



Chronicle of a Summer

A film by Jean Rouch and Edgar Morin

On 27 May 2013 the BFI releases the hugely influential French documentary *Chronicle of a Summer* on Blu-ray and DVD (in a Dual Format Edition) for the first time in the UK. Shot in Paris during the summer of 1960, *Chronicle of a Summer* is the compelling result of a collaboration between anthropologist filmmaker Jean Rouch and sociologist Edgar Morin.

Jean Rouch (*Moi, un noir*, *Les maîtres fous*) and Edgar Morin set out to chronicle the everyday lives of Parisians using a mixture of intimate interviews, debates and observation. Artists, factory workers, office employees, students and others open up to the camera to share their experiences, fears and aspirations. The film became one of the most influential of the sixties, and redefined the documentary form with its use of handheld cameras and observational techniques.

Rouch, whose work inspired the likes of Jean-Luc Godard, Jacques Rivette and Roberto Rossellini, trained his ethnographic lens on the metropolis, recording a series of extraordinary sequences, including a French survivor's Holocaust testimony, to reveal the political underlying the personal in a society struggling into the post-colonial era.

The film questions the level of reality and truth in documentary filmmaking, and offers a fascinating insight into 1960's Parisian society.

Special features

- Presented in both High Definition and Standard Definition
- Brand new restoration
- *Un été + 50* (Florence Daumon, 2011, 75 mins): documentary on the making of *Chronicle of a Summer* featuring new interviews with the participants including Edgar Morin and Régis Debray
- *Jean Rouch at the NFT* (1978, 55 mins): audio recording of a lecture delivered by Jean Rouch on Dziga Vertov and Robert Flaherty's influence on his work and that of his peers
- Illustrated booklet with a newly commissioned essay by Professor Ginette Vincendeau

Product details

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIB1167 / Cert 12

France / 1961 / black and white / French language, with optional English subtitles / 90 mins / Original aspect ratio 1.37:1 // Disc 1: BD50 / 1080p / 24fps / PCM mono 2.0 audio (48k-16-bit) // Disc 2: DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital mono 2.0 audio (320 kbps)

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

BFI DVDs are available from all good DVD retailers; by mail order from the BFI Shop Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at www.bfi.org.uk/shop

29 April 2013