



Robert Powell in
Classic Ghost Stories
 By the Master of the Chilling Tale
M R James

From the cosy confines of his study, a learned professor (award-winning actor Robert Powell – *Jesus of Nazareth*, *Mahler*, *The Detectives*) tells five terrifying tales. Inspired by M R James' legendary readings of his own words, these vintage ghost stories were originally broadcast by the BBC during Christmas 1986 and have been unavailable on DVD until now. *Classic Ghost Stories* by is released by the BFI on 28 October 2013 as part of **GOTHIC: The Dark Heart of Film**.

In *The Mezzotint* a haunted picture slowly reveals the horrors of the past, whilst *The Ash-Tree* tells of the execution of a witch and the dreadful curse she places on the Fell family. *Wailing Well* involves a troop of scouts who find that curiosity can be fatal, and *Oh, Whistle, and I'll Come to You, My Lad* concerns itself with an academic who gets more than he bargained for after he discovers an enchanted whistle. Finally, in *The Rose Garden*, disturbing visions upset Mrs Anstruther's gardening plans.

Long unseen and much sought after, these celebrated readings are accompanied here by three episodes from the rare BBC series *Spine Chillers*, in which the acclaimed actor Michael Bryant (*A Ghost Story for Christmas: The Treasure of Abbot Thomas*) plays the M R James-like storyteller.

Special features

- *Spine Chillers* (1980, 3 x 11 mins): Michael Bryant reads M R James' 'The Mezzotint', 'A School Story' and 'The Diary of Mr Poynter' in episodes from the series produced by *Classic Ghost Stories* producer Angela Beeching and made by the team behind the BBC children's programme *Jackanory*
- Illustrated booklet with a new essay by BFI TV curator Lisa Kerrigan, and credits

Classic Ghost Stories is also being made available as part of the BFI's expanded **Ghost Stories for Christmas box set**, also released on **28 October 2013**. This 6-DVD collection contains over 13 hours' worth of chilling content, including all 12 episodes of the BBC's celebrated *A Ghost Story for Christmas* series, three instalments of *Ghost Stories for Christmas with Christopher Lee* from 2000, and a 48-page booklet with new essays and complete credits.

Product details

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIVD993 / Cert PG

UK / 1986 / colour / English, with optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / 71 mins / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital mono audio (320kbps)

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

BFI DVDs are available from all good DVD retailers or by mail order from the BFI Shop

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