

## DVD press release



### COI + Mordant Music = MisinformaTion

**“An ingenious audiovisual mash-up for socio-cinephiles.”**  
Time Out

**MisinformaTion was a serendipitous meeting of sound and image that, eighteen months ago, produced one of the BFI's most startling and uncategorisable DVDs. Originally released in December 2010 through specialist outlets only, it will now have a retailwide re-release on 13 August 2012.**

MisinformaTion came about as a result of the BFI asking mysterious music makers Mordant Music to re-score an array of 70s and 80s public information films and documentary shorts produced by the Central Office of Information (COI).

When the BFI took over management of the COI film collection it inherited hundreds of time-coded VHS compilations of the films. Musty and outmoded the format may be, but these tapes (compiled over the space of ten years) were, and still are, the main source of reference for the vast collection. Now housed in one of the BFI's old nitrate viewing rooms (on floor 5½ at Stephen Street), it was here that Mordant Music's Baron Mordant was brought in to scroll, trawl, stumble, wind and re-wind his way through some of the wonderfully diverse films that now make up this DVD release.

Some of the films are well known – *AIDS: Iceberg* (1986), *Magpies: House* (1987) – and some are from the early career of now famous filmmakers, such as Peter Greenaway's *Inkjet Printer* (*Living Tomorrow* 245) and *The Sea in Their Blood*. Others, such as *Illusions*, a film on solvent abuse (1983) and *New Towns in Britain* (1974) are here seeing the light of day for the first time since their original distribution.

Baron Mordant explains the process:

‘The cordial gentlemen of the BFI led me blindfolded onto the roof at the BFI HQ Stephen Street and left me propped against an obsolete Steenbeck with instructions to sniff my way to the nearest nitrate room, ruMMage through the VHS mountain and not leave until I'd misinformed at least one reel of usable DVD in earnest...in the midst of ruptured telecine transfers and squealing reels a selection of COI films, redolent to my youth, unearthed me and I duly smeared them with my detritus...I imagined sounds & characters leaving one film & cropping up in another and that's the way it eventually spooled...a narrative manifested itself and 'a return to the sea' would appear to be the iMMediate answer for future spores...’

Film materials for this release have been made available by the BFI National Archive and the COI film collection.

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#### Product information

RRP: £14.99 / cat. no. BFIVD898 / Cert 18

UK / 1970-1987 / colour / 101 mins / original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / Dolby Digital stereo audio (320 kbps)

**For further information, review copies or images please contact:**

**Jill Reading, BFI Press Office**

**Tel: (020) 7957 4759 E-mail: [jill.reading@bfi.org.uk](mailto:jill.reading@bfi.org.uk)**

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