Early Women Filmmakers
1911-1940

4-disc Blu-ray set released 24 June 2019

More women worked in film during its first two decades than at any time since. But many of those pioneering female filmmakers were subsequently written out of cinematic history, their contributions eventually forgotten. This timely collection, released by the BFI in a 4-disc Blu-ray set on 24 June 2019 presents the work of nine of early cinema’s most innovative and influential women directors, restoring them and their work to the narrative of film history. The set includes three short documentaries, exclusive scores on selected films and a 44-page booklet.

International in scope, this groundbreaking collection features more than 10 hours of material, comprised of 22 films made between 1911 and 1940, including rare titles not widely available until now. For the first time in the UK, this release brings together the work of Mabel Normand, Alice Guy-Blaché, Lois Weber, Dorothy Davenport, Germaine Dulac, Olga Preobrazhenskaya, Mary-Louise Iribe, Dorothy Arzner and Mary Ellen Bute – women who were technically and stylistically innovative, and who pushed the boundaries of narrative, aesthetics and genre.

Special features
- Presented in High Definition
- *Alice Guy-Blaché: a documentary* (2018, 8 mins): film historians Alison McMahan, Shelley Stamp, Jane M Gaines and Anthony Slide reflect upon the life and work of Alice Guy-Blaché
- Newly recorded scores for *Mabel’s Dramatic Career*, *Mabel’s Blunder*, *His Trysting Place* and *Should Men Walk Home?* by The Meg Morley Trio
- Newly commissioned alternative score to *Should Men Walk Home?* by Mordecai Smyth
- Stills gallery
- 44-page illustrated booklet with essays and notes on the filmmakers: Alice Guy-Blaché by Pamela Hutchinson, Lois Weber by Isabel Stevens, Mabel Normand by Vicki Callahan, Dorothy Davenport by Ellen Cheshire, Germaine Dulac by Jane Giles, Olga Preobrazhenskaya by Kat Ellinger, Marie-Louise Iribe by Virginie Sélayv, Dorothy Arzner by So Mayer and Mary Ellen Bute by Elinor Cleghorn. (*Booklet available with first pressing only).

Product details
RRP: £49.99/ Cat. no. BFIB1345 / Cert 12
France, USSR, USA / 1911-1940 / black and white, tinted / 641 mins / English and French intertitles with English subtitles / original aspect ratios / BD50 x 3, BD25 x 1: 1080p, 24fps, PCM audio (48kHz)

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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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