

# ARCADIA

Directed by Paul Wright

UK | 2017 | 78 mins | Cert 12A

A BFI release

Featuring an original soundtrack by  
**Adrian Utley from Portishead and Will Gregory from Goldfrapp**



Original artwork by Stanley Donwood

**Opening at BFI Southbank, HOME Manchester, Rich Mix Shoreditch, QFT Belfast and Hyde Park Leeds from Summer Solstice, 21 June, and many more cinemas UK-wide from 22 June 2018; with Discover Tuesday previews at 23 Picturehouse sites on 19 June**

**Arcadia**, the new film from the BAFTA award-winning Scottish director **Paul Wright** (whose debut feature *For Those in Peril* premiered at Cannes in 2013), explores our complex connection to the land we live in. Combining over 100 film clips from the last 100 years and a grand, expressive new score by musicians **Adrian Utley** from Portishead and **Will Gregory** from Goldfrapp, the film goes on a sensory, visceral journey through the contrasting seasons, exploring the beauty and brutality, magic and madness of our changing relationship with the land and each other. A folk horror wrapped in an archive film, it's a very strange trip indeed...

*Arcadia* will be released by the BFI in selected cinemas UK-wide in the symbolic, celebratory day, Summer Solstice, **21 June 2018**; Paul Wright, Adrian Utley and Will Gregory will take part in a Q&A following the opening night screening at BFI Southbank. There will also be a soundtrack album released digitally by Invada Records on 22 June, and on CD and vinyl soon after, and the BFI will release the film on DVD on 20 August.

Using a mixture of film and TV footage from the BFI National Archive and regional archives around the UK, director Paul Wright creates a mosaic of contrasting images, sounds and moods, taking in folk carnivals and masked parades, hunting and harvesting,

communes and raves, mechanisation, environmental issues, fires, floods, storms and much more. *Arcadia* reminds us what happens when our connection to nature, and indeed each other, frays and unravels. By exploring and asking ourselves what we have gained and lost in the last century, perhaps we will discover something of what we'll need to survive in the next.

Paul comments: "The power of images and sound and how they rub up against each other to create different meanings and emotions is my main passion in filmmaking. With the wealth of amazing material in the archive, fantastic collaborators in Adrian Utley, Will Gregory and the BFI National Archive team, we had the opportunity to make something that explores the light and dark side of our relationship with our land in a vivid way."

The four seasons give the film its overall structure, enabling the contradictions and rhythms of nature to inspire its emotional and tonal depths; the darkness and the light. Focusing primarily on rural life, the film is a document of times past as well as a vital commentary on where we are now. Avoiding simply showing the dangerously nostalgic vision of an idyllic summer pastoral, these seasonal shifts dig deep into the land's troubled history, politics and its mysterious folk and esoteric roots, whilst looking at our often primal and peculiar connection with nature.

A fresh new film crafted from the past, *Arcadia* is produced by John Archer at Hopscotch Films, whose varied output of TV documentaries, arts programmes and feature films has included Mark Cousins' *I am Belfast* (2015). *Arcadia* was originated by co-producer Adrian Cooper from Common Ground, the arts and environmental charity based in Dorset. The second co-producer is Mark Atkin at Crossover, who has produced seven archive/music films including *From the Sea to the Land Beyond* (2012).

Paul Wright, who grew up in a small coastal village on the East Neuk of Fife, Scotland, was approached to direct, working with film editor Michael Aaglund. The duo immersed themselves firstly in BFI Player's *Britain on Film* (which can be viewed online at <http://player.bfi.org.uk/britain-on-film>) and then in darker pastoral material from British television and beyond.

Musicians Adrian Utley and Will Gregory, who collaborate outside of their respective bands, created the original score. Influenced by a mixture of genres – electronic, classical, folk and punk – the score also features the voice of folk singer Anne Briggs and the sound design strongly incorporates found sound.

*Arcadia* had its world premiere in the Create strand at the BFI London Film Festival 2017 and has since been screening at film festivals including the Glasgow Film Festival and Borderlines Film Festival this year.

*Arcadia* is a Hopscotch Films Production, made with the support of the BFI (with National Lottery Funding) and Creative Scotland in association with the BBC and BFI National Archive.

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**For further information and interview requests please contact:**

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Cont...

Images are available at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) >BFI>Theatrical releases

More film information and screening venues: [www.bfi.org.uk/releases](http://www.bfi.org.uk/releases)

Visit the *Arcadia* website at <https://www.arcadia.film/>

See the new online collection on BFI Player of a selection of films, free to view, that are featured in *Arcadia* here: <https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/collection/arcadia>

### **About Britain on Film and Unlocking Film Heritage**

The Britain on Film collections are accessible through the BFI Player:

<http://player.bfi.org.uk/britain-on-film>

Britain on Film is one of the largest and most complex archival projects ever undertaken and is part of the BFI's Unlocking Film Heritage programme (2013-17). Unlocking film heritage for everyone in the UK to enjoy is a key strategic priority for the BFI, and Britain on Film is the public launch of a vast programme of work, which has been ongoing for over three years. Bringing together a partnership with Regional and National Film Archives and rights holder collections across the UK, this work has included a sophisticated programme of data capture, cataloguing, copying to archival standards, meticulous preservation of original materials, thorough searching of archives across the country, new state-of-the-art equipment and digital storage facilities and the transfer of films to the BFI's online video platform, BFI Player.

Unlocking Film Heritage and Britain on Film are thanks to £15 million funding from the National Lottery and the additional support of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

### **About the BFI**

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI is a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter.

The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.