



PRESS RELEASE EMBARGOED UNTIL 12.30PM TUESDAY 7TH JULY

Britain On Film Offers A Unique New Look At Scotland's Hidden On-Screen Heritage

From 1950s water-skiers on Loch Earn to a jazz-scored look at industrial Edinburgh, via marauding Vikings in 1920s Lerwick and Skye fishermen grappling a shark, rarely and never-before-seen footage has been digitised and is available to all via the BFI player from 7th July

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

www.facebook.com/BritishFilmInstitute / #BritainOnFilm

A unique insight into Scotland's people and places will become available to everyone online this July as part of a major nationwide Britain on Film project from the BFI, Scottish Screen Archive and the UK's other national and regional archives.

The films – which span from the 1890's to the present day are a fascinating mix of rarely and never-before-seen amateur, commercial and documentary footage and have now been digitised and made available to watch for free online for the very first time via the BFI Player.¹ By 2017, thanks to National Lottery funding and the support of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, 10,000 film and TV titles from 1895 to the present day will be digitised.

Highlights from Scotland include:

Old Norse Vikings Festival – fascinating early footage from the 1927 Up Helly Aa Viking Festival in Lerwick, which is still going strong in 2015. The whole town gets into the spirit, dressing up as everything from walruses to sheep.

The Skimsters – the brave guys and girls bring a touch of bright Hollywood glamour to Loch Earn's waterskiing competition in the 1950's. This award-winning amateur film features some dazzling action camera-work.

Peddlers' Progress – a gloriously colourful 1940's romp through Loch Lomond and Glen Coe as a clean-cut gang of youngsters get on their bikes for a summer of sight-seeing. This charming travelogue features many of Scotland's youth hostels and is infused with a post-War sense of optimism.

Beneath The Skyline – Mark Littlewood's experimental urban soundscape paints a uniquely industrial portrait of 1960's Edinburgh

Salmon Fishing In Skye – traditional Hebridean salmon fishers encounter a large shark in their nets off the coast of Skye in this documentary footage from 1938

Mike Gets The Message – an endearingly deadpan exercise in road safety and the dangers of hanging off milk floats from Aberdeen High School's class of 1966.

¹ Over 90% of the film and TV content is free

Great Western Road 1980 – a real-time journey down the famous Glasgow thoroughfare, taking in shoppers, idlers, church-goers and businesses long-gone and still flourishing like Cooper’s pub.

The public are encouraged to use the archive and its special interactive map to explore their own film heritage, as a living document of their local area and personal family history.

While researching the project, **Heather Stewart, Creative Director, BFI**, discovered her great grandmother, grandmother and mother together on film in scenes from *Children’s Excursion* (1952) featuring Moniaive in Dumfries and Galloway, the village she grew up in. Heather said *“I have never seen my family on film before so to discover three generations together was a wonderful surprise. The emotional power of film is huge and Britain on Film has the ability to touch everyone in the UK. It’s vital that the UK’s film and TV archives – Britain’s national collection – can be enjoyed by everyone. Britain on Film changes the film and TV archive landscape forever. We have now created a way for the British public to discover and engage with their heritage like never before.”*

Robin Baker, Head Curator, BFI said *“For 120 years cameras have captured almost every aspect of life in the UK on film, but too often these have been inaccessible to all but the most determined researchers. Now, Britain on Film is transforming access to films from the UK’s archives and giving new life to them by making them available, no matter where you live.”*

The films – selected from both the Scottish Screen Archive and the BFI National Archive – will be available to view for free online from 7th July from <http://player.bfi.org.uk/britain-on-film>

Britain on Film will be reaching the British public in many different ways this summer all over the UK:

The BFI Film Audience Network (FAN) will be staging 85 screening events in 46 locations from Belfast to Canterbury and southern Wales to Inverness, with Scottish highlights including a pop-up cinema at Pollok House in Glasgow screening **Ronald Neame’s *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*** (1969) and **David Lean’s *Madeline*** (1950) alongside regionally specific archive footage.

Further UK-wide partnerships and activity includes:

- Highlights of each city will be shown on large, digital out of home screens in the key city centres of **Glasgow, Birmingham, Manchester, London, Liverpool and Leeds** throughout August, thanks to a new partnership with **Ocean Outdoor**. The Britain on Film trailer will be running across these screens in each city today. Those arriving or departing the UK by air will be inspired by Britain as it once was, with a new **BFI channel on British Airways in-flight entertainment** launching this month and featuring Britain on Film footage.

- From August, **Caffè Nero** will have viewing pods in 10 coffee houses across the UK for customers to kick back and view the footage, as well as providing Britain on Film branded coffee cups.

BRITAIN ON FILM AND EDUCATION

• **Make Film - Greatest Generation** is a UK-wide filmmaking project organised by the education charity Into Film, BFI, BBC Learning and the British Council. The project invites children aged 7-11 to record interviews with members of the wartime generation and combine the footage with Britain on Film archive clips to create their own short documentaries. For information visit www.intofilm.org

• From 14 July until 30 September **BFI Future Film** are calling for **Instagram** users to share their photos and videos that showcase the diversity of places and people in the *Britain on Film Instagram* competition #BritainOnInstagram around four themes; *Britain's got Flare* (LGBT Britain), *Arrivals* (celebrating Britain's migrant community), *Fiesta* (festivals and carnivals) and *Action Sports on Location*

Media Contact

For preview screeners, images, interviews with Heather to discuss her experience of discovering unknown family footage etc please contact Ruth Marsh on ruth.marshpr@gmail.com / 07824 468396

ABOUT BRITAIN ON FILM AND UNLOCKING FILM HERITAGE

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

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

Film and TV titles and the Britain on Film Trailer can be viewed and downloaded via Panther – for access please contact Lucy.aronica@bfi.org.uk

Images available via – DMS/Panther and www.image.net

Join the conversation at **#BritainOnFilm**

Britain on Film is a project from The BFI National Archive and the UK's Regional and National Film Archives

East Anglian Film Archive

Imperial War Museums

London's Screen Archives

Media archive for Central England at the University of Lincoln

North East Film Archive

North West Film Archive at Manchester Metropolitan University

Northern Ireland Screen Digital Film Archive

Scottish Screen Archive

Screen Archive South East

South West Film & Television Archive

National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales

Wessex Film and Sound Archive

Yorkshire Film Archive

About the BFI

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

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

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

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

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

The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Greg Dyke.

About the BFI National Archive

The BFI National Archive was founded in 1935 and has grown to become the one of the largest and most important collections of film and television in the world with over 180,000 films and 750,000 television programmes. For over 80 years the BFI has been an international leader in film preservation and guardian of Britain's unparalleled film and TV heritage. The BFI is an innovator in presenting films to audiences in new and dynamic ways, from cinemas to film festivals, outdoor events to online video-on-demand. At the heart of all its activities is the BFI's central aim to ensure that everyone in the UK has access to the widest possible range of film and their own film heritage.

That heritage includes all time great British directors Alfred Hitchcock, David Lean and Powell and Pressburger; and the rich vein of documentary filmmaking, in which Britain led the world, including the lyrical work of Humphrey Jennings. The archive also boasts a significant collection of filmmakers' papers as well as extensive stills, posters and production and costume designs along with original scripts, press books and related ephemera.

Expert teams undertake the time-consuming and complex task of restoring films at the BFI John Paul Getty Jr Conservation Centre in Hertfordshire. The BFI's most precious film materials are kept in optimum conditions in the world-leading Master Film Store in Warwickshire.

About BFI Player

BFI Player is a ground-breaking video on demand service which offers a uniquely diverse range of films, from the latest releases to the rarest silent cinema classics, giving UK audiences a rich and rewarding digital film experience. The Britain on Film collections are accessible through the BFI Player. <http://player.bfi.org.uk/britain-on-film>

About the BFI Film Audience Network

The BFI Film Audience Network (FAN) is a ground-breaking initiative that gives audiences across the UK the opportunity to see a diverse range of films in a cinema setting. For filmmakers, getting films onto cinema screens is a highly competitive business, particularly for specialised films which includes archive, documentary, independent and foreign language films. The BFI FAN aims to change this.

- With £8.7 million of Lottery funding over four years (2013-2017) BFI has set up partnerships with nine lead organisations (Film Hubs) to work full-time with cinema exhibitors, film festivals, educators, film societies, community venues, film archives and other organisations in their regions or nations to boost audiences for film across the UK.
- The Film Hubs, which drive audience engagement locally, work together with the BFI at a UK-wide level to grow audiences for British independent and specialised film. They currently comprise: Broadway, Nottingham and Cambridge Film Trust; Chapter, Cardiff; HOME, Manchester; Film London; Queen's Film Theatre, Belfast; Regional Screen Scotland; the University of Brighton; Showroom Sheffield and National Media Museum, Bradford; and Watershed, Bristol. These organisations and their partners form the BFI FAN.
- The Film Hub for Central East (Cambridge Film Trust & Broadway Cinema, Nottingham) has secured funding as part of the BFI's Programming Development Fund to administer and coordinate more than 80 screening events across all UK Film Hubs including film from the regional archives to engage with a wider audience in a number of venues.



Life changing®

About the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation aims to improve the quality of life for people and communities throughout the UK both now and in the future. We do this by funding the charitable work of organisations with the ideas and ability to achieve positive change. We are happy to be supporting Britain on Film – a significant, UK-wide film archive project, which will make titles from the BFI National Archive and national and regional screen archives available to the British public, offering a unique opportunity for insight and reflection on places, communities and histories throughout the UK.

The Foundation is one of the largest independent grant-makers in the UK. We make grants of £30 - £35 million annually towards a wide range of work within the arts, children and young people, the environment and social change. We also operate a £26 million Finance Fund which invests in organisations that aim to deliver both a financial return and a social benefit.

www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk

