



**NEW ACQUISITIONS ON DVD
FOR NON-THEATRICAL BOOKING**

March 2008



Scene from Jia Zhangke's *Still Life*

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NEW FILMS

SPECIAL RELEASES FROM THE BFI:

FILMS BY MIKIO NARUSE – BOX SET

WHEN A WOMAN ASCENDS THE STAIRS (ONNA GA K Aidan O AGARU TOKI)

(Dir: Mikio Naruse / With Hideko Takamine, Masayuki Mori, Reiko Dan / Japan 1960 / 111 mins / Cert PG)

Hideko Takamine, plays Keiko, a young widow who works as a hostess in Tokyo's neon-lit Ginza district. Every night she ascends the stairs of a sleazy whisky bar and forces herself to drink, joke and flirt with wealthy businessmen. At the age of thirty, however, Keiko has reached 'the turning point in a woman's life' and faces a stark choice - either to re-marry or to open a bar of her own.

FLOATING CLOUDS (UKIGUMO)

(Dir: Mikio Naruse / With Masayuki Mori / Japan 1955 / 123 mins / Cert 12A)

Naruse's ultimate masterpiece opens in the bombed ruins of Tokyo as Yukiko (Hideko Takamine) searches for Tomioka, with whom she worked during the war. They renew their affair, but he tells Yukiko he can't leave his wife... The two characters are adrift and in constant motion, but Naruse shoots them with travelling shots so imperceptible that all seems fixed, immobile.

LATE CHRYSANTHEMUMS (BANGIKU)

(Dir: Mikio Naruse / With Haruko Sugimura / Japan 1954 / 101min / PG)

One of Naruse's greatest works, this bleak, compelling, poignant portrait of a quartet of ageing geishas focuses on Kin. Retired after successful real estate deals, she cynically lends money and advice to the others. Then an old lover (Ken Uehara) reappears... Rarely was Naruse's attention to financial matters so insistent as in this fresco of confined lives, impeccably acted by a very fine ensemble.

STILL LIFE (SAN XIA HAO REN)

Available from 29 September 2008)

(Dir: Jia Zhangke / With Zhao Tao, Han Sanming / China 2006 / 109 mins / Cert PG)

Winner of the 2006 Venice Film Festival, *Still Life* is the vivid and absorbing tale of two individuals struggling to keep up with the dizzying pace of change in 21st century China. Set against the spectacular landscape of the Three Gorges region along the Yangtze River, it intertwines the stories of Han Sanming, a coal miner, and Shen Hong, a nurse, both searching for their missing partners in Fengjie, a town currently undergoing demolition and soon to disappear forever in the flooding caused by the controversial Three Gorges Dam.

12:08 EAST OF BUCHAREST (A FOST SAU N-A FOST?)

(Drama / Dir: [Corneliu Porumboiu](#) / With [Mircea Andreescu](#), [Teo Corban](#), [Ion Sapdaru](#) / Romania 2007 / Cert 15)

December 22. Somewhere East of Bucharest, two heroes share their moments of revolutionary glory on local TV, to celebrate the revolution that ousted Romanian dictator Ceausescu 16 years ago. But phone-in viewers' claims seem to question whether the revolution ever took place. Wryly funny and highly original *12:08 East of Bucharest* captures some of the contentious narratives of this epoch-defining event, as well as the bitter feeling of hopes dashed in its wake.

4 MONTHS, 3 WEEKS, 2 DAYS (4 LUNI, 3 SAPTAMINI SI 2 ZILE)

(Available from May 2008)

(Drama / Dir: [Cristian Mungiu](#) / With [Anamaria Marinca](#), [Laura Vasiliu](#), [Vlad Ivanov](#) / Romania 2007 / 113 mins / Cert 15)

Otilia and Gabita share the same room in a student dormitory. They are colleagues at the University in this small town in Romania, during the last years of communism. Otilia rents a room in a cheap hotel. In the afternoon, they are going to meet a certain Mr. Bebe. Gabita is pregnant, abortion is illegal and neither of them have passed through something like this before.

AFTER THE WEDDING (EFTER BRYLLUPPET)

(Drama / Dir: [Susanne Bier](#) / With [Mads Mikkelsen](#), [Sidse Babett Knudsen](#) / Denmark-Sweden 2006 / 119 mins / Cert 15)

To save the orphanage he runs in India from closure, Jacob Petersen accepts a strange proposal by Danish businessman Jorgen – to return to Denmark and attend the wedding of Jorgen's daughter. The wedding serves as a critical juncture between past and present, forcing Jacob into the most intense situation of his life. Nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the 2007 Academy Awards.

ASIA EXTREME ORIGINALS

RING (RINGU)

(Horror / Dir: [Hideo Nakata](#) / Japan 1998 / 91 mins / Cert 15)

DARK WATER (HONOGURAI MIZUNO SOKOKARA)

(Horror / Dir: [Hideo Nakata](#) / Japan 2002 / 97 mins / Cert 15)

PREMONITION (YOGEN)

(Horror / Dir: [Norio Tsuruta](#) / Japan 2004 / 94 mins / Cert 12)

The film that started the new wave of Japanese horror, *Ringu* (*The Ring*) has achieved cult status and its director Hideo Nakata remade it in 2002 with Naomi Watts in the main role. Nakata also directed the equally atmospheric ghost story, *Dark Water*, which finds a young mother moving into a block of flats with her daughter, only to find the mysterious presence of a young girl and unaccountable damp patches. *Premonition* sees director Norio Tsuruta (*Ring 0*) weave a chilling tale of a man who picks up a newspaper which foretells the future, including the tragic premonition of his daughter's death in a car crash.

ASIA EXTREME: GHOST SCHOOL HORROR

(Available from 26 May 2008)

WHISPERING CORRIDORS (YEOGO GOEDAM)

(Horror / Dir: [Ki-Hyung Park](#) / Korea 1998 / 105 mins / Cert 15)

MEMENTO MORI (YEOGO GOEDAM II)

(Horror / Dir: [Tae-Yong Kim](#) / Korea 2000 / 99 mins / Cert 15)

WISHING STAIRS (YEOGO GOEDAM SEBEONJAE IYAGI: YEOWU GYEDAN)

(Drama, Horror, Thriller / Dir: [Jae-yeon Yun](#) / Korea 2003 / 100 mins / Cert 15)

THE VOICE (details tba)

These four films are all set in an all-girls' high school but it's more than students that stalk the classrooms. Each tale is haunted by supernatural happenings and curses. In a country where pupils will attend school from dawn 'til nightfall, there's not surprise it breeds disturbing levels of competitiveness or jealousies.

BACK TO NORMANDY

(Documentary / Dir: [Nicolas Philibert](#) / France 2006 / 113 mins / Cert 12A)

At the start of his career, Nicholas Philibert has been an assistant director on René Allio's 1975 film *J. Pierre Rivère*, about a true-life murder which had taken place in the area 140 years earlier. Many of the actors were

local people who added authentic character to the drama. Thirty years later, Philibert returns to the village to discover how their lives have changed, exploring their own personal histories and the environment which shapes them. Whilst they offer memories of working on the film, it also turns into a personal discovery for its director.

BAMAKO

(Political Drama / Dir: Abderrahmane Sissako / Aïssa Maïga, Tiécoura Traoré / France-Mali 2006 / 112 mins / Cert PG)

Melé is a bar singer, her husband Chaka is out of work and the couple is on the verge of breaking up. Chakra is much too occupied with her own problems to be concerned with the trial court that has been set up in the communal courtyard outside her house aiming to hold the World Bank and the IMF to account for Africa's woes. The film is an oddly brilliant and rightly impassioned critique of Western involvement in Africa.

BASKET CASE

(Horror / Dir: Frank Henenlotter / With Kevin van Hentenryck, Terri Susan Smith, Beverly Bonner / USA 1982 / 90 mins / Cert 18)

Duane seems a pleasant enough guy but he always takes a big basket around with him. Inside, his grotesquely deformed brother lives. But they were once Siamese twins, separated against their will. There's hell to pay once they find the doctor who did it.

LA BELLE ET LA BÊTE

(Available from 30 June 2008)

(Dir: Jean Cocteau / With Jean Marais, Josette Day / France 1946 / 93 mins / Cert PG)

Cocteau takes us into a realm of enchantment where nothing – not even the candelabra or the decorative carvings in the Beast's castle – is quite what it seems, where ugliness masks integrity and handsome faces conceal treachery. Belle is feisty and the Beast is at once brutal and gentle, rapacious and vulnerable, shamed and repelled by his own bloodlust.

BLACK BOOK (ZWARTBOEK)

(Drama / Dir: Paul Verhoeven / With Carice Van Houten, Sebastian Koch / Netherlands 2007 / 140 mins / Cert 15)

September 1944 - Nazi Occupied Holland. The beautiful young Jewish chanteuse Rachel Stein joins fellow refugees in an attempt to reach safe Allied territory. Tragedy strikes when a Nazi patrol intercepts their escape and only Rachel manages to flee. Embittered and desperate for revenge, she joins the Resistance where she is assigned a new identity.

BLACK FIVE

(Available from 25 August 2008)

(Dir: Paul Barnes / UK 1968 / 21 mins. This DVD will be accompanied by extra films, titles TBC)

For the engine men who worked on the Black Five, the end of the steam era would mean a great change in their lives. This film records their reactions to this coming change, along with their reminiscences of the heady, but often gruelling, days of steam. Frequently sad, sometimes humorous, their comments are an elegy to a time gone by, to skills no longer needed, and make a poignant background to the images of heavy iron beasts trundling their way to the end of the line. Black Five was made during the last months of steam on British Railways, capturing on film the final days of steam motive power in the North West of England, and especially in Carnforth. Its release on DVD in August 2008 marks the 40th anniversary of the last days of steam.

BLOODY MALLORY

(Available from May 2008)

(Action, Comedy, Horror / Dir: Julien Magnat / With Olivia Bonamy, Adria Collado, Jeffrey Ribier / France-Spain 2002 / 92 mins / Cert 15)

In a film that is clearly inspired by the hit TV show *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Resident Evil*, Olivia Bonamy plays the leader of a group of demon slaying commandos, who are recruited after the Pope is kidnapped by a bunch of demons. A horror picture that's unafraid to re-write the rules as it brings you a parade of exploding nuns and killer transvestites.

BREAKING NEWS

(Thriller / Dir: Johnnie To Kei-Fung / With Richie Jen, Kelly Chen Wai-Lam / Hong Kong 2004 / 90 mins / Cert 15)

From the director of *Fulltime Killer* comes one of the most explosive and unrelenting action films to ever come out of Asia. After a televised bank robbery is dangerously mismanaged by the Hong Kong police, five bank robbers escape, leaving a bloodbath behind them. Taking refuge in a labyrinthine housing complex, the criminals are quickly surrounded. In order to regain credibility, ambitious Commissioner Rebecca Fong attempts to manipulate the media to her own advantage. But the robbers are also able to draw on the power of the media...

BRIDE OF RE-ANIMATOR

(Horror / Dir: Brian Yuzna / With Bruce Abbott, Claude Earl Jones, Fabiana Udenio / USA 1989 / 92 mins / Cert 18)

It's been five years since the gruesome events of *Re-Animator*, and Doctors Herbert West and Dan Cain are on medical duty in a bloody Peruvian border war. There, West makes a startling discovery: Not only can his serum reanimate the dead, but when mixed with a rare fluid, it can bring limbs back to life – completely independent of body and brain! The doctor has discovered a way to bring not just bodies, but individual body parts back to life. Get ready. The sickest man in science is back...

BRIGHT FUTURE

(Drama / Dir: Kiyoshi Kurosawa / With Tadanobu Asano, Joe Odagari, Tatsuya Fuji / Japan 2003 / 88 mins / Cert 15)

Friends Mamoru and Yuji are aimless young men stuck in dead-end jobs in a dreary factory in Tokyo. Mamoru, the more antisocial of the two, is obsessed with his pet project of acclimatising a poisonous jellyfish to fresh water. One night, he inexplicably murders his boss' family and is sentenced to death. Yuji, left to continue the jellyfish experiment, befriends Mamoru's estranged father, Shin-ichiro, and the two form a bond. But Yuji's attachment to the jellyfish is even stronger and problems arise when he accidentally releases the poisonous creature into the canals of Tokyo.

BRITISH ARTISTS' FILMS: JAYNE PARKER

(Available from 28 April 2008)

(Dir: Jayne Parker / UK 1980 – 2001 / 137mins / Cert tbc)

Jayne Parker discovered film as a medium when she was a sculpture student at Canterbury College of Art (1977-80). Objects, performance and gesture were combined by the camera to explore space, duration and the physical body. Soon the films became independent works. In *RX Recipe* (1980), a large eel in a bath is stuffed with vegetables and bandaged by a woman who then similarly binds her own leg, to whispered instructions on the soundtrack. *I Cat* (1980) was the first of a series of roughcast but sharply drawn animations featuring a woman, a cat and a fish.

The films included in the collection are:

I CAT

RX RECIPE

I DISH

K.

THE POOL

COLD JAZZ

THE REUNION

BLUES IN B FLAT

STATIONARY MUSIC

BRITISH TRANSPORT FILMS VOLUME SEVEN: THE AGE OF THE TRAIN

(Available from 28 April 2008)

(UK 1962–1982 / colour / 250 minutes / Cert E)

Following the nationalisation of transport in 1948, the British Transport Commission set up its own in-house film production unit. Launched on 1st May 1949, and led for 25 years by Edgar Anstey – a founding father of the British documentary movement – it became one of the largest industrial film units in Britain. This, the seventh in a series of double DVD box sets, includes such classics as *The Finishing Line*, *Stone Carriers*, *Inter*

City 125 and *Discover Britain by Train*, as well as rare gems such as *Centenary Express* and *Old Sam the Signalman*.

LES CHANSONS D'AMOUR

(Available from 14 April 2008)

(Drama / Dir: Christophe Honoré / With Louis Garrel, Ludivine Sagnier, Chiara Mastroianni / France 2007 / 96 mins / Cert 15)

Every love song tells the same story: "There are too many people who love you"... "I could never live without you"... "Sorry Angel"... *Les Chansons D'Amour* tells that story too. Ismael is in a serious relationship with Julie. They have begun a ménage à trois with Ismael's co-worker Alice, though Julie confides to her sister Jeanne that it's not quite what she wants. Ismael is unaware of Julie's hesitation, he sometimes feels marginalised and sometimes jealous of the relationship between Julie and Alice. But then tragedy strikes...

CLIMATES (IKLIMLER)

(Drama / Dir: Nuri Bilge Ceylan / With Ebru Ceylan, Nuri Bilge Ceylan / Turkey 2006 / 97 mins / Cert 15)

Climates is a deeply personal and extraordinarily realised tale of a painful break-up between a college professor (played by the director Nuri Bilge Ceylan) and his television producer wife (Ceylan's real-life spouse Ebru). As with Ceylan's earlier film *Uzak*, *Climates* is characterised by the director's trademark visual style - with superb compositions and lighting throughout - and a decidedly realist take on the intricacies of human relationships and the emotional pitfalls that punctuate them.

THE COMMISSAR

(Drama / Dir: Aleksandr Askoldov / With Nonna Mordukova, Rolan Bykov / Soviet Union 1987 / 108 mins / Cert PG)

Banned for over 20 years by the Russian authorities for its controversial stance on anti-Semitism and women's rights, *The Commissar* was finally screened at the Berlin Film Festival in 1988, where it won the Silver Bear and met with international acclaim. Set in 1920 during the Russian Civil War, the film follows the story of Clavdia Vavilova, a female Commissar from the Red Army who is sent to stay with a poor Jewish family in the final stages of her pregnancy. The initial hostility and resentment of both parties begins to mellow as they gradually discover that they have more in common than either realised. But following the birth of a son, Clavdia is faced with leaving her newborn behind and returning to the grave realities of war.

A COTTAGE ON DARTMOOR

(Available from 26 May 2008 – tbc)

(Drama / Dir: Anthony Asquith / With Norah Baring, Hans Schlettow, Uno Henning / UK 1929 / 87 mins / Cert tbc)

A small-town hair salon is the backdrop for this beautifully realised tale of jealousy and revenge, shot on location on the bleak landscape of Dartmoor. Evoking the early films of Hitchcock and the masterworks of German Expressionism, Asquith's last film of the silent era balances masterly storytelling with technical flair. *A Cottage on Dartmoor* is an extravagant melodrama, a final passionate cry in defence of the silent aesthetic before the talkies came in and killed off the art form forever.

A CRUDE AWAKENING

(Documentary / Dir: Basil Gelpke / Switzerland 2006 / 83 mins / Cert PG)

A shocking wake-up call that is set to do for energy what Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* did for the environment, *A Crude Awakening* is a compelling, intelligent and urgent warning that the age of abundant oil is over. Featuring testimonies from the world's top experts, this startling documentary reaches an ominous yet logical conclusion – the Earth's oil supplies are peaking and a crisis of global proportions looms. Even more alarmingly, industrial societies don't have any plans how to deal with the shortage, threatening the future of our fossil fuel-addicted civilization with disaster.

DANS PARIS

(Drama / Dir: Christophe Honoré / With Romain Duris, Louis Garrel / France 2006 / 92 mins / Cert 15)

The holiday season in Paris and Paul and Joana's love is coming to an end. After their separation Paul moves back in with his father and soon he is refusing to leave his younger brother's bedroom as depression begins

to creep over him. His brother Jonathan and his father try, in their own very distinct ways, to help Paul overcome his heartache.

DARATT

(Dir: [Mahamat-Saleh Haroun](#) / With *Ali Bacha Barkai, Youssouf Djaoro* / Chad-France-Belgium-Austria 2007 / 96 mins / Cert PG)

Chad, 2006. The government has granted amnesty to all war criminals and Atim, 16 years old, sets out with a revolver to take revenge on the man who killed his father. Atim quickly tracks down the man he must kill: Nassara, who is now married and the owner of a small bakery. Atim gets closer to Nassara when he is hired as an apprentice baker. Over the weeks they work together, a strange relationship evolves between the two.

THE TERENCE DAVIES TRILOGY

(Available from 28 July 2008)

(Dir: *Terence Davies* / UK 1976-1983 / total 102 mins / Cert 15)

CHILDREN (1976 / With *Philip Mawdsley, Nick Stringer* / 46 mins)

MADONNA AND CHILD (1980 / With *Terry O'Sullivan, Sheila Raynor* / 30 mins)

DEATH AND TRANSMUTATION (1983 / With *Wilfrid Brambell, Terry O'Sullivan* / 26 mins)

Made over a period of some seven years, *The Terence Davies Trilogy* spans the period from Terence Davies's earliest work as a filmmaker through to his emergence as one of the outstanding British directors of his generation. Together, the three films chart the life and death of Robert Tucker, brought up - like Davies himself - in a Catholic working-class home in Liverpool. Robert is bullied at school and has a violent father who dies while the boy is still young. As an adult, he struggles with his homosexuality, and the feelings of guilt and shame induced by his sexuality are sharpened by his Catholicism.

LES DESMOISELLES DE ROCHEFORT

(Available from 28 July 2008)

(Musical / Dir: *Jacques Demy* / With *Catherine Deneuve, Françoise Dorléac, Gene Kelly* / France 1967 / 126 mins / Cert PG)

Jacques Demy followed the success of *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* with the equally dazzling *Les Demoiselles de Rochefort* - his exuberant tribute to Hollywood musicals of the 1940s. Real life sisters Deneuve and Dorléac play the twin daughters of Yvonne (Danielle Darrieux) who dream of leaving Rochefort to find love and fame in Paris. The plot is pure Shakespearean farce, constantly teasing its audience as it keeps the pairs of lovers from meeting each other - the three women, and the men who desire them, cross paths, fail to connect, misunderstand and misconstrue each other until the triumphant finale.

THE DEVIL, PROBABLY (LE DIABLE PROBABLEMENT)

(Available from 28 April 2008)

(Dir: *Robert Bresson* / With *Antoine Monnier, Tina Irissari, Henri de Monblanc* / France 1977 / 96 mins / Cert 18)

Regarded by many as a masterpiece, Bresson's film tells the story of a young man living in Paris who desires more from life than the glib, superficial truths and material things that are on offer to him. He reaches out to his friends and psychiatrist to provide him with the great answers in life. But his spiritual deliverance remains beyond his grasp until he reaches a bizarre arrangement with a fellow drifter. Shot in his signature spare style, Bresson's penultimate work is as visionary, hypnotic and enduring as any of the films in his truly remarkable oeuvre.

DIG!

(Documentary / Dir: *Ondi Timoner*, With *The Brian Jonestown Massacre, Anton Newcombe* / USA 2004 / 107 mins / Cert 15)

Courtney Taylor is lead-singer of The Dandy Warhols, whilst Anton Newcombe fronts The Brian Jonestown Massacre. Once they were good friends. Both wanted to make it big in the rock world. When one is offered a recording contract, the other is left to his self-destructive jealousies. This warts-and-all rollercoaster ride of shared dreams and embittered rivalries is as hair-raising as it is hilarious. Ondi Timoner spent seven years following the two bands and has shaped a mesmeric film that fully captures the down and dirty side of friendship as well the music industry. This remixed edition includes bonus tracks and previously deleted scenes.

DISTANT VOICES STILL LIVES

(Dir: Terence Davies / With Freda Dowie, Pete Postlethwaite, Angela Walsh / UK 1988 / 84 mins / Cert 12)

Terence Davies' stunning debut feature was instantly recognised as a masterpiece on its release in 1988 and the director hailed as one of Britain's most gifted filmmakers.

Drawn from his own family memories, *Distant Voices, Still Lives* is a strikingly intimate portrait of working class life in 1940s and 1950s Liverpool. Focusing on the real-life experiences of his mother, sisters and brother, whose lives were thwarted by their brutal, sadistic father, Davies uses the traditional family gatherings of births, marriages and death to paint a lyrical portrait of family life - of love, grief and the highs and lows of being human.

DON'T TOUCH THE AXE (NE TOUCHEZ PAS LA HACHE)

(Available from 14 April 2008)

(Drama / Dir: Jacques Rivette / With Jeanne Balibar, Guillaume Depardieu, Anne Cantineau / France-Italy 2007 / 138 mins / Cert PG)

Handsome young general Armand de Montriveau has searched across the seas for the woman he fell madly in love with five years ago. He finally finds Antoinette, the Duchess of Langeais, living chastely in a Majorcan convent... It was love at first sight for Montriveau upon meeting Antoinette, a married coquette who frequents the most extravagant balls of 1820s Restoration Paris, where hypocrisy and vanity reign. Despite his sincere romantic declarations, Montriveau's passion remains unfulfilled. When the humiliated Montriveau eventually seeks his revenge, Antoinette's love awakens. But it may well be too late for the star-crossed lovers.

THE BILL DOUGLAS TRILOGY

(Available from 28 July 2008)

(Dir: Bill Douglas / With Stephen Archibald, Hughie Restorick, Jean Taylor Smith / UK / b&w)

MY CHILDHOOD (1972 / 47 mins / Cert PG)

MY AIN FOLK (1973 / 54 mins / Cert PG)

MY WAY HOME (1978 / 72 mins / Cert 15)

Douglas's remarkable trilogy of powerful films of childhood and youth display an original and powerful artistic vision. The narrative arc is biographical; in *Jamie*, we embark on a journey into the artists' experience, growing up in a poverty-stricken mining village in the post-war era, at the mercy of brutal, loveless surroundings and the relatives and neighbours responsible for his welfare. But these films are not a depressing experience. *Jamie* is a survivor, bold and curious, and his story is ultimately redemptive. The cinematography is beautiful, creating visual poetry from startling, bleak monochrome images. When Bill Douglas died in 1991, British cinema lost one of its most original, and neglected artists.

THE DUEL PROJECT

ARAGAMI

(Action / Dir: Ryuhei Kitamura / With Masaya Kato, Takao Osawa, Kanae Uotani / Japan 2003 / 79 mins / Cert 15)

2LDK

(Drama / Dir: Yukihiro Tsutsumi / With Maho Nonami, Eiko Koike / Japan 2002 / 67 mins / Cert 18)

Producer of *Ring*, Shinya Kawai threw down the gauntlet for two young filmmakers to make a film according to a specific set of rules. There should be no more than three characters – one of which must die; it should be set in one location, and be shot on a small budget over eight days. In *Aragami*, a samurai, who, seriously wounded from battle, takes refuge in a remote temple. He wakes to find himself miraculously healed by a mysterious swordsman, who reveals himself to be the battle-god Aragami. *2LDK* focuses on the feud between two actresses who become rivals for the same TV role. Since they're also flatmates it becomes even more personal, a fight to the death in the confines of the small apartment.

THE EDGE OF HEAVEN (AUF DER ANDEREN SEITE)

(Available from June 2008)

(Drama / Dir: Fatih Akin / With Baki Davrak, Tuncel Kurtiz, Nursel Köse / Germany-Turkey 2007 / 122 mins / Cert 15)

Retired widower Ali sees a solution to his loneliness when he meets prostitute Yeter, and he proposes that his fellow Turkish native live with him in exchange for a low rent. At first Ali's German Professor son Nejat

seems disapproving about his father's choice, but the young professor quickly grows fond of kind Yeter, especially upon discovering most of her hard-earned money is sent home to Turkey for her daughter's university studies. The accidental death of Yeter further distances father and son, both emotionally and physically. Nejat then decides to travel to Istanbul to begin an organized search for Yeter's daughter Ayten. He decides to stay in Turkey and trades places with the owner of a German bookstore who goes home to Germany. What Nejat doesn't know is that 20-something political activist Ayten is already in Germany, having fled the Turkish police.

EISENSTEIN – VOLUME 2

(Available from 28 April 2008)

(Dir: *Sergei M. Eisenstein / Soviet Union 1938-1955*)

ALEXANDER NEVSKY (ALEKSANDR NEVSKI, 1938 / 107 mins / Cert PG)

IVAN THE TERRIBLE (IVAN GROZNI) (PARTS 1 & 2, 1946/1955, 95 mins/81 mins / Cert PG)

BEZHIN MEADOW (BEZHIN LUG), 1937 / 30 mins / Cert U)

This second box-set includes Sergei Eisenstein's Historical dramas.

THE EYE (JIAN GUI)

(Horror / Dir: *Pang Brothers / With Lee Sin-Je, Lawrence Chou, Chutcha Rujinanon / Hong Kong 2002 / 95 mins / Cert 15*)

Blink and the ghosts might get you. A young blind girl regains her sight after being given a cornea implant from a dead woman, and immediately starts seeing the undead all around her. But she also retains memories of the dead person, so could the apocalyptic visions of the past also be echoes of the future? The Pang Brothers set the standard for stylish spooky shivers that Jessica Alba faces in the latest remake.

FINEST HOUR: FILMS BY HUMPHREY JENNINGS

(Dir: *Humphrey Jennings / UK 1939-43 / Total 80 mins / Cert U*)

Humphrey Jennings, widely considered Britain's greatest documentary director, was born on 19 August 1907. The BFI is marking this centenary with a selection of his best films, newly restored by the BFI National Archive. Beautifully evoking everyday heroism in times of war and peace, these four short films combine poetic observation with subtle yet intense national feeling. They remain an inspiration to countless modern filmmakers.

The compilation consists of:

SPARE TIME

WORDS FOR BATTLE

THE SILENT VILLAGE

LISTEN TO BRITAIN

FIVE

(Dir: *Abbas Kiarostami / Iran / 2003 / 74 minutes / Cert U*)

This is a richly poetic, radically minimalist film, featuring five extended sequences: a piece of driftwood is tossed and broken by the waves; people stroll along the promenade; a group of dogs gather by the water's edge; ducks move noisily across the frame from one side to the other; and a pool of water is shot at night, with the sounds of storm and frogs croaking breaking the stillness. Carefully constructed and manipulated, with a soundtrack meticulously assembled as a symphony of natural noise, together the images comprise an abstract narrative arc, which moves evocatively from solitude to community, motion to rest, and near silence to sound and song.

GARAGE

(Available from 23 June 2008)

(Drama / Dir: *Lenny Abrahamson / With Pat Shortt, Conor Ryan, Anne-Marie Duff / Ireland 2007 / 81 mins / Cert 18*)

Garage is the second film from director Lenny Abrahamson and writer Mark O'Halloran the team behind the award-winning black comedy *Adam & Paul*. Regarded by his neighbours as a harmless misfit, Josie has spent all his adult life as the caretaker of a crumbling petrol station on the outskirts of a small town in the mid-west

of Ireland. He is limited, lonely, yet relentlessly optimistic and, in his own peculiar way, happy. Garage is the story of Josie's hapless search for intimacy over the course of a summer which sees his life changed forever.

HAVANA BLUES (HABANA BLUES)

(Drama / Dir: Benito Zambrano / With Alberto Yoel, Roberto Sanmartín / Spain, Cuba, France 2005 / 110 mins / Cert 15)

Two young Cuban musicians Ruy and Tito share a dream of escaping Havana and making it big with their band Havana Blues. Tito lives with his wily grandmother Luz Maria who records her famed vocals in return for shots of vodka. Ruy lives with his hard working wife and two children but this doesn't stop him from charming his way into the bed of hot-shot Spanish music producer Martha. While in rehearsals for their first big concert, Ruy and Tito discover that Martha and side-kick Lorenzo are looking for new talent in Cuba. Facing the chance of a lifetime, Ruy and Tito have some big decisions to make.

HAXAN: WITCHCRAFT THROUGH THE AGES

(Documentary / Dir: Benjamin Christensen / Denmark 1922 / 181 mins / Cert 15)

Since its premiere in 1922, Benjamin Christensen's exploration of the role of superstition in medieval minds has caused outrage and protest from both the general public and religious groups. Dramatizing satanic activities and rituals including the ways in which suspected witches were tortured and killed, *Haxan* is a deliriously imaginative masterpiece. Not until 1941 did the director earn belated fame and respect - proof that this genre-defying 'documentary' was far ahead of its time. In 1968, the film won further praise and a whole new audience when it was re-released with a William Burroughs narration, under the title *Witchcraft Through the Ages*.

HONOUR OF THE KNIGHTS (HONOR DE CAVALLERIA)

(Drama / Dir: Albert Serra / With Lluís Carbo, Lluís Serrat / Spain 2006 / 111 mins / Cert tbc)

Loosely based on Don Quixote, Albert Serra's quietly compelling picture takes its time in examining the relationship at the centre of Cervantes novel. Sancho and Quixote are presented in a series of long takes and patiently paced shots, which records their day-to-day activities. Shot in natural light, on a small budget and with local amateurs playing the two leads, this film echoes cinema's patient greats, namely Bresson and Ozu. Honour of the Knights is a beautifully weighted tale of friendship, love, faith and death.

HOTEL HARABATI (DE PARTICULIER À PARTICULIER)

(Available from: date tbc)

(Drama / Dir: Brice Cauvin / With Hélène Fillières, Laurent Lucas, Anouk Aimée / France 2006 / 92 mins / Cert tbc)

While waiting to catch a train from Paris to Venice, French couple Philippe and Marion pick up a bag left behind by a polite, Middle Eastern man. Inside, they find neatly bound bundles of foreign currency; on the tag, it reads 'Hotel Harabati.' At the last moment, they decide not to go to Venice (though they tell their families and friends they did); but when Marion collects her film from the developer's, the reel is inexplicably filled with shots of canals, vaporetti, crowded piazzas ... and suddenly, terrifyingly, their whole world seems to have turned upside-down. As reality blurs, the couple start to grow apart. Marion leaves Paris with the children and Philippe takes refuge with a young man that he meets. Until eventually he is compelled to try and find Hotel Harabati...

I'M A CYBORG (SSA-I-BO-GU-JI-MAN GWEN-CHA-NA)

(Available from 26 May 2008)

(Dir: Chan-wook Park / With Soo-jung Lim, Ji-hoon Jung, Hee-jin Choi / Korea 2006 / 105 mins / Cert tbc)

A madcap fantasy from Chan-Wook Park, director of *Sympathy For Mr Vengeance*, *Oldboy* and *Lady Vengeance*. Young-goon is admitted to a mental institution. Believing herself a cyborg, she refuses to eat, and charges herself with a transistor radio. Il-soon is a fellow inmate, who wears masks, has the ability to steal people's personality traits, and believes he is fading and will one day turn into a dot. When Young-goon faints because she refuses to eat, Il-soon decides it's his job to get her on her feet again.

IN MEMORY OF ME (IN MEMORIA DI ME)

(Drama / Dir: Saverio Costanzo / With Christo Jivkov, Filippo Timi, Marco Baliani / Italy 2007 / 118 mins / Cert U)

Andrea is an intelligent, handsome young man who seems to have everything necessary to succeed. But the world's infinite possibilities have only confused him. In this disoriented state, he undertakes the novitiate, a period of spiritual training leading to priesthood. However, Andrea discovers more than a simple world of semi-silence and prayer in the monastery, where every look, every sound, reveals intrigue as the novices are encouraged to denounce one another's shortcomings.

INVISIBLE WAVES

(Drama / Dir: Pen-Ek Ratanaruang / With Tadanobu Asano, Gang Hye-Jung, Eric Tsang / Thailand-Hong Kong 2006 / 116 mins / Cert 15)

Kyoji is a Japanese chef working in a Hong Kong restaurant. Whilst having an affair with his employer's wife, he's actually hired by his boss to poison her. He escapes by boat befriending a single mother but they soon part. Once he's installed in a seedy hotel in Phuket, Thailand, his boss sends his henchman to sort out some unfinished business. Cinematography by the award-winning Chris Doyle (*In The Mood For Love/ Paranoid Park*).

I, PIERRE RIVIÈRE (MOI, PIERRE RIVIÈRE, AYANT ÉGORGÉ MA MÈRE, MA SOEUR ET MON FRÈRE...)

(Dir: René Allio / With Claude Hébert, Jacqueline Millière / France 1975 / 130 mins / Cert tbc)

The perfect companion piece to *Back To Normandy*, René Allio's film inspired Philibert to return to his filmic roots. A tragic tale of a vengeful farmer's son who murdered his family, claiming it was God's judgement, only to write his confessional memoirs whilst in jail before taking his own life. A cast of local villagers enact the events from 150 years before. Allio guides his narration through a cinematic interweaving of historical re-enactment, documentary and psychological study.

ITALIAN, THE (ITALIANETZ)

(Available from 28 April 2008)

(Drama / Dir: Andrei Kravchuk / With Kolya Spiridonov, Denis Moiseev / Russia 2006 / 99 mins / Cert 12A)

The Italian addresses the urgent issue of illegal adoption in Russia, which has become a well-documented international crisis. The film is based on the true story of an abandoned six-year-old boy, Vanya Solntsev, who rejects adoption by an affluent Italian couple and, instead, embarks on a dangerous search for his birth mother.

LADY CHATTERLEY

(Drama / Dir: Pascale Ferran / With Marina Hands, Jean-Louis Coullo'ch, Hippolyte Girardot / Belgium 2006 / 168 mins / Cert 18)

Constance, a Lady of the Manor trapped in a bleak, passionless life with a wheelchair-bound husband, experiences an awakening of the senses with her solitary gamekeeper. The familiar story is told here with quiet sensitivity and breathtaking visual beauty, underpinned by restrained yet powerful performances. Ferran's expansive, moving film achieves the near-impossible goal of staying faithful to the text in a uniquely cinematic way.

LANCELOT DU LAC

(Available from 28 April 2008)

(Dir: Robert Bresson / With Luc Simon, Laura Duke Condominas, Humbert Balsan / France-Italy 1974 / 84 mins / Cert PG)

Winner of the International Critics' Prize at Cannes in 1974, Bresson's masterpiece has lost none of its power and continues to cast a mystical spell. In this compelling and hypnotic film about the Arthurian legend, the Knights of the Round Table, their numbers depleted by their bloody and fruitless quest for the Holy Grail, return to King Arthur's court. Once there, Lancelot's passionate relationship with Queen Guinevere causes the Knights to fall out amongst themselves, eventually leading to their downfall. *Lancelot du Lac* is a unique and compelling vision of the Knights of the Round Table from one of the cinema's foremost artists.

LAND OF PROMISE: THE BRITISH DOCUMENTARY MOVEMENT 1930-1950

(Available from 28 April 2008)

(UK 1931-1950 / b/w & col / 674 minutes + 60 minutes approx extra material / Ratio 1.33:1)

Featuring 40 films over four DVDs, this extensive collection is a major retrospective of the British documentary film movement during its period of greatest influence. These films – many of which are being made available here for the first time since their original release – capture the spirit and strength, concerns and resolve of Britain and its people before, during and after the Second World War. The collection contains classic and lesser-known films including Rotha's *Shipyard* (1935), Elton's *Housing Problems* (1935) Jennings' *Words for Battle* (1941), *Listen to Britain* (1942), and emotive *A Diary for Timothy* (1946). Also featured are films from directors such as Ruby Grierson (*Today We Live*, 1937), Basil Wright (*Children at School*, 1937), Paul Dickson (*The Undeafed*, 1950) and Donald Alexander (*Five and Under*, 1941).

THE LAST MISTRESS (UNE VIEILLE MAÎTRESSE)

(Available from August 2008)

(Drama / Dir: Catherine Breillat / With Asia Argento, Fu'ad Ait Aattou, Roxane Mesquida / France-Italy 2007 / 116 mins / Cert tbc)

This future wedding is on everyone's lips. The young and dissolute Ryno de Marigny is betrothed to marry Hermangarde, an extremely virtuous gem of the French aristocracy. But some, who wish to prevent the union, despite the young couples' mutual love, whisper that the young man will never break off his passionate love affair with Vellini, which has been going on for years. In a whirlpool of confidences, betrayals and secrets, facing conventions and destiny, feelings will prove their strength is invincible...

THE LONG DAY CLOSES

(Available from 28 July 2008)

(Drama / Dir: Terence Davies / With Marjorie Yates, Leigh McCormick, Anthony Watson / UK 1992 / 85 mins / Cert 12A)

Through an impressionistic series of beautifully nuanced vignettes, Davies' autobiographical film evokes a period in the mid 50s. At 11 years old, he felt unparalleled happiness and security, warm amid family and friends, unruffled by the complications of sexual desire. A boldly imaginative cinematic hymn to the quiet joys of just being alive.

THE LOST WORLD OF TIBET

(Documentary / Dir: Emma Hindley / UK 2007 / 90 minutes / Cert tbc)

A rare treasure trove of amazing colour footage, preserved and restored by the BFI, reveals the story of the Dalai Lama and his secret Himalayan kingdom in a way never told before. An exclusive interview with the Dalai Lama, focussing on his early life and childhood is intercut with colour archive film from the 1930s, '40s and '50s as well as revealing interviews with ordinary Tibetan people who remember life before China sent in troops. Presented by Dan Cruickshank, this astonishing film allows us to glimpse into the rich culture of Tibet, showing us ancient ceremonies, Buddhist rituals and family life, from a time before the Tibetan people lost their country, nearly 50 years ago.

LOVE IS THE DEVIL: STUDY FOR A PORTRAIT OF FRANCIS BACON

(Available from 29 September 2008)

(Drama / Dir: John Maybury / With Derek Jacobi, Daniel Craig, Tilda Swinton / UK 1998 / 90 mins / Cert 18)

This dramatised biographical portrait of the life of British painter Francis Bacon concentrates on his relationship with George Dyer who became his lover and muse. An unsuccessful minor criminal, Dyer becomes Bacon's lover when the latter discovers him burgling his house in 1964. Dyer is introduced to the demi-monde of the infamous Colony Room club in Soho. Their sado-masochistic love affair is at first a happy one - a marriage of opposites - until Bacon eventually begins to tire of Dyer's increasing misery with the coterie who surround the artist.

MALA NOCHE

(Available from 28 April 2008)

(Drama / Dir: Gus Van Sant / With Tim Streeter, Doug Cooyate, Ray Monge / USA 1985 / 75 mins / Cert 15)

Based on a novella by Portland poet Walt Curtis, Gus Van Sant's debut feature is a gritty celebration of the outsider, a world of male hustlers and immigrant workers. Walt is working in a liqueur store when he encounters two handsome new Mexicans, Johnny and Pepper. Immediately, Walt develops an obsession

with Johnny, who is an illegal immigrant with little knowledge of English. The desire may be one-sided but it becomes a friendship of mutual needs and desires.

A MAN ESCAPED (UN CONDAMNÉ À MORT S'EST ÉCHAPPÉ OU LE VENT SOUFFLE OÙ IL VEUT)

(Available from 28 April 2008)

(Dir: Robert Bresson / With François Leterrier, Charles Le Clainche, Maurice Beerblock / France 1956 / 101 mins / Cert U)

They key film of Bresson's influential career, *A Man Escaped* has been acclaimed as one of the great works of cinema. Based on the true story of Resistance fighter André Devigny, who was imprisoned and sentenced to death by the Nazis during the Second World War, the film reconstructs his actual cell at the Lyons fortress of Montluc, and follows his meticulous plans for escape. This totally involving and thrilling tale of courage and faith is all the more authentic for its use of non-professional actors and Bresson's spare style. The film's stunning and spiritually moving denouement, to the accompaniment of Mozart's sublime Mass in C Minor, succeeds in moving the story to a different plane.

MICHAEL NYMAN'S MAN WITH A MOVIE CAMERA

(Available from 30 June 2008)

(Dir: Dziga Vertov / Russia 1929 / Silent with specially commissioned score by Michael Nyman / 68 mins / Cert E)

Man With a Movie Camera is an extraordinary piece of film-making, a montage of urban Russian life showing the people of the city at work and at play, and the machines that keep the city going. It was Vertov's first full-length film, and he used all the cinematic techniques at his disposal - dissolves, split screen, slow motion and freeze-frames - to produce a work that is exhilarating and intellectually brilliant. It was Vertov's formal inventiveness and energetic lyricism which inspired Michael Nyman to create his new score for this radical experiment of the Soviet cinematic avant-garde.

MITCHELL & KENYON EDWARDIAN SPORTS

(Documentary / Dir: Mitchell & Kenyon / UK 1901-1907 / 108 mins / Cert E)

A remarkable selection of sporting highlights from the Mitchell and Kenyon collection. The new DVD brings together some of the earliest surviving films (1901-1907) featuring the titans of professional football, cricket and rugby whilst also rediscovering the corinthian spirit of amateur sport and leisure in Edwardian life. Liverpool, Hull, Kingston Rovers, Everton and Blackburn Rovers feature alongside a swimming gala in North Shields, the AAA championships of 1901 and the Mold Cricket controversy-as early 'chucking' storm with a Australian umpire at its centre. With newly commissioned music by Stephen Horne and Martin Pyne.

MITCHELL & KENYON IN IRELAND

(Documentary / Dir: Mitchell & Kenyon / Ireland 1901-1906 / 75 mins / Cert E)

The Mitchell and Kenyon collection contains some twenty six films made in Ireland between May 1901 and December 1902.

Presented as 'Local Films for Local People' the films include street scenes of Dublin, Wexford and Belfast, local dignitaries attending the Cork International Exhibition, scenic routes from Cork to Blarney Castle and much more. With music from Neil Brand and Gunter Buchwald, an essay by Dr Vanessa Toulmin and a commentary read by Fiona Shaw this new BFI DVD offers Mitchell and Kenyon's unique and vivid record of Ireland at the start of the twentieth century.

FILMS BY MIKIO NARUSE – BOX SET

WHEN A WOMAN ASCENDS THE STAIRS (ONNA GA KAIKAN O AGARU TOKI)

(Dir: Mikio Naruse / With Hideko Takamine, Masayuki Mori, Reiko Dan / Japan 1960 / 111 mins / Cert PG)

Hideko Takamine, plays Keiko, a young widow who works as a hostess in Tokyo's neon-lit Ginza district. Every night she ascends the stairs of a sleazy whisky bar and forces herself to drink, joke and flirt with wealthy businessmen. At the age of thirty, however, Keiko has reached 'the turning point in a woman's life' and faces a stark choice - either to re-marry or to open a bar of her own.

FLOATING CLOUDS (UKIGUMO)

(Dir: Mikio Naruse / With Masayuki Mori / Japan 1955 / 123 mins / Cert 12A)

Naruse's ultimate masterpiece opens in the bombed ruins of Tokyo as Yukiko (Hideko Takamine) searches for Tomioka, with whom she worked during the war. They renew their affair, but he tells Yukiko he can't leave his wife... The two characters are adrift and in constant motion, but Naruse shoots them with travelling shots so imperceptible that all seems fixed, immobile.

LATE CHRYSANTHEMUMS (BANGIKU)

(Dir: Mikio Naruse / With Haruko Sugimura / Japan 1954 / 101min / PG)

One of Naruse's greatest works, this bleak, compelling, poignant portrait of a quartet of ageing geishas focuses on Kin. Retired after successful real estate deals, she cynically lends money and advice to the others. Then an old lover (Ken Uehara) reappears... Rarely was Naruse's attention to financial matters so insistent as in this fresco of confined lives, impeccably acted by a very fine ensemble.

NOT HERE TO BE LOVED (JE NE SUIS PAS LÀ POUR ÊTRE AIMÉ)

(Drama / Dir: Stéphane Brizé / With Patrick Chesnais, Anne Consigny, Georges Wilson / France 2005 / 93 mins / Cert 15)

Jean-Claude is a world-weary man stuck in the thankless job of delivering paperwork to people facing eviction or seizure of their possessions and visiting his brusque fault-finding father in a care home. Unexpectedly he decides to shake himself out of his stultifying rut by enrolling for tango lessons in the dance studio across the street from his office. It is there that he forms a tentative bond with a bride-to-be who shares his longing for something more out of life.

ONE LAST DANCE

(Thriller / Dir: Max Makowski / With Francis (C) NG, Ti Lung, Vivien HSU, Harvey Keitel / Hong Kong 2006 / 103 mins / Cert 15)

Set in Singapore, T is a ruthless assassin with a formidable reputation who is hired to track down the kidnapers of a business man's son, an incident which involves his good friend, Ko. Yet his actions could be compromised by this long-term friendship with the captain of police, and his love for Ko's sister. He kills them one by one but with every death he gets closer to the shocking revelation of the final name.

OPEN ROAD, THE

(Documentary / Dir: Claude Friese-Greene / UK 1924 / 64 mins / Cert U)

Friese-Greene was a pioneer of colour cinematography who, in the summer of 1924, set out from Cornwall with the aim of recording life on the road between Land's End and John O'Groats. The resulting ground-breaking travelogue provides a fascinating social record of inter-war Britain for today's audiences, who can revisit iconic landmarks and assess similarities and changes that have taken place.

ORPHÉE (ORPHEUS)

(Available from 30 June 2008)

(Fantasy / Dir: Jean Cocteau / With Jean Marais, Maria Casarès / France 1950 / 95 mins / Cert PG)

Cocteau's most celebrated film marries classical legend to his own personal mythology in the story of a poet caught between the worlds of the real and the imagined. Meticulously designed, *Orphée* is the most haunting, poetic and adult of fantasy films. Filmed in and around Paris, the city is subjected to what Cocteau himself called 'creative geography', made new and different by the magic of montage.

FRANÇOIS OZON: REGARDE LA MER AND OTHER SHORT FILMS

(Dir: François Ozon / France 1994–2006 / 152 mins / Cert 15)

François Ozon is one of the most provocative and vibrant filmmakers to emerge during the 1990s. His dark, mordantly psychological films draw their impact from often disturbing explorations of transgression and sexuality and combine wry humour, sensitivity, and subversive insight with a talent for manipulation. This eclectic collection of seven shorts captures the talent Ozon would continue to display in his later feature films. Contains:

REGARDE LA MER (SEE THE SEA) (1996 / 52 mins)

ACTION VERITE (TRUTH OR DARE) (1994 / 4 mins)

LA PETITE MORT (A LITTLE DEATH) (1995 / 24 mins)

UNE ROBE D'ETE (A SUMMER DRESS) (1996 / 15 mins)

SCENES DE LIT (BED SCENES) (1998 / 26 mins)

X2000 (1998 / 6 mins)

UN LEVER DE RIDEAU (A CURTAIN RAISER) (2006 / 25 mins)

PAGE TURNER, THE (LA TOURNEUSE DE PAGES)

(Drama / Dir: Denis Dercourt / With Catherine Frot, Déborah François, Pascal Greggory / France 2006 / 82 mins / Cert 15)

A small-town butcher's daughter, Mélanie, aged about ten, has a special gift for the piano yet fails the Conservatory entrance exam after being distracted by the thoughtless behaviour of the chair-woman of the jury Ariane Fouchécourt, a well known concert pianist. Bitterly disappointed, Mélanie gives up the piano. Yet, some ten years later Madame Fouchécourt meets the girl again and warms to her when the young woman becomes her page turner...

PARANOID PARK

(Available from 28 April 2008)

(Drama / Dir: Gus Van Sant / With Gabe Nevins, Taylor Momsen, Jake Miller / France-USA 2007 / 81 mins / Cert 15)

When a security guard is accidentally killed outside Portland's notorious skate park, it's clear that 16 year old skateboarder Alex knows more than he's letting on. Fearing the consequences, he increasingly retreats into his own world of silence and isolation. Shot by legendary cinematographer Chris Doyle (*In The Mood For Love/ Invisible Waves*) and Rain Kathy Li, Gus Van Sant's ultra-stylish film won the special 60th Anniversary Prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

POISON & DOTTIE GETS SPANKED (SHORT)

(Available from 26 May 2008)

(Dir: Todd Haynes / With Edith Meeks, Millie White, Buck Smith / USA 1991 / 85 mins / Cert 18)

Todd Haynes landmark movie *Poison* explores modern alienation and sexual identity in three different stories. One tells of the disappearance of a schoolboy after his father's murder; the second looks at a scientist's sex-drive experimentations; and the final story explores a prisoners' unrequited love for a fellow prisoner. The DVD also includes his short film *Dottie Gets Spanked* about a young boy's obsession with a TV character. One of the leading figures of the New Queer Cinema, Haynes has become a unique visionary with movies such as *Safe*, *Velvet Goldmine*, *Far From Heaven* and the recent *I'm Not There*.

OTTO PREMINGER: MARGIN FOR ERROR & A ROYAL SCANDAL

A fiercely independent producer-director, Otto Preminger as much as any other filmmaker changed the face of Hollywood forever. The two early films in this 2-disc package offer great insight into the working methods of the Austrian director who went on to create classic masterpieces such as *Laura* (1944) and *Anatomy of a Murder* (1959).

MARGIN FOR ERROR

(Dir: Otto Preminger / USA 1943 / 74 minutes / Cert PG)

Wisecrackin' Jewish cop Moe Finkelstein (Milton Berle) has just been put in charge of guarding the proto-Nazi German embassy in New York where he encounters the egoistical, villainous consul (a scene-stealing performance by Otto Preminger himself), his American wife Sophie (Joan Bennett) who is desperate for a divorce, and the Consul's secretary, the sheltered Baron Von Alvenstor whose blind allegiance to his motherland is being severely tested by both his boss's increasingly maddening power-hungry pursuits and his own growing affection for Sophie.

A ROYAL SCANDAL

(Dir: Otto Preminger / USA 1945 / 94 minutes / Cert PG)

A risqué comedy set at the height of the Russian dynasty that features a rare appearance from the sumptuous Tallulah Bankhead in one of her finest roles as Empress Catherine the Great. There is also a hilarious cameo from Vincent Price, a sparkling Lubitsch-honed script and the stunning black and white cinematography that has come to mark Otto Preminger's work.

PRINCESS

(Animation / Dir: Anders Morgenthaler / With Thur Lindhardt, Liv Corfixen, Tommy Kentner / Denmark 2006 / 79 mins / Cert 18)

August, a clergyman, returns home from years of missionary work abroad because of the death of his sister Christina, who – after going from greatness to the gutter as the famous porno star “The Princess” – has finally died of drug abuse. She has left her five-year-old daughter Mia with Karen, a prostitute. August pays them a visit to bring Mia home with him and become her guardian. Burdened by sorrow and guilt, he decides to avenge Christina’s death and brings Mia along on a crusade to clear his sister’s name of pornographic connotations. The mission escalates into a brutal and violent rout as August attempts desperately to protect the only thing he holds dear – namely Mia – forcing him to make a fateful decision.

PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES (COEURS)

(Drama / Dir: Alain Resnais / With Laura Morante, Lambert Wilson, Pierre Arditi / France-Italy 2007 / 120 mins / Cert 12A)

In the French film adaptation of the play by British playwright, Alan Ayckbourn, six people struggle to hold on to relationships they care about. Dan and Nicole are a couple but Nicole Dan is in denial, Lionel tends a bar, but is slowly losing all of his friends as he spends every spare moment caring for his ill father. Meanwhile Thierry tries to charm the saintly Charlotte. By the end of the film the relationships have all altered; some not for the better.

PRIVATE PROPERTY (NUE PROPRIÉTÉ)

(Available from 28 July 2008)

(Drama / Dir: Joachim Lafosse / With Isabelle Huppert, Jérémie Renier, Yannick Renier / Belgium-France 2006 / 90 mins / Cert tbc)

An old but beautiful farm in Belgium is home to Pascale (Isabelle Huppert) and her twin sons Thierry and Francois. Although loving and ostensibly supportive of one another, each is still reeling from the divorce that divided the family some years earlier. Helpless and in a bid for survival, Pascale leaves the house in the hands of Thierry and Francois, never suspecting that in her absence, a fratricidal war will change their family forever.

RADIO ON

(Available from 26 May 2008)

(Drama / Dir: Chris Petit / With David Beames, Lisa Kreuzer / UK-Germany 1979 / 104 mins / Cert 18)

One of the most striking feature debuts in British cinema, Chris Petit’s (anti-) road movie is both a hymn and homage to the dreamed imperatives of the clear highway, while remaining ruefully aware that, in England at least, the road soon runs out and the journey must turn in other directions, not least inward. Following a young man (David Beames) as he travels to Bristol to investigate the mysterious death of his brother, *Radio On* offers a unique, compelling and even mythic vision of a late 1970s England, stalled between failed hopes of cultural and social change and the imminent upheavals of Thatcherism. Stunningly photographed in luminous monochrome by Martin Schaefer (the brilliant cinematographer of Wim Wenders), and driven by a startling new wave soundtrack (Bowie, Kraftwerk, Lene Lovich, Ian Dury, Wreckless Eric and more).

SEACHD – THE INACCESSABLE PINNACLE

(Drama / Dir: Simon Miller / With Angus Peter Campbell, Padruig Morrison, Coll macDonald / UK 2007 / 90 mins / Cert PG)

The first ever Scottish Gaelic film released theatrically. A young man cannot stop his boyhood quest for the truth - the truth behind the death of his parent and the truth behind his Grandfather's ancient, incredible, fearful stories. A quest that leads him to one of Scotland's most treacherous mountains, The Inaccessible Pinnacle. Tha fear

air a bhith, o òige, air tòir na firinne – an fhirinn mu bhàs a phàrantan agus na th’ air cùlaibh sgeulachdan aosmhor, annasach, eagalach a sheanar. Tha a cheumannan gan stiùireadh gu tè de na stùcan as iargalta, marbhtach ann an Alba: Am Binnean Do-ruigsinn.

THE SEVENTH SEAL (DET SJUNDE INSEGLET)

(Drama / Dir: Ingmar Bergman / With Max Von Sydow, Inga Landgré, Bengt Ekerot / Sweden 1957 / 92 mins / Cert PG)

Set in the Middle Ages at the time of the Black Death, *The Seventh Seal* remains a powerful allegory for man's search for the meaning of life. The battle-wearied knight Antonius Block returns from the Crusades, disillusioned by his experiences. When Death appears, he challenges him to a game of chess to determine his fate. As the game progresses, it takes its toll on the troupe he's protecting, and with the threat of imminent destruction, the fate of the entire community is at stake. This 50th anniversary edition has been digitally remastered.

SILENT LIGHT (STELLET LICHT)

(Drama / Dir: [Carlos Reygadas](#) / With [Cornelio Wall Fehr](#), [Miriam Toews](#), [Maria Pankratz](#) / Mexico-France-Netherlands 2006 / 136 mins / Cert 15)

Silent Light is set against the pastoral backdrop of the North Mexican Mennonite community. The film tells the story of Johan, a married man who against the laws of his faith and traditional beliefs, falls in love with another woman, thus facing an internal dilemma, whether to betray his wife, the woman he once loved and disrupt the apparent stability of the community or sacrifice his true love and future happiness.

THE SINGER (QUAND J'ÉTAIS CHANTEUR)

(Drama / Dir: [Xavier Giannoli](#) / With [G rard Depardieu](#), [C cile De France](#) / France 2007 / 112 mins / Cert 12)

The Singer is the charming story of an aging dance hall singer, portrayed with exquisite observation by G rard Depardieu, who gets a new lease on life when he meets bubbly estate agent and single mother Marion (C cile De France). Director Xavier Giannoli keeps the tone light whilst also exploring the characters and their humble small-town milieu with great insight and comprehension.

SKETCHES OF FRANK GEHRY

(Documentary / Dir: [Sydney Pollack](#) / With [Frank Gehry](#), [Michael Eisner](#), [Bob Geldof](#) / USA 2005 / 83 mins / Cert 12A)

Frank Gehry and Sydney Pollack are two of the best-known names in their respective fields of architecture and filmmaking, and as it turns out, they are also good friends. Pollack doesn't pretend to understand architecture, he just knows what he likes and in an effort to better understand Gehry's architecture, the legendary director delves into his friend's childhood and passions, even talking to his 94-year-old therapist.

SOCIETY

(Horror / Dir: [Brian Yuzna](#) / With [Billy Warlock](#), [Devin De Vasquez](#) / USA 1989 / 95 mins / Cert 18)

For most people, growing up in such lavish surroundings of Beverly Hills would be the stuff of dreams, but for Billy Whitney, a senior at the Beverly Hills Academy, that dream is fast becoming a nightmare. Suspicious and paranoid about the behaviour of those around him, Billy becomes increasingly unsure of the kinds of activities his friends and family are involved in. As the evidence of strange sexual goings-on appears to become more convincing, Billy's belief that his entire social set is somehow plotting against him gets stronger and stronger. Soon his worst fears will be realised, as he prepares to gatecrash the most shocking and perversely surreal socialite gathering from hell... It's a matter of good breeding. Really.

SOMEONE ELSE

(Comedy / Dir: [Col Spector](#) / With [Susan Lynch](#), [Stephen Mangan](#) / UK 2006 / 78 mins / Cert 15)

Thirty-something photographer David has for some time been happily dating Lisa, but increasingly he's dreaming of Nina, a tempestuous free spirit who seems to represent everything his loving, stable girlfriend is not. So what is a man to do? A funny, sad and honest look at the male gender's seemingly infinite capacity for self-deception.

STILL LIFE (SAN XIA HAO REN)

(Available from 29 September 2008)

(Dir: [Jia Zhangke](#) / With [Zhao Tao](#), [Han Sanming](#) / China 2006 / 109 mins / Cert PG)

Winner of the 2006 Venice Film Festival, *Still Life* is the vivid and absorbing tale of two individuals struggling to keep up with the dizzying pace of change in 21st century China. Set against the spectacular landscape of the Three Gorges region along the Yangtze River, it intertwines the stories of Han Sanming, a coal miner, and Shen Hong, a nurse, both searching for their missing partners in Fengjie, a town currently undergoing demolition and soon to disappear forever in the flooding caused by the controversial Three Gorges Dam.

SYNDROMES AND A CENTURY (SANG SATTAWAT)

(Available from 30 June 2008)

(Dir: Apichatpong Weerasethakul / With: Nantararat Sawaddikul, Jaruchai Iamaram, Nu Nimsomboon, Sophon Pukanok / Thailand-Austria-France 2006 / 105 mins / Cert 15)

Syndromes and a Century establishes young Thai film-maker Apichatpong Weerasethakul as one of the most exciting talents in world cinema today. This, his fifth feature, is a spellbinding Buddhist meditation on the mysteries of love and attraction, the workings of memory, and the ways in which happiness is triggered. Mesmerisingly beautiful to look at, it is also laced with wonderful absurd humour. Apichatpong's new film has been highly acclaimed at international festivals and released in cinemas around the world, but remains unseen in Thailand itself following a demand from local censors for several cuts in the film.

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS (JANGHWA, HONGRYUN)

(Available from 14 April 2008)

(Horror / Dir: Ji-Woon Kim / With Soo-Jung Im, Jeong-Ah Yeom / Korea 2003 / 110 mins / Cert 15)

Two sisters are released from a mental institution and return home. But relationships with their stepmother lead to increasingly disturbed behaviour that threatens to destroy their lives. Korea's smash-hit psychological thriller from Kim Ji-Woon echoes early De Palma with stylish chills. UK brothers Charles and Thomas Guard direct the 2008 remake.

TERROR'S ADVOCATE (L' AVOCAT DE LA TERREUR)

(Available from August 2008)

(Documentary / Dir: Barbet Schroeder / France 2007 / 132 mins / Cert tbc)

Communist, anti-colonialist, right-wing extremist? What convictions guide the moral mind of Jacques Vergès? Barbet Schroeder takes us down history's darkest paths in his attempt to illuminate the mystery behind this enigmatic figure. As a young lawyer during the Algerian war, Vergès espoused the anti-colonialist cause and defended Djamila Bouhired, 'la Pasionaria', who bore her country's hopes for freedom on her shoulders and was sentenced to death for planting bombs in cafés. He obtained her release, married her and had two children with her. Then suddenly, at the height of an illustrious career, Vergès disappeared without trace for eight years. He re-emerged from his mysterious absence, taking on the defense of terrorists of all kinds, from Magdalena Kopp and Anis Naccache to Carlos the Jackal. He represented Historical monsters such as Nazi lieutenant Klaus Barbie. From the lawyer's inflammatory and provocative cases to his controversial terrorist links, Barbet Schroeder follows the winding trail left by this 'devil's advocate', as he forges his unique path in law and politics.

THEOREM

(Dir: Pier Paolo Pasolini / With Terence Stamp, Silvana Mangano, Massimo Girotti / Italy 1968 / 98 mins / Cert 15)

A wealthy Italian bourgeois family faces collapse after each of its members is seduced in turn by a mysterious Christ or Devil like stranger (Terence Stamp). This enigmatic fable is used by Pasolini to explore family dynamics and in particular the subversive power of homosexuality.

A THROW OF DICE (PRAPANCHA PASH)

(Dir: Franz Osten / With Himansu Rai, Seeta Devi, Charu Roy / Recorded score by Nithin Saehney and the London Symphony Orchestra / India-Germany-UK 1929 / 74 mins / Cert U)

This spectacular silent epic, based on an episode from the Mahabharata is the tale of two neighbouring kings, both addicted to gambling and in love with the same woman, Sunita, the daughter of a hermit. Described by composer Nitin Sawhney as "a cross between Chaplin, Cecil B. DeMille and an early Bollywood movie", this German-Indian co-production was shot on location in Rajasthan, featuring thousand of extras and an array of elephants and tigers. The BFI's new digital restoration features Nitin Sawhney's ravishing score which effortlessly blends delicate vocals, Indian flute, acoustic guitar and tabla percussion with the sounds of a symphony orchestra.

UNDER THE BOMBS (SOUS LES BOMBES)

(Available from July 2008)

(Drama / Dir: Philippe Aractingi / With Georges Khabbaz, Nada Abou Farhat / Lebanon 2007 / 99 mins / Cert 15)

Zeina is a Lebanese woman in the middle of a divorce. In order to spare her son, Karim, she sends him to stay with her sister in a little village in the South of Lebanon. One week later, the war breaks out in Lebanon. Terribly worried, she wants to follow him but only one taxi-driver, Toni, agrees to take her. Setting off in the car, Zeina and Toni are far from sharing the same political views but they drive south together, into a landscape once again devastated by bombs. Most of the bridges have been bombed and the taxi is forced to take back roads. When they finally reach the house of Zeina's sister, they realize they are too late: it has been hit, and only a pile of rubble remains. Zeina's sister is dead. Ali, a kid from the village, comes forward to tell them that her son Karim is ok. But when Tony and Zeina finally arrive, exhausted, they realise that Ali, the kid from Kherbet Selem, has made a terrible mistake: he has confused Karim with another boy, Tarek. His face devastated with sorrow, Tony watches as Zeina desperately hugs the child to her as if he were her son, her own flesh and blood.

VERHOEVEN COLLECTION: 5-DISC BOXSET

(Available from 26 May 2008)

(Dir: Paul Verhoeven / Netherlands 1971-1983)

The collection includes five career-defining films from the Dutch master before he took on Hollywood blockbusters. All films are digitally remastered with commentaries by the director himself.

BUSINESS IS BUSINESS (WAT ZIEN IK, 1971 / 88 mins / Cert 18)

TURKISH DELIGHT (TURKS FRUIT, 1973 / 103 mins / Cert 18)

KATIE TIPPEL (KEETJE TIPPEL, 1975 / 99 mins / Cert 18)

SOLDIER OF ORANGE (SOLDAAT VAN ORANJE 1940-45, 1977 / 147 mins / Cert 15)

THE FOURTH MAN (DE VIERDE MAN, 1983 / 98 mins / Cert 18)

EL VIOLÍN

(Drama / Dir: Francisco Vargas / With Ángel Tavira, Gerardo Taracena, Dagoberto Gama Mexico / 98 mins / Cert TBC)

Elderly Don Plutarco, his son Genaro and grandson Lucio are humble rural musicians who also support the campesina peasant guerilla movement's armed efforts. When the military seizes their village, the inhabitants flee, leaving ammunition behind. Playing on his appearance as a harmless violin player to secure the trust of the vain captain (who fancies himself as a musician), old Don Plutarco has a plan to recover the ammunition through charm and steely nerves. Beautifully shot in black and white, *El Violín* is anchored on the amazing performance by Tavira (an actual violinist) and Gama as the captain. Through its juxtaposition of gorgeous images and shocking violence, the film evokes the struggle between peasants and government, duty and pleasure.

WILD TIGERS I HAVE KNOWN

(Drama / Dir: Cam Archer / With Malcolm Stumpf, Patrick White, Fairuza Balk / USA 2006 / 82 mins / Cert 18)

A visually stunning coming-of age story shot through with fantasy, as a teenager deals with his newfound sexuality. Logan is 13 years old, and a dreamer. Soft spoken and isolated, he has a crush on an older and infinitely cooler boy, Rodeo Walker. As Logan and Rodeo strike up a mismatched friendship, the kind that only works on walks deep

into the forest when no one else is around, Logan's infatuation with Rodeo inspires him to create a new persona named Leah. Leah and Rodeo grow close through whispered late-night phone calls, and when Leah agrees to meet Rodeo face to face it is Logan who must finally prove that he can ask for what he so achingly wants.

THE WITNESSES (LES TÉMOINS)

(Drama / Dir: André Téchiné / With Michel Blanc, Emmanuelle Béart, Sami Bouajila, Julie Depardieu / France 2007 / 114 mins / Cert 15)

Manu arrives in Paris, where he shares a cheap hotel room with his sister Julie. He strikes up a joyous, chaste friendship with Adrien, a wealthy doctor in his early fifties who opens Manu's eyes to a different way of life. On a trip to the seaside, Adrien introduces Manu to Sarah and Mehdi, a young couple who have just had their first child. An unplanned love affair upsets the ordered tranquility of their individual destinies. Each of them becomes a protagonist in, and witness to, a contemporary tragedy, where those who survive may emerge stronger, but not undamaged.

YOU, THE LIVING (DU LEVANDE)

(Available from July 2008)

(Dir: Roy Andersson / With Elisabet Helander, Juggo Nohall, Jan Wikblad / Sweden 2007 / 93 mins / Cert 15)

A succession of fifty tragic-comic vignettes from modern life, 'You, the Living' is about the human being, about her greatness and her miserableness, her joy and sorrow, her self-confidence and anxiety. A being at whom we want to laugh and also cry for. It is simply a tragic comedy or a comic tragedy about us.' - Roy Andersson

"Be pleased then, you the living, in your delightfully warmed bed, before Lethe's ice-cold wave will lick your escaping foot" - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Römische Elegien*

BACK CATALOGUE

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2046

16 YEARS OF ALCOHOL

36 QUAI DES ORFEVRES

A IS FOR AUTISM

AB-NORMAL BEAUTY (SEI MONG SE JUN)

ACTOR'S REVENGE, AN (YUKINOJO HENGE)

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AFFLICTION

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AFTER THE REHEARSAL (EFTER REPETITIONEN)

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AFTERLIFE

ÂGE D'OR, L'

AIMEE AND JAGUAR

AIR DE FAMILLE, UN

ALICE ET MARTIN

ALLEGRO

AMAZING COUPLE, AN - TRILOGY #2 (LA TRILOGIE: UN COUPLE ÉPATANT)

AMORES PERROS

AN ACTOR'S REVENGE

AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE

ANATOMY OF HELL (ANATOMIE DE L'ENFER)

ANDREI RUBLEV

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ANTIBODIES (ANTIKORPER)

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ARMY IN THE SHADOWS (L'ARMÉE DES OMBRES)

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AT THE HEIGHT OF SUMMER

AUDITION (ÔDISHON)

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AUTUMN TALE, AN (CONTE D'AUTOMNE)

BAADASSSSS!

BAD GUY (NABBEUN NAMJA)

BAD SLEEP WELL, THE

BALLAD OF NARAYAMA (NARAYAMA BUSHI-KO)

BALZAC AND THE LITTLE CHINESE SEAMSTRESS

BANDE À PART

BANGKOK: DANGEROUS

BASQUE BALL (PELOTA VASCA. LA PIEL CONTRA LA PIEDRA)

BATTLE IN HEAVEN (BATALA EN EL CIELO)

BATTLE ROYALE (BATORU ROWAIARU)
BATTLE ROYALE II (BATORU RAWAIARU II)
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BEIJING BICYCLE (SHI QI SUI DE DAN CHE)
BELLE NOISEUSE, LA
BELLEVILLE RENDEZ-VOUS (LES TRIPLETTES DE BELLEVILLE)
BETTY FISHER AND OTHER STORIES
BIGAS LUNA COLLECTION (THE AGES OF LULU, JAMON JAMON, GOLDEN
BALLS, THE TIT AND THE MOON)
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UNTOLD SCANDAL (SEU-KEN-DEUL)
VA SAVOIR
VACANCES DE M. HULOT, LES
VAN GOGH
VENDREDI SOIR
VILLE EST TRANQUILLE, LA
VIRGIN SPRING, THE (JUNGFRUKÄLLAN)
VISIONS OF LIGHT
VITAL
WAGES OF FEAR, THE
WAITING FOR HAPPINESS
WAITING WOMEN (KVINNORS VÄNTAN)
WALL (MUR)
WAL-MART: THE HIGH COST OF LOW PRICE
WAR & PEACE
WAR (VOINA)
WARM WATER UNDER A RED BRIDGE (AKAI HASHI NOSHITANO NURUI MIZU)
WATER DROPS ON BURNING ROCKS
WEEPING MEADOW - TRILOGY I (TRILOGIA I: TO LIVADI POU DAKRYZED)

WELCOME TO THE DOLLHOUSE
WHEN THE LAST SWORD IS DRAWN (MIBU GISHI DEN)
WHERE THE SIDEWALK ENDS
WHIRLPOOL
WHISKY
WHO KILLED BAMBI? (QUI A TUÉ BAMBI?)
WILD SIDE
WILD STRAWBERRIES (SMULTRONSTÄLLET)
WING, THE
WINTER LIGHT (NATTVARDSGÄSTERNA)
WINTER'S TALE, A (CONTE D'HIVER)
WITTGENSTEIN
WOMAN IN WINTER, A
WOMAN OF THE DUNES (SUNA NO ONNA)
WONDERLAND
WOODSMAN, THE
WORLD WITHOUT THIEVES
YES MEN, THE
YESTERDAY
YOJIMBO
ZED AND TWO NOUGHTS, A
ZIDANE: A 21st CENTURY PORTRAIT

Please note some important guidelines for booking films: Please confirm all telephone bookings in writing, stating essential details such as correct despatch and invoice addresses, and the correct format of the film. If you do not receive a booking confirmation from us, the film may not have been booked; please check all your bookings carefully, well in advance of the playdate. When sending in payment for films, it would be helpful if the original invoice (or a photocopy) accompanies the cheque.

To screen DVDs to members of the public, or to non-theatrical groups such as film societies, it is necessary to obtain permission from the distributor. Unless permission is sought, and DVD materials are supplied by the appropriate company, the film may not be available for group screenings. We charge £80 for one screening of the film, and this covers the supply of the material and the right to show it. Remember: it is illegal to use DVDs purchased from shops for home use only, or rented from companies like "Blockbusters".

DVDs should be posted back to the BFI immediately after screening, using the return label enclosed in the parcel.

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It is helpful if Film Society treasurers would return the original invoice (or a copy) when sending cheques in payment for DVD hire.

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To hire any of these films or for further information, please contact the Bookings department:

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