

A Clockwork Orange

Directed by Stanley Kubrick

UK/US 1971, 136 mins, Cert 18

A BFI release

"There was me, that is Alex, and my three droogs, that is Pete, Georgie, and Dim, and we sat in the Korova Milkbar trying to make up our rassoodocks what to do with the evening. The Korova milkbar sold milk-plus, milk plus vellocet or synthemesc or drencom, which is what we were drinking. This would sharpen you up and make you ready for a bit of the old ultra-violence."

With Malcolm McDowell, Patrick Magee, Michael Bates, Warren Clarke



First UK-wide re-release in 19 years
Opening at cinemas around the country from 5 April 2019

13 February 2019 – Only two years away from its 50th anniversary, **Stanley Kubrick's** adaptation of Anthony Burgess's 1962 decline-of-civilisation novel, **A Clockwork Orange**, remains a chilling, thrilling and unsettling cinematic vision of nihilistic violence and social control. Released by the BFI in cinemas around the UK from **5 April 2019**, this will be the first UK-wide re-release of *A Clockwork Orange* since 2000, enabling another generation to see it on the big screen. The release is part of a **retrospective Stanley Kubrick season at BFI Southbank** (1 April – 31 May) and coincides with **Stanley Kubrick: The Exhibition at The Design Museum** (26 April – 15 September) which the BFI is partnering with.

Stuart Brown, BFI Head of Programme and Acquisitions comments:

"Stanley Kubrick occupies a singular position in the history of cinema, being arguably not just the greatest filmmaker but one of the greatest and most enigmatic artists of the 20th century in any medium. Kubrick's ability to convey bold and complex ideas to a mass audience, coupled with his now-infamously meticulous approach to his craft, produced films that were rich in meaning and have had unparalleled influence."

Set in a flamboyantly stylised near-future, where gangs of disenfranchised teenagers indulge in narcotic cocktails and revel in acts of 'ultraviolence', the film centres on charismatic but deadly Alex DeLarge (brilliantly portrayed by **Malcolm McDowell** in one of his most famous roles) and his band of equally brutal droogs; Dim (**Warren Clarke**), Georgie (**James Marcus**) and Pete (**Michael Tarn**). Eventually arrested and imprisoned, Alex shortens his sentence by agreeing to take part in a government-run experiment to cure offenders through aversion therapy – the Ludovico Technique – in which he is tied down, kept awake and forced to watch violent, sexual and anti-social activity while listening to Beethoven.

The story is narrated by Alex himself, speaking in 'Nadsat', a form of Russian-influenced English devised by Anthony Burgess who was also a linguist.

The violent attacks and rape scenes in the film made it highly controversial upon its release in the UK and in the glare of publicity Stanley Kubrick received death threats. He personally asked Warner Bros. to withdraw the film from distribution in 1974 and it was not seen on the big screen again in the UK until after his death in 1999.

Aside from its notoriety, *A Clockwork Orange* has been endlessly influential – its visual style, use of music and iconic costume and make-up design inspiring other filmmakers, musicians, performers and more.

The film received four Academy Award nominations; Best Picture, Best Director, Best Screenplay (Based on Material from Another Medium) and Best Film Editing, and seven BAFTAs; all of the above plus Best Cinematography, Best Art Direction and Best Soundtrack.

The BFI's re-release of *A Clockwork Orange* will be further contextualized by an event as part of BFI Southbank's regular *Philosophical Screens* series. This event, on Tuesday 16 April, will see the venue's regular film philosophers look at the violence and black humour in the film through a philosophical lens, exploring the ethics of watching violence onscreen, the representation of violence in the film and its impact on such issues as censorship.

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More film information and screening venues: www.bfi.org.uk/releases

Notes to Editors

- The two-month **Stanley Kubrick season at BFI Southbank** takes place from **1 April – 31 May 2019** with screenings of Kubrick's feature films plus his shorts. Screenings will be on celluloid when possible. Running alongside the season will be a series of 'Kubrickian' films, featuring work by directors such as Christopher Nolan, Lynne Ramsay, Jonathan Glazer and Paul Thomas Anderson. More details at www.bfi.org.uk/kubrick
- The season coincides with **Stanley Kubrick: The Exhibition**, taking place at **The Design Museum** from 26 April – 17 September. BFI Southbank and The Design Museum will partner on the season to produce an exciting and illuminating series of events taking place at both venues. More details at www.designmuseum.org

About the BFI

The BFI is the UK's lead organisation for film, television and the moving image. It is a cultural charity that:

- Curates and presents the greatest international public programme of World Cinema for audiences; in cinemas, at festivals and online
- Cares for the BFI National Archive – the most significant film and television archive in the world
- Actively seeks out and supports the next generation of filmmakers
- Works with Government and industry to make the UK the most creatively exciting and prosperous place to make film internationally

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.