PINTER AT THE BBC

5-disc DVD box set released on 28 January 2019

Harold Pinter (1930-2008) was one of the most important and influential British playwrights of the last century. While best known for his work for the stage, this collection celebrates Pinter’s significant contribution to television.

*Pinter at the BBC* is a 5-disc DVD box set containing 10 plays made for the BBC between 1965 and 1988, all previously unavailable on DVD. Released by the BFI on 28 January 2019, the plays are accompanied by a range of special features and an illustrated booklet.

Harold Pinter’s work for the screen shares many of the qualities of his work for the stage, from a fascination with the private roots of power and an abiding preoccupation with memory, to a belief in the agency of women. He was quite simply a great writer, whose work admits us to the dark room of his imagination.

Highlights of the collection include *Tea Party* (1965), *Old Times* (1975) and 1987’s *The Birthday Party* which sees a rare example of Pinter acting within his own work. *The Hothouse* (1982) and *Mountain Language* (1988) were both written and directed by Pinter.

A dazzling array of British acting talent is on display here including Michael Gambon, Julie Walters, Leo McKern, Vivien Merchant, John Le Mesurier and Miranda Richardson.

The Plays

- Tea Party (Charles Jarrot, 1965)
- A Slight Ache (Christopher Morahan, 1967)
- A Night Out (Christopher Morahan, 1967)
- The Basement (Charles Jarrot, 1967)
- Monologue (Christopher Morahan, 1972)
- Old Times (Christopher Morahan, 1975)
- The Hothouse (Harold Pinter, 1982)
- Landscape (Kenneth Ives, 1983)
- The Birthday Party (Kenneth Ives, 1987)
- Mountain Language (Harold Pinter, 1988)

Special features

- *Pinter People* (1969, 16 mins): a series of four animated films written by Harold Pinter
• **Face to Face: Harold Pinter** (1997, 39 mins): Sir Jeremy Isaacs interviews Harold Pinter, who discusses the images and events which have inspired some of his most powerful dramas

• **Harold Pinter Guardian Interview** (1996, 73 mins, audio only): an extensive interview with the legendary playwright by critic Michael Billington, recorded at the National Film Theatre

• Illustrated booklet with new writing by Michael Billington, John Wyver, Billy Smart, Amanda Wrigley, David Rolinson and Lez Cooke, and full film credits

**Product details**

**RRP: £44.99/ Cat. no. BFIV2118/ Cert 15**

UK / 1965-1988 / black and white, and colour / 628 mins / English language with optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / 5 x DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital 2.0 mono audio (192kbps)

**Press contact for more information, review copy requests and images:**

Jill Reading, BFI Press Office,
E-mail: jill.reading@bfi.org.uk, Tel: (020) 7957 4759

BFI releases are available from all good home entertainment retailers or by mail order from the BFI Shop Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at [www.bfi.org.uk/shop](http://www.bfi.org.uk/shop)

**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.

9 January 2019