



## Features

### 3 Steps to Heaven

Dir/scr Constantine Giannaris

Cast Katrin Cartlidge, Con O'Neill, James Fleet, Frances Barber

1995 / col / 87 mins

COMEDY LESBIAN/GAY THRILLER

This first feature from Constantine Giannaris - the award-winning director of *Caught Looking* and *North of Vortex* - lives up to all expectations with its comic and ironic genre-juggling tale of high-living lowlifes.

Dissatisfied with the verdict of misadventure following the death of her boyfriend, and with a pistol firmly in her pocket, Juliette (Katrin Cartlidge) goes in search of the truth. On her trip through after-hours London she and her gun make acquaintance with sleazy city whizzkid Angel; Harry, a Labour MP with a taste for rent boys and SM regalia; and Andrea, vodka-soaked chat-show host and bad PR for lesbian chic.

Un Certain Regard, Cannes Film Festival

### Above Us the Earth

Dir/scr Karl Francis

Cast Windsor Rees, Gwen Francis

1977 / col / 90 mins

DRAMA

From the director of *Streetlife* and *Morphine and Dolly Mixtures*, the powerful and political *Above Us the Earth* places a documentary narrative about the death of a Welsh miner and the closure of a pit within the framework of a feature drama. Casting the film with people who had no previous acting experience (the miner's widow is played by the director's own mother) gives the film undeniable authenticity, further blurring the boundaries between fiction and reality.

### Anchoress

Dir Chris Newby

Scr Judith Stanley-Smith and Christine Watkins

Cast Natalie Morse, Toyah Willcox, Pete Postlethwaite, Christopher Eccleston

1993 / b&w / 105 mins

DRAMA GENDER

In a remote village in 14th century England, an illiterate peasant girl becomes a pawn in the struggle between Church and State when she refuses to marry the local Lord, but chooses the Virgin Mary instead.

Encouraged by the corrupt village priest, she becomes an anchoress - walled up forever in a tiny stone cell within the chapel of Our Lady. Gradually her enclosure begins to threaten the foundations of the whole community.

'Splendid... beautifully filmed in black and white, *Anchoress* essays something difficult and ambitious – a poetic vision of the Middle Ages which addresses the old gulf between patriarchal power and female ritual and rebellion... The images are often spellbinding in their shaded texture and luminous detail.'

Daily Telegraph

'Chris Newby is a new British Director of true originality' The Guardian

Best Black and White Feature, Cork Film Festival

Best Film, Costinesti Film Festival

Best Cinematography, Costinesti Film Festival

## At the Fountainhead (of German Strength)

Dir/scr Anthea Kennedy, Nick Burton

Cast Paul Godfrey, Michael Mellinger, Val Kennedy

1980 / col / 96 mins

DRAMA

Two Berliners and their half-sister, fighting a libel suit against a book they wish to publish on ex-Nazis in prominent positions in West Germany, visit Johannes Schmidt, a German-Jewish musician now living in London. Through a multi-layered time-scale and frequent alternation between documentary and dramatized reconstruction, the filmmakers explore an aspect of German history before it slips beyond living memory.

## Background

Dir Daniel Birt

Cast Valerie Hobson, Philip Friend, Norman Wooland, Janette Scott, Mandy Miller

1953 / 83 min

DRAMA

John Lomax and his wife Barbie have been married for 16 years, but of late their happiness has been clouded by quarrels and misunderstandings. John is a barrister trying to build up a legal career after years in the army. Past and present strain have made him tired, nervy and intolerant. The story is about the possibility of divorce impending on the family, and the about turn that is made due to the different reactions of their three children. The film ends happily with John and Barbie finding that they are still deeply in love with each other and look forward to a renewal of married life with eagerness.

## The Battles of Coronel and Falkland Islands

Dir Walter Summers

1927 / B&W / 105 min

WAR DRAMA

Historical/Documentary. The reconstruction of two sea engagements of the First World War - the Battles of the Coronel of 1st November 1914 and the Battles of the Falkland Islands of 8th December 1914.

## Beowulf

Dir Donald Fairservice

Cast Howard Nelson, Howard Brenton

1976 / b&w / 60 mins

FANTASY

Film a adaptation of the Anglo-Saxon poem lamenting the loss of a heroic tradition. Features playwright Howard Brenton (*The Romans in Britain*) in a rare acting role.

## The Bill Douglas Trilogy

Dir/scr Bill Douglas

Cast Stephen Archibald, Hughie Restorick, Paul Kermack

DRAMA

'Quite probably the finest achievement of the British cinema in the 1970s. Stunning in its bleakly beautiful imagery, it tells of a desperately impoverished and unwanted Scottish boy growing up in a dour mining town and gradually casting off self-pity as he begins his first hesitant moves in making his way in the world.

Because of the years that separate the making of the three films, Douglas' remarkable alter ego, Stephen Archibald, literally grows up before our eyes.' Los Angeles Times

'To miss Douglas' three films would be to deny oneself one of the greatest experiences the cinema has to offer... I believe his *Trilogy* will come to be regarded not just as a milestone, but as one of the heroic achievements of the British cinema.' The Observer

## My Childhood

1972 / b&w / 48 mins

1945. Jamie lives with his brother and grandmother. With his mother in a mental hospital, the collapse of his grandmother means that he must learn to rely solely on himself.

'The first authentic film about Scotland I have ever seen.' The Scotsman

## My Ain Folk

1973 / b&w / 55 mins

After the death of his grandmother Jamie is separated from his brother and sent to live with his other grandmother and uncle where his life is filled with silence, rejection and bouts of violence.

'Makes you feel the sense of enrichment and privilege that very rare works of art in the cinema can offer.' The Times

## My Way Home

1978 / b&w / 78 mins

It's the early Fifties and Jamie leaves the children's home for Egypt where he is billeted after being conscripted into the RAF. Through his friendship with Robert he gains the confidence to develop his artistic talents.

'An unqualified triumph... Living proof that style and humanism, form and feeling, are not incompatible.' The Listener

## Black and Silver

Dir/scr Marilyn Raban, William Raban

Cast Marilyn Raban, William Raban, Jessica Bennett

1981 / col/b&w / 75 mins

AVANT-GARDE PERFORMANCE

This beautifully shot experimental film is based on Oscar Wilde's children's story *The Birthday of the Infanta*, and mixes both mime and dance.

## Blue Black Permanent

Dir/scr Margaret Tait

Cast Celia Imrie, Gerda Stevenson, Jack Shepherd

1992 / col / 85 mins

DRAMA GENDER

Set in Orkney and Edinburgh, *Blue Black Permanent* chronicles three generations of mothers and daughters, with a central recollection of a poetry-writing mother whose life is claimed by the sea when her daughter is nine years old. The daughter, now grown up, relates these memories in an attempt to exorcise her guilt for the death. In her first feature veteran filmmaker Margaret Tait achieves a

remarkable sense of both time and place, and an emotional intensity and power that lingers long after the film is over.

'A work of extraordinary emotion.' Time Out

'A haunting exploration of childhood loss.' Daily Telegraph

Best Actress (Gerda Stevenson), BAFTA Scotland

## The Blue Peter

Dir Wolf Rilla

Cast Kieron Moore, Sarah Lawson, - Greta Gynt, Mervyn Johns, Ram Gopal

1955 / Col / 94 min

WAR

Story of a man who regains his own self-confidence as a result of helping boys to find their feet at the Outward Bound Trust's Sea school at Aberdovey. Based on a story by Don Sharp. Screenplay by Don Sharp and John Pudney.

## Brandy for the Parson

Dir John Eldridge

Cast James Donald, Kenneth More, Jean Lodge, Frederick Piper, Charles Hawtrey

1952 / B&W / 78 min

COMEDY

A man who is smuggling brandy from France to a respectable wine merchant in London has his boat accidentally sunk by a young couple on a boating holiday. He enlists their help to bring his illicit cargo from France to England, and they become involved in a series of escapades as they try to convey the barrels up towards London while evading the Customs officer who is dogging them.

## The Brave Don't Cry

Dir Philip Leacock

Cast John Gregson, Meg Buchanan, Fulton Mackay, Andrew Keir, Jack Stewart

1952 / B&W / 90 min

DRAMA

Drama-documentary about a Scottish mining rescue team. Based on the 1950 Knockshinnoch Castle Colliery disaster.

## Bred and Born

Dir Joanna Davies, Mary Pat Leece

Cast Marty Cruickshank, Amelia Jeyes, Joyce Wilkins

1983 / Col / 74 mins

GENDER

Family life in Shadwell in London's East End is explored through four generations of women, examining how their relationships hold everyday life together.

## Bronco Bullfrog

Dir Barney Platts-Mills

Cast Del Walker, Anne Gooding, Sam Shepherd, Roy Haywood, Chris Shepherd

1969 / B&W / 86 min

DRAMA

Story of gang warfare, juvenile crime and love in London's East End. A young couple who live in the overcrowded world of inner city tower blocks and bomb sites are harassed by the simple lack of somewhere to be alone together.

## Brothers and Sisters

Dir/scr Richard Woolley

Cast Sam Dale, Caroline Pickles

1980 / col / 101 mins

GENDER THRILLER

Loosely based on The Yorkshire Ripper murders, this thriller investigates the lives of two brothers who are suspected of killing a prostitute, and examines the ways in which men are responsible for violence towards women.

'Kaleidoscopic examination of sexist prejudices in Britain today... Through a clever juggling of murder-thriller suspense and soap opera naturalism, Woolley shrewdly anatomises Anglo-Saxon attitudes to sex and the sexes.' Financial Times

## Central Bazaar

Dir Stephen Dwoskin

1976 / col / 157 mins

AVANT-GARDE

Filmed in one room over a period of five weeks, the great *avant-garde* filmmaker Dwoskin gave his amateur cast a multitude of props from which to develop characters and relationships and enact their resulting fantasies.

## Child's Play

Dir Margaret Thomson

Cast Mona Washbourne, Peter Martyn, Dorothy Alison, Ingeborg Wells, Carl Jaffe

1952 / B&W / 68 min

COMEDY SCIENCE FICTION

Account of the mischief of several youngsters in a small village who have learnt how to split the atom.

## Clocktime

Dir Stuart Pound

1972 / col / 80 mins

AVANT-GARDE

Pound's structuralist, open-ended feature presents a sequential flow of film frames which pose the illusion of continuous *spacetime* between changes in shot, avoiding discernible narrative plots, and concerning itself with a discourse between the film material and the viewer.

## Conflict of Wings

Dir John Eldridge

Cast John Gregson, Muriel Pavlow, Kieron Moore, Niall MacGinnis, Sheila Sweet

1954 / col / 84 min

DRAMA

Story of village distress over government commandeering of bird sanctuary as rocket firing range, their attempts to secure official help and eventual success by risking their lives.

## A Cottage on Dartmoor

Dir Anthony Asquith

Cast Hans Adalbert von Schlettow, Uno Henning, Nora Haring, Judd Green, Anthony Asquith

1930 / col / 87 min

DRAMA

Story of the fruitless love of a barber's assistant for a manicurist and of the results of his jealous rage when she becomes engaged to a customer, told in a flashback during his attempted escape from Dartmoor.

London Film Festival Nominee Treasures from the Archives

## Crook's Tour

Dir John Baxter

Cast Basil Radford, Naunton Wayne, Greta Gynt, Gordon McLeod, Abraham Sofaer

1940 / B&W / 84 min

COMEDY WAR

Caldicott and Charters, touring in the Near East, are mistaken for German agents and handed in error a gramophone record which contains vital information for Britain's enemies. Screenplay by John Watt and Max Kester, based on a radio serial by Frank Lauder and Sidney Gilliat.

## Crystal Gazing

Dir/scr Laura Mulvey, Peter Wollen

Cast Gavin Richards, Lora Logic, Mary Maddox, Keith Allen

1982 / col / 92 mins

DRAMA

*Crystal Gazing* perfectly captures London during the Thatcher recession years by following the isolated lives of a science fiction illustrator, a saxophonist, an analyst of satellite photographs and a post-graduate student writing his thesis on *Puss in Boots*. It could be viewed as a radical soap opera about Labroke Grove intellectuals, but this would be to deny both its wider concerns and its undoubted humour (epitomised in Keith Allen's splendidly insulting taxi-queue monologue).

'Recalls early Godard. Its achievements are to show how life proceeds at different rhythms, not often caught in fiction, and to make everything in the film so clearly recognisable - for once the title says it all.' Time Out

## Death & The Compass

Dir Alex Cox

Cast Peter Boyle, Christopher Eccleston, Miguel Sandoval, Pedro Armendáriz Jr, Alonso Echánove

1996 / col / 82 min

CRIME

Adaptation of a short story by Borges centred on an investigation by the famed Inspector Lonnrot who, in trying to solve a series of murders, uncovers a more complex set of clues which reveal a diabolical plot.

## Devil on Horseback

Dir Cyril Frankel

Cast Gogie Withers, John McCallum, Jeremy Spenser, Meredith Edwards, Liam Redmond

1954 / 88 min

DRAMA

Story of North Country boy's rise to fame as jockey and how he finally learns that to win is not everything.

## Don't Get Me Started

Dir/scr Arthur Ellis

Cast Trevor Eve, Steven Waddington, Marion Bailey, Ralph Brown

1994 / col / 76 mins

THRILLER

'Arthur Ellis' debut feature uproots the serial-killer concept from America's wide-open spaces and drops it into the buttoned-up heart of British suburbia. The result is an intriguingly dark, deliberately restrained satire that hinges on a crisp leading performance from Trevor Eve as twitchy Jack Lane - respectable father of two, compulsive cigarette smoker and occasional murderer... Ellis manages to milk an unnerving vein of black humour throughout.' Big Issue

## Doublecross

Dir Anthony Squire

Cast Donald Houston, Fay Compton, William Hartnell, Delphi Lawrence, Anton Diffring

1955 / B&W / 71 min

DRAMA COMEDY

A Cornish poacher/fisherman, Albert Pascoe, is paid by two men and a woman to take them over to France by trawler, unaware that they have stolen top secret documents, killing a man in the process. During the voyage, Pascoe overhears them talking about the killing and turns the boat back towards Cornwall, but fixing the compass to give the impression to the passengers that they are still on course for the French coast. On reaching the coast the woman, Anna, warns Pascoe that he will be killed once he has put them ashore. Having rowed the two men ashore in a small boat, Pascoe overpowers them and makes his escape back to the trawler. Reaching his home port, he explains to the police that he landed the two men in a small cove from which they will not be able to climb out. All charges against Anna will be dropped.

## Dreams That Money Can Buy

Dir Hans Richter

Cast Jack Bittner, Werner Brandes, Norma Cazanjan, Lauren Denny, Joseph Freeman

1948 / col / 81 min

ARTISTS' MOVING IMAGE FANTASY

Joe, a young man down on his luck, discovers that he possesses a mysterious power to create dreams. He sets up a business selling them to others and the dreams of a succession of clients are illustrated, the last being his own.

International Award, Venice Film Festival

'*The Edge of the World* was a turning point in my life and art.' Michael Powell

## The Edge of the World

Dir/scr Michael Powell

Cast John Laurie, Belle Chrystal, Eric Berry, Finlay Currie

1937 / b&w / 81 mins

DRAMA

Returning to the now deserted Shetland island of Hirta, Andrew (John Laurie - *Dad's Army's* Private Frazer) remembers the hardships of the islanders and the dramatic events that threw their community into crisis.

This parable about civilisation pitted against nature was Michael Powell's first bid for independence as a filmmaker, having spent his career to date knocking off 'quota quickies'. It not only revealed Powell as a front runner in the new British realism, but offered a foretaste of many mystical themes and daring techniques later to become familiar in classics such as *A Canterbury Tale* and *I Know Where I'm Going!* Neglected for many years, the film can now be seen in a glorious restoration made by the National Film and Television Archive.

'A strange, haunting, beautiful film.' Chicago Sun-Times

'A major rediscovery... [Powell] makes it both superb melodrama and superb ethnography, as well as one of the most beautiful black-and-white British films of the 1930s... Few films in 1937 had the visual impact of *The Edge of the World*. And, despite all our digital technology, few films do today.' Chicago Tribune

'Full of the magical, the occult, and signs of the strangeness of nature.' The Times

## Elenya

Dir/scr Steve Gough

Cast Pascale Delafouge Jones, Margaret John, Klaus J. Behrendt

1992 / col / 81 mins

DRAMA YOUTH

'A film of great beauty, simplicity and emotional resonance... A lonely Welsh-Italian girl, farmed out to an embittered aunt in the war, becomes intimate with an injured German airman she finds and keeps secret in the woods. The key drama occurs inside the characters, caught in the hesitations, gestures and eye movements... High contrast photography adds enormous atmosphere... Gough's film is refreshingly direct in style and appeal: ends and means fuse. More, please.' The Times

'The film's restrained surface roils with dark undercurrents of frustrated sexuality and xenophobia ...

Pascale Delafouge Jones gives an astonishingly subtle performance.' Daily Telegraph

Special Mention, Giffoni Film Festival

Special Youth Award, BAFTA Wales

## The End of the Road

Dir Wolf Rilla

Cast Finlay Currie, Duncan Lamont, Naomi Chance, Edward Chapman, Hilda Fenemore

1954 / B&W / 76 min

DRAMA

Story of a skilled craftsman forced into compulsory retirement who nearly loses his mind.

## Enemy

Dir Tony Bagley

Cast Susan Brodrick, Charlotta Martinus, John Grillo

1976 / col / 65 mins

THRILLER GENDER

An investigative journalist finds her world crashing around her when she unearths a scandal about a major politician. A hard-hitting political thriller in which the events oscillate between being frighteningly possible to being perhaps the figments of the central character's imagination.

## Finnegans Chin

(aka Finnegans Chin: Temporal Economy)

Dir/scr Malcolm Le Grice

Cast Jack Murray Paula Murray

1981 / col / 87 mins

AVANT-GARDE

The film depicts the Michael Finnegan of the children's song (with added Joycean overtones) as he gets up in the morning, shaves his eponymous chin, makes breakfast and prepares to go out. These events are multiply re-enacted, fragmented, rearranged and counterpointed by an equivalent mosaic of disjunctive sounds and music. The film becomes a portrait, part fiction, part documentary, as Le Grice starts to flirt with character, psychology and the presentation of subjective vision.

## Flight to Berlin

Dir Christopher Petit

Scr Christopher Petit, Hugo Williams

Cast Tusse Silberg, Paul Freeman, Liza Kreuzer

West Germany/UK / 1983 / col / 90 mins

THRILLER

Petit's third feature is set in West Berlin but paradoxically owes little to Wim Wenders, Petit's mentor. It is a mystery story of blind husbands and foolish wives in a magic city, of looking and not seeing, of reflecting and photographing. The protagonist is on the run both from the British police, investigating a woman's death in London, and from her own husband. Becoming involved with the lover and then the French gangster husband of her drug-addicted sister, she is finally interrogated by the German police. 'Petit's best so far, a mystery thriller in the conditional tense, a spider's web of stories about one woman's attempt to write herself out of the story of her life.' Time Out  
'Dazzlingly made... Compulsive viewing.' Variety

## For Memory

Dir Marc Karlin

Cast Marc Karlin, Don Macpherson, E.P. Thompson

1986 / col/b&w / 118 mins

The late, celebrated Karlin formulates a series of questions about the role that historical memory plays in today's society, guided by television images that often obliterate the very truth they purport to clarify.

## Friendship's Death

Dir/scr Peter Wollen

Cast Bill Paterson, Tilda Swinton

1987 / col / 78 mins

SCI-FI

'In September 1970, a British war correspondent is distracted from his coverage of the bloody conflict between Palestinians and Jordanians when he rescues a young lady from a PLO patrol. Simply named Friendship, she claims to be an extra terrestrial robot sent to Earth on a peace mission... Is she insane, a spy, or telling the truth? Wollen's film comes across as... *Dr Who* for adults, complete with political, philosophical and more pettily personal problems... Best of all, the film displays a droll wit and a surprising ability to touch the heart... His most rewarding movie to date.' Time Out

'Surprisingly accessible, ingenious and intriguing.' What's On

'A fascinating piece... with a subtle wit and charm... Fine lead performances... excellent production design... excellent, lush cinematography.' Variety

## Gallivant

Dir/scr Andrew Kötting

Cast Gladys Morris, Eden Kötting, Andrew Kötting

1996 / col / 103 mins

'Kötting's first feature is a delightfully offbeat road movie in which he, his grandmother Gladys, and his daughter Eden - who has learning difficulties and has to communicate by sign language - travel around the coast of Britain. It's a determinedly eccentric affair, not only because Kötting himself is something of an oddball, but because the people he encounters are for the most part a pretty odd lot... A marvellously fresh, warm, enlightening and often very funny look at Britain and what it means to be British. Hugely entertaining.' Time Out

'A real tonic: it warms the heart, stimulates the eye and brain, and opens up new paths for British cinema.' The Times

'Funny, touching, idiosyncratic and at times unexpectedly beautiful... *Gallivant* is that rare thing, a celebratory film that never turns sugary or maudlin.' Sight and Sound

## The Girl on the Boat

Dir Henry Kaplan

Cast Norman Wisdom, Millicent Martin, Richard Briers, Sheila Hancock, Bernard Cribbins

1962 / B&W / 91 min

COMEDY

Period comedy set in the 1920s. A young man falls in love with a girl on a liner, and finally wins her heart by proving to be her knight in shining armour.

## Herostratus

Dir/scr Don Levy

Cast Michael Gothard, Gabriella Licudi, Helen Mirren, Malcolm Muggeridge

1967 / col / 142 mins

AVANT-GARDE

An unsuccessful poet on the brink of suicide offers his death to an advertising magnate to be promoted as an act of protest. The British avant-garde meets the Swinging Sixties as leather fetish fantasy turns wittily into rubber glove ad, and striptease is intercut with a bathhouse. Levy's experimental feature is a direct and nihilistic frenzy of recurring violent images depicting a latter-day Herostratus (who burned down the temple of Artemis to achieve fame through an act of destruction).

## Highway Patrolman

aka El Patrullero

Dir Alex Cox

Cast Roberto Sosa, Bruno Bichir, Vanessa Bauche, Zaide Silvia Gutiérrez, - Pedro Armendáriz Jr

1991 / col / 91 min

DRAMA

Pedro Rojas graduates from a police academy and gets a job working as a highway patrolman in Matamoros, Durango. He marries a local girl who soon gets fed up with his low wages. Her discontent drives Pedro into a downward spiral of corruption and finally revenge after his best friend is killed by drug-runners.

## Hindle Wakes

Dir Maurice Elvey

Cast Estelle Brody, Norman McKinnel, Humberstone Wright, Marie Ault, John Stuart

1927 / B&W / 106 min

DRAMA

The play is an incident in the life of Hindle, a Lancashire cotton town; a play upon human hearts and aspirations. Hindle is typical of Lancashire cotton towns; for fifty-one weeks in the year, it rises with the dawn and matches its dreary atmosphere with its drab existence in the cotton mills, but for one week in the year looms stand silent whilst the cotton slaves give themselves up to hectic holiday-making, popularly known as "wakes".

## The Human Touch

Dir Paul Cox

Cast Jacqueline McKenzie, Aaron Blabey, Chris Haywood, Rebecca Firth

2004 / col / 102 min

DRAMA

Married and in her early 30s, Anna, is approached by Edward, at least 30 years her senior, who asks if she would pose nude for a photographic study.

## In the Forest

Dir/scr Phil Mulloy

Cast Barrie Houghton, Anthony O'Donnell

1978 / b&w / 80 mins

Anyone familiar with Mulloy's acclaimed animation - full of grotesque imagery and gory detail - will recognise this live-action feature as his work. Charting the emergence of an organised working class

over four centuries, Mulloy creates an epic, mythological narrative that is at once both plausible and poetic.

## The Informer

Dir Arthur Robison

Cast Lya de Putti, Lars Hanson, Warwick Ward, Carl Harbord, Dennis Wyndham,  
1929 / B&W / 81 min

DRAMA

Set in 1920s Ireland. Gypo Nolan informs on his friend who shot a policeman.

## John and Julie

Dir William Fairchild

Cast Richard Dimbleby, Wynford Vaughan-Thomas, Moira Lister, Noëlle Middleton, Constance Cummings

1955 / col / 82 min

COMEDY

England 1953: Six year-old Julie persuades twelve year-old John to run away from their school to attend the Queen's coronation procession.

## Judgement Deferred

Dir John Baxter

Cast Hugh Sinclair, Helen Shingler, Abraham Sofaer, Leslie Dwyer, Joan Collins

1952 / 88 min

DETECTIVE DRAMA

A newspaperman decides to investigate a dope smuggling ring. In a church community centre he finds a strange collection of characters, dedicated to bringing to justice a man they believe to have framed an associate. The wronged man escapes from prison and they hold a trial for the real criminal.

## Justine

Dir Stewart Mackinnon

Scr Stewart Mackinnon, Clive Myer, Nigel Perkins

Cast Alison Hughes, Robin Phillipmore

1976 / b&w / 90 mins

Based on the novel by the Marquis de Sade, *Justine* is an intriguing companion piece to Pasolini's *Salò*. Eschewing conventional narrative and character, the film comprises a series of non-dramatic tableaux representing incidents from the novel.

## Lady Windermere's Fan

Dir Fred Paul

Cast Milton Rosmer, Netta Westcott, Nigel Playfair, Irene Rooke, Arthur Wontner

1916 / B&W / 66 min

COMEDY PERIOD DRAMA

Silent version of the play by Oscar Wilde.

## Laxdale Hall

Dir John Eldridge

Cast Ronald Squire, Raymond Huntley, Kathleen Ryan, Sebastian Shaw, Jameson Clark

1952 / B&W / 76 min

## COMEDY

On a small Scottish island, the locals refuse to pay their road tax until the government repairs their crumbling pier and one road. To look into the matter, a parliamentary delegation is sent from London, led by an Samuel Pettigrew, M.P., whose mother was born on the island. The visitors from Whitehall find the place beguiling, but Pettigrew remains disinclined to recommend the rebuilding that the islanders demand and he even suggests that they all move to a purpose-built modern town hundreds of miles away. Two others of the group, Marvell and Flett, find budding romance with, respectively, the laird's daughter and the local schoolteacher. When a band of poachers invades the laird's land (during an outdoor performance of 'Macbeth', in heavy rain) the chaos that ensues affects the outcome of the visit for everyone.

## Life in Her Hands

Dir Philip Leacock

Cast Kathleen Byron, Bernadette O'Farrell, Jacqueline Charles, Jenny Laird, Robert Long

1951 / B&W / 58 min

INSTRUCTIONAL FILM

The life and training of a nurse seen through the eyes of a young widow, who unable to settle in a job after her husband's death, decides to become a nurse.

## The Life Story of Baal

Dir Edward Bennett

Scr Edward Bennett, Ben Brewster

Cast Neil Johnston, Patti Love

1978 / col / 58 mins

DRAMA

Based on Brecht's play about the brutal, womanising poet, Baal. Includes brief, early appearances from Mike Leigh regulars Timothy Spall and Jim Broadbent.

'Bennett reformulates the play as a powerful critique of the notion of the artist as a kind of social outlaw, and resolves the sexual, moral and political issues into urgent, provocative questions.' Time Out

## Loaded

Dir/scr Anna Campion

Cast Catherine McCormack, Thandie Newton, Oliver Milburn, Nick Patrick

1994 / col / 91 mins

DRAMA YOUTH

Starring Thandie Newton (*Flirting, Mission: Impossible II*) and Catherine McCormack (*The Land Girls, The Weight of Water*), *Loaded* is the feature debut of Anna Campion. A group of seven young school-leavers decide to take over a rambling old country manse for a few days to shoot a horror video. After a tense day's shooting, the group decides to break the atmosphere with an acid-inspired initiation, whilst they video their secret dreams, fears and paranoias. But later that night a tragic accident occurs, forcing each one to enter a world way beyond their previous experience...

'A superbly acted film of terrific density and immediacy.' Los Angeles Times

'An intriguing blend of a dolescent psychodrama, social satire and old-dark-house chiller... There's a disarming, imaginative freshness to the movie... Fascinating, intelligent fare, and a very promising British debut.' Time Out

'Movie manna for the alienated, nail-gnawing nineties.' Film Comment

## London

Dir/scr Patrick Keiller

Voice Paul Scofield

1993 / col / 84 mins

'An electrifying, unclassifiable first feature... Shot over the course of 1992, the film retraces the wanderings of Paul Scofield's narrator and an equally invisible friend who views the city through eyes steeped in French literary visionaries. The witty interplay between narration and images brings early Greenaway to mind. But no Greenaway film packs the polemical punch of this elegant yet angry cry at the capital's decline. Camera leaps between fast-food outlets, marching miners, the Queen opening Leicester Square's electricity substation, and a misspelt RAC sign for the Magritte art exhibit... You emerge in a whirl, buoyed by Keiller's cinema magic.' *The Times*

'Dazzling.' *Time Out*

'Wittily scripted, beautifully shot and wickedly on the ball.' *The Guardian*

1st Prize, Munich Documentary Festival

## The Love Child

Dir Robert Smith

Scr Gordon Hann

Cast Sheila Hancock, Peter Capaldi, Lesley Sharp, Alexei Sayle

1987 / col / 96 mins

COMEDY

Dillon (Peter Capaldi), the orphaned love child of hippy parents, works as an accounts clerk and lives with his Gran (Sheila Hancock) on a Lambeth council estate. But gradually this quiet existence is disrupted as he makes friends with a pair of Welsh anarchists, falls in love with an art student and gets into trouble with the police.

'If Bill Forsyth ever teamed up with the Comic Strip, the result might be something like this... Peter Capaldi is a wide-eyed gangling delight.' *Time Out*

'Hancock's performance is a marvel of comic timing.' *Hollywood Reporter*

'A very enjoyable affair that lingers in the memory.' *Variety*

'There is no beauty without the wound.'

## Love Is the Devil

Study for a portrait of Francis Bacon

Dir/scr John Maybury

Cast Derek Jacobi, Daniel Craig, Tilda Swinton

1998 / col / 90 mins

DRAMA LESBIAN/GAY

'I came out of John Maybury's *Love Is the Devil* feeling I'd never seen a film that makes such direct and illuminating connection with the eye of an artist... A very remarkable film indeed... Wisely, the film concentrates on a single extended episode: the period defined by Bacon's love affair with George Dyer, a minor East End underworld figure which ended with Dyer's suicide in a Paris hotel.... Right from the beginning we are invited to see the world through Baconian eyes. Faces are sloped and slurred through the curve of wine glasses, sliced and mirrored on a knife-blade, or multiplied in a bathroom triple-mirror, suggesting the origin of the famous triptychs... An exceptional film.' *The Guardian*

'Unconventional, audacious and uncompromising... A benchmark for future films about artists...'

Jacobi's remarkable performance... Tilda Swinton is hilarious.' *Variety*

'Jacobi is astonishingly right as Bacon, and Craig very affecting as Dyer.... Tough often tender, wholly compelling, and one of the finest films made about an artist.' *Time Out*

Un Certain Regard, Cannes Film Festival

Michael Powell Award, Edinburgh Film Festival

Best Actor (Derek Jacobi and Daniel Craig), Edinburgh Film Festival

Best Actor (Derek Jacobi), Evening Standard Awards

## The Love Match

Dir David Paltenghi

Cast Arthur Askey, Glenn Melvyn, Thora Hird, Shirley Eaton, James Kenney

1955 / B&W / 85 min

COMEDY SPORT

Bill Brown and Wally Binns get into trouble over a football match after racing their railway engine home in order to get to the match in time.

## Love on the Dole

Dir John Baxter

Cast Deborah Kerr, Clifford Evans, George Carney, Mary Merrall, Geoffrey Hibbert

1941 / B&W / 94 min

DRAMA

Story concerned with the problems of unemployment in Salford in 1930, centring on the Hardcastle family and the vain attempts of Larry Meath, fiancé of the Hardcastle's daughter Sally to improve the situation. Young Harry Hardcastle finds himself unemployed when his apprenticeship at a local factory ends - the owners preferring to have a regular turn-over of cheap apprentices rather than pay full wages. He gets his girlfriend Helen pregnant and the two of them have to go into lodgings in a single room after Mr Hardcastle refuses to let them stay at home. Larry is fatally injured in a clash between police and unemployed demonstrators. Sally borrows money from the bookie Sam Grundy, who is attracted to her, in order to pay for Larry's funeral. He proposes she become his "housekeeper". In spite of the fact that she will be viewed as a "kept woman" she compromises her morals in order to assist Helen and Harry and her family. Her parents are shocked and ashamed, but with Sam's assistance she can bring money and jobs to her family.

## Loving Memory

Dir/scr Tony Scott

Cast Rosamund Greenwood, Roy Evans, David Pugh

1970 / b&w / 57 mins

DRAMA

*Loving Memory* brought together two major British talents at the beginning of their careers: Tony Scott (*The Hunger*, *Top Gun*) and Chris Menges, the Academy Award-winning cinematographer of *The Killing Fields*.

'A sinister tale about a brother and sister living in dotty solitude on the Yorkshire Moors, who transfer their feelings about a dead soldier brother to the young man they have just run over and killed in their antiquated car... It creates an extraordinarily persuasive picture of a kind of isolation (of the mind, as well as in its choice of location) in which sadness becomes madness and totally credible. There is about the film a massive, unquiet calm in the spirit of the great primitives, like Hardy: an acceptance of death as an inevitable outcome.' Sunday Telegraph

'Chris Menges' photography perfectly captures the misty loneliness of the moors... the picture composition is magnificent.' Monthly Film Bulletin

'Remarkable... In the vein of a macabre Harold Pinter mingled with the nostalgic recall of Laurie Lee... Flawless performances...' Evening Standard

## Mad Love - Three films by Evgenii Bauer

Dir Evgenii Bauer

1913-16 / B&W / 145 min

COMPILATION FILMS

### Twilight of a Woman's Soul (1913)

Bauer's first surviving film already shows his masterful use of deep-focus photography.

### After Death (1915)

Adapted from a story by Ivan Turgenev it is imbued with one of Bauer's favourite themes: the psychological hold of the dead over the living.

## **The Dying Swan (1916)**

Takes a sardonic view of the popular obsession with morbidity and includes a chilling dream sequence. This compilation features a specially commissioned new music score for each of the films, by Laura Rossi, Nicholas Brown, and Joby Talbot.

## **Madagascar Skin**

Dir/scr Chris Newby

Cast John Hannah, Bernard Hill

1995 / col / 93 mins

COMEDY LESBIAN/GAY

'Offers a disarming take on the usual run of celluloid love stories by pairing the oddest of couples: John Hannah's young, gay Harry... and Bernard Hill's slightly shady Flint. There's quirky humour aplenty here, a high quotient of the unexpected, and a gleeful eye for the absurd as the film quizzically picks its way towards the triumph of their affections... Newby's film displays a delight in consistently trumping your expectations.

Working magic on limited resources, it's another step forward for a talented young director.' Time Out  
'An exceptional work of cinema that lures the audience into a damp and fecund world.' Screen International

'A genuine delight.' Premiere

'Newby has created an eccentric and unselfconscious comedy which will surprise as much as it satisfies.' Empire

Directors' Fortnight, Cannes Film Festival

Best Screenplay, Stockholm Film Festival

Best Actor (John Hannah), Stockholm Film Festival

## **Make Me an Offer!**

Dir Cyril Frankel

Cast Peter Finch, Adrienne Corri, Rosalie Crutchley, Finlay Currie, Ernest Thesiger

1954 / col / 89 min

COMEDY

A young dealer gets a fur coat for his wife and a rare Wedgwood vase for himself.

## **Man of Africa**

Dir Cyril Frankel

Cast Gordon Heath, Frederick Bijurenda, Violet Mukabureza, Mattayo Bukwirwa, Butensa

1954 / B&W / 44 min

DRAMA-DOCUMENTARY

Records the migration of a Uganda tribe to a foreign region and their relations with the pigmies they find there.

London Film Festival Nominee UK Cinema

## **Melancholia**

Dir Andi Engel

Scr Andi Engel, Lewis Rodia

Cast Jeroen Krabbe, Susannah York, Jane Gurnett

West Germany/UK / 1989 / col / 88 mins

THRILLER

Jeroen Krabbe stars as David Keller, a former political activist who now lives the quiet life of an art critic.

When a contact from his radical days calls him up with one last assignment - to be the assassin of a Chilean ex-torturer - Keller is forced to make a decision that will radically change his life.

'There is much to enjoy: Hitchcockian tension and invention... fluid visual style and an evocative use of music... An impressively moody, intelligent thriller.' Time Out  
'An intelligent, suspenseful movie.' The Observer  
'A story of political intrigue and a assassination with the dramatic impact of *The Day of the Jackal* and the aesthetic intensity of Antonioni.' Sunday Telegraph  
Directors' Fortnight, Cannes Film Festival  
Best Newcomer (Andi Engel), Evening Standard Awards

## Miss Robin Hood

Dir John Guillermin  
Cast Margaret Rutherford, Richard Hea rne, Edward Lexy, Frances Rowe, Michael Medwin  
1952 / B&W / 78 min  
COMEDY

Whimsical story of downtrodden journalist writing for children's magazine, his meeting with elderly eccentric female who inspires him to minor crime, and his resultant promotion to an executive job.

## The Moon Over the Alley

Dir Joseph Despins  
Scr William Dumaesq  
Cast Doris Fishwick, Peter Farrell  
1975 / b&w / 102 mins  
DRAMA MUSICAL

Despins re-works Brecht and Weill's *The Threepenny Opera* for the 1970s, throwing in a spot of Dickens, Gracie Fields and Ken Loach. Musical numbers by Galt MacDermot (the composer of *Hair*) are interspersed into an otherwise realist narrative that examines the lives of a group of people living - or surviving - in a boarding house in Notting Hill.

'The film quickly disarms with its quirky humour. Laughs aside, it's a far from complacent look at the problems of an increasingly squalid London.' Time Out

## Murder in the Cathedral

Dir/Scr George Hoellering  
Cast Diana Maddox, John Groser, Alexander Gauge, David Ward, George Woodbridge  
1952 / B&W / 109 min  
HISTORICAL DRAMA

Screen a daptation of T.S. Eliot's verse play on the death and martyrdom of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, at the instigation of Henry II.

## The Night of The Truth

# Aka La Nuit De La Vérité

Dir Fanta Régina Nacro  
Cast Naky Sy Savané, Moussa Cissé, Georgette Paré, Adama Ouédraougo, Rasmané Ouédraougo  
2005 / col / 100 min  
WAR

Drama. After a bitter civil war between the governing Naya k and rebel Bonande tribes, their leaders, together with a contingent of soldiers from both sides get together to celebrate peace and the burying of old grievances. However the memories of the atrocities committed by both sides and the resulting bitterness is still simmering beneath the surface, seeking a resolution. Dialogue in French, Moore and Dioula.

## Nighthawks

Dir/scr Ron Peck, Paul Hallam

Cast Ken Robertson, Tony Westrope

1978 / col / 113 mins

DRAMA LESBIAN/GAY

'Truly a classic... Ken Robertson portrays Jim, a gay teacher whose compulsive odyssey through London's bar scene propels him toward a confrontation with his students. But writers/directors Ron Peck and Paul Hallam have created a character that transcends urban stereotypes and ascends to the universal. Long, pointed collars, bell-bottom trousers, and sideburns come straight from the disco archives. Yet the issues beneath the surface are no less relevant today than they were in 1978: monogamy; coming out in the workplace; and the complexity of relationships between gays and straights all get trotted out for exploration in a highly descriptive, but totally non-judgemental way... Any urban gay male who cannot find one shred of self-recognition in *Nighthawks* is either terminally dense, or a liar.' San Francisco Examiner

## Nineteen Nineteen

Dir Hugh Brody

Scr Hugh Brody, Michael Ignatieff

Cast Paul Scofield, Maria Schell, Diana Quick, Colin Firth

1984 / col / 99 mins

DRAMA

Sophie and Alexander meet in Vienna in 1970 and together recall the events of 1919 when they were both patients of Dr Sigmund Freud: one was suicidal after a lesbian affair, the other unable to love except without sex. As they dredge their memories, they map out not only the confessions of the couch, but the huge historical shifts that separated them. Paul Scofield, the Oscar-winning star of *A Man For All Seasons*, and the acclaimed German actress Maria Schell appear as the older Alexander and Sophie, with Colin Firth (*Pride and Prejudice*'s Mr Darcy) and Clare Higgins playing their younger selves. 'Sharply scripted by Brody and Ignatieff... It's first rate... Paul Scofield takes every word and gently squeezes every possible nuance from it; he is perfectly teamed with Maria Schell.' Variety  
'A sensitive, interior film, with all the restorative power that Freud must have hoped for.' Time Out

## The Oracle

Dir C.M. Pennington-Richards

Cast Gilbert Harding, Robert Beatty, Michael Medwin, Mervyn Johns, Virginia McKenna,

1953 / 84 min

COMEDY

Story of young newspaperman on holiday in remote Irish island who gets infallible forecasts of events from Oracle living at the bottom of his host's well.

## Orders Are Orders

Dir David Paltenghi

Cast Brian Reece, Margot Grahame, Raymond Huntley, Sidney James, Peter Sellers

1954 / B&W / 78 min

COMEDY

Bilchester army barracks is invaded by an American film unit at the invitation of the adjutant Captain Harper.

## Out of Order

Dir Jonnie Turpie

Scr Dead Honest Soul Searchers

Cast Sharon Fryer, Gary Webster, Pete Lee-Wilson, Cheryl Maiker  
1989 / col / 98 mins

COMEDY MUSIC

'Revolves around a circle of young new town dwellers whose lives are set to the accompaniment of Pirate DJs Glynis and Kerry. Tough, no-nonsense Jaz loves decent but feckless Anthony who's off to join the police, much to her horror... A gleefully polemical ransacking of a generation's collective subconscious - 60s *Carry Ons*, 70s fanzines, 80s rap and soap are all grist to its mill... A blend of Brecht, *Militant* and *Cheggers Plays Pop*, but faster, funnier and more furious.' *City Limits*  
'Witty and wacky... clearly the cast has a whale of a time and... their audience does too.' *Time Out*

## Pink Narcissus

Dir James Bidgood  
Cast Bobby Kendall, Don Brooks  
1971 / col / 64 min

A young man embarks on a journey of erotic fantasy where the subject of his desires is himself.

## Play Me Something

Dir Timothy Neat  
Scr John Berger, Timothy Neat  
Cast Lucia Lanzarini, Charlie Barron, John Berger, Tilda Swinton  
1989 / col/b&w / 72 mins  
DRAMA

'John Berger here collaborates with Neat to bring one of his own short stories to the screen, also appearing as the mysterious storyteller. A handful of men and women await the plane for Glasgow on the Hebridean island of Barra: visitors, a woman (Swinton), locals, and in their midst, Berger... Jaunty, vibrant and expansive, he makes a mesmerising storyteller; and his tale becomes a complex exploration of people and places, factories and farms, sex, politics, music... ways of being.' *Time Out*

## Private Road

Dir Barney Platts-Mills  
Cast Bruce Robinson, Susan Penhaligon, Michael Feast, George Fenton, Robert Brown  
1971 / col / 89 min  
Drama

The story of a classless young man, a writer, and a middle-class girl he tries to prise away from her family background.

Best Second Work, Locarno International Film Festival

## Radio On

Dir/scr Chris Petit  
Cast David Beames, Liza Kreuzer, Sandy Ratcliff, Sting  
1979 / b&w / 102 mins  
THRILLER

This first-ever British road movie is also a mystery story with noirish overtones. Robert, a small-time DJ, drives from London to Bristol in his bid to discover the true facts about his brother's death. En route he encounters a range of characters including a guitar-playing Eddie Cochran fan (Sting) at a filling station, an army deserter who refuses to return to Northern Ireland and a woman in search of her child. And slowly the film becomes not just a thriller, but a search for meaning in the margins of late Seventies subculture. Filmed in lustrous black and white, with an incredible soundtrack that runs from David Bowie through Kraftwerk to Ian Drury, *Radio On* is a rich and rare example of mythic British cinema.

'A reverberatingly original debut... a genuine breakthrough.' *The Guardian*

'The work of a man with a real feeling for film.' *The Observer*

'*Radio On* is a cause for cheering... A film of personality, skill and flair.' *The Times*

## Requiem for a Village

Dir/scr David Gladwell

Cast Vic Smith, villagers of Winesham and Metfield

1975 / col / 68 mins

DRAMA

Using local residents from two Suffolk villages as amateur actors, *Requiem for a Village* recapitulates the past through the memories of an old man who tends a country graveyard. Seeing the dead rise, he finds himself back at his own wedding in the church. A lyrical, poetic film whose influences range from T.S. Eliot to Stanley Spencer.

## Resistance

Dir Ken McMullen, Chris Rodrigues

Cast Stuart Brisley, Marc Chaimowicz

1976 / col/b&w / 90 mins

McMullen's first feature examines the concept of 'resistance' in terms of both political history and psychology.

At the centre of the film is an improvised drama enacted in 1974 which is a replay of a psycho-drama originally conducted by an analyst in 1948 with psychologically disturbed ex-resistance fighters. Intercut with newsreels, the film, like Marc Karlin's *For Memory*, questions the ways in which archive film is used in documentaries, exploring the role that film can have in reinterpreting history. The dynamic soundtrack combines electronic music by Brian Eno with the workers' songs of Brecht's collaborator Hanns Eisler.

## Robinson In Space

Dir/scr Patrick Keiller

Narrator Paul Scofield

1997 / col / 82 mins

'This sequel to the dazzlingly quirky *London* contains more humour and more politics: through the musings of the unseen, unnamed narrator and his equally unseen friend Robinson, we experience England drift from its past, destabilised by economic upheaval... Advances Keiller's claim to be the liveliest spark of the British independent scene, and the wittiest film essayist since the early Peter Greenaway.' *The Times*

'Accompanied by breathtaking images of the familiar, the unfamiliar and the bizarre, we are taken across the prosperous wasteland that has been created by Thatcherism and de-industrialisation. Statistics, quotations, epigrams, insights, anecdotes and jokes are woven into a witty, discursive narrative... The pervasive mood is one of decay and regret, but it's an intellectually exciting movie that makes us think afresh about the world... Remarkable.' *The Observer*

Tiger Award, Rotterdam Film Festival

Grand Award, Graz Film and Architecture Film Festival

## Robinson In Ruins

Dir/scr Patrick Keiller

Narrator Vanessa Redgrave

2010 / col / 101 mins

Newly released from prison, mysterious would-be scholar Robinson has been haunting the Oxfordshire countryside with a cine camera. A few months later, film cans and a notebook are discovered in a derelict caravan: the results of his search for the origins of capitalist catastrophe in the English landscape. Researchers assemble the material as a film, narrated by their institution's co-founder (voiced Vanessa Redgrave).

## Shiraz

Dir Franz Osten

Cast Himansu Rai, Charu Roy, Seeta Devi, Enkashi Rama Rao, Profulla Kumar

1928 / B&W / 118 min

HISTORICAL DRAMA

Shiraz is based on the true story of the 17th century Mughal ruler Shah Jahan, his queen and the building of the world's most beautiful monument to love, the Taj Mahal. Shot entirely in India, it features lavish costumes and gorgeous settings, including the extraordinary fort at Agra. Himansu Rai (also the film's producer) stars as the humble potter Shiraz, who follows his childhood sweetheart Selima (Enakshi Rama Rau) when she is sold by slave traders to the future emperor. Newly restored by the BFI National Archive, and looking better than it ever has, the film also features a new score from world-renowned sitar player and composer Anoushka Shankar.

## Shooting Stars

Dir A.V. Bramble

Cast Annette Benson, Brian Aherne, Donald Calthrop, Chili Bouchier, Wally Patch

1929 / B&W / 80 min

DRAMA

Actor Julian Gordon discovers that his actress wife Mae Feather is having an affair with screen comedian Andy Wilks and instigates divorce proceedings that could potentially ruin her career. A desperate Feather decides to kill Gordon by patting a real bullet in a prop gun being used in the production of his latest film. A mix-up results in the gun being used in another production, one starring Wilks who is subsequently shot and killed. Gordon goes ahead with the divorce and goes on to become a successful director while Feather's career is destroyed. Years later she turns up as an extra in one of his films.

## Silent Scream

Dir David Hayman

Scr Bill Beech

Cast Iain Glen, Paul Samson, Andrew Barr, Robert Carlyle

1989 / col / 85 mins

DRAMA

'Iain Glen gives a superb performance at the centre of this imaginative debut feature about Larry Winters, the murderer committed to Barnlinnie, Scotland's toughest prison, who was a ringleader of the riots of the 70s, was drugged into submission by the authorities and died of his addiction... Hayman's film, shot by Denis Crossan almost as if it comes straight out of Winters' head like some terrible dreamscape, and scripted by Bill Beech with sparing veracity, is not your average British product. It inhabits a Scots world that is totally different from that of Bill Forsyth... It is forceful, angry and rough at the edges... It should on no account be ignored.' *The Guardian*

'A knockout performance from Iain Glen.' *Variety*

Michael Powell Award, Edinburgh Film Festival

Best Film, BAFTA Scotland

Metro Award, Birmingham Film Festival

Best Actor (Iain Glen), Berlin Film Festival

Best Actor (Iain Glen), Evening Standard Awards

## Silent Shakespeare

Dir Various

UK/US/Italy / 1899-1911 / b&w/tinted / 88 mins (total) / silent with new score

This unique collection of early film adaptations of Shakespeare includes *The Tempest* (1908), *King Lear* (1910), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1909), *Twelfth Night* (1910), *The Merchant of Venice* (1910), *Richard III* (1911) and the earliest Shakespeare film ever made - *King John* (1899), featuring the great actor-manager Herbert Beerbohm Tree. Shown during the 1997 Academy Awards broadcast, *King John*

was seen by over a quarter of the world's population! Silent Shakespeare films have much to tell us about contemporary staging, acting styles, cultural assumptions, how the early cinema saw itself, and (of course) Shakespeare. The exuberance, invention, beauty and conviction of these films prove that 'silent' Shakespeare is not a contradiction in terms.

'The BFI should be congratulated on this tape. It provides a rare opportunity to see these beautiful early films which are now much too fragile to project.' Martin Scorsese

'The simplification of structure [of the plays] offers the potential of taking the viewer to the core of each play, revealing the primal qualities of Shakespeare's stories.' New York Times

## Sixth Happiness

Dir Waris Hussein

Scr Firdaus Kanga

Cast Firdaus Kanga, Souad Faress, Nina Wadia, Meera Syal

1997 / col / 98 mins

ASIAN DRAMA LESBIAN/GAY

Firdaus Kanga adapts and stars in this film of his autobiographical novel, *Trying To Grow*. Told with considerable humour, the film examines the difficult life of a young Parsi boy with Brittle Bone Disease.

## Speak Like a Child

Dir John Akomfrah

Scr Danny Padmore

Cast Cal Macaninch, Rachel Fielding, Richard Mylan, Daniel Newman

1998 / col / 76 mins

BLACK DRAMA GENDER

*Speak Like a Child* charts the psychological journey of three friends whose intense *ménage à trois* relationship evolves during their years in a children's home on the Northumbrian coast. Told through flashback, this lyrical and poignant film explores the unique bond of friendship between the troubled teenagers, and how these complex dynamics have developed when the friends reunite fifteen years later.

*Speak Like a Child* marks the feature debut of the acclaimed documentary director of *Seven Songs for Malcolm X*, *Handsworth Songs* and *Testament*.

## Still Image

Dir Mike Dunford, Terry Berman, Jorge Dana

1976 / col / 60 mins

AVANT-GARDE

Deconstruction of Sounds & Images in Avant-Garde Polemic

## Straight to Hell

Dir Alex Cox

Cast Sy Richardson, Joe Strummer, Dick Rude, Courtney Love, Biff Yeager

1987 / col / 86 min

COMEDY WESTERN

Spoof Western about three useless outlaws and their attempts to live off the money they stole from a bank.

## Strip Jack Naked

Dir Ron Peck

Scr Ron Peck, Paul Hallam

Cast Ken Robertson, Derek Jarman

1991 col/b&w / 96 mins

LESBIAN/GAY

'Starts out as an account of making the director's earlier *Nighthawks*; it ends as a compelling look-back at growing up gay in London. Ron Peck has written a farewell note to England's last three decades - inked with humour, politics, and a penchant for posing pouches... It's a typical gay biography, full of smart and sad self-reflections...

To shots of London's spooky suburban streets and a montage of teen lust objects, Peck describes following a senior boy home from school - for no clear reason, only to have the lad repudiate his innocent admirer in public... One of the most honest and abrasive British biographies ever made.' San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival

## Three Businessmen

Dir Alex Cox

Cast Miguel Sandoval, Robert Wisdom, Alex Cox, Isabel Ampudia, Charlie Ryan

1999 / col / 80 min

COMEDY

The three businessmen of the title, two art dealers and another man, find themselves on a surreal journey. The journey starts for the two art dealers one evening in Liverpool as they search for a place to have dinner, and eventually leads them to a desert and their contact with the third man.

## Time Gentlemen Please!

Dir Lewis Gilbert

Cast Eddie Byrne, Raymond Lovell, Hermione Baddeley, Sidney James, Marjorie Rhodes

1952 / B&W / 83 min

COMEDY

When the Prime Minister announces a visit to the village of Little Heyhoe in recognition of its 100% employment record, the local council has to decide what to do about the thorn in its side: local tramp and drinker Dan Dance. They agree to have him put in the local almshouse but it emerges that as a resident there he is entitled to an inheritance which he spends in the local pub.

## Underground

Dir Anthony Asquith

Cast Elissa Landi, Brian Aherne, Nora Haring, Cyril McLaglen

1928 / B&W / 80 min

ROMANCE

Story of an electrician and an underground porter who both fall in love with a shop girl.

## Veronico Cruz

(La Deuda Interna aka The Debt)

Dir/scr Miguel Pereira

Cast Juan José Camero, Gonzales Morales, René Olayguivel

Argentina / 1987 / col / 96 mins / subtitles

DRAMA

This profound and moving film traces the life of Veronico Cruz, a young Argentinian boy growing up in a remote village, his friendship with his teacher and finally his departure on the fated *Belgrano* to fight for his country.

'A remarkable feature debut.' Screen International

'A most auspicious debut for Pereira, who tells his story and makes his dramatic points almost entirely in visual terms.... Cinematographer Gerry Feeny's crisp images make you feel you are actually breathing the thin, clear air of the Andes.' The Observer

'A genuine and very effective attempt to illustrate the backwardness and large-scale poverty which provided the cannon-fodder for the military dictatorship's "Malvinas Conflict".' The Guardian

Silver Bear, Berlin Film Festival  
Special Jury Prize, Chicago Film Festival

## Winstanley

Dir/scr Kevin Brownlow, Andrew Mollo  
Cast Miles Halliwell, Jerome Willis, Terry Higgins, Phil Oliver  
1975 / b&w / 96 mins  
DRAMA

1649, post-Civil War England. Gerrard Winstanley, ex-soldier and ruined cloth merchant, leads a group of poor men and women, the Diggers, to claim St George's Hill in Surrey as common land and establish a settlement, living as equals. But the local villagers see the Diggers as a threat to their livelihood and, led by a Presbyterian parson, take action to harass and burn them out. Brownlow and Mollo set out to make an absolutely historical film, accurate in every detail - including the use of rare breeds of animals dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century - while embellishing the story with luminous images consciously indebted to silent cinema, which suggest that the English climate, as much as the selfish conservatism of the English people, was responsible for this early failure of socialist ideals.

'The most mysteriously beautiful English film since the best of Michael Powell.' Film Comment  
'*Winstanley* makes the period plushness of *Shakespeare in Love* and Merchant-Ivory look like window dressing... Seeps into your consciousness like the photos in the most intimate family albums... A must see.' Chicago Reader

'Close to perfect! Somewhere between *Andrei Rublev* and *Days of Heaven*... An astonishing, precise, gorgeously photographed, harshly poetic work'. New City

'Brimming with stunningly beautiful images. A powerful, poetic film.' New York Post

## Women in Tropical Places

Dir Penny Woolcock  
Scr Candy Guard, Penny Woolcock  
Cast Alison Doody, Scarlet O'Hara, Huffy Reah  
1990 / col / 88 mins  
COMEDY GENDER

An Argentinian expatriate arrives in Newcastle to marry her fiancé... but he has vanished. Alison Doody (*Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*) stars in this bizarre and original mix of cabaret turns, social commentary and frustrated libidos.

## Working Title: Journeys From Berlin/1971

Dir/scr Yvonne Rainer  
Cast Annette Michelson, Ilona Halberstadt  
1980 / col/b&w / 125 mins  
GENDER

Yvonne Rainer's fourth feature film is also her most ambitious, dealing with both moral and political questions whilst exploring the parameters of an *alternative* cinema. A woman is shown in constant psychoanalysis, whilst her analyst metamorphoses from man to woman to boy and back again. This is intercut with anecdotal accounts of female terrorism from Russian anarchists to Ulrike Meinhof.

'Fascinating and formidable.' Financial Times

## You're only Young Twice!

Dir Terry Bishop  
Cast Duncan MacRae, Joseph Tomelty, Patrick Barr, Charles Hawtrey, Diane Hart  
1952 / B&W / 81 min  
COMEDY

Comedy about the arrival of a new lord rector at Skerryvore University. The Lord Rector turns out to be a beautiful young woman, Ada Shore.

# BLACK AND ASIAN BRITAIN

## Burning an Illusion

Dir/scr Menelik Shabazz

Cast Cassie McFarlane, Victor Romero, Beverley Martin

1981 / col / 101 mins

BLACK DRAMA GENDER

This finely acted film explores the experiences of Pat, a young black woman, as she's forced into encounters with sexism and racism in her attempt to negotiate some kind of a future in the defensively macho world around her.

'Cassie McFarlane gives a superb performance as Pat, a black woman with middle-class ambitions, a steady job and a pleasant flat, into whose life and finally bed intrudes restless Del (Victor Romero, also excellent), a natural if guilty exploiter who loses his job and lands up in jail... This burns.' *New Statesman*

'Powerfully evokes young black lifestyles in the London of the Eighties.' *City Limits*

'Inspiring... A superbly judged performance from Cassie McFarlane.' *Daily Telegraph*

Best Newcomer (Cassie McFarlane) *Evening Standard Awards*

## Fords on Water

Dir/scr Barry Bliss

Cast Elvis Payne, Mark Wingett

1984 / col / 83 mins

BLACK DRAMA

'Two London kids, one black, one white, are cast into the outer darkness of the dole. But as this duo leave behind the night-locked city, speeding northwards in a stolen motor, it's soon clear that Bliss' first feature celebrates resistance, not resignation; and that with its lustrous, colourful images and laconic screenplay, its jump cuts and jazzy score, it owes less to drab naturalism than to the moody poetry of Neil Jordan's *Angel*, spiked with *nouvelle vague* verve and nerve. There's much to enjoy: an irreverent sense of humour, a great saxy soundtrack, and above all an upbeat ending that has Thatcher's flotsam cheekily waving, not drowning.' *Time Out*

'Strikingly original... A relevant and powerful movie.' *Sunday Times*

'Imaginative and inventive.' *Variety*

## Pressure

Dir Horace Ové

Scr Horace Ové, Samuel Selvon

Cast Herbert Norville, Oscar James, Sheila Scott-Wilkinson, Frank Singuineau

1974 / col / 110 mins

BLACK DRAMA

Horace Ové's Notting Hill-based feature remains a landmark in British cinema and a far cry from the world of Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts. Following the experiences of Tony, the English-born son of Trinidadian parents thrown between the demands and expectations of both black and white worlds, *Pressure* refuses to supply easy answers to Tony's problems, and, over a quarter of a century later, provides an important dialogue on issues that are still extremely pertinent.

'Britain's first 'black' feature deals honestly and realistically with what life is like for a school-leaver who is black: the futile job interviews, the patronising platitudes, people's simple inability to comprehend that black cannot only be beautiful but also English.' *Time Out*

'A very significant achievement... No one remotely serious about British cinema should fail to see it.' *The Guardian*

## A Private Enterprise

Dir Peter Smith

Scr Peter Smith, Dilip Hiro

Cast Salman Peer, Marc Zuber, Ramon Sinha, Diana Quick

1975 / col / 78 mins

ASIAN DRAMA

Peter Smith's first feature deals with the moral, social and economic contradictions into which Shiv, an Asian man living in Birmingham, is plunged by his efforts to climb the middle-class entrepreneurial ladder of success. He fails to support his fellow workers in their strike for better conditions or their struggles with white union officials. He tries to reject a profitable arranged marriage, but finds that the English woman whom he prefers regards him as a collectable exotic. Unable to set up his own business, he agrees to work for his uncle, only to have the factory burn down with his uncle inside. This catalogue of disasters is treated with considerable humour and sympathy, which does not exclude a clear-eyed and concrete analysis of the problems created by racism and class conflict for an Asian man alienated both from English society and his own culture.

## Young Soul Rebels

Dir Isaac Julien

Scr Paul Hallam, Derrick Saldaan McClintock, Isaac Julien

Cast Valentine Nonyela, Mo Sesay, Frances Barber, Sophie Okonedo

1991 / col / 105 mins

BLACK DRAMA LESBIAN/GAY

'A delightfully rebellious debut feature from Isaac Julien about sex, politics, music and friendship in 1977 London. Longtime buddies Chris and Caz operate a pirate radio station, spinning the sounds of Funkadelic, Sylvester and the O'Jays. The story of their relationship, their involvement in a vibrant black youth movement, and the murder that threatens to rip their friendship apart, is set against the patriotic fervour of the Queen's Silver Jubilee.' *SF Weekly*

'*Young Soul Rebels* looks back at history from a viewpoint that is neither heterosexist nor white, and the result is a revisionist tale that tells the overlooked truths about punk's boom year... A landmark film.' *San Francisco Examiner*

'A deft combination of thriller and love story... Gorgeous, defiant and a wicked soundtrack to boot.' *Good Times*

FIPRESCI Award, Cannes Film Festival

# TERENCE DAVIES

## Distant Voices, Still Lives

Dir/scr Terence Davies

Cast Freda Dowie, Pete Postlethwaite, Angela Walsh, Lorraine Ashbourne

1988 / col / 84 mins

DRAMA

'The best British film in years and maybe the best autobiographical film ever. This two-part tale of a Liverpool family in the war and post-war years has a dazzling force and originality. It is in part an animated family album, part threnody for a dead England, part tragedy, part comedy. It is even part musical... The film has that unmistakable stamp of greatness: complete particularity of place, time and character, combined with universality of emotion.' *Financial Times*

'Through a fragmented, emotionally associative series of almost ritualistic gatherings drawn from his own family's memories of the 40s and 50s, Davies paints a uniquely vivid picture of the painfully restrictive knots bound around a working-class family by a stern, unforgiving patriarch who lords it over his wife, son and daughters with menace and brute force... Ambitious, intelligent and profoundly moving, the film thrills with a passion, integrity and imagination unseen in British cinema since the days of Powell and Pressburger.' *Time Out*

FIPRESCI Prize, Cannes Film Festival  
Golden Leopard Award, Locarno Film Festival  
FIPRESCI Prize, Toronto Film Festival  
Best Foreign Film, Los Angeles Film Critics Association

## The Terence Davies Trilogy

Dir/scr Terence Davies

Cast Phillip Maudesley, Terry O'Sullivan, Wilfred Brambell, Sheila Raynor

DRAMA LESBIAN/GAY

'Davies transforms his account of Liverpoolian Robert Tucker's development from victimised schoolboy,

though a closeted, Catholic gay middle age, and final death in a hospital, into a rich, resonant tapestry of impressionistic detail. There is plenty to enjoy: a bleak, wry wit and an imaginative use of music undercutting the grim but beautiful imagery; flashes of appropriate surrealism; and superb performances throughout... But what really elevates the films into their own timeless realm is the luminous attention to faces in close-up: a stylish strategy that turns an otherwise chastening look at a lonely man's life into an uplifting experience.' *Time Out*

'One of the best endeavours from the bfi in artistic quality and in raw emotional power.' *Variety*

## Children

1976 / b&w / 46 mins

A devastating evocation of Robert Tucker's troubled childhood trapped in a world of guilt and frustration.

'Painful, demanding, personal and beautifully made.' *Films and Filming*

## Madonna and Child

1980 / b&w / 30 mins

Now middle-aged, Tucker is torn between his sexual desires, the demands of Catholicism and devotion to his mother.

## Death and Transfiguration

1983 / b&w / 26 mins

The final section of the Trilogy features Tucker as an elderly, dying man attempting to come to terms with his emotions and memories of the past.

'Remarkable.' *Monthly Film Bulletin*

'Not an easy film to forget... A landmark.' *The Guardian*

# DEREK JARMAN

'My most austere work, but also the closest to my heart.' Derek Jarman

## The Angelic Conversation

Dir/scr Derek Jarman

Cast Paul Reynolds, Phillip Williamson

1985 / col / 78 mins

LESBIAN/GAY

'After *The Tempest*, Jarman has turned to [Shakespeare's] sonnets, read on the soundtrack by Judi Dench in sweetly undulating, echoing tones... He uses Shakespeare's words as a springboard for a melancholy reverie about sexual desire... In these flickering grainy images, young men peer through windows, clamber over rocky terrain and anoint themselves with water and kisses: the soundtrack, meanwhile, offers volatile music, the ticks of the grandfather clock, sea gulls, splashing water and, of course, Dench... There is ample evidence in its dreamlike images of Jarman's singular poetic gift - a rare commodity in British cinema.' *The Times*

'This is cinema-as-painting, a guise we see it in far too seldom, and superbly achieved.' Financial Times  
'A hypnotically beautiful film.' Time Out

## Caravaggio

Dir/scr Derek Jarman

Cast Nigel Terry, Sean Bean, Tilda Swinton, Dexter Fletcher

1986 / col / 93 mins

DRAMA LESBIAN/GAY

Jarman's life and death of the great Renaissance artist is a sumptuous visual feast told in a series of magnificent tableaux. As Caravaggio (Nigel Terry) lies dying, his mind drifts back, remembering his brutal, sensual relationship with favoured model, Ranuccio Thomasoni (Sean Bean), and Ranuccio's mistress, Lena (Tilda Swinton). It is a mischievous, imaginative and ambitious rendering of the artist's life and firmly established Jarman's position as a filmmaker of international standing.

'One of the most visually handsome of British films.' The Times

'Starkly sensuous... The breakthrough for a true maverick on the British scene.' Village Voice

'Tense, atmospheric, inventive... a tour de force.' The Guardian

'One has to go back a long way, perhaps as far as *Laurence of Arabia*, to find a British film to compare with *Caravaggio* for sheer confidence of visual style... a landmark in British cinema.' The Scotsman  
Silver Bear, Berlin Film Festival

## Wittgenstein

Dir Derek Jarman

Scr Derek Jarman, Terry Eagleton, Ken Butler

Cast Karl Johnson, Clancy Chassay, Tilda Swinton, Michael Gough

1993 / col / 75 mins

DRAMA LESBIAN/GAY

'Brings to life the seriously eccentric philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein: Viennese millionaire's son, school teacher, WWI infantry officer, hospital porter, gardener, naturalised Briton and homosexual... Thanks to genuinely engaging performances, as well as a witty script and economical direction, this turns treatise into a treat.' Time Out

'Immensely enjoyable... It presents a revealing introduction to the remarkable career and to a difficult, self-questioning man of austere probity. Without talking down to the audience, the film suggests the urgency and vitality of a complex body of writing, at once both mystical and logical, that investigates the function of language and the validity of philosophy.' The Observer

'One of the best films Jarman has made.' The Guardian

Teddy Award, Berlin Film Festival

# PETER GREENAWAY

## The Draughtsman's Contract

Dir/scr Peter Greenaway

Mus Michael Nyman

Cast Anthony Higgins, Janet Suzman, Anne Louise Lambert

1982 / col / 108 mins

DRAMA

'Its pleasures do not fade... One can still marvel at this cerebral romp of a film that combines both 17<sup>th</sup> century country house murder mystery with a witty treatise on sex, lies and draughtsmanship.

Greenaway fashions this cinematic world with elegant precision – even the shadows and clouds in his film seem to be on as nimble a cue as Michael Nyman's band who play the boisterous score. A playful puzzler to watch over and over, that might just be the aesthete's version of Gameboy.' The Guardian

'Astonishingly elegant... As mind-bendingly rich to listen to as to see.' New York Times

'A masterpiece.' Time Out

'*The Draughtsman's Contract* proclaimed the arrival of Peter Greenaway with a blast on the Baroque Trumpet. Few directors can have contrived so piercing an announcement of their talent... his masterpiece.' *The Independent*

'*The Falls* was a watershed for me, containing a great many events, ideas, concepts and conceits which I have since expanded and developed.' Peter Greenaway

## The Falls

Dir/scr Peter Greenaway

Cast Peter Westley, Aad Wirtz, Michael Murray, Lorna Poulter

1980 / col / 185 mins

Assembled over a five-year period from a combination of self-generated and found film footage, *The Falls* is a pivotal work in Greenaway's career. Shot as a fake documentary and assembled from a dazzling array of fictive elements, *The Falls* takes the form of a directory detailing the biographies of the 92 victims of the Violent Unknown Event (or V.U.E.), a mysterious apocalyptic occurrence that has left a substantial section of the British public speaking bizarre, invented languages, dreaming of water and identifying themselves with birds.

'A three-hour British masterpiece.' *Financial Times*

'For those who like riddles, a crostics, sudden excursions, romantic insights and the eerie music of Michael Nyman (plus bits of Brian Eno)... come to Xanadu.' *Time Out*

'Electrifyingly intelligent... monstrously clever.' *Village Voice*

BFI Film Award

L'Age d'Or, Brussels Film Festival

'A one-legged woman is queen in the land of the legless.'

## A Zed and Two Noughts

Dir/scr Peter Greenaway

Cast Andréa Ferréol, Brian Deacon, Eric Deacon, Frances Barber

1985 / col / 115 mins

DRAMA

A car collides with a swan outside Rotterdam Zoo. Two women passengers die and the driver, Alma Bewick, has to have her leg amputated. Obsessed with the accident, the husbands of the dead women – Siamese twins Oswald and Oliver – embark on an affair with Alma and soon begin experimenting with the time-lapse aesthetics of decay... *A Zed and Two Noughts* is a visceral and cerebral treat, as dead animals decompose to the jokey rhythms of Michael Nyman, symmetry is elevated beyond obsession, and Sascha Vierny's cinematography pays homage to Vermeer. Full of surprises and magnificent conundrums, Greenaway's third feature is as perversely comic and teasing as it is shocking.

'Immensely entertaining... Wickedly funny... How could you fail to love a film that features a prostitute who tells erotic stories about frogs...?' *New Musical Express*

'The mixture of blackest farce and artistic erudition would be ridiculous in anything but the most assured hands, and Greenaway once again proves his mastery of the medium. Intellectually vigorous and artfully persuasive.' *The Face*

# NORTH AND SOUTH, Irish Images

## Ascendancy

Dir Edward Bennett

Scr Edward Bennett, Nigel Gearing

Cast Julie Covington, Ian Charleson, John Phillips, Susan Engel

1982 / col / 85 mins

DRAMA

Set in Ulster in 1920, *Ascendancy* is a powerful meditation on Northern Ireland's tormented history, focusing on the story of Connie (Julie Covington), a shipbuilder's daughter, as she begins to take on the

burden of responsibility for both the Great War and the increasingly volatile political situation. Bennett uses Connie's cata tonic state as a reflection of the deteriorating political situation in Ireland in the period leading up to Partition when the Protestants (backed by the Army) threatened insurrection if Ulster was not separated from the South.

'The most successful attempt so far by any British filmmaker to formulate a creative response to Britain's long-standing Irish Problem.' Variety

'Acutely of and for today... So good a film that I long to go overboard about it.' Sunday Times

'An intelligent film of chilly distinction. One is constantly held by the precision of social detailing, the unblinking style, the elliptical editing.' The Observer

'A considerable artistic achievement.' Daily Telegraph

Golden Bear, Berlin Film Festival

## Down the Corner

Dir Joe Comerford

Scr Noel McFarlane

Cast Joe Keenan, Declan Cronin, Kevin Doyle, Christy Keogh

1977 / col / 60 mins /

DRAMA

Focusing on the activities of five boys, aged between twelve and fourteen, living in a working-class estate outside Dublin, *Down the Corner* attempts to speak to, as well as about, those people it represents. It is particularly strong in its presentation of the desultory, rather empty lives of the boys, so that we are almost entirely restricted to their world and their impressions of the adult world around them. There is vitality as well as authenticity in the scenes where the boys fool about, or plan and execute their raid on an orchard – a remarkable co-operative effort which turns scrumping almost into an industrial enterprise. Altogether, the film is a vivid evocation of the gap between the generations and of life lived 'down the corner'.

## Maeve

Dir Pat Murphy, John Davies

Scr Pat Murphy

Cast Mary Jackson, Mark Mulholland

1981 / col / 109 mins

DRAMA GENDER

Made in 1981, before both *Ascendancy* (above) and *Cal*, *Maeve* was groundbreaking in its exploration of The Troubles in contemporary Belfast.

'Vividly sketches the realities of day-to-day existence alongside terrorism and unpredictable outbursts of violence. *Maeve* certainly doesn't neglect the Catholic-Protestant schism, but its primary concern is for the individuals and how they come to terms with their confusing and frightening inheritance....

Maeve returns to her Irish Republican home in Belfast from a visit to London. The homecoming reinforces her sense of solidarity with the friends and neighbours who have lived under the shadow of civil war for most of Maeve's conscious memory... Scene after scene is unexpectedly eloquent in its evocation of a divided community and the pressures of trying to maintain an appearance of normality within it... A film that has brain, heart and guts.' Sunday Telegraph

## On a Paving Stone Mounted

Dir/scr Thaddeus O'Sullivan

Cast Stephen Rea, Gabriel Byrne, Miriam Margolyes, Christy Moore

1978 / b&w / 96 mins

DRAMA

St Patrick came to Ireland 'on a paving stone mounted', and Thaddeus O'Sullivan's debut as director consists of a collage of sequences loosely related to Irish history from the time of St Patrick to the present day. Focusing on the Irish experience of emigration/exile to London, the film depicts the emigrant's journey - a confusion of anticipation, memories and experience. The film is also about the Irish oral tradition of storytelling, as underlined by the casting of Eamon Kelly, a professional story

teller, who relates the saga of Mick the Fiddler and his time in Manhattan. And Miriam Margolyes waxes lyrically about the sensual pleasures of swimming naked off the Galway coast! Featuring an array of performances by major stars before they hit the big time, this is a personal scrapbook - full of rich, grainy images, overheard conversations and *objets trouvés* - and its true pleasure is to be found in its many voices and multifaceted stories.

## Traveller

Dir Joe Comerford

Scr Neil Jordan

Cast Angela Devine, Davy Spillane, Alan Devlin

1981 / col / 80 mins

DRAMA

This powerful and bleak picture combines the work of three of Irish cinema's major talents: the underrated Joe Comerford, Thaddeus O'Sullivan, here working as a cinematographer, and Neil Jordan turning in his first feature script the year before he went on to make *Angel*. Sharing some of the same bizarre thriller quality as *Angel*, *Traveller* tells the story of two teenage tinkers, Angela and Michael, reluctantly married and almost equally reluctant to engage in a smuggling expedition into Northern Ireland. After they crash their van, Michael impulsively robs a post office, forcing them to go on the run, a journey that leads to unexpected tragedy.

# WOMEN ON FILM

## Doll's Eye

Dir Jan Worth

Scr Annie Brown, Anne Cottringer, Jan Worth

Cast Sandy Ratcliff, Bernice Stegers, Lynne Worth

1982 / col / 75 mins

DRAMA GENDER

'Examines contradictory male attitudes to women as they affect a researcher, a prostitute and a switchboard operator. Documentary evidence and fictionalised scenes are interwoven to produce a daunting picture of incomprehension and abuse... There are plenty of incidental pleasures along the way; not least Worth's sharp eye for absurdity, and her resolve to forge a style of British political cinema that is daring and informative as well as entertaining.' *Time Out*

## The Gold Diggers

Dir Sally Potter

Scr Lindsay Cooper, Rose English, Sally Potter

Cast Julie Christie, Colette Laffont

1983 / b&w / 89 mins

GENDER

The first feature from the director of *Orlando*, *The Tango Lesson* and *The Man Who Cried* is a key film of early Eighties feminist cinema, embracing a radical, experimental structure and made with an all-woman crew. Colette (Colette Laffont), a black French woman working in the City as a computer operator at a bank, begins to investigate the significance of the figures she copies, despite discouragement from her male bosses, and discovers gold to be the secret key to the circulation of money. Ruby (Julie Christie), a beautiful, blonde star, is a cipher passed from man to man in a ballroom until she's rescued by Colette who bursts in on horseback. Through Colette's questioning, Ruby begins to understand her role as a woman and cinematic icon, pursuing her own memories and the history of movie heroines.

'Crammed with metaphors and metamorphoses involving ice and gold, film and feminism, politics and pleasure... Visually entrancing... An absorbing pleasure.' *City Limits*

'A feminist sci-fi musical extravaganza ... Remains consistently fresh and unpredictable.' Sight and Sound

## Rapunzel Let Down Your Hair

Dir/scr Susan Shapiro, Esther Ronay, Francine Winham

Cast Margaret Ford, Rachel Steel

1978 / col / 78 mins

GENDER LESBIAN/GAY

The story of Rapunzel is first read by a mother to her child and animated as the child's dream. Then, *Rashomon*-like, the film presents the versions of the Prince (a detective thriller), the Witch (melodramatic soap opera) and Rapunzel (rockumentary). The result is an extraordinary lesbian feminist reinterpretation of the Brothers Grimm.

## Riddles of the Sphinx

Dir/scr Laura Mulvey, Peter Wollen

Cast Dinah Stabb, Merdel Jordine

1977 / col / 92 mins

GENDER

'*Riddles of the Sphinx* places the simple story of a mother/child relationship in the wholly unexpected context of the myth of Orpheus' encounter with the Sphinx; its achievement is to make that context seem both logical and necessary. First off, the story: a broken marriage, an over-possessive mother, a growing awareness of feminist issues, a close female friend, and a newly questioning spirit of independence. Then, underpinning it, the myth, which introduces a set of basic questions about the female unconscious... The mixture of feminist politics and Freudian theory would be enough in itself to make the film unusually interesting, but various other elements make it compelling: the beautiful, hypnotic score, the tantalising blend of visual, aural and literary narration..., and the firm intelligence that informs the film's unique and seductive overall structure.' Time Out  
'A fascinatingly original cinematic hybrid.' Financial Times

## The Song of the Shirt

Dir/scr Susan Clayton, Jonathan Curling

Cast Martha Gibson, Geraldine Pilgrim

1979 / b&w / 135 mins

GENDER

The plight of women in the rag trade in London's East End during the 1840s is explored in this didactic drama documentary. Using dramatised scenes, stills and video material, the film traces the development of a chain of seamstresses' workshops, linked to a central wholesaler - a system which depends on rigorous subdivision of labour and paying just enough to keep the workers just above starvation level.

'Remarkably ambitious... What should be stressed is the pleasure afforded by its strategic variation of image quality (video, etchings, stills) and by a witty score (by members of the Feminist Improvisation Group) which challenges the conventions of film music.' Time Out

## Stella Does Tricks

Dir Coky Giedroyc

Scr A.L. Kennedy

Cast Kelly Macdonald, James Bolam, Hans Matheson

1996 / col / 97 mins

DRAMA GENDER

'Tough but tender, and kaleidoscopic in its emotions, *Stella Does Tricks* reps a major feature bow by former documaker Coky Giedroyc. Toplined by an eye-popping, confident performance from Kelly Macdonald [*Trainspotting*, *No Country for Old Men*] as an underage hooker looking for a fresh start...

Macdonald is simply terrific, whether releasing her anger by trashing parked cars as she totters down a street in heels, miniskirt and a teddy-bear backpack; confidently conning a john with what he thinks is rectally applied marijuana; or simply dreaming of the future whose shape she can't even see.' Variety  
'Macdonald is absolutely compelling.' Times  
'Macdonald gives a wonderful performance, both innocent and saucy, and is able to show the joy that a lowly job on a flower stall can give a girl grappling towards a self-respect she has never been allowed to have before.' Daily Telegraph

## Under the Skin

Dir/scr Carine Adler

Cast Samantha Morton, Claire Rushbrook, Rita Tushingham, Stuart Townsend

1997 / col / 83 mins

DRAMA GENDER

*Under the Skin* launched the careers of two major British talents: Carine Adler and Academy Award nominee Samantha Morton.

'An acute psychological portrait of a young woman, Iris Kelly (Samantha Morton), experiencing a breakdown followed by a partial reintegration after the death of her mother from cancer... Iris believes her elder sister, Rose, was her mother's favourite, and this has exacerbated her distress and her revolt against Rose's values. In quick time, Iris leaves her boyfriend, abandons her job and launches into a life of drunkenness and promiscuity. Her confusion and lack of self-esteem take her on a journey of a basement and degradation. But such is the power of Morton's courageous performance that Iris becomes increasingly sympathetic as her behaviour gets more and more desperate and self-destructive.' The Observer

'A daring, dazzling film that will shake your body and soul... Unmissable.' Sight and Sound

'The most promising debut since *Reservoir Dogs*. This is what motion pictures are for.' Time Out New York

'A raw and revealing psychodrama of sex and death... A breathtaking debut.' Premiere

Michael Powell Award, Edinburgh Film Festival

Audience Award, Edinburgh Film Festival

FIPRESCI Award, Toronto Film Festival

Best Actress (Samantha Morton), Gijon Film Festival