

OTHER GROOVES:

British subcultures and alternative lifestyles

New Britain on Film archive collection released on BFI Player: Punks, Pagans, Rockers, Rastas, Ravers, Artists, Activists, Outsiders, Witches and Free Thinkers



*Left to Right, Clockwise: Row 1 **Shellshock Rock** (1979) [BFI National Archive], **Secret Rites** (1971) [BFI National Archive], **The Square** (1957) [BFI National Archive]. Row 2 **Extremes** (1971) [BFI National Archive], **Other Worlds Are Watching Us** (1957) [BFI National Archive], **Getting it Straight in Notting Hill Gate** (1970) [BFI National Archive]*

6th July 2016, London – The BFI is delighted to announce **Other Grooves**, a major new addition to Britain on Film on the BFI Player VOD service. This collection presents a rich and rare selection of over 100 newly digitised archive films and television programmes, much of it previously unseen, from the BFI National Archive and regional and national archives across the UK. **Other Grooves** offers an eccentric excursion to the furthest fringes of youth culture and alternative lifestyles, as captured in nearly a century of archive film and TV. <http://player.bfi.org.uk/collections/other-grooves/>

These films offer fascinating insights into succeeding generations' cultural obsessions and counter-culture identities, from mods, skinheads and rude boys, punks and pagans, rockers, rastas and ravers – not to mention artists, anarchists and free thinkers, ufologists, witches and spiritualists.

Highlights of the collection include **Shellshock Rock** (1979) [BFI National Archive], a dynamic documentary which brilliantly captures Ulster's vibrant New Wave scene at its height. The intriguingly named **The Adventures of the Son of Exploding Sausage** (1969) [BFI National Archive] with **The Bonzo Dog Band**, features a moodily surreal, psychedelic road trip for this legendary band.

All of the films explore 20th century manners and morals and offer viewers a different sense of British history. The world of amateur witchcraft is captured through the eyes of Penny, a mini-skirted hairdresser and would-be apprentice witch, in **Secret Rites** (1971) [BFI National Archive], unseen for a generation. Daniel Farson reveals the spooky world of flying saucer enthusiasts in 1950s Britain in the pioneering television documentary **Other Worlds Are Watching Us** (1957) [BFI National Archive].

Moral anxieties about youth cults are explored fully in **Extremes** (1971) [BFI National Archive] an eye-opening exposé of the outrageous antics of young hippies, pop-fans, drug addicts, Hell's Angels, and other members of the "alternative society." And return to the days of skiffle with Michael Winner's recently recovered film debut, **The Square** (1957) [BFI National Archive], a wonderfully evocative late 1950s drama short, including a serious skiffle-music street party in London's King's Cross. The film was left to the BFI by the late Michael Winner and was never released in cinemas and has never previously been available to the public.

More highlights:

Beatlemania (1963) [BFI National Archive] All four Beatles reveal all in this excellent unedited interview footage shot the night after the legendary 1963 Royal Variety Performance which famously saw John Lennon suggest that the better off members of the audience might like to 'rattle their jewellery' to 'Twist and Shout'.

Getting it Straight in Notting Hill Gate (1970) [BFI National Archive] This terrific time-capsule, counter culture, kaleidoscope view of the 'cultural and racial melting pot' that was Notting Hill in 1970, 'probably the world's most integrated ghetto', is chock-full of free-spirits, spaced-out sitar sounds at sunrise and the prog-rock grooves of Quintessence, featuring Phil Shiva Jones and Raja Ram, live in the local church hall – and flying their freak flag high.

Squatparty (1979) [BFI National Archive] First generation female punks have fun boozing, smoking and talking in this fascinating short film from outstanding London lifestyle chronicler Captain Zip, with great music by Elvis Costello and The Clash.

The Music Machine (1979) [BFI National Archive] It's Saturday Night Fever, North London style, with this bubbly, British, disco dance contest drama starring Patti Boulaye, Gerry Sundquist and *The Wire*'s Clarke Peters, shot in and around the legendary Camden Palace nightspot.

Spirit of Albion (1987) [BFI National Archive] Richard Philpott's poetic, political and perennially pertinent documentary feature allows us to travel alongside the people of the Peace Convoy as these New Age travellers struggle to preserve their nomadic way of life in Thatcher's Britain.

Midnight Breaks (1990) [FilmFour] Big Audio Dynamite's Don Letts – previously both a musician and a documentarian of the punk lifestyle – made his acting debut in this gripping, gritty, feature film drama of dreads, drugs and music business corruption also starring Toyah Willcox, Dawn Hope and Robbie Coltrane.

Rave (1997) [London Film School] a documentary revealing the secret world of "rave" parties with DJ Insanity Sound System

BFI Player VOD service presents over 5,000 archive film and television programmes, the majority of which are free to view online for anyone across the UK, drawn from the national and regional collections of UK archives including the BFI National Archive. For a full list of partner archives see below.

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STILLS: A selection of images for journalistic use can be found at www.image.net under:
BFI UK Publicity > BFI > Britain on Film > 2016 > Other Grooves

USE OF FOOTAGE: Embed codes for individual films can be used to promote the collection on websites by arrangement with the Press Office

INTERVIEWS: BFI National Archive curator Vic Pratt is available for selected interviews

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 Josh Berger

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 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. Bringing together a partnership with Regional and National Film Archives and rights holder collections across the UK, 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 £15 million funding from the National Lottery and the additional support of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

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

ABOUT THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVES

The English Regional Film Archives and other National Film Archives (listed below) hold significant collections of film and video material specifically relevant to their regions or hold dedicated

collections (such as Imperial War Museums), preserved in specialised storage facilities and made widely available for education, research, communities and the wider public.

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