



Orphée

A film by Jean Cocteau
Starring Jean Marais

Blu-ray and simultaneous iTunes release on
21 January 2019

Poet, playwright, artist and filmmaker, Jean Cocteau was one of the most significant artists of the twentieth century and *Orphée* his finest work of cinema. Following the film's theatrical release by the BFI in October, on 21 January 2019 it will be released on both Blu-ray and on iTunes. In a new initiative for 2019, to give BFI releases the widest possible reach and accessible to all, there will be a simultaneous physical and digital release for all new titles where possible.

This magical retelling of the Orpheus myth turns the lyre-playing singer of Greek legend into a famous left-bank poet in post-war Paris. Fallen out of favour and lost for poetic inspiration, Orphée becomes obsessed with a mysterious black-clad princess who first claims the life of a rival poet, and then Eurydice, his wife.

With its unforgettable imagery – the dissolving mirror through which characters pass into the next world, the leather-clad, death-dealing motorcyclists, and Cocteau's magical special effects, *Orphée* is a work of haunting beauty that follows the poetic logic of a dream.

Special features

- Presented in High Definition
- Feature-length commentary by Roland-François Lack
- *Jean Cocteau by Pierre Bergé and Dominique Marny* (2008, 35 mins): the former and current presidents of the Jean Cocteau Committee provide a portrait of the filmmaker, discussing his family background, influences and the key relationships of his life
- *Memories of Filming* by Jean-Pierre Mocky and Eric Le Roy (2008, 16 mins): actor and filmmaker Jean-Pierre Mocky reminisces with film historian Eric Le Roy about working on *Orphée* and the impact Jean Cocteau had on his own career
- *Jean Cocteau and His Tricks* (2008, 14 mins): assistant director Claude Pinoteau shares his experiences of shooting *Orphée* and reveals some of the tricks employed by Cocteau and his crew
- *The Queer Family Tree – Reflections on Jean Cocteau* (2018, 15 mins): director John Maybury reflects upon his introduction to the films of Jean Cocteau and discusses their ongoing influence on his own work and queer cinema in general
- *La villa Santo Sospir* (1952, 38 mins): A short colour film by Jean Cocteau in which he gives us a guided tour of the villa
- Theatrical trailer
- 2018 Re-release trailer
- Stills gallery
- Illustrated booklet featuring essays by Featuring essays by Ginette Vincendeau, Deborah Allison and William Fowler

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Product details

RRP: £19.99/ Cat. no. BFIB1326 / Cert PG

France / 1950 / black and white / 96 mins / French language with English subtitles / original aspect ratio 1.33:1 // BD50: 1080p, 24fps, DTS-HD Master audio 1.0 (48kHz/24-bit), Dolby Digital 2.0 commentary audio (192Kbps)

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About the BFI

At the BFI we support, nurture and promote the art of film, television and the moving image. A charity, funded by Government and earned income, and a distributor of National Lottery funds, we are at the heart of the UK's fast growing screen industries, protecting the past and shaping their future across the UK. We work in partnership with cultural organisations, government and industry to make this happen. We bring our world-class cultural programmes and unrivalled national collections to audiences everywhere, and promote learning about our art-form and its heritage. We support the future success of film in the UK by nurturing new voices and fresh ideas, enriching independent British film culture, challenging the UK's screen industries to innovate and defining Britain and its storytellers in the 21st century.

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

20 December 2018