

DVD press release



To coincide with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations the BFI presents a wealth of rare royal films on two double-DVD sets: *A Royal Occasion* and *The Queen on Tour*

The BFI celebrates Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee with the release of two DVDs packed with rare and previously unavailable footage of the British royal family spanning a period of 75 years. ***A Royal Occasion: from Queen Victoria to Elizabeth II*** and ***The COI Collection Volume Seven: The Queen on Tour***, both released on **28 May 2012**, will delight anyone with an interest in the monarchy, British history or the development of cinema. In addition to the wealth of remastered films on the discs themselves, both DVDs come complete with illustrated booklets containing comprehensive film notes and essays.

A Royal Occasion: from Queen Victoria to Elizabeth II

BFI curator Jan Faull has conducted an extensive search through the BFI National Archive to unearth over four hours of fascinating footage on a range of royalty-related subjects beginning as far back as 1896. The footage creates a comprehensive historical survey of the royal family on film, from the late Victorian era to the Queen's Coronation in 1953.

This superb collection features previously unseen material, such as silent Topical Budget newsreels and early colour productions, which illustrate the development of British filmmaking techniques. This unique release contains many firsts: the first ever footage of a British monarch on film (Queen Victoria at Balmoral, which is newly restored), the first big British ceremonial event (Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897) and the first colour film of *Trooping the Colour* (1937).

These surprising films also offer rare glimpses of touching royal moments including the birth of Princess Elizabeth, the Royal Family at home during World War II, and a behind-the-scenes film made by Daimler of the 1947 royal tour of South Africa.

The COI Collection Volume Seven: The Queen on Tour

Volume Seven in the BFI's DVD series celebrating the films made by the Central Office of Information (COI) presents wonderful colour footage of the Queen and the Royal Family travelling the world on official visits between 1953 and 1971. The COI – with unprecedented access to the royals – produced the 'official' record of royal tours and state visits and also commissioned and supervised a variety of retrospectives of the Queen and her family.

Highlights from this extraordinary collection of films, many of which were shot in exotic locations, include: *Royal Destiny* (1953), a look at the Queen's early life, made in her coronation year; *The Queen's State Visit to Iran* (1961), a fascinating film of the royal visit to Iran eight years after a British-and American-backed coup installed the Shah; *Sierra Leone Greets the Queen* (1962), a colourful account of the Queen's visit in the year of independence; and *Britain Welcomes the Emperor and Empress of Japan* (1971), a record of the controversial state visit from Emperor Hirohito and his wife.

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Notes to editors

- Jan Faull and other experts from the BFI National Archive are available to talk or write about the films in these collections
- BFI DVDs are available from all good DVD retailers; by mail order from the BFI Filmstore Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore
- Images are available at www.image.net under BFI>DVD 2012

A Royal Occasion: from Queen Victoria to Elizabeth II

Queen Victoria

Includes *Scenes at Balmoral* (1896) and *Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee* (1897)

Edward VII & Queen Alexandra

Includes *Edward VII at Queen Victoria's Funeral* (1901), *Edward VII's Coronation* (1902), *King Edward VII launches HMS Dreadnought from Portsmouth Dockyard* (1906) and *Queen Alexandra's Drive through London* (1916)

George V & Queen Mary

Includes *The Queen and the Land Lassies* (1918), *Queen's Visit to the East End* (1917) and *Silver Jubilee* (1935)

George VI & Queen Elizabeth

Includes *Wedding Cake for Duke of York's Bride* (1923), *The Royal Wedding* (1923) and *Britain's Baby Princess* (1926)

Elizabeth II

Includes *Long to Reign Over Us* (1953) and *Lambeth Rejoices: Coronation Television* (1953)

Plus special features including *Buckingham Palace Allotment* (1918)

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIVD953 / Cert E / 2-disc set

UK / 1896-1953 / black & white, tinted and colour / English language and silent with music / 287 mins / DVD-9 x 2 / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / Dolby Digital mono audio (320kbps)

The COI Collection Volume Seven: The Queen on Tour

Disc One

Royal Destiny (1953, 17 mins)

Southward with Prince Philip (1957, 12 mins)

Princess Margaret in Mauritius and East Africa (1959, 16 mins)

Life of a Queen (1960, 15 mins)

The Queen's State Visit to Iran (1961, 13 mins)

Royal Children (1961, 19 mins)

Queen Elizabeth II in Pakistan (1961, 23 mins)

Disc Two

Sierra Leone Greets the Queen (1962, 21 mins)

Britain Welcomes the President of India (1963, 15 mins)

The Royal Tour of the Caribbean (1966, 28 mins)

Britain Welcomes the President of Pakistan (1966, 15 mins)

A State Visit to Turkey by Queen Elizabeth II (1971, 23 mins)

Britain Welcomes the Emperor and Empress of Japan (1971, 12 mins)

RRP: 19.99 / cat. no. BFIVD945 / Cert E / 2-disc set

UK / 1953-1971 / black & white and colour / optional English hard-of-hearing subtitles / 234 mins / DVD-9 x 2 / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / Dolby Digital mono audio (320kbps)

About the BFI

The BFI is the lead body 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
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences