



The Adventures of Prince Achmed (*Die Abenteuer des Prinzen Achmed*) A film by Lotte Reiniger

Three years in the making, Lotte Reiniger's beautiful 1926 silhouette animation, *The Adventures of Prince Achmed*, brings to life magical tales from the *Arabian Nights*. The earliest surviving animated feature film – preserved in the BFI National Archive – it has been hailed as one of the world's most innovative and influential animations. On 19 August 2013, the BFI releases *The Adventures of Prince Achmed* on Blu-ray for the first time, in a Dual Format Edition with a newly recorded narration and the original orchestral score, along with a selection of Lotte Reiniger's short films.

Handsome young Prince Achmed is brave and eager for adventure, so when the most powerful sorcerer in the world challenges him to fly a magic horse, Achmed plunges headlong into a series of exciting escapades that take him from Baghdad to China via the enchanted spirit lands of Wak-Wak.

Made in card, cut entirely by hand, and then manipulated using sheets of lead joined by wires, Reiniger's exquisite shadow characters move intricately through colourful worlds of demons, witches, beautiful princesses and flying castles. The incredible talent and creativity shown here has influenced the animation in other films including *Snow White*, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* and *The Sword in the Stone*.

Special features

- Presented in both High Definition and Standard Definition
- Original orchestral score by Wolfgang Zeller
- Newly recorded alternative narration based on Lotte Reiniger's own translation of her German text *Die Abenteuer des Prinzen Achmed*, spoken by actress Penelope McGhie
- *The Adventures of Dr. Dolittle* (Lotte Reiniger, 1928, 30 mins): a series of three short films based on the classic stories by Hugh Lofting
- *The Flying Coffer* (Lotte Reiniger, 1921, 8 mins): a poor young fisherman tries to rescue the Emperor of China's daughter who is imprisoned in a sky high pagoda
- *The Secret of the Marquise* (Lotte Reiniger, 1922, 2 mins): an early advert for Nivea skin care products
- *The Lost Son* (Lotte Reiniger, 1974, 14 mins): the New Testament parable animated in Lotte Reiniger's inimitable style
- *The Star of Bethlehem* (Lotte Reiniger, 1956, 18 mins): the nativity story with music by Peter Gellhorn, performed by the Glyndebourne Festival Chorus
- Illustrated booklet with newly commissioned essays by Jez Stewart and Philip Kemp and a contribution by Marina Warner

Product details

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIB1165 / Cert PG

Germany / 1926 / tinted and toned / silent, German intertitles with English subtitles / 67 mins / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1

Disc 1: BD50 / 1080p / 24fps / PCM non audio (48k/16-bit) // Disc 2: DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital mono audio (320kbps)

Cont...

.../2

Press contact:

Jill Reading, BFI Press Office, Tel: (020) 7957 475, or e-mail: jill.reading@bfi.org.uk

Images are available at www.image.net under BFI DVD 2013

18 July 2013