They Came to a City
Directed by Basil Dearden
Written by J.B. Priestley

Dual Format Edition release on 23 April 2018

A rarely seen classic of British cinema, Ealing Studios’ They Came to a City was directed by Basil Dearden (The Captive Heart, Victim) and stars John Clements, Googie Withers and Raymond Huntley. On 23 April 2018 it will be made available for home viewing for the first time, released by the BFI on Blu-ray/DVD in a Dual Format Edition, in a new 2K transfer from the best surviving 35mm element. Special features include complementary films preserved in the BFI National Archive and an audio NFT Lecture by producer Michael Balcon from 1969.

Nine disparate Britons are transported to a mysterious city where, according to their class and disposition, they find themselves either in an earthly paradise of peace and equality or a hell starved of ambition and riches. From the pen of J.B. Priestley, this fantastical allegory is a striking expression of post-war utopian impulses and among Ealing’s most unusual features.

Special features
- Presented in High Definition and Standard Definition
- Michael Balcon NFT Lecture (audio only, 1969, 59 mins): the producer discusses his career
- We Live in Two Worlds (Alberto Cavalcanti, 1937, 14 mins): a GPO film about communications technology, narrated by J.B. Priestley
- Britain at Bay (Harry Watt, 1940, 7 mins): a wartime morale-booster narrated by J.B. Priestley
- A City Reborn (John Eldridge, 1945, 22 mins): a propaganda film written by Dylan Thomas, highlighting plans for post-war reconstruction
- Charley in New Town (Joy Batchelor and John Halas, 1948, 9 mins): an animated short on post-war new towns
- Your Very Good Health (Joy Batchelor and John Halas, 1948, 9 mins): an animated short on the new National Health Service
- Illustrated booklet with essays by Dr Josephine Botting, Alan Burton, Tim O’Sullivan, Katy McGahan and Jenny Stewart, and full film credits

Product details
RRP: £19.99 / Cat. no. BFIB1310 / Cert U
UK / 1944 / black and white / 78 mins / English language, with optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / original aspect ratio 1.37:1 / BD50: 1080p, 24fps, PCM 2.0 mono audio (48kHz/24-bit) / DVD9: 25fps, PCM 2.0 stereo audio (48kHz/16-bit)

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Images are available to download at www.image.net > BFI > DVD & Blu-ray
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