



## **MISSING BELIEVED WIPED BUMPER CHRISTMAS STOCKING INCLUDING CLASSIC CILLA, REDISCOVERED ALF GARNETT, LOST WHACK-O! AND PETE POSTLETHWAITE'S TV DEBUT**

**For Immediate Release: Tuesday 7 November 2017, London.**

The BFI's *Missing Believed Wiped* returns to BFI Southbank this December to present British television rediscoveries, not seen by audiences for decades, since their original transmission dates. The exciting, bespoke line-up of TV gems feature some of our most-loved television celebrities and iconic characters including **Alf Garnett** in *Till Death Us Do Part: Sex Before Marriage*, **Cilla Black** in her eponymous BBC show featuring **Dudley Moore**, **Jimmy Edwards** in *Whack-O!*, a rare interview with **Peter Davison** about playing *Doctor Who* and a significant screen debut from a young **Pete Postlethwaite**.

Lost for 50 years and thought only to survive in part, *Till Death Us Do: Sex Before Marriage*, originally broadcast on 2 January, 1967 on BBC1, sees Warren Mitchell's **Alf Garnett** rail against the permissive society, featuring guest star **John Junkin** alongside regular cast members **Dandy Nichols**, **Anthony Booth** and **Una Stubbs**. Although the existence of this missing episode from the 2<sup>nd</sup> series has been known for some years, previous attempts to screen the episode had been refused with the print in the hands of a private collector. Having recently changed hands, MBW is delighted that access has been granted for this special one off screening, for one of 1960s best known and controversial UK television characters.

Following last year's successful screening of a previously lost episode of **Jimmy Edwards's** popular 1950s BBC school-themed comedy romp *Whack-O!*, this year's MBW programme includes a 1959 episode entitled *The Empty Cash Box*. Written by **Frank Muir** and **Dennis Norden** and starring Jimmy Edwards as the cane-happy headmaster, this episode was originally broadcast on the BBC on 1st December 1959.

A genuine national treasure and much-missed performer and presenter, **Cilla Black** is remembered here with a rare screening of an episode from her previously lost **BBC 60s pop/variety show, Cilla**. Screened in full for the first time since its original transmission on 26 March, 1968, *Cilla* features performances from **Roy Hudd**, **The Dudley Moore Trio** and Cilla herself, a fascinating record of 60s pop culture.

Fans of TV horror are in for a treat with the recently disinterred *Late Night Horror: The Corpse Can't Play*. Originally broadcast on 3 May, 1968 on BBC2 this is the **only surviving episode** from the BBC's spine-tingling anthology series of atmospheric chillers, set at a children's birthday party where an uninvited guest delivers some unusual and horrifying variations on the usual party games. Screened here courtesy of MBW colleagues at **The Kaleidoscope Archive**, *The Corpse Can't Play* was directed by **Paddy Russell**, one of the first two women directors in BBC television, whose impressive broadcast career spanned 40 years working on classic shows including *Z Cars*, *Doctor Who* and *Emmerdale*, and who sadly died this year.

During the 1970s, a key strength of the drama department at **BBC Pebble Mill in Birmingham** was its ability to unearth exciting new acting, writing and directing talent. Running from 1973 for ten series, **Second City First's** half-hour original drama slot proved highly influential, launching a spectacular range of 'regional talent' including Willy Russell, Mike Leigh, Mike Newell, Julie Walters, Brian Glover, Alison Steadman and many others, offering a diversity of representation, comparable with the best television drama today.

Another great find, **Second City Firsts: Thwum**, originally broadcast in 1975, features a young **Pete Postlethwaite** in his earliest television appearance. This sci-fi themed short play sees UFO fanatic Bernard (Paul Moriarty), trying to convince a skeptical reporter (Pete Postlethwaite) to cover the story of an imminent alien craft landing. This almost complete copy (2 minutes missing) was recovered from a domestic video recording kept by **director Pedr James** (*Our Friends in the North*, *Martin Chuzzlewit*) and we are delighted that Pedr will be joining us to introduce the screening and reveal the fascinating story behind the production, Pete Postlethwaite's debut and the tape's survival.

As well as screening rare complete episodes MBW offers a chance to view recovered clips with a wider cultural significance. Highlights from a recently digitized video collection includes a **James Bond** set visit on **The Spy Who Loved Me** (1977) for **Granada TV's** children's cinema show **Clapperboard**, hosted by Chris Kelly. In addition there are rare interviews with **Doctor Who's Peter Davison**, here discussing his thoughts on being the 5<sup>th</sup> incarnation of the legendary Time Lord as well as influential **BBC visual effects designer Mat Irvine** (*Blake's 7*, *Doctor Who*, *The Tripods*), who talks about **Blake's 7** iconic **Liberator** spacecraft.

As usual the BFI would like to thank our MBW colleagues at **The Kaleidoscope Archive** for their help in recovering and screening some of these previously missing television items.

Tickets for both *Missing Believed Wiped* sessions on Saturday 16 December, Session 1: Session 2: 12:45 and 15:00, both in NFT1 go on sale to BFI members on 7 November and non-members 14 November with joint ticket option available for both sessions.

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#### **About the BFI**

The BFI is the lead body 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 Josh Berger CBE.

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £12.10, concs £9.70 including Gift Aid donation. Members pay £2.00 less on any ticket - [www.bfi.org.uk/southbank](http://www.bfi.org.uk/southbank).

Young people aged 25 and under can buy last minute tickets for just £3, 45 minutes before the start of screenings and events, subject to availability - <http://www.bfi.org.uk/25-and-under>.

### **About Missing Believed Wiped**

The UK's National Collection, the BFI National Archive, is the most significant collection of TV and film in the world. Missing Believed Wiped was launched by the BFI in 1993 with the aim of tracking down and screening material long missing from the official TV archives. Finds over the years have included material from television programmes such as *The Avengers*, *Till Death Us Do Part*, *Dad's Army*, *Armchair Theatre* and *Top of the Pops*. In the last 20 years over 2,000 items, once thought missing, have been recovered (by various people through various sources), the most important of these finds have been screened at the BFI's annual Missing Believed Wiped events at BFI Southbank.

### **About Kaleidoscope**

The Kaleidoscope Archive is a Birmingham based organisation, founded in 1987, and specialising in locating previously missing, believed lost, television footage, coordinating ITV's Raiders of the Lost Archives campaign. Kaleidoscope has worked in partnership with the BFI since 1995.

They have actively worked with the BBC on the Genome Project, providing metadata from our vast database of British television programme information and are regularly engaged in work as archive consultants on many new television productions including; *Lenny Henry*, *Les Dawson Forever*, *Pete and Dud: The Missing Sketches*, *The Secret Life of Bob Monkhouse*, *Come on Down – The Game Show Story* and *Frankie Howerd*.

The Kaleidoscope Archive contains over 750,000 items, which include The Bob Monkhouse Collection, the archive of Illuminations Productions, the estate of Jeremy Beadle and various holdings from both the BBC and ITV. Recently deposited items include footage from *The Golden Shot*, *Family Fortunes*, Pan's People, Kenny Everett and Benny Hill in addition to one of the most sizeable collections of programming from the former ITV company Associated-Rediffusion held outside the BFI. Kaleidoscope has returned many missing programmes to official archives, including *Top of the Pops*, *Lift Off*, *Coronation Street*, *Second City Firsts* and three editions of *Til Death Us Do Part*. <https://www.tvbrain.info/>