, Jazzy B and two Manic Street Preachers), journalists and executives all contribute. TV Series: The Media Show
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Music on the road

Driving Me Crazy [transmission date: 16/7/1999 (T)]

UK 1999

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look at music on the road, with a look at soul singer Phoebe One and her driver on tour; and a look at how punk group The Clash turned London's Westway into a rock shrine.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Music Videos

Video Jukebox [transmission date: 9/5/1986 (T)]

UK 1986 Dir John Archer

270 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The development of the rock video from the musicals and promotional shorts of the 1930s, the jazz sound films of the 40s, the rock 'n' roll films and scorpitones of the 50s and the television pop programmes of the 60s to the first true videos in the 1970s and 80s. TV Series: Omnibus

Archive source: BFI National Archive

My Way

My Way [transmission date: 12/3/1979 (T)]

UK 1979 Dir Nigel Finch

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the song My Way, featuring archive performances, along with interviews with the lyricist Paul Anka; politician George Brown, who named his biography after the song; rugby player Barry John; a musical analysis by Professor Wilfred Mellers; Barry Rose and the St Paul's Cathedral Choir School, who perform the song; drag act the Disapointer Sisters; and various members of the public.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Nelson, Willie

Willie Nelson in the Spotlight [transmission date: 2/4/1983 (T)]

UK 1983 Dir Brian Wiseman

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of a concert by country music musician Willie Nelson at the Hammersmith Odeon in May 1982.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

New Order

New Order [transmission date: 8/11/1989 (T)]

UK 1989

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Rare interview with the rock group New Order. TV Series: Music Special

Archive source: BFI National Archive

New Order

New Order at Reading [transmission date: 14/5/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

47 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

New Order recorded live at the Reading Festival in 1998.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

New Order

New Order, Finsbury Park, June 9th 2002 [transmission date: 27/12/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Geoff Foulkes

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The band New Order recorded live in concert in Finsbury Park, 9th June 2002.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

New Orleans

Old Boots, New Roots [transmission date: 30/9/1986 (T)]

UK 1986

52 mins

DVD Col

Documentary on the origins and current direction of music in New Orleans, focusing on the contemporary pop music that derives from the traditional New Orleans musical sources: Caribbean, R&B, soul, second-line and jazz. TV Series: New Orleans Now

Archive source: BFI National Archive

New Orleans

Walking to New Orleans [transmission date: 25/8/1985 (T)]

UK 1985 Dir Geoff Wonfor

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary which takes a semi-humorous view of Jools Holland's musical pilgrimage to the cradle of jazz music, New Orleans.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

New York avant-garde

Put Blood in the Music [transmission date: 12/3/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir Charles Atlas

53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the artists and rock musicians of New York's avant garde movement concentrating on the composer John Zorn and the group Sonic Youth, and investigating how the city influences their music. TV Series: The South Bank Show
Archive source: BFI National Archive

New York Kenyan rap scene

Voice of Their Own [transmission date: 19/1/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Adrian Cooper

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

US rap music has been performed in New York and LA by Kenyans. Now a new breed of artist is emerging, using their own language and their own instruments and singing about their own culture. TV Series: The Other Side

Archive source: BFI National Archive

New York underground scene

Downtown Darlings

US 1998 Dir Daniel Falcone

88 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on New York's rock music underground scene. Contributors include Jayne County, The Voluptuous Horror of Karen Black, Boob, Psychotica, Lunachicks, Toilet Boys.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Newman, Randy

The Words and Music of Randy Newman [transmission date: 2/1/1979 (T)]

UK 1979 Dir Leslie Woodhead

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A dozen songs by "the most interesting songwriter in America", Randy Newman.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Newton-John, Olivia

Olivia Newton-John - Physical [transmission date: 3/2/1982 (T)]

US 1982 Dir Brian Grant

53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV musical special. Tape and film recorded in London and Malibu, California of Olivia Newton-John performing in a variety of pop videos.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

NME Poll Winners

NME Premier Review [transmission date: 27/1/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Russell Thomas

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary reflecting the results of the annual New Musical Express Readers' Poll, featuring musical highlights of 1998. Those commenting on the state of the music scene include Alan McGee, Jarvis Cocker, Cerys Matthews, and Vince Power. Norman Cook (aka Fatboy Slim) and James Lavelle of group Unkle discuss their work. The

Manic Street Preachers are filmed and interviewed at their final concert of the year in Cardiff. There is also film of Placebo, Jurassic 5, Mercury Rev, Beck, Hole, and R.E.M. Massive Attack and Gomez provide specially shot studio performances.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

NME Poll Winners

NME Poll Winners Concert [transmission date: 25/4/1965 (T)]

UK 1965 Dir Mark Stuart

85 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

The second part of a two-part concert from the Empire Pool, Wembley, including performances from the winners of the New Musical Express 1964/65 popularity poll. Performers include The Beatles, Sounds Incorporated, Dusty Springfield, The Animals, The Moody Blues, Freddie and the Dreamers, Twinkle, The Gonks, The Seekers, Herman's Hermits and The Echoes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

NME Poll Winners

NME Poll Winners Concert [transmission date: 15/5/1966 (T)]

UK 1966 Dir Mark Stuart and Royston Mayoh

70 mins

Beta SP/DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

The second part of a two-part concert from the Empire Pool, Wembley, including performances from the winners of the New Musical Express 1965/66 popularity poll. Performers include Dusty Springfield, Sounds Incorporated, The Fortunes, Herman's Hermits, Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mitch and Tich, The Yardbirds, Crispian St Peters, The Alan Price Set, The Echoes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Nolans

The Nolans in the Mood for Dancing [transmission date: 23/12/2009 (T)]

UK 2009 Dir Mark Turnbull

47 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary following The Nolans' reunion tour and charting the history of the band from their humble upbringing to international success.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Northern Irish bands

Alternative Ulster? [transmission date: 25/8/1984 (T)]

UK 1984 Dir Maureen White

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look at some of the new Northern Ireland bands, including Cruella De Ville, Silent Running, The Outcasts, Station Superhaven and The Lunatic Fringe.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

N-Sync

Hour with N-Sync, An [transmission date: 11/3/2001 (T)]

UK 2001

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Highlights from the US band's concert at Madison Square Gardens in New York and interviews with the band.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Oasis

Oasis - Right Here Right Now [transmission date: 20/8/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Mike Connolly

39 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary looking back at the past year for the group Oasis and the production of their new album Be Here Now. Includes interviews with the group and those associated with them, as well as performances of three tracks from the album.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Oasis

Oasis There and Then [transmission date: 5/10/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Mark Szaszy and Dick Carruthers

84 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Extensive footage from Oasis's 1996 tour, filmed in Manchester and London, in which they perform Swamp Song, Supersonic, Some Might Say, Morning Glory, Cigarettes & Alcohol, Champagne Supernova, The Masterplan, Don't Look Back in Anger, Cum on Feel the Noise, Acquiesce, Hello, Roll With It, Round Our Way, Wonderwall, Cast No Shadows, I Am the Walrus and Live Forever.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Oasis

Oasis: What's Your Story? [transmission date: 12/6/2010 (T)]

UK 2010 Dir Jamie Clark

15 mins

DVD Col

Documentary about the Britpop band Oasis, examining the impact they have had on the lives of thousands of people including celebrities like footballer Alessandro Del Piero.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

O'Connor, Sinéad

Sinéad O'Connor: The Value of Ignorance [transmission date: 1/5/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir John Maybury

37 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Sinéad O'Connor in concert.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

O'Connor, Sinéad

Sinéad O'Connor: Year of the Horse [transmission date: 30/12/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir Sophie Muller

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Sinéad O'Connor in concert in Rotterdam.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ofarim, Esther

Esther Ofarim [transmission date: 3/5/1971 (T)]

UK 1971 Dir Nick Hunter

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Esther Ofarim recorded in performance at the Octagon Theatre, Bolton. Including the songs: Morning of my Life, Bird on the Wire, She's Leaving Home, Go Away from my Window, You Know Who I Am, and two Israeli songs.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Offspring

Offspring [transmission date: 26/2/2004 (T)]

UK 2004

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Live performance, including a selection of hits and tracks from their latest album Splinter.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

One-Hit Wonders

Gone... Forever [transmission date: 8/12/2002 (T)]

UK 2002

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look at those bands and artists from the 1980s and 1990s who were one-hit wonders, including Chesney Hawkes, Sam Brown, Deep Blue Something, Glen Medeiros, Toni Basil, Kim Carnes, Red Box, Nena, The Vapors, 4 Non Blondes, Deee-Lite, the Reynolds Girls, and Doctor and the Medics.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Orbison, Roy

Roy Orbison and Friends

UK 1988 Dir Rony Mitchell

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A tribute to Roy Orbison, in which the singer is backed by such luminaries as Bruce Springsteen, Elvis Costello, Jackson Browne, Bonnie Raitt, Tom Waits and Jennifer Warnes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Orbison, Roy

Roy Sings Orbison [transmission date: 11/7/1975 (T)]

UK 1975 Dir Tony Harrison

30 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

BBC recording of a performance by Roy Orbison.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Osbourne, Ozzy

To Hell and Back - Ozzy Osbourne [transmission date: 16/5/1993 (T)]

UK 1993

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Rock's crazy man, Ozzy Osbourne, shows his deeper side in this personal comment on the path of his life so far.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

O'Sullivan, Gilbert

Gilbert O'Sullivan's Greatest Hits [transmission date: 27/12/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Vernon Lawrence

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV presentation of ten of Gilbert O'Sullivan's greatest hits, presented by the singer-composer.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Oxide and Neutrino

Oxide and Neutrino: Dem Boyz [transmission date: 19/9/2002 (T)]

UK 2002

11 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Oxide and Neutrino, from So Solid Crew, talk about their latest single Dem Girlz.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pans People

Digging the Dancing Queens [transmission date: 4/1/1994 (T)]

UK 1994 Dir Paul Smith

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary tribute to the dance troupe Pans People, including archive footage, interviews with the girls from Pans People, and interviews with musicians and DJs.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Parnes, Larry

Mr Parnes, Shillings and Pence [transmission date: 1/1/1986 (T)]

UK 1986 Dir Alan Lewens

60 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Portrait of music entrepreneur Larry Parnes and his influence on British music, with comments from journalist John Edwards and performers Marty Wilde, Billy Fury, Joe Brown, Dickie Pride, Georgie Fame, etc.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Parton, Dolly

Dolly in London [transmission date: 29/5/1984 (T)]

US 1984 Dir Stan Harris

79 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Concert recording from the Dominion Theatre, London, featuring Dolly Parton.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Parton, Dolly

Dolly Parton [transmission date: 4/4/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Daniel Wiles

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Country singer Dolly Parton tells Melvyn Bragg about her upbringing. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Peel, John

Today Carshalton Beeches... Tomorrow, Croydon [transmission date: 31/1/1981 (T)]

UK 1981 Dir Anthony Wall

35 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the role Radio One DJ John Peel and his producer John Walters have had in the encouragement of rock bands who have yet to break through into commercial recording. TV Series: Arena

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Perkins, Carl

Blue Suede Shoes [transmission date: 1/1/1986 (T)]

UK 1986 Dir Tom Gutteridge

60 mins

DVD + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Special programme celebrating the music of Carl Perkins, featuring Perkins playing his own compositions with some of the British musicians that his style has influenced: Ringo Starr, George Harrison, Eric Clapton, Dave Edmunds, Geraint Watkins, The Stray Cats.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Perry, Lee "Scratch"

Lee "Scratch" Perry: Return of the Super Ape [transmission date: 24/10/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Rick Elgood and Don Letts

26 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on the work of seminal Jamaican music producer Lee "Scratch" Perry.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pet Shop Boys

Projections Pet Shop Boys

UK 1993 Dir Derek Jarman

46 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Pop duo, the Pet Shop Boys, toured in 1989 and asked Derek Jarman to create images for the background projection. The specially shot sequences (featuring actors, the Pet Shop Boys and friends of Jarman) are contrasted with documentary montages and images of nature, all edited to the music tracks.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pet Shop Boys

The Pet Shop Boys [transmission date: 16/2/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir Steve Jenkins

52 mins

DVD Col

Profile of and interview with Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe, then at the height of their fame as the Pet Shop Boys. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pickett, Wilson

Wilson Pickett at Montreux

UK 1973

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Highlights of a live concert at the Montreux Festival in 1973 performed by soul singer Wilson Pickett plus support acts.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pink

Pink Live in Concert [transmission date: 25/7/2002 (T)]

UK 2002

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recorded earlier this year at London's Scala. Pink performs a selection of her hits including Get the Party Started, There She Goes and Don't Let Me Get Me.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pink Floyd

Pink Floyd Behind the Wall [transmission date: 8/4/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Bob Smeaton

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about Pink Floyd and the evolution of the group leading up to The Wall, which became one of the world's biggest selling albums, a live show and a major feature film. The film also looks at the events surrounding the band's split with member Roger Waters. With contributions from Roger Waters, David Gilmour, Nick Mason, Rick Wright, Alan Parker, Gerald Scarfe and Bob Geldof.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pixies

Gouge [transmission date: 29/11/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Matt Quinn

31 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary based around The Pixies' first gig in London in 1988.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Placebo

Placebo Live [transmission date: 13/7/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

28 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Indie pop group Placebo recorded live in concert at a performance in London's Brixton Academy. Songs featured include: Bruise Pristine, Nancy Boy, Every Me & Every You and Pure Morning.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pogues, The

Pogues, The: Completely Pogued [transmission date: 10/7/1991 (T)]

UK 1991 Dir Billy Magra

54 mins

DVD Col

The Pogues in concert at the Town and Country Club in London with special guests Joe Strummer, Kirsty MacColl and Steve Earle. Includes interviews with the band and some of their friends.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Politically incorrect songs

Unsound [transmission date: 13/4/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir John Riley

30 mins

DVD + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Comedian Peter Kay trawls the pop video vaults in search of the most distasteful songs from pop's politically incorrect past and present. Originally broadcast in BBC2's 'Politically Incorrect Night'.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pop Queens

Pop Queens - The Rivals [transmission date: 7/12/2003 (T)]

UK 2003 Dir Tina Flintoff

95 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A celebration of the successes, excesses, triumphs and crashes that are part of being a female superstar. Those featured include Diana Ross, Whitney Houston and Jennifer Lopez. Personal assistants and stylists reveal what it was like to accompany them on the white-knuckle rollercoaster ride to fame and fortune, and celebrity fans, including Blu Cantrell, Girls Aloud, Lisa Maffia and Mica Paris, talk about why these women have become icons.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Portishead

Portishead PNYC [transmission date: 27/1/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Dick Carruthers

38 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Portishead's live performance with 30-piece string section at the Roseland Ballroom, New York.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Presley, Elvis

Elvis in Hollywood [transmission date: 2/1/1995 (T)]

US 1995

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A portrait of a man still attracted to the glitter of the movie world but as yet unaffected by its excesses, and in search of acceptance as a serious film actor. Includes clips from feature films made before his entry into the army, home movies, out-takes from Jailhouse Rock and his first singing screen test (Elvis sings Blue Suede Shoes), intercut with interviews with friends, colleagues, directors and writers. Archive source: BFI National Archive

Presley, Elvis

Elvis... Forever [transmission date: 17/8/2002 (T)]

UK 2002

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Celebration of the King of Rock and Roll, featuring early footage plus versions of his songs by contemporary artists.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Presley, Elvis

Viva Elvis! [transmission date: 12/8/1991 (T)]

UK 1991 Dir Andy Harries

64 mins

DVD + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Jonathan Ross presents a ocumentary exploring the Elvis phenomenon and the hundreds of imitators it has spawned.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Price, Alan

Alan Price: Between Today and Yesterday [transmission date: 26/5/1974 (T)]

UK 1974 Dir Michael Houldey

55 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Alan Price visits the North East of England (including his home town, Jarrow) and talks about his musical career. In London he rehearses, records and performs some new songs, which reflect the changes in his life and attitude brought by his ten years as a professional musician.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Prince

Prince in Concert [transmission date: 30/9/1986 (T)]

UK 1986 Dir Daniel Kleinman

56 mins

DVD Col

Recording of Prince in concert at Detroit, on his birthday (7 June 1986). Highlights include When Doves Cry, Girls and Boys, Raspberry Beret, Purple Rain and Kiss.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Prince

Sign O'The Times

US 1987 Dir Prince

81 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The official film version of Prince's touring show of songs from the hit record of the same name, filmed partly on location at a Rotterdam music hall and partly at Prince's own studio at Paisley Park, Minnesota.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Pulp

Pulp - A Feeling Called Live [transmission date: 28/10/1997 (T)]

UK 1997

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A concert recording from 1996 featuring pop band Pulp at London's Brixton Academy.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Punk

Punk [transmission date: 5/2/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Ken McGill

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A celebration of the best bands in the 1970s UK punk scene. The programme mixes archive footage of some of the groups with new interviews with some of the major players of the scene, including John Lydon, Hugh Cornwell and Howard DeVoto. It features performances by Siouxsie and the Banshees, The Clash, The Damned, The Sex Pistols, Sham 69. TV Series: Top Ten

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Punk

Punk Rock... Forever [transmission date: 14/12/2003 (T)]

UK 2003

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look back at punk music featuring the Sex Pistols and the Buzzcocks.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Punk

Rough Cut and Ready Dubbed

UK 1982 Dir Hasan Shah

56 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look at the punk rock scene, with interviews in the street with punks and others. It also features interviews and performances from various groups, including Stiff Little Fingers, Selector, Sham 69, Cockney Rejects, Johnny G., Patrik Fitzgerald and Purple Hearts.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Punk

The Year of Punk [transmission date: 1/1/1978 (T)]

UK 1978 Dir Andy Mayer

41 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Janet Street-Porter looks back at 1977: the year of punk rock.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Punk bands

Just the Music [transmission date: 1/1/1982 (T)]

UK 1982

50 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A programme made by young people at the BBC Community Programme Unit, featuring Adam and the Ants, The Clash, Dexy's Midnight Runners, The Jam, Joy Division, Linx, Siouxsie and the Banshees, The Specials, and Talisman. TV Series: Something Else

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Punk bands

Punk [transmission date: 18/10/1991 (T)]

UK 1991

60 mins

Beta SP + DVD + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Compilation of bands in performance from the punk era taken from Granada Television programmes of that period: So It Goes, Marc, Granada Reports, Mersey Pirate and What's On. Featured bands are the Sex Pistols, Buzzcocks, The Jam, Penetration, The Clash, Siouxsie and the Banshees, Iggy Pop, John Cooper Clarke, The Undertones and Joy Division.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Punk bands

Revolver [transmission date: 29/7/1978 (T)]

UK 1978 Dir Chris Tookey

40 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Pop and rock music show. With performances by The Vibrators, The Roy Hill Band, The Buzzcocks (Noise Annoys and Love You More), Siouxsie and The Banshees (Hong Kong Garden), Sore Throat (Zombie Rock), The Kinks (You Really Got Me –archive footage), Ian Dury And The Blockheads (Billericay Dickie, What a Waste).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Punk bands

The Way They Were [transmission date: 5/8/1986 (T)]

UK 1986 Dir Trish Kinane

60 mins

DVD Col

Compilation of music from the punk era (1976-79) with material from Granada series So It Goes and What's On. Features the Sex Pistols' first TV performance, The Buzzcocks, Iggy Pop, The Jam, Ian Dury, Siouxsie and the Banshees, XTC, The Stranglers, Joy Division, Blondie, Elvis Costello, The Clash and The Fall.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Queen

Is this the Real Life? The Queen Story [transmission date: 4/12/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Bob Smeaton

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An evaluation of the group's legacy to British pop music with interviews with Queen members and contributions from people who worked with them including their manager Norman Sheffield. Plus contributions from Freddie Mercury's mother and sister, and Freddie's personal assistant Peter Freestone.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Queen

Killer Queen! [transmission date: 1/6/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Nick Cory Wright

77 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary examining the legend of one of the most successful rock groups of all time, including interviews and rare footage.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Queen

Queen at the Rainbow

UK 1976

35 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Queen performs at the Rainbow Theatre, London, in 1974.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Queen

Queen - The Magic Years [transmission date: 3/1/1990 (T)]

UK 1990

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about rock band Queen.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Queen

The Freddie Mercury Tribute Concert [transmission date: 3/6/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Rudi Dolezal

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary marking the tenth anniversary of the largest charity concert since Live Aid, featuring highlights from the 1992 concert, new interviews with surviving members of Queen, and previously unseen rehearsal footage.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Queen

The Queen Phenomenon [transmission date: 4/12/1995 (T)]

UK 1995 Dir Rudi Dolezal, Hannes Rossacher

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look at the history of one of the most successful rock bands in the world. In spite of the death of singer Freddie Mercury, the band is still at the top and is about to release a new album, Made in Heaven. The film charts the beginnings of the group.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Radio 1

The Radio 1 Story [transmission date: 20/9/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Tina Jenkins

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on the history of the Radio 1 radio station, from its launch in 1967 to the present day, including archive footage and interviews with DJs, pop stars and musicians and backroom staff.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Radiohead

Radiohead - Meeting People is Easy [transmission date: 6/5/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Grant Gee

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary following the rock band through two years of touring.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rae & Christian

Rae & Christian

UK 2001 Dir Simon Marsland

15 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of Rae & Christian, Manchester-based hip-hop artists.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ragga

Ragga Gyal d'Bout [transmission date: 1993 (C)]

UK 1993 Dir Inge Blackman

5 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

About three black women's love of ragga music, showing how it allows them to give way to the exhibitionist side of themselves, to be proud of themselves and their sexuality.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Reed, Lou & Cale, John

Songs for Drella [transmission date: 27/4/1990 (T)]

UK/US 1990 Dir Ed Lachman

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Lou Reed and John Cale, two former members of Velvet Underground pay tribute to Andy Warhol in the form of "Drella" - a name combining "Cinderella" with "Dracula" - given to Warhol by members of his inner circle to fit the contradictory aspects of his persona. This performance took place at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lou Reed's Berlin

USA 2004 Dir Julian Schnabe

82 mins

DVD Col

Staging Berlin has been discussed for over 30 years and in December of 2006 it became a reality. Berlin was said to be one of the most depressing albums ever made and as it was brought to life it was far from dismal. Using the divided city of Berlin as its backdrop the story of Caroline and her lovers is told through the emotive and provocative words of Lou Reed. With performers like Fernando Saunders, Antony, Steve Hunter, Rob Wassermann, Rupert Christie and Sharon Jones, a seven piece orchestra and the Brooklyn Youth Chorus all working to create a captivating and enveloping world, Lou Reed is able to take the audience with him as he bares witness to Caroline's self-destruction. Julian's set design creates the backdrop of a hotel with greenish walls and Lola Schnabel's films display the beauty and tragedy of the narrator's leading lady (played by Emmanuelle Seigner), adding to the experience which is so devastating and beautiful at the same time.

Archive source: BFI Distribution (Non-theatrical screenings only)

Reggae

Grove Music

1981 Dir Henry Martin and Steve Shaw

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The reggae music of London's Notting Hill, featuring Aswad, the Sons of Jah and Junior Brown. The musicians talk about the philosophy and politics behind their lyrics. Filmed at open-air concerts during the carnival of 1980.

Archive source: Arts Council

Reggae

Dub and Visual Perception

UK 1983 Dir Kelvin Richard

11 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A compilation of three films which are visual interpretations of reggae dub music merging animation and live action. Each film is based on a separate piece of music; Lonely Boy, Head of Dread and Angry Still.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Reggae

Reggae [transmission date: 18/9/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Jeremy Marre

39 mins

Digibeta + DVD Col

British reggae's growing importance is discussed by musicians in Brixton, Stoke Newington and at the Notting Hill carnival. Musicians include Aswad, Matumbi, Cimarons, Roy Shirley, Sharon Forrester, Nicky Thomas, Jahman and Delroy Washington. TV Series: Aquarius

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Reggae

Reggae Sunsplash II

West Germany 1979 Dir Stefan Paul

120 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Filmed record of the Reggae Sunsplash II Festival of Rasta-Music in Montego Bay, Jamaica in 1979.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

REM

REM [transmission date: 12/5/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Susan Shaw

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of rock band REM with Michael Stipe, Mike Mills and Peter Buck. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

REM

REM: Rough Cut [transmission date: 9/12/1995 (T)]

US 1995

63 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary following the band as they prepare for a world tour. Among the songs performed are Orange Crush, Bang and Blame, Tongue, I Took Your Name, and I Don't Sleep I Dream.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Richard, Cliff

Cliff from the Hip [transmission date: 28/12/1987 (T)]

UK 1987 Dir Gordon Elsbury

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Music show, recorded at the Hippodrome in London, with Cliff Richard and his guests Elton John, Marti Webb, Five Star, Billy Ocean and the Shadows.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Richard, Cliff

Cliff Richard - The Event [transmission date: 23/12/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir Terence Bulley

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

To celebrate 30 years in show business, Cliff Richard teamed up with The Shadows to put on two concerts at Wembley Stadium. This programme features highlights from both concerts, attended by an audience of 72,000.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Richard, Cliff

Cliff Richard - The Hits That I Missed [transmission date: 17/11/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Alisdair Macmillan

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Cliff Richard sings ten of his favourite songs first performed by other artists.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Richard, Cliff

Cliff Richard and the Shadows - Together [transmission date: 7/4/1985 (T)]

UK 1985 Dir David G. Hillier

66 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A record of a concert given in Birmingham by Cliff Richard and the Shadows, together with backstage footage. Songs performed include Living Doll, Bachelor Boy, Summer Holiday and the theme from The Deer Hunter.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Richard, Cliff

Cliff Richard: Oh Boy! [transmission date: 7/5/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir Terence Bulley

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Record of a performance at Wembley with Cliff Richard, the Searchers, Gerry and the Pacemakers and Dave Lee Travis.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Richard, Cliff

Cliff Richard: The Videoconnection [transmission date: 1983 (C)]

UK 1983 Dir Simon Milne

55 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Cliff Richard performs some of his songs using video extracts archive stills and footage, and in concert. Includes brief appearances by Kenny Everett, Morecambe and Wise and Noel Edmonds.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Richard, Cliff

The Real Cliff Richard [transmission date: 9/3/2003 (T)]

UK 2003 Dir Chris Rodley

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

During a career spanning 45 years, Cliff Richard has transformed himself from a British rock 'n' roll pioneer to Christian entertainer. But is Britain's love affair with Cliff less to do with his talent than a fascination with his saintly, Peter Pan-like image? Friends and critics offer insights.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Robinson, Tom

Tom Robinson Band [transmission date: 5/11/1977 (T)]

UK 1977 Dir Peter Carr and Eric Harrison

45 mins

16mm Col

The Tom Robinson Band performs Glad to be Gay and 2-4-6-8-Motorway TV Series: So It Goes

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rock Landmarks

Whistle Test [transmission date: 15/10/1985 (T)]

UK 1985 Dir Tom Corcoran

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Feature on British Rock landmarks, plus interviews with Robert Wyatt, Jerry Dammers and Neil Young.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rockabilly

Born Too Late

UK 1979 Dir Rob Hart

24 mins

16mm + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the rock 'n' roll cult in Great Britain. Features Matchbox, a Rockabilly band with a country and western style. Includes interviews with rockabillies, who discuss their love of the music, their lifestyle and the influence of their rocker parents on their taste. A group is followed on a seaside trip where they perpetuate their particular brand of retro culture.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rockabilly

Rockabilly [transmission date: 16/8/1981 (T)]

UK 1981 Dir Daniel Wiles

30 mins

DVD Col

A look at the Rockabilly music scene, on the fourth anniversary of the death of Elvis Presley. TV Series: Twentieth Century Box

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rock'n'roll

Blue Suede Shoes

UK 1980 Dir Curtis Clark

100 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary charting the roots of rock 'n' roll from the early 50s, including footage of Bill Haley's 1957 British tour, and rare footage of Gene Vincent and Eddie Cochran. This early material is combined with coverage of the early 1980s rock 'n' roll revival.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rock'n'roll

The Friendly Invasion – The Road to Rock'n'Roll [transmission date: 30/11/1975 (T)]

UK 1975 Dir Geoffrey Haydon

80 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look at how rock 'n' roll music infiltrated Britain to become the dominant popular music of young British people. It considers the critical moments of 1956 when the film *Rock Around the Clock* opened in Britain, and 1964 when the British Invasion of the American pop charts seemed to turn the tide of influence.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rock's decadent underbelly

Rock Babylon [transmission date: 19/12/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Rik Lander

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Programme about rock music's decadent underbelly, featuring archive footage and interviews with Kurt Cobain, Shaun Ryder, Marilyn Manson, Cynthia Plaster Caster and Pamela Des Barres.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rolling Stones, The

25x5: The Continuing Adventures of The Rolling Stones [transmission date: 27/12/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir Nigel Finch

108 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A BBC Arena Special looking at the career, development and success of the band over the past 25 years, and including clips from the Stones' own archives and from the hitherto unseen Great Rock'n'Roll Circus of 1969, made in answer to The Beatles' Magical Mystery Tour.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rolling Stones, The

Stones in the Park [transmission date: 2/9/1969 (T)]

UK 1969 Dir Jo Durden-Smith and Leslie Woodhead

53 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A record of the free concert given by the Rolling Stones in Hyde Park, featuring guitarist Mick Taylor's debut and a reading of a poem by Shelley in honour of the recently deceased Brian Jones. Also includes scenes in the hotel and caravan prior to the concert.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rolling Stones, The

TFI The Rolling Stones [transmission date: 8/5/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Stephen Joel

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Chris Evans meets the veterans of rock 'n' roll for the final leg of their two-year world tour. Granted backstage access to the band, Evans chats to them about their continuing success in the 1990s, their lives, and the friendships that have lasted throughout their 35-year career.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rolling Stones, The

Rolling Stones, The [transmission date: 15/7/1982 (T)]

UK 1982 Dir Peter Minns

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Special feature on the career of rock group The Rolling Stones on the twentieth anniversary of their first show together in a club in London's Soho. Robin Denslow traces the band's history and interviews Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and other members of the band, asking what keeps them together and what they have really achieved. TV Series: Newsnight

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rolling Stones, The

Rock'n'Roll Circus

UK 1968 Dir Michael Lindsay-Hogg

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

In December 1968 the Rolling Stones invited their friends and guests to perform in a one-off show inside a circus tent. The Rolling Stones top the bill for the final half hour performing a selection of hits including Jumping Jack Flash and Sympathy for the Devil.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rollins, Henry

Henry Rollins Live and Ripped in London [transmission date: 26/9/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Nikki Parsons

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performance by the American singer and poet captured in a recent London concert.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ross, Diana

Diane Ross [transmission date: 4/10/1973 (T)]

UK 1973 Dir Johnnie Stewart

60 mins

Beta SP/DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Diana Ross recorded in performance at the Royal Albert Hall in London, during her European tour. TV Series: Show of the Week

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Roxy Music

Roxy Music [transmission date: 28/2/1983 (T)]

UK 1983 Dir Robin Nash

74 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Concert recorded in Frejus in France on 27th August 1982.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Runrig

Runrig [transmission date: 5/1/1993 (T)]

UK 1993 Dir Graham Strong

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Film of a Barrowlands concert capturing an energetic performance by the band Runrig, tracing the stories behind the songs and capturing the essence of the Gaelic band's Western Isles roots.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Runrig

Runrig on the Rock [transmission date: 19/8/1994 (T)]

1994 Dir Tom Poole

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Concert featuring rock band Runrig who perform on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

S Club 7

S Club 7 - Back to the Fifties [transmission date: 18/9/1999 (T)]

UK 1999

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A special show featuring the chart-topping pop group as they move through a time warp through the small-town America of the late-50s.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sailor

Sailor [transmission date: 1/5/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Mike Mansfield

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Concert performance from the Kursaal in Southend featuring pop groups Sailor, the Sutherland Brothers and Quiver.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Santana

Santana [transmission date: 8/10/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Gerald Fox

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of Carlos Santana, the founder member of the Mexican American group that has sold 40m albums and is currently enjoying considerable success with its latest offering Supernatural. In a candid interview that reveals the man behind the music he discusses his life and work, pays tribute to Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton and BB King and talks about the beneficial nature of certain narcotics on music. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Saw Doctors

Saw Doctors [transmission date: 1/1/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir Steven Lock

43 mins

DVD Col

Follows the Irish band The Saw Doctors, from Galway to their sell-out concert at Manchester's International 2.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sayer, Leo

Leo Sayer Sings [transmission date: 28/3/1977 (T)]

UK 1977 Dir Michael Hurl

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Leo Sayer sings some of his songs including the hits: You Make Me Feel Like Dancing, One Man Band, Moonlighting, The Show Must Go On and When I Need You.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Scheme

Innocent as Hell: Scheme [transmission date: 8/7/1986 (T)]

UK 1986 Dir Diane Tammes

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary which looks at rock band Scheme and their support from all over Glasgow, looking at the background to their songs in the urban housing schemes of Glasgow.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Schweppes Euro Baschhh

Schweppes Euro Baschhh [transmission date: 3/5/1998 (T)]

UK 1998

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recorded live at the Shepherd's Bush Empire, six bands from across the continent compete in front of a celebrity jury. These are Audience, Anouk, Evil Superstars, Spring, Sofa Surfers and Libido.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Scott-Heron, Gil

Black Wax

UK 1982 Dir Robert Mugge

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A film about music, poetry and black consciousness in America, featuring the poet and singer Gil Scott-Heron.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Scottish bands

Jock and Roll [transmission date: 2/9/1982 (T)]

UK 1982 Dir Ken MacGregor

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

B.A. Robertson looks at the contribution that Scottish acts have made to rock and pop music. The programme includes film of some Scottish stars in performance and in the recording studio. Robertson meets some of these performers and talks with them about their involvement with the pop music scene.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Seal

Seal in Concert [transmission date: 23/10/1992 (T)]

UK 1992

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Singer Seal, one of Britain's pop successes of the early 1990s, recorded at The Point in Dublin at the height of his fame.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Setanta Records

Sentanta: A State of Independence [transmission date: 1997 (R)]

UK 1997 Dir Brian Willis

26 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The story of UK-based, independent record company, Setanta Records - created around Irish musical talents. Features interviews with artists signed by Setanta and with DJs and music journalists from Ireland, England and France.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Shapiro, Helen

Not a Child Any More [transmission date: 7/1/1980 (T)]

UK 1980 Dir Michael Shoesmith

15 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Singer Helen Shapiro talks about being a child star, and how she recovered and rebuilt a career after the bubble burst. TV Series: The Light of Experience

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Simon, Paul

Graceland: African Concert [transmission date: 23/12/1987 (T)]

UK 1987 Dir Michael Lindsay-Hogg

59 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Filmed entirely on location in Zimbabwe, this TV special records the highlights of Paul Simon's Graceland Tour over 2 days in the Rufaro Stadium in Harare. This show has been acclaimed as one of the most inventive and inspiring celebrations of South African music ever seen.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Simon, Paul

Paul Simon: Rhythm of the Saints [transmission date: 20/10/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir Toby Freeman and Patrick Kelly

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The creative processes and rehearsals for the tour by Paul Simon.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Simply Red

Simply Red [transmission date: 19/4/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir Steven Lock

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A documentary following the band Simply Red in concert in Hamburg. It features an interview with lead singer Mick Hucknall. TV Series: Celebration

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Simply Red

Simply Red Live for You [transmission date: 27/5/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Ian Hamilton

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Simply Red take telephone calls from fans and play the songs requested.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Simply Red

Simply Red: Live in Sicily [transmission date: 14/12/2003 (T)]

UK 2003

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Concert recorded live in Taormina, Sicily.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sinatra, Frank

Sinatra: Good Guy - Bad Guy [transmission date: 27/12/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Sam Kingsley

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Film on the life of Frank Sinatra, beginning with his birth in Hoboken, New Jersey, and examining the birth of his Mob connections. With the aid of audio clips, including the first known recording of his voice, plus concert footage and interviews with those who knew him, the film examines the ups and downs of his life.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sinatra, Frank

This is Sinatra! [transmission date: 2/6/1962 (T)]

UK 1962 Dir Philip Jones

47 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Live recording of Frank Sinatra in concert at the Royal Festival Hall, 1 June 1962. This is the full recording of the original stage show.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Singh, Peter

Rocking with a Sikh [transmission date: 1989 (C)]

UK 1989 Dir Tony Jiti Gill

26 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Story of Peter Singh, an Indian-born fish-and-chip shop owner in Swansea, whose career as a rock-and-roll singer is starting to take off.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Singh, Talvin

Talvin Singh - Sounds of the Asian Underground [transmission date: 1/2/1997 (T)]

UK 1997

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Arts programme profiling East London based musician, DJ and record producer Talvin Singh.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Skaggs, Ricky

Ricky Skaggs - Live in London [transmission date: 15/2/1989 (T)]

UK 1989

28 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Ricky Skaggs in concert, with guest star Elvis Costello.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Slade

It's Slade! [transmission date: 23/12/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Len Brown

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV documentary profiling 1970s pop group Slade, who sold over 50 million records worldwide and had six UK number one hits during their 20-year career.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Slade

Slade: Earl's Court [transmission date: 1973 (R)]

UK 1973

34 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of Slade in concert at the Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sledge, Percy

Soul Africa [

US/South Africa 1971 Dir Ashley Lazarus

81 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the black American singer Percy Sledge while he was touring South Africa.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Slits, The

Slits Pictures [transmission date: 1979 (R)]

UK 1979 Dir Don Letts and Mick Calvert

26 mins

16mm Col

Largely female punk band The Slits in performance and backstage.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Smash Hits Tour 2002

Tourology - Smash Hits Tour 2002 [transmission date: 24/11/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Paul Clay

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Backstage scenes at the 2002 Smash Hits Tour. The tour visited nine cities across the UK and Ireland and featured acts including Darius, Blue, Samantha Mumba, Sugababes, Blazin' Squad, Busted, Liberty X, Daniel Bedingfield and Atomic Kitten.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Smiths, The

The Queen is Dead

UK 1986 Dir Derek Jarman and John Maybury

14 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An interpretation of three Smiths songs –The Queen is Dead, There is a Light That Never Goes Out, and Panic. The film uses slow motion, fast motion, refilming and reframing, back-projection, found and scrambled footage and documentary images.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Smiths, The

Smiths, The [transmission date: 18/10/1987 (T)]

UK 1987 Dir Tony Knox

52 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the rock band, The Smiths, who formed in Manchester in 1982, and broke up in the summer of 1987. Includes interviews with singer-lyricist Morrissey and guitarist-songwriter Johnny Marr. They talk about their influences, which include George Formby, sixties girl groups, British films and punk. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

So Solid Crew

So Solid Live [transmission date: 24/3/2003 (T)]

UK 2003 Dir Matt Askem

53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

In July 2002, So Solid Crew came together for a unique performance. To get around the restrictions that prevent them playing live concerts, they performed a full show behind closed doors in front of a specially invited audience.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

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Spandau Ballet

Spandau Ballet Live [transmission date: 31/7/2005 (T)]

UK 2005

55 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Three former members of Spandau Ballet introduce a digitally remastered concert from the 1980s.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Spears, Britney

Britney in Hawaii [transmission date: 6/7/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Britney Spears in concert on Waikiki Beach, Hawaii. The programme also follows Britney around the island as she swims with dolphins, goes out on the town and tries hula dancing.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Spears, Britney

Britney Laid Bare [transmission date: 24/3/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Dug James

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Britney Spears talks to Vernon Kay about her career, film-making and her film debut in Crossroads, and her relationship with Justin from N-Sync.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Spears, Britney

The Britney Spears Story [transmission date: 1/1/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Richard Lightbody

35 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about Britney Spears, looking at her background and career and rise to fame.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Spector, Phil

Da Doo Ron Ron [transmission date: 13/8/1983 (T)]

UK 1983 Dir Binia Tymieniecka

85 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary which looks at the bizarre life and times of songwriter and record producer Phil Spector.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Spice Girls

Miami Spice [transmission date: 22/6/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Barry Ryan

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

On the eve of the opening night of the Spice Girls USA tour, Andi Peters talks to the now four girls as they prepare to perform for the first time since the departure of Geri Halliwell. This is the first interview that they did as a foursome and the programme also includes the premiere of the group's latest video Viva Forever, created by Aardman Animations.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Spice Girls

Raw Spice [transmission date: 21/3/2001 (T)]

UK Dir Neil Davies

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV documentary featuring exclusive footage of the Spice Girls in the days before they were famous, filmed over a period of four months in 1994. Includes an interview with manager Chris Herbert, who split with the band before they became famous, and Michelle Stephenson, who nearly became Smart Spice.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Spice Girls

Solo Spice [transmission date: 31/8/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Janie Valentine

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary assessing the solo careers and success of the individual Spice Girls.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Spice Girls

Spice Girls Live at Wembley [transmission date: 25/12/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Declan Lowney

75 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Coverage of the Spice Girls' September 1998 concert at Wembley Stadium.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Spice Girls

Spice Up Your Christmas [transmission date: 25/12/1997 (T)]

UK 1997

54 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Highlights from the Spice Girls' October 1997 concert in Istanbul, Turkey, which included their songs Wannabe, Say You'll Be There and Spice Up Your Life.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Spice Girls

Spice Up Your Life [transmission date: 27/9/1997 (T)]

UK 1997

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Programme featuring the Spice Girls in an interview and recording the video for their new single Spice Up Your Life.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Spice Girls

Spice: Girls on Film [transmission date: 29/12/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Beth Hewitt

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary charting the achievements of the Spice Girls through their videos and key moments on TV and film. Features previously untold stories and recollections, along with anecdotes and recollections from the girls themselves, the people they have worked with, and other celebrities.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Spice Girls

The Spice Girls at Earl's Court [transmission date: 27/12/2001 (T)]

UK 2001

55 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of the pop concert by the Spice Girls at Earls Court in 1999.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Spice Girls

The Spice Girls in America: A Tour Story [transmission date: 6/6/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Ian Denyer

95 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV documentary following the three-month leg of the Spice Girls' US tour.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Spice Girls, The

An Audience with the Spice Girls [transmission date: 29/11/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Tony Gregory

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Special programme in which the pop group, The Spice Girls, perform in front of a celebrity, and predominantly female, audience. In addition to performing nine of their songs, the members of the group answer questions about their lives and their rise to stardom from audience members.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Spice Girls, The

Behind the Scenes of Spiceworld - The Movie [transmission date: 24/12/1997 (T)]

UK 1997

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look at the production of Spiceworld - The Movie, including interviews with the Spice Girls who talk about themselves and making the film.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Spice Girls, The

Here and Now [transmission date: 26/5/1997 (T)]

UK 1997

29 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look at the all-female pop group The Spice Girls and the 'girl power' phenomenon they have inspired. Jo Whiley looks at 'girl power' from the suffragettes to Spice. Anastasia Cooke reports on the growth industry in 'Spice' bands. And Denise Mahoney goes in search of five friends who live and breathe the Spice Girls' philosophy.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Springfield, Dusty

Definitely Dusty [transmission date: 26/12/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Serena Cross

58 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of Dusty Springfield, who died in March 1999, featuring previously unseen footage and interviews with her fellow performers and fans.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Springfield, Dusty

Dusty [transmission date: 2/5/1994 (T)]

UK 1994 Dir Roger Pomphrey

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Film profile of singer Dusty Springfield.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Springfield, Dusty

Dusty at the BBC [transmission date: 4/3/1999 (T)]

UK 1999

30 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Unscheduled tribute programme to Dusty Springfield on her death, looking back at her career and appearances on BBC programmes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Squeeze

Squeeze [transmission date: 1/1/1991 (T)]

UK 1991 Dir Geoff Wonfor

52 mins

DVD Col

Squeeze in performance at the Newcastle City Hall.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Stansfield, Lisa

Lisa Stansfield All Around the World [transmission date: 25/12/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir Jazz Summers and Marion Waldorf

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A record of Lisa Stansfield performing at the Birmingham NEC, interspersed with an interview of the singer talking to Paul Gambaccini.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Stanshall, Vivian

Vivian Stanshall - The Canyons of His Mind [transmission date: 11/6/2004 (T)]

UK 2004

59 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A tribute to the co-founder and lead singer of the Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Starsailor

Starsailor Live [transmission date: 6/9/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Matt Quinn

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Indie rock band Starsailor in concert from the Forum in North London.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Status Quo

Status Quo: Rock Till You Drop [transmission date: 25/12/1991 (T)]

UK 1991 Dir Andrew Holmes

51 mins

DVD Col

Highlights of four charity concerts played in 12 hours by Status Quo to celebrate 25 years in the rock business. They performed to 40,000 fans in Birmingham, Glasgow, Sheffield and London.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Status Quo

Status Quo: Rocking All Over the UK [transmission date: 5/10/1991 (T)]

UK 1991 Dir Andrew Holmes

60 mins

DVD Col

To mark their 25th year in the rock business Status Quo attempts to achieve a record by playing a charity concert in each of four major venues in 12 hours to a potential audience of 45,000 people.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Steele, Tommy

Tommy Steele: My Life, My Song [transmission date: 8/10/1974 (T)]

UK 1974 Dir David Bell

60 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A concert performance of autobiographical songs written and composed by Tommy Steele, who is also interviewed by Melvyn Bragg. He talks about his life from birth in Bermondsey, London in 1936, through childhood, the Merchant Navy and showbusiness to his hopes for the future. The programme also features some of Steele's paintings.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Steps

Andi Meets Steps [transmission date: 6/9/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Angela Jain

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Andi Peters travels to St Louis, Missouri, to interview pop group Steps.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Steps

One and Only Steps, The [transmission date: 8/7/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

47 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A one-hour special dedicated to pop group Steps, including an exclusive concert filmed in front of 600 fans at London Studios. The playlist includes Deeper Shade of Blue; Say You'll be Mine; Tragedy; Better Best Forgotten; One for Sorrow; Summer of Love; When I Said Goodbye; Love's Gotta Hold; Heartbeat; and, Better the Devil. The programme also features behind-the-scenes footage of the band as they take a break during rehearsals, and in-depth interviews with the band members.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Stereo MCs

Stereo MC's: Connected [transmission date: 17/6/1994 (T)]

UK 1994

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Britain's best known indie-pop rap artists, the band who went round the US supporting other acts but came back as stars, in concert.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Stereophonics

Stereophonics Live at the Morfa Stadium [transmission date: 1/6/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Pinko and Emyr Asan

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Footage of the band's concert in July 1999 with behind-the-scenes footage and interviews with the band members. Songs performed include The Bartender, The Thief, A Thousand Trees, Local Boy in the Photograph, Hurry Up and Wait, and Cocktails and Songs.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Stereophonics/Manic Street Preachers

Q - 15 Years [transmission date: 4/10/2001 (T)]

UK 2001

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Stereophonics and the Manic Street Preachers in concert in London over two nights to celebrate 15 years of Q magazine.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Stewart, Dave

Dave Stewart and the Spiritual Cowboys [transmission date: 16/4/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir Dave Stewart

30 mins

DVD + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The former Eurythmics star and his new band explore the background of their first album

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Stewart, Dave

Dave Stewart: Greetings from the Gutter [transmission date: 2/5/1995 (T)]

UK 1995 Dir Mark James

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of musician Dave Stewart, including interviews with family and colleagues .

TV Series: Omnibus

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Stewart, Rod

An Audience with Rod Stewart [transmission date: 30/5/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Jonathan Glazier

68 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

One-off special in which the rock legend performs several of his classic hits, including Maggie May, D'Ya Think I'm Sexy and Sailing. He also duets with Emma Bunton on Tonight's the Night, and with Mick Hucknall and the Irish family band the Corrs.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Stewart, Rod

Rod the Mod has Come of Age [transmission date: 1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Mark Kidel

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of Rod Stewart filmed during his visit to Europe to promote his latest LP. TV

Series: The Lively Arts

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sting

Sting [transmission date: 14/4/1996 (T)]

UK 1996 Dir Christopher Walker

76 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of musician and actor Sting, including visits to his Jacobean mansion in Wiltshire and to Abbey Road Studios in London where he was recording his latest album Mercury Falling. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Stock-Aitken-Waterman

The Hit Men [transmission date: 2/4/1996 (T)]

UK 1996 Dir Philip Tibenham

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An interview with the hit making duo of Mike Stock and Matt Aitken. They talk about how they got together and, how their fortunes changed when Kylie Minogue recorded their song 'I Should Be So Lucky'. TV Series: Millionaires

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Strummer, Joe

Joe Strummer [transmission date: 15/6/2003 (T)]

UK 2003

23 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Sean Rowley presents a commemorative piece about Joe Strummer, featuring an interview, performance and archive footage shot at the 100 Club.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Stryper

To Hell with the Devil [transmission date: 24/12/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir Laurens C. Postma

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary profile of the Christian heavy metal rock group Stryper.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Suede

Suede Special [transmission date: 6/5/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Emer Patten

38 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A recording of the British rock group in concert at a secret gig in London. Plus interviews with the band and previously unseen footage of Suede in the recording studio shot by the band themselves.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sugababes

The Sugababes Pop Home [transmission date: 1/9/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Chris Fouracre

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary profile of the chart-topping pop trio, The Sugababes

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sutcliffe, Stuart

Stuart Sutcliffe: Midnight Angel [transmission date: 13/5/1990 (T)]

1990 Dir Andrew Piddington

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The story of Stuart Sutcliffe, the fifth Beatle who became a painter and died at the age of 21.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Syd Lawrence Orchestra

Strike Up the Band [transmission date: 10/11/1983 (T)]

UK 1983 Dir Tony Wolfe

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The big band sound from Syd Lawrence Orchestra featuring guest vocalists Matt Monro and Tina Cross.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Syd Lawrence Orchestra

The Syd Lawrence Band Show [transmission date: 31/12/1970 (T)]

UK 1970 Dir David Mallet

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A pilot for a television series featuring the big band sound of Syd Lawrence and his orchestra, playing classic 1940s tunes, often originally performed by Glenn Miller and his band. The performance is given before a live audience in a nightclub setting.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Take That

Take That: Everything Changes [transmission date: 3/3/1996 (T)]

UK 1996

31 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Following the then-recent news that Take That are to break up, Andi Peters charts the rise of the band with personal reflections from each of Take That's members and new footage recorded for The O Zone.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Take That

Take That and Party [transmission date: 9/4/1993 (T)]

UK 1993 Dir Mike Brady

78 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An interview with pop group Take That, plus videos and footage of their Japanese tour.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Take That

Take That: The Circus Live [transmission date: 19/12/2009 (T)]

UK 2009 Dir Matt Askem

68 mins

DVD Col

Take That's concert at Wembley Stadium to mark the release of their fifth studio album.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Talisman

Talisman [transmission date: 13/5/1981 (P)]

UK 1981 Dir David Pritchard

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about British reggae band Talisman, featuring interviews and live performances.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Talking Heads

Once in a Lifetime [transmission date: 30/3/1984 (T)]

UK 1984 Dir Geoff Dunlop and Peter Walker

69 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Programme which intercuts footage of Talking Heads live at Wembley Arena, with comment from group leader David Byrne and images from American film and television.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tangerine Dream

Tangerine Dream at Coventry Cathedral [transmission date: 3/10/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Tony Palmer

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

An edited recording of the band Tangerine Dream's appearance at Coventry Cathedral in 1975.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Taupin, Bernie

Bernie Taupin [transmission date: 4/8/2002 (T)]

UK 2002

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

In an interview at his farm in California, songwriter Bernie Taupin talks about his writing process, explains what influenced specific songs and talks about how Elton John has interpreted his lyrics. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Devil's Music

Dancing with the Devil [transmission date: 19/4/1991 (T)]

UK 1991 Dir Emma Barker

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary examining the claims from Christian fundamentalists and others that rock music is the "devil's music" and is responsible for murder, suicide, drug abuse and violence.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Theatricality/Androgyny in popular music

Walk on the Wild Side [transmission date: 17/2/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Daniel Abineri

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The history of the theatricality and androgyny in pop music. Includes performance footage of Little Richard and David Bowie, as well as interviews with clothes designers, make-up artists and journalists.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Thompson, Richard and Linda

Nocturnes [transmission date: 19/8/1981 (T)]

UK 1981 Dir Barrie Gavin

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Richard and Linda Thompson in performance. TV Series: A Little Night Music

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Three Degrees, The

Take Three Degrees [transmission date: 27/8/1982 (T)]

UK 1982 Dir Tony Wolfe

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Television special in which The Three Degrees sing all their hits (including Take Good Care of Yourself) and introduce a new dance group called Atmozphier..

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tikaram, Tanita

Tanita Tikaram - Ancient Heart [transmission date: 3/1/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir Declan Lowney

53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Tanita Tikaram performs tracks from her then-forthcoming album, as well as hit songs such as Good Tradition and The Cathedral Song. The programme also includes some rare interview footage with the otherwise reluctant pop star.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tim Rice

Lyrics by Tim Rice [transmission date: 29/12/1985 (T)]

UK 1985 Dir Ian Bolt

78 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Musical show featuring the songs of Tim Rice. With Benny Andersson, Mike Batt, Cantabile, Barbara Dickson, David Essex, Paul Gambaccini, Murray Head, Paul Jones, Hank Marvin, Paul Nicholas, Elaine Paige, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Marti Webb, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Colm Wilkinson.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tommy

Tommy - The Concert [transmission date: 5/4/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir Larry Jordan

87 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A concert performance of Tommy recorded at the Universal Amphitheater, Los Angeles in August 1989. Performers include Elton John, Roger Daltrey, Pete Townshend, Phil Collins, John Entwistle, Billy Idol, Patti LaBelle, Stevie Winwood.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tommy Dorsey Orchestra

Sentimental Over You [transmission date: 1964 (T)]

UK 1964 Dir Philip Casson

38 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

A television show featuring the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra filmed before a live audience in Britain, featuring guest artistes such as Frank Sinatra Jr., Helen Forrest and Charlie Shavers, and produced by Granada Television.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Top of the Pops

Smashie and Nicey's Top of the Pops Party [transmission date: 4/1/1994 (T)]

UK 1994 Dir Jon Plowman

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A celebration of the 30th anniversary of 'Top of the Pops'. Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse (in character as DJs Smashie and Nicey) introduce archive clips.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Top of the Pops

Top of the Pops - The True Story [transmission date: 1/1/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Elliot Johnson and Jeff Simpson

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col
History of the long-running music show, with contributions from performers and past presenters.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Torch Songs

My Mama Done Told Me [transmission date: 14/2/1988 (T)]
UK 1998 Dir Elizabeth Taylor-Mead
50 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
A look at the "torch song" and what they say about women in love.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Townshend, Pete

Pete Townshend - Psychoderelict [transmission date: 28/11/1994 (T)]
UK 1994
150 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
In Brooklyn, Pete Townshend performs his recent album telling the story of ageing rocker Ray High.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Trent D'Arby, Terence

Terence Trent D'Arby [transmission date: 12/12/1987 (T)]
UK 1987 Dir Nick Morris
53 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Concert footage of Terence Trent D'Arby in Munich in November 1987.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tribute bands

Reflected Glory [transmission date: 6/10/1996 (T)]
UK 1996 Dir Christopher Purcell
15 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
Short documentary on groups such as the Bootleg Beatles who make money out of paying respect to their idols.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tricky

Naked and Famous [transmission date: 7/12/1997 (T)]
UK 1997 Dir Mark Kidel
50 mins
DVD (Reference copy only) Col
A profile of rap artist, composer and writer Tricky, now based in New York, far from the depressing Bristol estates where he grew up and from his teenage life of drugs and crime. His albums are acclaimed for their inventive use of technology and their intense blend of hip hop, blues and reggae. He comes home to Knowle West to meet his family and trace his personal and musical influences. TV Series: Arthouse
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tricky

Tricky Live [transmission date: 8/12/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Mark Kidel

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Tricky's live concert at the Shepherds Bush Empire, London, in 1997.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Turner, Tina

Happy Birthday, Tina! [transmission date: 27/11/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir David Mallet

75 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A celebration of Tina Turner's 60th birthday, including archive footage and interviews, as well as a specially recorded performance.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Turner, Tina

Tina Turner: Private Dancer Tour [transmission date: 27/12/1985 (T)]

UK 1985 Dir David Mallet

65 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A recording of Tina Turner's concert at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, featuring guest appearances by Bryan Adams and David Bowie.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Turner, Tina

Tina! [transmission date: 28/12/1986 (T)]

UK 1986 Dir David Mallet

51 mins

DVD Col

Recording of Tina Turner in concert at the Camden Palace.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

U2/Stiff Little Fingers

Stiff Little Fingers and U2 [transmission date: 12/8/1981 (T)]

UK 1981

35 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Concert recorded at the Queen's University, Belfast Students Union features Northern Ireland band Stiff Little Fingers and U2 from Dublin.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

UB40

UB40 [transmission date: 7/2/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Bob Smeaton

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A portrait of the reggae band UB40. Includes performances of many of their hits as well as location footage of the group recording in Birmingham and Jamaica. TV

Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

UB40

UB40 Plays the Blues [transmission date: 10/6/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir John G. Smith

104 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

UB40 marks their return from a 250-venue world tour with a concert recorded live at Birmingham City football ground. Also features Robert Palmer.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

UK Subs

Punk Can Take It

UK 1979 Dir Julien Temple

19 mins

35mm Col

Short promotional film for the UK Subs consisting partly of concert footage and partly of a parody of Humphrey Jennings' films of the 1940s: the title is a reference to WWII propaganda film Britain Can Take It.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Underworld

Underworld Live Everything, Everything [transmission date: 12/10/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

38 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Footage of the techno band Underworld performing live. TV Series: 4Play

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Unsigned musicians

Find the Right Note [transmission date: 2/9/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Steve MacMurray and Chris Cooper

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Three very different unsigned musicians have reached the point of transition and are ready to make the shift from wannabes to successes. This programme looks at what makes each one believe they have that something extra and can handle the big time.

TV Series: The Other Side

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Vagabonds, The

The Vagabonds

UK Dir Peter Whitehead

9 mins

Digibeta/DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Footage of group The Vagabonds playing in open air near the Tower of London, with poster for the Kennedy Memorial Appeal behind them, and then in what may be the Whisky a Go Go club in Soho. The film is shot mute with the group's Ska/R&B music added in post production.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Vandross, Luther

Luther Vandross in Concert [transmission date: 1/7/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir John G. Smith

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Luther Vandross in concert at Wembley Arena, London.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

Sugar Chile Robinson, Billie Holiday, Count Basie and His Sextet [transmission date: 1950 (R)]

US 1950 Dir Will Cowan

15 mins

35mm + Beta SP B&W

Count Basie introduces: Billie Holiday singing God Bless the Child and Now Baby or Never; Sugar Chile Robinson on piano and singing with Numbers Boogie and After School Boogie; and the Count Basie Sextet performing One O'Clock Jump.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

2000 Songs [transmission date: 31/12/1999 (T)]

UK 1999

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A selection of songs associated with the millennium, featuring Prince, Pulp, and Robbie Williams.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

4Scott: An All-Star Tribute Concert [transmission date: 27/8/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Matt Askombe

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of a concert in April 2002 to mark the death of Scott Piering, the music publicist who helped launch the likes of The Smiths, The Prodigy and The Verve.

Performers include Richard Ashcroft, Stereophonics, Embrace, Placebo, Badly Drawn Boy and Pulp.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

Asian Flava [transmission date: 15/5/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Blake Bedford

35 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Music videos.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

Cabaret Style [transmission date: 15/12/1986 (T)]

UK 1986 Birmingham Film & Video Workshop

80 mins

DVD Col

Programme featuring two videos, MsTaken Identity and Days Like These, featuring cabaret and music. The former was an award winner at the 1986 Turin Youth Festival, with a theme of what it is like to be a young woman today. The latter follows the Red Wedge concerts' staff and crew. TV Series: The Eleventh Hour: Turn It Up
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

Christmas Snowtime Special [transmission date: 18/12/1978 (T)]

UK 1978 Dir Michael Hurl

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Variety show billed as a 'Yuletide Spectacular', recorded in the BBC Big Top, 4,000 feet up in the Swiss Alps. Performers include Petula Clark, Boney M, Manhattan Transfer, Sacha Distel, Charles Aznavour, The Three Degrees, Sheila B. Devotion, Jacqueline Harbord and Ronnie Hazlehurst and his Orchestra.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

Christmas Snowtime Special [transmission date: 22/12/1979 (T)]

UK 1979 Dir Phil Bishop

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Music show recorded in Leysin, in the Swiss Alps. Featuring Abba, Boney M, Leo Sayer, The Jacksons, Bonnie Tyler, Kate Bush, Wolfgang Danne, Jillian Denise Biellmann.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

Concert of Hope [transmission date: 1/1/1998 (T)]

UK 1998 Dir Tony Gregory

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Film of the Concert of Hope in aid of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, recorded at Battersea Power Station, London on 7 December 1997. Gary Barlow and Ronan Keating perform a duet together of the song Harvest for the World.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

Dancing Into the Nineties Part 1 [transmission date: 2/9/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir Mark Over

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The first of two music showcases that celebrate the contemporary music, dance and fashion scene at the Academy Theatre, London. Performers include Aswad, Odyssey, Rob'n'Raz, Leila K, Dina Carroll, D Mob, Danny D, Wunmi, Amii Stewart and Ezee Posse.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

Dancing Into the Nineties Part 2 [transmission date: 9/9/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir Mark Over

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The second of two music showcases that celebrate the contemporary music, dance and fashion scene at the Academy Theatre, London. Performers include Kym Mazelle, Double Trouble, Rebel MC, Chaka Khan, Adamski, Daryl Dandy, Adam Cole, Nik Powell, Steve Strange.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

London Underground. 36 hours in the life of the London underground scene

UK 1992 Dir Matt Lipsey

53 mins

DVD

The London underground music scene, including scenes of Pressure Drop, The Sandals, Spiral Tribe, Jah Shaka, etc., in rehearsal and performance.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Various Artists

Oh Boy! [transmission date: 30/5/1959 (T)]

UK 1959 Dir Rita Gillespie

26 mins

Beta SP + DVD B&W

Sample episode of ABC Television's pioneering pop music programme, featuring Cliff Richard, Marty Wilde, Dickie Pride, Billy Fury, The Vernon Girls, The Dallas Boys, Tony Hall, Lord Rockingham's XI, Cuddly Dudley, Peter Elliott, Mike Preston, Neville Taylor and The Cutters, and Don Lang.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

Rock the Kop: The Hillsborough Justice Concert [transmission date: 18/5/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Tony Prescott

89 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of the concert staged at Anfield for the families of victims of the Hillsborough football stadium disaster, featuring pop bands Dodgy, Space, Manic Street Preachers, Beautiful South and The Lightning Seeds.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

Sing It Your Way [transmission date: 3/6/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Tony Gregory

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Assorted singers and bands perform cover versions of their favourite songs, including B*Witched, Stephen Gately, Tony Hadley, Honeyz, Status Quo and Gene Pitney.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

Smash Hits T4 Winners Party [transmission date: 9/12/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Lee Lodge

102 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Live coverage of the Smash Hits T4 Winners Party from Docklands Arena, London. Performers include Kylie Minogue, Mis-teeq, Blue, Samantha Mumba, Ash, Wheatus, Westlife, Shaggy, The Corrs, Atomic Kitten, S Club 7, Emma Bunton and Pied Piper. Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

South Bank Summer [transmission date: 6/9/1970 (T)]

UK 1970

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Pop music performances from the Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London. Performers include Deep Purple, Blue Mink, The Settlers, Peter Straker, Richard Barnes, Mud, Design and Continuum. Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

British Rock Symphony, The [transmission date: 23/4/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Roger Daltrey, Paul Young and Alice Cooper perform in an open air concert combining orchestral and rock music. Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

Prince's Trust 1989 Rock Gala [transmission date: 26/8/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir Nigel Lythgoe

106 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Highlights from the 1989 Prince's Trust Concert held at the NEC, Birmingham in the presence of the Prince and Princess of Wales. Performers include Joan Baez, Andy Bell, Will Downing, John Farnham, Tony Hadley, Nigel Kennedy, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Level 42, Mike and the Mechanics, Van Morrison, Alexander O'Neal, Mica Paris, Swing Out Sister, and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

Rebellious Jukebox, The [transmission date: 20/7/1985 (T)]

UK 1985 Dir Kevin Godley and Lol Crème

46 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

First of two rock programmes of live acts, videos and comedy sketches. It is filmed at the imaginary Rebellious Jukebox nightclub. Jools Holland plays the manager and Mari Wilson the cloakroom attendant. Features pop groups The Fixx, General Public and Lords of the New Church. Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

They Sold a Million [transmission date: 28/1/1973 (T)]

UK 1973 Dir Stewart Morris and Stanley Dorfman

45 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Episode from the popular music series featuring groups and individuals who have sold a million records. Performers include Young Generation, Vince Hill, Dusty Springfield and Tony Christie. TV Series: They Sold A Million

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

Wilson's World of Pop [transmission date: 10/10/1980 (T)]

UK 1980 Dir Stuart Orme

37 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Tony Wilson presents a selection of pop music and interviews, featuring: Hazel O'Connor, Dexy's Midnight Runners, Elvis Costello, Tygers of Pan Tang at Manchester Polytechnic, Gibson Brothers and Pete Townshend.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

Year of the Child Concert [transmission date: 1/12/1979 (T)]

UK 1979 Dir Tom Corcoran

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of the concert held at the Wembley Conference Centre in Nov. 1979, organised by Unicef and Oxfam, in aid of the International Year of the Child.

Performers include David Essex, Gary Numan, The Real Thing, Sky, Cat Stevens and Wishbone Ash.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists (1940s)

The Songs That Won the War [transmission date: 1994 (C)]

UK 1994 Dir Robert Garofalo

66 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Vera Lynn presents a collection of popular wartime songs, including the Andrews Sisters, Eddie Cantor, Bing Crosby, Flanagan & Allen, Flotsam & Jetsam, George Formby, Gracie Fields, Judy Garland, Bob Hope, Horne & Murdoch, Penny Lee, Vera Lynn, Glenn Miller, Mills Brothers, Frank Parker, Anne Shelton, Dinah Shore and Tommy Trinder.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists (1960s)

Pop Music Compilation

UK

17 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

A compilation of pop music performances on television programmes by acts from the 1960s. These include The Beatles (Money (That's What I Want)), The Kinks (Sunny Afternoon), The Jimi Hendrix Experience (Purple Haze), The Rolling Stones (Paint It Black).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists (1960s)

All My Loving [transmission date: 3/11/1968 (T)]

UK 1968 Dir Tony Palmer

55 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A film addressing the theme of communication in pop music with contributions from The Beatles, Donovan, Cream, The Who, Jimi Hendrix, Experience, Eric Burdon and the Animals, Pink Floyd, Manfred Mann, Frank Zappa, Derek Taylor, Terry Dene, Lulu, Kit Lambert, Tony Hall, Anthony Burgess, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Mrs Louise Harrison, George Martin, The Moody Blues, Grapefruit, Eddie Rogers, Pam's Jingle Factory, Dallas.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists (1960s)

All These Rock Years [transmission date: 1972C (R)]

UK 1972

84 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col/B&W

Compilation of various performances from the mid-1960s to the early 1970s assembled by BBC engineers. Performers include Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Alan Price, The Who, Jimmy Savile, The Beatles, John Lennon, Richie Havens, Joe Cocker and the Grease Band, Rod Stewart, David Bowie, John Peel, Jethro Tull, Dave Dee, Chicago Transit Authority, Janis Joplin, Roxy Music, Brian Eno, Don McLean, The Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists (1960s)

Pop Go the Sixties! [transmission date: 31/12/1969 (T)]

UK 1969 Dir Stanley Dorfman

88 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

End of the decade pop programme with variety of artists performing their hit songs from the period. Performers include Kenny Ball and His Jazzmen, The Beatles, Cilla Black, Adam Faith, The Hollies, The Kinks, Lulu, Cliff Richard, The Rolling Stones, The Shadows, Helen Shapiro, Sandie Shaw, Dusty Springfield, The Tremeloes, The Who, Horst Jankowski, The Marmalade.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists (1980s/1990s)

Rock [transmission date: 22/9/2002 (T)]

2002

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only)

A look back over two decades of hard-hitting music, from 'old school' rockers like Alice Cooper to modern thrashers like Marilyn Manson. TV Series: Forever

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists (Albert Dock)

Rock Around the Dock [transmission date: 29/8/1986 (T)]

UK 1986 Dir Ken O'Neill

111 mins

DVD Col

A special music event presented from Liverpool's Albert Dock with Cameo, Chaka Khan, Dee C. Lee, Fergal Sharkey, Five Star, Ruby Turner, Run DMC, Frankie Goes to Hollywood, Spandau Ballet, Status Quo, Style Council, UB40 and The Damned.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists (Amnesty)

Amnesty Concert [transmission date: 6/7/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Footage from a concert held in Paris in 1998 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including performances from Bruce Springsteen, Radiohead, Alanis Morissette, Asian Dub Foundation and Shania Twain.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists (Archive footage)

Around the World in 80 Minutes - Century in Song [transmission date: 27/12/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Carol Sennett, Jonathan Stamp

78 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV documentary using archive film and musical performances from around the world to capture the spirit of the 20th Century. Featuring performances from a range of artists, including Frank Sinatra, Shirley Temple, Judy Garland, The Rolling Stones, Joan Baez, the Japanese Factory Workers Ensemble, the Red Army Choir singing Those Were The Days, and Josephine Baker dancing to Chick, Chick, Chick, Chick, Chicken.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists (Ark Royal)

Ark Royal: The Rock Show [transmission date: 1986 (T)]

UK 1985 Dir Frank Hayes

60 mins

DVD Col

Rock concert held aboard the aircraft carrier Ark Royal anchored in Gibraltar with Paul Young, Alison Moyet, Bob Geldof, Cyndi Lauper, the Pretenders and Go West.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists (Country)

Country Holiday [transmission date: 23/12/1978 (T)]

UK 1978 Dir Rick Gardner

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Three Nashville entertainers, Ronnie Prophet, Barbara Fairchild and Larry Gatlin, get together at The Snape Maltings to sing some country music songs for the Christmas holiday.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists (Country)

Country Holiday [transmission date: 23/12/1980 (T)]

UK 1980 Dir Rick Gardner

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Concert of country music recorded at the Maltings, Snape. Performers include Pete Sayers, Ginny Brown, Raymond Froggatt, Philomena Begley, The Mintings, George Hamilton IV.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists (Glasgow)

The Big Day Part 1 [transmission date: 3/6/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir Don Coutts

206 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A rock concert to celebrate Glasgow as City of Culture 1990, featuring Scottish and Irish rock groups at a stage in George Square, an international music stage on Glasgow Green, and a solo stage by the River Clyde featuring folk, jazz and traditional music.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists (Glasgow)

The Big Day Part 2 [transmission date: 3/6/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir Keith MacMillan

116 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The finale of a rock concert to celebrate Glasgow as City of Culture 1990.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists (Human Rights)

Human Rights Now! [transmission date: 10/12/1988 (T)]

UK 1988 Dir Larry Jordan

175 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Rock concert filmed live in Buenos Aires, Argentina in October 1988 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, organised in association with Amnesty International. Performers include Sting, Peter Gabriel, Bruce Springsteen, Tracy Chapman and Youssou N'Dour.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists (Lennon/McCartney covers)

The Music of Lennon and McCartney [transmission date: 16/12/1965 (T)]

UK 1965 Dir Philip Casson

44 mins

Beta SP/DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Various recording artists singing Lennon and McCartney songs. With Peter and Gordon, Cilla Black, Billy J. Kramer, Lulu, Peter Sellers, Marianne Faithfull, George Martin, Esther Phillips, Henry Mancini and The Beatles.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists (MTV)

Isle of MTV, The [transmission date: 11/8/2002 (T)]

UK 2002

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Dance event from Lisbon with performances by Gorillaz, Morcheeba, Cassius and Da Weasel, with DJs Lavo & Bushwacka!, Erick Morillo, X-Press 2, Rui Da Silva, Rui Vargas, Ian Pooley, DJ Vibe, Yen Sung, and Bill Shakes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists (September 11)

America: A Tribute to Heroes [transmission date: 22/9/2001 (T)]

UK 2001

122 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A telethon concert in aid of the families of those who died in the terrorist attacks on America on September 11th 2001. Artists taking part included: Bruce Springsteen, Tom Hanks, Stevie Wonder, George Clooney, U2, Will Smith, Faith Hill, Kelsey Grammer, Tom Petty, Jim Carrey, Neil Young, Billy Joel, Mariah Carey, Sheryl Crow, Sting, Paul Simon, Celine Dion, Bon Jovi, and Tom Cruise.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists (TUC)

Live a Life

UK 1982 Dir Maxim Ford

78 mins

16mm Col

Record of the concert for the young unemployed organised by the TUC at London's Rainbow Theatre in November 1982, featuring such artists as Tom Robinson, The Beat, Black Slate, OK Jive and Alexei Sayle. Includes interviews with young unemployed people of London, Birmingham and Bristol and the history of economic exploitation in Britain set against statements from the Thatcher administration.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Velvet Underground

Sunday Morning [transmission date: 12/12/1993 (T)]

UK 1993

5 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The earliest known footage of The Velvet Underground, showing the band struggling to write the song 'Sunday Morning' for their debut album 'Velvet Underground and Nico'.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Velvet Underground

Velvet Underground [transmission date: 27/4/1986 (T)]

UK 1986 Dir Kim Evans

53 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The story of the legendary rock group, Velvet Underground, and their revolutionary impact on rock. Includes contributions from all four band members: Lou Reed, John Cale, Sterling Morrison and Maureen Tucker. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Wakeman, Rick

Rick Wakeman's New Gospels [transmission date: 13/12/1995 (T)]

UK 1995

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Modern oratorio telling the story of the life of Christ, shot in Peel Castle on the Isle of Man. Also includes footage shot in Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and around the Sea of Galilee.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Watts, Queenie

Portrait of Queenie [transmission date: 1964 (C)]

UK 1964 Dir Michael Orrom

44 mins

35mm + DVD B&W

The story of Queenie Watts, blues singer of the Ironbridge Tavern, East India Dock Road, Poplar, London. Featuring music by: (In the Tavern) Bert Eden, Eric Ellis, Jack Free, John Mason, Mike Eden; (outside the Tavern) Stan Tracey, Jimmy Demster, Ken Wray, Malcolm Cecil, Jackie Dougan).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Weedon, Bert

Bert Weedon [transmission date: 9/12/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir Malcolm Morris

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Guitarist Bert Weedon gets the red book treatment. TV Series: This Is Your Life

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Weller, Paul

Paul Weller in Concert [transmission date: 23/2/1996 (T)]

UK 1996 Dir Janet Fraser Crook

65 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Paul Weller in concert recorded at BBC Television centre. Supported by vocals from Carleen Anderson and Jools Holland on the organ. TV Series: Later with Jools Holland

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Weller, Paul

Paul Weller - Heavy Soul [transmission date: 1/7/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Nick Ryle

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Exclusive live performance of Paul Weller's new album Heavy Soul.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Westlife

Deeley Does Westlife [transmission date: 20/12/1999 (T)]

UK 1999

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Cat Deeley visits boy band Westlife in Ireland for an adventure involving haunted castles, bumpy bus rides and a burnt breakfast.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Westlife

The One and Only Westlife [transmission date: 9/12/2000 (T)]

UK 2000

43 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A profile of the record breaking Irish boy band whose last seven singles have all reached number one.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Westlife

Westlife Live in Concert [transmission date: 27/12/2001 (T)]

UK 2001

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recording of the Westlife pop concert from The Point, Dublin.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Wet Wet Wet

Wet Wet Wet in Concert: High on the Happy Side [transmission date: 16/4/1992 (T)]

UK 1992 Dir John G. Smith

55mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A live concert performance at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Wet Wet Wet

Wishing I Was Lucky [transmission date: 27/4/1988 (T)]

UK 1988 Dir Jeffrey Milland

26 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look at the success of the band Wet Wet Wet, after several years of living on social security. How much are they in control of their material, and how long will they last?

TV Series: Busting the Block - The Art of Pleasing People

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Wham!

Foreign Skies [transmission date: 1986 (C)]

UK 1986 Dir Lindsay Anderson

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Film record of the music group Wham!'s tour of China in 1985.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

White, Jim

Jim White [transmission date: 1/6/2001 (T)]

UK 2001

11 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col
A profile of the country/ hip-hop artist Jim White.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Whitesnake

Whitesnake Live! [transmission date: 1983 (C)]

UK 1983 Dir Lindsey Clennell

58 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Rock band Whitesnake in concert at Donington Park, 20th August 1983.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Who, The

Won't Get Fooled Again [transmission date: 2/11/1979 (T)]

UK 1979 Dir Gavin Taylor

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A profile of rock group The Who made shortly after the death of original drummer Keith Moon, weaving interview footage with archive clips of the group in performance. Uses extensive material from The Kids Are Alright, Tommy, Woodstock and Quadrophenia. TV Series: Alright Now

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Who, The

The Kids Are Alright, The [transmission date: 1979 (C)]

US 1979 Dir Jeff Stein

101 mins

35mm Col

Documentary compilation of performance film and interview footage featuring The Who.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Who, The

The Who [transmission date: 5/10/1974 (T)]

UK 1974 Dir Tony Staveacre

90 mins

Beta SP + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Interview with Pete Townshend and footage of The Who in concert. TV Series: 2nd House

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Who, The

The Who Come Back [transmission date: 17/8/1979 (T)]

UK 1979 Dir Peter Gillbe

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Filmed report on the come-back of the rock group, The Who, after the death of their drummer Keith Moon (Sept.1978). After a year of seclusion, they returned with two films and a concert tour. TV Series: Nationwide

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Wilcox, Toyah

Toyah Wilcox [transmission date: 20/6/1980 (T)]

UK 1980

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Singer and actress Wilcox talks about her individualism, and how much influence she thinks she has over other young people. She also gives her views on recent youth cults. TV Series: Straight Talk

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Williams, Andy

An Evening with Andy Williams [transmission date: 11/12/1978 (T)]

UK 1978 Dr Yvonne Littlewood

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Andy Williams in concert and in conversation with Benny Green. Recorded at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Williams, Robbie

Nobody Someday [transmission date: 30/3/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Brian Hill

110 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary accompanying Robbie Williams on a European tour.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Williams, Robbie

Robbie Williams Live at Slane Castle [transmission date: 3/1/2000 (T)]

2000

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Robbie Williams in concert before an audience of 80,000 at Slane Castle, Dublin.

Songs include Millennium and the covers It's Not Unusual, Wonderwall and Should I Stay or Should I Go?.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Williams, Robbie

Robbie Williams Live in Cologne [transmission date: 26/12/2001 (T)]

2001 Dir Russell Thomas

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Coverage of Robbie Williams' concert from Cologne in September 2001.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Williams, Robbie

Robbie: Live at Knebworth [transmission date: 2/8/2003 (T)]

2003 Dir Hamish Hamilton

120 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Robbie Williams performs at Knebworth House to an audience in excess of 375,000 fans. This was the first time his full live show was performed on a British terrestrial channel.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Willie and the Poor Boys

Willie and the Poor Boys [transmission date: 1985 (R)]

UK 1985 Dir Eddie Arno and Markus Innocenti

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A number of rock musicians perform in a recreation of a 1950s club. The group, Willie and the Poor Boys, was specially formed by Bill Wyman and his friends to help raise money for the Ronnie Lane Appeal for Multiple Sclerosis research, as well as an attempt to put a new generation of fans in touch with the music that inspired them.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Wilson, Brian

I Just Wasn't Made for These Times [transmission date: 1995 (R)]

US 1995 Dir Don Was

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on Brian Wilson, the founder of the Beach Boys.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Wurzels, The

The Mighty Wurzels in The Heart of the West [transmission date: 24/12/1976 (T)]

UK 1976 Dir Derek Clark

25 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Wurzels perform some of their best-known songs in front of an audience, in a studio in Bristol designed to look like a pub. Included in the set are I Am A Cider Drinker, The Blackbird Song and I've Got A Brand New Combine Harvester.

Interspersed with the studio footage are sequences featuring the band pursuing – in a style akin to that of Benny Hill – a young woman through various locations in Bristol.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Wyman, Bill

Digital Dreams [transmission date: 1983 (C)]

UK 1983 Dir Robert Dornhelm

72 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about Bill Wyman of the Rolling Stones, his childhood and early days with the Rolling Stones, and his relationship with girlfriend Astrid. Includes some footage of early Rolling Stones concerts.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Wynette, Tammy

Stand By Your Dream [transmission date: 16/1/1987 (T)]

UK 1987 Dir Rosemary Bowen-Jones

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary profile of country music singer, Tammy Wynette. TV Series: Arena
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Wynette, Tammy

Tammy Wynette: An American Tragedy [transmission date: 7/8/2002 (T)]

UK 2002 Dir Jelena Ilic

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary profiling the country and western singer Tammy Wynette, looking at her life, background, relationships and career.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

XTC

XTC at the Manor [transmission date: 8/10/1980 (T)]

UK 1980 Dir Roy Chapman

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary following rock band XTC in making their single Towers of London at the Manor recording studio in Oxfordshire.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Yazz

The Only Way is Up (Year of Yazz) [transmission date: 4/8/1989 (T)]

UK 1989 Dir Michael Duffy

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about Yazz, whose record The Only Way Is Up was the best-selling single of 1988. She explains how her music and her life are influenced by the culture and politics of her mixed race.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Zappa, Frank

200 Motels

UK 1971 Dir Frank Zappa and Tony Palmer

99 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A mixture of fact, fantasy and musical performance, featuring Frank Zappa and his avant-garde rock group, The Mothers of Invention. The film consists of a series of surrealistic sequences inspired by the experiences of a rock group on the road.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

World Music

Africa - Ghana

Visitor, The [transmission date: 30/8/1982 (T)]

UK 1982

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about a 1980 trip to Ghana made by drummer Mick Fleetwood and a group of white rock musicians. There they met up and played with Ghanaian musicians, both amateur and professional, in an attempt to blend the indigenous music of Ghana with the stylised rock music of Western culture.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

African musicians

Music Goes to War [transmission date: 9/10/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Bassek Ba Kobhio

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A documentary about journeys made by six top African musicians, Youssou d'Nour, Lucky Dube, Jabu Khanyile, Papa Wemba, Lagbaja and Lourdes Van-Dunem, through some of the continent's most violent trouble spots. TV Series: Return of the Ba Ba Zee

Archive source: BFI National Archive

African musicians

The Language You Cry In

Spain 1998 Dir Alvaro Toepke, Angel Serrano

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on the search to trace the African origins of a song sung by slaves brought to America.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

South Africa

Songs from the Golden City [transmission date: 20/12/1997 (T)]

UK 1997 Dir Virginia Heath

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The Manhattan Brothers were a successful South African township jazz vocal group in the 1940s and 1950s selling millions of records. After 30 years in exile, band member Joe Mogotsi returns to his homeland to find out what has happened to the music and culture which created their style.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

South Africa - Soweto

Sacred Music of Soweto [transmission date: 31/3/1991 (T)]

UK 1991

24 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A selection of songs for Easter from three choirs based in Soweto, South Africa, The Bright Catholic Church, Hosannah Hosannah Hosannah and The Pro Imilongi Kantu Choir. Also looks at some of the lives of the singers. Introduced by Bishop Trevor Huddleston.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jegede, Tunde

Africa - I Remember

UK 1994 Dir Paul Balmer

29 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Tunde Jegede, black British composer and performer of Malian origin, talks about his life and music, commenting particularly on the influence of Gambian culture.

Archive source: Arts Council

Bulgaria

Magic of the Rhodopa Mountains, The [transmission date: 1998 (R)]

Bulgaria 1998 Dir Krzysztof Lang

6 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Bagpipers playing in the mountains of Bulgaria.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

China

Texas Performances [transmission date: 7/3/1986 (T)]

UK 1986 Dir Charles Thompson

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the first tour of Texas by the Chinese Nationalities Song and Dance Ensemble from the Peoples Republic of China.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Graham, Davey

Journey to the East, A [transmission date: 7/9/1981 (T)]

UK 1981 Dir Tony Staveacre

35 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Guitarist Davey Graham performs a fusion of world musical styles on guitar, bazouki, oud and sarod.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Greek

Rembetika: Music of the Outside [transmission date: 5/3/1988 (T)]

UK 1988 Dir Simon Heaven

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the history of Rembetika music which has its roots in the Greek ghettos of the 1920s, when the music of Turkish emigrés was assimilated into the urban blues of Greek "wideboys". Since then it has become a major influence on modern Greek music.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Iceland

Screaming Masterpiece

Iceland 2006 Dir Ari Alexander

84 mins

DVD Col

A documentary about the contemporary music scene in Iceland, the film delves into the Icelandic music scene and uncovers a thriving community of artists from all genres. With interviews with native musicians such as Björk, whose international success offers her an outside-in perspective, Sigur Rós (a dramatic semi-Wagnerian

performance with Steindór Anderssen) and Múm, we hear stories born of relative isolation and the unique location of the featured artists.

Archive source: BFI Distribution (Non-theatrical screenings only)

India

The Playful Muse [transmission date: 9/9/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir Ajay Sharma

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Ravi Shankar uses various styles of Indian music to illustrate Indian poetry.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

India

Ravi Shankar [transmission date: 12/8/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Daniel Wiles

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about famous Indian musician Ravi Shankar, looking at his music, culture and career and his involvement in the 1960s with bringing Indian music to the West. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

India

Street Musicians of Bombay [transmission date: 17/7/1994 (T)]

UK 1994 Dir Richard Robbins

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A look at the troops of musicians, buskers and gangs of eunuchs who roam the streets of Bombay making melancholy, melodic music.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Khan, Khomiso

Khomiso Khan at Camden Lock [transmission date: 31/7/1985 (T)]

UK 1985 Dir Horace Ové

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Programme of music from Sind in the Indus Valley, featuring Pakistani musicians Khomiso Khan, Mitha Khan and Abdul Sattar Tari playing at London's Camden Lock.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Krishnamurti, Kavita

Kavita Krishnamurti [transmission date: 19/4/2000 (T)]

UK 2000 Dir Nasreen Munni Kabir

3 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Profile of playback singer Kavita Krishnamurti who has sung in countless Hindi films. Includes a clip from the film Taal, featuring Krishnamurti's vocals. TV Series:

Bollywood Chartbusters

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mangeshkar, Lata

Lata Mangeshkar in Concert [transmission date: 17/8/1997 (T)]

UK 1997

105 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Recorded earlier in 1997 in Bombay, the Queen of Indian playback and popular music receives tributes and accolades celebrating her 50 year career as she sings many of her most famous songs.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Salsa

Salsa Fever [transmission date: 3/9/1991 (T)]

UK 1991 Dir Patricia Diaz and Jackie Reiter

37 mins

DVD + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about salsa music, a fusion of Latin and Afro-Caribbean rhythms, and its increasing popularity in Britain where it was introduced by musicians and dancers including political refugees from Cuba and Chile and economic migrants from Colombia.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Salsa

Salsa Music [transmission date: 27/4/1980 (T)]

UK 1980 Dir Jeremy Marre and Chris Austin

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the Salsa music of Puerto Rico, its importance and cultural transference to the ghettos of New York, featuring legendary figures of the music including Tito Puente and Celia Cruz. TV Series: The South Bank Show

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Senegal

Youssou N'Dour Star of Africa [transmission date: 13/5/2001 (T)]

UK 2001 Dir Archie Powell

48 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary following the Senegalese rock singer's life with contributions from singer Peter Gabriel and N'Dour's family.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Various Artists

Roundwood Park - The Concert of '89 [transmission date: 16/4/1990 (T)]

UK 1990 Dir Andy Mayer

51 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The multi-cultural musical festival held in Roundwood Park, Brent. Performers include Torera M'Pedzisi, Millar Awaara, Kala Preet, Dudu Pukwana and Zila.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Year of the Child Concert

Broken Silence [transmission date: 1995 (C)]

Netherlands 1995 Dir Eline Flipse

80 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about the music scene in China after the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Feature films with music themes (A-Z)

Allegro

Denmark 2007 Dir Christoffer Boe

87 mins

DVD Col

After a long absence, famous pianist Zetterstrom (Ulrich Thomson) returns from New York to his native Copenhagen for a gala recital. A perfectionist by nature, he has one major personal flaw - he has lost the memory of his past. But when he is contacted by a messenger from a mysterious off-limits 'zone' in the middle of the city, he is forced to try and reconnect with the past; with what made him run away and his love for the captivating Andrea (Helena Christensen). He hopes for a second chance but the 'zone' does not sell dreams, it leads him to remembrance of things past.

Archive source: BFI Distribution (Non-theatrical screenings only)

Beat that my Heart Skipped, The (De battre mon coeur s'est arrêté)

France 2005 Dir Jacques Audiard

102 mins

DVD Col

The Beat that my Heart Skipped is based on the 1977 James Toback thriller FINGERS, which starred Harvey Keitel as the Janus-faced **concert pianist** and debt collector Jimmy Angelelli. The highly talented French Director Jacques Audiard follows his two earlier successes, 'Read My Lips' and 'A Self Made Hero' with this involving and gripping tale which boasts the extraordinarily compelling performance by the young actor, Romain Duris, now a rising star in France. Critically acclaimed by the French press, The Beat that my Heart Skipped has also been a huge and popular success amongst the public in France. The protagonist in Jacques Audiard's latest version of the story is based on Keitel's character. In this film, twenty-eight-year-old Tom leads a life that might be termed as criminal - following in his father's footsteps in the sleazy and sometimes brutal world of the real estate business. Tom is a pretty hard-boiled guy, witty and sexy, but also strangely considerate. Somehow he appears to have arrived at a critical juncture in his life whereby, as the son, he takes it upon himself to become his parents' educator. One day, a chance encounter leads him to believe that he might become, like his mother, a concert pianist. He senses that this might be his final opportunity to take his life in hand... He starts in earnest to prepare for the audition with a virtuoso Chinese pianist who has recently come to live in France. She doesn't speak a word of French and music is the only language they have in common. But before long pressures from the ugly world of his day job soon becomes more than he can handle and Tom's bid to be a better person means that he begins to yearn for true love... But when he finally has the chance of winning his best friend's wife - a woman he has desired for years - his passion only succeeds in scaring her. And then, one day, his dubious past comes to light...

Archive source: BFI Distribution (Non-theatrical screenings only)

Bread

UK 1971 Dir Stanley Long

66 minutes

DVD + Blu-Ray Col (Extra on the BFI DVD Permissive)

Whilst hitch-hiking back from the Isle of Wight Festival, a group of friends decide to stage their own music event. But how will they afford it?

Archive source: BFI DVD + BFI National Archive

Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky

France 2010 Dir Jan Kounen

120 mins

DVD Col

Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky - the film based on Chris Greenhalgh's Coco & Igor - pays tribute to the life of Coco after Chanel, and as revealed in the title explores the electric relationship between the French fashion icon and the radical Russian-born composer. The two meet at the disastrous premier of Stravinsky's controversial *The Rite of Spring*, a performance that mesmerises Chanel, but due to a riot like reception, leaves Stravinsky inconsolable. It takes 7 years before they meet again in Paris - now Chanel is both rich and respected, whereas Stravinsky is living in exile as a penniless refugee. There is an immediate powerful attraction and she decides to shelter Stravinsky, offering him her summer villa in Garches as a sanctuary for his composing, as Chanel herself begins creating the revolutionary iconic perfume No5. Stravinsky moves in straight away, with his children and consumptive wife. And so a passionate, fiery love affair between two creative giants commence... The film stars Karl Lagerfeld's muse, a captivating Anna Mouglalis (*Merci pour le Chocolat*, *Romanzo Criminale*) as Mademoiselle Coco Chanel, and Mads Mikkelsen (*After the Wedding*, *Casino Royale*, *Flame & Citron*, *Valhalla Rising*) as an envincing Igor Stravinsky. The production of *Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky* has had the full support of Karl Lagerfeld and Chanel who have generously made available their archives and collections. Chanel also granted the filmmakers full access to Coco Chanel's celebrated apartment at 31, rue Cambon, Paris.

Archive source: BFI Distribution (Non-theatrical screenings only)

Distant Voices, Still Lives

UK 1988 Dir Terence Davies

84 mins

35mm + HD Digital + DVD Col (as part of BFI DVD Terence Davies Collection)

"Using an impressionistic series of social gatherings drawn from family memories, Terence Davies paints a vivid picture of working-class life in the 40s and 50s. Centred on a Liverpool family in thrall to a stern, violent father, the vignettes are lent depth and counterpoint by popular songs of the period, sung – communally in pubs or at parties or privately during work – not only as entertainment but as a sign of vitality and courage in the face of hardship. In this new restoration from the BFI National Archive, the stunning images look especially superb, a reminder that this ambitious, intelligent, and profoundly moving work was created by a poet with filmmaking in his very blood." – Geoff Andrew. With Freda Dowie, Pete Postlethwaite, Angela Walsh, Dean Williams.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI DVD

El Violin

Mexico 2008 Dir Francisco Vargas + Xavier Giannoli

98 mins

DVD Col

Elderly Don Plutarco (Tavira), his son Genaro and grandson Lucio are humble rural musicians who also support the campesina peasant guerrilla movement's armed efforts. When the military seizes their village, the inhabitants flee, leaving ammunition behind. Playing on his appearance as a harmless violin player to secure the trust of the vain captain (who fancies himself as a musician), old Don Plutarco has a plan to recover the ammunition through charm and steely nerves. Beautifully shot in black and white, *El Violin* is anchored on the amazing performance by Tavira (an actual violinist) and Gama as the captain. Through its juxtaposition of gorgeous images and shocking violence, the film evokes the struggle between peasants and government, duty and pleasure.

Archive source: BFI Distribution (Non-theatrical screenings only)

Havana Blues

Spain, Cuba, France 2008 Dir Benito Zambrano

110 mins

DVD Col

Two young Cuban musicians Ruy and Tito share a dream of escaping Havana and making it big with their band Havana Blues. Tito lives with his wily grandmother Luz Maria who records her famed vocals in return for shots of vodka. Ruy lives with his hard working wife and two children but this doesn't stop him from charming his way into the bed of hot-shot Spanish music producer Martha. While in rehearsals for their first big concert, Ruy and Tito discover that Martha and side-kick Lorenzo are looking for new talent in Cuba. Facing the chance of a lifetime, Ruy and Tito have some big decisions to make.

Archive source: BFI Distribution (Non-theatrical screenings only)

Page Turner, The

France 2006 Dir Denis Dercourt

82 mins

DVD Col

A small-town butcher's daughter, Mélanie, aged about ten, seems to have a special gift for the piano. She takes the Conservatory entrance exam, but fails after being distracted by the thoughtless behaviour of the chairwoman of the jury Ariane Fouchécourt, a well known concert pianist. Bitterly disappointed, Mélanie gives up the piano. Some ten years later, while working as an intern with a law firm, Mélanie meets Monsieur Fouchécourt, the husband of the woman who changed her life without a doubt. Mélanie's efficiency and devotion are quickly noticed and Monsieur Fouchécourt recruits her into his home to look after his son. Madame Fouchécourt soon warms to Mélanie when her musical sensitivity comes out, and the young woman becomes her page turner...

Archive source: BFI Distribution (Non-theatrical screenings only)

Piano Teacher, The

France/Austria 2001 Dir Michael Haneke

129 mins

The Piano Teacher is a powerful and controversial new drama from the award winning filmmaker Michael Haneke. Isabelle Huppert gives a performance of astounding emotional intensity as Erika Kohut, a repressed woman in her late thirties

who teaches piano at the Vienna Conservatory and lives with her tyrannical mother (Annie Girardot), with whom she has a volatile love-hate relationship. But when one of Erika's students, the handsome and assured Walter Klemmer (Benoît Magimel), attempts to seduce her, the barriers that she has carefully erected around her claustrophobic world are shattered, unleashing a previously inhibited extreme and uncontrollable desire.

Archive source: BFI Distribution (Non-theatrical screenings only)

Piano Tuner of Earthquakes, The

UK/Germany/France 2004 Dir The Brothers Quay

95 mins

DVD Col

The Quay Brothers return for only their second feature in ten years, (the first being their debut feature 'Institute Benjamenta'). The Piano Tuner of Earthquakes is a richly woven fairytale, full of cultural references, which aims to create something like poetic science fiction. On the eve of her wedding beautiful opera singer Malvina Van Stille (Amira Casar) is mysteriously killed and abducted away from her fiancé, a famous conductor, and taken to a fantasy island ruled by the malevolent Dr Droz (Gottfried John). The piano tuner Filiberto (Sarachu) arrives to repair Droz's strange collection of automata, he bears an uncanny resemblance to Malvina's fiancé.

Passions and memories are stirred in the living dead Malvina and Filiberto tries to rescue her, but Droz has plans to include Filiberto in his plans... and trap him within his perverse universe.

Archive source: BFI Distribution (Non-theatrical screenings only)

Permissive

UK 1970 Dir Lindsay Shonteff

86 mins

DVD + Blu-Ray Col

When Suzy arrives in London to visit an old school friend, she is unwittingly plunged into the ruthless world of the 'groupie'. Fuelled by sex, drugs and jealousy, her new lifestyle fosters in her a cold cynical instinct for survival. But tragedy is never faraway. With its effective blend of gritty location work, brooding flash-forward devices, and a soundtrack by cult acid folk and prog rock legends Comus, Forever More - who also star - and Titus Groan, Permissive is a dark British countercultural artefact that is shot through with grim authenticity.

Archive source: BFI DVD + BFI National Archive

Privilege

UK 1967 Peter Watkins

99 mins

16mm + DVD + Blu-Ray Col

Steven Shorter, the biggest pop star of his day, is loved by millions; his approval or endorsement can guide the choices and actions of the masses. But, in reality he is a puppet whose popularity is carefully managed by government-backed handlers keen to keep the country's youth under control. Only an act of complete rebellion can set him free. Starring Manfred Mann lead singer Paul Jones as Shorter, and iconic Sixties supermodel Jean Shrimpton as the girl who tries to help him defy the system, Privilege is the third feature from provocative British director Peter Watkins, a filmmaker whose unique Verite-style and oppositional themes have met with controversy throughout his career.

Archive source: BFI DVD + BFI National Archive

Saddest Music in the World, The

Canada 2005 Dir Guy Maddin

96 mins

DVD Col

Based on an original screenplay by Booker prize-winner Kazuo Ishiguro, Issabella Rossellini stars as a beer baroness who, at the height of the Great Depression, sponsors a contest to find the world's saddest tune. A darkly comic tale - part musical melodrama, part tongue-in-cheek social satire.

Archive source: BFI Distribution (Non-theatrical screenings only)

Singer, The

France 2006 Dir Xavier Giannoli

110 mins

DVD Col

Gérard Depardieu has at last returned to his true form in *The Singer*, which was a huge hit in France. Xavier Giannoli has created a genuinely touching love story which displays humour and a sense of compassion for its characters. Depardieu plays the part of Alain Moreau, a nightclub crooner in Clermont-Ferrand - described by one critic as: 'much lower in the food chain than Charles Aznavour, but cut from the same cloth.' One night, Alain sees young, beautiful blonde, Marion (Cécile de France) in the audience and decides to engineer a meeting through one of his friends, Estate Agent, Bruno (Mathieu Amalric). Estate Agent Marion a single mother with an unhappy story, is cautious and untrusting, but before too long, a tentative relationship begins to develop. However, Bruno soon becomes a rival for Marion's affections... The on-screen chemistry between Depardieu and de France is remarkable and the film is further enhanced by emotionally fluid performances by all the actors and some clever plot twists. Whilst Alexandre Desplat's excellent score gives an added depth to the proceedings. 'For this film, one of the trickiest things was to avoid descending into caricature, so I did some research, and wound up meeting Alain Chanone, a dance hall singer in Clermont-Ferrand. With Chanone and his band, I discovered a world with its rituals, settings, sounds and public. followed his band (which became Gérard's band in the film), on the road, lived for a while in Chanone's farmhouse (which became Gérard's home in the film) and everything fell into place quite naturally. I had Depardieu in mind when I was writing the screenplay - he's the actor I wanted to film ever since I was very young. He was my David Bowie or Mick Jagger. Even if it sounds naïve, I never had any doubt that I would work with him. He understood that the character required restraint. He understands everything, anyway... I wanted people to discover a new facet of his acting genius. He was wonderful on set, both committed and inventive - and he can sing!' - Xavier Giannoli

Archive source: BFI Distribution (Non-theatrical screenings only)

SoulBoy

UK 2011 Dir Shimmy Marcus

82 mins

DVD Col

1974. Amidst power cuts, strikes and boot-boy aggro on the football terraces, Joe McCain is bored of a life that's going nowhere. Enter hair-dresser Jane: blonde, beautiful, and moving to the beat of a whole new world of sound, movement and all-nighter dancing at The Wigan Casino - the home of Northern Soul. Swept along on this tide of pulsating dance and lust, Joe becomes embroiled in the darker side of soul

scene that will put his friendship to the test and force him to choose between his heart and his soul.

DVD Col

Archive source: BFI Distribution (Non-theatrical screenings only)

Vie de Bohème, La

Finland 1992 Dir Aki Kaurismäki

100 mins

DVD Col

Freely adapted from Henri Murger's 1851 novel, this is Kaurismäki's highly individual take on the story of three bohemian artists – a poet, a painter and a composer – set in a timeless Paris. Shifting between heartbreaking drama and black humour, the fine cast features cameos from Jean-Pierre Léaud, Sam Fuller and Louis Malle.

Archive source: BFI Distribution (Non-theatrical screenings only)

Young Soul Rebels

UK 1991 Dir Isaac Julien

105 mins

DVD + 35mm

Young Soul Rebels is a kinetic drama set in the summer of 1977, the year of the Silver Jubilee, and a time when British blacks began to define a style and culture of their own. Two black DJ's, Caz and Chris, broadcast the soul message across London via their pirate radio station and the local club. But one thing threatens to throw a shadow over their success – an inexplicable murder in a nearby park.

Archive Source: BFI Distribution + BFI DVD

Music: See also

18th century composers

The Pursuit of Happiness [transmission date: 20/4/1969 (T)]

UK 1969 Dir Peter Montagnon

50 mins

16mm Col

Kenneth Clark discusses the nature of 18th Century music (with examples from Bach, Handel, Haydn and Mozart) and shows how some of its qualities are reflected in the best of rococo architecture, such as the churches and palaces of Bavaria. TV Series: Civilisation

Archive source: BFI National Archive

British Music

Ken Russell's ABC of British Music [transmission date: 2/4/1988 (T)]

UK 1988 Dir Ken Russell

77 mins

Digibeta + DVD Col

A personal trip through British music with Ken Russell as a guide. It ranges from the Beatles to Benjamin Britten and Punk to Purcell on a high-speed and strictly alphabetical journey. TV Series: The South Bank Show
Archive source: BFI National Archive

British music

Music of the Millennium Special [transmission date: 10/7/1999 (T)]

UK 1999 Dir Mike Herring

65 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Graham Norton and Liza Tarbuck tour the country to see how people are voting in the Music of the Millennium poll. During their travels they meet a home-grown Brazilian drumming group in Aberdeen, a Liverpool surgeon who listens to jazz while he operates, a tractor driver who ploughs fields while listening to the Prodigy, a Bob Dylan obsessive, a Beatles fanatic, and a fan of Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club who has successfully campaigned for a plaque at the team's ground, Molineux, celebrating Elgar's support for the team, and the pipers in Edinburgh Castle. They also visit a Welsh senior citizens' talent competition, consider the Midlands' Asian music scene, and meet the Winchester boys' choir, who sing with some girls for the first time in 700 years. Members of Williams Fairey, a world champion brass band, talk about how they have adapted their repertoire to include Acid House music.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

British music

Music!

UK 1968 Dir Michael Tuchner

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on music in Britain, sponsored by the National Music Council, it covers all types of music from opera to pop, from brass bands to folk, from old-time dancing to pub sing-songs.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Carols

The Story of the Carol [transmission date: 22/12/1985 (T)]

UK 1985 Dir John Bartlett

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The history of the Christmas carol from its origins as a medieval street dance through its popularity in Tudor times and its condemnation by the Puritans, to its ultimate revival by the Victorians.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Royal College of Music

The Royal College of Music [transmission date: 2/9/1984 (T)]

UK 1984 Dir James Archibald

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary made as part of the celebration of the RCM centenary, looking at the life and work of the college. Includes works by Michael Tippett, Benjamin Britten, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Gustav Holst.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Chapter 5: Performance Art and Artists' Film & Video



Bruce Lacey

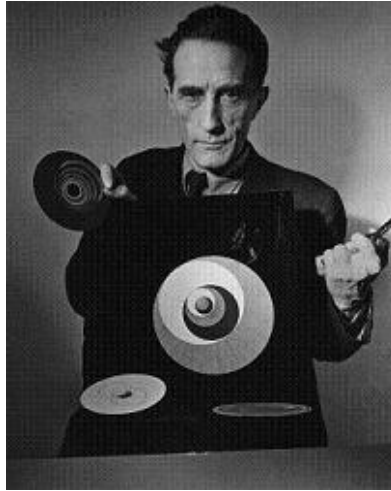
Introduction

'Performance Art' became a recognisable form in visual art by the early 1970s. Its precursors before then were in the avant-garde circles of the early 20th century where Dada, Surrealist, Futurist and early conceptual ideas were creating a range of new practices and a more direct relationship between the work and the audience. In the period following WWII, artists of all disciplines in North and South America, Japan and Europe devised new approaches to art-making and their audience, in the environment of resistant politics, conceptual art and pop art. Live activity by artists during these periods focused on values in contemporary culture, and challenged traditional values in the art world.

In the 1970s these influences led to a particular style of performance by groups of artists, some of these coming from experimental theatre and some influenced by experimental music, dance (in a field opened out formally by Duchamp's ready-mades and by composer John Cage's chance compositions, and in terms of content by developments in feminism, gender, race and identity politics).

Some of these live approaches were documented or expressed in early video and in artists' film. Expanded Cinema involved the projection of light and image as a performed event, while artists also used themselves, or their community, as performers in front of the camera in more subjective explorations of their own bodies.

Artistic Contexts



Dreams That Money Can Buy (1946, Marcel Duchamp pictured)

Early 20th Century avant-garde: Dada and Surrealism, Futurism

Entr'acte

France 1924 Dir René Clair

23 mins

35mm + 16mm B&W Silent

Shown during the intermission of Picabia's Dadaist ballet *Relache*, *Entr'acte* is an encyclopaedia of cinema magic, a frivolous celebration of (slow and fast) motion, its cast a who's who of the Dada movement in Paris at that time, including artists Marcel Duchamp and Man Ray, and composer Erik Satie (the film was originally accompanied by an orchestral score by Satie.) The improbable adventures are merely an excuse to explore the limits of the medium: the camera is run forward and in reverse, tipped side to side and upside down; the film is single-framed, undercranked and run at high speed; the visuals are superimposed and transformed through various matte frames; and the viewer is assaulted by the frantic pace of the edited image. Picabia himself appears at one point dancing above the lens, a glass screen or a table top. "A charming and challenging vision of Paris as a world of the imagination and the Dadaist intellectual conceit." – Lucy Fischer

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Anemic Cinema

France, 1926 Dir Marcel Duchamp

7 mins

16mm + 35mm Silent, B&W

A series of rotating, spiral-like images are intercut with spinning discs of words strung together in elaborate, nonsensical puns, presented like graphics in spiral form, setting up a tension between perception of text as two-dimensional and the illusion of three dimensionality in the spiral form. A key work of the early avant-garde.

"Marcel Duchamp combined in his *Anemic Cinema* the expansion of at least two art forms simultaneously: sculpture and literature/poetry. His rotating spiralled discs were a result of studying physiological and psychological optical perception experiments." - Siegfried Zielinski

Archive source: BFI National Archive + LUX

Dreams That Money Can Buy

US 1946 Dir Hans Richter, Man Ray, Max Ernst, Fernand Leger, Marcel Duchamp and Alexander Calder

80 mins

16mm B&W Silent

A film divided into seven episodes connected by the story of a young man down on his luck who discovers he has the power to create dreams, and sets up in business selling them to clients. The dreams that are sold come from the imagination of Man Ray, Marcel Duchamp, Fernand Leger, Max Ernst, Alexander Calder and Hans Richter. Each of them chooses a different style of performance. Richter constructs a black and white film-noir pastiche – centred around a man who sets up in business to sell dreams – as the framing story to six separate episodes. These colour sections, ‘dream sequences’, were devised by Man Ray, Fernand Leger, Alexander Calder, Marcel Duchamp, Marx Ernst and Richter himself, whose own section, Narcissus, is perhaps the most interesting with its manipulated soundtrack evoking the sensation of dreaming. In addition to this talented array of visual artists, the music for the sequences was specially written by amongst others John Cage, Edgar Varese, Darius Milhaud and Paul Bowles. “The most startling film of the year” – Sight & Sound.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI DVD

From Dada to Surrealism (aka Forty Years of Experiment)

USA 1961 Dir Hans Richter

1269ft

16mm B&W

A compilation of films made by Hans Richter between 1921 and 1941.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Je M'appellerai Guillaume Apollinaire, Le Flâneur Des Deux Rives

France 1955 Dir Gilbert Prouteau

22mins

16mm, made on 35mm B&W

In French. An illustration of the life story of Apollinaire, the Surrealist poet, accompanied by extracts from his poems.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

I Build My Time The Last Years of Kurt Schwitters

UK 1975 Dir Tristram Powell

31mins

DVD

A survey of the work of German Dada artist and inventor of “Merz”, Kurt Schwitters (1887-1948), after his arrival in England in 1940.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Blast

UK 1975 Dir Murray Grigor

23 min

DVD

The history of the British Vorticist movement, founded in 1914 and destroyed by the First World War about three years later. Newsreel and other film from the period of the First World War. Trains, pistons, printing machinery ... Photograph of Edward Wadsworth, one of those “determined to pioneer an art more appropriate to an age of

machines.” ... Six paintings showing the Vorticists’ use of dance as “a harsh, mechanised, strident expression of the twentieth century industrialised world”.
Archive source: Arts Council of England

Europe after the Rain: Dada and Surrealism

UK 1978 Dir Mick Gold

87mins

DVD

The work of the leading exponents of Dada and Surrealism, from the First World War through the 1920s and 1930s. A film which examines Dada and Surrealism not simply as modern movements in the plastic arts, but also as a history of ideas emphasising their desire to unify political and psychological values with artistic creativity. Through contemporary newsreels, sparing use of dramatisation and detailed accounts of their paintings, the film summarises the work of Marcel Duchamp, Tristan Tzara, Jean Harp, Max Ernst, Kurt Schwitters, André Breton and Salvador Dali. Features Duchamp and Ernst and the voices of Raoul Hausmann and Kurt Schwitters.
Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive [DVD Reference copy from TV transmission 10/10/88]

Part of the Struggle Art and Politics in the Weimar Republic

UK 1985 Dir Norbert Bunge, Ron Orders

36 min

DVD

Documentary exploring the relationship between avant garde art and left wing politics in Germany between 1919 and 1933, giving the context for the emergence of Dada in Zurich and Berlin prompted by artists’ disgust with the First World War. In Germany, the nationalistic fervour of the First World War inspired many young artists to enlist, but their enthusiasm did not survive the reality of war. Work by Otto Griebel, by Otto Dix, George Grosz (aka Georg Gross); photomontage (War and Corpses - the Last Hope of the Rich, 1932) by Helmut Herzfelde (aka John Heartfield). Commentary says Dada “used total nonsense as a rationalisation of the human carnage caused by war”. First Dada event in Berlin (1920).
Archive source: Arts Council of England

Malevitch. Suprematism

UK 1970 Dir Lutz Becker

9mins

DVD

A representation of the ideas of Ukrainian-Russian artist, Kazimir Severinovich Malevich (1878-1935), who developed, from Cubo-Futurism, his own Suprematist movement.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Art in Revolution

UK 1972 Dir Lutz Becker

47mins

DVD

The period of experimentation and innovation in Russian art that took place in the decade after the 1917 Revolution.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Vita Futurista Italian Futurism 1909 - 44

UK 1987 Dir Lutz Becker

52 mins

DVD

The Italian Futurist movement, which lasted from 1909 to around 1944, partly filmed at a 1986 exhibition at the Palazzo Grassi, Venice.

Uses images of Futurist events and recordings of speeches, with contextual archive footage, to give a detailed representation of the various movements related to Futurism in the 1910s and 1920s.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Machines for the Suppression of Time

UK 1980 Dir Lizbeth Malkmus and Douglas Lowndes

39 min

DVD

An analysis of the relationship between visual image and narrative with commentary taken from the works of Swiss linguist, Ferdinand de Saussure, French critic and theoretician, Roland Barthes, and French anthropologist and developer of Structuralism, Claude Lévi-Strauss. Sky, trees, countryside. Young man is stopped by a gentleman and a labourer but walks on. Coloured engraving of itinerant farm hand. Opening scene re-enacted, this time with camera and photographer visible in foreground. Colour. Piano played by Alastair Leonard; Rondo in A Minor K511 W. A. Mozart; Partita No.6 in E Minor BWV830 J. S. Bach; Mouvement from Images Book 1 C. Debussy.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

The Case of Marcel Duchamp

UK 1984 Dir David Rowan

99 min

DVD

A semi-dramatised investigation of the life and work of French-American Surrealist Marcel Duchamp (1887-1968). Duchamp's steps are traced from provincial France, through Paris and on to New York, and evidence is presented from collections and from Duchamp's own testimony on tape and film. Includes reconstructed scenes from Raymond Roussel's play Impressions of Africa, composed according to homonymic puns, which the artist saw in 1912 and which had a formative effect on his own art. A prototype for the Rotary Demisphere; extract from Anémic Cinéma (1926). Duchamp goes into mass production with twelve Rotoreliefs installed at a 1935 inventors' fair in Paris, and intended to be played at 33rpm on a gramophone. Share certificate for Duchamp's 1926 roulette system. ... Various photographs, including objects in his New York studio Duchamp's voice over talking about the contribution made by the spectator. ... the artist acts like a medium. Original film of Duchamp. ... Duchamp speaking about "retinal" painting [BBC interview]. Duchamp talking about the later version of The Bride Stripped Bare by her Bachelors, Even.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Post-war developments and Artistic Communities

Chumlum

US 1964 Dir Ron Rice

28 mins

16mm Col

'It's not unlike a bizarre dream, in riotous colour...' - N.Y Herald Tribune

Archive source: LUX

Peter Whitehead collection

UK 1965-1967 Dir Peter Whitehead

Films include: Wholly Communion 1965; Vanessa Redgrave at the Albert Hall 1966; Benefit of the Doubt 1966; Charlie is My Darling 1966; George Devine Memorial Play Performances; Jeanetta Cochrane; The Pink Floyd, London (1966-67)

Archive source: Study Collection

Peter Whitehead and the Sixties

UK 1965-1967 Dir Peter Whitehead

DVD

Films include: Wholly Communion 1965; Vanessa Redgrave at the Albert Hall 1966; Benefit of the Doubt 1966; Jeanetta Cochrane

Archive source: BFI DVD

Richard Hamilton

UK 1969 Dir James Scott and Richard Hamilton

25 mins

16mm Col

Profile of the forerunner of the Pop Art movement, British painter and collage artist, Richard Hamilton (b.1922). Examination of his work and preoccupations, illustrated particularly by his painting Interior 1 and 2 and its relationship to the movie Shockproof - but also with such examples as Here is a Lush Situation and Mick Jagger and Robert Fraser. Hamilton collaborated strongly in the making of the film and created the commentary. The film is made in the style of an epic. Hamilton's VO: "I don't like art films..." Newsreel of Hollywood parade. Shot of Marilyn Monroe at Grauman's Chinese Theater, 1957 Cadillac advertisement, Hommage à Chrysler Corp. With Shanel as Miss World and George Ferranti as Mr Universe. Interview with Richard Hamilton by Christopher Finch.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Participation

US 1969-1971 Dir Steina and Woody Vasulka

63 mins

Video

Participation represents the Vasulkas' experience of the New York downtown art scene in the late 1960s and early 1970s. A fascinating portrait of wildly creative people, places and times, it uses the recently introduced Portapak video system to document, among other gems, Don Cherry trumpeting in Washington Square, Warhol Superstars on stage, and Jimi Hendrix in concert. Participation is a pioneering video documentary, and a free-form time capsule of an era.

Archive source: LUX

Fathers of Pop

UK 1979 Dir Julian Cooper

47 mins

DVD

The 'Independent' group of artists who met at the ICA in London in the early 50s. A precursor to the Pop Art movement. Looks back at the beginnings of the London Pop Art Scene, in the 1950's, with the Independent Group at the Institute of Contemporary Arts. Reconstructs some of the events, attitudes and influences of the time and discusses with the survivors, among them Richard Hamilton, Lawrence Alloway, Nigel Henderson and the late John McHale, how it was then and how it looks today.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Chelsea Hotel (Arena)

UK 1981 Dir Nigel Finch

60mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about New York's Chelsea Hotel, for years a legendary haven for artists of all kinds, with William Burroughs and Andy Warhol, Quentin Crisp, Virgil Thomson, George Kleinsinger, Alpheus Cole, Bob Dylan and Dylan Thomas all past residents of the hotel.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Money

US 1985 Dir Henry Hills

15 mins

16mm Col

Starring: John Zorn, Diane Ward, Carmen Vigil, Susie Timmons, Sally Silvers, Ron Silliman, James Sherry, David Moss, Mark Miller, Arturo Lindsay, Pooh Kaye, Fred Frith, Alan Davies, Tom Cora, Jack Collom, Yoshiko Chuma, Abigail Child, Charles Bernstein, Bruce Andrews.

Money, an extremely condensed work unfolding upon multiple viewings, is a document of the state of contemporary performance practice among poets, musicians and dancers in New York in the early 80's. Filmed primarily on the streets of Manhattan for the ambient sounds and movements and occasional pedestrian interaction, to create a rich tapestry of swirling colours and juxtaposed architectural spaces in deep focus and present the intense urban overflowing energy that is experienced living here. Money is thematically centred around a discussion of the economic problems facing avant-garde artists in the Reagan era. Discussion is fragmented into words and phrases and reassembled into writing. Musical and movement phrases are woven through this conversation to create an almost operatic composition. Copies in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art and the Donnell Media Center Collection of the New York Public Library. - H.H. "If time is money, this 15 minute film is a bargain."--J.Hoberman, Village Voice.

Archive source: LUX

This is Tomorrow (Without Walls)

UK 1992 Dir Mark James

60mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Examines the relationship between Richard Hamilton's art and popular culture.
Presented by Bryan Ferry a former pupil of Hamilton.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Cedar Bar

US 2001 Dir Alfred Leslie

84 mins

Video

Found footage is set to a reading of the director's 1952 play, based on conversations overheard at The Cedar Bar, a well known painters' hangout in New York. "Leslie began by rewriting a 1952 play in which he had recorded discussions by certain denizens of The Cedar Bar - Clement Greenberg, Elaine and Bill de Kooning, John Myers and Joan Mitchell among them. ... Songs were added, and an impromptu staged reading of the script was held at New York University. The soundtrack and, less frequently, the video footage of the reading provide the structure for the film. ... Leslie has considerably broadened the aesthetic and historical scope. He has taken the limitations of his theatrical piece very seriously in making it into a film: and that begins with his questions for an audience that knows the art legends of this period... One of the subjects of the film is pleasure: pleasure in seeing, and pleasure in forms of movement. The tap-dance and jive scenes, even the chorus of Chicago cops doing the hornpipe, will get any audience going, and the line of men with babies is pure Pina Bausch – before the fact." - Ian Hunt

Archive source: LUX

Performance Legacies

Outside In

UK 1973 Dir Jonathan Lewis and Dennis Lowe

54 min

DVD

Work by contemporary British performance artists and artist groups at events in the north and south west of England. Lacey VO, over film of him and family members working with sound recording equipment ... "Space Structure Workshop." ... Voices over talking about how galleries etc., aren't used to dealing with "live artists" ... "Wheelchair" on fire beside partly derelict building. Wax running off it. Gerbils eating wax (and peanut) sculpture of men sitting at table, beside telephone, heads encased in perspex boxes ... The artists performed at the following locations: Ceolfrith Arts Centre – Sunderland, Bede Gallery – Jarrow, Durham Light Infantry Gallery, Kendall Arts Centre."

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Lovelies and Dowdies

UK 1973 Dir Ken McMullen and Tadeusz Kantor

29mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

A film built around a performance of a surrealist play written by I.Witkiewicz, shortly before his death in 1938, performed at Edinburgh in 1973 by the Polish experimental theatre group, Cricot 2 under the direction of Tadeusz Kantor. Intended for courses on modern experimental theatre.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Performance Art

UK 1975 Dir David Bruton

29 mins

DVD

British performance artists appearing at Another Festival in Bath in 1973, including . Bruce Lacey, Jill Lacey, experimental theatre-based performance art of the 1970s, with groups Lumiere & Son and others. "During Another Festival Bath 1973 a number of Performance Artists appeared whose work takes them out of the conventional theatre setting and into the streets. This film shows the work of four groups."

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Archive source: Study Collection Image Collection: production stills

Resistance

UK 1976 Dir Ken McMullen

90 mins

16mm Col + B&W

Resistance is a 16mm colour feature film (90 minutes). It assembles fragments of raw material (archive film, performances, music, historical and psychological contradictions) and attempts to make a whole. The historical focus of the film is the French Resistance. Although the film deals only intermittently with the Resistance, it does describe quite faithfully the way in which ex-resistors render up their past in terms of readymade mythologies.

Resistance is a film asking questions, for example:

- (i) To what degree is history a statement of wish or conscience?
- (ii) What is memory, what is history – and is there any relation between the two?
- (iii) What is the relationship between a film that records an event and the reality of that event?
- (iv) How far is a product of conscious and unconscious censors?
- (v) What is the contribution of psychoanalytic or Marxist techniques in helping to understand the forces behind the course of events?

Twenty hours of psychodrama shot on video tape produced the performance material (50 minutes of the finished film). This part of the film was made in an isolated location where the participants spent a week working through and re-analysing their performances in an attempt to merge elements of their own personalities with the fictional roles imposed on them. A practising psychoanalyst took part in this.

The other sections in the film are made up of archive footage and work using back projection and re-filming. Any black and white material was tinted. Various processes of transferring film to video and video to film were used. Resistance was produced by Christopher Rodrigues; performed by artists Stuart Brisley, Marc Chaimowicz, Ian Kellgren, Lesley Pitt; Anna Koply, Arnold Linken and Elizabeth Richardson; music by Brian Eno.

Archive source: LUX

Chance, History, Art...

UK 1980 Dir James Scott

44 mins

DVD

The role of accident in painting and performance, connections with Surrealism and politics, and the present-day context in which art merges with everyday life, discussed with five British artists born in the 1930s and 1940s. Using as a starting point a series of interviews with contemporary artists recorded on videotape, this film examines the legacy of surrealism and its quest for a meeting point between the concrete world of the rational and the world of desire and imagination. The artists featured are: Anne Bean, John McKeon, Stuart Brisley, Rita Donagh, Jamie Read and Jimmy Boyle. Pixillated footage of Stuart Brisley performance. VO describing the performance and its context; Brisley VO describing a day's activities. Brisley on becoming a performance artist because it enabled him to work directly with the audience, rather than having to create an object for them to look at. Reid talking about source materials, about influences brought by collaborators on his work. Clothes designs. The use of collage. Ways in which musicians were exploited commercially, though it was also possible to exploit the companies. Sex Pistols I am an Anti-Christ (1977) and other music over art gallery shots. Jimmy Boyle talking about the collaborative effort that went into painting a mural ...Photographs and sketches of Artaud and his studio.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Being and Doing

UK 1984 Dir Ken McMullen and Stuart Brisley

60 mins

DVD Col + B&W

The roots of performance art explored in a collaboration between an independent film maker and a leading performance artist, and its roots in ancient European folk rituals; extracts from performance pieces by artists from Britain and Eastern Europe. Drums and voice repeating "Was ist Kunst?" Same sound continues over photograph of soldiers and of artist Stuart Brisley. Monochrome film of woman sitting almost completely still. Voice-over now shouting "Was ist Kunst?" Commentary VO says that "All behaviour is performance. Performance behaviour is a condition of art. ... Performance is made up of moments where the performer behaves according to an inner reality, unhampered by prior notions of how a thing should be done. It involves risk. Risk is essential." Shouting voice continues over. Colour slowly fades into a monochrome image. Ritual acting out is as old history itself. Ritual used to have only participants; the crucial difference today, is that there are also observers. ... "Like ritual, performance takes place in real time." "Image 'Approaches to Learning', Brisley/Robertson U.K.1980". ... "The Hand and the Nail" [Zbigniew] Warpechowski". VO says "We are not trying to change the system. We are trying to change the way the system works..." VO quotes "text: The trial of Milan Knížák Czechoslovakia 1971: on St Valentine's Day last year, 1971, Knížák was sentenced to two years imprisonment ... for producing art works the authorities didn't approve of."... Woman hangs up dresses; seats herself at sewing machine. Pop music over. Sewing machine arm going up and down; woman's voice counting. Darkness. Photographs of hobby horse costumes and rituals from other parts of Europe. ... Commentary describes the Padstow hobby horse and the Haxey Hood as drama in one of its earliest forms, where the division between action and audience has not yet been institutionalised ... The film includes extracts from the work of many different performance artists from England and abroad collected from 1979 to 1983, among them: Tibor Hajas (Hungary), Rasa Todosijevic (Yugoslavia), Iain Robertson (Scotland), Zbigniew Warpechowski (Poland), Milan Knizak (Czechoslovakia), Natalia LL (Poland), Ewa Partum (Poland), Jan Mlcoch (Czechoslovakia), Sonia Knox (Northern Ireland), Jerzy Beres (Poland) and Stuart Brisley (England). The film also records the Haxey Hood and Padstow

Hobbyhorse folk dances from Lincolnshire and Cornwall respectively. Music by David Cunningham.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + Arts Council of England

Japan Live Performance

UK 1989 Dir Philip Day

52mins

DVD

Contemporary performance art in Japan. Early morning scenes, traffic, trains, commuters. A “clockwork orange morris” group “attacks” commuters. Commuter is questioned about the incident but has little to say. A temple. Member of Goro Namerikawa. Noh actor. Members of Yume no Yuminsha. Female lift attendant. Male street performer. Man with globe. Woman with papier mache pumpkin. Roller-skaters jump through hoop. Religious procession. Temple. Actor. Noh. Actress from Saburo Teshigawara. Actor. Motor-cyclists. Cyclists. Street performers – roller-skaters, dancers, etc. Commuter interviewed says the performers only appear on Sundays. Japan’s intelligentsia in restaurant discuss theatre culture. One describes Tokyo as centre of Japanese culture; only in Tokyo can everyone benefit from speedy new communications systems but this makes the society unstable. Street scenes, day and night. Commentary suggests that unchanging tradition underlies this constant change. ... Takigi Noh performance....

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Conceptual Art, Fluxus and Happenings

In the 1950s and 60s artists began to engage in live actions and events primarily in relation to sculpture and painting, challenging traditional models of pure form. These developments were influenced by the conceptual thinking of Duchamp and his view that ‘readymades’ could be art objects that could lead to aesthetic experiences. These developments were also influenced by the belief in ‘chance’ of experimental composer John Cage. Cage’s classes in experimental composition in New York in the 1960s were attended by many artists, among them Allan Kaprow who went on to investigate open-ended events which involved the audience - or ‘happenings’ - and George Maciunas, one of the artists who went on to develop ‘Fluxus’. A particular ‘teaching’ form of these public events was also devised by artist Joseph Beuys.

John Cage (1912 - 1992)

36 Mesostics Re and Not Re Marcel Duchamp

US 1978 Dir John Cage

26 mins

Video

Cage reads from a series of mesostics, exquisite lines of found and (re)authored text, meditatively alternating between sound and silence.

Archive source: LUX

Interview Performance

US 1978 Dir John Cage

26 mins

Video

Cage is interviewed as he works on a text piece based on Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake*. From a starting point of simple rules the conversation and Cage's process become dazzlingly complex and intertwined.

Archive source: LUX

The Chance of Meeting John Cage

UK 1978 Dir Bram Geerlings

11 mins

Video

Archive source: LUX

Fluxus Group (1960s - 1970s)

Fluxus Anthology

US 1966 Dir Fluxus Group

46 mins

16mm B&W Silent

The forerunner of minimal/conceptual artists' films. A collective reel of short films, each concentrated only on one subject and each a statement about a film, by American film-makers belonging to the Fluxus Group. This reel includes: Yoko Ono's *No.4* – A sequence of buttock movement of various walking performers; George Maciunas' *Artype* – patterns, screens, wavy lines on clear film. No camera; Eric Anderson's *Opus 74 Version 2* - single frame exposures, colour; Chieko Shiomi's *Disappearing Music for Face* – transition from smile to no-smile, George Maciunas' *Ten Feet* – A stretch film calibrated as a measuring tape, no camera, Robert Watts' *Trace* –X-ray sequence of mouth and throat, eating, salivating, speaking, Albert Finne's *Readymade* – colour test strip from developing tank; Paul Sharits' *Sears Catalogue* – pages from catalogue, single frame exposures, *Dots 1 & 2* - dot screens, *Wrist Trick* -various gestures of hand-held razor blade single frame exposures, *Unrolling Event* lavatory paper event, single frame exposures; John Cale's *Police Car* – underexposed sequence of blinking lights on police car, colour; Joe Jones' *Smoke* – sequence of cigarette smoke, shot with high speed camera, George Landow's *The Evil Faerie*.

Archive source: LUX

Apotheosis

1970 Dir Yoko Ono and John Lennon

18 mins

16mm Col

Yoko Ono was associated with the Fluxus Group.

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

Bob Cobbing

Interviewed by Deke Dusinberre.

UK 1974

54 mins

Interview with Bob Cobbing, British concrete poet associated with Fluxus.

Archive source: Study Collection (Audio recording)

Structural Studies

Germany 1974 Dir Birgit and Wilhelm Hein

40 mins

16mm Col + B&W Silent

Wilhelm and Birgit Hein have, since the mid-1960s, been pioneers of the European tradition of structural film-making, a tradition strongly grounded in the anti-art activities of the Austro-German 'Fluxus' movement. The Heins' concentration on the raw material of film has developed from this initial anarchic impact into a more rigorous examination of basic film images and basic film structure.

Archive source: LUX

Fluxus Replayed

US 1991 Dir Takahiko Iimura

30 mins

Video B&W

With such radical acts as destroying a violin by Nam June Paik, and rolling up with bandage all over the body of the players in a concert by Yoko Ono, Fluxus (an art group organized by George Maciunas) shocked not only art world, but also a society at large. A historical document of Fluxus performances in New York, 1991, which reproduced the performances in early 1960s. With the works of the main artists: Nam June Paik, Yoko Ono, Dick Higgins, George Brecht, Allison Knowles, Ben Patterson, Jackson Mac Low and Emmett Williams.

Archive source: LUX

Zefiro Torna, the Life of George Maciunas

US 1992 Dir Jonas Mekas

34 mins

16mm Col

"Images from the life of the founder and leader of the New York Fluxus movement(...). Includes footage I took of George in 1952, at his parents house (...). Bits of Fluxus events and performances, and picnics with friends (Almus, Warhol, Lennon, Yoko Ono, etc...), George's wedding and footage I took of him in Boston Hospital three days before he died. Soundtrack: Monteverdi (Zefiro Torna), and myself reading from my diaries written during last ten months of George's life." – J.M.

Archive source: LUX

The Misfits: 30 Years Of Fluxus

Denmark 1993 Dir Lars Movin

80 mins

Video Col

A video portrait of the artists' group, formed in the early 1960s. Much of the documentary was shot in Venice in 1990, when many of the original artists met to hold a large exhibition. Among those interviewed are Jonas Mekas, Yoko Ono, Nam June Paik and Ben Vautier. Joseph Beuys, John Cage and George Maciunas are seen at work and in conversation. This is an important and entertaining addition to modern art history.

Archive source: LUX

Paul and Paik

US 1994 Dir Andreas Tröger

7 mins

Video

Paul and Paik is a fascinating document of the creative collaboration between two famous video artists, Paul Garrin and Nam June Paik (involved with Fluxus), in the 1980s, building on Paik's work of the 1960s. It reveals the duo's unique synergy and then focuses on contemporary media artist Garrin and his use of interactive technology.

Archive source: LUX

Joseph Beuys (1921 - 1986)

Documentary on Beuys' Work in London

UK 1972 Dir Ken McMullen

9 mins

16mm Col

Continuing the work done in Dusseldorf, the Arts Council gave a grant to document Joseph Beuys' public events in the Tate and Whitechapel Galleries. The film presents the dilemma that occurred as to whether the event was primarily one of political ideology or an aesthetic happening. Unlike films made in the documentary tradition, the film attempts to register the events as they actually happened; i.e. when speech was unintelligible it was recorded as it was heard, when the event moved to a pitch of hysteria the film makes no attempt to explain.

Archive source: LUX

How Does It Feel?

UK 1976 Dir Mike Csaky

59 min

Video Col

An analysis of the mechanics of perception, with comments by artists on how they use their senses in their creative work. Participants include R. D. Laing, Prof. R. L. Gregory, Nadine Scott, Sir Michael Tippett, Joseph Beuys, David Hockney, Elkie Brooks.

Various artists speak, including Joseph Beuys ... who believes in a level of existence "higher" than that of humans, and in invisible powers co-operating with human beings. Black and white film of Beuys squashing a lump of fat behind his knees; contemporary footage and VO explaining his Eurasienstab action (first performed 1967), shown in black and white – Beuys speaks of investigating "the unknown senses", using a bent copper rod to seek "power" in the "outer world".

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Transformer / Joseph Beuys

US 1988 Dir John Halpern

60 mins

Video

Joseph Beuys is extensively interviewed by Halpern and others and describes in detail his working practices and artistic preoccupations, particularly his fascination with the elemental materials of fat and fur which saved his life after a plane crash. The film is a vivid illustration of Beuys' life and work and is the only comprehensive record of his New York Guggenheim exhibition, the most ambitious of his installations.

Archive source: LUX

Bruce Nauman (1941 -)

Bruce Nauman's studio performances are an influence on the development of early video art, but Nauman's practice has its roots in conceptual art and includes performance among other methods.

The Bruce Nauman Story

US 1968 Dir Shelby Kennedy

11 mins

16mm Col

At home with Bruce, with Don Whittaker.

Archive source: LUX

Make Me Think. Bruce Nauman

UK 1997 Dir Heinz Peter Schwerfel

51 mins

DVD

American artist, Bruce Nauman (b.1941), and his work in a variety of media including film and video, neon, sculpture, installation and performance. He appears in some video material taken in rehearsals for one of his multi-media installations. Excerpt from *Poke in the Eye/Nose/Ear* (1994). Commentary over says "Bruce Nauman was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He lives and works in New Mexico, refusing interviews, photographs and film cameras." Multi-screen film of violent images; commentary says "This film is not about what you see... it's about you, me, about our inner world, as seen through the eyes of an artist whose topics reflect the problems of today's society... hot emotions cooled down by cold, distant media such as video, neon, photography or bronze.... This film is about him – and you." Multi-screen images. Neon light. An untitled interior landscape (c. 1983), yellow corridor with tables and chairs. Joseph Kosuth, artist, talking about Nauman's work appearing at a time when presumptions of American society, and authority were breaking down, and artists were questioning the "inherited authority" of painting and sculpture, looking for ways to produce art whose meaning could "not be constructed by the forms of the past". ... Enter one of his video corridors from the late sixties Double Steel Cage (1974), "at the same time a space and a sculpture." Planning sketch. People in the Cage. Etching. ...

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Robert Morris (1931 -)

Mirror

US 1969 Dir Robert Morris

9 mins

16mm B&W Silent

Morris, in a winter landscape, holds a mirror to nature and to the camera.

Archive source: LUX

Slow Motion

US 1969 Dir Robert Morris

18 mins

16mm B&W Silent

Made for Art by Telephone - an exhibition held at the Art Institute of Chicago in 1969. Morris simply dictated instructions for the making of the film. Despite this conceptual origin, it is also an essentially cinematic 'performance', exploiting slow motion, tight framing and an implicit analogy between the transparent glass door against which the figure of a man pushes, and the screen or image surface. The repetitions and variations, the use of gesture, weight and force, give the performance a dance-like gravity.

Archive source: LUX

Neo Classic

UK 1971 Dir Robert Morris

14 mins

16mm B&W Silent

A film shot in the Tate by sculptor Robert Morris which documents his show.

Archive source: LUX

Richard Long (1945 -)

Walking a Straight 10 Mile Line Forward and Back Shooting Every Half Mile (Dartmoor England, January 1969)

UK 1969 Dir Richard Long

6 mins

Format unknown

Featured in Tate Britain's programme: A Century of Artists' Film in Britain,

Programme 4: Land Art

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

Stones and Flies. Richard Long in the Sahara

UK 1988 Dir Philip Haas

38 mins

DVD

British sculptor Richard Long (b.1945) produces examples of land art by walking and arranging groups of stones and rocks. His gallery works are records (sometimes photographic) of the sculptures he makes on walks through a landscape. This film shows one such journey in the Sahara. Richard Long walking past brick-maker, past group of resting camels, goats, and on across the desert. Walking to and fro, scuffing his feet to make a straight line on the surface. VO "A journey is a meandering line. To walk straight, up and down many times to make a dusty line, makes a sculpture." ...

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Miscellaneous titles

Vertical

UK 1970 Dir David Hall

16 mins

DVD

A film about the work of the sculptor David Hall (b.1937) which explores issues of perception. Experimental film in which Hall uses poles and other devices in the landscape to frame and complement natural and man-made phenomena. Funded by the Arts Council as a sculpture project.

Archive source: Arts Council of England and LUX

The Great Ice Cream Robbery: Claes Oldenburg

(aka Claes Oldenburg Retrospective, Tate Gallery, London, 1970)

UK 1971 Dir Claes Oldenburg and James Scott

35 mins

2 screen 16mm Col

A record of the exhibition at the Tate in 1970 of the work of American sculptor and Pop artist Claes Oldenburg (b.1929), who was associated with happenings, and his visit to London at the time of the exhibition.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Sand Memories 2

Australia 1977 - 1978 Dir Arthur Wicks

50 mins

Video (two-screen) Col

First actual performance at Pratt Graphic Center, 1977, NY. Videoed performance at Wagga Wagga. Final performance as fringe work for Sydney Biennale 1979. Interior performance based on the experiences and images of Sand Memories at Durras at Broome St. Tapes 1 & 2 should be played simultaneously.

Archive source: LUX

This is Tomorrow (Without Walls)

UK 1992 Dir Mark James

60 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Examines the relationship between Richard Hamilton's art and popular culture.

Presented by Bryan Ferry a former pupil of Hamilton.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Body Art, Live Art

The categorisation that identifies live art as distinct from conceptual art is to some extent false for the period of the early 1960s, when artists using their bodies were involved in challenging and developing the grounds of sculpture and painting. Body art and live art as distinct practices were to develop gradually, however. The contrasting intentions of artists using their bodies in the early 1960s is seen in the painting ethos of Carolee Schneeman, in New York, and the visceral and cathartic ethos of the artists associated with Actionism in Vienna. Schneeman's famous group performance of 1964, *In Quest of Meat Joy*, is a key event in the development of performance art; but Schneeman sees the human body and flesh as "material" in terms of painting; while the Actionists are involved in excess and ritual. The use of the body remained conceptual in the work of British sculptors Gilbert & George, who performed as 'living sculptures'. But a focus on the body as expressive medium, which began to characterise Performance Art in the 1970s, developed in the work of solo artists Marina Abramovic and Vito Acconci.

Carolee Schneeman (1939–)

Fuses

US 1964 - 67 Dir Carolee Schneeman

25 mins

16mm Col Silent

"By interweaving and compounding images of sexual love with images of mundane joy (the sea, a cat, window-filtered light), she expresses sex without the self consciousness of a spectacle, without an idea of expressivity, in her words, 'free in a process which liberates our intentions from our conceptions.' Carolee and her lover James Tenney emerge from nebulous clusters of colour and light and are seen in every manner of sexual embrace...one overall mosaic of flesh and textures and passionate embraces. Every element of the traditional stag film is here - fellatio, cunnilingus, close-ups of genitals and penetrations, sexual acrobatics - yet there's none of the prurience and dispassion usually associated with them. There is only a fluid oceanic quality that merges the physical act with the metaphysical connotations, very Joycean and very erotic." – Gene Youngblood, *Expanded Cinema*. Busted in San Francisco. Acclaimed by Antonioni and Kubrick.

Archive source: LUX

In Quest of Meat Joy

US 1968 - 1969 Dir Carolee Schneemann

17 mins

16mm + Video Col

"Theatre of physical contact: pinching, licking, kicking, painting and sculpting each others bodies, spontaneously freed to laugh, scream, cry, instruct, advise, discuss within the actual performance process... I work with untrained people and various waste materials and materials of technology to realise images which range from the banal to the fantastic - images which dislocate, compound and engage our senses, expanding them into the unknown and unpredictable relationships." - C.S.

Footage from the first theatre of physical contact between a core of performers, with an expanding physical relationship to the environment and audience.

Archive source: LUX

Plumb Line

US 1968 - 1972 Dir Carolee Schneeman

15 mins

16mm Col (optical sound)

"Plumb Line was beautiful, it seemed to be laying everything open, even more than Fuses - a very private film, and as clear as crystal." - David Curtis.

"Footage shot in 8mm and 16mm '68-69, a film diary of daily movements-the couple. Sounds of my cat singing, repeated cries of 'no', sirens screaming, my voice describing food from the maze of a breakdown, his voice 'tell me a story...I've got a truck you know'. Moving footage into freeze frames, stills animated, 8mm mirror printed as 16mm, images in 16mm reshot in 8. A portrait of a man and the dissolution of a relationship and of the film itself. The accumulation patterns of imagery are finally set on fire. Sound and images edited during '70-72." – C.S.

Archive source: LUX

Viennese Actionism (1960 - 1971)

The visceral performances staged by Herman Nitsch and conducted by other artists associated with Viennese Actionism, Otto Muehl and Gunter Brus, have an approach that comes out of a ritual and quasi-transcendental but visceral tradition. Structural

film-maker Kurt Kren recorded some of these performances and used aspects of them as elements within the fast-moving and almost abstracted images of the films. These films, then, are also an example of film-makers working with live performance, where the performance becomes an element embedded within the film's realm of images, rather than being merely documented by the camera. However the films do also contain a record of some of the performances associated with Viennese Actionism.

Kurt Kren: Reel Two

UK 1964 - 65 Kurt Kren

25 mins

16mm B&W + Col Silent

6/64: Mama Und Papa - Materialaktion Otto Muehl

7/64: Leda Und Der Schwan - Materialaktion Otto Muehl

8/64: Ana - Aktion Gunter Brus

9/64: O Tannenbaum - Materialaktion Otto Muehl

10/65: Selbstverstummelung

10a/65: Silberaktion Brus

11/65: Bild Helga Philipp

Archive source: LUX

Kurt Kren: Reel Three

Austria 1966 - 69 Dir Kurt Kren

40 Mins

16mm B&W + Col

12/66: Cosinus Alpha - Materialaktion Otto Muehl (Silent)

13/67: Sinus Beta (Silent)

15/67: TV (Silent)

17/68: Grün-Rot (Silent)

18/68: Venecia Kaputt (Silent)

20/68: Schatzi (Silent)

22/69: Happy End (Silent)

23/69: Underground Explosion (Sound)

Archive source: LUX

September 20: The Eating Drinking Shitting Pissing Film

Austria 1967 Dir Kurt Kren

7 mins

16mm Col Silent

With Gunter Brus.

Archive source: LUX

27/71 Zeichenfilm – Balzac Und Das Auge Gottes

Austria 1971 Dir Kurt Kren

1 min

16mm Col Silent

"Zeichenfilm is a play on the idea of trick film... The 30 second work is shown twice in case the viewer missed something the first time. In crude, hand drawn animation, Zeichenfilm evokes the scatological, sadomasochistic actions and performances of Otto Muehl and Gunter Brus, which Kren filmed during his second period. In Zeichenfilm, a male figure hangs himself, achieves a monstrous erection and ejaculates into a woman's mouth. She, in turn, hangs herself, he enters her vaginally,

then anally. Finally, she defecates on the left side of the frame wherein appears an eye of God, while on the right, in a cartoon box, the words "Aber Otto" ("But Otto") materialize, a comic reference to Otto Muehl." - Regina Cornwell, *The Other Side: European Avant-Garde Cinema 1960 - 1980*.
Archive source: LUX

Auf Der Pfaueninsel

Austria 1971 Dir Kurt Kren

2 mins

16mm Col Silent

With Anni Brus, Diana Brus, Gunter Brus, Alois Egg and Wolfgang Ernst.

Archive source: LUX

Nitsch

Germany 1969 Dir Irm and Ed Sommer

14 mins

16mm Col

'Sommer's film is a documentation of the banned Vienna Actionist artists' happening (in Munich, early morning before the police could raid the place in time.) It is supposedly a cathartic event. It involves the 'killing' of a dead cow and ritualistic and real sex, when a spread-eagle naked woman has the animal innards and blood dumped on her between her legs. She is also fucked by a man with a dildo.' - Anon.

Warning: This film contains scenes that some people may find offensive.

Archive source: LUX

Vito Acconci (1940 -)

The Red Tapes 1 + 2 + 3

US 1976 Dir Vito Acconci

141 mins

Video Col

The Red Tapes is Acconci's masterwork, a three-part epic that is one of the major works in video. Designed originally for video projection, the work is structured to merge video space — the close-up — with filmic space — the landscape. Acconci maps a topography of the self within a cultural and social context, locating personal identity through history, cultural artifacts, language and representation. Stating that the work moves "from Vito Acconci to a larger Americanism, between a psychological personal space and a cultural personal space," he constructs a dense, poetic text in this search for self and America. Opening with the image of Acconci, blindfolded, the tapes evolve as a complex amalgam of narrative strategies, photographic images, music and spoken language. The formal system is the alteration of blank screen and image; grey screen is paired with voice, which leads to image, which leads back to grey screen with voice, etc. In Tape 1: Common Knowledge, the focus is on representation and self (as Acconci is seen in close-up), landscape is a photographic image, and the narrative is that of a mystery story. Tape 2: Local Color is essayistic, analytical; the perspective is widened, the body is seen in context, architectural and sculptural space become manifestations of the psychological. In the conclusion, Tape 3: Time Lag, the space is theatrical and the action is communication, as Acconci and actors act out a "rehearsal of America." From the autobiographical to the social, from

the "I" to the "we," through the discourses of literature, psychoanalysis, cinema, art and popular culture, *The Red Tapes* is an extraordinary chronicle in which Acconci locates the self within the mythic constructions of culture and history.

Archive source: LUX

Marina Abramovic (1946–)

The Great Wall of China: Lovers at the Brink

UK 1990 Dir Murray Grigor

53 mins

DVD Col

Documentary on long-time collaborators, performance artists Marina Abramovic and Ulay, who collaborate for the last time in walking the Great Wall of China, from different directions, in order to meet and complete their work.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gilbert and George (1943–/1942)

Gilbert and George: A Portrait of the Artists as Young Men

UK 1972 Dir Gerry Schum

8 mins Video + DVD Col

Archive source: Arts Council of England + Study Collection Paper Collection: articles and reviews, programmes, cards and fliers.

Gordon's Makes Us Drunk

UK 1972 Dir Gerry Schum

9 mins

Video Col

Archive source: Arts Council of England + Study Collection (Video Collection)

In the Bush

UK 1972 Dir Gilbert and George

16 mins

Format unknown

Archive Source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

The World of Gilbert and George

UK 1981 Dir Gilbert and George

69 mins

16mm + Digibeta + DVD Col

A film made by Italo-British performance artists Gilbert Proesch and George Passmore. Gilbert and George have worked together since 1969 Dir making living sculptures. In their first film they talk frankly about their feelings. Large crucifix; boy's VO repeating "Oh God, forgive me". George and Gilbert, holding their faces in their hands. Red clouds. Jerusalem sung over these images.

Archive source: Arts Council of England and BFI National Archive + Study Collection
Image Collection: 4x Film strips

Gilbert and George Part 1 and 2 [aka *The Fundamental Gilbert and George*]

UK 1997 Dir Gerald Fox

60 mins (each part) 120 total mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

First in a two-part profile of the eccentric British artists, Gilbert and George. This programme goes behind the Georgian facade of their East London home to watch them create their latest body of work. It also offers a view of their daily lives and traces the history of the two men who have collaborated since they met in 1969. The programme looks at their early success as "living sculptures", their performance piece *The Singing Sculpture*, and charcoal drawings and large-scale pictures spanning their career, culminating in *The Naked Shit Pictures* which sparked controversy when they were first exhibited in Britain in 1995. Traces their history back to their first meeting at St Martin's School of Art in 1969. Also follows them through their everyday lives. Seen in Bologna during the installation of a recent retrospective of their work, the artists talk about the meaning of individual images. Other contributors include art critics Andrew Graham-Dixon, Sarah Kent and David Sylvester and Norman Rosenthal of the Royal Academy. Broadcast in two parts in *The South Bank Show* in February 1997.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

With Gilbert & George

UK 2011 Dir Julian Cole

104 mins

DVD Col

Filmmaker, Julian Cole first met Gilbert & George when he modelled for them in 1986. His intimate and moving portrait filmed over 18 years, reveals for the first time the individuals behind the living sculptures. The film traces their lives from humble beginnings to the world's artistic stage where they have performed their enigmatic and controversial double act for four decades. Having mounted more exhibitions around the world than any other living artist, G&G's motto 'Art for All' is assessed through their ground breaking shows in Russia, China and beyond revealing how their art can transcend cultural barriers.

Archive source: BFI Distribution (Non-theatrical screenings only)

Stelarc (1967 -)

Remote Control Suspension

Australia 1987 Dir Stelarc

18 mins

Video

Radical performance artist and technological experimenter Stelarc describes what he does as redefining what is human while re-designing the body. For more than 20 years, he has been extending the capabilities of his own body through adding various mechanical and electrical devices. By pushing the body to extreme limits, Stelarc's work creates an alternative aesthetic for the human-machine interface. In *Remote Control Suspension*, Stelarc is suspended high over the city by a crane arm attached by hooks in his flesh.

Archive source: LUX

Psycho/Cyber

Australia 1992 - 1993 Dir Stelarc

20 mins

Video

Psycho/Cyber consists of four extraordinary robot and virtual reality performances carried out all over the world.

Archive source: LUX

Stomach Sculpture

Australia 1993 Dir Stelarc

10 mins

Video Col

In Stomach Sculpture, Stelarc inserts a crab-like robotic object into his own stomach, and then records the event through an endoscopic camera fed into his oesophagus.

Archive source: LUX

British Performance Art



The Lacey Rituals (1972)

British artists and film-makers in the 1960s and 70s explored an alternative tradition of community activity, folk custom and theatre. Others explored performance through a continuing involvement in conceptual art. From the 1970s to the 1990s there was a developing focus on individual practices in live art, and for some artists an emerging relationship to film or video.

Bruce Lacey (1927 -)

Moving between the gallery, the cinema and stage performances inspired by the Music Halls, Bruce Lacey has had a very rich and varied career as an artist. His strong moral sense and eccentric character, however, offer a unifying thread through not only his work in different cultural spaces but the numerous post-war counter-cultural moments that he's played a strong part in too – from the absurdist novelty jazz movement and working with the Goons to the Sixties underground, the fringes of the industrial scene and latterly the New Age movement of the 1970s, 80s and beyond.

Head in Shadow

UK 1952 Dir John Sewell

24 mins

DVD + Digibeta

A blind man wanders down the streets encountering different groups of people all of whom treat him in different ways, some with kindness, some with indifference, some with sympathy. Starring Bruce Lacey, who was also a producer.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Everybody's Nobody

UK 1960 Dir John Sewell

16 mins 30 sec

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A satirical demonstration of the "Mobile Absurdity Nonentity", i.e. man. Starring Bruce Lacey, and John Sewell acts as narrator.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Running Jumping & Standing Still Film

UK 1960 Dir Richard Lester

11 mins

16mm Col

A series of events in a field during the space of a day. Described by Peter Sellers as "an abstract comedy". No dialogue, but accompanied by music score. Starring Peter Sellers, Spike Milligan, Mario Fabrizi, Leo McKern, Richard Lester and Bruce Lacey. Devised by Peter Sellers with input from the other participants.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Battle of New Orleans

UK 1960 Dir Bob Godfrey

3 mins

16mm Col

A speeded-up film accompanying a skiffle-type folk ballad sung by Lonnie Donegan. The location is a stretch of mud-flats, the props are a piano, a double bass, a fiddle and a Victorian potted plant. In this setting three musicians indulge in a mud fight. Starring the Grits: Bruce Lacey, Joe McGrath, and Bob Godfrey

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bruce Lacey Preservation (aka The Preservation Man)

UK 1962 Dir Ken Russell

17 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Part of the BBC's Monitor series. Visit to the artist Bruce Lacey and his work of collating everyday articles in an unusual combination.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Morse Code Melody

UK 1963 Dir Bob Godfrey

4 mins

B&W 16mm

A photo-animation recital by Bruce Lacey and The Alberts of their song 'Morse code melody'.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Flying Alberts

UK 1965 Dir Roger Graef

4 mins

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Britain recently entered the space race when Private Eye sponsored a heroic launch across Hampstead Heath pond. Featuring The Alberts and Bruce Lacey.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Art Pour L'Art (aka Art For Art's Sake)

UK 1966 Dir Bob Godfrey

6 mins

16mm Col

Three artists battle over a nude figure and indulge in action painting. Featuring Bruce Lacey.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

How to Have a Bath

UK 1971 Dir Bruce Lacey

4 mins

16mm + DVD + Digibeta B&W Silent

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bruce Lacey and Jill Bruce demonstrate how men and women wash their bodies in this silent and charming 'instructional' film. Similar in spirit to their later film *The Lacey Rituals* (1972) but also reminiscent of Richard Massingham's *The Five-Inch Bather* (1942) it was made to show how films can record the simple things in life and not just the sensational subjects of Hollywood.

Art and Technology

UK 1971 Dir Tony Cash

8 mins 30 sec

DVD + Digibeta Col

BBC: A look at the work of three artists: sculptor Garth Evans, working in fibre glass and steel; Bruce Lacey, creator of the 'humanoid'; and film-maker David Hall.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Lacey Rituals [aka Lacey Rituals. Some of the Rituals, Obsessions & Habits of the Lacey Family]

UK 1972 Dir The Lacey Family

59 mins

16mm + Digibeta + DVD

A home movie record of a few days in the lives of eccentric British performer, Bruce Lacey (b.1927), and his wife, Jill Bruce (Smith; b.1942), and their children which documents the everyday dramas and rituals of the director's family life, shot in the family home on several consecutive days. Clapperboard for Lacey Films: Production "The Lacey's Film", Director Everyone. Scene 1 take 1 Tiffany's Breakfast. Tiffany describing what she's doing while preparing a bowl of cereal; voices of mother and father directing her. Scene 2. Tiffany gives Bruce Lacey the cereal and goes to wake her brother. Bruce, Kevin, Saffron, Jill and Tiffany introduce themselves, as does Chris Robson, the sound recordist. Second take of the introductions. Jill gives day and date as Saturday, January 6, 1973. Saffron takes a bubble bath; Tiffany making toast; Kevin making coffee; "playing silly buggers, using up the end of the roll"; Saffron and Tiffany in bed. ... Tuesday January 9th. The family has been joined by Bruce's father, Fred. Tiffany dancing ... Wednesday January 10th. Kevin cleaning hairbrush; children riding bikes; Tiffany making bed; children getting undressed; Jill and Bruce going to

bed. Bruce reads postscript: the film was shot in the order seen, including everything except sound bleeps and flash frames, etc. Credits.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + Arts Council of England

Double Exposure

UK 1975 Dir Bruce Lacey and Jill Bruce

2 mins 30 secs

16mm + DVD + Digibeta Col Silent

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Bruce Lacey filmed Jill Bruce mimicking sexual intercourse and then they rewound the film and she filmed him doing the same. An intimate and physical act is turned into something strange, alienating and ghostly.

Outside In

UK 1973 Dir Jonathan Lewis and Dennis Lowe

54 mins

DVD

Work by contemporary British performance artists and groups at events in the north and south west of England. Lacey VO, over film of him and family members working with sound recording equipment ... "Space Structure Workshop." ... Voices over talking about how galleries etc., aren't used to dealing with "live artists" ... "

"Wheelchair" on fire beside partly derelict building. Wax running off it. Gerbils eating wax (and peanut) sculpture of men sitting at table, beside telephone, heads encased in perspex boxes ... The artists performed at the following locations: Ceolfrith Arts Centre – Sunderland, Bede Gallery – Jarrow, Durham Light Infantry Gallery, Kendall Arts Centre."

Archive source: Arts Council of England

John Latham (1921–2006)

Conceptual artist notorious for losing his teaching job at St. Martins' art school in 1966 for an action conducted with his sculpture students in which the school's copy of Greenberg's *Art and Culture* was chewed into pulp and returned to the library in a jar. British artist John Latham also produced canonical experimental films. *Speak*, his most well-known film, uses the mag strip – the audio strip at the edge of the film stock, commonly used for sync sound, to create visual images. In 1966 Latham took part in the *Destruction in Art* symposium in London with other artists associated with Fluxus, constructed 'Skoob' towers of books outside the British Museum, and with Barbara Steveni created The Artists' Placement Group.

Ants and Locusts

UK 1970 Dir John Latham

3 mins

Video B&W Silent

As part of a solo show at Lisson Gallery in 1970, called *Least Event/One Second Drawings/Blind Work/24 Second Painting*, John Latham staged a number of offsite events which he described as follows in the catalogue: "During the third week of the exhibition the gallery will be at places other than Bell Street, for short periods, probably not much more than a minute at any place, and the show there will be recorded on video or film." In the end, three of these events were filmed. *Ants and Locusts* was shot at the Insect House in Regents Park on 24 November, 1970.

Archive source: LUX

Fiona's Shoe

UK 1970 Dir John Latham

3 mins

Video Col Silent

Originally shot on super-8 as part of a solo show at Lisson Gallery in 1970. John Latham staged a number of offsite events. Three of these events were filmed. Fiona's Shoe was shot on 26 November 1970.

Archive source: LUX

Stock Exchange

UK 1970 Dir John Latham

3 mins

Video B&W Silent

Originally shot on super-8 as part of a solo show at Lisson Gallery in 1970. John Latham staged a number of offsite events. Three of these events were filmed. Stock Exchange was shot at the London Stock Exchange on 26 November, 1970.

Archive source: LUX

Britannica

UK 1971 Dir John Latham

6 mins

16mm B&W Silent

For Skoob Tower Ceremony: National Encyclopedias (1966), Latham had constructed towers from volumes of the Encyclopedia Britannica and then burnt them outside the British Museum. This film attempts, instead, a precis of the entire encyclopedia, with one frame of film for each page: the history of human knowledge becomes an illegible, strobing stream of images.

Archive source: LUX + Study Collection Video collection (Speak, Britannica, Unedited Footage from the Star, Encyclopedia Britannica) and also the Paper Collection (filmography and catalogue, articles and reviews by and about the artist, programmes, cards and fliers.)

Ian Breakwell (1943 – 2005)

An art school graduate, Ian Breakwell's work encompassed painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, film, collage, video, audio-tape, slides, digital imaging, writing and performance. He had a remarkable ability to see (and hear) the extraordinary in the ordinary, and a large part of his creative life from the mid-1960s onwards was taken up with his observational multi-format Diary works.

Ian Breakwell

UK 1973-2007 Dir Ian Breakwell

127 mins

DVD Col

A compilation including: Repertory (1973); The Journey (1975); Excerpts from the Diary (1975); The News (1980); Ian Breakwell's Continuous Diary: Growth, The Walking Man (1984); Auditorium (1994); Variety (2001); theFrame - Ian Breakwell (2007).

Archive Source: BFI DVD

One

UK 1971 - 2003 Dir Ian Breakwell and Mike Leggett

15 mins

Video Col

Performance. Original 16mm film made in 1971 with Mike Leggett and digitally reconstructed in 2003.

An event at Angela Flowers Gallery in which a group of labourers shovelled earth over the course of an '8-hour day'. On the 2nd floor of the gallery, each man continuously shovelled earth onto the adjacent man's mound of earth, while at the same time the Apollo astronauts were digging up rock samples on the surface of the moon. While every TV shop window showed live footage of the activities on the moon, Angela Flowers Gallery was transmitting these activities via CCTV to their street-level window. Gradually through the course of the day, as the all-white gallery space was reduced to a sea of mud, the pictures transmitted from each event became almost indistinguishable from each other...Two tourists: "Das ist die Moon[sic]."

"Nien[sic], das ist Kunst."

Archive source: LUX

Repertory

UK 1973 Dir Ian Breakwell

9 mins

DVD Col

In one continuous tracking shot, the camera completely circles the exterior of a locked and empty theatre, while on the soundtrack, a voice describes a three-week cycle of imagined, 'fantastic' presentations inside the theatre.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Excerpts From The Diary

UK 1975 Dir Ian Breakwell

30 mins

Digibeta + DVD Col

Videotape of a section of a many-faceted larger life's work engaging many different media devised to expand on the day-to-day documentation and observations entered in Breakwell's diary.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Journey

UK 1976 Dir Ian Breakwell

30 mins

DVD Col

An ironical study of a film cliché, which takes as its starting point a train journey with passing landscapes and the reflections of the passengers' faces, whilst on the soundtrack the man reflects on memories of sensual love making and the woman mouths obscenities. A personal, emotional and perceptual interpretation of the experience of travelling in a confined space.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Art and Design (Arena)

UK 1977 Dir Michael Dibb and Alan Yentob

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Looks at the diary as an art form. The Continuous Diary. Ten years ago, Ian Breakwell discarded paints and canvas to dedicate himself to his diary, a day-by-day record in words and pictures. "I'm looking for an artform as good as the view from my window". Dine's Drawings. Jim Dine, the American artist who first became famous in the New York pop-art scene of the early 60's, explains why he has recently felt the need to go back to drawing the human figure. 'What I've made is, I think, a revealing of myself that you cannot reveal by drawing tools, or objects or metaphorical things'. Includes Commerical Break – news and pictures about current events in the arts. Archive source: BFI National Archive

Public Face: Private Eye

UK 1991 Dir Analogue productions

Approx 12-13 mins

DVD

Five part journey through the life of artist Ian Breakwell. Episodes included: Buried Alive (18/03/1991); The Fence at Forbes (19/03/1991); Keep Things as They Are (20/03/1991); The House of the Deaf Man (21/03/1991); Mask to Mask (22/03/1991)

Archive source: BFI National Archive & LUX

Variety

UK 2001 Dir Ian Breakwell

20 mins

DVD Col + B&W (Reference copy only)

Video film made with BFI National Archive archived footage as part of a BFI Year of the Artist residency. Charts the demise of the variety tradition, while demonstrating how it informs much of the most adventurous contemporary art.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + Archive source: Study Collection Paper Collection (Publications: 'Ian Breakwell's Unword, 1969 - 70: early performance art in Britain' Henry Moore Institute Essays on Sculpture, Victoria Worsley, The Henry Moore Institute, ISBN: 10905462 050) + Study Collection: Image Collection ('Repertory' – film stills, production stills, annotated frame, B&W publicity card)

Stuart Brisley (1933 -)

Arbeit Macht Frei

UK 1972 - 1973 Dir Stuart Brisley

20 mins

16mm + Video Col+B&W

The film Arbeit Macht Frei (Work Makes Free) was conceived after the performance And For Today Nothing which took place at Gallery House Goethe Institute in London in 1972. The words Arbeit Macht Frei were wrought in iron and placed on or above the entrance gates to some if not all Nazi Concentration Camps in the period of Nazi rule in Germany and its conquered territories between 1933 and 1945. The film is conceived as an analogous representation of the objection to genocide. It begins with a long sequence of vomiting shot in a formal frontal manner, as a bodily rejection of the idea, Graphic imagery of a head being immersed in water are followed by black and white sequences of the same head appearing and disappearing emerging and sinking from sight in black water. In the final sequence, the stark white image of the head breaks down into abstraction. It is an expression of what is known, namely that Arbeit Macht Frei in Nazi terms is the harbinger of death known as the Holocaust. In

1972 the revelation of such an overwhelming atrocity did not appear to have fully penetrated the vocabulary concerning human behaviour. Maybe it can never be truly absorbed. The depth and range of such terrifying criminality still continues to resonate as more recent atrocities are piled one on another. This work touches the theme by addressing the words Arbeit Macht Frei behind which lies an indescribable inhumanity.

Archive source: LUX + Archive source: Study Collection: Video Collection: Tate Britain: A Century of Artists' Film in Britain Programme 4: In Extremis; Image Collection: Film stills x 7 images, 16mm film strip x 2; Paper Collection: Articles, reviews, programmes.

The Eye

UK 2004 Dir Stuart Brisley

50 mins

Featured in: Tate Britain: A Century Of Artists' Film In Britain, Programme 4

Archive source: Study Collection: Video Collection:

Resistance

UK 1976 Dir Ken McMullen

90 mins

16mm Col + B&W

Archive source: LUX

Chance, History, Art...

UK 1979 Dir James Scott

DVD

Using as a starting point a series of interviews with contemporary artists recorded on videotape, this film examines the legacy of surrealism and its quest for a meeting point between the concrete world of the rational and the world of desire and imagination. The artists featured are: Anne Bean, John McKeon, Stuart Brisley, Rita Donagh, Jamie Read and Jimmy Boyle.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive (Reference copy only)

Being & Doing

UK 1984 Dir Ken McMullen and Stuart Brisley

60 min

DVD Col + B&W

Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive (DVD Reference copy only)

Cut

Switzerland 2009 Dir Stuart Brisley

46 mins

Format unknown

Cut is the last of a series of works which were made in response to the notion of The Last Breath. In this the last work the subject has become an expression of the relationship between acts of destruction and its inevitable interrelationship with its other as in the Hegelian thesis/antithesis of the dialectic. Sound has been envisaged as the constructive element running through the procedures. It is an alternative voice where materials in contact with each other scream and groan suggesting agony which is found at both ends of the spectrum of human experience. The fact that it is

not human offers a means of projection to apply an awful protestation which lies at the heart of the matter. Because Cut took place in a theatre and it has been turned upside down by disjoining the usual audience stage relationship, i.e. the stage becomes the place for the audience and vice versa. This is played out in different ways throughout the work, leading eventually to stasis where one of the two human images is decapitated leaving the other amid the detritus.

Archive source: LUX

Marc Chaimovicz

Table Tableau

UK 1976 Dir Marc Chaimovicz

3 mins

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

Doubt - Sketch for Audience and TV Monitor

UK 1977 Dir Marc Chaimovicz

17 min

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

Tony Sinden (1943 - 2009)

Co-created Housewatch, an artist group working with the moving image in the urban environment, in the early 1990s. Titles in the Study Collection (Video Collection) also includes: Ancestral Voices, Conservatory (Housewatch).

Cinema Of Projection (Documentation)

UK 1975 Dir Tony Sinden

30 mins

Featured in: Grey Suit, 10, Summer 1995

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

Lecture on Installations

UK 1990 Dir Tony Sinden

Featured in: Rewind & Play – an anthology of early British video art

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

Housewatch: Deceleration/Desire

UK 1992 Dir Tony Sinden, Lulu Quin, Stan Steele, Ian Bourn, Alison Wickle and George Saxon

2 mins

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

Housewatch: Imaginary Opera 1992

UK 1992 Dir Tony Sinden

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

Paper Collection: Filmography, Articles and reviews, Texts, Installation Descriptions and Diagrams, Cards/Fliers.

Image Collection: film strips and installation images.

Helen Chadwick (1953 – 1996)

Domestic Sanitation

UK 1976 Dir Helen Chadwick

30 mins

Video + Super-8 Col Silent

Documentation of a live performance held in Brighton in the summer of '76. It looks at women engaged in 'feminine' behaviour. Reel 1: The Latex Glamour Rodeo: Five anonymous rubber clad females pursue their relentless beauty routines against a mesmeric babble of sales-talk. Reel 2: Bargain Bed Bonanza: Touching episodes from the daily grind of four archetypal figures, half woman, half bed

Archive source: LUX

Imaginary Women (Picturing Women)

UK 1986 Dir Gina Newson

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Women artists – Helen Chadwick, Katharine Hamnett, Gaby Agis and others - discuss their approaches to the image of women in the context of their traditional symbolic role in the art of the past as created by man.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Helen Chadwick – Of Mutability

UK 1987 Dir Christopher Rawlence

30 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Documentary which follows the progress of an extraordinary project which artist Helen Chadwick mounted at the ICA in 1987. Maggots, gold spheres, ox tongues, photocopies, monkfish, computers, rotting compost and the artist's own body were combined to create a work of art.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Ian Bourn (1953 -)

Co-instigator with Chris White of Housewatch (est. 1985), a group of mixed-media artists who collaborate, individually or collectively, to produce environmental site-specific performance events. Initial project 'Cinematic Architecture for the Pedestrian'. – LUX catalogue

The Wedding Speech

UK 1978 Dir Ian Bourn

5 mins

Video Col

"In 1978 I was so shy I could never have got up and given a speech in front of people. So when I was asked to be Best Man at a friend's wedding this was my solution." I.B. The conceit of the piece was based on the 'live' transmissions from absent friends used in TV's This Is Your Life programme.

Archive source: LUX

Lenny's Documentary

UK 1978 Dir Ian Bourn

45 mins

Video Col

Lenny's Documentary takes the form of a monologue. It involves one character who thinks aloud the script for a planned or imagined documentary about his life and environment.

Lenny is obsessed by a bleak vision of his past and present circumstances. We are given fragments of what seems an eternal evening of dark introspection.

Archive source: LUX

B.29 (Three Nights In)

UK 1979 Dir Ian Bourn

20 mins

Video Col

Using a similar monologue-to-camera style as Lenny's Documentary (1978), B.29 features the verbal ramblings of Phil, "a bit of a stay at home" who spends his evenings constructing a model kit of a Flying Fortress bomber.

As the kit is slowly assembled Phil recounts failed relationships and his dealings with his work mates at the bandage factory. The building of the kit becomes a metaphor for his attempts to rebuild a shattered ego.

Archive source: LUX

Making Yourself At Home

UK 1981 Dir Ian Bourn

30 mins

Video Col

Super 8 'epic' in three parts. Sex drugs and rock & roll portrayed in an extremely detached and fragmented way.

Includes scenes like a conversation between two shadows on a wall talking about bad acid trips and the climactic party sequence in which everyone wears black and their faces are deliberately not seen.

Archive source: LUX

The End of the World

UK 1982 Dir Ian Bourn and Helen Chadwick

8 mins

Video Col

The heaven and hell of suburban domesticity is put in the spotlight in this tape involving a video game, a cup of tea and a Sunday afternoon. "He is in the still undecorated back room. She is in the garden, soaking up the sun. A cup of tea is called for." Featuring Ian Bourn and Helen Chadwick.

Archive source: LUX + Study Collection (Video Collection)

Sick as a Dog

UK 1988 Dir Ian Bourn

30 mins

Video Col

"A sloshy track means the dogs will slide, so your best bet is the designated wide.." A lowlife foray into the downbeat world of dog track tipster and greyhound philosopher Terry Childs. With a typically understated sense of humour, Bourn, who plays Childs in the tape, delivers a queasy narrative which expertly mixes the tragi-comic with insights into the strange world of "the dogs".

Archive source: LUX & BFI National Archive (DVD Reference copy only)

Out of It

UK 1991 Dir Ian Bourn

1 min

Video Col

A one-minute take on 'escapism'.

Archive source: LUX

Monolog

UK 1998 Dir Ian Bourn

46 mins

Video + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Monolog is a darkly humorous portrait of a sales representative, just returned from a disastrous business trip in the far East. Walking the streets at night his alienated view of the world is presented as a disembodied voice with a shadow gliding over the pavements. The subjective point of view 'objectifies' his ideas and emotions via the urban environment, using them as catalysts for quixotic trains of thought and metaphor.

Archive source: LUX + BFI National Archive + Study Collection (Video Collection)

Alfred Hitchcock

UK 2000 Dir Ian Bourn

25 mins

Video Col

Archive source: LUX + Study Collection (Video Collection)

Black, White and Green

UK 2003 Dir Ian Bourn

8 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A treatise on the aesthetics and appreciation of pie, mash, jellied eels and green liquor, set in a virtual pie shop of the imagination, where we are invited to meditate on 'floating landscapes' glimpsed within the contents of each real steaming meal. A combination of live-action, shot on Digibeta, and digitally-recreated 3D space.

Archive source: LUX + BFI National Archive

Rose Finn-Kelcey (1945 -)

Glory

UK 1983 Dir Rose Finn-Kelcey

23 mins

Video Col

The raw material for this work originated in a performance where the artist acted as both animator and controller of 100 surrogate performers who were locked in a kind of Blitzkrieg on a large table in a small room. The cut-out images were drawn from past and present historical moments, famous politicians, heroes and heroines

Archive source: LUX

Cut-Out

UK 1982 Dir Rose Finn-Kelcey
15 mins
Video Col
Archive source: Arts Council of England

Anne Bean (1950–) and Doobie Eylath

Fauvrite

UK 1983 Dir Anne Bean and Doobie Eylath
9 mins
Video
Archive source: LUX

Shallow Throat

UK 1983 Dir Anne Bean and Doobie Eylath
6 mins
Video
Archive source: LUX

Square Dance

UK 1983 Dir Anne Bean and Doobie Eylath
2 mins
Video
Archive source: LUX

Cosey Fanni Tutti (aka Cossi Fanni Tutti)

UK 1983 Dir Doobie Eylath, Cosey Fanni Tutti and Chris Carter
11 mins
Video
Footage of performance artist Cosey Fanni Tutti (also known as Cossi Fanni Tutti).
Archive source: LUX

Mona Hatoum (1945 -)

So Much I Want to Say

UK 1983 Dir Mona Hatoum
5 mins
Video
Archive source: LUX

Changing Parts

Canada 1984 Dir Mona Hatoum
25 mins
Video Col

Intercutting between London and Beirut during the war in Lebanon, Changing Parts is Hatoum's response to the helplessness of being far away while bombs fall on the city where her parents live. In a striking reversal, the images from peaceful London are frenzied while the Beirut images are calm, a child's memory of safety in the haven of the family bathroom. Performing in London, the artist, naked, struggles inside a

polyethylene-walled container, whose sloping sides and floor prevent her from standing up, its floor covered with mud. As Hatoum struggles to rise, her limbs mark the sides of the container until they become a palimpsest of muddy traces.

Archive source: LUX

Measures of Distance

UK 1988 Dir Mona Hatoum

15 mins

Video Col

Archive source: LUX + Arts Council of England

Bruce McLean (1944 -)

Bruce Mclean (South Of Watford)

UK 1985 Dir Nigel Miller

26 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A profile of the artist.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Mackintosh 2

UK 1990 Dir Bruce McLean

4 mins

Featured in: Television Interventions 19:4:90

Archive source: Study Collection Video collection

Pull a Sculptural Dance

UK 1998 Dir Jane Thorburn

DVD

A collaborative dance work made for television. A slyly comic look at the obsession with the body beautiful in the final years of the 20th century. Two ballet dancers, an Olympic gymnast, two sculptors and a model search for perfect health and fitness in a partly constructed, partly electronic environment. Choreography Bruce McLean David Proud, Ashley Page, Jane Thorburn, Mark Lucas.

Series: Dance for the Camera 4

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Franko B (1960 -)

Songs about Happiness

UK 1988 Dir Franko B

17 mins

16mm Col + Separate sound (Magnetic)

Archive source: LUX

Dead Mother

UK 1994 Dir Franko B

6 mins

Video Col

Sometimes shocking and certainly thought-provoking video which has a strong impact from the very start. Bondage, self-mutilation and pain are the subject matter, giving a strange sense of distance as digital video effects begin to fragment the picture plane. A howl of anguish
Archive source: LUX

I'm Not Your Babe

UK 1996 Dir Franko B

10 mins

Video Col

Documentation of Franko B's seminal performance at the ICA in May 1996. I'm Not Your Babe is a provocative and stark portrait of the existential self, in which Franko B uses his own drawn blood as a symbol of carnal reality and suggests the natural destitution of the body as a fundamental of existence. Standing before us as a mute body-object, achromatic and cadaverous, his performance is an act of cleansing, stripping the flesh of identity

Archive source: LUX

Aktion 398

UK 1999 Dir Franko B

63 mins

Video Col

Aktion 398 was a sell-out performance which involved a one to one confrontation with the artist in a specially constructed room in the centre of the ICA gallery. The audience booked a time in advance, take a number, sit in a waiting area and then be led into the room by one of Franko B's assistants. A highly charged day long performance ensued with each member of the audience having their own private moment with the artist.

Archive source: LUX

I Miss You!

UK 1999 Dir Franko B

13 mins

Video Col

I Miss You! is about being exposed and naked with nowhere to go and nowhere to hide. It is a project that takes an unshirking look at the body as a canvas and as an unmediated and unrefined site of representation.

Archive source: LUX

Milk and Blood

UK 2002 Dir Franko B

4 mins

Video Col

Archive source: LUX

Oh Lover Boy Theme

UK 2002 Dir Franko B

5 mins

Video Col

"My work focuses on the visceral, where the body is a canvas and an unmediated site for representation for the sacred, the beautiful, the untouchable, the unspeakable

and for the pain, the love, the hate, the loss, the power and the fears of the human condition. My performance practice reduces the body to its most carnal, bloody, raw, exposed and existential and essential state. My installations and sculpture work distil these emotions to minimal poetic phases and symbols that resonate profoundly within the spectator. My recent work synthesises performance and visual art installation; the body becomes subject and object, life model and the work of art itself, the viewer and viewed." - F.B.

Archive source: LUX

Neon Work (LADA 2002 Documentation)

UK 2002 Dir Franko B

2 mins

Video

Archive source: LUX

Body Art (South Bank Show) [5/4/98]

UK 1998 Dir Daniel Wiles

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only)

The phenomenon of body modification in the work of French artist Orlan, and the use of the body as a means of art-making in the work of artists Franko B and Ron Athey, who both talk of finding spiritual redemption through their work in extremis.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bobby Baker (1950 -)

Kitchen Show

UK 1991 Dir Bobby Baker

22 mins

Featured in Grey Suit, 11, Autumn 1995

Archive Source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

Spitting Mad

UK 1997 Dir Margaret Williams

10 mins

DVD

One of a series of experimental films featuring performance artists: Bobby Baker demonstrates and describes an interaction with food.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Helena Goldwater (dates unknown)

Just Like Sarah Bernhardt

UK 1992 Dir Helena Goldwater

7 mins

16mm Col + B&W

Just Like Sarah Bernhardt uses humour and the complex relationship between performance and celluloid to explore sexuality and Jewish identity. The audience is introduced to a narrator, a talking head, who begins with a monologue telling her

story of her meeting with another woman. The story is a possible, if strange, narrative, never really giving the whole picture. The film-maker correlates the narrator with another, more outwardly theatrical, woman - both are sub-personalities diversely exploring melodramatic behaviour, whilst simultaneously embracing and questioning its potential stereotyping of Jewish Women. Goldwater draws on her childhood memory of being compared to the infamous French actress of this century, Sarah Bernhardt – known for her swooning and tantrums, as well as the considerable anti-Semitism levelled against her, and her fine performances. Bernhardt's legacy sits alongside the film-maker's personal biography of growing up in a 'Gants Hill, London' environment – expressed using spaces, vacuums, and the very specific sites/references. Just Like Sarah Bernhardt is an account of the pain and joy attached to one's own melodramatic behaviour and shifts myths surrounding contemporary Jewish experience.

Archive source: LUX

Ooh, Life is Juicy

1994 Dir Helena Goldwater

14 mins

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

A Life in the Day with Helena Goldwater

UK 2000 Dir Sarah Turner

19 mins

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection) + Image Collection: production still

Anthony Howell (1945 -)

Founder of the Theatre of Mistakes

Homage to Roussel

UK 1994 Dir Anthony Howell

22 mins

Featured in Grey Suit, Crime 12 Issue, Winter 1995

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

Immoral Sonnets

UK 2000 Dir Anthony Howell

7 mins

In: Grey Suit, Two Hour 9 Edition, Spring 1995

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

Station House Opera (founded 1980)

A performance company led by artistic director and co-founder Julian Maynard Smith that has produced over 30 productions of widely varying scale and focus, but all rooted in an interest to make work that brings together theatre and the visual arts in a single unified vision.

Warren Beatty's Coat/Angel

UK 1997 Dir Charles Garrad (Station House Opera) and Mark Wallinger

10 mins

DVD (N.B there are two different DVDs - one of them contains the Station House Opera piece Warren Beatty's Coat on its own, the other is paired up with Angel by Mark Wallinger.

Two short films in a series featuring performance artists: Station House Opera in the snow; and a man moves up and down an escalator, his words recorded in reverse and replayed.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

How Do You Know It's Warren Beatty's Coat?

UK 1996 Dir Station House Opera

5 mins

Video Col

Live action animation. Short film in a series featuring performance artists: Station House Opera in the snow

Archive source: Arts Council of England + Study Collection (Video Collection)

Artists' Film & Video Study Collection

Compilation videos with contents relating to performance

Angles of Projection (Documentation)

The British Art Show 4 (McQueen, Wallinger, Wearing et.al.)

Codec/x: New British Video and Sound Art

Dazzling Image

Expanding Pictures

The Eye

FVU Electric Eyes; FVU Instant; FVU Never a Dumb Moment; FVU No Pain No Gain;

FVU Take Two

Fresh Moves - Tank TV

Grey Suit 10, Summer 1995

Grey Suit 11, Autumn 1995

Grey Suit 3, Autumn 1993

Grey Suit 4, Winter 1993

Grey Suit, Crime 12 Issue, Winter 1995

Grey Suit, Two Hour 9 Edition, Spring 1995

Live in Your Head 1-4; Live in Your Head Film Programmes

Light Reading at 291 Gallery

LEA A Small Shifting Sphere of Serious Culture; LEA Speaking of Sofas; LEA Wired and Wonderful

LUX Gallery The Launch Exhibition 1998

LVA Video Burn

Made in London – Film London

Midnight Underground

Miners Campaign Tape Project

MOVE

Mute Loops

Nelson Mandela 70th Birthday Tribute

One Minute TV

Pandaemonium

Peter Whitehead and the Sixties

Pure Screen

Rewind + Play – an anthology of early British video art

Semiconductor; Semiconductor Films – Hi Fi Rise: Sonic Cities from Another Timeline

Shoot Shoot Shoot; Shoot Shoot Shoot Diversifications; Shoot Shoot Shoot Double

Screen Films; Shoot Shoot Shoot Expanded Cinema; Shoot Shoot Shoot Interventions

& Processing; Shoot Shoot Shoot Location; Shoot Shoot Shoot London Underground;

Shoot Shoot Shoot Structural/Material

Soundtrack Documentation

Talking Back to Science: Art, Science and the Personal

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 1: Filmaktion (Eatherley, Le Grice, Raban)

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 1: Intimate Rituals (Chadwick, Lacey)

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 1: Invocations (Anger, Balch & Burroughs)

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 1: New Romantics (Maybury, Wyn Evans)

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 1: Shaggy Dogs (Bourn, Hulse)

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 2: A Measure of Landscape

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 2: Cosmologies

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 2: Expanded Cinema

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 2: Personal Space

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 2: Portraits

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 2: Reading Images

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 3: Conceptual Films: Propositions

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 3: Conflict

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 3: Games and Devices

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 3: Portraits

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 3: The Body Observed

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 4: A Woman's Place

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 4: B Movies

Tate Britain: A Century of Artists' Film in Britain Programme 4: Conceptual Film: Actions

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 4: Digital Visions

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 4: Empire and its Shadows

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 4: In Extremis (Brisley, Curran, Smith/Stewart)

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 4: Land Art (Arnatt, Flanagan, Long)

Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain: Programme 4: Still Life (Gunning, Pucill)

Television Interventions 19:4:90 (Garrard, Geesin, Alistair MacLennan, McLean, Parmar)

To Camera (Programme 3: Sound)

Vision On: Film London Artists' Moving Image Network

The Study Collection Archive

Key examples are:

FVU (all titles); Grey Suit (all titles); LEA Speaking of Sofas; Live in Your Head; Shoot Shoot Shoot; Tate Britain A Century of Artists' Film in Britain; The British Art Show; To Camera; Antique UK 1994 Dir Mat Collishaw; Snow Storm UK Mat Collishaw; Girl Stowaway, UK 1994 Dir Tacita Dean 8 mins; How to Put a Ship in a Bottle UK 1995 Dir Tacita Dean 18 mins; Unfinished UK 1995 Dir Ceal Floyer; Trigger Finger UK 1995 Dir Douglas Gordon; Five Easy Pieces UK 1993 Dir Steve McQueen 7 minutes; Bear UK 1995 Dir Steve McQueen; Brontosaurus UK 1995 Dir Sam Taylor Wood 10 mins; Regard A Mere Rager UK 1993 Dir Mark Wallinger; I'd Like to Teach ... UK 1995 Dir Gillian Wearing; Hypnotic Suggestion UK 1993 Dir Jane and Louise Wilson 15 mins; Casanova UK Hermione Wiltshire
Featured in: The British Art Show 4 1995

Research material available for individual artists

Includes the following:

Kenneth Anger
Keith Arnatt
Kevin Atherton
Bobby Baker
Ian Bourn
Leigh Bowery
Sonia Boyce with Black Audio Collective
Ian Breakwell
Stuart Brisley
Paul Bush
John Carson
Helen Chadwick
Marc Chaimowicz
Spartacus Chetwynd
Bob Cobbing
Alan Currall
Michael Curran
Gina Czarnecki & Mike Stubbs
Jeremy Deller
Desperate Optimists
Mark Dickenson
Cheryl Donegan
Tracey Emin
Brian Eno
Angus Fairhurst, Damien Hirst
Rose Finn-Kelcey
Forced Entertainment
Ronald Fraser Munro
Gilbert and George
Helena Goldwater
Annie Griffin
Lucy Gunning
Akiko Hada
Mona Hatoum

Helen Paris, Leslie Hill
Housewatch
Anthony Howell
Matt Hulse
Gary Hume
Throbbing Gristle
Takahiko Iimura
Derek Jarman
Dick Jewell
Isaac Julien
Archaos, Julie Kuz minska
Bruce Lacey
Gillian Lacey
Sandra Lahire
David Lamelas
Peter Land
John Latham
Richard Layzell
Mike Leggett
Richard Long
Lovebytes Festival documentation
Sarah Lucas
Lyn Loo, Guy Sherwin, Sarah Washington and Knut Anserman
Alistair MacLennan
John Maybury
Bruce McLean
Ken McMullen
Steve McQueen
Sarah Miles
Jo Millett, Rob Gawthrop
Miners Campaign Tape Project
Ronald Fraser Munro
Alison Murray
Grace Ndiritu
Matthew Noel Tod
Ruth Novaczek
No.w.here studio
Monika Oechsler
Ngozi Onwarah
Jayne Parker
Jo Pearson
Ron Peck
Miranda Pennell
Keith Piper
Sally Potter
Jane Prophet
Sarah Pucill
Dan Steele, Tony Sinden, Lulu Quinn
William Raban
Lis Rhodes
Hans Richter
Nicola Shaneman

Erica Scourti
Anne Seagrave
Richard Serra
Guy Sherwin
David Shrigley
Tony Sinden
John Smith
Station House Opera
Cordelia Swann
Alia Syed
Tanya Syed
Anne Tallentire
Anna Thew
Mark Wallinger
Gillian Wearing
Chris Welsby
Peter Whitehead
Pier Wilkie
Jane and Louise Wilson
Saskia Olders Wilbers
Paul Harrison, John Wood

Performance in Artists' Film & Video



Carvaggio (1986)

Coinciding with developments in the creative environment for visual art in the USA in the 1940s and 50s, but having a focus on film, and performance in film, rather than performance outside the film-making process, the work of Maya Deren is seen as a forerunner for certain developments in artists' film-making in Britain (see chapters on Dance and Poetry).

Key film-makers evoking the artist's body in film include Maya Deren and Steve Dwoskin, each conveying a knowledge of the body in their film-making, expressed through the fluid movement of the camera (Deren) or in the way the camera/eye perceives others' movement (Dwoskin, reflecting his own body's physical limitations and the camera's receptive presence and ability).

Others such as Warhol scrutinize – compassionately or uncompassionately – others' bodies and performances. In a sense, this dispassionate (voyeuristic or apparently neutral) gaze is continued in contemporary artists' observation, in photographs, video and film, of everyday social roles, unconsciously performed or consciously theatricalised. This can be seen in the work of YBA artists such as Gillian Wearing and of other younger contemporary artists (See Performance in Art Now).

For some film-makers this awareness of social context involves a compassionate reflection of their own society, as in the work of Kenneth Anger, Jean Genet, Adolph and Jonas Mekas, Derek Jarman, Vivienne Dick, Anna Thew, Isaac Julien (*The Artists' Body – Film*), John Maybury (*The Artist's Body – Video*) and Rosalind Nashashibi, Kutlug Ataman, Grace Ndiritu (Performance in Art Now). For others, their own performance to camera also has that political agenda but relates more to the role of solo performer, as in the work of Sandra Lahire or Mona Hatoum (*The Artist's Body – Film*), in this respect relating to the body art of Franko B (British Performance Art) or the video art of Michael Curran (*The Artist's Body – Video*).

The solo performer to camera may also emphasise the use of subtle metaphor or symbolism, which is always a potential in performance, as in the work of Jayne Parker, Sarah Pucill, Alia Syed, Tanya Syed and others. And the use of voice may emphasise the transcendental aspect of performing, as in the work of Nina Danino.

The Artist's Body – Film



Scorpio Rising (1963)

Kenneth Anger (1927 -)

Kenneth Anger: Magick Lantern Cycle

Italy 1947-1976 Dir: Kenneth Anger

112 mins

16mm + DVD Col [16mm are available as individual titles, not under Magick Lantern Cycle]

Underground legend Kenneth Anger's extraordinary films have influenced generations of film-makers and given inspiration to countless artists and musicians through the years. With titles such as *Fireworks*, *Kustom Kar Kommandos* and *Scorpio Rising*, Anger created an exquisite and arresting cinematic world, and collaborated with such 60s luminaries as Mick Jagger and Donald Cammel. Titles include: *Fireworks* (1947), *Puce Moment* (1949), *Rabbit's Moon* (1950/1971), *Eaux d'Artifice* (1953), *Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome* (1954), *Scorpio Rising* (1964), *Kustom Kar Kommandos* (1965), *Invocation of my Demon Brother* (1969), *Rabbit's Moon* (Remade, 1979), and *Lucifer Rising* (1981).

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive + BFI DVD

Scorpio Rising

US 1963 Dir Kenneth Anger

31 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Part pop promo, part homo-erotic home movie, Anger's film is packed with symbolism and style - from his references to the occult to the partially naked, leather-clad bikers riding their bikes recklessly until they crash. Considered by many as the precursor of the pop promos of today - with its angular shots and contemporary soundtrack - the force and poetry of Anger's work has influenced generations of film-makers, designers and fashion photographers.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Ken Jacobs (1933 –)

Blonde Cobra

US 1959-1963 Dir Ken Jacobs

30 mins

16mm Col + B&W

N.B. Sound (Optical) - live radio soundtrack in addition to film soundtrack - instructions come with film. Images gathered by Bob Fleischner, sound-film composed by Ken Jacobs. Featuring Jack Smith.

"I think it was in late 1960 that Jack and I ignored our personal animosities for long enough to record his words and songs for the soundtrack. The phrases he repeated into the tape recorder were all ones I'd at some time heard him say, most were pet phrases he loved to recite, over and over, his lessons.

"I played him selections from my 78 collection, music from the 20s and 30s, sometimes only the beginning of a record and if he liked it would restart the record and immediately record. I don't think there was a second take of anything. Miracles of improvisation issued forth and any lack of clarity in his delivery is due to the very second rate equipment, third rate, fourth rate, we were using. I play the harp for the Madame Nescience monologue. Jack supplied the Arabic music. A small amount of my own previous shooting was cut into the film, the short "drowning in nescience" colour sequence near the beginning. Blonde Cobra is an erratic narrative - no, not really a narrative, it's only stretched out in time for convenience of delivery. It's a look in on exploding life, on a man of imagination suffering pre-fashionable lower East Side deprivation and consumed with American 1950s, 40s, 30s disgust. Silly, self pitying, guilt strictured and yet triumphing - on one level - over the situation with style, because he's unapologetically gifted, has a genius for courage, knows that a state of indignity can serve to show his character in sharpest relief. He carries on, states his presence for what it is. Does all he can to draw out our condemnation, testing our love for limits enticing us into an absurd moral posture the better to dismiss us with a regal 'screw off'." - K.J.

Archive source: LUX

Little Stabs at Happiness

US 1963 Dir Ken Jacobs

18 mins

16mm Col

Featuring Jack Smith.

"Down' and person to person, cinema officially gets grabbed back from the professionals here. Material was cut in as it came out of the camera, embarrassing moments intact. 100' rolls were used, the timings fitted well with music on old 78's. I was interested in immediacy, a sense of ease, and an art where suffering was acknowledged but not trivialised with dramatics. Whimsy was our achievement. And breaking out of step." - K.J.

Archive source: LUX

Andy Warhol (1928 – 1987) & Jonas Mekas (1922–)

Award Presentation to Andy Warhol

US 1964 Dir Jonas Mekas

12mins

16mm B&W

The Independent Film Award for 1964 is presented to Andy Warhol. We see among his leading stars, Baby Jane Holzer, Gerry Malanga, Ivy Nicholson, and we see editor of Film Culture, Jonas Mekas, presenting the award: a basket of fruit - mushrooms, carrots and apples, bananas - which then they eat with great pleasure.

"I can recall seeing only one Warhol film which was wholly pastoral and unneurotic in feeling, which contained or provoked none of these or other disturbing implications, and that turned out not to be a Warhol film at all, as I thought at the time, but a kind of homage, by Jonas Mekas, to Warhol – really a work of Mekas' own sensibility though seemingly in the official Warhol style. When I saw Award Presentation I was hung for days on the kind of imagination revolutionary enough at once to conceive of a film as something simple and to make that simplicity so pleasurable." - James Stoller, Film Quarterly.

Archive source: LUX

My Hustler (version from Red Light Zone)

US 1965 Dir Andy Warhol

65 mins

DVD B&W (Off-air recording from C4's Red Light Zone transmitted 9/4/1995)

A young male prostitute is fought over by the homosexual who hired him, another male prostitute, and the girl next door (a film of sun, sand and surf set on Fire Island).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bufferin

US 1966 Dir Andy Warhol

33 mins

35mm Col

A short portrait film of Gerard Malanga, the poet and film-maker who was Andy Warhol's studio assistant from 1963-67. Reflecting their fraught relationship, Malanga censors a reading of his diaries and poems, substituting every name with the word 'bufferin'. After 15 minutes of straightforward footage Warhol starts a series of strobe cuts and experimental framings of Malanga's images; devices which interrupt the poet's narcissistic and self-absorbed performance.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Trash

US 1970 Dir Andy Warhol

103 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

A couple of days in the life of Joe, an impotent heroin addict, living on New York's Lower East Side with common-law wife Holly.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Women in Revolt aka Andy Warhol's Women in Revolt

1971 Dir Paul Morrissey and Andy Warhol 98 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Three women go about founding a women's rights group, and at a rather chaotic meeting women discuss their role and recount various unsavoury experiences. The roles of the three main women are acted out by transvestites.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Andy Warhol and His Clan

US/UK 1970 Dir Bert Koetter

46 mins

16mm Col

A documentary portrait of the clique, including clips from Warhol's films I, A Man and Blue Movie.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Flesh For Frankenstein (aka Andy Warhol's Frankenstein)

US 1973 Dir Andy Warhol

100 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Presented by Andy Warhol (who is also the Executive Producer)

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Songs For Drella

UK/USA 1981 Dir Ed Lachman

55 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Andy Warhol South Bank Show

UK 1987 Dir Paul Morrissey and Kim Evans

78 min 30 sec mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Profiles the American artist Andy Warhol (1930-1987) from his youth in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to scenes of his memorial service at St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City. Looks at the whole range of his creative activity, tracing the development of his work in art and film, and discussing his involvement in publishing Interview magazine. Focuses on his understanding of mass culture. Uses archive and newsreel footage, extracts from his films, including Sleep (1963), Mario Banana (1964), Couch (1964), Kitchen (1966), Chelsea Girls (1966), Lonesome Cowboys (1968), Trash (1970), and Women in Revolt (1971), and interviews with many of his closest associates, including Ivan Karp, Emile de Antonio, Victor Bockris, Paul Morrissey, Ondine, Viva, Robert Rosenblum and Ken Deland.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Andy Warhol: The Complete Picture

US 2002 Dir Chris Rodley

Part 1 78 mins

Part 2 (Shooting Stars) 49 mins

Part 3 (The Sixteenth Minute) 49 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Warhol on Warhol

UK 2005 Dir George Cathro

39 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Documentary looking at the work of artist Andy Warhol and what it can reveal about the artist. Includes interviews with people who knew him, art critics, and curators of his work.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Steve Dwoskin (1939 –)



Central Bazaar (1972)

See also: Ballet Black by Steve Dwoskin (UK 1986) in the Dance chapter and various titles in the 'From Politics to Poetry chapter'.

Alone

US 1963 Dir Stephen Dwoskin

13 mins

16mm + Video + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

An evocation of a beautiful woman's degradation in loneliness. "Alone is a major departure into projecting feelings and senses of loneliness, timelessness and the sensual self. The film presents moments that are passing tones in any life, yet far from registering a passive despair, protests against a traditional culture which is unable to confront such moments and passes them by as both trivial and obscene." – S.D.

Archive source: LUX + BFI National Archive

Naissant

UK/USA 1964 Dir Stephen Dwoskin

14 mins

16mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Experimental film which attempts to communicate in strictly cinematographic terms the emotions of a pregnant woman alone. [Sound added in London 1967]

Archive source: LUX + BFI National Archive

Chinese Checkers

UK/USA 1965 Dir Stephen Dwoskin

14 mins

16mm + Video + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Shows the development of a relationship between two women. An erotic portrayal of two lesbians playing Chinese chequers and then making love.
Archive source: LUX + BFI National Archive

Dirty

UK 1965 Dir Stephen Dwoskin

12 mins

16 mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

An old restored film of two semi-clad women (Barbara and Ann) in bed with a bottle
“Dirty is remarkable for its sensuousness, created partly by the use of rephotography which enables the filmmaker a second stage of response to the two girls he was filming, partly by the caressing style of camera movement and partly by the gradual increase of dirt on the film itself, increasing the tactile connotations generated by rephotography. The spontaneity of Dwoskin's response to the girls' sensual play is matched by the spontaneity of his response to the film of their play.” John Du Cane
Archive source: LUX + BFI National Archive

Soliloquy

UK/USA 1967 Dir Stephen Dwoskin

8 mins

16mm B&W + DVD (Reference copy only)

Experimental film concerning the introspective thoughts of a woman who feels she has failed with the important aspects of her life.

Archive source: LUX + BFI National Archive

Moment

UK 1969 Dir Stephen Dwoskin

Between 13 and 15 mins

16mm Col

A study of the face of a woman before, during and after orgasm.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + LUX

Central Bazaar

UK 1972 Dir Stephen Dwoskin

157 mins

16mm + DVD Col

With: Maggie Corey, Marc Chaimowicz, Eddie Doyle. “The film was reduced from fifteen hours of footage Dwoskin shot with a group of volunteers adventurous to act out their erotic fantasies... Theatre of life, costumes, sexes, colours, lips, reality and fantasy mix and reveal themselves, intensified by Dwoskin’s obsessive camera eye, as he picks out, watches, stops on faces, details, sustains, doesn’t go away; the face is trapped, recorded. But there is no forcing, no rape of the camera in Dwoskin. It’s gentleness itself, it’s an intelligence that is gentle and unimposing...” – Jonas Mekas

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI DVD + LUX

Girl

UK 1975 Dir Stephen Dwoskin

30 mins

16 mm B&W Silent

“It is quite revealing how complex the simple form is. Shot one to one, a girl is confronted with nothing more than her thoughts. In the period of watching her

(while she is looking at you) her expressions and movements turn into a 'mirror' for the viewer to experience his or herself. The experience is solely emotive between you and her, and occurs in 'real' time."– S.D.

Archive source: LUX

Stephen Dwoskin

Interviewed by Deke Dusinberre

1975

45 mins

Archive source: Study Collection (Audio recording)

The Cinema of Stephen Dwoskin

UK 1984 Dir Anna Ambrose

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only)

Documentary profile of experimental film maker Stephen Dwoskin, with comments from Raymond Durnat, Jacques Ledoux, Laura Mulvey, Paul Willeman and Eckhart Stein and interview material with Dwoskin.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Further and Particular

UK/France 1988 Dir Stephen Dwoskin

112 mins

Video (off air) Col

The conception of the female image as seen through the male camera eye using the theme of visual and sexual pleasure.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Trying to Kiss the Moon

UK 1994 Dir Stephen Dwoskin

96 (UK) or 100 (US) mins

16mm + DVD (Reference copy only) Col + B&W

Film autobiography by veteran experimental and documentary film-maker. Includes footage from amateur home movies shot by his father in Brooklyn during 1940s and 1950s blended with Dwoskin's own material, mainly from the 1960s. "This autobiographical film evolves from the perspective of events and images over a period of over 50 years. These events are liberated and interwoven like an inner landscape framing one life, directly and indirectly, all life-connected and film-connected by personal associations and rediscovered fragments." - S.D.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + Arts Council of England + LUX

The Sun and the Moon

UK 2007 Dir Stephen Dwoskin

60 mins

Video

The Sun and the Moon, a film fairy tale, is of two women's terrifying encounter with 'Otherness' in the form of a man, abject and monstrous, and for them either to witness, accept or partake in his annihilation. All are caught in their own isolation and are fearful of the menace that has to be met. The film, as a personal interpretation of Beauty and the Beast, enciphers concerns, beliefs and desires in

seductive images that are themselves a form of camouflage, making it possible to utter harsh truths.

Archive source: LUX

Derek Jarman (1942 – 1994)

Super-8 Films Collection 1971-94

UK 1971-94 Dir Derek Jarman

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

There We Are John...

UK 1993 Dir Ken McMullen

31 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Jarman reflects on his major films, his surprise at the reaction against Jubilee and Sebastiane and his satisfaction with Caravaggio and The Angelic Conversation.

Originally intended as an introduction to a collection of Derek Jarman's films, created by the British Council, to tour overseas.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Glitterbug

UK 1994 Dir Derek Jarman

60 mins

35mm B&W + Col

This heady compilation of home movies chronicles the life and work of British filmmaker and artist Derek Jarman. Including footage of Marianne Faithfull, Andrew Logan and William S. Burroughs (who reads aloud at Heaven), and behind-the-scenes footage of Jubilee and Sebastiane in production. The film was completed by co-director David Lewis after Jarman's death.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Derek Jarman in the Study Collection:

Video collection: Studio Bankside, A Journey to Avebury, Miss Gaby, Stolen Apples for Karen Blixen, A Garden at LUXor, Tarot, The Art of Mirrors, Duggie Fields, Fire Island, In the Shadow of the Sun, Ula's Fete, Hugh Smith's Film of Sebastian, Picnic at Ray's, Sebastian Wrap, Gerald's Film

Image collection: film stills from The Last of England, Imagining October, In the Shadow of the Sun

Paper collection: Articles and reviews about and by the artist; programmes; cards/fliers; funding applications; books, promo packages and programmes.

BFI National Archive film and video collections: The Angelic Conversation, Caravaggio, Edward II, A Garden at LUXor (S-8), The Garden, Glitterbug (S-8), In the Shadow of the Sun (S-8), Jubilee, The Last of England, Projections: Pet Shop Boys 1993 (pop video); Studio Bankside (S-8). TG Psychic Rally in Heaven (S-8); The Angelic Conversation, Caravaggio, Edward II, A Garden at LUXor, The Garden, Glitterbug, Wittgenstein 1993

BFI titles available:

Sebastiane

The Tempest
Imagining October
The Last Of England
War Requiem
Edward II
The Garden
Caravaggio
Wittgenstein
Blue

All on BFI DVD or 16mm from the BFI National Archive

Jubilee

Derek Jarman 1978

35mm BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Caravaggio

Derek Jarman

UK 1986

35mm Col

93 mins

Reconstructs the life and work of the painter whose death in 1610 followed years on the run as a murderer. The film links the characters in Caravaggio's art with the violent events of his career. Jarman was shortlisted for the Turner Prize in 1986, for "the outstanding visual qualities of his films," notably his biography of the painter, Caravaggio.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Derek Jarman Collection in BFI Special Collections: includes his large notebooks (in which Jarman planned his projects, pasting in draft scripts or other text, with sketches, handwritten notes or aide-memoires) as well as ballet designs, opera and theatre designs, and shooting scripts. More detail as below:

BOX 8

Caravaggio (UK 1986) - [Gold painted over floral cover labelled 'Caravaggio Shooting Script, August 1985', containing an annotated shooting script pasted-in with items including:

Contact numbers of cast and crew;

colour photographs of Christopher Hobbs' set designs: 'Jerusaleme's cottage', 'Peterzano's Studio', 'Del Moro Inn', 'Squat', 'Cardinal Del Monte's Storage Room'; Del Monte's Bedroom', 'Caravaggio's Studio', 'Porto Ercole';

Postcard reproductions of Caravaggio's work;

Pressed dried flowers including 'Tilda's Rose';
sketches;

Colour photos of Jarman on set;

Sequence breakdowns;

Camera list 'for the entire shoot';

Main lighting List, 2 September - 11 October 1985;

Small colour photographs of crew.

BOX 9

Caravaggio (UK 1986) [Gold painted over floral cover labelled 'Caravaggio - Production' on spine and 'Caravaggio diary from Monday Aug 26' on inside front cover], containing:

Various papers including
BFI Christmas card depicting Tilda Swinton as Lena;
End of shoot photos;

BOX 10

Caravaggio (UK 1986) [Black cover with large swirl of red paint on front] labelled on spine 'Caravaggio Book, 1985' comprising of manuscript text in diary form about the filming, with some pasted-in extracts from the shooting script, also including:
Photocopied images from the film and Caravaggio's work;
Contact prints and Polaroids.

BOX 20

Large Black notebook with gold panel and gold calligraphy marked 'Borrowed Time. Book 1 July 1986' and also labelled 'A Pandemonium Of Wings', 'The Art Of Memory', 'Mnemosyne' containing:
Photographs of Prospect Cottage;
Various film ideas, July 1987;

BOX 25

The Devils (UK 1971)
[Dir Ken Russell; Sets Designed By: Derek Jarman]
Savage Messiah (UK 1972)
[Director: Ken Russell; Production Designer: Derek Jarman]

Pasolini Ostia Remix (excerpt)

UK 2003 Dir Cerith Wyn Evans
4 mins
Featured in: Fresh Moves – Tanktv
Study Collection Video Collection

Derek

UK 2008 Dir Isaac Julien
76 mins
DVD

Punk Britain, gay Britain, Thatcher's Britain - Derek Jarman tackled the lot. Derek is a unique collaboration between Tilda Swinton, the film's narrator, and Isaac Julien, in which the life, vision and legacy of Derek Jarman is fondly remembered and celebrated. The revealing and frank interview at the core of the film is embroidered with a moving collage of home-movie footage, clips from 17 of his films, pop promos, rare footage from the sets of Sebastiane and Jubilee, and current affairs footage from 1960s swinging London through to the Thatcherite nationalism of the 1980s. Painter, author, gay militant, aids activist and, above all, filmmaker, Derek Jarman was one of Britain's best-loved and most original artists who touched the lives of everyone he met.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Laura Mulvey (1941 -) and Peter Wollen (1938 -)



Riddles of the Sphinx (1977)

After studying history at Oxford University, Laura Mulvey came to prominence in the early 1970s as a film theorist writing for *Spare Rib*, *Seven Days* etc. Much of her early critical work investigated questions of spectatorial identification and its relationship to the male gaze, and her writings, particularly the 1975 essay *Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema*, helped establish feminist film theory as a legitimate field of study. Between 1974 and 1982 Mulvey co-wrote and co-directed with Peter Wollen, six projects: theoretical films, dealing in the discourse of feminist theory, semiotics, psychoanalysis and leftist politics.

Peter Wollen studied English at Oxford University. Both political journalist and film theorist, Wollen's *Signs and Meaning in the Cinema*, first published in 1969, helped to transform the discipline of film studies by incorporating the methodologies of structuralism and semiotics. Wollen's first film credit was as co-writer of Michelangelo Antonioni's *The Passenger* (Italy, 1975) and he made his debut as a director with *Penthesilea: Queen of the Amazons* (1974).

Penthesilea, Queen Of The Amazons

UK 1974 Dir Laura Mulvey & Peter Wollen

99 mins

DVD Col

A film in five sequences on the iconography of woman as warrior. The film explores concerns central to Mulvey's writings such as the position of women in relation to patriarchal myth, symbolic language and male fantasy, and represents an experimental British venture into territory pioneered by the likes of Jean-Luc Godard. Archive source: BFI National Archive

Riddles of the Sphinx

UK 1977 Dir Laura Mulvey & Peter Wollen

92 mins

16mm Col – NEW MATERIALS DUE IN 2012

The most influential of Mulvey and Wollen's collaborative films which presented avant-garde film as a space in which female experience could be expressed. Remarkable formalistic innovation, notably 360-degree pans, inform the film's content, describing the mother's loss of and search for identity. The result is a challenging, forceful and intelligent film.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Amy! (The Eleventh Hour)

UK 1980 Dir Laura Mulvey & Peter Wollen

34 mins

16mm Col

An analysis of the exploits and image of Amy Johnson, the first woman to fly solo to Australia. The film begins with newsreel footage of her arrival followed by a discussion in a women's group as to what 'heroic' images mean for women and a dramatic reconstruction of events from Amy Johnson's domestic life. Far from a conventional biopic, the aviator is used as a symbolic figure, her journey exemplifying the transitions between female and male worlds required by women struggling towards achievement in the public sphere.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Crystal Gazing

UK 1982 Dir Laura Mulvey & Peter Wollen

92 mins

16mm + DVD

Experimental drama set in London during the Thatcher administration involving close links between four characters: Neil, a science-fiction illustrator, who is accidentally killed in Mexico City; Kim, a woman rock musician; Vermilion, an analyst of satellite photography; and Julian, an old friend of the illustrator who has just finished his Ph.D thesis on the fairy-tales of Charles Perrault. *Crystal Gazing* represents a departure from the emphatic formalism of Mulvey and Wollen's earlier films, demonstrating more spontaneity of performances and in the storyline, elements of which were left undecided until the moment of filming. Bleak, but with playful touches, this representation of London during the Thatcher recession was generally well received, despite criticism of Mulvey for her reluctance to incorporate feminist polemics.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Vivienne Dick (1950 -)

Guerillère Talks

US 1978 Dir Vivienne Dick

24 mins

Video

Vivienne Dick's arrival in 70s New York, landed her in the middle of the punk era. Fresh from Ireland and having no experience of making films, she signed up for a course and took up residence on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, right in the middle of a punk revolution. This first film uses eight rolls of Kodak sound Super-8 film to profile each woman in real time and without any editing. Each is captured on film in a screen test to which the camera is co-conspirator rather than voyeur, reacting as opposed to recording. The 'subjects' include Pat Place and Adele Bertei, former band members of the Contortions, as well as Lydia Lunch, singer, guitarist, film star and punk doyenne who would also appear in later films. The women talk, read letters, play pinball, while the camera zooms in and out using oblique framing. Made in the second wave of New York avant-garde film, after the intense scrutiny of film by structuralist film-makers, Dick's films use the 'every-dayness' of Super-8 with

choppy hand-held shots and a home-movie style ethic, to explore the self-image and social politics of a diverse group of women in 1970s New York.

Archive source: LUX

She Had Her Gun All Ready

US 1978 Dir Vivienne Dick

28 mins

Video

Vivienne Dick's second film has at its centre two of the 'subjects' of her first film *Guerillère Talks*. Moving from a kitchen on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, the film explores the dynamic between a complacent, almost catatonic Pat Place and the demonic, aggressive Lydia Lunch, ending with a showdown at the rollercoaster on Coney Island. The film utilises a linear narrative which is counterbalanced by an impressionistic view of New York, lit by green fluorescent lights, with intermittent effects added in-camera by Dick, including red filters and 'earthquakes'. The relationship between the two women is ambiguous, they may represent elements of a single identity or the influence of a stronger will over a weaker character. It is the dynamic between these two unequal forces which propels the narrative.

Archive source: LUX

Staten Island

US 1978 Dir Vivienne Dick

4 mins

Video

An androgynous creature (Pat Place) wearing a tacky silver suit emerges from the sea on a rubbish strewn Staten Island beach.

Archive source: LUX

Beauty Becomes the Beast

US 1979 Dir Vivienne Dick

40 mins

Video

Using fragmented images of women and a central performance from Lydia Lunch as both a tormented five year old and a troubled teenager, this film looks at the mother and daughter relationship and examines the cyclical relationship between the two. Opening with a blast from Teenage Jesus and the Jerks – Lydia Lunch's band – the film trails Lydia as she runs away from home having fallen out with her mother, taking with her a battered, bald doll to whom she plays mother. The film cuts between images of women on TV (Lucille Ball), along with posters and adverts on the street, a woman in her kitchen, as well as members of the punk scene such as Adele Bertei who was featured in Dick's first film, *Guerillère Talks*. These images of patriarchal culture contrast with those of the sexually precocious 'child-girl', tormented by demons commanding her to 'be dirty', who oscillates between being a child crying for her mother and adopting a position of maternity in relation to her doll.

Archive source: LUX

Libertys Booty

US 1980 Dir Vivienne Dick

47 mins

Video

Vivienne Dick's last film in her New York period draws a parallel between prostitution and the desire for success so prevalent in American culture. As in her previous films, Dick uses the camera as participant, so that the film is neither commentary nor indictment but rather all the more unsettling for its frank exploration of white middle-class prostitution. The film is unsentimental in its depiction of prostitution, showing the relationships between the Madam and the call-girls, who speak frankly about their lives. Cultural references to the 1960s are made through the use of rock anthems, while the ultimate all-American girl – the Statue of Liberty – is seen performing a striptease.

Archive source: LUX

Visibility: Moderate

US 1981 Dir Vivienne Dick

38 mins

Video

Vivienne Dick's first film after the New York series takes her back to her native Ireland. Using Super-8 film as a parody of the 'travelogue' or home-movie style film, Dick takes an expatriate, tourist look at her homeland. The narrative follows Margaret Ann Irinsky as the American tourist trekking from a Dublin populated by Hare Krishnas and rock music, to the horse-drawn carriages in the west of Ireland and the kissing of the Blarney stone. The quaint perception of Ireland and the Americanization of the native culture are contrasted with interviews from sectarian prisoners and footage of political marches. As in all her work, Dick uses a mixture of verité shots which capture the essence of the locality and intersperses them with images which have a totally different feel. This method is used to highlight issues in a subtle way wherein the camera takes an active rather than a voyeuristic role.

Archive source: LUX

Like Dawn to Dust

US 1983 Dir Vivienne Dick

5 mins

Video

Lydia Lunch laments the difficulty of relationships in the wilds of Connemara, Ireland.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + LUX

London Suite (Getting Sucked In)

UK 1990 Dir Vivienne Dick

28 mins

16mm + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

London's cultural diversity unfolds as Vivienne Dick portrays her friends, their lifestyles, what they talk about and how they talk. In this kaleidoscopic arrangement of encounters and re-enactments, equal weight is given to the passionate and the banal. The camera's sudden hops from one reality to another and the disjointed conversations are drawn together by the musical score and the film's internal rhythm.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + LUX

Jayne Parker (1957 -)

See also: the Dance Chapter for other Jayne Parker titles.

Free Show

UK 1979 Dir Jayne Parker

16 mins

16mm B&W

A film in three acts, each act prefaced by a short circus act. Act 1 - Cutting liver, Act II - Ironing, Act III - Plucking Eyebrows. Three potentially violent domestic activities performed by a woman.

Archive source: LUX

Rx Recipe

UK 1980 Dir Jayne Parker

12 mins

16mm Col

A woman cares for an eel. She washes it, feeds it and wraps it. She administers the correct prescription for its comfort and then she cares for herself.

Archive source: LUX

I Cat

UK 1980 Dir Jayne Parker

10 mins

16mm Col

An animated film. You think everything is all right, then a fish bites a bird and everything turns red.

Archive source: LUX

Snig

UK 1982 Dir Jayne Parker

6 mins

16mm Col

A young woman shakes eels out from between the sheets of a bed. She sews the eels on to a sheet, then cuts them away and they fall to the ground. A dilemma.

Archive source: LUX

Almost Out

UK 1985 Dir Jayne Parker

90 mins

Video

"This tape is a confrontation/dialogue between the film-maker and her mother, both naked. The gap between intention and expression is explored as the camera isolates parts of the body, and the women speak of how the image relates to themselves and their body-image. Parker says at one point, 'I want to please my mother, that is what the film is about!' The mother looks at her naked body on the monitor and talks about how she feels being produced as an image. There ensues a brutal but caring talk between mother and daughter which is disturbing, sad and breathtakingly intense. 'I feel that my mother is inside me. She is very happy. I want to push her out, gently, because I care for her and don't want to hurt her. My father is inside me. He is asleep.'" - J.P.

"Made when many women artists were examining mother-daughter relationships, Jayne Parker's celebrated but rarely seen video is one of the bravest pieces of self-analysis. She questions her mother; an unseen cameraman questions her; both sit naked before the camera. The tape seeks truths, but also questions them." - Tate Britain programme, 2004
Archive source: LUX

K.

UK 1989 Dir Jayne Parker

13 mins

16mm B&W

A film in two parts. Part 1: a woman pulls her intestine out of her mouth and lets it fall in a soft pile at her feet. Then she knits the intestine using only her arms. Part 2: she stands on the edge of a pool and makes herself dive again and again. 'I bring out into the open all the things I have taken in that are not mine and thereby make room for something new. I make an external order out of an internal tangle.' - J.P.

K. is concerned with facing up to fears, exerting control and gaining strength. Its balanced structure and serene pacing reflect the artist's ultimate imposition of internal order'. --Alexandra Sage.

Archive source: LUX

The Pool

UK 1991 Dir Jayne Parker

10 mins

16mm Col

A woman stands in the deep end of an empty and disused swimming pool. She wipes her face and stomach with her hands to clean away blood. Inside, she places her hands on the outstretched arm of a man who lifts her into the air and catches her when she falls. An eel breathes through its gills as it swims. The woman settles the eel in her arms and holds it against her body. When the woman swims she breathes out underwater.

Archive source: LUX

Cold Jazz

UK 1993 Dir Jayne Parker

17 mins

16mm Col

A woman opens and swallows oysters and removes small stones from her body which have been washed there by the sea. Intercut with images of an older woman who assembles and prepares to play a tenor saxophone.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Crystal Aquarium

UK 1995 Dir Jayne Parker

33 mins

16mm + Video B&W

The film's title is taken from the name given to tanks which were set up on the stages of music halls at the turn of the century for underwater performances. There are four performers - a drummer, a swimmer, an ice skater and a woman. Although the protagonists never appear together, they are inextricably bound together by their actions. The film takes place both above and below water, on ice, and in a room visited by the fourth woman.

Crystal Aquarium was awarded the Grand Prize of the City of Oberhausen and a 'Mention Spéciale' from FIPRESCI at the 43rd International Short Film Festival, Oberhausen in 1997.

Archive source: LUX + BFI National Archive (DVD Reference copy only)

Anna Thew

Behind Closed Doors

UK 1998 Dir Anna Thew

14 mins 16mm Col

Fragments of dream, nightmare and memory draw together landscape and natural sound with images of death.

An elegy for my mother. Through spoken diaries and text, oblique reference is made to the persistence of the imagination. With Anna Thew as a corpse; Harland Miller, Yvonne Little as Paolo and Francesca; Luc Borie, Richard Heslop, Derek Jarman, Steve Farrer, Martin, Emina Kurtagic, Monica Molnar, Tania Diez, Julie Osborne, Rachel Thew, Kenny Morris, Mary Rose.

Archive source: LUX

Eros Erosion

UK 1990 Dir Anna Thew

45 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Through a rush of abstract and allegorical connections the film touches on transience and desire, and the silence and concealment surrounding sexuality, love, death, AIDS, and the fear of bereavement.

"Eros Erosion began as two words jotted over a drawing of a river. It grew from there... Interrupted recordings of voices chase and intertwine. ... The fugitive mind carries us through a flood of images, from familiar urban landscape ... to a distant, mythical space. The concentration on sound is as important as image, being the last point of consciousness... that is, the last of the senses." A.T.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sandra Lahire (1950 –)

See also: various titles in the 'From Politics to Poetry' chapter.

Arrows

UK 1984 Dir Sandra Lahire

15 mins

16mm Col

Sandra Lahire's film uses a combination of live action and rostrum work to communicate the experience of anorexia and to analyse the cultural causes of the condition. 'I am so aware of my body', we are told on the soundtrack, while images of caged wild birds are intercut with images of the rib cage of the film's subject, the film-maker herself. The pressures placed upon women to be thin are articulated by an account of a new technique for surgical removal of fat. Once again, a woman who does not conform to male expectations in terms of her body-shape is classified as sick, in need of surgery. The constantly recurring motif of cages, bars and railway lines reiterates the feeling of entrapment throughout the film. Yet, taking the camera

into her own hands, and revealing this process to the spectator by using a mirror, the film-maker shows herself in control of this representation of a woman's body. The film ends with a poem by Sylvia Plath, *The Thin People*, which speaks of people who starve themselves, and people who are actually deprived – a powerful note upon which to end, locating the condition of anorexia firmly in western patriarchal culture. Archive source: LUX

Uranium Hex

UK 1988 Dir Sandra Lahire

11 mins

16mm + Video Col

"When bright yellow uranium oxide leaves the crushing mill to be refined to uranium hex, the waste is shot out through pipes, often into the drinking water of native Canadians' reservations, mutating the only genepool...these are the conditions underlying our electricity from nuclear reactors." - S.L.

"Uranium Hex deals with uranium mining in Canada focussing particularly on the woman's work and the destruction of the environment; the film uses a kaleidoscopic array of experimental techniques such as superimposition, refilming, changes of speed, pace and an elaborate layering of sounds where 'atmos' recording mixes with voices, music. The constantly shifting images provide instances with extremely filmic qualities: the image of a man digging out uranium is superimposed over a woman's back while brash sounds of machinery are heard and a woman speaks, "...it was like being under an X-ray machine day and night". The film proposes a number of visual instances operating on different levels but never gelling together, the layers of images and sounds are disruptive, breaking up the surface, giving the piece a textural complexity. The recurring image of the film-maker (looking into the frame as if by the light of her headlamp) gives testimony to the images of mine shafts, drilling marks, X-rays of chests with lung cancer, confronting the viewer's own look, his/her perception of these images. Questions around the visual pleasure of this aesthetic collage, as to the beauty of the images are endemic in any appraisal of its political aim. What is certain is that the aggressive control and the subjective address create a self-reflective tension, engaging and disturbing the viewer. - Mike Maziere
"Independent Media" March 1988.

Archive source: LUX

Michael Maziere (1957-)

The Bathers Series: Les Baigneurs

France 1986 Dir Michael Maziere

6 mins

16mm Co

Archive source: LUX

Swimmer

France 1987 Michael Maziere

7 mins

16mm Col

Part of the series Bathers. II. "Swimmer takes the act of swimming as an emotive subjective experience. Drawing from the psychological and symbolic the film creates

an event where fear and pleasure exist side by side and intertwined. A film at the juncture of formal speculation and psychological distancing.” - M.M.

Archive source: LUX

Actor

UK 2010 Dir Michael Maziere

18 mins

Video B&W + Col

Maziere reworks 50 years of cinema in which the actor Alain Delon appears to create a new narrative which speaks of cinema, masculinity and the existential and physical erosion of time upon the physical and cinematic body. Supported by the Centre for Research, Education and Media, University of Westminster.

Archive source: LUX

Alia Syed (1964 -)

Unfolding

UK 1988 Dir Alia Syed

20 mins

16mm B&W

“I was interested in making a film about women's work spaces; the launderette is a functional space, but it is also a place where women meet socially. I got to know the women, took my Bolex (a wind-up camera) and after a while I felt comfortable enough to start filming. It made me aware of the way in which documentaries can be a form of control. On the one hand, it was a straightforward documentary and, on the other, it questioned my role as maker. It took a long time to make and was extremely rigorous.” - A.S.

Fatima's Letter

UK 1992 Dir Alia Syed

21 mins

16mm B&W

The film is shot almost entirely at Whitechapel Underground Station in East London. A woman remembers her past by faces she sees while travelling on the Underground. She begins to believe that these people, like her, have all taken part in the same event which took place in the family home in Pakistan. The story takes the form of a letter to her friend Fatima. A personal documentary around journeys, memories and watching, watching while journeying and remembering while watching - travelling through memories, places and events and documenting them into consciousness.

Tanya Syed (1967-)

Chameleon

UK 1990 Dir Tanya Syed

4 mins

16mm B&W

We are both trapped and held together by layers of skin, clothes, walls. These are the 'thin veils of matter separating the outside from the inside' through which we are either seen or made invisible.

Archive source: LUX

Salamander

UK 1994 Dir Tanya Syed

12 mins

16mm + Video

"Set in an urban landscape this film fragments conventional narrative into a playful, expressionistic nocturne which carries its 'lesbian subplot' with the power of a 10-ton truck. The excess of traffic, light, sound and movement creates a dynamic, transient reality. Sometimes we cannot place things, or people. Sometimes moments and people slip away. The images run over my eyes, fluid like water." - T.S.

Archive source: LUX

Delilah

UK 1995 Dir Tanya Syed

12 mins

16mm B&W

Through choreographed and improvised movements, this film is a 'meditation on violence': the fear of invasion, and an exploration into lesbian expressions of power and desire. Fear of invasion (of love) of the body/home is a point of reference for our understanding of strength and vulnerability. There is difference with regards to the demarcation of what is inside and what is outside. As the film progresses through ritualised gestures so control shifts, and relations evolve from one to another.

Archive source: LUX

Nina Danino

Stabat Mater

UK 1990 Dir Nina Danino

8 mins

16mm Col

"A purposeful, 'perverse', re-reading of the eternal feminine of Chapter 16 of Joyce's Ulysses. 'Stabat Mater' is a short oracion, opened and closed by two songs – it is the voice of my mother singing two saetas – a lament sung during Holy Week to the Mater Dolorosa. The frenetic hand held images define the movement of the body, the slipping cadences of the song enunciate the upper body and throat, the breathlessness of the unpunctuated speech evokes the eroticism of the body - a maternal, homoerotic body. It attempts to locate a lost territory, unrecouperable mother - site of plenitude and loss." - N.D.

Archive source: LUX

Now I Am Yours

UK 1992 Dir Nina Danino

30 mins

16mm + DVD (Reference only, off-air recording from C4 Late Night Experiment Slot tx 2/11/1993) Col

"Yes, look at Bernini's statue in Rome - Teresa's image is depicted in a religious, sexual ecstasy which surfaces on the body as a kind of death - the body is in a corpse-like state. Unseeing, her vision is of a masculine, eroticised figure of Christ. The garden, metaphor for exalted and extreme states, is also the meeting place of

lovers, the theatre of the erotic but also of pain and loss (Gethsemane), a burial place, a pestilential spot. This garden is a place of opposites – the drive to death and the pull to life – a push and pull – a borderline territory in which Teresa is petrified in stone but which the film attempts to 'resurrect' to life. The crisis of the film is the desire to bring back to life, a ward off death: This warding off is a snap of the fingers or three signs of the cross, but the corpse is also the beloved. Christ is dead on the cross but in Teresa's vision his body is not corrupted but glorified. Only the voice cuts through the mortal, carnal body in its lament, its mourning cry, its scream, its utterance, calling forth everything that is beneath the surface, the daemonic suppressed, the unsayable, passing over, breaking through the body/tongue.” – N.D.
Archive source: LUX

Temenos

UK 1998 Dir Nina Danino

75 mins

DVD Col + B&W

Temenos means a sacred site or ritual precinct. The film explores the phenomenon of visionary experience. In it, we see locations where the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared, including Lourdes, Fatima and Medjugorje in Croat-occupied Bosnia where the visions continue. The director films the landscapes that have witnessed these transcendental appearances, imbuing them with a sense of the sacred. 'In Temenos I wanted to clear a space. The landscape is empty yet something happens; a disquieting dimension manifests itself in this becalmed landscape. Nature and ordinary things such as a tree or the sound of a bee acquire a heightened presence.' Nina Danino. The operatic soprano Catherine Bott, the Tuvan diva Sainkho Namchylak and the New York experimental vocalist Shelley Hirsch all deliver extraordinary performances. Across the landscape these voices weep bitterly, hum gently or give vent to unearthly sounds, sounds of nature, the screams of dementia or angelic arias. Both black and white and colour film is used and the camera's circular panning movements give a feeling of otherworldly weightlessness; Nina Danino herself reads from the memoirs of visionaries.

Archive source: BFI DVD + BFI Distribution

Sarah Pucill (1961 -)

You Be Mother

UK 1990 Dir Sarah Pucill

8 mins

16mm + DVD (Reference copy only)

The film-maker plays with photos and animation, projecting a tumble of teapots and other crockery onto an image of her own face. Archive source: BFI National Archive

Milk and Glass

UK 1993 Dir Sarah Pucill

8 mins

16mm Col

“The gender imbalance of the equation Western culture makes between the erotic and the woman's body is the main concern of the film. In a surrealist manner, female desire is explored. The inspiration for the images came in part from Luce Irigaray's writing on what is the Other to the phallus - that is, the oral. In line with this is Julia

Kristeva's Object That Which Cannot Be Named, that falls outside the Symbolic, that is lost after separation from the mother for the sake of the Name of the Father. The vagino-oral image is not meant as an essentialist celebration but instead as an assertion of what is marginalised in patriarchy and as an assertion of the bisexuality of the oral, where it is as much phallic (the tongue) as it is hole. The lens which penetrates the body and 'explains' it (Irigaray's Speculum) is allied with the acquisition of sexuality as a learned and fed phenomenon. The intermixing of sexuality with feeding is meant to confuse: feeding the mind, the body, or sexual desire? "The milk is of the Pre-Symbolic, the liquid and oral union with the mother; the glass, of the first intervention of the Symbolic, the visual (Lacan's mirror phase). The interplay of the visual and the oral, the subject and object separation and fusion, plays on the problem of representing of female subjectivity: both inside and outside are subjects of language and subjects of desire. The surface of the body oscillates." – S.P.

Archive source: LUX

Backcomb

UK 1995 Dir Sarah Pucill

6 mins

16mm + Video (DVD Reference copy, off-air recording from 11 O'clock High ITV tx 7/6/1998) Col

"A low-angle glimpse of a mother's petticoat initiates an encounter with a mass of tentacle hair which slithers across the table, intertwining and incorporating the objects which it encounters. These (china) objects take on the appearance of skin in contrast to the artificiality of the hair. The dishevelled hair mass engulfs the milk jug whose contents trickle climactically from the table. The depleted jug splutters, the table is drenched, and the hair devastates the scene." - Vicky Smith, LFMC.

Archive source: LUX + BFI National Archive

Swollen Stigma

UK 1998 Dir Sarah Pucill

21 mins

Video

A visual, surrealistic narrative of a woman travelling both literally and psychically through an interior space of several rooms. Memories, or fantasies, of another woman fill her imaginary space. Femininity, as a construction, is explored within a lesbian context where an assertion of lesbian symbolic imagery is created.

Archive source: LUX

Cast

UK 1999 Dir Sarah Pucill

18 mins

Video

The to and fro action of a rocking chair and sea waves sway with the imagined oscillation of the self and other in a mirror as identities bleed between spaces and across time. A doll is caressed by a little girl whose imaginings bring the doll to life. Her desire for and her desire to be, merge as her face adopts the doll's make up. This active/passive dynamic is shown through the confusing of animate and inanimate female figures, that mutate across time and in and out of life. The continuous rocking motion of the chair (and later sea waves) mimic the to and fro psychic oscillation of the self and Other in the mirror, which in the film shift between different time and spacial scales. In a culminating moment, the glass smashes and the interior is taken

outside the home. Among the living dead, the turning of time and withdrawal of colour, a sense of inexplicable loss emerges.

Archive source: LUX

Stages of Mourning

UK 2003 Dir Sarah PucillCol

19 mins

16mm + Video

"I ritualise through a performance to camera the coming to terms with the loss of my partner, Sandra Lahire. A journey of mourning incorporates this staging both for myself and for the camera / audience. The film explores the relationship between the hallucinatory power of the phantom of memory with that of the phantom ingrained in the photograph, film or video." – S.P.

Archive source: LUX

Taking My Skin

UK 2006 Dir Sarah Pucill35min

16mm B&W

"I'm not aware of you taking my skin", says the artist's mother to the camera as it zooms in on her eye as close as the lens will allow. Taking My Skin tracks a dialogue between the artist and her mother. Their exchange ranges from narrating the filming process 'in the moment' to relations in an earlier time. Throughout the journey film spaces continuously dissolve and collapse only to separate again. Sometimes the artist is behind the camera, sometimes the mother, sometimes both simultaneously behind and in front, or neither. Both perform, film, and alternately instruct, position and direct the other. Formally and thematically, the film is an exploration of closeness, of synching, and the threat this poses to the self.

Archive source: LUX

Blind Light

UK 2007 Dir Sarah Pucill

22mins

16mm

Blind Light is filmed in the artist's London loft. The presence of camera, studio and artist/performer are registered through image and sound, the loss of the former filling out the presence of the latter. In this way the physicality of object, space and subject as well as their interiority is fleshed out, mapping out a space that is at once material and psychical.

Archive source: LUX

Fall in Frame

UK 2009 Dir Sarah Pucill

18 mins

16mm Video Col

Silent

"Fall In Frame opens with the image of a young woman looking at herself and her camera in the mirror, each revealed as she unwraps a sheet to uncover the lens. She sets up the filming space by staging both set and camera and manipulates the light by handling the blind, each action weighted with its sound. Filming herself falling asleep and awakening, in and out of consciousness, the woman switches the camera on and off. Deliberation and indifference at once determine her actions as she sits at the table pouring tea, impassively combs strands of long hair or lounges on a bed.

Meticulously constructing her own confinement, she repeatedly checks herself in mirror and camera, all the while moving in and out of frame. With an even paced performance the woman proceeds to stitch her apron to the tablecloth with her hair. As she stands, the crockery comes crashing down. Gathered together into her dress, the debris is then thrown out of the window. Outside, in the garden, objects and camera are piled onto the cloth that becomes a trail as it is attached to her dress. From suburban street to sea-shore, camera and trail follow her. In *Fall In Frame* the materiality of the film-making process is explored within a constrained performance that blurs the split between the physical and consciousness. The elastic role of the white cloth that wraps the body or camera, covers the table, shuts out the light or trails the dress, evokes a white canvass or film screen upon which images or objects are projected, painted or sewn onto. The sheet literally folds between foreground and background, space and object, form and content. The film ends where it starts with the sheet around the camera, shutting out the image.” - Sarah Pucill

Archive source: LUX

Sarah Turner (1978 -)

A Tale Part Told

Sarah Turner

UK 1991

4 mins 16mm Col

“The film opens ... with a screen journey which is also a kinetic light sculpture holding its rotation steadily before our eyes. Many associations emerge as we hear the tale in relation to this image and its shifting background. . . A feeling of cyclical storytelling comes with the account ...” - Sandra Lahire

Archive source: LUX

Sheller Shares Her Secret

UK 1994 Dir Sarah Turner

8 mins

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection): Image Collection: 2 x production stills, publicity photo

Cut

UK 2000 Dir Sarah Turner

18 mins

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection): Image Collection: 1 x production still

The Artist's Body - Video



Meat Daze (1968)

William Wegman (1943–)

Selected Works

US 1970-78 Dir William Wegman

15 mins

Video

Short pieces, many of which feature Wegman with his dog Man Ray who obligingly plays to the camera and plays for laughs. A great classic of early video art.

Archive source: LUX

Deodorant Commercial

UK 1974 Dir William Wegman

DVD Col (Off-air Reference copy only from C4's Ghosts in the Machine transmitted 7/1/86) Video commercial for a deodorant which expands the usual boundaries of selling.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Man Ray and Milk

UK 1974 Dir William Wegman

DVD Col (Off-air Reference copy only, from C4's Ghosts in the Machine transmitted 7/1/86)

Video featuring William Wegman and his dog Man Ray.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Singing Stomach

UK 1974 Dir William Wegman

DVD Col (Off-air Reference copy only from C4's Ghosts In The Machine transmitted 7/1/86) Visual joke featuring the talented abdomen of an unidentified man.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Takahiko Iimura (1937-)

White Calligraphy

Japan 1967 Dir Takahiko Iimura

18 mins

16mm B&W Silent

Writing the Kojiki, the oldest story in Japan. An abstract film written in Japanese letters in each frame. A trial of Zen film. - T.I.

Archive source: LUX + Study Collection (Video Collection): documentation of performance White Calligraphy Re-Read by Takahiko Iimura, London 2010 (Paper collection)

Early Conceptual Videos

Japan 1970-1977 Dir Takahiko Iimura

23 mins

Video + 16mm B&W

Here is one of the starting point of Japanese video art. After coming back from New York in 1969, Taka Iimura started video production in Tokyo. Includes A Chair (1970), Blinking (1970), Time Tunnel (1971), Man and Woman (1971), Visual Logic (and Illogic) (1977).

Archive source: LUX

Performance / Myself (Or Video Identity)

Japan 1972-1995 Dir Takahiko Iimura

29 mins

Video B&W + Col

A collection of video-performances by Takahiko Iimura. "This video is produced with "myself" as the sole object as well as the material of the performance except two videos with Akiko Iimura. The video is not just a document of the performance but a work of video-art made specifically for video utilizing the video system including camera and monitor as a part of the performance. The video also questions the identity of oneself in video having tense relationships between words and images and asks who is 'I' and what 'I' means." - T.I. The videos included are: Self Identity (1972, 1 min. extract); Double Identity (1979, 1.5 min.extract); Double Portrait (1973-1987, 5 min.); I Love You (1973-1987, 4.5 min.); This Is a Camera Which Shoots This (1982-1995, 5 min.); As I See You You See Me (1990-1995, 7 min.); and I Am a Viewer, You Are a Viewer (1981, 4 min.).

Archive source: LUX

Observer/Observed and Other Works Of Video Semiology

Japan, 1975-2003 Dir Takahiko Iimura

21 mins

DVD B&W

With Takahiko Iimura, and Kazuyo Yasuda A video trilogy of Camera, Monitor, Frame, Observer/Observed, and Observer/Observed/ Observer. The main aim is a study of the structural relationships of video and language using English.

Archive source: LUX

Talking Picture

Japan 1981-1984 Dir Takahiko Iimura

23 mins

Video B&W

"In this collection of videos, Talking Picture (The Structure of Film Viewing) and Shadowman (The Structure of Seeing and Hearing), Takahiko Imura presents a series of mind-twisting videos, meditating on the experience of watching film/video and of seeing and being seen. Prodded by a succession of riddles, the videos are lined with humour. The profundity of this collection of videos should not be overlooked though, because alongside the playful character of these videos Imura touches on a range of significant philosophical questions about linguistics and the nature of representation itself." – Aaron Michael Kerner, San Francisco State University

Archive source: LUX

Concept Tapes 1, 2, 3

Japan 1991 Dir Takahiko Imura

78 mins

Video

Concept Tapes 2 is the second compilation of work from the 1970s by the groundbreaking Japanese video and performance artist. Concept Tapes 3 follows Imura's inventive and conceptually rigorous work throughout the 1980s.

Archive source: LUX

A.I.U.E.O. NN Six Features

Japan 1993 Dir Takahiko Imura

7 mins

16mm Col

Combining the comical and the absurd, Imura uses six funny faces to animate the visual images of six Japanese vowels in the Japanese and Roman alphabets. For the animation, the video images of the face were manipulated by System G, a real-time 3D texture mapping developed by Sony.

Archive source: LUX

David Lamelas (1946 -)

To Pour Milk Into a Glass

UK 1973 Dir David Lamelas

8 mins

Featured in: Tate Britain: A Century of Artists' Film in Britain, Programme 3:

Conceptual Films: Propositions

Archive Source: Study Collection Video Collection

Tempus Agere Est

Switzerland 2007 Dir David Lamelas

13 mins

16mm

The Time as Activity project he has been realised in Berlin, Los Angeles, Warsaw and this year in New York – over a period of almost four decades. Using a series of static shots, a methodology used in previous TAA projects, Lamelas films an actress reading texts in German, French and Latin, at three prominent locations in St. Gallen.

Archive source: LUX

John Maybury (1958 -)

John Maybury Archive Fragments (aka John Maybury Lea Anthology)

UK 1977-1997 Dir John Maybury

90 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col + B&W

Compilation of archive material relating to Maybury projects from 1977-1997. Titles: Read Only Money; Terrorist 16; Death Garage; Zen Masochism; Elegance; Pan Is Dead; Angel Of Disobedience; I Forget The Past; In Ger Land; Against Nature #1; Anticipation Of Light; Spot The Micro Dot. Archive source: BFI National Archive

Remembrance of Things Fast

UK 1993 Dir John Maybury

59 mins

Video

Remembrance of Things Fast represents the culmination of Maybury's work in video, which has developed alongside the technology itself. Starring Tilda Swinton and Rupert Everett in lead roles, the work confronts the conventions of world television and satellite broadcast, drawing on the fragmentary nature of the medium and the clichés of the three minute attention span. At the same time, it replaces bland mainstream images with darker, more satirical observations and studies. The environment is surreal, a virtual reality television land of landscapes and imaginary cities, enhanced by Marvin Black's dark, dense soundtrack. It is a cyberspace where the impossible is all too possible. Within this parallel world, a series of archetypes act, observe and comment, informed by a strong sexual sensibility. "...a mesmerising, sometimes hysterically funny, cinematic bricolage with a strong sexual and mostly gay sensibility." - Cordelia Swann

Archive source: LUX + BFI National Archive (DVD Reference copy only)

Maledicta Electronica

UK 1996 Dir John Maybury

53 mins

Video

Maybury's work is "a homage to Alan Turing, the British cryptographer who pioneered the idea of machine intelligence. Using Super-8 and Hi-8 images that are brilliantly constructed into composite screen displays the work evolves in episodic form punctuated by enigmatic intertitles to both challenge and direct the visual reading." – William Raban, Frieze, May 1996.

Maledicta Electronica is a mesmerising journey into a video world of performance, S&M, politics and poetry. Maybury mixes exquisite image-making with an acutely urbane politic that never lets the viewer drift too long in pleasure fields.

Performer Leigh Bowery appears in some of the sequences.

Archive source: LUX

Love is the Devil (aka Love is the Devil: Study For a Portrait Of Francis Bacon)

UK 1998 Dir John Maybury

35mm + DVD Col

A dramatised portrait of the British painter Francis Bacon, which focuses on his relationship with the East End petty criminal George Dyer, who became his lover and muse.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

The Museum of Memory

UK 1999 Dir John Maybury

40 mins

DVD Col + B&W (Reference copy only)

A visual meditation on memory, an avant garde comedy employing elements of pop video, travelogue, state of the art digital effects and a score by Daniel Goddard.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Tina Keane (1948 -)

The Swing

UK 1978 Dir Tina Keane

6 mins

Video B&W

A performance to camera of Tina Keane swinging. The theme of The Swing is the image 'she' from girlhood to womanhood. Through old wives' tales to children's playground songs and games, to advertisements and magazines. Women have changed but to change radically we must radically change the image 'she'.

Archive source: LUX

Demolition/Escape

UK 1983 Dir Tina Keane

15 mins

Video Col

A large model steam train moves back and forth across the floor, on the right of the track is a vertical column of six monitors placed upside down so that the column resembles a steep staircase. The monitors show a sequence of the artist crawling with difficulty along the floor and then ascending a ladder. On the wall behind is a diagonally ascending line of blue neon numbers. Demolition/Escape speaks of a childhood heavily infused with fantasy. The emotional struggle of the artist 'imprisoned' in the monitors is taunted by the old rational 'stare' of the train in its pointless movement back and forth, and by the equally empty rise of the numbers – rationality to no purpose except as an illusion of knowledge, and to that end a prison of sorts.

Archive source: LUX

Jeff Keen (1923 -)

Jeff Keen is one of the most prolific and longest working experimental filmmakers in Britain. Keen started making films in his late thirties, having already served in World War II (a pivotal experience) and worked for Brighton's Parks and Gardens. His first 8mm pieces, were presented at the local art school film society at a time when only a few others (such as Margaret Tait, John Latham and Bruce Lacey) were making

experimental films in Britain. In the 1970s, the London Film-makers' Co-op turned away from figurative imagery and emotional engagement, focusing almost exclusively on the formal qualities of film itself. Keen's work was also heavily concerned with issues of construction and projection, but continued to feature visceral and forceful expressions of self, and of a range of mythic characters and themes. Despite the difference between his films and those of others at this time, his work found support with Co-op screenings and inclusion in exhibitions such as the Hayward Gallery's 'Perspectives on Avant-Garde Film' (1978). He showed his multi-screen 'Diary films' alongside tape compilations of girl groups, jazz bands and film scores. The more overtly sexual elements to Keen's films developed in parallel with the rise of feminism (and were not always well received). In Keen's films of the 1980s, home movies and appearances from family and friends were replaced with a highly controlled and expertly paced editing style. War references become more explicit and the imagery becomes more violent, and Keen himself becomes the sole performer.

Meatdaze (aka Meat Daze)

UK 1968 Dir Jeff Keen

10 minutes

16mm + 35mm Col

With Meatdaze, Jeff Keen tried to create a full cinema programme all in one film. He divided it into six sections, of which three main parts can be discerned: rapid animations (the cartoons of the programme), naked people at play (the supporting feature) and finally a collage of action and superimposition (the main feature).

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Jeff Keen Films

UK 1983 Dir Margaret Williams

36 mins

DVD

The work of British experimental film-maker, Jeff Keen, whose work is influenced by images from comic books, advertising, home movies, etc. Profile of the film-maker using clips, interviews, live action and "demos" to show his aims and ideas.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

Artwar - The Last Frontier

UK 1993 Dir Jeff Keen

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

20 mins

Experimental film.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

GAZWRX: The Films of Jeff Keen

UK 1984 Dir Jeff Keen

82 mins

DVD + Blu-Ray

See below for more information.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

GAZWRX: The Films of Jeff Keen – Touring Collection

UK 1960 – 1993

82 mins

Digibeta/Beta SP/DVD
Includes the following titles :

Omozap 2

1991 | 1 min | Col | sound

Jeff Keen stands in overalls, poised with his tools before him. Then he lights a gas-fuelled torch, smashes a plate with a hammer, paints a giant esoteric symbol on the wall and starts up his film projector. This snappy one-minute video offers a neat evocation of the Jeff Keen live experience and throws us right into the inspired montages to come.

Marvo Movie

1967 | 5 mins | Col | sound

Ken Russell said: "It went right over my head and seemed a little threatening, but I'm all for it." The Cat Woman, Mickey Mouse, melting toys, the local graveyard and Brighton beach all collide in this subtly provocative and anarchic bit of British fun.

Like the Time is Now

1960 | 5 mins | B&W | silent

America comes to Brighton as three beatniks hang out, listen to records and smoke before strange hats appear out of nowhere and a cartoon bubble suggests they all go to the cinema. The beginning of a new era in film-making and a sign of the bigger cultural changes to come.

Rayday Film

1968-1970 + 1976 | 13 mins | Col | sound

Originally presented as a combination of multiple projections and live performance, this energetic, action-led film still barely manages to contain itself. Inside Keen's flat, he and his friends make a racket with guns, then go out to spray Dada-esque slogans on the beach and streets of Brighton, taking in the local tip along the way.

Day of the Arcane Light

1969 | 13 mins | Col | sound

Carrying straight on from Rayday Film, though at a slower pace, the Jeff Keen gang transforms the local tip - the final destination for anything unwanted - into a site where anything is possible. Cardboard guns are fired to jaunty music, and Motler the Word Killer, clutching a fake penis, runs after a woman in a wedding dress.

Cineblatz

1967 | 3 mins | Col | sound

Sculpted radio static washes over a rush of animated superheroes, advertisements and even the House of Lords. More than twenty discrete bright animations in less than three minutes.

The Dreams and Past Crimes of the Archduke

1979-1984 | 7 mins | Col | sound

The Keen players turn quiet and ghostly in this beautiful and magically symbolic film. Incorporating a noir-style thriller at Brighton train station and an artist who creates a broken heart using her paper quill, this masterpiece in red and blue conjures up an atmosphere of contemplation not found elsewhere in Keen's work.

White Lite

1968 | 3 mins | Col | sound

Meet Anti-Matter Man and the Bride of the Atom in this surreal and psychedelic B-movie homage. A half-naked woman undergoes a strange inner journey that leads us through a barrage of film noise to exotic images of stuffed bats.

Plazmatic Blatz

1990s | 9 mins | Col | sound

Stealth bombers swoop like vultures over crashing waves and a ruined land. Using found footage and several thick layers of video, Keen presents a very visceral version of Armageddon.

Wail

1961 | 5 mins | B&W | silent

The realities of brutal gang violence collide with war paintings and a horror movie werewolf in this extraordinary action and animation mix. Keen recognizes the dynamic links between different cultural forms plus popular culture's potential for violence and subversion.

Blatzom

1983-1986 | 12 mins | Col | sound

Jeff Keen dons paper masks and his knitted Artwar jacket, having already avoided falling bombs and paced a dusty, grey, moon-like landscape. Blatzom offers an exquisitely crafted noise-soundtrack to match its explosive opening.

Artwar

1993 | 6 mins | Col | sound

This refined and punchy series of films combines explosions and gunfire with strident performances at home and painting at the local tip. Possibly the culmination of all Keen's themes and a potent reminder of his seemingly inexhaustible imaginative powers.

Anne Wilson (1950 -) and Marty St. James (1954 -)**A Video Tape By**

UK 1983 Dir Marty St. James and Anne Wilson

14 mins

Video + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Experimental video short.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + LUX

An American Romance

UK 1983 Dir Marty St and James & Anne Wilson

6 mins

Video + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Experimental video short.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + LUX

View from this Side (aka If Today Be Sweet)

UK 1983 Dir Marty St. James and Anne Wilson

20 min 30 sec mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Compilation of three experimental videos: [1] Man Of Teak [2] Desparate Desire [3] Scented Island

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Visual Art Songs For the 80s (Or Visual Art Songs For the Eighties)

UK 1984 Dir Marty St. James and Anne Wilson

16 mins

Video + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Compilation of three experimental shorts: [1] True Life Romance [2] Beatnik [3] Tom Boy/Tom Girl.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + LUX

Art UK

1987 Dir Marty St James and Anne Wilson

3 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Performance video burlesque on the role of art in contemporary Britain. Made for Channel 4's series Comment.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + Arts Council of England

Metamorphosis

UK 1998 Dir Marty St James

7 mins

Video Col

Further exploring the ideas and themes of his Video Portraits series, Metamorphosis considers how we present ourselves to the world through noises and visual expressions, in an attempt to relate to others. In this piece the expressions and attitude are proposed at their most obnoxious and humorous but always undermined by the transition into another item.

Archive source: LUX

Marikki Hakola (1960 -)

Stilleben: Milena's Journey

Finland 1988 Dir Marikki Hakola

6 mins

Video

Marikki Hakola started working with video and performance in 1982. Her work includes tapes, installations, multimedia performances and collaborative audiovisual projects. She is one of the foremost video makers in Finland, creating beautifully crafted pieces which question our cultural and political notions.

Archive source: LUX

Telephone

Finland 1990 Dir Marikki Hakola

9 mins

Video

Telephone is a performance-based tape which engages with issues of communication, speech and meaning through the metaphor of the telephone. Telecommunication is the bearer of both instant contact as well as fear, alienation and automation. Through the performers, camerawork and electronic manipulation Telephone creates a world of speech without meaning, where signals fuse and dissipate.

Archive source: LUX

George Barber (1958 -)

1001 Colours Andy Never Thought Of

UK 1989 Dir George Barber

4 mins

Video

Experimental piece based on Andy Warhol's screen print of Marilyn Monroe. Archive source: LUX + BFI National Archive (DVD Reference copy only)

Shouting Match

UK 2004 Dir George Barber

12 mins

Video Col

A variety of participants. due to the power of their voices, determine the length of their presence on screen. In order for our culture to feel that something is worth watching or good + all the volume and parameters have to be turned 'full up'.

Similarly so to express yourself in daily life. Nothing is quiet.

Archive source: LUX

Ten Green Bottles

UK 2010 Dir George Barber

4 mins

Video Col

A group of people in Spitalfields market are all standing in huge bottles as if protesting. The bottles look like riot shields. Mysteriously as they sing along, they are 'taken out' by the artist armed with a long broom. When the participants fall, they look as if they are in coffins. The inevitability of destruction and end of the planet via consumerism is hinted at. The song is a traditional nursery rhyme.

Archive source: LUX

Mike Stubbs (1961-)

See also: The Sweatlodge in the Dance chapter.

Play Sax with Lol Coxill

UK 1986 Dir Mike Stubbs

13 mins

Archive source: Study Collection

Man Act

UK 1985 Dir Mike Stubbs

16 mins

Paul Harrison (1966 -) and John Wood (1969 -)

Study Collection Research materials include:

Paper Collection: Filmography, articles & reviews, programmes, cards & fliers, funding applications, brochures, text and notebooks.

Board

UK 1993 Dir Paul Harrison and John Wood

Featured in: In Profile

Archive source: Study Collection

Boat

UK 1994 Dir Paul Harrison and John Wood

2 mins

Featured in: FVU Instant; In Profile

Archive source: Study Collection

Headstand

UK 1995 Dir Paul Harrison and John Wood

Featured in: In Profile

Archive source: Study Collection

3-Legged

UK 1996 Dir Paul Harrison and John Wood

Featured in: In Profile

Archive source: Study Collection

Device

UK 1996 Paul Harrison and John Wood

3 mins

Featured in: Tate Britain: A Century of Artists' Film in Britain, Programme 3: Games and Devices

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection) Image Collection: video stills x 6

Device (Excerpt)

UK 1996 Dir Paul Harrison and John Wood

Featured in: In Profile

Archive source: Study Collection

12 Reasons to Stand Somewhere

UK 1998 Dir Paul Harrison and John Wood

1 mins

DVD

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Akiko Hada (1961-)

Art Moderna Cha Cha Cha

UK 1989 Dir Akiko Hada

6 mins

Video Col

A complete history of modern art in 5 minutes of Spanglish, including a lesson in forging Van Goghs from the late British forger, Tom Keating.

Archive source: LUX

James Bonk in Matt Blackfinger

UK 1988 Dir Akiko Hada

12 mins

Video Col

Agent 0016 (played by a wind-up pear) is murdered by being painted matt black. Our hero 0017 James Bonk (a plastic Godzilla) is assigned on the case... A hilarious parody of the famous spy thriller.

Archive source: LUX

Leap (No Leap)

Ger 1993 Dir Akiko Hada

21 mins

Video

"Difficulties of dealing with my sexuality and coming to terms with being a grown up woman. The confusion, fear and desperation are shown here as my inability to jump into the deep water of the unknown." – AH

Archive source: LUX

Michael Curran (1963 -)

Note: research materials for Michael Curran available in Study Collection.

Amami Se Vuoi

UK/Netherlands 1994 Dir Michael Curran

5 mins

Video Col

Curran enacts a sexual fantasy in this touching, yet slightly unsettling piece. The artist lies naked on a table, while a male friend/lover proceeds to repeatedly spit in his open mouth. An atmosphere of almost bacchic abandon is helped by the lyrical soundtrack.

Archive source: LUX

All My Little Ducks

UK/Netherlands 1995 Dir Michael Curran

7 mins

Video Col

In the heart of the Dutch countryside, the artist seems intent on drowning himself in a tub of water, regardless of the people who loudly heckle him from off-screen. Given the extreme physical challenges he puts himself through, Curran seems to be making a point about the artist's relationship with the outside world: choosing to engage with himself rather than society.

Archive source: LUX

L'heure Autosexuelle

UK/Netherlands 1994 Dir Michael Curran

5 mins

Video

A domestic interior. A naked man writhes frenziedly in front of the camera, caressing his own body with rubber gloves. A woman, seated behind him, stares impassively, seemingly uninterested in the spectacle before her. It seems that these two will never combine as one. The tape is truly intriguing, and sophisticated in its grasp of the dynamics of performance.

Archive source: LUX

Les Souffrance du dubbing

UK/Netherlands 1995 Dir Michael Curran

5 mins

Video

Against a background of cascading water, a transvestite sits, reflecting on travels to Spain. It soon becomes apparent that the voice heard is not that of the character on view. As the video unfolds, Curran progressively challenges both the identity of the character and the reality portrayed, as all is revealed as artifice. The feelings of uncertainty created give a clue to the mental and emotional state of the character.

Archive source: LUX

Love in a Cold Climate

UK 2002 Dir Michael Curran

60 mins

Video

Love in a Cold Climate is artist Michael Curran's first feature length video. Taking the form of a fractured journey the work explores notions of coldness, the act of storytelling and loneliness, all haunted by the spectre of Hans Christian Anderson's Snow Queen. Whilst seeking the actress Natayla Climova, who played the role of the Snow Queen in Grennadi Kazinski's 1966 Lenfilm production, the artist drifts through a series of episodic encounters which all strangely reflect upon his concerns.

Comprised of telephone recitations, fairy story, chance meetings and weather changes Love in a Cold Climate emerges as an essay in love and longing.

Archive source: LUX

Miscellaneous Performance Art works (Film and Video) - Chronological**Self Burial**

UK 1969 Dir Keith Arnatt

1 min

Featured in Tate Britain: A Century of Artists' Film in Britain, Programme 4: Land Art

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

Element

US 1973 Dir Amy Greenfield

11 mins

16mm B&W Silent

The woman is covered with sun-drenched, claylike mud in a field of this gleaming substance. "A partly engrossing work was *Element*, a film choreographed and performed by Amy Greenfield...The piece provoked surprised appreciation of the gleaming substance which covered face and hair and sank into every bodily crevice. Greenfield treated issues of weight, tension and texture with forceful originality." – Boston Globe
Archive source: LUX

YYAA

Poland 1973 Dir Wojciech Brzuszewski

5 mins

16mm + Video B&W

"The author of the film – seen on the screen – screams: yyyy... Four sources of light constituting lighting are switched by lottery, by an electronic device, within the bounds of chance from 0 to 8 seconds. In any moment of the film only one of the four lamps casts light on the author. Each of the four directions of lighting has its equivalent in a different modulation of the author's voice. The modulation changes synchronically with the change of lighting. The film technique provides the author with a five-minute long exhalation. A repeated change of the shot from a close-up to a semi close-up and vice versa is motiveless." – W.B.

Archive source: LUX

Marilyn Times Five (1974)

US 1974 Dir Bruce Conner

12 mins

16mm Col

Art film compiled from brief clips of early Marilyn Monroe films.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

No Laughing Matter

UK 1976 Dir Jeanette Iljon

15 mins

Video

A basic composition of brick wall and man seated facing the camera, laughing his head off. No temporal or narrative framing is ever given, it is just the person, the action, and the manipulation of the sound and image that describe the conditions of being in front of and behind the camera.

Archive source: LUX

The Reflecting Pool

US 1977 Dir Bill Viola 7 mins

DVD Col (Off-air Reference copy only from C4's *Ghosts in the Machine* transmitted 11/2/1986)

A man leaps into a pool but is suspended as time passes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Precinct Performance

UK 1977 Dir Simon Power

7 mins

Video B&W

Performance documentation.
Archive source: LUX

Sand Memories 2

Australia 1977-1978 Dir Arthur Wicks
50 mins
Video Col (2-screen)
Archive source: LUX

Grand Opera

US 1979 Dir James Benning
90 mins
16mm Col

One of the subjects of Grand Opera is James Benning's own ambiguous position within the American avant-garde film. The film is more ambitious and in some ways a more complex work than his 8.5 x 11, 11x14 and One Way Boogie Woogie, and has a rather different relation to narrativity than the three earlier films – bringing out strongly personal elements and suggesting the sense of a bridge from structural films to an actual re-emergence of narrative in avant-garde film. Like the other films, Grand Opera is rich in visual jokes that play on narrative conventions to subvert the viewer's expectations.

"Throughout Grand Opera, Benning explores the relationship between the factual and the personal, between history and point of view. Finally according to Benning, history must be seen as another form of narrative, played at several levels. Grand Opera includes passages in which George Landow, Hollis Frampton, Michael Snow and Yvonne Rainer allude to the final image of the film. Benning said he chose these four because of their influences on his work. Accordingly, there are many humorous allusions to their films... Each underlines the fact that the major contributions to the avant-garde film continue to be formed by personal points of view, despite the label 'structural film'." - David English.

Archive source: LUX

In Two Minds the Final Version

UK 1981 Dir Kevin Atherton
25 mins
Video Col

Recorded live at the Midland Group Gallery Nottingham in 1981 this work involves Atherton talking to a video recording of himself. The video within the video is three years old and was recorded on the event of Atherton's exhibition of the installation version of In Two Minds at the Serpentine Gallery, London in 1978. The twenty five minute conversation between the live and the recorded versions of the artist centre around issues concerning the nature of the art work, the role of the gallery, and the audience's importance in the work. The above issues are discussed in a humorous and insightful manner between the artist and his former self across the intervening gap of three years.

Archive source: LUX

What People Do

UK 1981 Dir Andrew Barr McKay
22 mins
16mm B&W

In content, the film is a commentary upon the human tendency to deliberately create cycles of behaviour, and of alienating consequences of habit. Rather than illustrating the theme through documentary social example, the film uses "gestural symbolism" and choreographed figures in movement. These are linked with a rhythmic and occasionally repetitive voice commentary and images creating an expression of the "essence of habit" and its effect upon a sensitised individual character who traces a path through the habituation of others. The habituation is created by compositions of neutral figures trapped within cyclic actions to which the central character, a woman, has a series of accumulative reactions which range through curiosity, detachment, cynicism, mimicry, infatuation, anger, disbelief and finally dementia. Archive source: LUX

Between the Lines

UK 1983 Dir Rose Garrard

25 mins

Video

"What I really want, for a few of the spectators at least, is that they will become aware of the frames which frame their way of thinking, their way of seeing." – R.G.

Archive source: LUX

The Descent of the Seductress

UK 1983 Dir Jean Matthee

11 mins

Featured in: Tate Britain: A Century of Artists' Film in Britain, Programme 3: The Undercut Generation

Jean Matthee's frame-by-frame edit of small lengths of material 'purloined' from 35mm feature films analyses the way the image of woman is represented in cinema. Here, Marilyn Monroe's face in close-up, subtly treated by re-filming in positive and negative, breaks through the surface of the image. The film exists in twin-screen and single-screen versions.

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

Image collection: Neon Queen, production stills and magazine clips, Descent of the Seductress production stills and B&W transparencies

Paper collection: Articles and reviews by the artist, programmes, texts.

On and off the Maps

UK 1984 Dir Steve Hawley

26 mins

Video Col (2-screen)

On and Off the Maps. Video installation based on the original performance. Kettle's Yard, Cambridge and the ICA. "A silent piece, it achieved an air of cool serenity, not unlike a bare chapel with its images of still life objects and plans, and the camera slowly panning. The whole piece has a pristine and elegant feel, and effuses in a light that evokes, purposefully, the still life paintings of 17th century Holland" - Mike O'Pray. Art Monthly.

Archive source: LUX

Video Sculptures

UK 1984 Dir Brian Eno

Feature in: The Luminous Image

Archive source: Study Collection

(Video Collection)

Electronic Diaries Parts 1 - 4

US 1985-1990 Dir Lynn Hershman-Leeson

94 mins

Video

The Electronic Diary derives from feminist performances in the 1970's. Both are concerned with documentation and articulation of identity. The Electronic Diary, however, is specifically designed to be electronically distributed to a mass audience. Each video is produced privately, using no camera person or technicians. The completed works are, paradoxically, widely distributed and internationally broadcast. Lynn Hershman-Leeson is an artist who uses many media (performance, text, interactive installation, film, photography and video). All of her works address issues of identity and particularly female identity as well as the conflicted and corrupted possibilities involving voyeurism, self-reflection and the seduction of media
Archive source: LUX

To Be Born Through our own Hands

UK 1987 Dir Jane Prophet

7 mins

Video Col

A performance-based tape in which the artist reuses elements of Tai-Chi and yoga exercises to enact, very simply and precisely, being reborn through her own hands.
Archive source: LUX

Mojevideo Mazochizmy

Poland 1988 Dir Jozeph Robakowski

10 mins

Video

Active in the Polish avant-garde since the 1960's, Robakowski was among the first artists to experiment with television and video in Poland. His work is characterised by a succinct experimental style which fuses performance, conceptual discourse and wry wit. Joseph Robakowski has worked in Poland over the last three decades in film, video and performance – tracing a progression from initial structural concerns to a more subjective approach. Much of his concerns involve performance, the body, self image and the apparatus - in Mojovideo Mazochizmy he explores his facial orifices with diverse kitchen utensils with surprising results.
Archive source: LUX

Volcano Saga

US 1989 Dir Joan Jonas

29 mins

Video

Based on a 13th century Icelandic story, Volcano Saga is a televisual retelling of myth featuring Tilda Swinton amidst sophisticated digital effects in a hauntingly beautiful dreamscape of imagination and desire.
Archive source: LUX

Desire Drives Her Car

Canada 1990 Dir Kathleen Maitland-Carter

8 mins

16mm Col

Shot on Yonge Street, Toronto, the cruising centre of Canada; edited in London. A North American foray into car culture and its (non)relationship to female sexuality.

Archive source: LUX

Extract

UK 1993 Dir Jo Pearson

4 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W (Off-air recording from Midnight Underground 1/8/1997)

Experimental short which makes implicit parallels between studied black and white images of South Yorkshire, Blackpool, and Cleethorpes, and a personalised voiceover in which a woman reads a letter/diary extract addressed towards an estranged lover.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

By the Dawn's Early Light

Denmark 1993 Dir Knud Vesterskov

80 mins

Video

An intriguing, powerful work, portraying a journey through the dark, ugly underbelly of a rough and disturbed America. Resembling a Situationist *dérive*, images from the streets of New York and the Las Vegas strip mingle with prison-like structures. Laid over the collage is the voice of artist and gay activist David Wojnarawicz, relating stories of personal anguish and acts of violence.

"David Wojnarowicz has caught the age-old voice of the road, the voice of the traveller, the outcast, the thief, the whore, the same voice that was heard in Villon's Paris and the Rome of Petronius." - William S. Burroughs.

Archive source: LUX

Hermaphrodite Bikini

UK 1995 Dir Clio Barnard

5 mins

Video

A story about a bra is recounted in a kitchen while angels with butterfly wings swing in a garden.

"This bra is the first really successful one I ever owned.... I wore it every day for a year which is totally obscene. It sort of melted and welded itself to my skin. It felt like an extra bodily part, another organ." - C.B.

Archive source: LUX + Study Collection (Video Collection) Image Collection:

Production still, Installation still, Video still, Colour publicity stills x 2

Nine Years Later

US 1996 Dir Robert Beck

23 mins

DVD

Robert Beck recontextualises videotaped performances he created in the late 1980s to music by The Smiths. By turns gruesome and ironic, these three home-made 'music videos' - Panic, Big Mouth Strikes Again and Girlfriend In A Coma - are brought to their ultimate and canny conclusion only with Beck's long delayed return to them. Revisiting his highly self-conscious and idiosyncratic performances Beck betrays the apparent ease and economy of the original clips by deftly editing them against the awkwardness and obsessiveness of their numerous out-takes. With intertitles and

voice-over, Beck calibrates his performances retrospectively with the video technology that recorded them, and inadvertently traverses a decade of video history – from the mainstream-media inspired work of the 1980's to the more reflexive performance-based practices of the 1990s.
Archive source: LUX

Switch

UK 1997 Dir Ciara Finnegan

9 mins

Video

An exercise performed with a hat.

Archive source: LUX

Amaeru Fallout

UK 1997 Dir Sarah Miles

10 mins

Video

Two Japanese girls appear in the West country in a radio transmitter field above Eggardon Fort; they go to school in Lyme Regis; they live in the countryside; they sleep in the same bed; they explore the town; they separate. Amaeru.. is a dreamlike narrative of transience and separation, an ode to homesickness through place and time. Includes PJ Harvey performing a specially composed version of the Three Degrees' 'When will I see you again.'

Archive source: LUX

Sick - The Life & Death Of Bob Flanagan, Supermasochist

US 1997 Dir Kirby Dick

90 mins

DVD + 35mm Col

Documentary about the late performance artist and writer Bob Flanagan, who used aspects of his life as a cystic fibrosis sufferer and his taste for sado-masochistic sex in his art.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Expanding Pictures

BBC TV, Arts Council of England, 1997

Innovative films for television by live/performance artists and film/video artists.

Series commissioned by BBC Television and Arts Council of England. Film makers retained non-theatrical rights.

2 Into 1 – Gillian Wearing and KD Digital

Kylie Minogue mimes castrati

Misfit – Sam Taylor Wood and KD Digital

Mother mimes daughter (see section on Sam Taylor Wood for more information)

LSD TV

UK 1997 Dir Anne Parouty, 9 mins

One of a series of experimental films featuring performance artists: Ronald Fraser-Munro and his creations in 1969. + Study Collection (Video Collection)

Spitting Mad – Bobby Baker and Margaret Williams

Cooking with Bobby Baker

The Link

UK 1997 Dir Judi Alston and Steve Richards, 9 mins

One of a series of experimental films featuring performance artists: Glyn Davies Marshall in a work celebrating the life of his miner father.

How Do You Know It's Warren Beatty's Coat – see above title in full

Angel – Mark Wallinger and KD Digital.

St John's Gospel spoken backwards down escalator and then digitally reversed.

You Don't Say

UK 1997 Dir Deborah May, 9 mins

One of a series of experimental films featuring performance artists: John Carson and Donna Rutherford. A man and a woman describe their differing versions of the same event.

Archive Source: All on DVD from the Arts Council of England.

Take Me Home

UK 1998 Dir Matt Hulse

16mm + Video Col

6 mins

"Using coarse grained black and white stock and time-lapse techniques, Hulse pays homage to the aesthetic of the silent era and archive film. Only gradually do you realise that the film has been subtly digitally manipulated. As surreal and Dadaesque objects come alive, a naked man rushes through ruined architecture, dances in lonely landscapes and interacts with the film surface itself. Hulse stands at the pinnacle of a school of film-makers currently working with the aesthetics of seemingly ancient black and white movies." Sebastian Preuss

Archive source: LUX

Night Walks

UK 1998 Dir Forced Entertainment (Hugo Glendinning and Tim Etchells)

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

Filthy Words and Phrases

UK 1999 Dir Forced Entertainment (Hugo Glendinning and Tim Etchells)

420 mins

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

International Exhibitionist (aka **Au Tour De La Sante** (1999) or **Blue Danube** (C2002))

Various 2002 Dir Various

70 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

On the Scent

UK 2003 Dir Leslie Hill and Helen Paris

11 mins

Featured in: Talking Back to Science

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

Leisure Centre

UK 2006 Dir Desperate Optimists

18 mins

Vision On: Film London Artists' Moving Image Network

Archive source: Study Collection

In Profile: Paul Harrison and John Wood

Archive source: Study Collection

Also see The Artist's Body - Video

Structural Film & Expanded Cinema



A13 (1994)

In the context of the developments around performance in conceptual art in the 1960s, there were developments specific to film-making where artists were exploring the medium of film directly. Certain artists crossed over from live or sculptural practice to film-making, such as Anthony McCall and David Hall, both sculptors. Hall has gone on to investigate television as a sculptural medium, and McCall's works in film projection, his 'solid light sculptures' now exist as gallery pieces. A number of aspects of performance relating to the medium of film can be seen in the work of film-makers William Raban and others working in the 1970s at the London Film-makers' Co-op. These aspects derive from the development of structural film-making and Expanded Cinema, and a concern with investigating the properties of film as a technological and an image-making medium and with the projection space and its effects upon the audience.

Early Video Art

TV Interruptions (7 TV Pieces)

UK 1971 Dir David Hall

23 mins

Video

"Conceived and made specifically for broadcast, these were transmitted by Scottish TV during the Edinburgh Festival. The idea of inserting them as interruptions to regular programmes was crucial and a major influence on their content. That they appeared unannounced, with no titles, was essential.. These transmissions were a surprise, a mystery. No explanations, no excuses. Reactions were various. I viewed one piece in an old gents' club. The TV was permanently on but the occupants were oblivious to it, reading newspapers or dozing. When the TV began to fill with water newspapers dropped, the dozing stopped. When the piece finished normal activity was resumed. When announcing to shop assistants and engineers in a local TV shop that another was about to appear they welcomed me in. When it finished I was obliged to leave by the back door. I took these as positive reactions..." – D.H.

1) Interruption piece 2.20 mins

- 2) Window piece 2.25 mins
 - 3) Tap piece 3.31 mins
 - 4) Time Lapse piece 3.28 mins
 - 5) Pans piece 2.34 mins
 - 6) Street piece 2.44 mins
 - 7) Two Figures piece 3.12 mins
- Archive source: LUX

Monitor 1

UK 1975 Dir Steve Partridge
6 mins
Video

"Monitor is another important early work by Partridge which demonstrates his interest in structuralism... In Monitor Partridge is looking to find those structures which characterise the language of video. In order to do this, he has to make video turn in on itself: he has to make the medium of video self-reflexive. His most obvious way of doing this in Monitor (apart from its title!) is to turn the camera onto the monitor itself, so that the subject of the video becomes itself." – John Calcutt
Archive source: LUX

Expanded 1: projection

Anthony McCall (1946 –)

Study Collection materials

Study Collection (Image Collection): Illustrations for Long Film for Ambient Light 1975, Line Describing a Cone 1974; projection views for Long Film for Ambient Light, Line Describing a Cone; installation view for Beam Installation.

Study Collection (Paper Collection): Filmography; Articles & reviews about and by the artist, including publication for Argument 1979, 'Notes on Duration' 1976, 1977, '16 Working Statements' c. 1976, Circulation Figures (performance), Landscape for Fire, Maud's Heath Monument (performance) (images) 1972; Cards/Fliers including Landscape for Fire August 1972, photo, and 'Line Describing a Cone' 3 drawings 1973; transcript of taped responses to work and artist's book 1974.

Conical Solid

UK 1973 Dir Anthony McCall
10 mins
16mm B&W Silent

Extracts from 'Notes on Duration':

"A static thing, in terms of impulses to the brain, is a repetitive event. Whether the locus for consideration is 'static' or 'moving', we deal with time-spans of attention, the engagement of cognition and memory within the context of art-behaviour. Neither objects nor events are for the most part accessible. They are rarely 'on show'. Since they are intentional, meaningful signs, this is of no consequence: once an idea is established 'in mind', it has entered the circuit of (art) ideas, and it won't go away, except through debate within that circuit." - A.M. Catalogue to Festival of Expanded Cinema, 1976.

Archive source: LUX

Line Describing a Cone

UK 1973 Dir Anthony McCall

30 mins

16mm B&W Silent

"In Line Describing a Cone, the conventional primacy of the screen is completely abandoned in favour of the primacy of the projection event. According to McCall, a screen is not even mandatory. He succinctly describes the film: 'The viewer watches the film, by standing with his, or her, back towards what would normally be the screen, and looking along the beam towards the projector itself. The film begins as a coherent line of light, like a laser beam, and develops through the 30 minute duration into a complete, hollow cone of light. The audience is expected to move up and down, in and out of the beam - this cannot be fully experienced by a stationary spectator. The shift of image as a function of shift of perspective is the operative principle of the film. External content is eliminated, and the entire film consists of the controlled line of light emanating from the projector; the act of appreciating the film -i.e., 'the process of its realisation'-is the content.'" - Deke Dusinberre, Studio International, Nov/Dec 1975

Archive source: LUX

Argument

US 1978 Dir Anthony McCall and Andrew Tyndall

84 mins

HD Video

"The twin principles of modernism and marketing: seeing fresh promise in familiar things"

Three male voices dissect one edition of The New York Times through a series of locked-off shots, revealing the prejudice and latent content of news and advertisements, reading images as texts and presenting text as an image. Fashion photographs are used as a starting point for a political investigation of news, advertising, and images of masculinity - while at the same time, the filmmakers reflect on their own position and the possibility of radical film practice. Influenced by both the American and European avant-gardes, notably Godard and Hollis Frampton, Argument is stylistically beautiful and relentless in its enquiry. "Anthony McCall and Andrew Tyndall's legendary and provocative essay film Argument, was first screened at the Edinburgh International Film Festival in 1978.

Archive source: LUX

William Raban (1948 -)

Broadwalk

UK 1972 Dir William Raban

4 mins

16mm Col Silent

"Originally, this was a four-minute time-lapse film which was shot continuously over a twenty-four hour period. The camera was positioned on a busy pathway in Regent's Park, and recorded three frames a minute. The shutter was held open for the twenty-second duration between exposures, so that on projection, individual frames merge together making the pattered flows of human movement clearly perceptible. The

time-lapse original was then expanded by various processes of refilming to reveal the frame-by-frame structure of the original.” – W.R.
Part of ‘Shoot Shoot Shoot’

2'45"

UK 1973 Dir William Raban

3 mins

16mm B&W

“Documentation of a live performance. An important aspect of 2'45" is that it records the history of its making. It is a 'time-lapse' film in the sense that within its 2 minutes 45 seconds duration, it reveals all its past presentations as a film of a film of a film etc. Once the film has been projected, it is discarded since it exists in the form of a latent image on the film in the camera and will be developed prior to its projection for the next audience viewing and refilming.” – WR

Archive source: LUX

Diagonal

UK 1973 Dir William Raban

16mm three-screen Col

6 mins

"Diagonal is a film for three projectors, though the diagonally arranged projector beams need not be contained within a single flat screen area. This film works well in a conventional film theatre when the top left screen spills over the ceiling and the bottom right projects down over the audience. It is the same image on all three projectors, a double-exposed flickering rectangle of the projector gate sliding diagonally into and out of frame. Focus is on the projector shutter, hence the flicker. This film is 'about' the projector gate, the plane where the film frame is caught by the projected light beam." (William Raban, Perspectives on British Avant-Garde Film catalogue, 1977)

Part of ‘Shoot Shoot Shoot’

Archive source: LUX

Filmaktion

UK 1973 Dir William Raban

5 mins

Video

Timelapse documentation of Filmaktion at The Walker Art Gallery June 1973

Archive source: LUX

Take Measure

UK 1973 Dir William Raban

Silent 16mm Col

"Take Measure is usually the shortest of my films, measuring in feet that intangible space separating screen from projector box (which is counted on the screen by the image of a film synchronizer). Instead of being fed into the projector from a reel, the film is strung between projector and screen. When the film starts, the film snakes backwards through the audience as it is consumed by the projector." - William Raban, Perspectives on British Avant-Garde Film catalogue, 1977

Archive source: LUX

N. B. Study Collection Research materials are available for William Raban

Gill Eatherley (1950–)

Hand Grenade

UK 1971 Dir Gill Eatherley

8 mins

16mm three-screen Col

"Malcolm Le Grice helped me with Hand Grenade. First of all I did these stills, the chairs traced with light. And then I wanted it to all move, to be in motion, so we started to use 16mm. We shot only a hundred feet on black and white. It took ages, actually, because it's frame by frame." - Gill Eatherley, interview with Mark Webber, 2001

Archive source: LUX

Tracking Cycles

UK 1975 Dir Ron Haselden

12 mins

16mm Col Silent

"Many of Ron Haselden's concerns arise from a previous involvement with sculpture but this film relates also to more recent film structures or 'expanded cinema' pieces: that is, film involved with its performance space. Tracking Cycles is a 'normal' single screen work but reflects its makers interest in the perception of space. Haselden is very interested in the relation between the still photograph and the cine film and Tracking Cycles exemplified this with its structure centred on the still frame. A complex relationship is created between still and swiftly moving image, between space and the image that represents it." - Simon Field.

"Haselden sees his activity as a drawing process, drawing with the camera, with the film and on the film, in time and space. His use of very down-to-earth source material which is easy to relate to, coupled with a rigorous and professional attitude to his working process, gives his work strength and creates a wide range of subtle imagery which reveals the structuring of the activity without reverting to the dry tautology of so much 'Structural Film'." – Peter Dunn, Studio International 1977.

Archive source: LUX

Guy Sherwin (1948 -)

Guy Sherwin studied painting at Chelsea School of Art in the late 1960s. His subsequent film works often use serial forms and live elements, and engage with light and time as fundamental to cinema. Recent works include performances that use multiple projectors and optical sound, and installations made for an exhibition space.

NB. for information on other filmworks by Guy Sherwin, including performances with film, multi-screen projection, and gallery installations please see website:

www.luxonline.org.uk Titles include: Painted Screen, Newsprint, Newsprint 2, Cycles 3, Interval, Self Portrait, Paper Landscape, Man with Mirror, Riding Ring, Cross Section, Jug, Connemara, Salt Water, Views From Home, Under The Freeway, Prelude, Animal Studies, Three Trees, Tree Reflection, The Train Films.

Vowels and Consonants. Soundtrack Documentation

UK 2005 Dir Lyn Loo, Guy Sherwin, Sarah Washington and Knut Anserman

Archive source: Study Collection

Rob Gawthrop (1953 -)

Musical

UK 1979 Dir Rob Gawthrop

15 mins

16mm Col

“An improvised musical construction. Three performers (only two are ever seen) play an array of metal and wooden percussion suspended from trees, wearing fur coats and gloves. They play three times for each 100ft take, superimposed onto itself complete with live fades of image and sound.” – R.G.

Archive source: LUX

Projections For... Shawm, Tape-Treatment and Improvisation

UK 1986 Dir Rob Gawthrop

15-20 mins

16mm Col + B&W + Separate sound (CD)

“Two 16mm projectors two 1/4’ (3 headed) tape decks, two mikes and stands, stereo amp and speakers, necessary leads, one hour set up. A projection/music performance that uses shadow and flicker to create the illusion of movement and prepared tape loops to fracture and 'sample' the live sound. The live and recorded are set into flux. Loud and physical.” – R.G.

Archive source: LUX

Projections for... Improvisation, percussion, whistles, shawms, toys and other stuff (version 1)

UK 1989 Dir Rob Gawthrop

14 mins

16mm B&W Twin screen + Twin speaker

“Four sequences in four sections of a variety of sound/noise/music instruments being played in the light beam of a projector, including their own shadows and the previous section of the same sequence being projected (B&W alternating positive and negative). This material having then been edited into shots of between one and six seconds in length, randomly, but without repetition, reconstructed, printed and cut onto two reels. The (twin screen/speaker) projection is effectively a cinematic improvised music concert.” – R.G.

Archive source: LUX

Projections for... Improvisation, percussion, whistles, shawms, toys and other stuff (version 2)

UK 1990 Dir Rob Gawthrop

3 mins

16mm B&W

“Using the same material as Version 1 but cut together very quickly and sequentially to reveal the structure of its making. (Can also be used as a trailer for Version 1.)” – R.G.

Archive source: LUX

Expanded 2: 'flicker films', projection space, and optical movement

Tony Conrad (1940–)

The Flicker

US 1966 Dir Tony Conrad

30 mins

16mm B&W [sound on tape*]

"The ultimate to date in the nonobjective film is Tony Conrad's The Flicker. It has only black and white frames... and the resulting strobe effect can cause the illusion of colour, of a spreading of light, and of lacy patterns. Seeing The Flicker will cause one person in every fifteen thousand to have an epileptic seizure." – Sheldon Reynon, An Introduction to the American Underground Film.

"Right from the top a warning appears on the screen. The spectator is advised that he views what is coming at his own risk. that certain 'hypnotic' and 'psychotic' symptoms may appear...the shocker from producer Tony Conrad is called The Flicker. And then it flickers endlessly. Now black, now white..." – Der Kurier, Vienna.

Archive source: LUX

Straight and Narrow

US 1970 Dir Beverly & Tony Conrad

10 mins

16mm B&W (with subjective colour)

"A stroboscopic film of unusual intensity, by the maker of the classic strobe film The Flicker." – Whitney Museum of America Art Announcement. Straight and Narrow is a study of subjective colour and visual rhythm, although it is printed on black and white film, the hypnotic pacing of the images will cause most viewers to experience a programmed gamut of hallucinatory colour effects. Through the intermediary of rhythm, the maximal impact is drawn from the simplest of universal human images: straight horizontal and vertical lines. "Set to a strong percussive musical background, rapidly alternating images of black and white straight lines are juxtaposed in precise rhythmic patterns to create specific colours... if you can watch without becoming hypnotised..." - NY Daily News.

Archive source: LUX

Paul Sharits (1943 –)

Piece Mandala/End War

US 1966 Dir Paul Sharits

5 mins

16mm Col

"Reminds me very much of the back light ('Go Ko') which illuminates the spirit of Buddha yet no images of Buddha appear, rather several naked bodies. I have never imagined that Go Ko could really occur and illuminate as it does in this film." –

Takahiko Iimura.

Archive source: LUX

Word Movie

US 1966 Dir Paul Sharits

4 mins
16mm Col
Archive source: LUX

T,O,U,C,H,I,N,G

US 1968 Dir Paul Sharits

12 mins
16mm Col

"Starring poet David Frank whose voice appears on the soundtrack – an uncutting and unscratching mandala." – P.S.

"Merges violence with purity." – P. Adams Sitney.

'Surrealist tour de force' - Parker Tyler.

Archive source: LUX

Colour Sound Frame

US 1974 Dir Paul Sharits

26 mins
16mm Col

In his flicker works from 1965-68 Sharits concerned himself with the individual film frame, the framing structure and the screen plane. *S:tream:s:s:ectioned* *S:TREAM:S:S:ECTION:S:ECTIONED* (1970), *Soundstrip/Filmstrip* (1972) and other works from 1968 through 1972 concentrated on the film strip and the notion of film as a line in time. In 1973 Sharits began bringing the two aspects together - the separate and discontinuous aspect of the frame (accentuated in flicker) and the strip of film. *Colour Sound Frame*, like a number of his other works, was generated from the first section of *Analytical Studies III*, called *Specimen*, employing a three cycle colour range interwoven into a flicker work. In *Colour Sound Frame* flicker is not the issue, but rather the relationship between the strip and the frame. The images are re-filmed strips with sprocket holes and frame lines visible. The field of direction and force may be upward or downward. For one segment a strip was reshot backwards (from end or tail to beginning or head of strip), and two sections have superimposed images of one strip on top of another. As it was being shot the film was travelling at varying speeds. The synchronous sound of the sprocket holes is heard passing over the sound head. *Colour Sound Frame* is a film about a film and the kind of illusions which can result as the film's concrete properties create abstractions. Actual direction of movement becomes confused due to changes in speed. At high speed the frame line is no longer visible. In the superimposed sections colours blur together and form others and at certain speeds colours and sprocket holes seem to undulate. Archive source: LUX

Tails

US 1976 Dir Paul Sharits

18 fps, 4 mins
16mm Col Silent

A series of tail ends of varied strips of film, with sometimes recognizable images dissolving into light flares, appear to run through and off the projector.

Archive source: LUX

Rapture

US 1987 Dir Paul Sharits

17 mins
Video

“Rapture is a fierce vision of a Dionysian experience, a tightly controlled visual statement about the abandonment of self to heightened transportive states. It is also an exploration of the similarity between 'religious' and 'visionary' ecstasy and psychotic states.” – P.S.
Archive source: LUX

Speak

UK 1968-69 Dir John Latham

11 mins

16mm Col

“John Latham’s second attack on the cinema. Not since Len Lye's films in the thirties has England produced such a brilliant example of animated abstraction. Speak burns its way directly into the brain. It is one of the few films about which it can truly be said, ‘it will live in your mind’.” – Ray Durnat.

Archive source: LUX

Lis Rhodes (1948 –)

Dresden Dynamo

UK 1974 Dir Lis Rhodes

5 mins

16mm Col

“This film is the result of experiments with the application of Letraset and Letratone onto clear film. It is essentially about how graphic images create their own sound by extending into that area of film which is 'read' by optical sound equipment. The final print has been achieved through three, separate, consecutive printings from the original material, on a contact printer. Colour was added, with filters, on the final run. The film is not a sequential piece. It does not develop crescendos. It creates the illusion of spatial depth from essentially, flat, graphic, raw material.” – Tim Bruce

Archive source: LUX

Also available: Study Collection materials on Lis Rhodes

Cycles 1 (aka Dot Cycle)

UK 1972-77 Dir Guy Sherwin

5 mins

16mm B&W

“Cycles 1 is a flicker film that investigates rhythms of light and sound near the persistence-of-vision and sound thresholds. Made by punching holes into plain leader and using a similarly hand-made soundtrack, the film was subsequently hand-printed through rhythms of fluctuating light.” – G.S.

Expanded 3: multi-screen projection

Gas Station

US 1969 Dir Robert Morris

34 mins

16mm double-screen Col Silent

A Southern Californian gas station is observed over time from fixed and moving perspectives, exploring the distinction between the human experience of space and the 'objective' perspective of the camera.

Archive source: LUX

Wind Vane

UK 1972 Dir Chris Welsby

8 mins

16mm double-screen Col

"The spatial exigencies of twin-screen projection become of primary importance in this film because the adjacency of the screen images is related to the adjacency of the filming technique: two cameras were placed about 50ft apart on tripods which included wind vane attachments, so that the wind direction and speed determined the direction and speed of the pans of the two freely panning cameras. The landscape images are more or less coincident, and the attempt by the spectator to visually conjoin the two spaces (already conjoined on the screen) sets up the primary tension of the film." – Deke Dusinberre

Archive source: LUX + BFI National Archive

Additional research materials are available on Chris Welsby in the Study Collection

Railings

UK 1977 Dir Guy Sherwin

10 mins

16mm B&W

NB. for vertical format projection - with the projector (e.g. Elf) lying on its left-hand side. One of a series of films that investigates qualities of sound that can be generated directly from the image track. The images that you see are simultaneously scanned by the optical sound reader in the projector, which converts them into sound.

"This particular film makes use of the aural effect of visual perspective; the steeper the perspective on the railings, the closer the intervals of black and white, and the higher the frequency of sound. I also wanted to find out what freeze frames and visual strobe would 'sound' like. Visual strobe is created both in the camera - (camera shutter v. railings) and in the printer (printer shutter v. slipping frames)." – G.S.

Archive source: LUX + BFI National Archive

Descent of the Seductress

UK 1983 Dir Jean Matthee

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection); Image collection; Paper collection

Cyclops Cycle

UK 1999-2003 Dir Malcolm Le Grice

60 mins

Video (3 screen) Col + B&W

Three screen presentation of three works – Joseph's Newer Coat, Even the Cyclops Pays the Ferryman, and Still Life and Letter from Toronto – The Cyclops Cycle is technically hybrid. In its present form it is designed for video projection at large scale on three adjacent screens. The presentation medium is mini DVC tape though this could be transferred to DVD for installation presentation in a gallery context. The work is not interactive though the three screen format expects the viewer to make continuous choices for attention and each presentation has minor differences due to screen configuration and small shifts in synchronisation between the source tapes.

Audio exists on all three tapes but is only played as a stereo output from one. The source material for the work is either a video 'diary' or is generated initially by computer and modified by both analogue and digital means. The 'diary' images have been shot over more than ten years and are sourced on the first generation Video8, later High8 and most recently on mini DV.

Archive source: LUX

Where a Straight Line Meets a Curve

UK 2004 Dir Brad Butler and Karen Mirza

30 mins

16mm double-screen Col

Separate CD Music by David Cunnningham.

Where a straight line meets a curve is a durational sculpture, of real and imagined activity shot entirely in one room. It is a film concerned with the objective reduction of space, a film 'about' the recording and representation of space and the politics of the viewing space of film itself. Projected onto two adjacent screens, the visual material is constructed so that light and colour form relationships between and across screens continuously, redefining the viewer's perception of the space presented through the images. Time is measured out in ways analogous to the coming and going of the everyday, exposing the passing of time to a (continuous) present. The work questions the usual strategies of the viewer, mediating between the mental image, the dimension of physical space, and the illusionistic space of cinema. The sound is constructed from the speech of the filmmakers within the space broken down by a process of re-amplification and re-recording to a point where the resonant frequencies of the space have an equal value to any spoken content. A structure of loops and phase patterns internally resonating both within the filmic space and in parallel with the textual content of the intertitles. Through the framing and re-framing of images and the constructed relationship of sound, text and image, the film creates perspectival shifts and unexpected confrontations that confound our usual way of distinguishing between the actual and the representational. "The often unacknowledged aspiration of the American avant-garde film has been the cinematic reproduction of the human mind. Structural film approaches the condition of meditation and evokes states of consciousness without mediation, that is with the sole mediation of the camera" - P. Adams Sitney.

Structural experimentation

Malcolm Le Grice (1940–)

Whitchurch Down (Duration)

UK 1971 Dir Malcolm Le Grice

8 mins

DVD + 16mm

Experimental film exploring the relationship between the illusory, subjective time and space of a photographic image with the real, objective time of a film projection.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

Finnegans Chin (Temporal Economy)

UK 1981 Dir Malcolm Le Grice

87 mins

Digibeta

Experimental film. Various actions performed by Finnegan at the beginning of each day are seen in a variation of order.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Normal Vision Malcolm Le Grice

UK 1982 Dir Margaret Williams

26 mins

DVD

The work of British experimental film-maker, Malcolm LeGrice (b.1940).

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Steve Farrer (1951-)

Silk Screen Films

UK 1974-75 Dir Steve Farrer

Col

15 mins

16mm

These films were made by silk-screening images onto clear celluloid film, includes Big Mouth (1975, 10 mins 16mm) this was taken from close-up of a man reading from a silk screen manual: "Silk screen reaches the silver screen in a thrilling re-make of a yesterday classic".

Archive source: LUX

Mirror Films

UK 1975 Dir Steve Farrer

16 mins

16 + Super-8, sound mag stripe Col + B&W

Includes: Hampstead Heath (Super-8, 3 min.), College Forecourt (B&W, 16 mm silent 3 mins) and Brighton Beach Mirrored (16 mm Col 10 mins 16mm) These films were made by filming simultaneously with two cameras, a revolving mirror (double sided), the action of the mirror governed by the wind.

Archive source: LUX

Ten Drawings

UK 1976 Dir Steve Farrer

20 mins

16mm B&W

This is a collection of ten short films.

For each film, 50 18" strips of clear film were laid side by side to make a rectangle 18' x 36'. A geometric shape was drawn on each rectangle, and the strips of celluloid were joined to make a film. The sound is created by the image carried over into the optical sound track. Reproductions of the drawings are available on request.

Archive source: LUX

Guy Sherwin (1948 -)

Short Film Series

UK 1975-2004 Dir Guy Sherwin

3 mins x 30

16mm + B&W

"It is literally impossible to offer a definitive description of Guy Sherwin's Short Film Series, since the film has no beginning, middle or end. It is instead composed of a series of three minute (100ft.) sections which can be projected in any order. The hirer of the series may select which sections he/she wants to book and in which order they are to be seen, the only stipulation being that a minimum of four sections be screened together. There are upwards of twenty-five sections, all silent and in black-and-white. The majority were made in the years 1976 to 1979, although the series is theoretically open-ended and ongoing. "If the film itself is impossible to describe, some of its recurring ideas and cinematic interests can at least be traced. This can perhaps best be done by considering a reel of six sections currently available as a unit for those interested in booking the film for the first time. Although the individual sections themselves are simple, the issues they raise are varied and complex. Some of the ideas woven through this reel include film as a record of life, and autobiographical document, the image surface as a controlled pattern of light and rhythm, the camera apparatus as a 'clock' which actually 'marks time'." - Deke Dusinberre. BFI Monthly Film Bulletin Oct 1983

Archive source: LUX

Musical Stairs

UK 1977 Dir Guy Sherwin

10 mins

16mm B&W

"One of a series of films that uses soundtracks generated directly from their own imagery. I shot the images of a staircase specifically for the range of sounds they would produce. I used a fixed lens to film from a fixed position at the bottom of the stairs. Tilting the camera up increases the number of steps that are included in the frame. The more steps that are included the higher the pitch of sound. A simple procedure gave rise to a musical scale (in eleven steps which is based on the laws of visual perspective.) A range of volume is introduced by varying the exposure. The darker the image the louder the sound (it can be the other way round, but Musical Stairs uses a soundtrack made from the negative of the image.) The fact that the staircase is neither a synthetic image, nor a particularly clean one (there happened to be leaves on the stairs when I shot the film) means that the sound is not pure, but dense with strange harmonics." – G.S.

Filter Beds

UK 1998 Dir Guy Sherwin

9 mins

16mm B&W

"In Filter Beds, tiny changes in focus allow Guy Sherwin to explore a tangle of trees, reeds and sky. Sherwin's manipulation of the camera lens allows him to mimic the activity of looking, isolating small details and guiding the viewer's gaze. But the recorded image always hovers at the edge of abstraction." – David Curtis.

John Smith (1952 –)

See also: the Politics to Poetry chapter and additional research materials on John Smith can be found in the Study Collection

The Girl Chewing Gum

UK 1976 Dir John Smith

12 mins

16mm + Video B&W

“In *The Girl Chewing Gum* an authoritative voice-over pre-empts the events occurring in the image, seeming to order not only the people, cars and moving objects within the screen but also the actual camera movements operated on the street in view. In relinquishing the more subtle use of voice-over in television documentary, the film draws attention to the control and directional function of that practice: imposing, judging, creating an imaginary scene from a visual trace. This 'Big Brother' is not only looking at you but ordering you about as the viewer's identification shifts from the people in the street to the camera eye overlooking the scene. The resultant voyeurism takes on an uncanny aspect as the blandness of the scene (shot in black and white on a grey day in Hackney) contrasts with the near 'magical' control identified with the voice. The most surprising effect is the ease with which representation and description turn into phantasm through the determining power of language.” – Michael Maziere, *John Smith's Films: Reading the Visible* Undercut 10/11.

“John Smith's improbable treatise on representation has deservedly become a Co-op classic.” – Ian Christie, *Time Out*.

Archive source: LUX

The Kiss

UK 1999 Dir John Smith and Ian Bourn

5 mins

Video

“A particularly beautiful lily seems to grow before our eyes, gradually changing shape; what sounds like breathing on the sound track gives it an almost human presence. Suddenly the sound and movement stop as a glass plate, invisible until now, cracks – and it seems we've been watching, in Smith's words, “the forced development of a hothouse flower.”

“The effect is not only iconoclastic in the word's original sense – image breaking – but causes the viewer to question the degree of artifice in all “nature” today. The glass shattering converts what had appeared to be a transparent window into a barrier, reminding us of the camera lens, projection apparatus, and video screen. And because the flower and its transformation were so engaging, the shattering shatters our involvement and evokes the way in which every image we see is filtered through an individual's consciousness, a consciousness foregrounded by the video's end.”

Fred Camper, from 'Pushed to the Limit - Films and Videos by John Smith', 'Chicago Reader' magazine, 2001. Awards: 3rd Prize, 'L'Immagine Leggera' Palermo International Video Art, Film & Media Festival, Sicily, 2000.

Archive source: LUX

Art Now

The influential work of photographer Cindy Sherman from the 1970s to 1990s prefigures the concern with representation and masking, and with the re-playing of conventional or adopted roles, that is evident in the work of younger artists from the YBAs onwards. In the 1990s, YBA artists including Gillian Wearing, Sam Taylor Wood and Mark Wallinger performed or asked others to perform identities that were not their own, while Steve McQueen conveyed an identity of his own through roles existing in cultural memory. In the 2000s, younger artists have been more concerned with a larger theatrical canvas, and with a broad range of situations to represent and on which to comment, in the face of global crisis and interconnectivity, exploring a range of roles and offering diverse positions to audiences faced with these cultural histories and realities.

Nobody's Here But Me. Cindy Sherman (Arena)

UK 1994 Dir Mark Stokes

56 min

DVD Col (Reference only)

The work of American artist Cindy Sherman (b.1954), including her Untitled Film Stills of the late 1970s.

Her staged self-portraits draw on popular culture and art history to explore female identity and its mainstream representations. Cindy-Sherman-eye-view of her empty studio. Sherman's VO musing on its emptiness and what might happen. Central Park, New York. Some of Sherman's photographs. Sherman in taxi. Sherman in her studio. Polaroid photographs. Commentary describes her work as revealing "an unsettling landscape of solitary women". Full size photographs in galleries, including Untitled #228 (1990). Sherman saying that photography is much quicker than painting, and that a photograph "can make people believe anything". Portrait photographs of herself. She finds it more interesting "to tell lies", to photograph "what's in somebody's imagination". Photographs from the Disasters series (1988). Sound over is that of police at crime scene. Sherman walking in dark city streets. VO talking about her reactions to New York when she first arrived there. Sherman talks about needing a "street persona", and how she's changed her appearance from time to time. Untitled #93 (1990). ... Photographs and contact sheets from the late 1970s and early 1980s; includes Untitled Film Still #53 (1980). Her VO describes how the idea for filming herself with changing expressions came about. Sherman's VO describing her preference for dressing up as more grotesque characters, not as "some pretty role model". Trying on different garments in front of a mirror. Photographs of Sherman and a friend as old ladies. Untitled #282. ... More images from the series. ... Video sequence of woman eating ice-cream. Sherman, her VO pointing out that her generation was the first to grow up watching television. More video footage. Untitled Film Still. Photographs: Sherman VO talking about the look she was aiming for, and the sort of narrative she constructs. Film and photographs of a "road" story... Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

Rosalind Nashashibi (1973-)

Stone and Table

UK 1994 Dir Rosalind Nashashibi

4 mins

16mm film loop

The shadow of a human being passes over timeless and indifferent objects at three frames per second.

Archive source: LUX

The State Of Things

UK 2000 Dir Rosalind Nashashibi

3.5 mins

16mm

A Glasgow jumble sale set to an Egyptian classic love song from the 1920's. Watching the film the audience is unsure where and when the action takes place, questioning the simplistic, unspecific and convenient conceptions of East and West.

Archive source: LUX

Open Day

UK 2001 Dir Rosalind Nashashibi

12 mins

16mm

A musical film structured around six scenes in a city. Six scenes in London set to different pieces of music that add a fictional screen or act as counterpoint to the action.

Archive source: LUX

Midwest

UK 2002 Dir Rosalind Nashashibi

12 mins

16mm

Morning to night in the streets of Omaha, Nebraska. In Midwest, the camera is on the street, watching people going about their business through the day - hanging around, walking, going in and out of a Mexican café and waiting outside a rehab centre. We see the forced leisure of a week day, and how people use their public spaces and neighbourhood streets. Midwest was made together with Midwest: Field which explores what goes on in the superflat landscape outside the city.

Archive source: LUX

Midwest: Field

UK 2002 Dir Rosalind Nashashibi

3 mins 30 secs

16mm

A group of middle-aged men fly remote-control glider planes and spend a lazy afternoon in the wide, flat fields outside Omaha. Midwest: Field is counterpoint to Midwest, which explores the inside of Omaha's neighbourhoods.

Archive source: LUX

Dahiet Al Bareed, District of the Post Office

UK 2002 Dir Rosalind Nashashibi

6 mins

16mm

One slow, hot afternoon in a neighbourhood built to be a utopian suburb for employees of the Palestinian Post Office; now becomes a lawless no-man's-land between occupied East Jerusalem and Ramallah.

Archive source: LUX

Steve McQueen (1969 –)

Bear

UK 1993 Dir Steve McQueen

10 mins

16mm Col

Featured in: The British Art Show 4

Archive source: Arts Council of England + Study Collection (Video Collection)

Five Easy Pieces

Dir Steve McQueen

7 mins

Featured in: The British Art Show 4; Tate Britain: A Century of Artists' Film in Britain, Programme 3: The Body Observed

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

Deadpan

Steve McQueen

4 mins

Featured in: The British Art Show 4; Tate Britain: A Century of Artists' Film in Britain, Programme 3: The Body Observed

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection) Paper Collection: Filmography, Articles and reviews about and by the artist, programmes, cards/fliers, funding applications, interviews, catalogues.

Mark Wallinger (1959 -)

Regard a Mere Rager

UK 1993 Dir Mark Wallinger

Featured in: The British Art Show 4 1995

Archive source: Study Collection

Angel

UK 1996 Dir Mark Wallinger

7 mins

DVD

St John's Gospel spoken backwards while travelling down an escalator and then digitally reversed.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + Study Collection: Image Collection: video still

Hymn

UK 1997 Dir Mark Wallinger

1 mins

Video

A blind man is on top of Primrose Hill with all of London laid out behind him. He is standing on a box holding a balloon filled with helium gas which bears a picture of himself as a young boy. He sings a traditional hymn: "There's a Place for Little Children" pausing only to breathe in helium from a cylinder which stands next to him, which gives his voice a high-pitched, childish tone. The effect is both funny and sinister. By the time the balloon is released into the air the candied version of Heaven offered children has been suffocated beneath the weight of moral opprobrium and Mark Wallinger is no longer innocent.

Archive source: LUX

Mark Wallinger

UK 2001

28 mins

Featured in: the EYE

Archive source: Study Collection

Jane and Louise Wilson (1967 –)

Hypnotic Suggestion

UK 1993 Dir Jane Wilson and Louise Wilson

15 mins

Featured in: The British Art Show 4 1995

Archive source: Study Collection

A Free and Anonymous Monument (installation documentation)

UK 2003 Dir Jane and Louise Wilson

12 mins

Featured in: Made in London - Film London

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection): Image collection: Colour publicity image; Paper Collection: Articles and reviews, Cards and fliers, Press releases, Funding applications, Stills and Catalogues

The Wilson Twins (South Bank Show)

UK 2004 Dir Susan Shaw

49 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Arts documentary series. Visual artists, twins Jane and Louise Wilson, who make film and video installations focusing on seats of power.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gillian Wearing (1963 -)

Gillian Wearing /Gary Hume (The South Bank Show)

UK 1998 Dir Susan Shaw

52 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

An examination of the Young British Artist Movement, focusing on 1997 Turner Prize winner Gillian Wearing, who works with film media, and Gary Hume, who uses traditional paint on canvas.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Quay Gallery, Isle Of Wight (Gallery Week)

UK 1998 Prod Sandra Greaves

3 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Gillian Wearing's performance work Confessions – eliciting from the public confessions of their secret 'sins'.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Competition (The 1998 Turner Prize. Writing About Art)

UK 1998 Prod Linda Zuck

3 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

One of the winners of a writing competition describes how Gillian Wearing's piece affected her workplace.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sarah Lucas (1962 –)

Sausage Film

UK Sarah Lucas

8 mins

Featured in: LEA A Small Shifting Sphere of Serious Culture

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection) Paper Collection: Filmography, Articles and reviews, Cards/Fliers, press pack.

Two Melons and a Stinking Fish

UK 1996 Dir Vanessa Engle

49 min

DVD

An exploration of the work of Young British Artist and installation sculptor, Sarah Lucas (b.1962), one of a new generation of British artists feted by an art world hungry for talent. An intimate portrait filmed by the director on a digital camcorder.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + Study Collection: Paper collection: 'Two Melons' Treatment, Vanessa Engle, February 1996

Climbing around My Room

UK 1995 Dir Lucy Gunning

DVD

Gunning's movements are recorded by a video camera as she climbs round all parts of a room.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Untitled (Clothes)

UK 1995 Dir Mark Dickenson

18 mins

Featured in: FVU UKNY – UK

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

Nose

UK 1995 Dir Monika Oechsler

5 mins Video

Featured in: FVU: Never a Dumb Moment

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

Ornament (In Crisis)

UK 1996 Dir Tim Noble and Sue Webster

18 mins

Video

“A locked-off camera view of the artist’s head in a fish tank, about a foot wide apparently, with real goldfish swimming round the head and the artist breathing through a plastic tube. Every now and then there’s a spurt of bubbles coming out of the nose and the face looks a bit panicky. And then I saw the video wasn’t edited but was in real time and that the duration was eighteen minutes, I felt really panicky too...” - Matthew Collings

Archive source: LUX

Sam Taylor-Wood (1967 -)

Brontosaurus

UK 1995 Dir Sam Taylor Wood

10 mins

Archive source: Study Collection

2 into 1/Misfit

UK 1997 Dir Gillian Wearing and Sam Taylor Wood

9mins

DVD

Two short films in a series featuring performance artists: 2 into 1: A disconcerting twist to the relationship between eleven-year-old twins and their mother as Hilary Greene and her sons swap dialogue. In the same programme as Misfit (1997): Kylie Minogue challenges male and female identity as she mimes in Latin to the last-known recording of a castrato.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Jeremy Deller (1966 -)

Swedenborg

UK 2000 Dir Jeremy Deller

17 mins

Archive source; Study Collection (Video Collection)

Jeremy Deller, Chrissie Iles: A Discussion

2006 4 mins

Featured in: Fresh Moves – TankTV

Archive source; Study Collection (Video Collection)

Screen Tests 1/4: Screen Tests

UK 2006 Dir Neil Cummings, Marysia Lewandowska, Eileen Simpson and Ben White
13 mins

Screen Tests 2/4: Dragline

UK 2006 7 mins

Screen Tests 3/4: Broadcast Times: The Birth of Westward

UK 2006 12 mins

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

David Blandy (1976 –)

Secrets and Lies

UK 2002 Dir David Blandy

3 mins

Video Col

Through the appropriation of the soundtrack to Mike Leigh's *Secrets and Lies*, I try to question the possibility of genuine emotion: what is the difference between a performance artist and an actor, when is art autobiography and when is it an act of self-mythologisation?

Archive source: LUX

The Way of the Barefoot Lone Pilgrim: The Five Boroughs of the Soul

UK 2004 Dir David Blandy

12 mins

Video Col

"In October last year I travelled to New York to perform a pilgrimage to the places that held a particular romantic fascination for me, having either heard about them in songs or been associated with key moments in popular culture history. I made the journey around the five boroughs, dressed as my quasi-mythical alter-ego, The Barefoot Lone Pilgrim. I started to develop this character as a way to express my cultural confusion, an exaggerated vision of aspects of my personality, a barefoot, long-haired geek in my orange Shaolin Kung-fu uniform (I practice Kung Fu at a Buddhist temple near my house in London), listening to soul and hip-hop on my portable record player. Through the film, I try to raise the thorny issue of cultural heritage and appropriation, whether my use of black music, or references to Oriental culture, can ever be a celebration rather than exploitation." – DB. Made in association with Grizedale Arts.

Archive source: LUX

Anja Kirschner (1977-)

Supernumeraries

Anja Kirschner

UK 2003

Digibeta + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

21 mins

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Polly II Plan for a Revolution in Docklands

Anja Kirschner

UK 2006

Digibeta + DVD Col (Reference copy only)

30 mins

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Trail of the Spider

Anja Kirschner

UK 2008

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

54 mins

Artist film that uses the western genre to look the gentrification of London's East End in light of the Olympics in 2012. Features local inhabitants in starring roles.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Matthew Noel-Tod (1978 -)

Jetzt Im Kino

UK 2003 Dir Matthew Noel-Tod

12 mins

Video

Jetzt im Kino (Now in Cinema) brings together adapted texts from Laszlo Moholy-Nagy's Painting, Photography, Film, Rudolf Arnheim's Film As Art, David Cooper's polemical psychology book The Grammar of Living and writings from and around Rainer Werner Fassbinder's film The Marriage of Maria Braun into a hybrid narrative floating across the cityscape of modern Berlin.

Archive source: LUX

Nausea

UK 2005 Dir Matthew Noel-Tod

55 mins

Video

Nausea is a synthesis of text and image that draws inspiration from Impressionism, On Kawara, Barnett Newman and the existential diary of Jean-Paul Sartre from which it adopts its title. The video footage is a journal of observations shot entirely on a mobile phone. Crudely low resolution, it retains a fuzzy warmth and familiarity rather than the cold and impersonal qualities of much digital technology, challenging a 'certain end-point in cinema, wherein we only ever imagine and receive mediated images.'

Archive source: LUX

Obcy Aktorzy / Foreign Actors

UK 2006 Dir Matthew Noel-Tod

46 mins

Digibeta + Video + DVD (Reference copy only)

Obcy Aktorzy / Foreign Actors takes as its starting point Polish cinema Polish actors were invited to audition in Warsaw with dialogue from a favourite Polish film. The actors in Obcy Aktorzy / Foreign Actors perform a series of moments from the films

Ashes and Diamonds (1958), Man of Iron (1981) Dekalog 4 (1988) and Sequence of Feelings (1993). Polish actress Ewa Kasprzyk was invited to join the cast and re-perform her dialogue from Sequence of Feelings. During a process of revision and rehearsals, the words and characters from the original films became recontextualised into a new narrative, including actors and characters inhabiting multiple fictions and dramatic spaces. Aesthetic, sexual, historical and dramatic senses are manipulated to create a video that is a dialogue between artist and actors, between language and image, between past and present. Polish language with English subtitles
Archive source: LUX + BFI National Archive

Kutlug Ataman (1961 -)

Kutlug Ataman (Turner Prize 2004)

UK 2004

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

3 mins

Previews Kutlug Ataman's video work nominated for the Turner Prize, in which he works with the re-enactment of personal stories.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Martin (3 Minute Wonder)

Kutlug Ataman

UK 2009

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

3 mins

First of four short films exploring themes of childhood and aviation during the 1950s and 1960s. Each film features a brand-new composition from composer Michael Nyman, and is based on a collection of home movies made by two families who worked with the RAF in Farnborough. Aspects of childhood through home movie memories.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Sea (3 Minute Wonder)

Kutlug Ataman

UK 2009

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

3 mins

Second of four short films exploring themes of childhood and aviation during the 1950s and 1960s. Explores the contrast between a turbulent ocean and the safe haven of the shallow seashore.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Airbound (3 Minute Wonder)

Kutlug Ataman

UK 2009

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

3 mins

Third of four short films exploring themes of childhood and aviation during the 1950s and 1960s. Offers a compelling look at two individual's first experimentation with defying gravity.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Contest (3 Minute Wonder)

Kutlug Ataman

UK 2009

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

3 mins

Fourth of four short films exploring themes of childhood and aviation during the 1950s and 1960s. An insight into 1950s pageantry.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Miscellaneous titles – Art Now (chronological order)

Sundown

UK 1998 Dir Tracey Emin

Featured in: Pandaemonium

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

A Couple of Cannibals Eating a Clown

UK Angus Fairhurst and Damien Hirst

5 mins

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection) Paper Collection: Angus Fairhurst Filmography, Articles and reviews, Video Archive of Angus Fairhurst and Sarah Lucas to 2001, Four sketches, press release.

Me as King Knut

Dir Gary Hume

Featured in: LEA A Small Shifting Sphere of Serious Culture

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

Paraculture/Future Garden Structure

UK 2005 Hilary Koob-Sassen

12 mins

DVD Col (Reference copy only)

Paraculture/Future Garden Structure like all Koob-Sassen's work uses pop songs written by him and his band The Errorists to discuss world politics in relationship to biological systems and theory invoking among other things Gaia theory. It is viscerally immediate but conceptually complex, and visually dense using image manipulation.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Writing My Life

UK 2005 Dir Ryan Gander

8 mins

Video

A still from a single Channel video is played on monitor with headphones or speaker. Its narrative is a monologue read by French artist Aurélien Froment about the impossibility of someone writing their own obituary. This sound piece also includes a clip cut from a live radio broadcast of the radio correspondent Alistair Cooke's self-

obituary, where a presenter accidentally leaves the microphone switched on and talks over the top.

Archive source: LUX

Man and Mask

UK 2005 Dir Daria Martin

35mm 5 mins Col sound

A short film reflects on the present state of cinema as celluloid. By drawing a parallel between celluloid film and masks made with 'primitive' means, the film draws attention to two mediums on the edge of becoming outmoded, yet with undeniable and enduring appeal. The work oscillates between artifice and acting, using masks in a literal sense: masking and unmasking, layering and stripping away.

Archive source: LUX

Theda (Extract)

UK 2006 Dir Georgina Starr

3 mins

Vision On: Film London Artists' Moving Image Network

Archive source: Study Collection

Erotics and Bestiality

UK 2006 Dir Spartacus Chetwynd

4 mins

A former anthropology student, artist Spartacus Chetwynd's baroque performance tableaux re-work and quote from figures in pop culture and art history, with hand-made props, costumes and scenery.

Featured in: Fresh Moves – Tank TV

Archive source: Study Collection (Video Collection)

The Visitor

UK 2007 Uriel Orlow

16 mins

A photo-essay/video work of the artist's audience with Oba Erediauwa, the king of Benin.

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Crystal Gaze

UK 2007 Dir Ursula Mayer

8 mins

16mm

In *The Crystal Gaze* three women occupy the art deco rooms of Eltham Palace in London. "...What they articulate is the fact of their own bodies-become-images, exquisitely fragmented and reflected in the metaphor of our and their crystal gazes. As the opening bars of Peggy Lee's *Is That All There Is?* are played and they break into tragic-comic song the message is both high-camp relief and the damnation of a fascination with the screen. What they embody is something like a distillation of Cinema: neither history nor biography, but quite simply the unbearable seduction of an image that we cannot enter but from which we can neither escape." – Ian White

Archive source: LUX

Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight

UK 2010 Dir Ursula Mayer

7 mins

16mm (doublescreen) Col

In Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight, an ancient Roman sculpted bas relief of the Myth Medea represents the starting point for a group of actors whose performance transposes the archetypal immobility of a frieze into a play of ancient ritual and references to the avant-garde of modern dance.

Archive source: LUX

Chapter 6: From Politics to Poetry



Great Dictator

Introduction

This chapter takes a different approach to the concept of performance by looking at its social role in political oratory and public protest on film, before moving back into the arts with a listing of films relating to poetry, traditionally a medium of spoken word performance that now has a particular affinity with experimental film-making.

The sections are organised thematically. Within the political sections the films are ordered chronologically by film production date. Within the poetry sections the films are ordered alphabetically.

Speech and deconstructing language

Associations

UK 1975 Dir John Smith

7 mins

16mm + Video Col

“Images from magazines and colour supplements accompany a spoken text taken from Word Associations and Linguistic Theory by Herbert H. Clark. By using the ambiguities inherent in the English language, Associations sets language against itself. Image and word work together/against each other to destroy/create meaning.” – J.S.

“Associations is a straightforward rebus (a game in which words are replaced by pictures). But the text is so dense (contemporary linguistic theory) and the combination of visual puns so extensive that a simple, unique reading of the film is impossible.” – A.L. Rees, Unpacking 7 Films programme notes.

Archive source: LUX

Gossip, Scandal and Good Manners

Netherlands 1981 Dir Ulysses Carrion

46 mins

Video Col

Carrion uses gossip, being a form of language, as an art form. The project consisted of launching some gossip with the help of a group of friends, keeping track, as accurately as possible, of the evolution of the gossip through the city of Amsterdam. As the final phase in this project, Carrion gives a lecture on the whole process in the Amsterdam University

Archive source: LUX

Voice Windows

US 1982 Dir Steina Vasulka

10 mins

Video

“With Voice Windows, Steina renews her efforts to generate a complex sound-image interface. She had already attempted this with Violin Power (1970-1978) a video in which she used a specially adapted violin to simultaneously transform the electronic signal and sound wave of a video image. In Voice Windows, Steina experiments with keying video tracks that visually convey the modulations of the human voice. For this experiment, Joan La Barbara, an American singer and composer, provided a repertoire of samples featuring all the registers of her voice.” – Fondation Langlois

Archive source: LUX

Secondary Currents

US 1982 Dir Peter Rose

15 mins

16mm B&W

Secondary Currents is a film about the relationships between the mind and language. Delivered by an improbable narrator who speaks an extended assortment of nonsense, it is an ‘imageless’ film in which the shifting relationships between voiceover commentary and subtitled narration constitute a peculiar duet for voice, thought, speech, and sound. A kind of comic opera, the film is a dark metaphor for the order and entropy of language and has been the subject of a number of articles on the use of language in the arts. Percussion by Jim Meneses.

Archive Source: LUX

The Pressures of the Text

USA, 1983 Dir Peter Rose

17 mins

Video

The Pressures of the Text integrates direct address, invented languages, ideographic subtitles, sign language and simultaneous translation to investigate the feel and form of sense, the shifting boundaries between meaning and meaninglessness. A parody of art/critspeak, educational instruction, gothic narrative, and pornography, it has been performed as a live work at major media centers and new music festivals in the US and Europe. The piece was written, directed and delivered by Peter Rose; co-directed by Jessie Lewis; with sign language and ideographic symbols by Jessie Lewis; and with English simultran by Fred Curchack.

National Archive Source: LUX

Joyce

France 1983 Dir Jean Paul Fargier

50 mins

Video

Joyce is the single monitor version of an earlier two-screen work. Various people including Nam Jun Paik and poet Philip Sollers read from Finnegan's Wake using their chosen language which is intercut with evocative images.

Archive source: LUX

Digital Speech

US 1984 Dir Peter Rose

13 mins

Video

Digital Speech uses a traveler's anecdote, a perverse variant of a classic Zen parable, as a vehicle for an exploration of language, thought and gesture. The tape plays with the nature of narrative, with ways of telling, performing and illustrating, and uses nonsense language, scat singing and video rescan for comic comment.

Archive Source: LUX

Branson

UK 1984 Dir George Barber

1min

Video

Icons of the 1980's struggle to be articulate in Barber's masterful remix of the TV interview format.

The idea for Branson came from seeing entrepreneur Richard Branson interviewed and his alarming habit of constantly breaking his speech with 'hums'. The artist set about seeing if he could make a beat from these hums; rhythmic speech impediments. The whole sequence features various 80's people saying 'er' rather a lot.

Archive Source: LUX

Lost Sound

UK 2001 Dir Graeme Miller and John Smith

28 mins

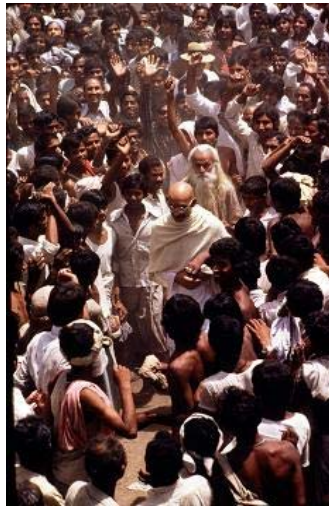
Video

"The theme of fragmentation and decay is taken up by Lost Sound (2001), made in collaboration with sound artist Graeme Miller. Divided into short sections titled by location, Lost Sound shows discarded audiotapes around London - strands clinging to a fence, trapped in the crevices of a tree trunk, intertwined with weeds. The sound track combines the voices and songs on the found audiotapes with ambient sounds recorded on location. Visually the audiotapes tell us almost nothing; they must be 'decoded' by the equipment that put them on the sound track. But we come to see that the signs, cars, and pedestrians in the videotape pose similar 'decoding' problems: what do they mean, where do they come from, who are they? A city that at first seems comprehensible is revealed as a layering of mysteries; we know no more about the passing humans from their images than we do about what's on the crumpled tapes Each section charts a different relationship between tape and urban scene, taking the viewer on a little unpredictable journey. Finally, as happens so often in Smith's work, the representational structure itself seems to break down. Titles and images are flipped left to right, undermining the readability of words, and men loading boxes onto a truck are seen in a repeated loop, foregrounding the arbitrariness of cinematic time as well as commenting on the repetitiousness of manual labor. Lost in an indecipherable maze whose rules change constantly, we see the city as a network of unpredictably shifting relationships and come to doubt even

the sounds encoded in the tape fragments.” Fred Camper, from Pushed to the Limit - Films and Videos by John Smith, Chicago Reader magazine, 2001.

Archive Source: LUX

Political Oratory



Ghandi (1982)

Yes We Can! The Lost Art of Oratory (2009)

UK 2009 Dir Roger Parson

69 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The art and history of the political speech. Alan Yentob traces the awesome power of orators from Cicero onwards, via Cromwell, Lincoln, Churchill, Hitler, Martin Luther King, and many others.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Gandhi (1869-1948)

Mahatma Gandhi Noa Khali March

India 1947 Dir Kanu

16mm B&W

27 mins (at 16fps)

Rarely seen footage of Gandhi filmed by his great nephew, Kanu Gandhi.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Gandhi

US/IN/UK 1982 Dir Richard Attenborough

188 mins

35mm Col

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

A Visit from Gandhi

UK 1997 Dir Brian Blake

55 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary about Gandhi's visit to Lancashire, September 1931, to see some of the

hardships caused by the Indian boycott of Lancashire cotton
Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Adolf Hitler (1889-1945)

Triumph Des Willens

Germany 1935 Dir Leni Riefenstahl

110 mins

16mm + 35mm B&W In German. No subtitles

The Nazi Party's annual rally at Nuremberg, 1934. includes speeches by Hitler, Hess, Goebbels, Sepp Dietrich, Hans Frank, Alfred Rosenberg, Baldur von Schirach, Julius Streicher.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

The Battle of Cable Street (Yesterday's Witness)

UK 1970 Dir Michael Rabiger

45 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary on the resistance of local residents in London's East End to the campaigning of British Fascist politician Oswald Mosley and the 'Blackshirts', and their barricade of Cable Street against his procession to Parliament.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Hitler – A Film From Germany

West Germany 1977 Dir Hans Jurgен Syberberg

Approx 400 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A four-part film portraying aspects of the life of Adolf Hitler. Part theatre, part vaudeville, part magic lantern show...several Hitlers in succession, are interwoven through stylised tableaux, back projected stills, radio speeches, diary entries and performers playing Himmler, Goering, Goebbels etc. The four parts are: The Grail (Der Gral) - 95 Mins. 31 Secs.; A

German Dream (Ein Deutscher Traum) - 132 Mins. 4 Secs.; The End of the Winter's Tale (Das Ende Eines Winter-Marchens) - 97 Mins.; We, The Children of Hell (Wir Kinder Der Hölle) - 104 Mins. 22 Secs.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

The Tramp and the Dictator

UK/DL/US 2002 Dir Kevin Brownlow

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

A documentary looking at the backgrounds of Charles Chaplin and Adolf Hitler, and the production of the former's Film The Great Dictator. With contributions from screenwriter Walter Bernstein, author Ray Bradbury, Sidney Lumet, critic Stanley Kauffmann, Chaplin's son Sydney Chaplin, politician and historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr, Bernard Vorhaus, Reinhard Spitzzy (a member of Hitler's inner circle), Budd Schulberg, historian Gitta Sereny, Al Hirschfeld (publicity artist on The Great Dictator), Chaplin's cousin Betty Tetrick, filmmaker Nicola Radosevic, Chaplin's assistant Dan James (voice only in a 1983 recording), and Ivor Montagu (in a 1980 interview).

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Rivers of Blood

UK 2009 Dir Ashley Gething

59 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Documentary recreating and examining Powell's 1968 "Rivers of Blood" speech

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

John F Kennedy (1917-1963)

Primary

US 1960 Dir. Robert Drew

53 mins

16mm B&W

Co-directed with DA Pennebaker, Primary is a landmark of Direct Cinema and the first documentary to be shot entirely in synchronous sound with a portable camera. Made during the Wisconsin state presidential primaries, the film-makers follow the two principal Democratic candidates, John F Kennedy and Hubert Humphrey, as they (and their wives) present themselves and their policies to potential voters. The film juxtaposes behind-the-scenes glimpses of the candidates with those carefully staged for the media to capture a range of self presentations.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

That Old Jack Magic (The Kennedys)

UK 1992

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

The Assassination of JFK November 22nd 1963 (Days That Shook the World)

UK 2003 Dir David Bartlett

29 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

John F Kennedy (Secrets of Leadership)

Dir Jonathan Hacker

UK 2003

49 mins.

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

JFK: Legend and Leader

UK 2003

29 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) (off-air) Col

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Nelson Mandela (1918 -)

Socialism and Christianity (It's my Belief)

UK 1991 Dir Bob Hall

26 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Politician Tony Benn argues that Socialism is rooted in the teachings of Christ.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Mandela – The Living Legend

UK 2003 Prod Dominic Allan

In two parts, 60 mins each

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Two documentary programmes presented by David Dimbleby as he follows the former South African President and ANC leader on his hectic schedule. Nelson Mandela also talks about his early years in the Transkei, his involvement with the ANC and the decision to use violence if necessary, and his imprisonment.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Tony Blair (1953 -)

Inside the Mind Of Tony Blair

UK 2003 Dir David Mapstone

49 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

As the Prime Minister Tony Blair finds himself more embattled than ever, this programme examines the psychology of leadership and looks at how he reacts to the various political dilemmas facing him. Psychologists, commentators and observers give their opinions on examples of Blair's behaviour at critical moments.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Propaganda



Words for Battle (1941)

GPO Vol 3: If War Should Come DVD

UK 1940-1941 Dir: Various

290 mins

DVD B&W + Col

The third and final instalment in the General Post Office Film Unit collection covers the period 1939 to 1941, and takes the war as its focal point. Contains work by such celebrated film-makers as Humphrey Jennings (*Spare Time*, *Spring Offensive*), Richard Massingham (*Mony a Pickle*), Harry Watt (*The Front Line*, *Christmas Under Fire*). GPO Vol 1 (*Addressing the Nation*) and Vol 2 (*We Live in Two Worlds*) are also available for hire.

Archive Source: BFI DVD

Words For Battle (1941)

UK 1941 Dir Humphrey Jennings

8 mins

35mm B&W

Images of wartime Britain – ranging from idyllic landscapes to bombed-out cities – are accompanied on the soundtrack by stirring passages of poetry and prose narrated by Laurence Olivier. Extracts from poems and speeches read over scenes of Britain in wartime.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Listen to Britain

UK 1942 Dir Humphrey Jennings

20 mins

35mm + 16mm + DVD

Jennings' masterpiece - an exhilarating montage of the sights and sounds of wartime Britain. Memorable scenes include the crowded floor of the great ballroom at Blackpool, Flanagan and Allen singing 'Underneath the Arches' in a workers' canteen, and Myra Hess playing Mozart with the RAF orchestra in the National Gallery.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Calling Mr Smith

Poland 1944 Dir Franciszka Themerson and Stefan Themerson

9 mins

16mm + 35mm Col

A propaganda film which combines actuality material combined with cartoon and line drawings, the film deplores German suppression of culture in Poland during the Second World War. A dialogue follows between the commentator "a Central European Woman" and the man, "Mr. Smith, an ordinary bloke". The woman accuses him of indifference to horror he has not experienced himself. The film proceeds to demonstrate how Nazism has replaced real culture in Germany and seeks to reduce the peoples of Europe to illiteracy and barbarism. Shots of Hitler. The music of Germany is now aggressive nationalistic marching songs (shots of Nazi rallies, soldiers, citizens, children marching. The German regime forbids Poles to attend Polish universities (occupied now by Security Police), to study or read Polish literature or to listen to Polish music. The film ends with a plea to Britain to ensure that future generations of Europeans will have cultural freedom

Archive Source: BFI National Archive & LUX

Political critique

LBJ

Cuba 1950 Dir Santiago Alvarez

15 mins

16mm Col

An agit prop mix of newsreel clips, press photos and animated drawings dedicated to Lyndon B Johnson, the Texan cowboy under whose presidency the gun reigned supreme. Featuring extracts from speeches of John F Kennedy, Stokely Carmichael and Martin Luther King, together with protest songs by Nina Simone.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Black on White: A Review of Some British Cartoons and Caricatures of the Last 200 Years

UK 1954 Dir John Read

30 mins

DVD

Political caricature in Britain, featuring the work of William Hogarth (1697-1764), James Gillray (1757-1815), George Cruikshank (1792-1878), Australian-born Will Dyson (1880-1938), New Zealander, David Low (1891-1963), and others.

Archive Source: Arts Council Of England

The Candidates

US 1964 Dir Richard Preston

3 mins

16mm B&W

It is about the Nixon/Kennedy scramble for Presidential office, but the message is still sharply relevant today. A cynic's potted politics, wickedly presented with true bi-partisan loyalty (to hell with them both). The use of assemblage is extremely apt.

Archive Source: LUX

People of Ireland!

UK 1970 Dir Cinema Action

1232 ft

16mm + DVD B&W

An analysis and chronicle of the power struggle in Northern Ireland. Shows the barricaded resistance zone of Free Derry in August 1969, gives instances of the contradiction between labour and describes the movement towards the realisation of a socialist workers' republic.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Memories of King Richard

US 1974 Dir John Felton

10 mins

16mm B&W

"A visual retrospective with music (Time Life covers, cartoons, etc), concerning Richard M. Nixon's pre-presidency and then documentation of the final impeachment (and most important) rally before his resignation, including the anti-Nixon speeches. The film is entirely made up of still photographs." - J.F.

Archive Source: LUX

Laboured Party

UK 1975 Dir Stephen Dwoskin

20 mins

DVD

Intellectual attack on a Labour Party canvasser.

Archive Source: BFI DVD (extra)

Perfect Leader

US 1983 Dir Max Almy

4 mins

Video Col

A satire of the political television spot, Perfect Leader shows that ideology is the product and power is the payoff. The process of political image making and the marketing of a candidate is revealed, as an omnipotent computer manufactures the perfect candidate, offering up three political types: Mr. Nice Guy, an evangelist, and an Orwellian Big Brother. Behind the candidates, symbols of political promises quickly degenerate into icons of oppression and nuclear war.

Archive Source: LUX

Glory

UK 1983 Dir Rose Finn-Kelcey

23 mins

Video Col

"The raw material for this tape originated in a performance where I acted as both animator and controller of 100 surrogate performers who were locked in a kind of Blitzkreig on a large table in a small room. The cut-out images were drawn from past and present historical moments, famous politicians, heroes and heroines." RF-K

Archive Source: LUX

Death Valley Days

UK 1984 Dir Gorilla Tapes, Jon Dovey, Gavin Hodge and Tim Morrison

20 mins

Video Col

Fragments of TV mesh to construct the possible romance of Thatcher/Reagan - a vision of Britain as a police state and Reagan as a global terrorist.
Archive Source: LUX

First Let Us Kill

UK 1985 Dir Joram Tenbrink

6 Col mins

Video

First Let Us Kill is based on the sculptures of the Argentinian artist Marisa Rueda. This tape deals with the fate of the 'disappeared' people in Argentina.

Archive Source: LUX

Tractors

USSR 1987 Dir Igor and Gleb Aleinikov

13 mins

16mm B&W

Another found footage film from the Aleinikov brothers, this time using Soviet propaganda material to suggest the tragic history behind this icon.

Archive Source: LUX

Involuntary Conversion

US 1991 Dir Jeanne Finley

10, mins

Video

Involuntary Conversion develops into a grimly humorous look at the frightening and misleading ways the military-industrial complex uses language to obscure and deny the destructive effects of their policies.

Archive Source: LUX

Civil Disobedience

UK 2005 Dir William Raban

3 mins

35mm Col

A rapid time-lapse journey from the Houses of Parliament to the open sea, offset by David Cunningham's musical score composed from fragments of Thatcher's Belgrano speech. Music by David Cunningham.

Archive Source: LUX

Protest



Land of Promise (1946)

The Adventures of a Good Citizen (Przygoda Czowieka Poczciwego)

Poland 1937 Dir Franciszka & Stefan Themerson

10 mins

16mm B&W

"This film was lost during the war. One print was found somewhere near Moscow and sent to the Film Archive in Warsaw. The print was old and badly battered. Hence the quality of the present reduction from the original 35mm to 16mm is not perfect. But it could have been worse. There are two sentences spoken in Polish. At the beginning the carpenter shouts to one of the two men with a wardrobe: 'The sky won't fall in if you walk backwards!' This is overheard (over the telephone) by the Good Citizen (a civil servant) who also decides to try walking backwards. In the street, he collides with two men with the wardrobe, and now it is he and one of the other two who carry the wardrobe backwards out of the town and into the forest. A group of people (representing a cross-section of society) march with banners to protest against walking backwards. Inscriptions on the banners read: "DOWN WITH WALKING BACKWARDS! THE SKY WILL FALL IN! FORWARD MARCH, EVERYBODY! Etc" c. The Polish words heard at the end of the film mean: ONE MUST UNDERSTAND THE METAPHOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN." — S.T. Music by Stefan Kisielewski
Archive Source: LUX

Land of Promise (aka Land of Promise: An Argument about Our Homes and Houses)

UK 1946 Dir Paul Rotha

68 mins

35mm + DVD B&W (featured Land Of Promise: The British Documentary Movement 1930-1950)

A look at past responses to housing crises in Britain, with a plea for a different approach to meet the demands of troops and families returning after the war.

Archive Source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive + BFI DVD

Chronicle of a Summer

France 1961 Dir Jean Rouch

90 mins

35mm + DVD B&W

With degrees in both literature and civil engineering, the French ethnographer Jean Rouch first used a movie camera as a research tool in Africa. He progressed to film-making for its own sake with an emphasis on psychology and a technique of participation-observation with the subjects of his films. As a documentarist, Rouch has been one of the main instigators of the debate about the nature of film authenticity, coining the phrase 'cinéma vérité' (cf, Kino-Pravda) and following Dziga Vertov in believing that the camera can reveal a deeper level of truth. The notion of a domestically based 'ethnological study' dates at least from Montesquieu's *Lettres Persanes*. But what distinguishes this attempt by Rouch and co-director Edgar Morin to 'bottle' the climate of Paris in the 1960s is the strategy of intervention. In recording life not as it is, but as it is provoked, *Chronicle of a Summer* is a seminal piece of cinéma vérité. A market researcher approaches Parisians with the questions, 'Tell us, are you happy?'. A group of these disparate interviewees then gather with the film-makers to discuss work, housing problems, the Algerian War, the situation in the Congo, holidays ... Rouch and Morin's aim is for these contrived circumstances to encourage the subject to play out his life to the camera in order to arrive at a psychoanalytic truth hidden or repressed in everyday life. Interviewees comment on the constructed footage and finally the film-makers themselves comment on their subjects' comments).

Archive Source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Before the Revolution (Prima Della Rivoluzione)

Italy 1964 Dir Bernardo Bertolucci

112 min

16mm + 35mm + DCP + DVD B&W

A young man from the bourgeoisie in Parma attempts to break free of social constraints, embracing socialism and having a brief affair with his aunt. However ultimately he marries the girl his parents expect him to and betrays his political convictions.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + Special Collections (Script)

Cinegiornale

Italy 1968 Dir Various Artists

120 mins

16mm + Video B&W

In Italian with English subtitles. These films, like the American Newsreels, have been made by young politically militant film-makers as an auxiliary of the revolutionary student movement in Italy. They take a documentary point of view, they cover all the activities of the Italian student movement throughout the country and present the tactical and political positions adopted by the movement in a way which normal news coverage would not permit. These films are of special interest not only because the student movement in Italy (which received little or no coverage in the English press) was thriving before the Paris movement, but also because they contain some extraordinary footage of the various battles with police and fascists. REEL 1: Italy, 1968, sound, B&W, 60 mins, 16mm; REEL 2: 1968, sound, B&W, 30 mins, 16mm; REEL 3: 1968, sound, B&W, 30 mins, 16mm

Archive Source: LUX

Cinetracts

France 1968 Dir Various Artists

20 mins

16mm + Video B&W, Silent

Made by politically committed film-makers to serve as agit-prop for the events of May 68, these films rely exclusively on stills rather than documentary footage, yet the sense of contrast and movement is very strong and the films very effectively make their point, they attempt to catch the spirit, rather than the fact, of the May Revolution. And although made anonymously, one can detect the hands of Godard, Marker et. al. This reel includes: No. 26 - Nous sommes tous des juifs allemands. No. 12 - La société dans son ensemble doit se convertir en une gigantesque... No. 15 - Regardez les choses en face en 20 secondes. No. 5 - C'était la nuit... No. 24 - Une nuit... No. 1 - Qu'est-ce qu'il fait?

Archive Source: LUX

New Left Note

US 1968 - 1982 Dir Saul Levine

2618fps mins

16mm Col, Silent

"Levine's rapid fire cutting has never found a more appropriate subject than in New Left Note, his film on the anti-war, anti-racist, and women's liberation movements of the early 1970's in America. New Left Note represents a synthesis of ideas that Levine sought to inject into a much divided movement. The 'Free Bobby Seale' demonstrations in New Haven (Levine's home town) in 1970 is put into context through the editing... At the time of shooting, Levine was the editor of New Left Notes, the national newspaper of SDS (Students for a Democratic Society). He was unilaterally committed to the movements he filmed but beleaguered by the leadership of the organization for his non-sectarian views...the film is a study of radical politics in radical form." - Marjorie Keller. "The life he records is a jumble of demonstrations, fused with the kaleidoscopic fury of memory; its brief reprises include a catnap in the back of a car and a glimpse of a zoo. His incessant, chaotic outpouring of political energy seems less geared to a naive notion of bettering the world than to a perpetual pressure to keep it from getting worse." - P Adams Sitney, Village Voice.

Archive Source: LUX

Kinestasis 60

US 1970 Dir Robert Breer

4 mins

16mm Col

Kinestasis 60 is a four minute compression of the exciting and pivotal decade of the 1960s, backed-up by the subtle and intricate music of Mort Garson. Beginning with the 1960 elections, the film integrates live action with revealing still photos, presenting in blinking rhythms the personalities and events of the 60s, JFK and the New Frontier, Khrushchev, Castro, The Bay of Pigs, Nixon's loss in California, Pop Art, sports, the assassination of John Kennedy, the shooting of Oswald, the succession of LBJ, the nomination of Goldwater, the campaign of '64, Vietnam, student demonstrations, riots in the cities, the 7-day war, the Beatles, the assassinations of King and RFK, the Republican convention of 1968, the election, the French student strike, the conquest of space, and many others. Kinestasis 60 is a carefully planned montage, enhanced by a restrained use of zooms, filters, and other devices designed to create a sense of variety and immediacy.

Archive Source: LUX

Little Malcolm and His Struggle against the Eunuchs (alternative title: **Little Malcolm**)

UK 1974 Dir Stuart Cooper

110 min

35mm + DVD/Blu-ray Col

Malcolm Scrawdyke is expelled from an art college in the North of England. He browbeats his friends into leaving, after which they set up a revolutionary group, the Party of Dynamic Erection, and design a programme to sweep the Party into nationwide power. From the play by David Halliwell, and starring John Hurt.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI DVD + BFI Distribution

Countertext to Three Days in Szczecin

Australia 1977 Dir Griffith University

30 mins

Video Col

This 'countertext' was made by a group of staff and students at Griffith University in 1977. Its major function so far has been that of a learning exercise in which what was learnt was indistinguishable from the small alteration to the relations of academic production that was involved in making it.

Archive Source: LUX

Newsreel One - The Build-Up

UK 1982 Dir Richard Philpott

25 mins

16mm B&W

"Archway Road Movie Group. The first of two newsreels campaigning to prevent the building of a major new motorway in London, following fifteen years of protest and three 'public' inquiries. Made by members of the community, the film reveals the appalling living conditions on the Archway Road, the fallacy of the motorway-building 'solution' and the big businesses that benefit from and demand such motorway schemes despite enormous human and environmental cost." - R.P.

Archive Source: LUX

The Revolution

US 1983 Dir Martha Haslanger

39 mins

16mm B&W

"The Revolution is a film of appropriation...that is, of politics. It seizes, then installs what it claims. All its characters (Jim Jones, Galileo Galilei, Patti Hurst, Mao, Joseph McCarthy, Joan of Arc, Bertoldt Brecht, Rosa LUXemburg, et. al.) are familiar with the 'cause' and its theatre. They form and are formed by the image of the revolutionary. Together they describe the aggregate fiction of history, drama, mythos, aggravated fantasy, and the five o'clock news. It is what we become after the pieces are re-puzzled and the heroics fade. It concerns what happens when the fictions of revolution settle into reality." – M.H.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Damnation of Faust: Will-O-The-Wisp (A Deceitful Goal)

US 1985 Dir Dara Birnbaum

5 mins

Video Col

Breaking with traditional documentary forms, Birnbaum here uses the low and high end of technology to explore student activism in America. She seeks to ask through what means can the voice of the individual make itself seen and heard in our technocratic society.

Archive Source: LUX

Miners' Campaign Tapes, The

UK 1984 Dir Various

92mins

DVD Col

In 1984 a group of independent film and video makers decided to show their support for the miners' strike using the tools they had available: their cameras. On the picket lines, at the marches and in the soup kitchens, they recorded the testimonies of the striking miners, their wives and supporters, in a fight against anti-strike propaganda dominating the mainstream media. A testament to solidarity and activism, the tapes tackle issues which continue to occupy us today: the right to demonstrate, police tactics, political double-speak, the role of the media. They are a crucial document of a cataclysmic episode of British history.

Includes six films:

1 Not Just Tea and Sandwiches

2 The Coal Board's Butchery

3 Solidarity

4 Straight Speaking

5 The Lie Machine

6 Only Doing Their Job?

Archive source: BFI DVD + BFI National Archive

What a Way to Run a Revolution

UK 1986 Dir Bob Spiers

120 mins

DVD Col

Musical play based on the 1926 General Strike and the consequences for the striking miners. Set in the House of Commons using speeches taken from authentic sources. Adapted from a Young Vic production.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Free Society

US 1988 Dir Paul Garrin

4 mins

Video

Images of police and military on parade are contrasted with riot footage from all over the world, including South Africa, the West Bank, South Korea, Northern Ireland, Panama and the Civil Rights riots in the US. Free Society is a tough and startling tape, which bears witness to social and political injustice while stretching the limits of electronic image manipulation.

Archive Source: LUX

Disgraced Monuments (Global Image)

UK 1994 Dir Laura Mulvey and Mark Lewis

48 mins

Digibeta + DVD Col + B&W (Reference copy only)

An exploration of what happened to public monuments following social upheaval in the former Soviet Union.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Battle Of Orgreave

UK 2002 Dir Mike Figgis

63 mins

DVD Col

Film-maker Figgis's record of artist Jeremy Deller's re-creation, with local ex-miners, of a key confrontation in the Miner's Strike of the early 1980s in Thatcher's Britain.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Riff

UK 2004 Dir Lis Rhodes

18 mins

Video Col34

Archive Source: LUX

Scenes from Freedonia

UK 2004 Dir Cordelia Swann

10 mins

video

Looking back at 2003, a year when Britain went to war, we see scenes filmed in central London of public processions, ceremonies and demonstrations. Alongside the familiar unexpected spectrums of pageantry, mood and allegiance are revealed as the camera scrutinises faces, banners and events. Among scenes of sadness, anguish and anger, there are also more than one or two comic moments.

Archive Source: LUX

In the Kettle

UK 2010 Dir Lis Rhodes

21 mins

Video Col + B&W

Archive Source: LUX

Civil Rights Movement

Martin Luther King Jr (1929-68)

Martin Luther King (Face to Face)

UK 1961

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

31 mins

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Dr Martin Luther King (This Week)

Dir James Butler

UK 1966

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

30 mins

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Martin Luther King: The Legacy

UK 1988 Dir Rex Bloomstein

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

79 mins.

TV documentary about King and his impact on the Civil Rights of black people in America.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

All Our Yesterdays [25.08.1988]

UK 1988 Dir Mike Becker

26 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Includes 1963 footage of Washington march

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

The Legacy of Martin Luther King (Assignment)

UK 1993

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

56 mins

Examines the mood of black America today, 25 years after the murder of Martin Luther King in 1968.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Murder in Memphis

UK 1999 Dir Tony Stark

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

TV doc about murder of MLK

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Uncivil Liberties (The White House Tapes Part 3)

UK 1999 Dir David Taylor

51 Mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Reveals FBI campaign to discredit King

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Martin Luther King (Secrets of Leadership)

UK 2003 Prod Andrew Wilson

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

48 mins

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Anthem

US 1991 Dir Marlon Riggs

10 mins

Video

Fast and furious vocal sampling makes an epic monologue style. The black American experience gets a re-working whereupon a new world is envisaged. A world wherein the American dream is synonymous with black homosexual utopia. A talking head faces the camera and constructs his own speech after Martin Luther King.
Archive Source: LUX

Malcolm X (1925-65) and the Black Panthers

Soul in a White Room

UK 1968 Dir Simon Hartog

3 mins

16mm Col

"Soul in a White Room was filmed by Simon Hartog around autumn 1968. Music on the soundtrack is Cousin Jane by the Troggs. The man is Omar Diop-Blondin, the woman I don't recall her name. Omar was a student active in 1968 at the Faculte de Nanterre, Universite de Paris. Around this time, Godard was in London shooting Sympathy for the Devil/One Plus One with the Stones and Omar was here for that too, appearing with Frankie Y (Frankie Dymon) and the other black panthers in London.... Maybe Michael X too. After returning to Senegal, Omar was imprisoned and killed in custody in 71 or 72. I believe his fate is well known to the Senegalese people." – Jonathan Langran

Archive Source: LUX

Seven Songs for Malcolm X

UK 1993 Dir John Akomfrah

52 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col B&W

Filmed in New York to coincide with the release of Spike Lee's film Malcolm X, this documentary features songs and interviews which tell the story of the controversial black leader who was assassinated in 1965. The documentary recalls the life and death of Malcolm X in a series of dream-like tableaux, using a mixture of excerpts from interviews, dramatic reconstructions, archive material and a reading from Malcolm's autobiography by Giancarlo Esposito. Follows the chronology of his life through the evolution of his beliefs to his assassination in the Audubon Ballroom, Harlem in February 1965. Sets out the course of events in seven episodes.

Interviewees include Malcolm's widow, Betty Shabazz, his prison friend, Malcolm Jarvis and Spike Lee.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Eye on X

UK 1993 Dir Pogus Caesar

6 mins

DVD

One of a series of short productions made by young black film- and video-makers in which Birmingham sculptor, Willard Wiggin, creates two representations of Malcolm X and describes how he found out about Malcolm's life and a visit he made to Smethwick in 1965.

Archive Source: Arts Council Of England

Civil Rights Protest

Burning an Illusion

UK 1981 Dir Menelik Shabazz

105 mins

35mm + 16mm + DVD Col

Shabazz's impressive first feature traces the political 'coming out' of a young black secretary, Pat. When Pat's boyfriend is arrested and assaulted in police custody, Pat begins to investigate black politics and consciousness. Episodically blending didactic and naturalistic elements, the film employs footage shot in and around the Notting Hill/Ladbroke Grove communities, including a sequence from the annual carnival.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution + BFI DVD

The Three Screams

South Africa 1982 Dir Tinka Gordon

30 mins

Video Col

"This film has arisen from my experience as a white person in a racially exclusive society. Apart from its natural wealth, South Africa existed as an independent, wealthy and developed country almost purely through the subjugation and exploitation of the black population." – TG

Archive Source: LUX

Winston Silcott The Beard Of Justice

UK 1994 Dir Rodreguez King-Dorset

7 mins

DVD

One of a series of short productions made by young black film- and video-makers, a meditation on the situation of Winston Silcott, convicted of killing a policeman during riots in north London.

Archive Source: Arts Council Of England

The Nightingale

UK 2004 Dir Grace Ndiritu

7 mins

Video Col

This piece deals with issues of racial stereotyping since Sept 11. In this the protagonist is transformed in various guises by using a simple piece of cloth.

Archive Source: LUX

Identity



Young Soul Rebels (1991)

Racial Identity

Borderline

UK 1930 Dir Kenneth Macpherson

63 mins

35mm + 16mm B&W silent

The plot develops around a love triangle in which a black woman, Adah (played by Eslanda Robeson), is wooed by two men – one black (Pete, played by Paul Robeson) and one white (Thorn, played by Gavin Arthur). Astrid, the abandoned white woman (played by the poet HD), is consumed with jealousy and develops an irrational hatred of the black couple. A film made in the context of the alternative social environment created by artists in Europe in the 1930s. Screenplay by Kenneth Macpherson. With Eslanda Robeson, Paul Robeson, Helga Doorn (the poet HD), Gavin Arthur, Robert Herring, Blanche Lewin, Charlotte Arthur.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Borderline (DVD reissue)

UK 1930 Dir Kenneth Macpherson

71 mins

DVD B&W silent with music

Featuring a new soundtrack by the masterful British composer and saxophonist Courtney Pine, *Borderline*'s formal experimentation finds a perfect match in the contemporary rhythms of Pine's heady modern jazz score. With Paul Robeson, Eslanda Robeson, Helga Doorn

Archive source: BFI DVD

Black Orpheus (Orfeu Negro)

France/Italy/Brazil 1958 Dir Marcel Camus

107 mins

35mm + DVD

In recreating the Orpheus legend in Rio de Janeiro with an all black cast, Camus celebrates both the universality of the story and the exoticism and poetry of Brazil. Here the doomed lovers weave their way through a carnival-mad Rio, amidst the relentless onslaught of colour, noise, and frenetic movement which climaxes in the visual splendour of the poignant ending.

Archive Source: BFI Distribution

Shadows

UK 1959 Dir John Cassavetes

87 mins

35mm + HD Digital B&W

“Cassavetes’ hugely influential ‘improvisation’ centres on two brothers and a sister - black, but with the sister passing for white - leading a Bohemian life in New York. The electric atmosphere and edgily naturalistic performances combine with free-focus black and white camerawork and Charles Mingus’ bluesy score to evoke the jazzy soul of a city.” – Geoff Andrew

Archive Source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Baldwin’s Nigger

UK 1969 Dir Horace Ové

46 mins

16mm + DVD B&W (on BFI DVD with Pressure)

A film which records the visit to Britain in 1968 of North American writer James Baldwin, and shows him speaking at London’s West Indian Student Centre.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution + BFI DVD

Sweet Sweetback’s Baadasssss Song

UK 1971 Dir Melvin Van Peebles

97 mins

35mm + DVD

A brash depiction of urban African American life previously unseen on the screen, the political resonance of Sweet Sweetback’s Baadasssss Song was confirmed in the Black Panthers’ vocal acclaim of the film as a ‘revolutionary masterpiece’. It sparked the birth of independent Black Cinema and has been cited as inspiration by directors such as Spike Lee and Quentin Tarantino. It is also very funny.

Archive Source: BFI Distribution

Pressure

UK 1975 Dir Horace Ové

116 mins

16mm + DVD Col (on BFI DVD with Baldwin’s Nigger)

Through focusing on one family, the film is a dramatisation of the tensions that exist between first and second generation West Indian immigrants in the Notting Hill area of London, and how the younger generation see their parents as having rejected their black identity in favour of white English values. The younger son of the family becomes involved in collective black action owing to his lack of success in finding employment. With Herbert Norville, Oscar James.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive + BFI DVD

Grove Music

UK 1981 Dir Henry Martin and Steve Shaw

48 mins

DVD

Black youth culture - particularly in relation to reggae music - in London’s Notting Hill area around the time of the 1980 Carnival.

Archive Source: Arts Council Of England

Territories

UK 1984 Dir Isaac Julien

25 mins

16mm + Video

Isaac Julien's first work, *Territories* was a milestone in the development of a black independent film aesthetic. *Territories*, explained a contemporary press release "refers not only to geographical spaces, but to the occupied and controlled spaces of race, class and sexuality." Part One considers images of Carnival, black diaspora culture in Britain and the 1976 Notting Hill Gate riots. Part Two looks in a more poetic manner at personal space, centering on the image of a black gay couple.

Archive Source: LUX + BFI Distribution

Bohemian Noir et le renaissance del Afrique

UK 1990 Dir V. Amani Naphtali

26 mins

DVD

A stylised docu-drama which looks at the emergence of an Afrikan movement among black British artists in the 1980s.

Archive Source: Arts Council Of England

Rage & Desire

UK 1991 Dir Ruppert Gabriel

17 mins

DVD

A tribute to Nigerian-born photographer, Rotimi Fani-Kayode (1955-1989), examining how his work was informed by his experience as "an outsider".

Archive Source: Arts Council Of England

Young Soul Rebels

UK 1991 Dir Isaac Julien

105 mins

DVD + 35mm

Young Soul Rebels is a kinetic drama set in the summer of 1977, the year of the Silver Jubilee, and a time when British blacks began to define a style and culture of their own. Two black DJ's, Caz and Chris, broadcast the soul message across London via their pirate radio station and the local club. But one thing threatens to throw a shadow over their success – an inexplicable murder in a nearby park.

Archive Source: BFI Distribution + BFI DVD

Ragga Gyal D'bout

UK 1993 Dir Inge Blackman

6 mins

DVD

One of a series of short productions made by young black film- and video-makers: three young black London women discuss the ways in which ragga allows them to express their exhibitionist side, and to be proud of their cultural heritage and their sexuality.

Archive Source: Arts Council Of England

Gospel Truth

UK 1993 Dir Dilly Braimoh

6 mins

DVD

One of a series of short productions made by young black film- and video-makers in which the Bailey family talk about their faith and gospel music.

Archive Source: Arts Council Of England

Day and Night

UK 1993 Dir Peter Harvey

7 mins

DVD

One of a series of short productions made by young black film- and video-makers, a dramatized view of London life in the 17th and 20th centuries.

Archive Source: Arts Council Of England

Soft Target

UK 1994 Dir Azim Khan

5 mins

DVD

One of a series of short productions made by young black film- and video-makers: Jeff Mirza talks about being an Asian comedian.

Archive Source: Arts Council Of England

Celebrashan

UK 1994 Dir Pauline Bailey

6 mins

DVD

One of a series of short productions made by young black film- and video-makers, a demonstration of the importance of African oral tradition in contemporary popular music forms such as rap and hip-hop.

Archive Source: Arts Council Of England

Black

UK 1994 Dir Isaac Julien

59 mins

DVD

An investigation of the ways in which new popular music originating in the Caribbean can influence young men towards violence and homophobia.

Archive Source: Arts Council Of England

Frantz Fanon Black Skin White Mask

UK 1995 Dir Isaac Julien

50 mins

DVD

A dramatised account of episodes in the life of Martinique-born French writer and political theorist, Frantz Fanon (1925-1961) intercut with interviews with relatives and friends.

Archive Source: Arts Council Of England + BFI Distribution

Go West Young Man

UK 1996 Dir Keith Piper

4 mins

DVD

Keith Piper presents a collage of images that present 400 years of black history. A black father and son discuss the ways in which popular myths have shaped their everyday experiences. It parallels their dialogue with a montage of historical moments that have influenced Western perceptions of black masculinity.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Untitled Part 2: Beauty and the East

Austria/FormerYugoslavia/Canada/USA 1999 - 2002 Dir Jayce Salloum

51 mins

Video Col

Addressing issues of transition, alienation, refusal, identities, ethno-fascism, body as object & metaphor, agents, monsters, abjectness, subjective affinities, and objective trusts with material taped predominately while moving through Ljubljana, Zagreb, Sarajevo, Belgrade, and Skopje. The speakers are framed closely, creating a complicity with and acknowledgement of the ongoing framing/mediation. Boris Buden, Marina Grzinic, Eda Cufer, Renata Salecl, Dunja Blazevic, Zarana Papic, Slavica Indzevska, Mihajlo Acimovic, Ella Shohat, Ammiel Alcalay, and Carmen Aguirre amongst others are featured.

Archive Source: LUX

BAADASSSSS!

US 2004 Dir Mario van Peebles

108 mins

35mm + DVD

Mario's stunning tribute to his father Melvin's landmark film, Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song (1971). The true story of one of black America's true film pioneers, Melvin Van Peebles, and his struggle to make the film that would become the highest grossing US independent film of 1971, as well as kickstart the Blaxploitation revolution. Mario tells the story of the making of the film that would give birth to a new era which was about to explode: Independent Black Cinema.

Archive Source: BFI Distribution + BFI DVD

The Exception and the Rule

Pakistan/India/UK 2009 Dir Brad Butler and Karen Mirza

37 mins

DigibetaHD + Video Col + B&W

"Shot primarily in Karachi, The Exception and the Rule employs a variety of strategies in negotiating consciously political themes. Avoiding traditional documentary modes, the film frames everyday activities within a period of civil unrest, incorporating performances to camera, public interventions and observation. This complex work supplements Mirza/Butler's Artangel project The Museum of Non Participation." – Mark Webber London Film Festival.

"Every morning in Karachi we read the local newspapers. This became a pattern. The front pages of the international and local news told us how our day might go. In these troubled times news headlines had direct impact on our sense of freedom around the city. The distance we were prepared to go from home. Most articles were lucid, intelligent, balanced and current, but as the days and opinion cycled past so our interest in these articles waned. After all, even a cursory look at a map would raise an eyebrow as to the complexity of Pakistan's neighbours. This is a country where so many [geo-]political points converge that their tides are directly played out in people's everyday. The pace of daily change piled thoughts on top of one another.

When we put this to a learned friend active in Pakistan he laughed and told us that: To understand Pakistan you must first understand that you cannot rationalise the non rational. Experiences of cities like Karachi are played out globally through inexhaustible layers of mediation. If we had time, we could interrogate every representation; every word and every image. But we do not have time, instead we are all constantly in the process of making ideological decisions to curtail such discussions, in the interests of getting things done. To put it in a nutshell, we all have the feeling that we are being colonised but we don't exactly know who by. The enemy is not easily identifiable and one can venture to suggest that this feeling now exists globally."—K.M. & B.B. This work is part of the ongoing project: The Museum of Non Participation.

Archive Source: LUX

Nationality and identity

Mass for the Dakota Sioux

US 1963 - 1964 Dir Bruce Baillie

24 mins

16mm B&W

"A film mass, dedicated to nobility and excellence. 'No chance for me to live, Mother, you might as well mourn.' -Sitting Bull, Hukpapa Sioux Chief. Applause for a lone figure dying on the street. INTROIT. A long lightly exposed section composed in the camera. KYRIE. A motorcyclist crossing the San Francisco bridge accompanied by the sound of a Gregorian chant, recorded at the Trappist monastery in Vina, California. The EPISTLE is in several sections. In this central part the film becomes gradually more outrageous, the material being either from television or the movies, photographed directly from the screen. The sounds of the 'mass' rise and fall throughout. GLORIA. The sound of a siren and a short sequence of a '33 Cadillac proceeding over the Bay Bridge and disappearing into a tunnel. The final section of the Communion begins with the OFFERTORY in a procession of lights and figures to the second chant. The anonymous figure from the introduction is discovered again, dead on the pavement. The body is consecrated and taken away past an indifferent, isolated people, accompanied by the final chant. The Mass is traditionally a celebration of Life, thus the contradiction between the form of the Mass and the theme of death. The dedication is to the religious people (Dakota Sioux) who were destroyed by the civilisation that evolved the Mass." - B.B.

Archive Source: LUX

Pierre Vallieres

Canada 1972 Dir Joyce Wieland

35 mins

16mm Col

"We do not actually see Pierre Vallieres, we see only his lips, his teeth, as he talks in French. English subtitles translate what he says. He speaks slowly and clearly, and tells about the Quebec people. I do not know who Pierre Valieres is, I never heard of him, but I understood, from the film, he's a political writer, among other things. Whoever he is, his mind seems to be very clear, his grasp of the political facts and history very lucid. Listening to him I understood, for the first time, why Quebec is fighting for its liberation. Pierre Vallieres is one of the most effective political films I've seen." – Jonas Mekas, Village Voice.

Archive Source: LUX

Chinese Comics

UK 1979 Dir Penny Dedman

19 mins

Video Col

This tape was made at a transitional time in China's modernisation of the late 70s, exploring the use of Chinese comics to fix the mindset of the population. Using two translated stories, and interviews with Chinese exchange students, and the (then) China correspondent for The Guardian, the programme raises the question of whether propaganda is confined to the East alone.

Archive Source: LUX

Adynata

US 1983 Dir Leslie Thornton

30 mins

16mm Col

"For Thornton, the discourse of Orientalism is precisely a discourse of excess, of hyperbole, of the absurd. In 'Adynata' she investigates the mise-en-scene of Orientalism – the conglomeration of sounds and images which connote the Orient for a Western viewer/auditor." – Mary Ann Doane, Millenium Film Journal

Archive Source: LUX

Manzana Por Manzana: Defending Reconstruction in Nicaragua

US 1983 Dir John Greyson

35, mins

Video

Manzana Por Manzana ('acre for acre' in English) introduces the vast process of reconstruction in Northern Nicaragua 'block by block'. Through songs, statement and local activities, Nicaraguans explain their revolution to North Americans – in their own words.

Archive Source: LUX

Spirit of Albion

UK 1987 Dir Richard Philpott

58 mins

16mm Col

Produced in association with Britain's 'New Age Gypsies', Albion is politically, emotionally, and spiritually a very moving film, providing a unique insight into the ways of travelling communities, the new nomads such as the 'Peace Convoy' and 'Rainbow Village', who continue to be the object of authoritarian hatred and brutality as they struggle to re-establish the ancient right to gather for solstice celebrations at Stonehenge, and search for a end to human exploitation and global destruction in the forthcoming New Age of our planet.

Archive Source: LUX

Measures of Distance

UK 1988 Dir Mona Hatoum

16 mins

Video Col

Measures of Distance, a 15-minute video work, tacitly foreshadows Hatoum's evolution from the more subjective perspective of performance-based work to the sculptures and installations she has produced in the intervening decade. The video's key footage uses a visual screen of Arabic script – taken from a series of letters between the artist and her mother – that is superimposed over the filmed image of her mother taking a shower. The screen both frames and obscures her mother's body. In both the literal sense that it was made during a visit home, and in a broader sense as well, Measures of Distance is one of the few examples of Hatoum's work to employ direct reference to the artist's exiled condition. Hatoum, a Palestinian born in Beirut in 1952, was stranded in Europe at the outset of civil war in 1975 (the municipal airport in Beirut was closed for nine months), and decided to study art in London, where she has subsequently lived most of her adult life. In the video's soundtrack, as well as in the graphic image of text layered over flesh, Hatoum explores how degrees of proximity and separation can be conveyed by employing both concrete examples (her mother taking a shower), and more formal abstractions (text, paper, voices, a trip to Beirut).

Archive Source: LUX

Introduction to the End of an Argument: (Intifada) Speaking For Oneself...Speaking For Others...,

US 1990 Dir Jayce Salloum and Elia Suleiman

45 mins

Video

This video mingles pop culture products to reveal how consistently and outrageously much of the world has demonised Arab culture and history and media that have a pervasive influence on popular thought.

Archive Source: LUX

Being Here & There

UK 1990 Dir Ka Choi

17 mins

DVD

The question of identity for Chinese people in Britain, in the context of the return of Hong Kong to China (1997) and the events of Tiananmen Square (1989), examined through drama and interviews.

Archive Source: Arts Council Of England

Linear Rhythm: A Portrait of Three Artists

UK 1990 Dir Rosa Fong

23 mins

DVD

Three Chinese-British artists explore the influences of cultural displacement, repression, and politics on their writing and painting.

Archive Source: Arts Council Of England

This is Not Beirut

US 1994 Dir Jayce Salloum

48 mins

video

Jayce Salloum examines in a provocative and enlightening way the representation and reality of Lebanon, demystifying the pathology of misinformation epitomised by

the media's coverage of Lebanon in the West. Salloum weaves analyses of terrorism, colonialism, occupation and resistance with a distinct critique of the documentary genre to create a highly charged and compelling exploration of culture and representation.

Archive Source: LUX

Series 1 & 2

UK 1999 Dir Ruth Novaczek

19 mins

Video

10 very short films in serial form. Series 1 looks at different aspects of Jewish psyche, and 2 at the social and cultural, using and misusing the voices of Barbra Streisand, Jackie Mason and Ingrid Bergman, to evoke the complexity and invisibility of Jewish presence in popular culture.

Archive source: LUX

Arrested Development

UK 2004 Dir Grace Ndiritu

3 mins

Video

"The day to day survival of those living under extreme poverty has inspired me to undermine generalized de-personalized information by making videos that are powerfully emotive for the viewer. In Arrested Development simple imagery transforms the issue of poverty into a testament to Africa's beauty and strength." –

GN

Archive source: LUX

Flag Mountain

UK/Cyprus 2010 Dir John Smith

8 Col mins

35mm+HD Video

In Nicosia, the divided capital of Cyprus, a display of nationalism is taken to its logical conclusion. Moving between macro and micro perspectives, Flag Mountain sets dramatic spectacle against everyday life as the inhabitants of both sides of the city go about their daily business.

"Impressively simple, spot on and as exact as a mathematical formula, Flag Mountain by John Smith draws an accurate caricature of nationalism" – International Jury statement, Oberhausen Short Film Festival 2010, Winner of the ARTE Prize for a European Short Film, Oberhausen 2010

Archive Source: LUX

Inclusion and identity

Outside in (Das Innere Bloss)

UK 1981 Dir Stephen Dwoskin

105 mins

16mm Col

"Outside In is a combination of memories from the visual diary of a disabled person seen from his point of view: the visual impression left during the process of

integration into the so-called able-bodied society over twenty odd years of adulthood, transformed into visual metaphors.” – S.D.

Archive Source: LUX

Stephen Dwoskin (Link)

UK 1992 Dir Kevin Mulhern

15 mins

Video

Interview with disabled film director Stephen Dwoskin and why he now features his disability, a legacy of polio, in his films.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Face of our Fear

UK 1992 Dir Stephen Dwoskin

52 mins

16mm+Video Col + B&W

“Face Of Our Fear is a richly conceived essay about the evolving image of disability. Dwoskin, a highly accomplished experimental film-maker, begins with the declaration that the historically distorted images of people with disabilities constitute a ‘negation of selfhood’. He then traces this concerted effort through two thousand years of Western culture, beginning with the Greek notion of the idealized body and its opposite, the fabulous races. Using contemporary films clips, literary quotations, performance, and pictorial records, Face of our Fear looks at the Court's infatuation with "monsters" during the Middle Ages, the "charity cripples" of the Enlightenment, the freakshows of the nineteenth century, each a resort to oppressive stigmatization.” – Steve Seid

Archive Source: LUX

Freak Fucking Basics (aka Freak Basics)

UK 1995 Dir Jo Pearson

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W (Off-air recording from Midnight Underground 22/8/96)

Short film of a journey into the creativity of disabled sex.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Gender Politics

The Suffragette Derby Of 1913 (Gaumont Graphic)

UK 1913

36secs

35mm B&W

Emily Wilding Davison dies after throwing herself in front of the King's horse at the Derby in a demand for women's suffrage.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Miss Davison's Funeral (Pathe)

UK 1913

2 mins

35mm B&W

The funeral procession of the Suffragette who was fatally injured at Epsom passing

through London." The procession passes along a street; the flower-laden hearse and two cars followed by Suffragette mourners on foot (57). "The scenes at St George's, Bloomsbury." The police with difficulty hold back the crowds (85); the clergy, the coffin and the mourners are seen leaving the church after the memorial service (110). "The last journey to the parish church, Morpeth." The procession is seen on its way to the church; the hearse followed by a flower-laden cart and suffragettes carrying a banner (150ft).

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Trafalgar Square Riot (Pathe)

UK 1913

1min

35mm B&W

Sylvia Pankhurst is arrested following a speech in Trafalgar Square.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Women's March Through London (Topical Budget)

UK 1915

1min

35mm B&W

Emmeline Pankhurst leads "a vast procession of women" showing their willingness to do war work)

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Semiotics of the Kitchen

US 1975 Dir Martha Rosler

6 mins

Video Col

Martha Rosler is a contemporary artist and feminist who uses photography, performance, writing and video to deconstruct cultural reality. Rosler characteristically lays out visual and verbal information in a manner that allows the contradictions to gradually emerge, so that the audience can discern these disjunctions for themselves.

Archive Source: LUX

The Fashion Show

UK 1977 - 1978 Dir Penny Dedman and Triple Vision/Vida and Terry Flaxton

5 mins

Video Col

The initial inspiration of this early work by VIDA (Flaxton, Cooper and Deadman) was in fact a critique of fashion and the fashion industry (to also be seen in Talking Heads, 1978/9). Having described the back stage and hidden act of preparing what was to be paraded on the catwalk in a monochrome style (blue and white as opposed to the more familiar black and white), Vida with several other notable makers (Theo Eshetu for instance) dive through into colour and the glamourising of the female form (in an act similar to that tried out with the function of interruptions, developed in Presentiments 1977). To fully underline their critical stance, Flaxton and Vida utilise a piece of music by Kraftwerk – Showroom Dummies – which talks of showroom mannequins coming to life when no-one is viewing them.

Archive Source: LUX

Kali-Filme

1987 - 1988 Dir Birgit and Wilhelm Hein

75 mins

16mm Col

The Kali films show phantasies of sexuality and violence that are under taboo in the official culture. In the plains of the Kali Film we find the pictures for our own 'low' instincts. Kali is the mother goddess in the Indian Hindu mythology. She is the bearing and at the same time the killing and castrating woman. Men have been fearing her might since primitive times. The 'women film' reflects an image of the Kali today. "We occupy ourselves with sexuality and violence in the trivial film, even more precise, in the horror and women-jail film. The crucial point is the transmitted image of women, which differs markedly from that in the 'art' film. Trivial films are real psychodramas where primitive, mostly suppressed desires and imaginations are expressed. In any case we have to ask ourselves how these images of women arise and what they mean to men and women. By means of film extracts we want to discuss the validity of traditional sex roles, especially in what concerns sexuality." - W. & B. H. "Also among women sexuality has got something to do with sweat and spittle and other juices." - B.H.

"Comprising of seven parts, Kali Film is an exploration of the taboos of our official culture that surface in low budget 'exploitation' movies. A devastating montage in homage to the spirit of the goddess Kali, sex films, horror movies and war pictures are cut-up and refilmed to disturbing and provocative effect." – Tom Heslop

Archive Source: LUX

Technology-Transformation: Wonderwoman

US 1978 Dir Dara Birnbaum

7 mins

Video

Explosive bursts of fire open Technology/Transformation, an incendiary deconstruction of the ideology embedded in television form and pop cultural iconography. Appropriating imagery from the TV series Wonder Woman, Birnbaum isolates and repeats the moment of the 'real' woman's symbolic transformation into super-hero. Entrapped in her magical metamorphosis by Birnbaum's stuttering edits, Wonder Woman spins dizzily like a music-box doll. Through radical manipulation of this female pop icon, she subverts its meaning within the television text. Arresting the flow of images through fragmentation and repetition, Birnbaum condenses the comic-book narrative – Wonder Woman deflects bullets off her bracelets, 'cuts' her throat in a hall of mirrors – distilling its essence to allow the subtext to emerge. In a further textual deconstruction, she spells out the words to the song Wonder Woman in Discoland on the screen. The lyrics' double entendres ('Get us out from under ... Wonder Woman') reveal the sexual source of the superwoman's supposed empowerment: 'Shake thy Wonder Maker.' Writing about the 'stutter-step' progression of 'extended moments' of transformation from Wonder Woman, Birnbaum states, 'The abbreviated narrative – running, spinning, saving a man – allows the underlying theme to surface: psychological transformation versus television product. Real becomes Wonder in order to 'do good' (be moral) in an (a) or (im)moral society.'

Archive source: LUX

Im Ernstfall Nicht Verfügbar (Not Available in Case of an Emergency)

Germany 1983 Dir Monika Funke-Stern

15 mins

16mm Col (Magnetic)

"A letter to the husband serving at the front in 1941. A historical document about the war and women's roles: they were not actively involved nor did they prevent it. The traditional female role: helper/saviour/keeper/offerer of comfort... In addition a document about peace in wartime. Women's life when the men are absent. Help or maybe also the start of independence and resistance? The historical setting: a small plot of land, the back garden. The camera is permitted three movements: above ground – assurance – up and away. Below ground - an archaeological search for the roots. All over the world women fought to prevent initially any further war- on the battlefields, at home, on the front and at the place of work, after 1945, during the war in Vietnam, now and evermore. Between absorption and resistance, self-consciousness in the traditional places and detachment. Here the third movement of the camera is determined: out of the ground." - M.F-S

Archive Source: LUX

The View from this Side

UK 1983 Dir Marty St James and Anne Wilson

15 mins

DVD Col

The View from this Side: compilation of performance video satirising traditional gender roles at work and at home.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive & Arts Council Of England

Tom Boy/Tom Girl

UK 1984 Dir Marty St James and Anne Wilson

5 mins

DVD col

Part of the compilation Visual Art Songs for the 80s. Performance video which satirises traditional gender roles and examines the question "What are little girls and little boys made of?". Intercuts between the artists' performance and images from the Museum of Childhood, Bethnal Green.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Faded Wallpaper

UK 1988 Dir Tina Keane

20 mins

16mm Col

"Based loosely on the short story by Charlotte Perkins Gilmour, 'Faded Wallpaper' is concerned with visual perception, madness and the search for identity. A woman, isolated within a room, becomes obsessed with the wallpaper surrounding her, seeing within its faded patterns strange images – at times pleasurable and seductive, at times threatening and dangerous. As these images become more insistent she begins to strip the wallpaper away in an attempt either to banish the images or get to their source. Words and sounds run through her head as she peels away the layers, questioning her own self-image, her imagination and her sanity. No solutions are given, only more questions..." – T.K.

Archive Source: LUX

No More Nice Girls

1989 Dir Joan Braderman

44, mins

Video

No More Nice Girls is an eye-grabbing commentary on feminism in the late 1980s revealed through conversational eavesdropping. Four fictional characters, all women in their late 30s, early 40s, who were active in the women's movement ("Ageing feminists from hell", as one of them puts it) discuss the post feminist backlash of the 1980s. Combined with these fragmented dialogues Braderman uses her home movies of 'family life', books, posters and superimposed hand-written quotation to create a multi-layered interventionist text. This blend of radical feminism, personal recollection and topical gossip is highly critical of the post-feminist condition, yet remains entertaining, humorous and challenging.

Archive Source: LUX

Home Avenue

US 1989 Dir Jennifer Montgomery

17 mins

16mm Col

Filmed originally on Super-8, Home Avenue portrays Jennifer Montgomery returning to the peaceful suburban street where she was raped nine years earlier. A powerful investigation not just of the brutality of the crime, but also of the unsupportive reactions of her family and the authorities as well as Montgomery's subsequent obsession with guns and self-protection.

Archive Source: LUX

Desert Storm

UK 2004 Dir Grace Ndiritu

5 mins

Video Col

A beautiful haunting image juxtaposed with the soothing music of the Saharan nomads' leaves many implications and contradictions of the piece unresolved; rape/modesty, religious repression/sexual freedom, political ideology/spirituality. This piece honours the female victims of war whose bodies are violated and then depicted throughout Western media as tabloid stories. In today's world war is as much a media construct as a political one, therefore "Today's news is literally Tomorrow's War."

Archive Source: LUX

Sexual politics

Nighthawks

UK 1978 Dir Ron Peck

113 mins

35mm + Digibeta + Beta SP + DVD

With: Ken Robertson, Rachel Nicholas James, Clive Peters. When Nighthawks was first released 30 years ago our world was undoubtedly a different place. Key gay rights had still yet to be won, and low-budget independent British films were influenced by international arthouse directors such as Pasolini, Fassbinder, Warhol/Morrissey, Wenders and Chantal Akerman. Nighthawks defies categorisation, its compelling cyclical structure interspersing the daily work of schoolteacher with his documentation of changing urban spaces and nights spent cruising bars and clubs in search of Mr Right. Leading a mixed cast of actors and non-professionals, Ken Robertson excels in a brave performance that confounded critics at the time.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution + BFI DVD

Pedagogue

UK 1988 Dir Neil Bartlett and Stuart Marshall

10 mins

Video Col

A short performance to camera by solo performer/dramatist Neil Bartlett. Pedagogue explores in comic style the possible implications of Clause 28. Through Clause 28, the British Government took powers to outlaw the 'promotion of homosexuality' in education and local government.

Archive Source: LUX

Never Again Dv8 Physical Theatre

UK 1989 Dir Bob Bentley

27 mins

DVD

A performance about lesbian and gay relationships and their effect on the straight world. Choreography by Lloyd Newson.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Whoever Says the Truth Shall Die

Netherlands/Italy 1990 Dir Philo Bregstein

59 mins

DVD Col/B&W

A documentary about the murder of Pier Paolo Pasolini on a beach near Rome in November 1975. The film refutes the official verdict that a homosexual pick-up had turned sour and instead argues that he was the victim of a right-wing conspiracy. Includes interviews with Bernardo Bertolucci, Alberto Moravia and Laura Betti and clips from Pasolini's films.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Anthem

US 1991 Dir Marlon Riggs

10 mins

Video

Fast and furious vocal sampling makes an epic monologue style. The black American experience gets a re-working whereupon a new world is envisaged. A world wherein the American dream is synonymous with black homosexual utopia. A talking head faces the camera and constructs his own speech after Martin Luther King.

Archive Source: LUX

Public Health, Safety and Sexual Health Education

COI Collection, The: Vol 1: Police and Thieves

UK 1949-2006 Prod COI

DVD Col + B&W

295 mins

The Central Office of Information (COI) was established in April 1946 and has produced thousands of films that reflected the culture and concerns of the nation. Volume 1 of the COI collection tackles crime, juvenile delinquency, policing and the

justice system. A variety of styles and genres – story documentary, drama, public information shorts – are employed to deliver crime prevention messages and bolster recruitment in this area. The wonderful selection of films on this two-disc set have been newly transferred to High-Definition from the original film elements. An accompanying booklet provides comprehensive notes and essays from academics and film historians.

Titles include:

Children on Trial (1946)

Children of the City (1944)

Probation Officer (1950)

Youth Club (1954)

A Chance for Brian (1977)

Four Men in Prison (1950)

Help Yourself (1950)

Transatlantic Teleview 26: Man on the Beat (1956)

British Policeman (1959)

Unit Beat Policing (1968)

Anything Can Happen (1973)

Bicycle Thefts (1974)

Snatch of the Day (1975)

Challenge for a Lifetime (1975)

Archive source: BFI DVD + BFI National Archive

COI Collection, The: Vol 4: Stop! Look! Listen!

UK 1949-2006 Prod COI

DVD Col + B&W

The fourth volume on the COI collection - Stop! Look! Listen! - focuses on health, safety and welfare messages. Cautionary tales, motherly advice, celebrity appearances and shock tactics have all been utilised by the COI to prevent us from being: killed on the road; burnt to death; abducted by strangers; crushed by tractors; drowned at sea, and so on. This release concentrates on the longer films in this area, punctuated by a small selection of some well known short public information films and commercials.

Highlights include: Mind How You Go (1973), Green Cross Code advice courtesy of Valerie Singleton; Drive Carefully Darling (1975), starring Frank Bough and a stellar cast of 'numskulls'; Apaches (1977), massacre on a farm from the director of The Long Good Friday; Betcher! (1971), a young Keith Chegwin takes on a cycling challenge; Never Go With Strangers (1971), sinister stranger danger advice for children; 20 Times More Likely (1979), Gillian Taylforth's puppy love end tragically.

Archive source: BFI DVD + BFI National Archive

Misinformation

UK 2010 Dir COI / Mordant Music

101 mins

DVD Col + B&W

Misinformation is the result of the BFI asking mysterious music makers Mordant Music to re-score an array of 70s and 80s public information films and documentary shorts produced by the Central Office of Information (COI); a serendipitous meeting of sound and image that has produced one of the BFI's most startling and uncategorisable DVD releases. When the BFI took over management of the COI film collection it inherited hundreds of time-coded VHS compilations of the films. Musty and outmoded the format may be, but these tapes (compiled over the space of ten

years) were, and still are, the main source of reference for the vast collection. Now housed in one of the BFI's old nitrate viewing rooms, it was here that Mordant Music's Baron Mordant was brought in to scroll, trawl, stumble, wind and re-wind his way through some of the wonderfully diverse films that now make up this DVD release. Some of the films are well known - AIDS: Iceberg (1986), Magpies: House (1987) - and some are from the early career of now famous filmmakers, such as Peter Greenaway's Inkjet Printer (Living Tomorrow 245) and The Sea in Their Blood. Others, such as Illusions, a film on solvent abuse (1983) and New Towns in Britain (1974) are here seeing the light of day for the first time since their original distribution. Baron Mordant explains the process: "The cordial gentlemen of the BFI led me blindfolded onto the roof at the BFI HQ Stephen Street and left me propped against an obsolete Steenbeck with instructions to sniff my way to the nearest nitrate room, rummage through the VHS mountain and not leave until I'd misinformed at least one reel of usable DVD in earnest...in the midst of ruptured telecine transfers and squealing reels a selection of COI films, redolent to my youth, unearthed me and I duly smeared them with my detritus...I imagined sounds and characters leaving one film and cropping up in another and that's the way it eventually spooled...a narrative manifested itself and 'a return to the sea' would appear to be the iMMediate answer for future spores..."

Archive source: BFI DVD + BFI National Archive

The Joy of Sex Education – DVD collection

UK 1917 – 1973 Dir Various

Timings below

DVD Col + B&W

From the earliest-known example, Whatsoever a Man Soweth (1917) to the comical, but ultimately serious, 'Ave You Got a Male Assistant Please Miss? (1973), this unique anthology of 16 key titles takes in almost 60 years of the British sex education film. Take a journey through the euphemisms, metaphors, and diagrams of yore to discover the controversial attitude-changing works of the early 1970s. All matters, unmentionable or otherwise, are dealt with here, from First World War warnings to soldiers of the potential dangers of cavorting with loose women in London's West End, to puberty pep-talks for girls and scare stories to deter unwanted teenage pregnancies.

By turns enlightening, entertaining and surprising, the range and type of works presented here will interest film fans, social historians and anyone interested to ensure that they stay on the road to health.

Titles include:

Whatsoever a Man Soweth (1917, 38 mins)

Any Evening After Work (1930, 27 mins)

How To Tell (1931, 21 mins)

The Mystery of Marriage (1932, 32 mins)

Trial for Marriage (1936, 28 mins)

A Test for Love (1937, 28 mins)

The Road of Health (1938, 11 mins)

Love on Leave (1940, 33 mins)

Six Little Jungle Boys (1945, 9 mins)

The People at No. 19 (1949, 17 mins)

Growing Girls (1949, 12 mins)

Learning to Live (1964, 19 mins)

Her Name Was Ellie, His Name Was Lyle (1967, 28 mins)

Growing Up (1971, 23 mins)

Don't Be Like Brenda (1973, 8 mins)
'Ave You Got A Male Assistant Please Miss? (1973, 4 mins).
Archive source: BFI DVD + BFI National Archive

Aids

Bright Eyes

UK 1984 Dir Stuart Marshall

90 mins

Video Col

Most media reporting of AIDS has tended to focus on purely medical issues or, in the case, of the popular press, has been blatantly alarmist and discriminatory. Bright Eyes takes up the topic of AIDS but differs from previous coverage by examining the disease's social and historical context. The media persist in describing AIDS as 'The Gay Plague' even though it is now known that 50 new cases of AIDS among heterosexuals are reported each week in Zaire alone. Taking a newspaper article from the summer of 1983 as its starting point, Bright Eyes examines the way in which homosexuality itself has been described as a disease since the late 19th century. Using dramatic reconstructions of events in Hitler's Germany the programme goes on to show how this description was used to justify the extermination of thousands of homosexuals in concentration camps. The final part of the programme uses interviews and drama to describe the anti-homosexual reporting of AIDS by the media and other contemporary threats to the gay community. The programme ends with a speech by a young American with AIDS in which he describes the discrimination he has experienced and his hopes for the future.

"The programme is about the current threats to the gay community. The misrepresentation in the media that AIDS is a 'gay disease' rather than a new disease from which gays, amongst others, are suffering. But it doesn't look at the medical issues so much as the social and political climate in which the illness is being presented to the public as a means of control. That's why it also looks at police harassment and entrapment of gays, and the Customs raids and seizure of books from 'Gay's the Word'. Headlines on AIDS like 'Gay Plague' resurrect 19th century medical notions that homosexuality itself was a disease, whilst 'Wrath of God' articles play on even older prejudices of sinfulness and guilt. To dissect such ideas I wanted to show their historical roots, how medical science was used to oppress gays in Victorian England and in Nazi Germany. History informs the present but most TV erases history. And moral panics are built on stereotypes. People get hung up about mixing forms like drama-documentary and about authenticity and objectivity. TV uses realism as if it were the truth, but the real issue is to ask who is the programme addressing? and who's interest is being served by it? I didn't set out to prove a point or make a definitive statement. I leave the audience asking questions." Extract from an interview with Stuart Marshall. 1984. A Caught in the Act Production for Channel Four Television, 1984

Archive Source: LUX

AIDS Iceberg/Monolith Advertisement on Misinformation compilation DVD

UK C1985 Prod Department of Health

Television commercials (which were also adapted for cinema) aimed at raising public awareness of the AIDS epidemic, re-scored and manipulated by Mordant Music) on the on Misinformation COI DVD.

Archive source: BFI DVD + BFI National Archive

This is Not an Aids Ad

1987 Dir Isaac Julien

11 mins

DVD

The first part contains lyrical images of death and loss, while the second half is assertive and celebratory, accompanied by a funk-heavy soundtrack.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

The Pink Pimpernel

Canada 1989 Dir John Greyson

32, mins

Video

Someone is making drug runs to the USA for treatments not available in Canada. Who's really behind the blush-coloured mask? Community activists explain the problem of procuring treatments for PWAs and then go on to lasso other issues while back in the narrative, Toronto's gay community worries about the safety of Sir Perc as Greyson throws a third ball into the game – a series of safe sex erotic interludes...

Archive Source: LUX

Ecco Homo

US 1989 Dir Jerry Tartaglia

7 mins

16mm Col

Ecco Homo (behold man) employs optically printed footage. Thanks to A.I.D.S. hysteria in America, all gay sexuality is once again considered to be essentially pornographic, politically incorrect, sinful or a public health hazard. Ecco Homo is a call to reclaim gay power.

Archive Source: LUX

Aid S Ida

France 1992 Dir Yann Beauvais

5 mins

16mm Col, Silent

When AIDS was named in 1981, patients were immediately classified into what were conceived as mutually exclusive risk groups: homosexuals, drug-addicts, Haitians.. Do you know what a risk group is? A population at risk? The basis of exclusion. These risk groups, for different political, economic or social reasons became the perfect scapegoat...'

Archive Source: LUX

Cling Film

UK 1993 Dir Anna Thew

20 mins

16mm + DVD Col

"Cling Film is a fast cut safer sex collage film, which travels humorously and recklessly through a catalogue of sexual encounters and mishaps. Opening with excerpts from World Health Organisation press releases on the reality of heterosexual transmission of HIV and AIDS, repressive fear-mongering tactics of the media are shunned in favour of a direct and lively attack on censorship and its

bedmates, guilt and embarrassment... Along with written captions and clips of Nosferatu disintegrating at the sight of a bit of rubber, Thew takes to the silent screen, making for some hilarious as well as confrontational episodes."- M.L.
Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Social Order



Nightcleaners (1972-1975)

Nightcleaners (Part 1)

UK 1972 - 1975 Dir Berwick Street Collective (Mary Kelly, Marc Karlin, Humphry Trevelyan and James Scott)

90 mins

16mm+Video B&W

Nightcleaners Part 1 was a documentary made by members of the Berwick Street Collective (Marc Karlin, Mary Kelly, James Scott and Humphry Trevelyan), about the campaign to unionize the women who cleaned office blocks at night and who were being victimized and underpaid. Intending at the outset to make a campaign film, the Collective was forced to turn to new forms in order to represent the forces at work between the cleaners, the Cleaner's Action Group and the unions - and the complex nature of the campaign itself. The result was an intensely self-reflexive film, which implicated both the film-makers and the audience in the processes of precarious, invisible labour. It is increasingly recognised as a key work of the 1970s and as an important precursor, in both subject matter and form, to current political art practice. "A film that places the nightcleaners' campaign within a series of broader political discussions formulated as an 'open text' which asks as many questions about its own status as a film as it does about the socio-political issues that are its subject. No engaged person should overlook its challenge." –Tony Rayns, Time Out.

A new print of '36 to '77 is available from the British Film Institute

Archive Source: LUX

Le Sexe Enrage

Belgium 1970 Dir Roland Lethem

16 mins

16mm Col + B&W

Perhaps the most overtly political of Lethem's short films, in which the bourgeoisie is compared in terms of potency to a mouse. The film is dedicated to the Belgian censor. Le Sexe Enrage (The Red Cunt) is the liberated woman, against whom the bourgeoisie are damned and damnable. A bourgeoisie client is transformed into a

mouse and cannibalised by a prostitute in flagrante delicto with the camera changing focus in time to her breathing.

Archive Source: LUX

Arise Ye Workers

UK 1973 Dir Cinema Action

25 mins

16mm B&W

Arise Ye Workers is one of film activists Cinema Action's most concise and forceful films. It chronicles the London dockers' struggle to preserve their jobs against ruthless rationalisation, profiteering and land speculation and the arrest of the Pentonville 5.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Sink or Swim

Canada 1981 Dir Paulette Phillips and Geoffrey Shea

7 mins

Video Col

Two Canadian filmmakers/video artists have combined their talents to create a multi-layered piece that examines the concept of work by using various techniques and intertwining several plots. Documentary-style interviews are interspersed with the narrative structure. Employment is presented as a series of pre-packaged lifestyles that suppress the identity of the individual.

Archive Source: LUX

Exercises

Germany 1983 Dir Anke Oehme

925fps mins

16mm Col (Magnetic)

Archive Source: LUX

Home(Less) is Where the Revolution Is

US 1990 Dir Paul Garrin

3 mins

Video

In Homeless, Garrin combines the high tech with the lo-fi to create a hyper-real landscape of confrontation using the power of technology to drop homeless squatters onto the lawn of the White House in a hard-hitting inversion of the power struggle.

Archive Source: LUX

Social Visions

UK 2000 Dir Redmond Entwistle

15 mins

16mm B&W

Social Visions suggests the myriad histories and futures that constitute Los Angeles; a city whose public image has been used as cover for the abuse of its population but also a city where one senses the potential for radical social change. Los Angeles is suffering from all the worst side effects of America's social and economic reforms. Industry, commerce and the middle classes have all jumped ship and left a husk of a city. The most basic public services such as roads and water run along the lines of money and in the poorer parts of town life breaks down. There is insecurity

everywhere; privatisation threatens more jobs, social security is a misnomer and the land can be bought from under your feet. Immigration from South America and the far-east increases while middle class populations dwindle. A small clique presides over the image of the city, but it is a city that they hardly know. Without money or political power, the majority of people who live here are invisible. Social Visions is about the impossibility of adequately representing a city when whole sections of the population are excluded from the channels of power.

Archive Source: LUX

Otolith I

UK 2003 Dir Otolith Group

2216 secs

Video Col

Otolith I is set in the 22nd Century, when the human race is no longer able to survive on earth and is obliged to live in the agravic conditions of the International Space Station. Dr. Usha Adebaran Sagar, the future descendent of Otolith Group member Anjalika Sagar, is an ex- anthropologist researching life on an earth that she can experience only through media archives. Otolith imagines a mutant future that simultaneously harks back to the post war era of non-alignment so as to indicate a connection between the production of commonality in South Asia, USSR and the present.

Archive Source: LUX

Otolith II

UK/India 2007 Dir Otolith Group

4742 secs

Video Col

Otolith II is set in the near future and mixes fiction, archival material and documentary footage filmed in Mumbai and Chandigarh. The film explores the affective pressure exerted upon inhabitants residing within contrasting and competing versions of the city of tomorrow. Otolith II investigates the politics of futurity in which predictive models of the masterplan, the corporate scenario and real estate speculation converge to extract labour, convert attention and capture potential for profit.

Archive Source: LUX

Capitalism and Consumerism

A Video Tape By

UK 1983 Dir Marty St James and Anne Wilson

14 mins

DVD Col

Video performance satirising consumerism and romance.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

This is Your Messiah Speaking

Canada 1990 Dir Vera Frenkel

10, mins

Video

A continuation of Frenkel's series on the theme of consumerism, the power of advertising and the seduction of shopping malls to induce us to spend money we don't have.

Archive Source: LUX

The Globalisation Tapes

Indonesia/Indonesia 2003 Dir Vision Machine

70 mins

Video Col

The Globalisation Tapes: a collaboration between the Independent Plantation Workers' Union of Sumatra (Indonesia), the International Union of Food and Agricultural Workers (IUF), and Vision Machine Film Project. Sharman Sinaga's granddaughter looks bored as her grandfather demonstrates for the camera his favored technique of market liberalization: holding union activists upside down in flooded fields. He mimics their gargles as they choke in the mud. He could hold down two or three at a time he boasts; he seems faintly nostalgic in the dim light and the smoke; his only regret, that his arms and knees aren't what they used to be. The orders to hold people upside-down came from the top, he tells us, from Surhato; they came also with support from high on Capitol Hill. The Globalisation Tapes were made in collaboration with those a little further down the pile, closer to the mud (and the rubber and the oil), closer to the memories of the massacre that cleared the way for Indonesia's 'modernisation'. Using their own forbidden history as a case study, the Indonesian film-makers trace the development of contemporary globalisation from its roots in colonialism to the present. Through chilling first-hand accounts, hilarious improvised interventions, collective debate and archival collage, The Globalisation Tapes exposes the devastating role of militarism and repression in building the 'global economy', and explores the relationships between trade, third-world debt, and international institutions like the IMF and the World Trade Organization. The film is a densely lyrical and incisive account of how these institutions shape and enforce the corporate world order (and its 'systems of chaos').

Archive Source: LUX

The Last Days of Jack Sheppard

UK 2009 Dir Anja Kirschner and David Panos

56 mins

HD Video Col

The Last Days of Jack Sheppard is based on the inferred prison encounters between the 18th century criminal Jack Sheppard and Daniel Defoe, ghostwriter of Sheppard's 'autobiography'. Set in the wake of the South Sea Bubble of 1720, Britain's first financial crisis, the film is a critical costume drama constructed from a patchwork of historical, literary, and popular sources. It explores the connections between representation, speculation and the discourses of high and low culture that emerged in the early 18th century and remain relevant to the present day.

Archive Source: LUX

Media Critique

Masaje

Spain 1972 Dir Ivan Zulueta

3 mins

16mm B&W

"Using the technique of direct photography off the TV screen, Zulueta composes three minutes 'in which we see, speeded up, the complete television programming on a day of union and military parades. There was a subliminal Franco, and we didn't even submit it to the censors...' (I.V.). The soundtrack of Masaje alternates effects, noises and sounds of all kinds. The result is a really frenetic visual 'massage' that exposes the viewer's eye to fleeting movie images, ads and news reports in rapid-fire succession." - Carlos F. Heredero

Archive Source: LUX

Talking Heads

UK 1978 - 1979 Dir Triple Vision/Vida, Penny Dedman, Terry Flaxton and Tony Cooper

20 mins

Video Col + B&W

By 1978, Flaxton had become highly critical of the media and sought to create a didactic no-nonsense critique of the way the media generates bias against what it has been set up to work against. This work comes to the conclusion that the media itself is society's basic governing value system reflecting and propagandising for the values of society. Talking Heads won 4th Prize in the 1979 Tokyo Video Festival.

Archive Source: LUX

The Love Show

UK 1979 Dir Stuart Marshall

47 mins

Video Col

"A narrator describes the beginning of a television programme. It sounds like a 'made for TV' movie. He then describes a series of seemingly disconnected scenes which are illustrated by clichéd sound effects. A memory test follows. A number of characters – writer, designer, make-up artist who are all played by the same actor – describe their part in the television production process. They seem to have trouble keeping their minds on the matter and their monologues slide away from a description (...the love of their craft to ideological statements about the representation of sexuality in realist drama productions). Love on television – television's constant narration and articulation of representations of sexuality – the viewer's libidinal investment in those representations. Love of television – the ideology of professionalism – the television producer's libidinal investment in the production of those representations. What if the news were to be read differently? Would committed television produce an analysis rather than a 'reportage'? What kind of images would it use?" – Video Artists on Tour catalogue, 1980, Arts Council.

Archive Source: LUX

Making News

UK 1984 Dir Penny Dedman and Triple Vision/Vida and Terry Flaxton

37 mins

Video Col

"Making News was the cross-over tape between the changing of Vida into Triple Vision. It was a direct assault on news values and the act of journalism. Used for many years by the BBC to train journalists in understanding 'news bias', Making News was originally commissioned by the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom to expose unsound journalistic practices. In this work the members of Vida and Triple Vision examine three broadcast news reports to try to understand the way

that news and broadcast values function in society. So successful was the work that on completion, both the NUJ and ACTT threatened the makers with having their membership of these organisations being taken away if cuts were not made (by vested interests within the organisations). Naturally Vida/Triple Vision ignored the warnings and went ahead in releasing the tape uncut." - Terry Flaxton
Archive Source: LUX

Manufacturing Consent: Noam Chomsky and the Media

Canada 1992 Dir Mark Achbar and Peter Wintonick

170 mins

DVD Col

Using interviews and lecture highlights interspersed with newsreel, documentary and archive footage, the film explores the career of the philosopher and linguist, Professor Noam Chomsky, an outspoken critic of the mass media and a defender of the right to know. The first part explores thought control in democratic societies. The second part deals with activating dissent. Chomsky contrasts the non-coverage of Indonesia's genocidal invasion of East Timor in 1975, to which the West was economically indifferent, with the media coverage of the Khmer Rouge atrocities in Cambodia. Includes contributions from novelist Tom Wolfe, journalists Bill Moyers, Robert MacNeil and Karl E Meyer, commentator William F Buckley Jr., and White House reporter Sarah McClendon.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive + BFI DVD

B.I.T. Plane

UK/USA 1999 Dir Bureau of Inverse Technology

15 mins

Video B&W

A critical aero-anthropological study of Silicon Valley USA. The Bureau of Inverse Technology, an information agency, deploys its model spy plane the BIT PLANE [wingspan 31"] on this mission deep into the glittering heart of the Silicon Valley, to investigate the progress of the Information Age.

Archive Source: LUX

A Week in the News: 7 Places We Think We Know, 7 News Stories We Think We Understand

UK 2010 Dir Grace Ndiritu

35 mins

Video Col, Silent

Site-specific video for video walls, airports, transport hubs, metro and subways, office lobbies, food communal areas and social education spaces. A Week in the News examines how the global media has manipulated particular news stories to create specific stereotypes about certain places. It contrasts two styles of presenting news that have at their root two opposing value systems e.g. scrolling subtitles text reminiscent of mainstream news outlets like CNN, with a guerrilla news film-making style adopted by grassroots media organizations like Indymedia who provide up to the minute alternative news to the mainstream. Each video location presents true and false images and facts about that specific country. Significant dates listed on the video: South Africa: 9 July 2000: The day President Mbeki denied that HIV virus causes AIDS; Afghanistan; 7 October 2001: The day of the first US bomb strikes against the Taliban; Darfur: 31 January 2005; The day the UN refused to describe Darfur crisis as a genocide; New Orleans 1 September 2005: The day after President George Bush Junior celebrated VJ day while Hurricane Katrina was destroying New Orleans; Tibet 30

September 2006: The day of the Nangpa La Pass shootings when 18 Tibetans including children fleeing Tibet were shot by Chinese Border Security services; Australia 13 February 2008: The day Prime Minister Kevin Rudd apologized for the mistreatment of Aboriginal peoples; Haiti: 12 January 2010: The day a catastrophic earthquake killed over 100,000 people and left 2 million orphans in Haiti.
Archive Source: LUX

War Critique

Hotel des Invalides

France 1951 Dir Georges Franju

23 mins

16mm B&W

Although essentially a film-maker of the avant-garde, Franju's early documentary work provides an important link between the films of post-war France, the British Free Cinema of the 1950s and Cinema Verite of the 1960s. The Hotel des Invalides in Paris was founded in 1675 by Louis XIV to serve as a retreat for retired soldiers and the disabled. At first the film conducts the spectator on an innocuous tour around the galleries but gradually the light becomes oppressive and finally every object in the hotel transmutes into an emblem of cruelty. In the church the veterans proudly hold up their regimental banner that symbolises the glory of war and the mutilation of their bodies and lives. Actuality has transformed into a surreal personal vision; a vision which is anti-clerical and anti-militarist.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Time of the Locust

US 1966 Dir Peter Gessner

12 mins

16mm B&W

A film about the war in Vietnam, compiled from American news film, combat footage shot by the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam and suppressed film taken by Japanese cameramen.

"A poem in film of agony and protest...not propaganda (but) an expression of agony..." – I.F. Stone

"More powerful than the cleverest written argument. The point is simple and dramatic. It exposes the cruel agony of Vietnam." – Bertrand Russell, Peace Foundation.

Archive Source: LUX

Untitled Part 1: Everything and Nothing

Canada 1999 - 2002 Dir Jayce Salloum

41 mins

Video Col

An intimate dialogue with Soha Bechara, ex-Lebanese National Resistance fighter, in her Paris dorm room. The interview was taped during the last year of the Israeli occupation, one year after her release from captivity in El-Khiam torture and interrogation center (South Lebanon) where she had been detained for 10 years-six in isolation. Revising notions of resistance, survival, and will, the overexposed image of

the survivor speaks quietly and directly to the camera – not speaking of the torture, but of separation amid loss; of what is left behind and what remains.

“Soha Bechara is a heroine in Lebanon; pictures of her are seen in many homes in the south, and posters of her were seen all around downtown Beirut when I was working there in the early 90s. She was captured in 1988 for trying to assassinate the general of the SLA, Antoine Lahad (the South Lebanese Army was a proxy militia set up and controlled by the Israeli forces to give a Lebanese façade to the occupation of South Lebanon). I didn't ask her anything specifically about the torture she underwent or the trauma of detention; she was being interviewed to death by the European and Arab press over the details of her captivity and the minutiae of her surviving it and the conditions in El-Khiam and the detainees and the resistance. I went to her small dorm room, not much bigger than her cell (she is presently studying international law at the Sorbonne); she sat on her bed and I asked her about the distance lived between Khiam and Paris, and Beirut and Paris, and what she left in Khiam and what she brought with her. A story about flowers and how she never puts them in water, how it felt for her now to be under such demand, and who she was, and what the title of the tape should be, and a few other things. This video material that I recorded of the time spent with her is not precious, just time and a conversation, and intense intimacy at a close and unbreachable distance.” - J.S

Archive Source: LUX

The Firing Line

UK/UK 2000 Dir Ian Helliwell

5 mins

Video Col

A film of British army soldiers shot on Super-8 while stationed at their barracks in Germany during the early 1970s. Helliwell has cut this found footage into two parts to reflect two aspects of military life as captured by the men themselves. His specially composed soundtrack consists of electronic sounds from tone generators and various drums and percussion instruments.

Archive Source: LUX

Overheated 1991-2001: The Undiminished Intensity Mix

UK 2001 Dir Matt Hulse

8 mins

Video Col + B&W

“Although I do not consider myself to be an overtly 'political' film maker, I cannot sit back and ignore the images of events that occur around me. Back in 1991, the Gulf war was freely available to the world – to be consumed and enjoyed remotely in the form of TV and radio, 24 hours a day. I recorded many hours of radio reportage at that time for a three-screen installation called Overheated which presented the shocking contrasts between the war zone and the home comforts of suburban Texas. More recently, with yet another Bush as President, I was reminded of those times and I decided to revisit my old work, to archive it in single screen form. I thought it might be of historical curiosity to my grand children, if nothing else. The day I happened to chose to edit was September 11th 2001. I was just tidying up the titles and getting ready to put the work on the shelf when something rather significant occurred that demanded incorporation.” – MH

Archive Source: LUX

Frozen War

Ireland 2001 Dir John Smith

11 mins

Video Col

Part of the series Hotel Diaries Made in Ireland, October 8th 2001. A spontaneous response to the bombing of Afghanistan triggered by a disorientating experience in an Irish hotel room. Frozen War is the first video in the Hotel Diaries series, a collection of late night recordings made in European hotel rooms which relate personal experiences to contemporary world events. Works in the series currently include Frozen War (Ireland, 2001), Museum Piece (Germany, 2004), Throwing Stones (Switzerland, 2004), B & B (England, 2005) and Pyramids (Netherlands 2006). They can be shown individually or as a chronological group.

"These deceptively unassuming works consist of single takes from the point of view of Smith's camcorder as he explores the nocturnal spaces of hotels he is staying in and delivers monologues on his thoughts and observations. At once politically concerned and very funny, these brilliantly structured ramblings connect the observations of his surroundings with the horror of world events in consistently surprising ways." – Maximilian Le Cain, Film Ireland Magazine

"In Frozen War, UK artist John Smith, holed up in a hotel room far from home, turns the tables on the TV news as he starts to ask the questions they never do." – Abina Manning, programme notes for Video Mundi Film Festival, Chicago.

Archive Source: LUX

We See Absence (Part One Of Circling Zero)

US 2002 Dir Ken Jacobs

110 mins

Video Col

Improvised personal video documentary by an experimental film maker with an extremely large oeuvre, shot with a simple consumer video camera. This film is the first part of an intended trilogy entitled We See Absence. The following two parts, that will also last about two hours, are called A Pipeline Through Afghanistan Will Cheer Us and Ourselves at a Distance – strikingly politically loaded titles for a filmmaker who became famous with virtually abstract work. Jacobs regards this work as a kind of home movie, a return to the innocence of an amateur status, with which he reports on the events after 11 September 2001 in his own surroundings. The unedited video shots that Nisi Jacobs made of the moment of the attacks form part of the film. The second part provides impressions of the many spontaneous mourning altars that were erected on Union Square in Manhattan. Jacobs does not comment on events, apart from in the selection of his recordings. He looks round with an open, but apparently experienced eye in the so suddenly changed surroundings with their so suddenly changed people. The film is spontaneous and unpolished and manages to catch the amazement of the moment so well. Every inch around Ground Zero seems to have been filmed a hundred times, but Jacobs took his time to really look.

Archive Source: LUX

Anti-war protest

We Shall March Again

US 1965 Dir Lenny Lipton

10 mins

16mm B&W

A dynamic film of the October 1965 Berkely Peace march, which builds to a showdown as the marchers meet a solid wall of Oakland police, and are attacked by the Hell's Angels. Award, San Francisco Film Festival.

Archive Source: LUX

Arts Vietnam

Australia 1968 Dir Sacha Ivanovich

28 mins

16mm B&W

A documentary based on a festival of the arts staged in Sydney by well recognised Australian artists, as their contribution towards the protest against the Australian involvement in the Vietnam war.

Archive Source: LUX

Glory Boys?

UK 1983 Dir Vanda Carter

4 mins

Super-8 Col Separate CD

"I was looking through boys' comics and books at the images of 'honour', 'heroism' and violence. Then there was the Falklands War, and the newspapers, TV and other media were recycling the same emotive nonsense to paper over the cracks and the calculated, futile waste of lives. This is intended to be a serious film. So many people were deceived. - V.C.

"Glory Boys? suggests, through its montage alone, that the myths and ideologies which have sustained the popular image of the Falklands War are rooted in British mass cultural traditions." – Max Barker, Albany 'Reel to Reel Festival' 1984.

Archive Source: LUX

Scenes from Freedonia

UK 2004 Dir Cordelia Swann

10 mins

Video Col

Looking back at 2003, a year when Britain went to war, we see scenes filmed in central London of public processions, ceremonies and demonstrations. Alongside the familiar unexpected spectrums of pageantry, mood and allegiance are revealed as the camera scrutinises faces, banners and events. Among scenes of sadness, anguish and anger, there are also more than one or two comic moments.

Archive Source: LUX

Nuclear Disarmament

Poets Against the Bomb

UK 1981 Dir Francis Fuchs

25 mins

DVD

The record of a poetry event staged by the Kensington and Chelsea branch of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, at Chelsea Old Town, in 1981, featuring readings by a number of British writers including Adrian Mitchell, Harold Pinter, Nicki Jackowska, Roy Fisher, Phyllis King, Judith Kazantsis, Ruth Fainlight, Ivor Cutler.

Archive Source: Arts Council Of England

Common Sense: Greenham Actions

UK 1982 Dir Gwyn Kirk

40 mins

DVD Col

An account of the actions taken by women at Greenham Common during 1982. Five actions are shown: the 24 hour blockade in March; the die-in at the Stock Exchange, London in June, when Ronald Reagan arrived in Britain; keening in Parliament Square the following day, when Reagan addressed Parliament; occupying the Security Box in August, marking the first anniversary of the original march from Wales; and the encircling of the base in December.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Carry Greenham Home

UK 1983 Dir Beeban Kidron

2490ft

16mm Col

An account of life at the women's peace camp at Greenham Common, Berkshire, which attempts to explain the ideas behind their action and shows various events such as breaching the fence, the Easter 'chain' around the base, bailiffs removing possessions to pay legal costs and the birth of a baby. Filmed at the camp over seven months, from December 12th, 1982, the day 30,000 women "embraced the base" as part of their protest against the siting of nuclear weapons there.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Debate of the Dead

US 1983 Dir Betsy Newman and Ellen Stein

7 mins

Video Col

Debate of the Dead is a bizarre posthumous interview with John Wayne and Susan Hayward as to whether their deaths were caused by nuclear tests carried out near a former film location.

Archive Source: LUX

In Our Hands, Greenham

UK 1984 Dir Tina Keane

38, mins

Video Col

In Our Hands Greenham uses a video installation to convey women's struggle against nuclear weapons. The soundtrack is a collage of interviews, songs and music, and the images are of actions at Greenham Common, filtered through the outline of a woman's hands.

Archive Source: LUX

Beatnik

UK 1984 Dir Marty St James and Anne Wilson

4 mins 30 sec

DVD Col

Included on compilation *The View from this Side*. Performance video with a postpunk antinuclear theme. Intercuts artists' performance and scenes from Hackney Swimming Baths.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Plutonium Blonde

UK 1986 Dir Sandra Lahire

15 mins

Video Col

Is the woman worker at the terminals an extension of the plutonium-decanning monitors, or is she a germ in the nuclear plant who grows into self control? The power of a Plutonium speck to enslave her vision and destroy every cell of her body is matched by her power to combat the collusions of state and media. Plutonium Blonde is an intelligence at the core of the reactor who wants to shut it down. She is also Thelma, Karen Silkwood's friend who loses her hair and her skin. The robot lines of PU processing and of disposal/dispersion on reactor monitors intersect with the living mindscreen of a woman who works for a process she does not really 'control'. She will not be the Lady Lazarus pure and purifying blonde plutonium processor. Moving out of her prison of monitors, she sees the paradox of nuclear plants or trees: grids of PU rods or spirals of life force. In her film she opposes the religion of male technology and documentaries, whose claim to be "balanced" is hypocritical! "A beautifully textured collage of sound and image and a fractured narrative about woman's self definition and control." – City Limits, June 1987.

Archive Source: LUX

Poetry



Un Chant d'amour

The literary art of poetry is a public/private medium, to be performed (spoken aloud and heard) or interpreted in the reader's mind. Film can encompass both the spoken word and the use of text on screen, combined with images and music that create different levels of meaning. Experimental film and poetry share a particular affinity. This section presents an A-Z by title selection of film poems (or adaptations of poetry) and an alphabetical listing of documentaries about poets and poetry.

Film Poems & Adaptations (A-Z)

50:50

UK/USA 1998 Dir Ruth Novaczek

6 mins

Video

An alienated love story, images of New York City and London collaged together and degraded, set to a theme from Thelonus Monk with a deadpan narrative voiceover. Beat poetry revisited with wry undertones.

Archive source: LUX

1001 Boys' Games

UK 1984 Dir Steve Partridge

7 mins

Video

1001 Boys Games was based on a poem written by the painter John Yeadon in 1983. It combines computer-generated drawings by Yeadon from his Impossible Lovers series, with animation and digital video effects in a stream of images complementing the narration of the poem by the dramatist Tom McGrath. In addition to conventional camera-originated material and artwork, a Quantel Paintbox and a BBC micro computer were used to create the hundreds of 'cells' featured in the work.

"Speech returns, but still highly manipulated, in Partridge's tour-de-force 1001 Boys' Games, 1984, a video-vision of John Yeadon's chanted poem, recited by Yeadon, Tom McGrath and Partridge himself. Graphic text, line drawing and video image counterpose each other. The wit of the poem inspires the complex counter-rhythms

of the video, just as Yeadon's relentless and quasi-logical categories echo Partridge's own taste for philosophical equations (as in the line 'Boys called John; Boys not called John', for example)." - Al Rees

Archive source: LUX

15th February

UK 1995 Dir Penelope Webb

7 mins

16mm + Video Col

15th February mixes live action and animation to describe a symbolic rejection and its sadistic outcome, as related in the poem by Peter Reading.

Archive source: LUX

All Smiles and Sadness

US 1999 Dir Anne McGuire

7 mins

Video B&W

All Smiles and Sadness is like a very short TV show. Nothing is resolved and it leaves the viewer wishing it would go on forever.

Archive source: LUX

Anemic Cinema

France 1926 Dir Marcel Duchamp

7 mins

Archive source: LUX + BFI National Archive

The Angelic Conversation

UK 1985 Dir Derek Jarman

81 mins

35mm+ BP + DVD

The imagery of young male figures in a variety of locations and pursuits is counterpointed with Judi Dench's readings of 14 Shakespearean sonnets, almost all from those of the first 126 sonnets addressed to a young man.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution + BFI DVD

Aristophanes on Broadway

US 1991 Dir Zack Stiglicz

9 mins

16mm Col

"The human voice a 'sensuous body' plays a meditative part in Aristophanes On Broadway. The narrator shares the tale of Zeus' angry splitting of the original form of human bodies into two pieces, and the subsequent search for each lover for its soulmate. The speech of Aristophanes (from Plato's Symposium) gives voice to the transcendent aspirations of all forms of love. Edvard Munch's idea that one spies upon the human soul in 'the negative image' motivates the film's visualization." – Z.S.

Archive source: LUX

Arrows

UK 1984 Dir Sandra Lahire

15 mins

16mm Col
Archive source: LUX

At Land

US 1944 Dir Maya Deren
15 mins
16mm B&W, Silent

At Land has a dream-like narrative in which a woman, played by Deren, is washed up on a beach and goes on a strange journey encountering other people and other versions of herself. Deren once said that the film is about the struggle to maintain one's personal identity. The composer John Cage and the poet and film critic Parker Tyler were involved in making the film, and appear in the film, which was shot at Amagansett, Long Island.

Archive source: LUX + BFI Distribution

Bound

UK 1994 Dir Kimi Takesue
15 mins
DVD

Dance and poetry combine in a dramatic narrative in which a young Chinese-British woman undertakes a symbolic journey of self-discovery.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Bullets for Breakfast

US 1992 Dir Holly Fisher
77 mins
16mm

Western Pulp writer Ryerson Johnson, feminist poet Nancy Nielson, workers at a herring smoke house, postcards of master paintings, clips from a forties western, and the filmmaker are the main players in Bullets for Breakfast. Each of the characters shares a common space, a remote corner of Downeast Maine known as 'Unorganized Territory'. Disparate images are linked via optical printing. Both original and archival materials are seen as cultural artifacts in this film which explores the violence implicit in gender barriers.

"Bullets is, at once a work in the 'structural' tradition of Ken Jacob's Tom, Tom, The Piper's Son, Michael Snow's Wavelength, and Larry Gottheim's Mouches Volantes, and a feminist response to the ('masculine', 'phallic') rigidity of the structuralist tradition. In its reframing of images from Ford's My Darling Clementine and in its use of visual and auditory layering within which viewers continually detect subtle, complex, ambiguous connections and dissonances, Bullets For Breakfast could have been inspired by Luce Irigaray's This Sex That Is Not One." – Scott MacDonald.

Archive source: LUX

Un Chant d'amour

France 1950 Dir Jean Genet
23 mins
16mm + 35mm + Beta SP + DVD + Video B&W Silent

"A huge influence on modern gay filmmakers, Un Chant d'amour was made in 1950 by Jean Genet – his only film. It's a silent, sensual and poetic fantasy set in a French prison. Genet's troubling and erotic images steered the film into a history of controversy and censorship..."

"A beautiful film, a lonely film, a hard film." – Peter Gidal.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + LUX + BFI Video

Come to the Edge

UK 2003 Dir Stephen Sutcliffe

2 mins

Video

Come to the Edge uses a recording of the poet Christopher Logue reciting a poem originally written in 1968. The poem is combined with video footage shot in a sixth form common room. In the footage a good-humoured scene is suddenly transformed into something altogether more sinister as the group of schoolboys enact a ritual humiliation upon a seemingly older, mustachioed boy.

Archive source: LUX

Dante's Inferno

UK 1967 Dir Ken Russell

88 mins

35 mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Omnibus ocumentary recreating life among the Pre-Raphaelites in their country retreat – a dramatised biography of Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Desir Noir

Brazil 1996 Dir ines Cardoso

15 mins

Video

"Poetry, music, sculpture, video: a diary of my way to love" – Ines Cardoso

Archive source: LUX

The Dictator

US 1978 Dir David and Duane Hildegarde Lamelas

15 mins

Video

David Lamelas adopts the persona of Colonel Riccardo Garcia Perez, 'dictator, poet, revolutionary' and overthrown president of the fictional Latin American island of St Ana. Here he answers probing questions from Barbara Lopez (Hildegarde Duane) for the television news programme Newsmakers. These concern his treatment of 'subversives' on St Ana, his plans to return to the island and the mysterious circumstances surrounding the 'tragic accidents' leading to the deaths of his three wives. Produced by Long Beach Museum of Art. Long Beach.

Archive source: LUX

Digital Joyce

France 1983 Dir Jean Paul Fargier

30 mins

Video

Digital Joyce is the single monitor version of an earlier two screen work. Various people including Nam June Paik and poet Philip Sollers read from 'Finnegan's Wake' using their chosen language which is intercut with evocative images. An example of the use of literature in video.

Archive source: LUX

Dog of My Dreams

UK 2002 Dir Roz Mortimer

12 mins

Video Col

This contemporary bestiary takes a subversive and tongue in cheek look at the relationships between girls and dogs. A documentary, a love poem to the dog. As told by a delicious medley of images, texts and voices from Piero di Cosimo to Joan Baez to Enid Blyton to Virginia Woolf to the girl next door. In a series of surreal tableaux, small girls have distant encounters with big dogs whilst grown women tell their stories of childhood pets, family malaise and repressed sexual tensions.

Archive source: LUX

Europa

Poland 1932 Dir Stefan and Franciszka Themerson

15 mins

Format unknown, B&W

The film was a visual interpretation of Anatol Stern's 1929 poem Europa. All prints of Europa were lost during the war, with only photographic fragments surviving. In 1973 the Themersons made the following reconstruction of the script: "— Grass growing — ('animated' photogram; threads of cotton being cut frame by frame, turned in reverse, white on black) — Leaves in the wind (photogram with motion of leaves made by moving the light source, negative and positive). — Photomontage panorama (series of our photomontages penetrated and transfixed by light etc., among these one of skyscrapers being cut along the top by scissors, frame by frame and turned in reverse). — Boxer shadow boxing (Skulski, a fellow student from architecture) — (Eligiusz — a model from the Academy, close-up frame by frame following the length of his body, from the head down to the boots, — the camera on a painting easel being let down frame by frame). — A study of eating (the model: a chap met on the street who turned out to be a butcher), head eating, gobbling a steak (head level with the screen), mouth, menu inscribed EUROPA (from the Hotel Europejski), multiple image of a head eating slices of apple (eight) exposures on the same film, S.T. eating frame by frame, 'self-portrait'), transmission belt carrying apple slices. — Newspapers. — Crumpled newspapers being stuffed into a mouth. — Head and a microphone. — Drawing by George Grosz (in the place of a heart: an animated motor frame by frame — this short was eliminated by the censors as they took the drawing to be a portrait of Prystor). — Photomontage panorama from the cover of Europa by Teresa Żarnower) and others. Two figures (moulded from bread by a pair of inmates of the mental hospital in Twórki), a devil and a man in a straight jacket (the latter has a head that swivels; nods frame after frame). — These shots interposed with a cut to: a helmeted soldier in the trenches throwing a grenade, a third cut to: barbed wire. — Hand against a cross, a nail. — Piano keyboard — jazz, etc. — Photogram of a heart beating (white on black). — Bayonet, belly (bayonet moved away). — Photogram of hand — Roman numeral V — and XX against background of hips, numerals disappear, hips fill the screen. — Sidewalk, sidewalk slabs close-up on crack, blade of grass grows into a tree. — Tree dominates — leans — falls straight onto the camera. Naked 'bacchantes' (models from the Academy) run straight at the camera, fragments of bodies, tearing apart electric wires etc. with their bare hands, a quick edit semi-abstract. — Hips — bread — head. — Photogram of a stomach. — Close-up of skin. — Photogram of a heart beating (as before, filling the screen). — Against the heart (insert) tiny woman jumping from a diving board into the water (in the middle of the screen). — Naked child wandering in a meadow (apparently the same shot as at the finish of The

Adventure of a Good Citizen) 'The film faithfully passed on the motif of Stern's poem; a vision of Europe gone mad, blindly racing towards its own destruction. Changes in the tempo of narration and astonishing contrasts were introduced by using the single frame technique, eliminating certain phases of motion, intensive editing, condensed cuts, multiple images and repetition." Archive source: LUX

Fires of Water

US 1965 Dir Stan Brakhage

10 mins

16mm

"Fires of Water, a static camera film / a landscape with houses illuminated by flashes of lightning / with abstracted sounds from a dog and a woman in childbirth), a film as objective as rock, a synthetic object as if out of a dream." – P.Adams Sitney, *Changes Magazine*, June 15th 1969.

"Inspired by a statement in a letter from poet Robert Kelly: 'The truth of the matter is this: that man lives in fires of waters and will live eternally in the first taste.' This film is a play of light and sounds upon that theme." - SB

Archive source: LUX

First Hymn to the Night – Novalis

US 1994 Dir Stan Brakhage

2 mins

16mm

"This is a hand-painted film whose emotionally referential shapes and colours are interwoven with words (in English) from the first Hymn in the Night by the late 18th-century mystic poet Friedrich Philipp von Hardenberg, whose pen name was Novalis. The pieces of text which I've used are as follows: 'the universally gladdening Light... As inmost soul... it is breathed by stars... by stone... by suckling plant... multiform beast... and by (you). I turn aside to holy Night... I seek to blend with ashes. Night opens in us... infinite eyes... blessed love'." – SB

Archive source: LUX

Georgia

US 1966 Dir Gordon Ball

8 mins

16mm Col, Silent

"A perfect tone poem of a film - within its short time limit, it contains much of the beauty of night and the sensuality of woman, my woman, any woman - perhaps even 'The' woman one sometimes sees dancing in the night, but never touches in the flesh. Dreamlike, beautiful - its brevity compacts its power and renders it haunting." - William R. Trotter, novelist.

"Georgia is a good example of a new genre of film that has developed lately, and that is, a portrait film. In some cases, like the case of Georgia, the portrait becomes completely personalised, poetically transposed, it may not be as multi-faced as, say, Brakhage's portrait of McClure, but an inspired portrait, nevertheless, in the vein of the single-minded love poem." – Jonas Mekas.

Archive source: LUX

Habit

UK 1997 Dir Miranda Pennell

5 mins

Video

A collaborative piece made with award winning poet Michael Donaghy. A modern day character with flame red hair, is haunted by the image of the dress, or 'habit' that caught fire. Both poem and film play with the double meaning of the word 'habit'. This leads the protagonist into repetitive and rhythmic rituals of daily life, which are captured both in the accelerated rhythms of speech and in the filming of movement at high speed. The sense of haunting and of the super-natural is reflected in the use of actions seen in reverse motion.

Archive source: LUX

Hugh Macdiarmid: A Portrait

UK 1964 Dir Margaret Tait

9 mins

16mm B&W

"It was an original kind of tribute...." - George Mackay Brown in The Orcadian.

"Shows (her) idea of MacDairmid's work... amid all the scenes and objects that surround his daily life.... and lines of his poems, in his own voice, echo through the images so that the film speaks out like music whether or not you have first looked up the words...." - Elizabeth Sussex, in The Financial Times.

"The bard emerges as a warm and affectionate subject, saying more and seeing more in its nine minutes than a half-hour of television reportage...." - Edinburgh Film

Festival Brochure

Archive source: LUX

I is a Long-Memored Woman Based on a Collection Of Poems By Grace Nichols

UK 1990 Dir Frances-Anne Solomon

49 mins

DVD

Drama, dance and archive film woven together to relate the story of a young African woman taken to slavery in the West Indies; the narration is based on poems by Grace Nichols (b. Guyana, 1950).

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Jazz of Lights

US 1954 Dir Ian Hugo

16 mins

16mm Col

The lights of Times Square at night. Abstracted from their gaudy commercialism, the lights create intricate patterns of form and colour. The blind poet Moondog and Hugo's wife Anaïs Nin move like ghosts through this haunted cityscape.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Johnny Panic

UK 2000 Dir Sandra Lahire

46 mins

Video + 16mm Col + DVD (Reference copy only)

"Within this film Lahire deftly combines the fictional aspects of [Sylvia] Plath's writing with the stark reality of her life. Johnny Panic is a filmic and poetic text that evokes and adds to Plath's own dreams in the story 'Johnny Panic and the Bible of Dreams', and which grounds Plath's own recorded statement: 'one should be able to control and manipulate experiences, even the most terrifying - like madness and being tortured...'" - Gill Addison

Archive source: LUX + BFI National Archive

Kino Da!

US 1981 Dir Henry Hills

2 mins

16mm

"Portrait of North Beach Communist cafe poet and gentle comrade Jack Hirschman, editor Artaud Anthology (City Lights), translator of Mayakovsky, the ferro-concrete poetry of Kamensky, and the early cannibalistic poetry of Abraham Abolafia, introductions to Alexander Trochi's novels, etc.

Archive source: LUX

Kokoro is for Heart

Canada 1999 Dir Philip Hoffman

7 mins

16mm

"Kokoro is for Heart features poet Gerry Shikatani and explores the relationships surrounding language, image and sound, set to the backdrop of a gravel pit. When I got the footage back from the lab I was disappointed because of the periodic flipping of the image. After screening the footage several times I realised that the malfunctioning camera rendered the filmed-nature, unnatural the same questions surface: what is nature? what is natural?" – P.H.

Archive source: LUX

Lady Lazarus

UK 1991 Dir Sandra Lahire

25 mins

16mm + Video + DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Lady Lazarus is a visually woven response to Sylvia Plath's own readings of her poetry. These readings plus extracts from an interview given just before her death provide an anchor for a film which celebrates her macabre humour and cinematic vision.

Archive source: LUX & BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Land Makar

UK 1981 Dir Margaret Tait

32 mins

16mm Col

"This is a landscape study of an Orkney croft, with the figure of the crofter, Mary Graham Sinclair, very much in the picture. The croft is West Aith, on the edge of a small loch, which almost every passing visitor stops to photograph or draw or paint. I have been filming this beautiful place since 1977, observing many of the human activities which alter and define how it looks. The croft is worked in the old style, and has unfenced fields, tethered animals, and flagstone roofs. Mechanised aids are brought in when appropriate, but much is done by one woman's labour. The film is constructed so that the sequences are like a number of canvases. The film is divided into seasons, starting with harvest ..." – MT

Archive source: LUX

The Last Clean Shirt

US 1964 Dir Alfred Leslie

39 mins

16mm

In a letter to his friend and collaborator, the poet Frank O'Hara, Leslie writes: "We will shoot for two SEPARATE LEVELS on the film. One is the VISUAL, the other the HEARD & the spectator will be in TWO places or more SIMULTANEOUSLY. NOT AS MEMORY BUT AT THE SAME MOMENT. PARALLELISM! MULTIPLE POINTS OF VIEW!" It is a blueprint for *The Last Clean Shirt* in which a man and a woman take a car ride through the streets of downtown Manhattan. A clock on the dashboard foregrounds the fact that the film is a single shot. The woman speaks in Finnish gibberish, interpreted by the beautiful and brilliant story told via O'Hara's subtitles that run throughout.

Archive source: LUX

Light Pharmacy: Part 5

US 1995 Dir Albert Gabriel Nigrin

3 mins

Video

"The fifth part of the *Light Pharmacy* series continues a preoccupation with reflected and refracted sunlight, and haiku poetry. *Light Pharmacy: 5* progresses from long shots to extreme close-ups of a stream of water in a street gutter. The stream (or the infinitely small) becomes a mirror reflecting the turbulent movement of the stars (or the infinitely large)." - A.G.N.

Archive source: LUX

L'importance du temps passe: oublier

France 1991 Dir Stephane Goel

4 mins

Video

"An adaptation of a poem by the Swiss author Gustave Roud, who lived his entire life in the same small village where my father was a farmer. His words are connected with images and impressions, as well as my present life in New York." – SG

Archive source: LUX

Looking for Langston

UK 1989 Dir Isaac Julien

45 mins

DVD

Taking as his starting point photographs by the celebrated artist James Vanderzee, and drawing on his own background as a painter, Isaac Julien lovingly constructs a visual poem about African-American writer Langston Hughes, the best known chronicler of the Harlem Renaissance. Image, music and dialogue are layered to create a seamless tapestry. In this homage to Harlem in the 1920s, Julien's dream-like quest for the 'real' spirit of Langston Hughes results in an exploration of contemporary black male desire which has elevated the film to cult status.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Love in a Cold Climate a Story of Urban Living and Rituals of Survival

UK 1990 Dir Kwesi Owuso and Kwate Nee Owu

34 mins

DVD

An exploration, through drama, poetry and music, of the situation of an unemployed Ghanaian musician trying to survive in London.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Magdalena Viraga: Story Of a Red Sea Crossing

US 1985 Dir Nina Menkes

90 mins

16mm Col

Directed by Nina Menkes. With Tinka Menkes, Claire Aguilar. Much acclaimed, Los Angeles director Nina Menkes' award winning feature debut is the harsh but beautiful portrayal of a prostitute accused of murdering her client. Shot on location in the dim reddish light of seedy hotels, bars, public baths and discos, Magdalena Viraga illustrates Ida's dilemma, drawing on poetry and prose of Anne Sexton, Gertrude Stein and Mary Daly.

Archive source: LUX

Maledicta Electronica

UK 1996 Dir John Maybury

53 mins

Video Col

Archive source: LUX

The Man From Porlock

UK 1995 Dir Steve Hawley

33 mins

Video

Inspired by the poems of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, The Man From Porlock is a kind of sequel to A Proposition Is A Picture. Whereas that looked at the difference between words and pictures, the new piece looks at what happens when words run out. The narrator is a hydraulics engineer, whose fascination with water is mirrored by the imagery of water in the poem, and in the video. The unseen narrator interprets comments on a stream of images, speculating on the failure of creativity, and the end of language itself.

Archive source: LUX

Manhatta

US 1921 Dir Charles Sheeler + Paul Strand

7 mins

35mm + DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

A study of modern New York City inspired by Walt Whitman's poem Manhatta.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The March of the Big White Barbarians

UK 2005 Dir Mark Leckey

5 mins

Video Col

Part of the compilation A Movie London's Public Sculptures are articulated by concrete poetry of Maurice Lemaitre in a free translation by Leckey's Jack Too Jack.

Archive source: LUX

A Matter of Baobab – With One Growth

US 1966-1970 Dir Pola Chapelle

2 mins

16mm

International Cast of Actors, Jonas Mekas, from Lithuania, poet and film-maker, Louis Brigante, from Madagascar, poet and publisher, Storm De Hirsch, from Holland, poetess, seer and film-maker, Pola Chapelle, from Tierra del Fuego, singer and motel operator, Adolfas Mekas, from Lapland, basket weaver and film director, Contessa Angela Maria Andreacci di Castiglione, from Italy, opera singer. Music by 'The Last Judgement' and 'The Beatles'. - P.C.

Archive source: LUX

Meshes of the Afternoon

US 1943 Dir Maya Deren

15 mins

16mm B&W

Meshes of the Afternoon's dream-like mise-en-scène, illogical narrative trajectory, fluid movement and ambient soundtrack invite a type of contemplative, perhaps even transcendental, involvement for the spectator. The film is constructed from a myriad of eyeline matches and mismatches. The use of extreme angles to imply one character looking down on the dreamer, a type of spider's point of view, foreshadows the dreamer's death.

Archive source: LUX + BFI Distribution

Mile End Purgatorio

UK 1991 Dir Guy Sherwin

1 mins

16mm Col

"Words and signs taken from a row of shop-fronts are integrated with spoken words. A one-minute hymn to the London Road via its shop-signs. A heady, rapid-fire brew of Dante, Shakespeare, the Bible and William Blake, its visual text is storefront correlated, its theme the crisis on the journey, its rhythms all of daily life, and celebratory in its observations of the seemingly known" – Gareth Evans, Filmwaves Magazine. Autumn 1999.

Archive source: LUX

Night Mail

UK 1936 Dir Harry Watt + Basil Wright

24 mins

35mm + 16mm + Digibeta + Beta SP + DVD B&W

GPO film on the nightly journey of the Postal Special from London to Glasgow. Pat Jackson narrates W H Auden's poem The Night Mail

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution + BFI DVD

Night Mail 2

UK 1987 Dir Bob Franklin

60 mins

DVD Col + B&W

Special programme featuring the 1936 film Night Mail with an updated version of the film made in 1986 with music by James Harpham and poetry by Blake Morrison, narrated by Tony Harrison.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Nosegay

UK 1986 Dir Maggie Jailler

15 mins

16mm Col

Based on the writings of Genet and Lautreamont, the doomed love of an angel for a hermaphrodite is explored in Jailler's lushly stylish film. With Francois Testory and Celestino Coronado.

Archive source: LUX

Obsessive Becoming

UK 1995 Dir Daniel Reeves

55 mins

Video Col

This surreal, free-form autobiography is concerned with childhood and adult rituals, and the longing for meaning and connection during the often wildly absurd events of early life. Obsessive Becoming returns to Reeves's early exploration of personal narrative forms, poetry, and his interest in creating a more spontaneous and direct fusion between language and video. Words and images of the expectations and disappointments of coming of age break down the boundaries of both mediums. Reeves draws from a wealth of images created since the 1940's in his family's enthusiasm for capturing time, featuring Polaroids and 16mm film. The essence of the work is insight, compassion, and healing. It suggests that we abandon memories that have created emotional barriers, and deal with the past without letting it limit our passage through life. In Reeves's words, you "stand long enough and put off all that guards your heart."

Archive source: LUX

Patti Smith: Long for the City

US 2008 Dir Jem Cohen

9 mins

Video B&W

"Long for the City is a short portrait of Patti Smith in the city where she lives. Patti recites the very first poem-song she ever wrote, and then a later one, Prayer, from the early 1970s. We take a walk in her changing neighborhood, and I ask her what she saw. Footage was shot in the moment, as well as drawn from the archive I've gathered over many years. Long for the City can be considered a non-musical companion piece to the music short, Spirit, which we collaborated on in 2007. It had its premier as an installation in Patti Smith's show, Land 250, and Fondation Cartier in Paris." – JC

Archive source: LUX

Poemfield 3

US 1967 Dir Stan Vanderbeek

6 mins

16mm Col

One of a series called Poemfield computer generated patterns combining a poem within.

Archive source: LUX

Poetry and Truth

Austria 2003 Dir Peter Kubelka

13 mins

16mm Col

"Poetry and Truth contains collected pieces from publicity films with a common element: they show actors before they start and then begin to play what they are directed to represent. Repeated ready-made takes create cycles of symbolic significance, glorified glimpses of the contemporary human condition: the beauty from a hair conditioner, courting and insemination by chocolate-feeding, labourless birth onto a varnished floor, animal and inanimate companions. It was my aim not to shape the found material perfectly into an unambiguous message but to preserve the full richness of archaeological information. My point of view has changed from the contemporary artist into an observer looking into the distant past." – Peter Kubelka
Archive source: LUX

Poets against the Bomb

UK 1981 Dir Francis Fuchs

25 mins

DVD

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Poet's Dream

US 2005 Dir Lawrence Jordan

5 mins

16mm

Archive source: LUX

Portrait of Ga

UK 1952 Dir Margaret Tait

4 mins

16mm Col

Portrait of the film-maker's mother. Filmed back on Orkney.

Archive source: LUX + BFI National Archive

Pull My Daisy

US 1959 Dir Alfred Leslie

27 mins

16mm + 35mm Col

Documentary-comedy about an evening at the place of a young Greenwich Villager who is visited by some poet friends. A free improvisation based on the third act of Jack Kerouac's play *The Beat Generation*.

"Caught between the socio-historical cult of itself and its Beatnik players, and the excitement of its discreet yet radical formalism, *Pull My Daisy* has been pawed over by the watchdogs and self-appointed guardians of avant-garde film since its first double-bill showings with John Cassavetes' *Shadows* in the late 1950's.

"It was awarded the Second Independent Film Award by 'Film Culture' magazine in 1960 and attacked in the same publication by Parker Tyler two years later. Based around Jack Kerouac's narration from the last section of his unproduced play 'The Beat Generation' (itself based on an incident between Neal Cassady and his wife Carolyn), it's as much a document of its own unravelling as it is footage of some of the most acclaimed writers and painters of its generation at play... With its bawdy gags and caustic, iconoclastic humour, 'Pull My Daisy' is actually predicated on the delicacy of a subtly shifting interplay between modes of 'depiction', between record and fiction, self-awareness and dubious, wilfull naivete, debunking the ordinarily stable registers its surface (and our own viewing habits) would otherwise invoke." – Ian White

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution + LUX

Rime of the Ancient Mariner

UK 1993 Dir Milfid Ellis

15 mins

DVD

One of a series of dance pieces created specially for television, an adaptation of the poem by Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834).

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Rothach

UK 1986 Dir Vivienne Dick

8 mins

16mm

"180 degree pans films of the boglands of Kerry and the lunar landscape of the Burren. The unsettling mood brought about by a soundtrack (composed by Martin Sheller) and a poem in Irish by the poet Sean O Riordain, about a dream of being in space and the fear of not returning. Vivienne Dick's film was filmed on 16mm in the Donegal countryside and is composed of a rhythmic series of pans across a barren rural landscape that recalls the setting for Michael Snow's monumental work *La Region Centrale*. Unlike Snow's rocky landscape, however, *Rothach* is filled with evidence of activity. Scenes of a child playing the fiddle are interspersed with shots of farm machinery and turf-cutting on the bog. Many of these images are strikingly picturesque and reminiscent of iconic Irish colour postcards. But the serenity of the location is gradually undercut, both by the soundtrack, which changes from a melody into a series of shifting electronic pulses, and by the uncanny presence of the same child in different locations. It soon becomes apparent that this landscape is highly constructed." – Maeve Connolly, *From no Wave to national cinema: the cultural landscape of Vivienne Dick's early Films (1978-1985)*, National Cinema and Beyond, Four Courts Press, 2004.

Archive source: LUX

Said the Poet to the Analyst

UK 2009 Dir Stephen Sutcliffe

1 min 19 secs mins

Video

Anne Sexton's poem is a meeting between two people who interpret words for a living. Sutcliffe's film gradually reveals a place in which to contemplate this.

Archive source: LUX

Squeezangezaum Parts 1 - 2

Italy 1989 Dir Gianni Toti

54 mins

Video

Squeezangezaum is Gianni Toti's fourteenth *Opera Poetronica*. He connects poetry, science and imagination in multiple new ways. Using sophisticated video technology and a vast archive of images, Toti unfolds the history of Russian film which he transforms by video means. This work is committed to the ideas of the Russian poet and theorist Velimir Vladimirovic Chebnikov. The strange title alludes to his oeuvre: 'Zaum' which is the transmental language which the futurist had created and which his opera is based. Toti's language is explicitly onomatopoeic and remains in the original Italian version.

Archive source: LUX

Stefan Themerson and Language

The Netherlands 1976 Dir Erik Van Zuylen

46 mins

Video Col

"Stefan Themerson plays himself in the role of a poet who accuses the political and religious leaders of having stolen the tools of his profession. His aim is to expose the demagogues as thieves. An investigator starts an inquiry and discovers that the poet is unwilling to take his contaminated tools back. He (the poet) has invented a method of revealing the reality behind the poem. He wants to strip the words of their associations, to cut their links with the past, to scrub them right to the very bone of their dictionary definitions. He calls his method Semantic Poetry. It is meant to be funny. Both serious and funny." – E.V.Z.

Archive source: LUX

T,O,U,C,H,I,N,G

US 1968 Dir Paul Sharits

12 mins

16mm

Archive source: LUX

The Tattooed Man

US 1969 Dir Storm De Hirsch

35 mins

16mm Col

"This film is a cinematic adaptation of a poem by the film-maker, originally published in the San Francisco Review. Children of the water world drift the ocean in an empty crystal ball, swim in beaded beds of mist, and spawn in pools of murder to see a lantern sunk in the pit of an empty space." – S.D.H.

"A death-haunted dream of sensuous colour and sensual imagery." – Richard White Hall.

"A major work in terms of style, structure, graphic invention, image manipulation and symbolic ritual. Short, abbreviated dream-like moments, fused together like a tension and the dynamics of motion picture time... groping around for new myths. Symbolic invention and theatricalisation of dreams, and making them literal, is the whole function and purpose of movie making... her concept of the problem is sweeping and very large." – Stan Vanderbeek.

Archive source: LUX

Time and Judgement. A Diary of a 400-Year Exile

UK 1989 Dir Menelik Shabazz

85 mins

DVD Col

Linking biblical prophecy with modern times, the film reflects on the major events which have taken place in Africa and the African diaspora over the last eight years. The Rastafarian director uses Christian prophecy to show that there is continuity in the experiences of black people throughout the world and in history.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Towers Open Fire

UK 1963 Dir Anthony Balch and William Burroughs

16 mins

16mm B&W

"Towers Open Fire is a straight-forward attempt to find a cinematic equivalent for William Burroughs' writing: a collage of all the key themes and situations in the books, accompanied by a Burroughs soundtrack narration. Society crumbles as the Stock Exchange crashes, members of the Board are raygun-zapped in their own boardroom, and a commando in the orgasm attack leaps through a window and decimates a family photo collection. Meanwhile, the liberated individual acts: Balch himself masturbates ("silver arrow through the night"), Burroughs as the junkie (his long-standing metaphor for the capitalist supply-and-demand situation) breaks on through to the hallucinatory world of Brion Gysin Dream Machines. Balch lets us stare into the Dream Machines, finding faces to match our own. So the film is implicitly a challenge to its audience. But we're playing with indefinables that we don't really understand yet, and so Mikey Portman's music-hall finale is interrupted by science-fiction attack from the skies, as lost boardroom reports drift through the countryside" – Tony Rayns, Interview with Antony Balch, Cinema Rising No.1, April 1972

Archive source: LUX

Tulips at Dawn

UK 2002 Dir Rosie Pedlow

4 mins

Video Col

Diagrams of chemistry apparatus and educational film footage react and combine in this quirky interpretation of a poem by Nobel Laureate Chemist Roald Hoffmann. The film is an experiment to illustrate how technology changes the way we represent the world, with results that prove ironic and inconclusive. The film was produced using a mixture of technologies. The diagrams were drawn directly into a computer and combined with digitised archive footage and sequences created on a rostrum camera.

Archive source: LUX

Ulster Images

UK 1983 Dir Diane Duncan

12 mins

Video

This piece of work is composed of slides, music and poetry which document the two cultures in Ulster today. It also expresses the futility and inanity of the civil war which the two cultures are manipulated to perpetuate. The poetry expresses something of the hurt which the majority of the people there feel.

Archive source: LUX

Vacillation

UK 2008 Dir Stephen Sutcliffe

35 secs mins

Video Col

Colin Wilson described a moment of gleaming realism in his 1956 book *The Outsider* by referring to WB Yeats' poem *Vacillation*. He also posited the idea that if outsiders couldn't find an outlet for their creativity, the results could be sinister. Sutcliffe's *Vacillation* marries these two strands by collaging a reading of the poem with a morphed montage of murder scenes.

Archive source: LUX

Vampire Virus

UK 1997 Dir Tina Keane

1 mins

Video Col

A woman walks down a corridor with poetry projected on the walls. A laser pierces her flesh.

Archive source: LUX

Voices

UK 1993 Dir Simon Biggs

6 mins

Video

Based on a poem by the German-Jewish post-war poet, Paul Celan, *Voices* seeks not to represent the content or images in the poem, but to reflect certain structures and feelings that the video-maker has discovered within the text. It is, as such, a personal video rather than an extrapolation of Celan's text. The soundtrack is by Hans Peter Kuhn. Both sound and image are generated with state-of-the-art digital technology.

Archive source: LUX

The Waste Land

UK 1999 Dir John Smith

5 mins

Video Col

A personal interpretation of the poetry and letters of T S Eliot which explores the ambiguities of language and space in a scenario built around an anagram. "A brilliant, absurd staging of Eliot's *The Waste Land* in the local pub by the master of irony himself. Smith's use of the subjective camera tradition of independent film takes the viewer on a shaky journey from bar to bog and back again." – UK/Canadian Video Exchange 2000 catalogue (touring programme).

Archive source: LUX

Waterworx (A Clear Day and no Memories)

Canada 1982 Dir Rick Hancox

6 mins

16mm Col

"The waterworks in the beaches area of Toronto is the source of an image, perhaps eidetic, from my early childhood. It always had an enigmatic quality, and even after returning years later to shoot this film. I was still not satisfied that it was merely a filtration plant - its architecture functioned more metaphorically. Wallace Steven's ironic and equally enigmatic poem *A Clear Day and No Memories* was brought into the film later to address these issues, and to provide an interruptive graphic function for the same reasons the style of editing is interruptive, that is, to both underscore the alluring nature of the image, and to force an intellectual distancing. Just as the supposedly clear air is used as the protagonist in Steven's poem, the Precisionist clarity of the imagery is foreground in *Waterworx*, while the soundtrack develops the air's subtext." – RH

Archive source: LUX

We Jive Like this

UK 1991 Dir Deborah May

54 mins

DVD

The cultural clubs of the South African townships offer opportunities to children to engage in dance, mime, theatre, music, and poetry; commentators on this phenomenon include singer Sophie Mgcina, choreographers Carly Dibokoane and Jackie Semela, poets Lesogo Rampolokeng and Siphiwe Ngwenya, and actor James Mthoba.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Where I Am is Here

UK 1964 Dir Margaret Tait

35 mins

16mm B&W

"Margaret was born in 1918 on Orkney, but was sent away to school in Edinburgh when she was nine. Her impressions of the strangeness of that (to her) 'new' urban world are echoed in Where I am is Here with its melancholic, repetitive structure, images of coal-blackened streets, and sad 'crocodiles' of schoolgirls in rigid uniforms; a film that is none the less essentially about coming to terms with 'the present'." – David Curtis

Archive source: LUX

Wholly Communion (1965)

UK 1965 Dir Peter Whitehead

33 mins

16mm + 35mm + DVD B&W [as part of the BFI DVD Peter Whitehead and the Sixties, which includes the titles Wholly Communion and Benefit of the Doubt]

An evening at the Royal Albert Hall in June 1965 when modern poets such as Ginsberg, Corso, Ferlinghetti, Fainlight, Horovitz, Trocchi, Logue, Voznesensky, Mitchell and Jandl gave readings either live or on tape.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution + BFI DVD

Winter Trees

UK 1993 Dir Sarah Downes

7 mins

Video

Sylvia Plath's poem Winter Trees is translated line by line into a personalised visual language. Computer aided collage juxtaposes live action with animation to create a surreal and beautiful landscape where femininity and fertility are explored. The central anthropomorphism of the poem is illustrated in dense animation.

Archive source: LUX

Witch's Cradle Outtakes

1943 Dir Maya Deren

10 mins

16mm B&W Silent

"Maya Deren made Witch's Cradle in 1943 but never released it. It was photographed in an environment based on Marcel Duchamp's string work for the New York Surrealistic exhibition of 1942. Since no copy of Witch's Cradle as yet turned up, this assemblage of Deren's outtakes, including a very brief image of Duchamp himself,

constitutes what little we presently know of this complex film which seems to have assimilated Duchamp's string gesture to Deren's interest in witchcraft." - Anthology Film Archives.

Archive source: LUX

Zero

UK 2001 Dir Mike Stubbs

9 mins

Video Col

A video poem celebrating the 40th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's first manned trip to space. In an age when space tourism has become a reality what does the future hold for our new born ? A first shaft of light, a splinter of an image, first movements and a sense of independence. Zero is a lyrical view playing on the metaphor of weightlessness, mobility, existentialism and consciousness. It was recorded by Mike Stubbs who was part of a team of artists and scientists invited onto a series of parabolic flights on a Russian Military Evolution Aircraft, based at the Yuri Gagarin Training Centre, Star City, Moscow, in 2000. The text comprises of writings by Net Robot , Netochka Nezvanova and poet Kevin Henderson. Read by Yuri Gagarin and Kevin Henderson.

Archive source: LUX

Poets and Poetry



Allen Ginsberg in Wholly Communion (1965)

Allen Ginsberg (Face to Face)

UK 1995 Dir Prod: David Herman

39 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Ginsberg interviewed by Jeremy Isaacs

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Allen Ginsberg and Lawrence Ferlinghetti

US 1966 Dir Richard Moore

29 mins

16mm B&W

A study of poetry and its relationship to society. Ginsberg reads from his work and discusses the San Francisco renaissance. Ferlinghetti, owner of the famous City Lights Bookshop, also reads from his own poetry.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Basil Bunting an Introduction to the Work of a Poet.

UK 1982 Dir Peter Bell

38 mins

DVD

An impressionistic view of the life and work of British poet, Basil Bunting (1900-1985), incorporating his own reading of his autobiographical poem, Briggflatts.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Benjamin Zephaniah (Off the Page)

UK 1987 Dir Sharon Goulds

26 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Benjamin Zephaniah performs some of his poems and talks about his life and his writing

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Benjamin Zephaniah (Things to Come)

UK 1998 Prod: Andrew Chitty

3 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Benjamin Zephaniah's poem looks at the future of language.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Birmingham is What I Think With

UK 1991 Dir John Pickard

50 mins

DVD

An account, by British poet and jazz pianist, Roy Fisher (b.1930), of his life and work in his home city of Birmingham.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Blue Black Permanent

UK 1992 Dir Margaret Tait

84 mins

35mm

The story of a poet living in Edinburgh in the 1950s told through the eyes of her daughter. Shot on location in Edinburgh and Orkney, and set in the present and in the fifties and thirties. Tells the story of a woman poet who drowned in the sea, leaving her husband and three children shellshocked and confused. The evocation of the poet's life and tragic sensibility to everything around her, and the impact of her death on her daughter, Barbara, are the central themes.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Body of a Poet: A Tribute to Audre Lorde, Warrior Poet, 1934-1992

UK 1995 Dir Sonali Fernando

29 mins

DVD

A dramatisation of autobiographical events depicted in the poetry of black American lesbian poet, Audre Lorde (1934-1992)

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Burroughs (Arena)

UK 1983 Dir Howard Brookner

85 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

With readings by Burroughs, and participation of Allen Ginsberg, Brion Gysin, Terry Southern, Frank Zappa, Francis Bacon, Laurie Anderson

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Celebrashan (Synchro)

UK 1994 Dir Pauline Bailey

6 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

The importance of African oral tradition in popular music forms such as rap, hip-hop and jungle.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Club Remix (Club Mix)

UK 1986 Dir Trevor Hampton

25 mins

DVD Col

Selections from a series showcasing black performing arts

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Dread Beat and Blood

UK 1979 Dir Franco Rosso

47 mins

DVD

A portrait of Linton Kwesi Johnson and the Brixton community where he lives and works as a poet-activist. The film inter-cuts poetry readings, recordings and interviews. The film contains footage of street riots and demonstrations, including one in Bradford where the crowd chant some of Johnson's verse. It also includes footage of Johnson at poetry readings.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

An Evening for Nicaragua

UK 1983 Dir John Longley

12 mins

Video Col

Recording of a benefit show at the Shaftesbury Theatre, London, including comedy, music and dramatic readings, to aid the mass literacy programme in Nicaragua.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Howl

US 2011 Dir Rob Epstein & Jeffrey Friedman

87 mins

DVD Col

The story of Ginsberg's masterful poem and the subsequent obscenity trial that ensued, HOWL weaves together 3 strands of the story: imagined interviews with Ginsberg recounting his inspiration for the poem, the resulting court case and the poem itself, animated by graphic novelist and Ginsberg collaborator Eric Drooker.

Archive source: BFI Distribution (Non-theatrical screenings only)

Invocation. Maya Deren

UK 1987 Dir JoAnn Kaplan

53 min

DVD

The life and work of Russian-born, American avant garde film-maker, Maya Deren (1917-1961), who completed six films between 1943 and 1955 and had a seminal influence on the emerging film avant garde in North America. Photograph of Maya Deren. Hella Hammid describing Deren as “the first avant-garde film-maker after Buñuel and Cocteau”. Stan Brakhage saying that no-one took seriously the idea of contributors to cinema as artists, but Deren [believed this]. Narrated by Helen Mirren; Texts of Maya Deren read by Jana Shelden; With original recordings of Maya Deren, Teiji Ito. The Man I Love sung by Maya Deren; Score for The Very Eye of Night by Teiji Ito; Haitian recordings by Maya Deren; Mozart Sonata for Piano & Violin.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Is this the Future?

UK 1991 Dir Andy Francis

21 mins

DVD

An analysis of the role of rap music in the growth of black consciousness in Britain.

Archive source: Arts Council of England + BFI National Archive

John Agard - Palm Tree King (Different Voices)

UK 1997 Dir Graham McCallum

4 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Guyanese born poet resident in the UK since the 1970s casts a mischevious eye over why tour operators should consider him an expert on palm trees.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

John Betjeman - A Poet in London (Monitor Series) (Tx 1.3.59)

UK 1959 Dir Ken Russell

12 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Documentary on John Betjeman

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Life and Times of Allen Ginsberg

UK/US 1997 Dir Jerry Aronson

55 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Abridged version

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Margaret Tait Film Maker

UK 1983 Dir Margaret Williams

34 mins

DVD

An interview with Scottish film-maker, Margaret Tait (1918-1999), which records her life and work and the development of her film style.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Poetry in Motion (C4 series)

UK 1990 Dir Tony Cash

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Subjects covered series 1:

A E Housman

John Betjeman

Louis Macneice

Philip Larkin

Thomas Hardy

WH Auden

Topics covered series 2:

Childhood

In Memorium

Vice and Villainy

Women in Love

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Polishing Black Diamonds

UK 1988 Dir Susannah Lopez

22 mins

DVD

The history and activities of Munirah Theatre Company as they explore aspects of black culture in Britain through their choreopoems.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

South Bank Show

UK 1978 to present Dir Various

60 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Presenter Melvyn Bragg

Subjects covered:

Saul Bellow

Seamus Heaney

Stephen Sondheim

Tom Stoppard

Steven Berkoff

Sylvie Guillem

Ted Hughes

Tony Harrison

Trevor Griffith

WH Auden

Ackroyd's Blake (on William Blake)

Archive source:

Strong Culture (Synchro 3)

UK 1995 Dir Smita Malde

6 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Asian Dub Foundation talking about their music and lyrics on the way to their first gig outside London.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Talking the Talk

UK 1994 Dir Marina Warsama

8 mins

DVD

Rap poet, Brother Niyi, and poet and performer, Zena Edwards, explore the relevance of poetry in black popular culture.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Ten Years in an Open Necked Shirt: John Cooper Clarke

UK 1982 Dir Nick May

60 mins

DVD

Creative documentary about the British punk poet, story-teller and comedian John Cooper Clarke (b.1949). Mixes concert footage and interviews with dramatised treatments of his work.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Tony Harrison - Poets and People

UK 1984 Dir John McGrath

40 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Tony Harrison reading his work at the Original Oak pub at Headingley in Yorkshire.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Underground (Scene Special)

UK 1967

30 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Paul McCartney (with moustache) introduces and concludes the film. London's "Provos" group gather in Piccadilly Circus with posters: "Pot is fun". Poetry reading at Albert Hall 5/5/65 (amateur film) with Ginsberg, Ferlinghetti and 7000 people. Offices and printing room of International Times. Indica bookshop interior where the members meet. The Roundhouse. Provos performing play/ happening in bookshop basement. Pink Floyd playing at UFO club.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Upon Westminster Bridge

UK 1982 Dir Anthony Wall

50 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

Arena Documentary about Jamaican born 'dub' poet Michael Smith, on his recent British tour.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

William Burroughs: Commissioner Of Sewers

Germany 1992 Dir Klaus Maeck

54 mins

Video

A topical and absorbing documentary about one of the most extraordinary and uncompromising figures of American culture. Maeck's access to Burroughs is good and he is interviewed on many of the subjects which have tormented and obsessed him. Intercut with this, is footage from his collaborations with experimental filmmaker Anthony Balch in the 1960s, Burroughs last European public reading and excerpts from Gus Van Sant's hilarious and shocking film of Burroughs reading his own version of a Thanksgiving Prayer. Pessimistic as Burroughs' world view is, his macabre and ferocious humour is seldom absent.

Archive source: LUX

Word Of Mouth 1

UK 1990 Dir John Gwyn

24 mins

DVD

One of a ten-part series, presented by John Hegley, in which contemporary poets read their work: with Bei Dao, Carol Ann Duffy, and Roy Fisher.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Word Of Mouth 2

UK 1990 Dir John Gwyn

25 mins

DVD

One of a ten-part series, presented by John Hegley, in which contemporary poets read their work: with Gillian Clarke, Jules Deeler, Rita Dove, and Willem van Toom.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Word Of Mouth 3

UK 1990 Dir John Gwyn

25 mins

DVD

One of a ten-part series, presented by John Hegley, in which contemporary poets read their work: with Mahmoudan Hawad, Henry Normal, Basil Bunting, Roger Lloyd Pack.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Word Of Mouth 4

UK 1990 Dir John Gwyn

25 mins

DVD

One of a ten-part series, presented by John Hegley, in which contemporary poets read their work: with Rita Dove, Adrian Mitchell, Herman Hessian, Bert Schierbeek, and Tom Phillips.

Archive source: Arts Council of England

Word Of Mouth 5

UK 1990 Dir John Gwyn

25 mins

DVD

One of a ten-part series, presented by John Hegley, in which contemporary poets read their work: with Jean Binta Breeze, Carl Rakosi, and Andrew Voznsenski.
Archive source: Arts Council of England

Word Of Mouth 6

UK 1990 Dir John Gwyn

24 mins

DVD

One of a ten-part series, presented by John Hegley, in which contemporary poets read their work: with Yehuda Amichai, Kevin Fegan, Liz Lochhead, and Grace Nichols.
Archive source: Arts Council of England

Word Of Mouth 7

UK 1990 Dir John Gwyn

24 mins

DVD

One of a ten-part series, presented by John Hegley, in which contemporary poets read their work: with Linton Kwesi Johnson, Edwin Morgan, Peter Reading, and Francis Bebey.
Archive source: Arts Council of England

Word Of Mouth 8

UK 1990 Dir John Gwyn

25 mins

DVD

One of a ten-part series, presented by John Hegley, in which contemporary poets read their work: with Bob Cobbing, Tom Leonard, Tadeusz Rozewicz, James Simmons, and Francis Bebey.
Archive source: Arts Council of England

Word Of Mouth 9

UK 1990 Dir John Gwyn

24 mins

DVD

One of a ten-part series, presented by John Hegley, in which contemporary poets read their work: with Adonis, John Cooper Clarke, and Tom Raworth.
Archive source: Arts Council of England

Word Of Mouth 10

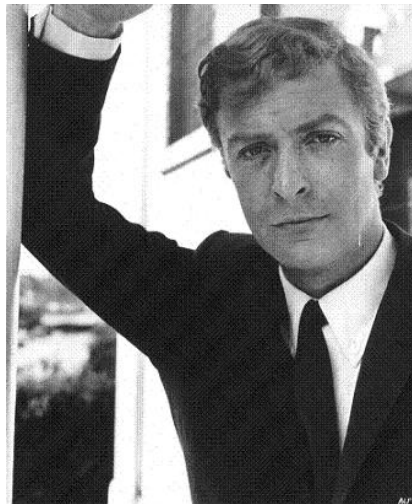
UK 1990 Dir John Gwyn

27 mins

DVD

One of a ten-part series, presented by John Hegley, in which contemporary poets read their work: with John Agard, Brendan Cleary, Zbigniew Herbert, Bob Cobbing, and Hugh Metcalfe.
Archive source: Arts Council of England

Chapter 7: Cinema Acting Styles



Alfie (1965)

Introduction

A key influence in the development of Hollywood cinema was the presence of immigrant Austrian, German and Russian directors and actors who fled to North America in the first decades of the 20th century, among them Max Reinhardt, who had been Director of the Moscow Theatre, and other directors such as Michael Curtiz.

Styles of performance and lighting and direction, as well as storytelling, that came out of German Expressionism were a contributing influence to the development of cinema in North America in these first decades.

An influence on the development of early cinema had also been the culturally mixed performances of variety and music hall entertainments, which blended entertainment from various cultures with a variety of musical, dance-related and theatrical approaches to performance.

Austrian and German actors in the silent era became crossed over from theatre to film, as in the example of Conrad Veidt, who became famous for his performance in *Caligari*. Many of the early silent film stars, such as Louise Brooks, are now seen as having a modern style of acting, partly influenced by Japanese cinema. The actor Joseph Schildkraut, who began his career on the stage in 1921 and went on to work with Griffith in *Orphans of the Storm*, used different acting styles in all his films.

Actors who had been at the top of their range before WWII playing Shakespeare and Schille on the German stage found themselves cast as Nazi or comic figures in the 1940s. Among these were Reinhold Schunzel (who plays the character of Tiger in *The Threepenny Opera*) and Siegfried Rumen. The cast of *Casablanca* was almost entirely made up of refugees who had fled Europe in the 1930s, including Madeleine Lebeau, Leonid Kinsky and Cuddles Sakol.

One of the features which characterises cinema production in the Hollywood Golden Age of the 1930s and 40s is the development of the powerful, and competing studios, within which different styles of writing, performing and directing were being

developed. Among these identifiable styles the most obvious differences occurred in the studios' approaches to the emerging 'genres' of dramatic fictions: melodrama, thrillers, comedies and musicals.

Early and Silent Cinema

Orphans of the Storm

US 1921 Dir DW Griffith

DVD B&W Sil

Set around the time of the French Revolution, a child of an aristocratic mother is left as a foundling. A workman brings her up with his own girl. The foundling is struck blind and depends on her foster sister. They are parted but find each other after many adventures and the young girl's sight is restored.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

King of Kings

US 1928 Dir Cecil B DeMille

DVD B&W with colour sequences

The life of Christ. With HB Warner, Dorothy Cumming, Ernest Torrence, Joseph Schildkraut.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Piccadilly

UK 1929 Dir E. A. Dupont

113 mins

35mm + DVD B&W

One of the pinnacles of British silent cinema, Piccadilly is a sumptuous showbiz melodrama which seethes with sexual and racial tension. The Chinese-American screen goddess Anna May Wong stars as Shosho, a scullery maid in a fashionable London nightclub whose sensuous tabletop dance catches the eye of suave club owner Valentine Wilmot. She rises to become the toast of London and the object of his erotic obsession – to the bitter jealousy of Mabel, his former lover and star dancer (played by Ziegfeld Follies star Gilda Gray).

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

The Secret Life of Sergei Eisenstein

UK/Italy 1987 Dir Gian Carlo Bertelli

55 mins

DVD Col/B&W narration

This informative film features rare archival material and Eisenstein's own words, extracted from his late memoirs. As well as being one of cinema's most influential directors, Eisenstein was a prodigious theatre designer, teacher, theorist and draughtsman. Many of his drawings are shown, along with clips from all his features and a wartime speech, the only known film record of Eisenstein speaking in English.

Archive source: BFI DVD

The Silent Feminists: America's First Women Directors

US 1992 Dir Anthony Slide and Jeffrey Goodman

45 mins

DVD Col/B&W

Using rare footage and candid photos and interviews with survivors of the silent film era, this documentary provides a testament to the pioneering work of more than thirty of Hollywood's largely forgotten women film-makers, including Alice Guy Blaché, Lois Weber, Frances Marion and Dorothy Arzner.

Archive source: BFI DVD

German Expressionism, Thrillers and Film Noir

The experience and techniques of theatre brought with them by immigrants from Europe to North America in the early 20th century had a profound influence on the development of early cinema, in particular the influence of German Expressionist theatre and film on emerging styles of film-making. In Britain, Hitchcock had also studied with German film-makers in the 1920s, and this influence can be seen in his own early films of the 1930s.

As well as German émigré directors, such as Paul Leni, Michael Curtiz and Billy Wilder, German actors such as Paul Henreid, Paul Lukas and Conrad Veidt came to the US.

BFI Special Collections hold a unique collection of materials from the Collection of Paul Leni, the German director who had worked as a theatre designer before leaving Germany in 1927, and who directed the early silent film classic *Waxworks* (1924). BFI Special Collections also hold a Collection for Conrad Veidt and materials on specific films by Wilder and others.

As well as films by German immigrant directors, including cinema classics such as *Wiene's Caligari* and *Pabst's Pandora's Box*, or the films of Murnau and Lang, one can also see the influence of German Expressionism on the early films of Hitchcock, who had studied in Germany in the 1920s.

The dark, laconic style and intense but sombre tone of Expressionism was taken up in the development of thrillers and Film Noir, with screenplays by and adaptations from the work of the British writer Graham Greene, the American novelist and screenwriter Raymond Chandler and the screenwriter James M Cain, and performances from Robert Mitchum, Humphrey Bogart and others.

In British noir, James Mason exemplifies the role of brooding anti-hero in films such as *The Seventh Veil* (1945).

Raymond Chandler is the most celebrated writer of this period; "a failed poet" whose stories and scripts have been performed in various versions and have inspired others. His anti-hero the private detective Philip Marlowe has been played by Dick Powell, Humphrey Bogart, Robert Montgomery, Elliott Gould and Robert Mitchum. The films *Murder My Sweet* (1945), *The Big Sleep* (1946), *The Long Goodbye* (1973) and *Farewell My Lovely* (1975) have been made from his novels, and *Double Indemnity* (1944), *The Blue Dahlia* (1945) and *Strangers on a Train* (1951) from his screenplays.

Among the other celebrated Hollywood writers, William Faulkner is known for his adaptations of Graham Greene. An interesting position was occupied by Clifford Odets, who alongside Arthur Miller and other writers and directors in North America in the late 1940s and early 1950s was required to give testimony to the right-wing

anti-Communist House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), chaired by Senator Joe McCarthy.

An additional dimension of this early period in Hollywood, in the 1920s and 30s, is the relationship between particular actors and directors, as with the actor Marlene Dietrich and the director Josef von Sternberg, who chose to see Dietrich in particular way, a look that was built up through camera lighting, design and direction. This also affects the image of Garbo, filmed by Lubitsch, as in *Ninotchka*.

By contrast, the films of German director Leni Riefenstahl from the 1930s to the 1950s remain within a realm of German romanticism, creating dramatic visual effects through skilled camerawork and with heightened composition and lighting. The films she appears in as actor and director include *Blue Light* (1932). Her highly composed documentary films *Olympia* and *Triumph of the Will* use this sense of dramatic composition to enhance the image of Hitler and of Nazi Germany.

Das Cabinet Des Dr Caligari (The Cabinet of Dr Caligari)

Germany 1919 Dir Robert Wiene

95 mins [at 16fps]

35mm B&W

The wild imaginings of a madman in an expressionistic setting. With Werner Kraub, Conrad Veidt.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Das Wachsfignenkabinett (Waxworks)

Germany 1924 Dir Paul Leni

70 mins [at 20fps]

35mm B&W

A young poet writes three stories about three waxwork figures, Haroun al Raschid, Ivan the Terrible and Springheeled Jack (Jack the Ripper).

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections

Faust

Germany 1926 Dir Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau

85 mins

35mm B&W

The story of a man who sells his soul to the devil for eternal youth. Based on Goethe, Marlowe and German folk sagas. With Gosta Ekman, Emil Jannings, Yvette Guilbert, Wilhelm Dieterle.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: script, stills

The Lodger

UK 1926 Dir Alfred Hitchcock

93 mins

35mm B&W tinted

Hitchcock's first big critical and commercial success – a 'Ripper-style story' set in a foggy London – introduced the themes that would run through much of his later work: the innocent man on the run, hunted down by a self-righteous society, and a fetishistic sexuality. Perhaps for the first time, a truly cinematic eye was at work in British cinema

and Hitchcock had clearly been watching contemporary films by Murnau and Lang, whose influence can be seen in the ominous camera angles and claustrophobic lighting. With Ivor Novello, Marie Ault.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Sunrise

US 1927 Dir F W Murnau

95 mins

16mm B&W

Murnau, director of *Nosferatu*, here masterfully counterpoises 'naïve' melodrama with nuanced style to produce a uniquely lyrical film poetry. The German input was still strong and the meeting of European and American sensibilities lends universality to the everyman-like triangle drama. This print carries the original 1927 soundtrack.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Pandora's Box (Die Büchse Der Pandora)

Germany 1928 Dir G W Pabst

132 mins (at 20fps)

16mm B&W Silent (with soundtrack) with English inter-titles

35mm B&W Silent (no soundtrack) with English inter-titles (requires live musical accompaniment)

With Louise Brooks, Fritz Kortner, Franz Lederer.

An enduring classic of world cinema, this tells the story of Lulu, a woman driven by insatiable desires, who destroys all lives around her, and her own. Louise Brooks' legendary performance and Pabst's brilliantly incisive direction ensure that this film is still loved by audiences all over the world. Based on Wedekind's *Lulu* plays (*Erdgeist*, 1895, and *Die Busche der Pandora*, 1904), this is the most humanely tragic portrait of obsession that cinema can boast.

Archive source: BFI National Archive and BFI Distribution

Blackmail

UK 1929 Dir Alfred Hitchcock

85 mins

35mm B&W

The first British sound picture but now better known for its experiment with narrative structure. A police murder investigation elides into a messy, personal story of attempted rape, murder in self-defence and the subsequent chase.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Blackmail

UK 1929 Dir Alfred Hitchcock

78 mins at 24fps

35mm B&W

The sound version claimed to be the first British talkie but the film is now better known for its experiment with narrative structure. A police murder investigation elides into a messy, personal story of attempted rape, murder in self-defence and the subsequent chase. This is the original silent version which, at the time, was more widely seen.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Blue Angel (Der Blaue Engel)

Germany 1930 Dir Josef von Sternberg

108 mins

35mm

16mm, B&W

A surprisingly complex morality play in which an upright and bourgeois university professor, overcome by the fascination of an attractive young music-hall singer (Marlene Dietrich), throws away his career to run off with her and her troupe.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

M

Germany 1931 Dir Fritz Lang

117 mins

35mm + 16mm B&W

Lang's first sound film is an expressionist classic in which Lorre delivers an unforgettable performance as a psychopathic child-murderer. He evades the police but is caught by the city's criminals who find that his activities are troubling their own. A powerful analysis of criminal psychology, fear and hatred enclosed in an oppressive but compelling "haunted reality" of light and shade. For many, this is Fritz Lang's greatest film on account of its psychological intensity and economy of means. M is also distinguished by an extraordinary performance by Peter Lorre as the murderer. With Peter Lorre, Otto Wernicke.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Kuhle Wampe

Germany 1931 Dir Slatan Dudow

73 mins

35mm + 16mm B&W

Screenplay by Bertolt Brecht and Ernst Ottwald. The film follows the tribulations of the Bönike family during the Depression. Conceived by Brecht at the political and artistic watershed of the waning Weimar Republic in inter-War Germany, the film is still remarkably fresh and accessible, with its subversive humour, exquisite photography by Günther Krampf, and Hanns Eisler's dynamic musical score. Kuhle Wampe was the name of a camp for the dispossessed. The film's heroine rejects the docility of the camp – filmed in semi-documentary style – in favour of class solidarity and revolution.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Shanghai Express

US 1932 Dir Josef von Sternberg

82 mins

16mm + DVD B&W

Assorted characters on a train work out their varied dramas. Screenplay by Jules Furthman, Photography Lee Garmes, Art director Hans Dreier. With Marlene Dietrich, Clive Brook, Anna May Wong.

Archive source: BFI National Archive+ BFI Distribution

Blue Light (Das Blau Licht)

Germany 1932 Dir Leni Riefenstahl

70 mins

16mm B&W

In the 19th century an Italian village in the Dolomites is enriched by a gypsy girl's discovery of an outcrop of crystals on a mountain. Fine photography creates a visually fascinating drama about a young woman of the mountains thought to be a witch, and

the tragic train of events wrought by the mountain's mysterious qualities. With Leni Riefenstahl, Mathias Wieman.
Archive source: BFI Distribution

The Petrified Forest

US 1935 Dir Archie L Mayo

82 mins

35mm

Poet Alan Squier wandering across the country becomes embroiled in a murderer and his gang, holding up a small gas-station in the desert in Arizona. Alan is given a lift with the Chisholms, but they are held up by escaped killer Duke Mantee, and members of his gang, who take the car. They return on foot to the gas-station they visited earlier, where Alan previously encountered Gabrielle Maple, a waitress who shared his love of art and poetry. She and her family are being held hostage by Mantee while he awaits the arrival of his girlfriend in a car. A relationship develops between Alan and Gabrielle and in order for her to realise her ambitions to travel and develop unhindered by family and financial restrictions, Alan bequeaths all he has in a will to her and persuades Mantee to shoot him before the gangster moves on across the border to Mexico. With Leslie Howard, Bette Davis, Genevieve Tobin, Dick Foran, Humphrey Bogart. The film was based on a play, and Bette Davis and Leslie Howard bring theatrical style to their roles, while Bogart is pure cinema.

Archive Source: BFI Distribution

You Only Live Once

US 1937 Dir Fritz Lang

87 mins

35mm B&W

This poetic, fatalistic tragedy is one of Lang's most beautiful films, depicting a Bonnie and Clyde like couple on the run. During the Depression, Frank, a four-time-loser and petty criminal, is released from prison and is determined to go straight. Despite his best efforts, however, fate seems to conspire against him and his desire to settle down with his girlfriend, Joan. With Sylvia Sidney, Henry Fonda.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

US 1939 Dir William Dieterle

116 mins

35mm B&W

With Charles Laughton, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Thomas Mitchell, Maureen O'Hara. Screenplay by Sonya Levien, Adaptation by Bruno Levien, Based on the novel by Victor Hugo. Art Director Van Nest Polglase.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Citizen Kane

US 1941 Dir Orson Welles

119 mins

35/16mm B&W

The story of the life of newspaper magnate Charles Foster Kane, a child of humble parents, who is left a considerable fortune at an early age, and who through shrewd investments becomes the nation's biggest newspaper proprietor. A political career is brought to an end by his second marriage, and he eventually dies a tragically unhappy, if still wealthy man.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Casablanca

US 1942 Dir Michael Curtiz

98 mins or 102 mins

35mm B&W

Refugees from war-time Europe congregate in Casablanca in the hope of obtaining visas for the USA. Rick Blaine runs a bar and casino there and maintains neutral friendships with the Vichy and Gestapo forces, until Ilsa, a woman from his past with whom he was in love appears with her husband Victor Laszlo, a Resistance fighter who has escaped from the Germans. With Humphrey Bogart Ingrid Bergman, Paul Henreid, Claude Rains, Conrad Veidt, Sydney Greenstreet, Peter Lorre, SK Sakall, Madeleine LeBeau, Leonid Kinskey.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Hangmen Also Die!

US 1943 Dir Fritz Lang

135 mins

35mm B&W

Dark, taut, oppressively atmospheric film full of typically Langian touches. The film is essentially an anti-Nazi propaganda film, in which the man who assassinated Heydrich in 1942 is hiding out with the Resistance in Prague while the Gestapo implement a retributory reign of terror. The story was written by Lang and Brecht, though Brecht later claimed that his ideas were betrayed by the final film. Note: The Archive copy includes, in the last few minutes, the shooting of hostages, including the Professor, and the laying of flowers on the mass graves, which are not in most copies.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Double Indemnity

US 1944 Dir Billy Wilder

107 mins

35mm B&W

Thriller Double Indemnity was a key film in the definition of the genre that came to be known as film noir. Its script creates two unforgettable criminal characters: the cynically manipulative Phyllis Dietrichson (Stanwyck) and the likeable but amoral Walter Neff (MacMurray). Billy Wilder's brilliant direction enmeshes them in chiaroscuro patterns, the bright California sun throwing shadows of venetian blinds across dusty rooms, shafts of harsh lamplight cutting through the night. With Barbara Stanwyck, Fred MacMurray. Screenplay by Raymond Chandler.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Gaslight

US 1944 Dir George Cukor

114 mins

DVD B&W

Melodrama of a man who marries the niece of the woman he murdered so that he can search for her jewels at leisure and sets out to drive his wife mad. Art Director Cedric Gibbons. Costume Supervisor Irene. With Charles Boyer, Ingrid Bergman, Joseph Cotton, Angela Lansbury.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Ingrid Bergman costume.

To Have and Have Not

US 1944 Dir Howard Hawks

100 mins

35mm B&W

Bogart and Bacall's off-screen love affair ensured that sparks flew in this thriller turned love story about a skipper for hire who reluctantly gets involved in the French resistance. William Faulkner excelled in providing an extraordinary script from one of Hemingway's least successful novels, helping to create one of Hawks' finest films.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Murder, My Sweet (Farewell My Lovely)

US 1945 Dir Edward Dmytryk

96 mins

35mm + 16mm B&W

Based on the novel Farewell, My Lovely, by Raymond Chandler. An RKO Radio Pictures production. With Dick Powell as Philip Marlowe, Claire Trevor, Anne Shirley, Otto Kruger, Mike Mazurki.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

The Seventh Veil

UK 1945 Dir Compton Bennett

95 mins

35mm B&W

A celebrated pianist suffers from depression after a car attack. A psychiatrist uncovers a history of repression and intrusion by her guardian leading to adult neurosis. With James Mason, Ann Todd, Herbert Lom. Piano played by Eileen Joyce.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

The Big Sleep

US 1946 Dir Howard Hawks

114 min

35mm

A story of murder and blackmail, based on the novel by Raymond Chandler. Screenplay by William Faulkner, Jules Furthman. [The film was originally due for release in 1945, but it was put back until 1946, largely due to end of the Second World War and the production company wanting to release its war-related films first. It was subsequently re-edited, with 18 minutes cut and replaced by more scenes featuring Bogart and Bacall, and this was the film that was originally released publicly in 1946. The original 1945 version was discovered and renovated in the USA in 1996].

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Notorious

US 1946 Dir Alfred Hitchcock

101 mins

35mm B&W

Notorious is one of Hitchcock's most darkly romantic, disturbing and suspenseful thrillers. Ingrid Bergman is magnificent as the tough yet vulnerable Alicia Huberman whose father is sentenced to death for treason, leaving her determined to prove her patriotism and to atone for his guilt. Cary Grant is devastating as debonair US agent Steven Devlin, who's torn between his love for Alicia and his distrust of her. She is enlisted to seduce Alex Sebastian (Claude Rains), a sophisticated German expatriate, to

find out about his suspected Nazi affiliations. Madly impassioned by Alicia, Sebastian even marries her against the wishes of his tyrannical mother (Leopoldine Konstantin) and before long all three are entangled in a web of constrained desire and cruel deceit... Starring Ingrid Bergman, Cary Grant, Claude Rains and Louis Calhern.
Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Out of the Past (aka Build My Gallows High)

US 1947 Dir Jacques Tourneur

97 mins

35/16mm B&W

A beautifully intricate film noir, laden with flashbacks, in which the fated hero fails to escape his past. Robert Mitchum, here in one of his finest roles, is more than matched by Kirk Douglas, and Jane Greer is a revelation as the archetypal femme fatale. With Robert Mitchum, Jane Greer, Kirk Douglas.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Odd Man Out

UK 1947 Dir Carol Reed

115 mins

35mm B&W

The wounded leader of an illegal organisation is hunted by the police for eight hours. He is helped and refused help by members of the public and killed with his girlfriend in a final police confrontation.

The opening credits include the following statement: 'This story is told against a background of political unrest in a city of Northern Ireland. It is not concerned with the struggle between the law and an illegal organisation, but only with the conflict in the hearts of the people when they become unexpectedly involved.' The Irish parts are played by an Irish character actors from the Abbey Theatre. With James Mason, Robert Newton, Cyril Cusack, F J McCormick, William Hartnell, Fay Compton, Dan O'Herlihy, Kathleen Ryan.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Key Largo

US 1948 Dir John Huston

101 mins

35mm B&W

Huston's seminal noir about a desperate band of gangsters holed up in a Florida hotel, taking the occupants hostage yet blind to the threat of the coming hurricane, was seen as a metaphor for post-war disillusionment. A superlative cast turns in terrific performances. With Humphrey Bogart, Edward G Robinson.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

White Heat

US 1949 Dir Raoul Walsh

114 mins

35mm B&W

James Cagney, Virginia Mayo, Edmond O'Brien

A stark, brutal thriller about a psychopathic, mother-fixated gangster who plans his heists on the basis of classical mythology. Finally cornered by the cops he yells 'Made it Ma, to the top of the world, Ma' before joining her in gangster heaven. 'White Heat = Scarface + Psycho...the fitting climax of the 30s gangster movie.' – Time Out. “

Archive source: BFI Distribution

The Third Man

UK 1949 Dir Carol Reed

104 mins

35mm B&w

A naïve American writer of pulp novels searches in post war Vienna for the killers of an old friend. Voted top of the BFI's recent poll of the best 100 British films, this boasts Orson Welles, director Carol Reed and writer Graham Greene, all in career defining form. With Joseph Cotton, Alida Valli, Orson Welles, Trevor Howard.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

North by Northwest

US 1959 Dir Alfred Hitchcock

136 mins

35mm Col

Story of a New York advertising man who is pursued by a gang of spies who think he is a Federal agent. Director of Photography Robert Burks, Production Designed by Robert Boyle. Titles by Saul Bass. With Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint, James Mason.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Strangers on a Train

US 1951 Dir Alfred Hitchcock

100 mins

35mm B&W

Murder melodrama. Screenplay by Raymond Chandler, Czenzi Ormond, from the novel by Patricia Highsmith. With Farley Granger, Ruth Roman, Robert Walker, Leo G Carroll, Patricia Hitchcock.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Night of the Hunter

US 1955 Dir Charles Laughton

92 mins

35mm + HD Digital B&W

(British actor) Charles Laughton's only film as director, a thriller adapted from a bestselling novel by Davis Grubb, is revered today, but it failed on its first release, and Laughton never recovered from the disappointment. It is part expressionist horror movie part luminous fairytale, and contains some of the most haunting images in cinema. Set in 1930's rural America, complete with visually striking Mark Twain-like exteriors, the film polarises into a struggle between good and evil for the souls of two innocent children. Robert Mitchum stands out through the absolute authority of his performance as a religious fanatic who is prepared to kill to obtain money to build a church. The central night sequence which shows Mitchum tracking the children who have witnessed him murder Shelley Winters is hauntingly atmospheric, and Lillian Gish's appearance provides one of the most enigmatic endings [in cinema]. The script, from David Grubb's novel, was by the eminent American film critic James Agee. (Derek Prouse)

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

A Touch of Evil

US 1958 Dir Orson Welles

109 mins

35mm B&W

Narcotics drama. A Special narcotics investigator and his wife become involved in an international murder case. The local police detective is revealed as a phoney. Welles intended the famous opening sequence to be shown without any opening titles or credits, but was over-ruled by the production company. With Charlton Heston, Janet Leigh, Orson Welles, Marlene Dietrich et.al.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Hollywood Genres of the 1930s and 40s

See also: the Musicals section of the Music chapter.

Grand Hotel

US 1932 Dir Edmund Goulding

115 mins

35mm B&W

“The Hollywood star system is on show in this portmanteau film as an interwoven group of stories follows the lives of different characters, including Garbo who gets to say ‘I want to be alone...’ ‘The film still has the power to hold: by the personalities which pierce the outdated make-up; by the quirkiness of Lionel Barrymore, the insolence of Joan Crawford, the sad radiance of Garbo...Today, Grand Hotel looks more interesting than many of the famous historical monuments, the ‘great’ films.” – Sunday Times, 1958. With Greta Garbo, John Barrymore, Wallace Beery, Joan Crawford.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Queen Christina

US 1933 Dir Rouben Mamoulian

100 mins

35mm B&W

The story of the 17th century Swedish queen who liked to disguise herself as a man, her tragic romance with a Spanish nobleman, and her abdication. “This is a highly fascinating film to revisit. It gives you the essential Garbo – enigmatic to the last shot of the self-exiled Swedish queen abdicating her throne for love and setting sail with the expressionless face that Mamoulian commanded her to wear, so that filmgoers projected their own thoughts on to her ‘perfect blankness’...Garbo was the most instinctual film actress ever: Queen Christina is her showcase.” – Evening Standard, 1998. With Greta Garbo, John Gilbert, Ian Keith, Lewis Stone.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Camille

US 1936 Dir George Cukor

108 mins

35mm B&W

Tragic period romance based on the novel and play 'La Dame Aux Camélias' by Alexandre Dumas, fils. “One of the most unashamedly glamorous, romantic movies ever made, it also shows why Garbo was a star...it’s impossible to take one’s eyes off her. Her magical performance is really a triumph for the studio system, for Cukor’s sensitive direction, Adrian’s pale costumes and William Daniels’ exquisite cinematography all helped to create the Garbo image – and it was studio head Irving Thalberg who ordered Cukor to re-shoot the famous death scene shorter, and on a chaise- longue rather than a

bed.” – The Critics’ Film Guide. With Greta Garbo, Robert Taylor, Lionel Barrymore.
Archive source: BFI Distribution

Ninotchka

US 1939 Dir Ernst Lubitsch

105 mins

35mm B&W

Comedy with Greta Garbo, Melvyn Douglas. “This picture takes place in Paris in those wonderful days when a siren was a brunette and not an alarm – and if a Frenchman turned out the light it was not on account of an air raid!” – thus goes the prologue to *Ninotchka*. MGM’s publicity ads insisted that this Lubitsch comedy was the first time we’d heard Garbo laugh. Certainly the film was made notable by casting her in the unusually light role as the gloomy Soviet commissar whose icy ideology is melted by love, Paris and Melvin Douglas’s smug hedonism (‘*Ninotchka*, it’s midnight: one half of Paris is making love to the other half’). Remade in 1957 as the musical *Silk Stockings*.
Archive source: BFI Distribution

The Women

US 1939 Dir George Cukor

133 mins

35mm Col/B&W

Drama with Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford. George Cukor’s legendary comedy is the ultimate woman’s picture, with an extraordinary female cast of 135, and not a single man. Joan Crawford in particular is superb.
Archive source: BFI Distribution

Dark Victory

US 1939 Dir Edmund Goulding

106 mins

35mm B&W

Davis stars as a petulant heiress who famously horsewhips her chauffeur (Bogart) before learning that she is dying and redeeming herself by becoming a better person. One of the very greatest weepies. With Bette Davis, George Brent, Humphrey Bogart, Geraldine Fitzgerald, Ronald Reagan.
Archive source: BFI Distribution

The Philadelphia Story

US 1941 Dir George Cukor

112 mins

35mm B&W

The great comedy of sex, class, bad manners and media intrusion, *The Philadelphia Story* is considered one of Cukor’s greatest films, with classic performances from Hepburn, Grant and Stewart. Remade in 1956 as the musical *High Society*. With Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant, James Stewart.
Archive source: BFI Distribution

The Outlaw

US 1941 Dir Howard Hawks

114 mins

35mm B&W

Western. Designed, written and filmed as a film noir, but set in the west, *The Outlaw* is

an important film historically, both for having been produced by Howard Hughes and directed uncredited by Howard Hawks, and for being Jane Russell's first picture. Script by Jules Furthman, Photography Greg Toland, Musical Director Victor Young. A story of double-crossing involving two desperadoes and a sentimental sheriff.
Archive source: BFI Distribution

Now, Voyager

US 1942 Dir Irving Rapper

117 mins

35mm B&W

Bette Davis, Paul Henreid, Claude Rains, Gladys Cooper

Davis plays a woman alone who is brought out of her shell only to embark on a doomed love affair. Particular pleasures include not only the great performances from Davis and Rains and the Oscar-winning score from Max Steiner, but, of course, the immortal line, "Oh Jerry, don't let's ask for the moon. We have the stars!" Suffering never looked so good.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Mildred Pierce

US 1945 Dir Michael Curtiz

111 mins

35mm B&W

One of the great melodramas has Crawford at her very best. Based on the novel by James M Cain, mother/ daughter rivalry is taken to the limits in this rags-to-riches story of a woman who turns her back on the confines of the family to make a new life for herself and her children. Blyth is unpleasantly good and Arden drops her characteristic one-liners like pearls.

Joan Crawford excels as the housewife turned waitress turned successful restaurateur who competes with her own daughter for the love of a wealthy playboy. With Joan Crawford, Zachary Scott.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Letter From an Unknown Woman

US 1948 Dir Max Ophuls

87 mins

35mm B&W

The story of a tragic love affair between a young Viennese woman and a famous concert pianist, set in Vienna in the early 1900's. From the story by Stefan Zweig. Director of Photography Frank Planer. With Joan Fontaine, Louis Jourdan.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Blood on the Moon

US 1948 Dir Robert Wise

87 mins

35mm B&W

Western. Jim Garry is an outsider from Texas who drifts into the conflict between cattlemen and homesteaders. He resolves the conflict and reconciles the people through exposing a racket between a crooked cattleman and an Indian agent. With Robert Mitchum, Barbara Bel Geddes, Robert Preston, Walter Brennan, Phyllis Thaxter.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Sunset Blvd.

US 1950 Dir Billy Wilder

110 mins

35mm B&W

A middle aged film star lives in solitary splendour and nostalgia, determined to recover her old glory. When an unemployed scriptwriter happens upon her home, she forces him to stay and re-write the script with which she plans to make her comeback. Director of Photography John F Seitz, Art direction Hans Dreier, John Meehan, Costumes by Edith Head. With William Holden, Gloria Swanson, Erich von Stroheim.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Rancho Notorious

US 1952 Dir Fritz Lang

A satirical western. When a young cowgirl is murdered, her cowboy fiance swears vengeance. But his only clue is the mysterious word 'chuck-a-luck'. With Marlene Dietrich, Arthur Kennedy, Mel Ferrer, Gloria Henry. Director of Photography Hal Mohr.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Love Me or Leave Me

US 1955 Dir Charles Vidor

122 mins

35mm DVD Col

Musical drama based on the life story of Ruth Etting. With Doris Day, James Cagney

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Audrey Hepburn Test

UK 1952 Dir Henry Cass

5 mins

DVD Col

A series of takes, apparently for colour test purposes, featuring Audrey Hepburn as an assistant in a draper's shop. The clapperboard gives the director as Henry Cass.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Breakfast at Tiffany's

US 1961 Dir Blake Edwards

114 mins

35mm + HD Digital Col

Audrey Hepburn stars as Holly Golightly, a slightly crazy call girl with an exotic social and emotional life, who lives next door to young and aspiring New York writer Paul Varjak. Neither is quite happy with their lives, him being the kept man of a wealthy older woman and her looking for a rich sugar daddy. This all-time romantic comedy is based on Truman Capote's novella of the same title. With Audrey Hepburn, George Peppard, Patricia Neal.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Comedy



Playtime (1967)

See also: Music Hall Chapter

Chaplin Out-Takes

US 1914-1947 Dir Charles Chaplin

423 reels, various lengths

35mm B&W

Restored by the BFI in 1995, these 423 reels of film include production material and out-takes from Chaplin's films from 1914-1947.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Cameraman

US 1928 Dir Edward Sedgwick

78 mins

35mm + DVD B&W silent with music track

Buster Keaton, Marceline Day

The misadventures of a cameraman who manages to find assignments in trouble spots. Keaton's first feature after moving to MGM. In this film-within-a-film the hilarious compendium of deliberate cinematic errors climaxes with a monkey shooting the greatest news story. With Buster Keaton, Marceline Day.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Unknown Chaplin

UK 1983 Dir Kevin Brownlow and David Gill

156 mins

DVD Col/B&W

Thames TV documentary. A fascinating analysis of Charles Chaplin's previously unseen film footage, including rushes, out-takes and abandoned projects. With production notes and interviews, the material combines to reveal the working methods of this great comedian and director.

Archive source: BFI DVD

Buster Keaton: A Hard Act to Follow

UK 1987 Dir Kevin Brownlow + David Gill

156 mins

DVD Col/B&W

This illuminating study of the great comedian of silent cinema includes excerpts from early two-reelers and features, such as *Our Hospitality*, *Sherlock Junior*, *The Navigator*, *Seven Chances*, *Battling Butler* and *The General*.

Archive source: BFI DVD

Harold Lloyd: The Third Genius

UK 1989 Dir Kevin Brownlow and David Gill

110 mins

DVD Col/B&W

A study of the life and work of the bespectacled silent cinema comedian, including the famous skyscraper sequence from *Safety Last* (1923) and scenes from *The Freshman* (1925) and *The Kid Brother* (1927).

Archive source: BFI DVD

A Day at the Races

US 1937 Dir Sam Wood

109 mins

35mm B&W

The Marx brothers attempt simultaneously to save a sanatorium from bankruptcy and win a fortune at the races.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Jacques Tati (1907-1982)

Soigne Ton Gauche (Watch Your Left!)

Fr 1936 Dir Rene Clement

15 mins

16mm B&W

A farmhand decides that he should emulate a boxer whom he observes in training.

Script by Jacques Tati. With Jacques Tati, Max Martell.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

L'Ecole des Facteurs (School for Postmen)

Fr 1947 Dir Jacques Tati

15 mins

16mm B&W

Three postmen proudly graduate from the local postman's school. One of them is followed on his round of misadventures until his sack is accidentally carried aloft by an aeroplane. Tati gets involved in a bike chase in a dry run for *Jour de Fete*.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Jour De Fete

France 1949 Dir Jacques Tati

85 mins

35mm Col

The effects of the arrival of a fair to a small village, where rural postman Francois (Tati) is inspired by a film about the super-efficient US mail service.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Monsieur Hulot's Holiday (Les Vacances De M Hulot)

France 1953 Dir Jacques Tati

86 mins

35mm B&W

Les Vacances de M. Hulot was the film that brought Tati international acclaim. It also launched his on-screen alter ego, the courteous, well-meaning, eternally accident-prone Monsieur Hulot, with whom Tati would from now on be inseparably associated. Chaos ensues when a sleepy French coastal resort is invaded by holidaymakers in energetic pursuit of fun. As the prologue to this comedy warns us, there is little plot, but instead a seamless succession of gently mocking studies in human absurdity. With Jacques Tati, Nathalie Pascaud.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Cours Du Soir (Evening Classes)

France 1967 Dir Nicolas Ribowski

30 mins

16mm Col

Jacques Tati teaches his technique of comedy and mime. He gives an evening class on Observation: its themes include the Smoker, Sports (tennis, fishing and horse-riding), the Postman, and How to Trip over Steps or Walk into a Pillar.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Playtime

France 1967 Dir Jacques Tati

152 mins/123 mins

70mm + 35mm Col

"Playtime is not merely set in a city, it itself is a city, a proliferation of perspectives, a multifarious mesh of signs, a semiotic Utopia. As Hulot wanders through the massive metropolis especially constructed for the film, the spectator cannot hope to comprehend its complete topography on a single viewing and ends by browsing rather than reading the imagery. In this recently restored rarity of rarities, an avant-garde, near-abstract comedy, the screen is transformed into a vast playground." – Gilbert Adair

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Method acting and post-war American writing for Cinema



Taxi Driver (1976)

Celebrity actors Marlon Brando, Marilyn Monroe and James Dean were all trained at the Actors Studio in New York, led by the American actor-teacher Lee Strasberg, who derived a philosophy of 'method' acting from the early-20th century Russian director Konstantin Stanislavsky.

Marlon Brando (1924 - 2004)

A Streetcar Named Desire

US 1951 Dir Elia Kazan

125 mins

35mm B&W

Adapted from the Tennessee Williams play. With Vivien Leigh, Marlon Brando.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

See *Theatre: American Playwrights*

The Wild One

US 1953 Dir Laslo Benedek

79 mins

35mm B&W

The story of a gang of undisciplined youths, formed into a motor-cycling club, who terrorise a town. With Marlon Brando, Mary Murphy, Lee Marvin.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Julius Caesar

US 1953 Dir Joseph L Mankiewicz

121 mins

35mm B&W

Mankiewicz's film presents Shakespeare's play as a great, cinematic political thriller. Brando's Mark Antony is both brilliant and exceptionally beautiful. "This is a picture of mood, of violence, of real people – their ambitions, their dreams." – Joseph L Mankiewicz. With Marlon Brando, James Mason, Louis Calhern, John Gielgud.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

On the Waterfront

US 1954 Dir Elia Kazan

108 mins

35mm B&W

The story of a crook's domination of a longshoreman. Original screenplay by Arthur Miller. Winner of eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Actor for Brando, Best Actress for Eva Marie Saint, and Best Director for Kazan.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Meet Marlon Brando

US 1965 Dir Albert and David Maysles

29 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) B&W

Cinema verité study of the actor.

Archive: BFI National Archive

Marlon Brando: The Actor in Politics (This Week)

UK 1968 Dir Jolyon Wimhurst

24 mins

Video B&W

Interview with Brando focusing on his involvement in civil rights issues. With scenes from *The Wild One* (1953), *On the Waterfront* (1954)

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Apocalypse Now

US 1979 Francis Ford Coppola

151 mins

35mm Col

Set in the Vietnam War. Captain Benjamin Willard is assigned to locate the renegade Colonel Kurtz in his Cambodian jungle retreat and to "terminate his command". With Marlon Brando, Robert Duvall, Martin Sheen.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Marlon Brando Wild One (Cinephile)

UK 1994 Dir Paul Joyce

52 mins

Video Col

Specially commissioned documentary in the year of Brando's 70th birthday, including clips, previously unseen home movie footage of Brando and Montgomery Clift and *The Godfather* make-up tests.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Marilyn Monroe (1926-62)

The Asphalt Jungle

US 1950 Dir John Huston

112 mins

35mm B&W

The godfather of all heist movies, Huston's noir masterpiece has inspired countless imitations and was vastly admired by the master of the French gangster thriller Jean-Pierre Melville. Menacing blond hunk Dix Handley (Sterling Hayden) teams up with

criminal mastermind Doc Riedenschneider (Sam Jaffe) who's just got out of jail but wants to pull off one last job before retiring to the pure air of Mexico. Set amid the bleak, mean streets and sleazy dives of an anonymous Mid-Western city, *The Asphalt Jungle* is stunningly photographed from first to last. Marilyn Monroe makes a brief but alluring appearance as the mistress of a double-crossing fence. With Sterling Hayden, Louis Calhern, Jean Hagen, James Whitmore, Sam Jaffe and Marilyn Monroe.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

The Seven Year Itch

US 1955 Dir Billy Wilder

105 mins

35mm Col

A husband left alone while his wife is on holiday meets the young woman from the flat above. With Marylin Monroe, Tom Ewell, Evelyn Keyes, Sonny Tufts, Robert Strauss.

Archive source: BFI National Archive.

Some Like It Hot

US 1959 Dir Billy Wilder

121 mins

HD Digital + 35mm B&W

"Its basic plot derived from a little-known German movie, this pitch-perfect comedy stars Jack Lemmon (the first of his seven Wilder movies) and Tony Curtis as Jazz musicians who get into drag and join a Florida-bound all-girls band to escape a vengeful mobster after witnessing a Valentine's Day-style massacre in Prohibition Chicago. The danger from George Raft's hoodlums is palpable; the bad taste is courageous; Marilyn Monroe is at the peak of her voluptuous vulnerability; the final line is unsurpassed." – Philip French. With Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis, Marilyn Monroe.

Archive source: BFI Special Collections: Marilyn Monroe dress

The Misfits

US 1961 Dir John Huston

125mins

35mm B&W

Romantic psychological drama about misfits brought together by circumstances. Screenplay by Arthur Miller. With Clark Gable, Marilyn Monroe, Montgomery Clift.

Archive Source: BFI National Archive

Mailer's Marilyn

UK 1973 Dir Ben Rea and John Reynolds

95 mins

Video Col

Writer Norman Mailer talks about his recently published biography of Marilyn Monroe.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Marilyn on Marilyn

UK 2001 Dir Paul Kerr

51 mins

Video Col

TV documentary. Never fully broadcast previously, tapes of magazine interviews given by Marilyn Monroe just before she died in April 1960

James Dean (1931 - 55)

Rebel Without a Cause

US 1955 Dir Nicholas Ray

111 mins

35mm Col

Nicholas Ray's passionate and iconic study of teenage alienation and adult emotional ineptitude became the director's best-known film and James Dean's most admired role, defining the essence of troubled youth. With James Dean, Natalie Wood.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Giant

US 1956 Dir George Stevens

200 mins

35mm Col

A story about Texans of today and yesterday, with a portrayal of this state when cattle raising was supplanted by oil derricks and when people made fortunes almost overnight. With Elizabeth Taylor, Rock Hudson, James Dean, Carroll Baker.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

James Dean: The First American Teenager

US 1975 Dir Ray Connolly

75 mins

DVD Col

A documentary drawing on interviews with the actor's colleagues and friends; clips from his three major films *East of Eden*, *Rebel Without a Cause*, *Giant*; and material from an earlier documentary, *The James Dean Story*, compiled in 1957 by George W George and Robert Altman. Includes interviews with Carroll Baker, Natalie Wood, Sal Mineo, Dennis Hopper, Nicholas Ray, Sammy Davis Jnr and Leslie Caron.

Archive source: BFI DVD

Screen Tests of the Stars (Part Two)

UK 2002 Dir Geraldine Dowd

48 mins

Video Col

The second of two programmes featuring footage from the screen tests of celebrities. Includes footage of John Travolta, Sharon Stone, James Dean and John Cusak.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Robert De Niro (born 1943)

Taxi Driver

US 1976 Dir Martin Scorsese

114 mins

35mm Col

Ex-Vietnam marine Travis Bickle takes a job as a New York cab driver, working the night shift to try to escape his oppressive sense of alienation from the corruption and filth that he sees all around him. After the failure of his attempted contact with an election

worker, he puts himself through a fitness programme and buys a number of guns illegally, before trying to assassinate the presidential candidate. Chased away by secret service agents, he instead kills the pimp of his 12-year-old prostitute friend Iris and two others, and is hailed as a hero in the press.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Martin Scorsese Directs

US 1990 Dir Joel Sucher and Steven Fischler

60 mins

DVD Col

An intimate portrait of the director Martin Scorsese, visiting the set, the editing rooms and the mixing studios during the production of *Goodfellas*. The film includes extracts from *Mean Streets*, *Raging Bull*, *New York, New York* and *The Last Temptation of Christ*, alongside interviews with the director, his family, his friends and colleagues such as Steven Spielberg, Robert De Niro, Harvey Keitel and Joe Pesci.

Archive source: BFI DVD

Taxi Driver II

UK 1986 Dir George Barber

8 mins

Video Col

"This revolves around Tim West, an advertising executive who is developing a Channel 4 programme on cooking for terrorists. Disillusioned by the hyper-reality of the media world, he joins Robert de Niro evening classes, but also falls under the pastoral influence of Johnny Morris. From the opening images of night-time, car-ridden streets accompanied by languorous sax on the soundtrack, through to the sub-Chandleresque voice-over narration, *Taxi Driver II* strikes you with its clever knowingness. But it's more than just a clever nod in the direction of contemporary film noir, just as it's more than an incestuous joke at the expense of the London based media world: it's a telling comment on the contemporary media culture of postmodernism." – Julian Petley, *New Statesman*

Archive source: LUX

British cinema of the 1930s-50s



Brighton Rock (1947)

British cinema has at certain periods benefited particularly strongly from formal links between theatre and film-making, key examples being the collaboration between playwright Noël Coward and film-maker David Lean in their Cine Guild Production Company in the 1940s (which produced the films *This Happy Breed* (1944), *Blithe Spirit* (1945) and *Brief Encounter* (1945)), and the collaboration between playwrights associated with the Royal Court and new writing in the 1960s-70s (including Harold Pinter) and their directors (including Tony Richardson, Joseph Losey, Lindsay Anderson, Karel Reisz and John Schlesinger)

Styles of performance in British cinema of the 1940s-50s tended to be more low key than for their US counterparts of the same period, with actors such as Herbert Marshall and Maurice Denham favouring an almost “non-acting” style of acting, and with a charismatic style of British acting exemplified by actors such as James Mason and Wilfred Lawson (*The Seventh Veil*).

While directors such as Hitchcock demanded particular styles of performance from their actors, Hitchcock as a director himself had been influenced in his early films by German Expressionist film-making. The British director Carol Reed was working in similar territory, and is a notable ‘Noir’ director of the 1930s.

Hitchcock’s British films date from the 1920s, and in these early films Charles Laughton was the key actor Hitchcock worked with (*Jamaica Inn* 1938, *The Paradine Case* 1947). Laughton arranged for Hitchcock to be invited to Hollywood at the end of the 1930s to work with his own company Mayflower. At first expecting to work on *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (eventually made by director William Dieterle in 1939), Hitchcock was “loaned” to Selznick for the film *Rebecca* and to Walter Grainger for *Foreign Correspondent*. Later on, James Stewart performed very differently for Hitchcock than he had done when directed by others in the 1930s.

In the 1960s British matinee idol Dirk Bogarde moved away from the light-hearted comedy of the 1950s Doctor series and into darker and more complex roles, confronting social taboos such as homosexuality (*Victim* 1961) and class tensions (*The Servant* 1963).

BFI Special Collections hold materials for Hitchcock including titles designs by Saul Bass for *Vertigo* and *Spellbound*, storyboard and production designs by Salvador Dali for *Spellbound*, and costume designs by Julie Harris for *Frenzy*, and by Wendorf for *Sabotage*, *The Secret Agent*, and *Waltzes from Vienna*.

The films of producer/directors Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger were high on design, and BFI Special Collections holds individual Collections for the designers Alfred Junge and Hein Heckroth, the notable designers who worked together on their films, as well as a collection for Ivor Beddoes, the sketch artist who worked with them. Materials for Powell and Pressburger films include production and costume designs for *A Matter of Life and Death*, *Black Narcissus*, *The Red Shoes* and *Tales of Hoffman*. The British costume designer Julie Harris worked for many directors from the 1940s to the 1980s, with materials held in BFI Special Collections

Evergreen

UK 1934 Dir Victor Saville

94 mins

35mm B&w

The story of a music-hall star who was blackmailed into retirement, and the 1934 success of the daughter who exploited her fame. With Betty Balfour, Jessie Matthews. Art Direction Alfred Junge.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Things to Come

UK 1936 Dir William Cameron Menzies

96 mins

35mm B&W

"This British answer to *Metropolis*, scripted by H.G. Wells and based on his *The Shape of Things to Come*, concerns the collapse and development of civilisation over a hundred year period. Monumental in scale and exceeding its budget twice over, this ambitious production became a landmark of the science fiction genre through its original approach to set design, props and special effects. Laszlo Moholy-Nagy's Constructivist designs for *Everytown* are especially celebrated." – Tate Modern.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Alfred Hitchcock

The Lady Vanishes

UK 1938 Dir Alfred Hitchcock

96 mins

35mm B&w

Thriller. Iris Henderson, a young Englishwoman travelling abroad, befriends an old governess, Miss Froy, who is returning to England by train. When Miss Froy disappears and other passengers deny they have seen her, Iris is plunged into mystery and peril.

With Margaret Lockwood, Michael Redgrave.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Jamaica Inn

UK 1939 Dir Alfred Hitchcock
102 mins
35mm B&W
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Rebecca

US 1940 Dir Alfred Hitchcock
131 mins
35 + 16mm B&W

Daphne du Maurier's haunting tale of a shy young woman (Joan Fontaine) who meets the handsome, aristocratic widower Maxim de Winter (Laurence Olivier) in Monte Carlo and is swept off her feet by his whirlwind courtship. Following their wedding, they move to his Cornish estate Manderley, where the brooding Maxim once lived with his first wife Rebecca. Manderley is ruled over by the sinister housekeeper Mrs Danvers (Judith Anderson) who is ferociously devoted to the memory of her dead mistress and undermines the new wife at every turn. A beautifully nuanced study in guilt and anxiety about sex, money and class, Rebecca continues to hold audiences spellbound with its beguiling blend of romanticism and nightmarish suspense. With Laurence Olivier, Joan Fontaine, George Sanders, Judith Anderson.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Foreign Correspondent

US 1940 Dir Alfred Hitchcock
131 mins
35mm B&W
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Vertigo

US 1958 Dir Alfred Hitchcock
128 mins
35mm Col

Scottie Ferguson is hired by an old friend to investigate his wife Madeleine's behaviour. Scottie and Madeleine fall in love but Madeleine's death awakens Scottie's paranoia about heights. He later meets a girl, Judy, who resembles Madeleine; he becomes obsessed about her and makes her dress as Madeleine did. However, Scottie begins to realise that Madeleine, her husband and Judy are all connected. With James Stewart, Kim Novak. Art Direction Hal Pereira, Titles Designed by Saul Bass.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Birds

US 1963 Dir Alfred Hitchcock
119 mins
35mm Col

When wealthy Melanie Daniels delivers a pair of love birds to a home in Bodega Bay on the Californian coast, she plays a central role in the town's defence against an inexplicable and savage attack by flocks of wild birds. Screenplay by Evan Hunter from the story by Daphne Du Maurier. Miss Hedren's Costumes designed by Edith Head. With Rod Taylor, Jessica Tandy, Suzanne Pleshette, 'Tippi' Hedren.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Marnie

US 1964 Dir Alfred Hitchcock

130 mins

35mm Col

A young woman who compulsively steals money is readjusted by marriage and by the uncovering of what went wrong in her childhood. With 'Tippi' Hedren, Sean Connery.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Brighton Rock

UK 1947 Dir John Boulting

92 mins

35mm B&W

One of the finest British thrillers ever. Richard Attenborough stars in the most memorable role of his career as the murderous leader of a gang working the Brighton racetrack. Beautifully shot British film noir.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Black Narcissus

UK 1947 Dir Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger

100 mins

35mm Col

A group of nuns is sent to establish a hospital and a school in a remote part of the Himalayas. "...One of Britain's great cinematic masterpieces, a marvellous evocation of hysteria and repression, and incidentally one of the few genuinely erotic films ever to emerge from these sexually staid islands." – Geoff Andrew, Time Out

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI Special Collections: Hein Heckroth and Alfred Junge costume designs.

David Lean (1908-91)

Great Expectations

UK 1946 Dir David Lean

118 mins

35mm + HD Digital B&W

Great Expectations is widely considered to be the greatest of all the many film versions of Dickens' novels. Lean's brilliant adaptation follows the fortunes of Pip, a blacksmith's apprentice who, as a child, befriends an escaped convict. Introduced by a family friend to the eccentric recluse Miss Havisham, Pip becomes a regular visitor to her crumbling Gothic mansion and falls in love with her beautiful but stony-hearted niece Estella.

When he turns eighteen, however, Pip's life is suddenly transformed by the generosity of a mysterious benefactor, and he moves to London to embark on a new life as a 'gentleman'. A triumph of visual storytelling, David Lean's masterpiece has been newly restored by the BFI National Archive and Granada International, presenting Guy Green's Oscar-winning cinematography to stunning effect. With John Mills, Jean Simmons, Alec Guinness, Martita Hunt.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Oliver Twist

UK 1948 Dir David Lean

116 mins

35mm HD Digital B&W

Dickens' extravagant vision of Victorian London is perfectly balanced by superb performances and Lean's fierce grip on the sprawling narrative. Guy Green and John Bryan lend an Expressionist look to Fagin's hellish underworld and Alec Guinness, in his second major role, gives a finely judged theatrical – if controversial – depiction of Fagin himself. Lean was always eager to open a film without dialogue and here he excels himself with a tour de force sequence of Oliver's pregnant mother battling against a storm. New restoration. With Robert Newton, John Howard Davies, Kay Walsh.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

See also:

Dickens Before Sound

1901–1922 Dir Various

171 mins

DVD (B&W + tinted)

Dickens Before Sound is a unique collection of early adaptations of perhaps Britain's favourite and (after Shakespeare), most adapted author. This collection includes the first existing Dickens adaptation, *Scrooge; or Marley's Ghost* (1901) photographed a mere thirty-one years after the author's death; an entirely original attempt to animate a series of original lantern slides depicting the story of *Gabriel Grub*; the first Dickensian sound film with Bransby Williams as the character Grandfather Smallweed from *Bleak House*, and perhaps the centrepiece of the collection - a version of *Oliver Twist* (1922) featuring two iconic performers of the silent screen, Jackie Coogan and Lon Chaney. The films are presented for the first time with new scores by the composer and pianist Neil Brand. The collection includes: *Gabriel Grub* (date unknown) (8 mins); *Scrooge; or, Marley's Ghost* (W R Booth, UK, 1901, 4 mins); *The Cricket on the Hearth* (D W Griffith, USA, 1909, 14 mins); *Oliver Twist* (J Stuart Blackton, USA, 1909, 9 mins); *The Boy and the Convict* (David Aylott, UK, 1909, 12 mins); *Nicholas Nickleby* (George O Nichols, USA, 1912, 20 mins); *The Pickwick Papers - The Honourable Event* (Larry Trimble, UK/USA, 1913, 15 mins); *David Copperfield* (Thomas Bentley, UK, 1913, 8 mins extracts); *Oliver Twist* (Frank Lloyd, USA, 1922, 74 mins); *Dickens' London* (Frank Miller and Harry B Parkinson, UK, 1924, 12 mins); *Grandfather Smallweed* (Hugh Croise, UK, date unknown, 12 mins)

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI DVD

The Passionate Friends

UK 1948 Dir David Lean

91 mins

35mm Col

Despite Steven Stratton's proposal of marriage, Mary Justin marries a wealthy banker whom she does not love. Years later Mary and Steven meet again. With Ann Todd, Claude Rains, Trevor Howard.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Sound Barrier

UK 1952 Dir David Lean

117 mins

35mm B&W

Arresting story of aircraft designer whose visions of jet development result in the tragic death of test pilot who was daughter's husband. With Ralph Richardson, Ann Todd, Nigel Patrick, John Justin, Dinah Sheridan.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Hobson's Choice

UK 1953 Dir David Lean

108 mins

35mm B&W

Historical drama. The eldest daughter of Lancashire bootmaker marries his boot-hand and sets him up in rival business. With Charles Laughton, John Mills, Brenda de Banzie, Daphne Anderson, Joseph Tomelty.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Summer Madness (aka Summertime)

USA/UK 1955 Dir David Lean

100 mins

35mm Col

With Katharine Hepburn, Rossano Brazzi. Despite wonderful performances from Hepburn and Brazzi, and masterful direction from Lean, the star of this superbly restored romance is Venice, photographed in all its seductive splendour by Jack Hildyard.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Carol Reed**The Fallen Idol**

UK 1948 Dir Carol Reed

94 mins

35mm B&W

This was the first collaboration between Carol Reed and Graham Greene, one of the most significant writer-director partnerships in the history of film. A witty tale of intrigue told from a child's perspective, *The Fallen Idol* brilliantly evokes the transition from childhood to adolescence. Bobby Henrey plays Felipe, the son of a foreign ambassador, left in the care of embassy butler Baines and his venomous wife. The lonely and sensitive child hero-worships Baines as much as he dislikes and fears the shrewish Mrs Baines. One afternoon, Felipe follows his friend as he leaves the house, only to discover him at a teashop with his mistress Julie. Accepting the butler's explanation that Julie is his niece, Felipe gradually becomes embroiled in a dark, complex world of adult deceptions. With Ralph Richardson, Michèle Morgan, Sonia Dresdel, Bobby Henrey.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Kind Hearts and Coronets

UK 1949 Dir Robert Hamer

105 mins

35mm B&W

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Man in the White Suit

UK 1951 Dir Alexander Mackendrick

85 mins

35mm B&W

Comedy about a young chemist who invents a material which will never wear out or get dirty. With Alec Guinness, Joan Greenwood, Cecil Parker, Michael Gough, Ernest Thesiger.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Animal Farm

UK 1954 Dir John Halas and Joy Batchelor

73 mins

16mm Col

Animation. Oppressed by cruel, drunken Farmer Jones, the animals of Manor Farm, led by the pigs Napoleon and Snowball, evict him and set up a republic. Soon Napoleon ousts Snowball and savagely crushes a revolt against his leadership using dogs. Conditions steadily decline for all the animals other than the pigs, who increasingly resemble humans, until the animals, with help from the other farms, drive out Napoleon and his cronies. With the voice of Maurice Denham.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Innocents

UK 1961 Dir Jack Clayton

100 mins

35mm B&W

Jack Clayton's celebrated adaptation of Henry James's *The Turn of the Screw* (1898), the story of a young governess who takes a job in a lonely mansion with children who are possessed by evil forces. With Deborah Kerr, Michael Redgrave, Peter Wyngarde, Martin Stephens, Pamela Franklin.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

British cinema of the 1960s & 1970s



Darling (1965)

British cinema in the 1960s witnessed various developments, including adaptations from the stage and from British fiction (John Osborne, Shelagh Delaney; Thomas Hardy, Graham Greene), cinema written by playwrights and directed by theatre directors (Harold Pinter with Joseph Losey, Tony Richardson); and cinema expressing a new subject matter with a focus on working class stories (Lindsay Anderson, Ken Loach, as well as the Free Cinema documentary movement of the 1950s and 1960s.)

Actors such as Laurence Harvey, Stanley Baker, Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay represented the new working class lead in these stories, with Michael Caine expressing the new working class hero in stylish, ironic form. Actors in the 1970s such as Glenda Jackson, Alan Bates and Julie Christie were cast in costume drama

and literary adaptations, written and filmed by Royal Court playwrights and directors.

BFI Special Collections holds superb Collections of the working papers of British Cinema directors Carol Reed, David Lean, Joseph Losey and John Schlesinger among others, and Continuity records, scripts and photographs kept by Ann Skinner. The collection on British costume designer Julie Harris includes hundreds of designs on paper, giving an insight into changing fashions during the period from the late 1940s to the 1980s. Julie Harris worked for many directors from the 1940s to the 1980s, including Billy Wilder and Hitchcock on *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* (1970) and *Frenzy* (1972), and on films including *The Rough and the Smooth*, *A Hard Day's Night* (1964), *Help!* (1965), *Darling* (1965), *Casino Royale* (1967), *Goodbye Mr. Chips* (1969), *Live and Let Die* (1973), *Rollerball* (USA 1975) and *The Slipper and the Rose* (1976), as well as working for television.

Room at the Top

UK 1958 Dir Jack Clayton

117 mins

DVD (research viewing only) B&W

The story of a working class young man, Joe Lampton, whose ambition to become the top man in his firm dominates his life. He becomes engaged to the daughter of his employer, a factory owner, but breaks the heart of his older, foreign lover. His own advancement is set against this tragedy. With Simone Signoret, Laurence Harvey, Heather Sears, Donald Wolfitt.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Saturday Night and Sunday Morning

UK 1960 Dir Karel Reisz

89 mins

35mm B&W

Arthur Seaton escapes from the monotony of his factory job through his affairs with two women, Brenda and Doreen. When Brenda becomes pregnant he reaches a crisis point in his life. Based on the novel by Alan Sillitoe.

With Albert Finney, Shirley Anne Field, Rachel Roberts.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Butterfield 8

US 1960 Dir Daniel Mann

108 mins

35mm Col

Considered racy and adventurous upon its release due to its matter-of-fact attitude towards sex, *Butterfield 8* stars Taylor as a high-class hooker with a heart of gold, the role that finally won her an Oscar for Best Actress. With Elizabeth Taylor, Laurence Harvey, Eddie Fisher, Dina Merrill.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Victim

UK 1961 Dir Basil Dearden

100 mins

35mm B&W

The story of a young barrister, secretly a homosexual, who sacrifices his successful career and jeopardises his marriage to bust a sinister blackmailing ring. A dark psychological drama, and one of the first mainstream British films to confront the social repression of homosexuality. With Dirk Bogarde, Sylvia Syms, Dennis Price, Nigel Stock. Archive: BFI National Archive

A Taste of Honey

UK 1961 Dir Tony Richardson

100 mins

35mm B&W

Screen adaptation of the play by Shelagh Delaney. A kitchen sink drama set in Salford, about a young girl who, after leaving home and her selfish mother, becomes pregnant after a short liaison with a black sailor who then departs. She befriends a gentle, kind-hearted gay man and sets up home with him. With Rita Tushingham, Dora Bryan, Murray Melvin, Robert Stevens

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner

UK 1962 Dir Tony Richardson

104 mins

35mm B&W

With Michael Redgrave, Tom Courtenay.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

This Sporting Life

UK 1963 Dir Lindsay Anderson, Prod Karel Reisz

134 mins

35mm B&W

Frank Machin has a dominating, aggressive nature that matches his powerful physique. He needs to impose himself on the outside world. He demands a trial in the local rugby team and plays with ruthlessness as well as skill. He wants people to be impressed, particularly Mrs. Hammond, a widow with two children with whom he lodges. In spite of herself she warms to his impulsive charm. Eventually however she becomes convinced that their relationship is an impossible one. Rows follow and he leaves the house to stay in a mean lodging house. Unable to stand this after a time he returns to find Mrs. Hammond in hospital. Now at last he can speak with tenderness to her but it is too late. She dies. Screenplay and original novel by David Storey. With Richard Harris, Rachel Roberts, William Hartnell, Colin Blakely.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Servant

UK 1963 Dir Joseph Losey

115 mins

35mm B&W

Tony, young, well-born and independent, buys a London house and engages a manservant, Barrett, to look after him. Susan, Tony's fiancée, tries to free him from Barrett's increasing influence. Barrett brings Vera, his 'sister', as a maid to live in the house and contrives Tony's seduction. When Vera and Barrett are discovered in bed Tony dismisses them but later takes Barrett back. Excluding the women, the two men live alone, almost as equals. Their relationship is at once antagonistic and intimate and the progress of Tony's corruption continues until Susan, arriving unexpectedly during a party, finds him helpless physically and completely enslaved. Barrett's domination is

complete. Screenplay by Harold Pinter based on the novel by Robin Maugham. Director of Photography Douglas Slocombe. Costume designer Beatrice Dawson. With Dirk Bogarde, Sarah Miles, Wendy Craig, James Fox.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Joseph Losey Collection: annotated screenplays; production files, including letters (Alan Sillitoe) on the film's social and political content; extracts from Losey's synopsis: "I strongly believe in the visual language of cinema ..."

Ten Bob in Winter

UK 1963 Dir Lloyd Reckord

12 mins

16mm, B&W

The tribulations of a young West Indian student during a workless Christmas vacation. His voice-over (Reckord's own) tells the story ironically, in a rhythmic joking fashion. With two friends he looks for work, but the friends find a job cleaning furs, whilst the main character borrows ten shillings and goes to sign on at the Labour Exchange. He then lends the money to a man who has to get his suit from the cleaners in order to pawn it to get his guitar back. This starts to create difficulties as he engages in conversation with one of the 'top guys' of the West Indian community outside the pawnshop waiting for the man he lent the money to. He is anxious to get his ten bob back, but without losing face in front of the top guy.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

From Russia with Love

UK/USA 1963 Dir Terence Young

116 mins

35mm Col

Screenplay by Richard Maibaum, Adapted by Johanna Harwood. Director of Photography Ted Moore. Art Director Syd Cain. Costume Design Jocelyn Rickards. Titles Designed by Robert Brownjohn. Orchestral music composed and conducted by John Barry. James Bond theme written by Monte Norman. Title song written by Lionel Bart. From Russia with Love sung by Matt Monro. With Sean Connery, Pedro Armendariz, Lotte Lenya, Robert Shaw, Bernard Lee, Lois Maxwell.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Darling

UK 1965 Dir John Schlesinger

35mm B&W

A beautiful amoral young woman sacrifices everything and everybody to the satisfaction of her whims, but in the end she is trapped in a loveless marriage. Screenplay by Frederic Raphael. Director of Photography Ken Higgins. Art Director Ray Simm. Wardrobe design Julie Harris. Music composed and conducted by John Dankworth. Continuity Ann Skinner. With Dirk Bogarde, Laurence Harvey, Julie Christie.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Julie Harris Collection, costume designs; Ann Skinner Collection, continuity photographs, additional dialogue, notes, manuscript shooting schedule, script revisions.

Doctor Zhivago

UK 1965 Dir David Lean

199 mins

35mm Col

Story set in the early years of the Russian Revolution. Yuri, while studying to be a doctor

in Moscow, meets the beautiful Lara, daughter of a dressmaker, Amelia. During the Great War, Yuri again meets Lara who is working as a nurse. Yuri then returns to his home to find it, and Moscow, transformed by the Revolution. He himself is under suspicion for the poetry he has written. He and his family travel to an old family summer property in the country to try and live a quiet life, but Yuri discovers that Lara is living in a nearby town. He is press-ganged into serving with the Red Army and is separated from his wife and family. Escaping, he endures a long trek back and instinctively seeks out Lara. Oscar-winning cinematography by Frederick A Young. Probably cinema's most epic romance. With Geraldine Chaplin, Julie Christie, Tom Courtenay, Alec Guinness, Siobhan McKenna, Ralph Richardson, Omar Sharif, Rod Steiger, Rita Tushingham.
Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Alfie

UK 1965 Dir Lewis Gilbert

114 mins

DVD (research viewing only) Col

Alfie determines to enjoy sex and not get involved, but after the mother of his natural son has married someone else and he has had to arrange an abortion, he is not so sure. Screenplay based on his own play by Bill Naughton. With Michael Caine, Shelley Winters, Millicent Martin, Julia Foster, Jane Asher, Shirley Anne Field, Vivien Merchant, Eleanor Bron, Denholm Elliott.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

The Sandpiper

US 1965 Dir Vincente Minnelli

116 mins

35mm Col

Beautifully shot seascapes and sex on the sand in this soapy romantic drama teaming Burton and Taylor, about a bohemian artist who lives with her illegitimate son in a Monterey beach shack. When she is forced to send the boy to school, he attracts the attentions of the clergyman in charge. With Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, Eva Marie Saint, Charles Bronson. "Shadow of Your Smile" was awarded Best Song at the 1965 Academy Awards.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Blow Up

USA, UK, Italy 1966 Dir Michelangelo Antonioni

111 mins

35mm Col

A London high-fashion photographer (David Hemmings) lives a mid-60s life of excess but becomes bored with his lucrative career in glamour photography. After casually taking photos of a lovers' rendezvous in a deserted park, he is pursued by the woman for the illicit shots. Later, as he scrutinises the photos more closely, he imagines that he may have accidentally obtained visual evidence of a murder. With Vanessa Redgrave, Sarah Miles, David Hemmings.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

The Comedians

USA/Bermuda/Fr 1967 Dir Peter Glenville

148 mins

35mm Col

Powerful adaptation by Graham Greene of his own novel about a group of British eccentrics entangled in the violence of Papa Doc's Haiti. With Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor, Alec Guinness, Peter Ustinov.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Far from the Madding Crowd

USA/UK 1967 Dir John Schlesinger

168 mins

70mm/35mm Col

Drama of the love of three men for one woman in 19th century Dorset and the tragedy that precedes her eventual happiness. Screenplay by Frederic Raphael from the novel by Thomas Hardy. Director of Photography Nicolas Roeg. Music composed by Richard Rodney Bennett. With Julie Christie, Terence Stamp, Peter Finch, Alan Bates.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution + BFI Special Collections: Ann Skinner Collection: Shooting script heavily annotated for continuity, containing continuity photographs, notes, Press cuttings.

Accident

UK 1967 Dir Joseph Losey

105min

35mm + HD Digital Col

"Losey reached the peak of his career with this masterpiece, the second of his Collaborations with Harold Pinter exploring class and the British character. The time is a hot summer in Oxford where his Dirk Bogarde and Stanley Baker play contrasting dons, close friends and deadly rivals whose relationship is brought to a critical point by an enigmatic Austrian princess, a doomed British aristocrat and an off-screen accident." – Philip French With Dirk Bogarde, Stanley Baker, Michael York & Jacqueline Sassard. Screenplay by Harold Pinter.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Joseph Losey collection: annotated and clean working screenplays; Pinter's first screenplay; shooting schedule and cutting notes, floor plans.

Kes

UK 1969 Dir Ken Loach

110 mins

35mm Col

Adapted by Tony Garnett from Barry Hines's novel, A Kestrel for a Knave, Kes was voted seventh on the BFI's list of all-time great British films. This affecting tale of a boy's love for a kestrel is also an indictment of British society's failure to nurture hope in the working classes. With David Bradley, Colin Welland.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Women in Love

UK 1969 Dir Ken Russell

130 mins

DVD (Reference copy only) Col

From the novel by D.H. Lawrence. The story of the stormy relationship between two sisters and their male friends. With Alan Bates, Oliver Reed, Glenda Jackson, Jennie Linden, Eleanor Bron. (Glenda Jackson (Academy Award Best Actress))

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Shirley Russell costume designs

Get Carter

UK 1971 Dir Mike Hodges

111 mins

35mm Col

This powerfully resonant cult British gangster movie has Caine as a London hit-man heading for Newcastle to avenge his brother's death. Along the way he uncovers a paedophile ring involving his niece. Writer/director Hodges created the seminal British thriller of the 70s, eliciting a superb performance from Caine, and brilliantly capturing the brooding cityscapes of Newcastle. With Michael Caine, Britt Ekland.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Sunday Bloody Sunday

UK 1971 Dir John Schlesinger

110 mins

35mm B&W

A 25-year-old designer shares his favours between two lovers, both older than he is and of different sexes. The climax of these relationships comes one weekend when after sharing his time between the two the young man announces to both that he is leaving for the USA. With Peter Finch, Glenda Jackson, Murray Head, Peggy Ashcroft, Tony Britton, Maurice Denham, Bessie Love, Caroline Blakiston.

Archive source: BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Ann Skinner

Collection: Shooting script, heavily annotated for continuity, with continuity photographs, notes.

The Go Between

UK 1971 Dir Joseph Losey

115 mins

Digital print only

With Julie Christie, Alan Bates, Margaret Leighton, Michael Redgrave, Dominic Guard.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

A Clockwork Orange

USA/UK 1971 Dir Stanley Kubrick

136 mins

DVD (research viewing only) Col

The film is set in London in the near future and is about a teenager called Alex (Malcolm McDowell) who is switched on by violence and by Beethoven. Screenplay by Stanley Kubrick based on the novel by Anthony Burgess. Lighting Cameraman John Alcott.

Production Designer John Barry.

With MalColm McDowell, Patrick Magee, Michael Bates, Warren Clarke

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Savage Messiah

UK/USA 1972 Dir Ken Russell

103 mins

35mm Col

About the tragic life of the French-born sculptor Henri Gaudier-Brzeska. Based on the book by H.S. Ede. By 1972 a host of great artists – including Tchaikovsky, Elgar and Isadora Duncan – had already been subjected to the Russell treatment. Savage Messiah was the turn of Vorticist sculptor Henri Gaudier, and particularly, his relationship with

author Sophie Brzeska. Russell has Gaudier bash through the processes of sculpting and love-making with such a frenzied energy as to make Picasso seem like an impotent sloth. With Dorothy Tutin, Scott Anthony, Helen Mirren, Lindsay Kemp.
Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI Special Collections: set designs by Derek Jarman, costume design by Shirley Russell.

Post-War Independent European and American Cinema



Pierrot le Fou (1965)

Among other film-makers of the post-war period in Europe, Jean-Luc Godard acknowledges his debt to the playwright Brecht's philosophy of distantiation, in the 'objective' view from which he constructs a narrative, paying attention to surface of the image and the obvious construction of the story, rather than creating an emotionally involving narrative.

The 'diegetic' film-exercises of Straub Huillet, different in tone to Godard's work (or less 'desiring' than Godard's approach) are nevertheless in sympathy with its position of analysis. Self-representation is an issue too, though differently, in the post-war work of Fassbinder. Distance is there too in Bertolucci's *The Conformist*, where the main character is a cipher, carrying a role rather than deeply engaging our sympathies.

In addition, the particularity of the director's vision, as always, can be seen to produce certain kinds of performances from the actors, as in the more stylized roles of Fellini, the improvisatory style of Cassavetes and the various self-reflexive narratives of Antonioni, Godard and Fassbinder. For Fellini, certain actors performed in a certain way only in his films, as with Giuliana Masina in *La Strada* and in *Nights of Cabiria*.

Federico Fellini

I Vitelloni

Italy-France 1953 Dir Federico Fellini

107 mins

35mm B&W

'Vitelloni' literally means overgrown calves, a typical Fellini coinage to describe a group of petit bourgeois, stay-at-home young men in a provincial seaside town, kidding themselves they've grown out of adolescence. They think they're something, and the film manages to be both pitiless and sympathetic in showing that they're not. With

Franco Interlenghi, Alberto Sordi.
Archive source: BFI Distribution

La Strada

Italy 1954 Dir Federico Fellini
103 mins
35mm B&W

A young girl is taken from her family to be the wife and assistant of a travelling performer. When she befriends one of his colleagues, he kills him out of jealousy and anger. He then abandons her and only returns many years later to discover that she is dead. Only then does he realise what he had and has lost. With Anthony Quinn, Giulietta Masina.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Le Notti Di Cabiria (Nights Of Cabiria)

Italy 1957 Dir Federico Fellini
110 mins
35mm B&W

With Giulietta Masina, Francois Perier, Franca Marzi.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Eight and a Half

Italy 1963 Dir Federico Fellini
138 mins
35mm B&W

Dramatisation of the problems of a film director faced with creative block who attempts to regain his self respect and identity. With Marcello Mastroianni, Claudia Cardinale, Anouk Aimée.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Ciao Federico!

Italy/USA 1970 Dir Gideon Bachmann
60 mins
16mm Col

Filmed during the making of Fellini Satyricon, a portrait of the director Federico Fellini.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

John Cassavetes

Shadows

UK 1959 Dir John Cassavetes
87 mins
35mm + HD Digital B&W

"Cassavetes' hugely influential 'improvisation' centres on two brothers and a sister - black, but with the sister passing for white - leading a Bohemian life in New York. The electric atmosphere and edgily naturalistic performances combine with free-focus black and white camerawork and Charles Mingus' bluesy score to evoke the jazzy soul of a city." – Geoff Andrew

Archive Source: BFI National Archive + BFI Distribution

Faces

US 1968 Dir John Cassavetes

130 mins

35mm Col

Focuses on the sometimes troubled relationships between an American middle class couple, married for 14 years, and their group of friends. With John Marley, Gena Rowlands.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

A Woman Under the Influence

US 1974 Dir John Cassavetes

155 mins

35mm Col

Study of a middle-class Los Angeles housewife whose fragile mental state is aggravated by her husband's insensitivity. Even after a six-month period in an institution, the pattern of her life continues as before. With Peter Falk, Gena Rowlands, Fred Draper, Lady Rowlands, Katherine Cassavetes.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

The Killing of a Chinese Bookie

US 1976 Dir John Cassavetes

109 mins

35mm + HD Digital Col

About the owner of a cheap nightclub who undertakes a murder to pay off a gambling debt he owes to gangsters. With Ben Gazzara, Timothy Agolia, Seymour Cassel.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Opening Night

US 1977 Dir John Cassavetes

144 mins

35mm HD Digital Col

Gena Rowlands (Cassavetes' wife and muse) plays Myrtle Gordon, a Broadway star cast in a new play as a middle-aged woman of declining sexual power. Reluctant to accept her age and fearful that she will be typecast as an older woman, Myrtle is also haunted by visions of a dead girl - an adoring young fan killed in a car accident - whom she sees as a figment of her younger self. Rebelling against the pessimism of the script, Myrtle questions the part she is playing both onstage and off. Still one of Cassavetes' lesser-known works, *Opening Night* is a fascinating variation on *All About Eve* and an acknowledged influence on the work of Pedro Almodóvar. With Gena Rowlands, Ben Gazzara, John Cassavetes, Joan Blondell.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Michelangelo Antonioni**L'Avventura**

Italy 1960 Dir Michelangelo Antonioni

145 mins

35mm B&W

Sandro, a young architect joins a group of bored, wealthy socialites on a yachting holiday off the coast of Sicily. Among the group are Anna, his fiancée and her less fortunate,

slightly patronised friend Claudia. While ashore on the island, Anna mysteriously disappears. Sandro and Claudia refuse to give up hope and continue to search on the mainland. As hopes that Anna will ever be found begin to fade, Sandro and Claudia embark on a desultory love affair. A landmark in Italian cinema. With Gabriele Ferzetti, Monica Vitti, Lea Massari, Dominique Blanchar.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

La Notte

It/Fr 1961 Dir Michelangelo Antonioni

121 mins

35mm B&W

The middle film of Antonioni's trilogy on bourgeois alienation, *La Notte* covers 24 hours in breakdown of a 'typical' middle class marriage. The strong cast includes Jeanne Moreau, Marcello Mastroianni and Monica Vitti.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Eclipse

It/Fr 1962 Dir Michelangelo Antonioni

123 mins

35mm B&W

An affair breaks up, another starts and runs its hectic course. At the end of the film the lovers agree to meet again 'same place, same time', but only the cameras show up, to record the passing of time while neither party shows up for the rendezvous. Particularly striking, besides the psychological acuteness, is the great sense of rhythm achieved by Antonioni and long time colleague editor Eraldo da Roma.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Jean-Luc Godard

Vivre Sa Vie (My Life to Live)

France 1962 Dir Jean-Luc Godard

83 mins

35mm bw

Vivre Sa Vie is one of Godard's most affecting films, dominated by an intense performance from the beautiful Anna Karina. A fiction about the decline into prostitution of a working-class woman, Godard's film borrows the visual style of *cinéma-vérité* to turn melodrama into tragedy. With Anna Karina, Saddy Rebbot.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Le Mépris

France/Italy 1963 Dir Jean-Luc Godard

103 minutes

35mm Col

One of the great films about film-making, the story of a couple's break-up is the pretext for an essay mourning the loss of old cinematic values (embodied by Fritz Lang) and the decadence of the Hollywood studio system. *Le Mépris* is notable also for Raoul Coutard's ravishing cinematography and for Georges Delerue's evocative score.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Bande a Part

Fr 1964 Dir Jean-Luc Godard

95 mins

35mm + DVD B&W

The director's playful tribute to the Hollywood pulp crime movies of the 1940s. A couple of streetwise young men team up with a shy young woman to plan a robbery...

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI DVD

Pierrot Le Fou

France-Italy 1965 Dir Jean-Luc Godard

110min

35mm HD Digital Col

"Godard called it the story of the 'last romantic couple', but it was also his spectacular farewell to the style and spirit of the Nouvelle Vague. On impulse, Ferdinand abandons wife and child to take off with Marianne, an old flame, on a crazy and eventually tragic adventure, involving fast cars, mysterious gangsters and a Mediterranean idyll that turns sour. This is a truly romantic film, but one which, in the best romantic tradition, is also deeply self-aware and at times quite tongue-in-cheek. Homage to the American genre movie (Samuel Fuller puts in a personal appearance) is undercut by references to the war in Vietnam, which were to become increasingly virulent in Godard's next few films. Gorgeous Colour, and a great climax to the first (and still best-loved) phase of Godard's film-making career." –Geoffrey Nowell-Smith Starring Jean-Paul Belmondo, Anna Karina.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Alphaville

France-Italy 1965 Dir Jean-Luc Godard

98 mins

35/16mm B&W

Science fiction account of the struggle of an agent against the electronic brain which controls the city of the future and destroys those who oppose it. With Eddie Constantine, Anna Karina.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Two Or Three Things I Know About Her (2 Ou 3 Choses Que Je Sais D'Elle)

France 1967 Dir Jean-Luc Godard

87 mins

35mm Col

Examines life in a large housing estate in Paris, following one woman in particular. With Marina Vlady, Roger Montsoret, Anny Duperey.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Agnès Varda

Cleo From 5 to 7 (Cléo De 5 À 7)

France/Italy 1962 Dir Agnès Varda

89 mins

35mm B&W

Agnès Varda eloquently captures Paris in the 1960s with this real-time portrait of a singer (Corinne Marchand) adrift in the city as she awaits the test results of a biopsy. A chronicle of the passing minutes of a woman's life, Cléo from 5 to 7 is a spirited mix of

vérité and melodrama, featuring a score by Michel Legrand (The Umbrellas of Cherbourg) and cameos by Jean-Luc Godard and Anna Karina. With Corinne Marchand, Antoine Bourseiller, Dorothee Blanck.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Vagabond (Sans Toi Ni Moi)

France 1985 Dir: Agnès Varda

105 mins

35mm Col

Sandrine Bonnaire won the Best Actress César for her portrayal of the defiant young drifter Mona, found frozen to death in a ditch at the beginning of Vagabond. Agnès Varda pieces together Mona's story through flashbacks told by those who encountered her (played by a largely nonprofessional cast), producing a splintered portrait of an enigmatic woman. With its sparse, poetic imagery, Vagabond is a stunner, and won Varda the top prize at the Venice Film Festival.

With Sandrine Bonnaire, Macha Méril, Yolande Moreau.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

The Conformist (Il Conformista)

Italy-France 1970 Dir Bernardo Bertolucci

111 mins

35mm + HD Digital Col

A powerful psychological thriller and riveting exploration of Italy's Fascist past, The Conformist is one of the most breathtakingly stylish films ever made and one of the most influential, paving the way for the likes of Martin Scorsese, Francis Ford Coppola and Paul Schrader. Adapted from a novel by Alberto Moravia, Bertolucci's masterpiece centres on Marcello Clerici (Jean-Louis Trintignant), a repressed young man desperate to appear normal to the outside world, who joins the Fascists as an undercover agent and undertakes to assassinate his former professor. With Jean-Louis Trintignant, Stefania Sandrelli, Dominique Sanda.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Straub-Huillet

Machorka-Muff

German Federal Republic/UK 1963 Dir Jean-Marie Straub

17 mins

16mm B&W

Script by Jean-Marie Straub, Daniele Huillet, Original story by Heinrich Boll. A satirical attack on West Germany's re-armament and revival of the militaristic tradition in the Adenauer era.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

History Lessons (Geschichtsunterricht)

German Federal Republic 1972 Dir Daniele Huillet and Jean-Marie Straub

85 mins

16mm Col

Set in contemporary Rome, the film shows through a series of encounters with "ancient" Romans, how the economic and political manipulation by ancient Roman society led to

Caesar's dictatorship. With Gottfried Bold, Johan Unterpertinger.
Archive source: BFI Distribution

Too Early Too Late (Trop Tot Trop Tard)

Fr/Egypt 1982 Dir Jean-Marie Straub and Daniele Huillet
110 mins
16mm Col

Based on the writings of Friedrich Engels and Mahmoud Hussein. Straub-Huillet's most significant feature, the film explores resemblances and contradictions between the French revolution and conditions in Egypt in 1981. Made in 1980-81.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Blaxploitation

Shaft

US 1971 Dir Gordon Parks
100 mins
35mm Col

In this, the first of the so-called 'Blaxploitation' movies, Roundtree shines as the violent yet supercool black detective hero taken from Ernest Tidyman's novels. With an Oscar-winning score from Isaac Hayes. With Richard Roundtree, Moses Gunn.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song

US 1971 Dir Melvin Van Peebles
97 mins
35mm Col

A controversial and landmark classic of Black Cinema.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Baadasssss!

US 2004 Dir Mario van Peebles
108 mins
35mm Col

Mario's stunning tribute to his father Melvin's landmark film, Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss! Song (1971). The true story of one of black America's true film pioneers, Melvin Van Peebles, and his struggle to make the film that would become the highest grossing US independent film of 1971, as well as kickstart the Blaxploitation revolution. Mario tells the story of the making of the film that would give birth to the new era that was about to explode: Independent Black Cinema. With Joy Bryant, Terry Crews.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Je, Tu, Il, Elle

Belgium 1974 Dir Chantal Akerman
85 mins
35mm B&W

The story of a journey told in three distinct parts: a woman alone in a room tries to compose a letter to a woman she loves; the journey itself in which she hitches a ride to see her lover; the arrival, followed by a love scene and her departure. With Chantal

Rainer Werner Fassbinder

Fassbinder, who was also a playwright, was notoriously demanding with his actors in the pursuit of his own vision. He was highly conscious of the cruelty meted out to the underdog in society... This vision is interestingly reflected in the subject matter and performances of his films, where he often uses his mother, his sexual partners and his companions and friends, as well as himself, as performers in semi-fictional roles.

Effie Briest (Fontane Effi Briest)

German Federal Republic 1974 Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder

140 mins

35mm B&W

A young married woman who has a short affair with an officer, is ostracized by society when her husband finds out some time later and shoots the officer in a duel. Based on the novel by Theodor Fontane. With Hanna Schygulla, Wolfgang Schenck, Ulli Lommel.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Angst Essen Seele Auf (Fear Eats the Soul)

German Federal Republic 1974 Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder

92 mins

35mm + 16mm Col

Emmi is a widowed German woman in her sixties who lives in Munich and works as a cleaning woman. Ali is a Moroccan mechanic who is several decades younger than she is. Both are lonely and after a chance meeting they become romantically involved and marry. Emmi's neighbours, children and co-workers ostracise the couple, whose relationship suffers as a result of the pressure. After a short holiday things become easier for Emmi but she begins to use Ali as a show-piece and he leaves their flat. They are reunited briefly at the club where they met, however Ali collapses on the dance floor and Emmi has to wait by his hospital bedside. Screenplay, Art Director Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Director of Photography Jurgen Jurgens. With Brigitte Mira, El Hedi ben Salem, Irm Hermann, Rainer Werner Fassbinder.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Marriage of Maria Braun (Die Ehe Der Maria Braun)

German Federal Republic 1979 Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder

120 mins

35mm DVD Col

Set in Germany during and after World War II, the story of a woman, whose husband is reported missing. She takes up with a black G.I. who is killed when her husband reappears. The husband is jailed for the murder. With Hanna Schygulla, Klaus Lowitsch.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Veronika Voss (Die Sehnsucht Der Veronika Voss)

German Federal Republic 1982 Dir Rainer Werner Fassbinder

104 mins

DVD B&W

Drama. Set in Munich in 1955, about an ageing star of the UFA production company, now

at the end of her career. A sports reporter becomes fascinated by her, and discovers that she is under the influence of a woman doctor who makes a business of possessing the minds and the riches of wealthy neurotics by supplying them with drugs. With Rozel Zech, Hilmar Thate, Cornelia Froboess, Annemarie Düringer.
Archive source: BFI National Archive

Fanny and Alexander (Fanny Och Alexander)

Sweden 1982 Dir Ingmar Bergman

Archive source: BFI DVD

Three Colours Blue (Trois Couleurs Bleu)

France-Switzerland-Poland 1993 Dir Krzysztof Kieslowski

Archive source: BFI DVD

Short Cuts

US 1993 Dir Robert Altman

184 mins

16mm Col Scope print only

Eight barely inter-linked stories of relationships in trouble are grippingly recounted. Aided by a strong group of actors and with his effortless organisation of a complicated narrative, this is considered one of Altman's greatest films.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

International Cinema / National Theatres



Throne of Blood (1957)

Kurutta Ippei (A Page Of Madness)

Japan 1926 Dir Teinosuke Kinugasa

88 mins [at 16fps]

35mm B&w

Hallucinatory study of inmates of an asylum, centered on an old seaman who unsuccessfully tries to force his incarcerated wife to escape. A fiction film about the janitor of an asylum attempting to release his wife who has been an inmate there, since trying to kill herself and her baby. Made in 1926, and rediscovered in 1971. No dialogue or subtitles. With Masao Inoue, Yoshie Nakagawa.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

A Throw Of Dice (Prapancha Pash)

India-Germany-UK 1929 Dir: Franz Osten

77 mins

35mm + HD Digital B&W, with recorded score by Nitin Sawhney & the LSO

This spectacular silent epic, based on an episode from the Mahabharata, is the tale of two neighbouring kings, both addicted to gambling and in love with the same woman, Sunita, the daughter of a hermit. Described by composer Nitin Sawhney as “a cross between Chaplin, Cecil B. DeMille and an early Bollywood movie”, this German-Indian co-production was shot on location in Rajasthan, featuring thousand of extras and an array of exotic animals. The BFI’s new restoration features Nitin Sawhney’s ravishing score which effortlessly blends delicate vocals, Indian flute, acoustic guitar and tabla percussion with the sounds of a symphony orchestra. With Himansu Rai, Seeta Devi, Charu Roy.

Archive source: BFI Distribution and Archive

Akira Kurosawa

Rashomon

Japan 1950 Dir Akira Kurosawa

87 mins

Digital print only

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Seven Samurai

Japan 1954 Dir Akira Kurosawa

207 mins

35mm Subtitled

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Throne of Blood

Japan 1957 Dir Akira Kurosawa

109 mins

35mm B&W

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Kagemusha

Japan 1980 Dir Akira Kurosawa

158 mins

35mm Col

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Yukinojo Henge (An Actor’s Revenge)

Japan 1963 Dir Kon Ichikawa

113 min

35mm (Japanese language with EST) + DVD Col

Story of a famous female impersonator who steadfastly plots vengeance on those responsible for his father's death. Kubuki scenes, much action and intrigue.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive +BFI DVD

Wutai Jiemei (Two Stage Sisters)

People's Republic of China 1964 Dir Xie Jin

114 mins

35/16mm Col

Melodrama about two opera stars who rise from rags to riches and then take different paths. It starts in East China's Zhejiang province in 1935, moves by way of a small all-woman Shaoxing opera troupe to decadent Shanghai, through liberation in 1949, to progressive shows for the people.

Covering the stormy friendship of two actresses in a touring theatre group, this is a stunning example of China's cinema on the eve of the 'Cultural Revolution'. With electric performances, exceptional camerawork and an affectionate portrayal of the theatre world of the period, this is powerful melodrama with strong elements of film noir.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Satyajit Ray

16mm Archive copies of various films.

Bharat Mata (Mother India)

India 1957 Dir Mehboob

171 mins

35mm B&W

Musical melodrama about Indian village life portrayed through the suffering of Radha, a beautiful Hindu girl who marries a humble farmer. With Nargis, Sunil Dutt, Rajendra Kumar, Raaj Kumar.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Mughal e Azam (Mogul)

India 1952 Dir K Asif

198 mins

35mm B&W

Set in the Mogul period in India, the story tells about a love affair between Anarkali, a commoner and Prince Salim, the heir to Emperor Akbar's throne and later Emperor Jehangir. Akbar sees the affair as a threat to the Mogul empire, but Salim is adamant and leads an army against his father. Defeated he is sentenced to death and Anarkali is ordered to be entombed alive behind a brick wall. With Prithviraj, Madjubala, Dilip Kumar, Durga Khote.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

The Colour Of Pomegranates

USSR 1968 Dir Sergei Paradzhanov

79 mins

35mm Col

Lyrical evocation of the life of the Armenian poet Arutiun Sayadian using symbolic imagery patterned after Armenian icons or modelled on mime and masque.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Shirin

Iran 2008 Dir Abbas Kiarostami

92min

35mm + DVD + DCP Col

Shirin is the heroine of a 12th-century Persian poem, a princess courted by two men. And Shirin is a film within-this-film which we hear but do not see; as dramatic dialogue, epic music and echoing sound-effects chart the princess's fate, we see in a cinema, separately in a flowing montage of close-ups, around 100 women responding to the fiction we're listening to.

"Does Shirin's tale move us because of what we hear or what we see? How do the events of her story relate to the women's lives outside the cinema? Kiarostami's film succeeds as a celebration of the expressive beauty of the human face, as a sly act of illusion (all the women are actresses, one of them Juliette Binoche), and as another of his profoundly resonant experiments with the seen and the unseen (or, perhaps, the unshowable).

Quite extraordinary." – Geoff Andrew

With Golshifteh Farahani, Mahnaz Afshar, Taraneh Alidoosti, Niki Karimi.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI DVD

British cinema of the 1980s– 2000s



Life is Sweet (1990)

Derek Jarman

See also: Chapter on Performance Art

Sebastiane

UK 1976 Dir Derek Jarman

35mm Col

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Jubileef

UK 1978 Dir Derek Jarman

35mm Col

Archive source: BFI Distribution

The Last of England

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Angelic Conversation

UK 1984 Dir Derek Jarman

35mm Col

The imagery of young male figures in a variety of locations and pursuits is

counterpointed with Judi Dench's readings of 14 Shakespearean sonnets, almost all from those of the first 126 sonnets addressed to a young man.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Caravaggio

UK 1986 Dir Derek Jarman

93mins

35mm Col

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive + BFI Special Collections: Christopher Hobbs production designs

Edward II

UK/Japan 1991 Dir Derek Jarman

90 mins

16mm Col

From the play by Christopher Marlowe. With Stephen Waddington, Andrew Tiernan, Tilda Swinton, Jerome Flynn, Nigel Terry, Jill Balcon, Kevin Collins and others. Dancers Lloyd Newson, Nigel Charnock. Singer Annie Lennox. With production designer Christopher Hobbs as equerry, costume designer Sandy Powell as seamstress.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Wittgenstein

UK/Japan 1993 Dir Derek Jarman

71 mins

35 + 16mm Col

Covers in tableau form the life of the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein, dealing with his original ideas, his personal torment, his relationships with Bertrand Russell and Maynard Keynes, and the intellectual and social circles within which he moved while wartime professor in Philosophy at Cambridge. Jarman's visualisation of the life story, family background and philosophical thinking of the early 20th century Austrian philosopher is shot with characteristically bold and minimal staging, the actors and props filmed against a black background. With Karl Johnson as the adult Wittgenstein and performers including Michael Gough, Tilda Swinton, Kevin Collins and Jarman's later biographers Michael O'Pray, Tony Peake and others. Screenplay by Terry Eagleton filmed by Derek Jarman.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Blue

UK/Japan 1993 Dir Derek Jarman

DVD Col

Jarman's last film, comprising for its entire duration a blue screen, with the voices of John Quentin, Nigel Terry, Derek Jarman, Tilda Swinton, from his script.

Archive source: BFI DVD

Derek

UK 2008 Dir Isaac Julien

76 mins

Digibeta DVD Col

Punk Britain, gay Britain, Thatcher's Britain – Derek Jarman tackled the lot. Derek is a unique collaboration between Tilda Swinton, the film's narrator, and Isaac Julien, in which the life, vision and legacy of Derek Jarman is fondly remembered and celebrated.

The revealing and frank interview at the core of the film is embroidered with a moving collage of home-movie footage, clips from 17 of his films, pop promos, rare footage from the sets of *Sebastiane* and *Jubilee*, and current affairs footage from 1960s swinging London through to the Thatcherite nationalism of the 1980s. Painter, author, gay militant, aids activist and, above all, filmmaker, Derek Jarman was one of Britain's best-loved and most original artists who touched the lives of everyone he met. With Tilda Swinton, Derek Jarman, Isaac Julien.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

The Draughtsman's Contract

UK 1982 Dir Peter Greenaway

108 mins

35mm Col

Period drama set in Wiltshire in 1694, where Neville, an ambitious young draughtsman, strikes up an unusual contract with Mrs Herbert, the lady of Compton Anstey Manor. With Anthony Higgins, Janet Suzman, Anne Louise Lambert, Neil Cunningham.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Flight to Berlin

UK 1983 Dir Chris Petit

90 mins

35mm

Thriller by independent British film-maker and critic Chris Petit (also known for his films *Radio On* 1979 and *London Orbital* 2002).

Archive source: BFI National Archive

The Bostonians

UK/US 1984 Dir James Ivory

122 mins

16mm Col

This unexpectedly passionate Merchant Ivory production tells of a love triangle set against the early stirrings of the suffragette movement in late 19th century Boston. The charismatic young disciple of a wealthy feminist spinster becomes the object of romantic attentions from the spinster's chauvinistic male cousin. The film's decorous pace is offset by some acutely observed performances. With Christopher Reeve, Vanessa Redgrave, Jessica Tandy, Madeleine Potter, Wallace Shawn.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

My Beautiful Laundrette

UK 1985 Dir Stephen Frears

16mm Col

Drama about the relationship between Johnny, a working-class white boy and Omar, a middle-class Pakistani. Omar's uncle gives him a run-down laundrette to manage and the friends, who become lovers, decide to make it the best laundrette in London with videos and other amenities. To finance their scheme Omar steals money from an associate's drug running operation. With Daniel Day Lewis, Richard Graham.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Distant Voices, Still Lives

UK 1988 Dir Terence Davies

84 mins

35mm + HD Digital + DVD Col (as part of BFI DVD Terence Davies Collection)

“Using an impressionistic series of social gatherings drawn from family memories, Terence Davies paints a vivid picture of working-class life in the 40s and 50s. Centred on a Liverpudlian family in thrall to a stern, violent father, the vignettes are lent depth and counterpoint by popular songs of the period, sung – communally in pubs or at parties or privately during work – not only as entertainment but as a sign of vitality and courage in the face of hardship. In this new restoration from the BFI National Archive, the stunning images look especially superb, a reminder that this ambitious, intelligent, and profoundly moving work was created by a poet with filmmaking in his very blood.” – Geoff Andrew. With Freda Dowie, Pete Postlethwaite, Angela Walsh, Dean Williams. Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI DVD

Mike Leigh

See also: Theatre: TV Drama

Life is Sweet

UK 1990 Dir Mike Leigh

103 mins

16mm Col

Andy is a professional chef and part-time DIY enthusiast who buys a decrepit hamburger van. His wife helps out at a restaurant owned by a friend. Of their daughters, Nicola suffers from anorexia which no one in the family confronts, and is also obsessed with men and Marxism, while Natalie, an apprentice plumber, refuses the stereotyped female image and dreams of escaping to America. A tale of everyday survival in Thatcher's Britain, starring Jim Broadbent and Alison Steadman.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Bleak Moments

UK 1971 Dir Mike Leigh

110 mins

35mm Col

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Bhaji on the Beach

UK 1993 Dir Gurinder Chadha

101 mins

16mm Col

Comedy drama about an Asian women's group outing to Blackpool for the day. In Chadha's first feature film, a group of South Asian 'sisters' go on a women's trip to Blackpool, only to be pursued and confronted by their men folk. Chadha extracts maximum fun from her sedate matrons and wild teenagers let loose in working class holiday hell.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Small Time

UK 1996 Dir Shane Meadows

60 mins

35mm Col

Comedy. Feckless criminals on the mean streets of Sneinton.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Under the Skin

UK 1997 Dir Carine Adler

83 mins

35/16mm Col

Set in Liverpool, an acute psychological portrait of a young woman experiencing a breakdown after the death of her mother from cancer. Jealous of her older sister, she leaves her job and launches herself into a life of drunkenness and promiscuity. With Samantha Morton, Claire Rushbrook.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Speak Like a Child

UK 1998 Dir John Akomfrah

76 min

35mm Col

Troubled teenagers look back at life in a Northumbrian home.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Navigators

UK 2001 Dir Ken Loach

96 mins

35mm Col

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Experimental Narratives



Orphée (1950)

L'Inhumaine

France 1924 Dir Marcel L'Herbier

c. 178'

L'Herbier's modernist extravaganza, designed as a showcase for the contemporary French arts, which tells the story of a selfish chanteuse, poisoned by her jealous lover but resurrected by science. Fernand Léger was invited to design the extraordinary engineer's laboratory, with its clocks, bottles, revolving discs and futurist two-way TV set, allowing him to explore purist forms in a cinematic space. Robert Mallet-Stevens, Claude Autant-Lara and Alberto Cavalcanti also contributed to the Cubist settings of this wildly lavish production.

Archive source: BFI National Archive

Borderline

UK 1930 Dir Kenneth Macpherson

63 mins

35mm + 16mm B&W silent

The plot develops around a love triangle in which a black woman, Adah (played by Eslanda Robeson), is wooed by two men – one black (Pete, played by Paul Robeson) and one white (Thorn, played by Gavin Arthur). Astrid, the abandoned white woman (played by the poet HD), is consumed with jealousy and develops an irrational hatred of the black couple. A film made in the context of the alternative social environment created by artists in Europe in the 1930s. Screenplay by Kenneth Macpherson. With Eslanda Robeson, Paul Robeson, Helga Doorn (the poet HD), Gavin Arthur, Robert Herring, Blanche Lewin, Charlotte Arthur.

Archive source: BFI Distribution + BFI National Archive

Borderline (DVD reissue)

UK 1930 Dir Kenneth Macpherson

71 mins

DVD B&W silent with music

Featuring a new soundtrack by the masterful British composer and saxophonist Courtney Pine, *Borderline*'s formal experimentation finds a perfect match in the

contemporary rhythms of Pine's heady modern jazz score. With Paul Robeson, Eslanda Robeson, Helga Doorn
Archive source: BFI DVD

Jean Cocteau

Le Sang d'un poete

Fr 1930 Dir Jean Cocteau

B&W

An surrealist fantasy in four episodes : "The Wounded Hand, or the Scars of the Poet"; "Do the Walls have Ears?"; "The Snowball Fight"; and "The Profanation of the Host".

With Enrico Rivero, Lee Miller.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

La Belle et la bête

Fr 1946 Dir Jean Cocteau

B&W

Cocteau's version of the classic fairytale set standards in fantasy which few other film makers have reached; the magical mise en scène features disembodied hands holding candle sticks; statues with seeing eyes. With Jean Marais, Josette Day, Mila Parely.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

Orphee

Fr 1950 Dir Jean Cocteau

B&W

Jean Marais plays Orphee, a poet who has won fame, fortune and the scorn of the intelligentsia. He follows Death, an imperious Princess, through a looking-glass into a nightworld seaching for inspiration. Endlessly enigmatic, it suggests both the worlds of literary creation and the terrors of the Occupation. With Jean Marais, Francois Perier, Maria Casares, Marie Dea.

Archive source: BFI Distribution

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