



The Battle of the Sexes

Directed by Charles Crichton

Peter Sellers, Robert Morley, Constance Cummings and Donald Pleasence

Blu-ray/DVD release on 20 April 2020 with simultaneous release on BFI Player, iTunes and Amazon

Comedy genius Peter Sellers gives one of his greatest performances in this famously subtle, sharp-edged satire on sexual politics in the 1950s workplace, directed by Ealing legend Charles Crichton (*The Lavender Hill Mob*, *A Fish Called Wanda*). On 20 April 2020 the BFI releases *The Battle of the Sexes* on Blu-ray/DVD in a Dual Format Edition with

simultaneous release on BFI Player, iTunes and Amazon. A variety of special features include a series of Egg Marketing Board adverts starring Tony Hancock and Constance Cummings, *A Ghost of a Chance* – a Children’s Film Foundation comedy feature with an all-star cast and films about Scotland from the BFI National Archive.

The sleepy staff of Macpherson’s traditional Scottish tweed firm get a rude awakening when young Macpherson (Robert Morley, *Theatre of Blood*) hires a feisty American efficiency expert Angela Barrows (Constance Cummings, *Blithe Spirit*). She advocates new-fangled horrors like automation and – ghastliest of all – ‘synthetic fibre’. Can nothing stop her? Noting, perhaps, but meek accountant Mr Martin (Peter Sellers). Beneath that placid surface, still waters run deep; to balance the books, he decides, he must erase the ‘error’...

Special features

- Presented in High Definition and Standard Definition
- Hancock’s Hard Boiled Eggs: Sellers’ contemporary, the Lad from East Cheam himself, Tony Hancock, appears with *The Battle of the Sexes*’ Patricia Hayes in this cracking collection of 11 egg-cellent Egg Marketing Board adverts from 1966
- *A Ghost of a Chance* (1968, 50 mins): bonus feature-length fun for all the family as Sellers’ chum Graham Stark stars with Ronnie Barker, Patricia Hayes, Jimmy Edwards, Bernard Cribbins and Terry Scott in a corking Children’s Film Foundation comedy
- Images of Edinburgh in Archive Film: an atmospheric selection of rarely-seen short films capturing Scotland’s capital in the first half of the twentieth century, from the vaults of the BFI National Archive
- Woolly Wonders: evocative 1940s archive films of traditional Scottish clothmaking, shot in colour by the great Jack Cardiff
- Image gallery
- Illustrated booklet ***first pressing only*** with an essay by the BFI’s Vic Pratt; biographies of Charles Crichton, Constance Cummings, Robert Morley and James Thurber by Kieron McCormack; notes on the special features and full film credits

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Product details

RRP: £19.99 / Cat. no. BFIB1377 / Cert U

UK / 1960 / black and white / 84 mins / English language, with optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / original aspect ratio 1.66:1 // BD50: 1080p, 24fps, PCM 2.0 mono audio (48kHz/24-bit) / DVD9: PAL, 25fps, Dolby Digital 2.0 mono audio (320 kbps)

Press contact for more information:

Jill Reading, BFI Press Officer

E-mail: jill.reading@bfi.org.uk

Tel: (020) 7957 4759

@bfi

BFI DVD/Blu-ray releases can be ordered from home entertainment online retailers or from the BFI Shop (online only) at <https://shop.bfi.org.uk/>. However, shipping will be delayed until the Shop re-opens (date unknown at present).

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.

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