



BFI Flipside presents

## Beat Girl

A film by Edmond T Gréville

Starring David Farrar, Noelle Adam, Christopher Lee, Adam Faith and introducing Gillian Hills

BFI Flipside is back! Edmond T Gréville's legendary British 1950s juvenile delinquency flick *Beat Girl* is one of three British cult classics that will be released on the BFI's Flipside label on 25 April 2016. Remastered from original negatives, *Beat Girl* is presented in Dual Format Edition (DVD and Blu-ray discs) and packed with extras including three versions of the film, a new interview with the film's star, Gillian Hills, three short films and an illustrated booklet.

Restless teen Jennifer (**Gillian Hills**, *Blow-up*, *A Clockwork Orange*) escapes her square papa (**David Farrar**, *Black Narcissus*) at Soho's Off Beat coffee bar, rocking it with beatnik Dave (a super-cool **Adam Faith**), sensual singer Dodo (**Shirley Anne Field**) and icy-eyed Plaid Shirt (**Oliver Reed**). But a secret from Jennifer's French stepmother's past leads to the *Les Girls* strip joint, run by the sleazy Kenny King (**Christopher Lee**).

*Beat Girl*, which features **John Barry's** fantastic first soundtrack, is released alongside two more new Flipside titles – *Espresso Bongo* (Val Guest, 1959) and *Symptoms* (José Ramón Larraz, 1974).

A **special screening** of *Beat Girl* takes place at the [Regent Street Cinema](#), London, W1 on Wednesday 20 April at 6.30pm followed by a Q&A with Gillian Hills, hosted by BFI National Archive Fiction Curator, Vic Pratt.

**Actress and singer Gillian Hills (biography on page 2) is available for selected interviews and the BFI's Head of Video Publishing Sam Dunn can talk about the Flipside label.**

### Special features

- Newly remastered in 2K and presented in both High Definition and Standard Definition
- Original theatrical version (87 mins): from the negatives, preserved by the BFI National Archive
- Alternative version (92 mins, Blu-ray only)
- Alternative sequences (3 mins, DVD only)
- Extended version (92 mins): featuring additional sequences with David Farrar and Noëlle Adam
- *An Interview with Gillian Hills Interview* (2016, 25 mins): the film's star recalls her experience of working on *Beat Girl*
- *Cross-Roads* (John Fitchen, 1955, 25 mins): supernatural short, starring the legendary Christopher Lee
- *Beauty in Brief* (c.1955, 4 mins): forgotten saucy 1950s pin-up short which recalls the milieu of *Beat Girl*
- *Goodnight with Sabrina* (c.1958, 3 mins): glamour short starring 1950s TV bombshell Sabrina, aka Norma Sykes

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- Illustrated booklet with new writing by Gillian Hills, Vic Pratt, Jonny Trunk and Jo Botting, and full film credits

### **Product details**

**RRP: £19.99/ Cat. no. BFIB1240 / BFI Flipside No. 030 / Cert 15**

UK / 1959 / black and white / English, with optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / 87 mins / original aspect ratio 1.66:1 // BD50: 1080p, 24fps, PCM mono (48kHz/24-bit) / DVD9: PAL, 25fps, Dolby Digital 2.0 mono (320kbps)

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

BFI releases are available from all good home entertainment retailers or by mail order from the BFI Shop Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at [www.bfi.org.uk/shop](http://www.bfi.org.uk/shop)

### **Gillian Hills – Biography**

Born in Cairo, Egypt, Gillian Hills was the daughter of teacher, traveller, author, and adventurer [Denis Hills](#). Her mother was Dunia Leśmian, daughter of Polish poet [Bolesław Leśmian](#). She spent her early years in France, where she was discovered by [Roger Vadim](#), who saw her as the next [Brigitte Bardot](#) and cast her in a version of [Les liaisons dangereuses](#) (1959).

At the age of 15 Hills was cast in the lead for the British film [Beat Girl](#) (1960), the first film which [John Barry](#) contributed the music score. Her co-star was a young [Adam Faith](#) in his first film role. Also appearing was Oliver Reed in his first film and Christopher Lee. The [British Board of Film Censors](#) ordered that cuts be made before they would give an X certificate.

In 1960, Hills signed with the French [Barclay](#) record label and released her first EP entitled "Allo Brigitte. "Ne coupez pas!" which included "Près de la Cascade" with Henri Salvador. Hills then had a hit with "Ma Première Cigarette" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6v5r0zHicy8> and then with "Zou Bisou Bisou" [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4jIPKdlzw&index=2&list=PLAUfh2m68N\\_pxM32X\\_8XL5vRJsboYb72Ea](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4jIPKdlzw&index=2&list=PLAUfh2m68N_pxM32X_8XL5vRJsboYb72Ea). In 2012 "Zou Bisou Bisou" was chosen for the premier of the fourth season of the hit American TV series Mad Men and became a viral sensation <http://www.ew.com/article/2012/12/04/mad-men-zou-bisou-bisou-matthew-weiner-jessica-pare>

In 1961, she appeared at the [Olympia Theatre](#) in Paris on a bill with [Johnny Hallyday](#). In 1963 Serge Gainsbourg did his first duet "Une Petite Tasse D'anxiété" and chose Gillian Hills for it <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4gaHpQC7ns> .

At the close of her recording career, Hills returned to England and film, appearing in [Michelangelo Antonioni](#)'s first English language film, [Blow-up](#) (1966), starring [David Hemmings](#), with whom her character and that of [Jane Birkin](#) shared an energetic romp. This was followed by the film version of the [John Osborne](#) play [Inadmissible Evidence](#) (1968) and the mystery romance [Three](#) (1969). Hills also starred, as Alison Bradley, in the [The Owl Service](#) (1969), a television adaptation of the [Alan Garner](#) novel. Other film appearances followed, including [A Clockwork Orange](#) (1971) in which Hills played one of two girls picked up in a record shop by Alex ([Malcolm McDowell](#)).

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### **About BFI Flipside**

Developed from a popular monthly screening slot at BFI Southbank, the BFI's Flipside series is designed to revisit and reappraise British films that have slipped through the cracks of cinema history – films that were overlooked, marginalised, or undervalued at the original time of release, or which sit outside the established canon of recognised classics.

BFI Flipside titles are all newly mastered to High Definition from original film elements, and are presented with rare and fascinating special features, including previously unavailable short films, documentaries and archival interviews, many of which are preserved in the BFI National Archive. Each title comes in collectable numbered packaging and is accompanied by an extensive illustrated booklet with insightful contributions from special guest writers, often including the filmmakers themselves.

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