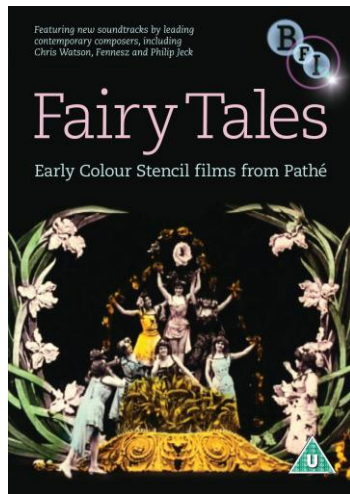


## DVD press release



# Fairy Tales

Early Colour Stencil films from Pathé

Once upon a time, during the *belle époque* in Paris, a short-lived film form called *scènes de féeries*, or fairy films, became popular thanks to the Pathé Frères company. Made to appeal to young and old alike, the films recreated the theatrical spectacles of the age in jewel-like colours. This collection, released on 3 December 2012, brings the films to DVD for the first time, each accompanied by a newly commissioned soundtrack by recording artists from the leading experimental music label Touch.

These gorgeous films feature fantastical settings, dancing girls, mythical beasts, supernatural beings and a plethora of stage tricks. Enhanced by the techniques of the then-new medium of film, they give modern audiences a fascinating glimpse into the magical world of the nineteenth-century theatre.

Presented here with original hand-colouring, the new soundtracks, all by recording artists from the Touch label, feature contributions from such acclaimed composers as **Chris Watson**, **BJ Nilsen**, **Hildur Gudnadóttir**, **Philip Jeck** and **Fennesz**. Their music, at times elegant and playful, at times intense and challenging, combines with these beautiful images, in often surprising ways, to create a unique and unforgettable experience. [Full tracklisting and composer details are on page 2.](#)

Special features on the disc include films by Georges Méliès, Anson Dyer and more from the Pathé Frères company, along with nine alternative soundtracks to the film *La Danse du diable*.

This release should appeal to fans of Jan Švankmajer and Lotte Reiniger, or to anyone interested in early cinema or experimental film and music.

**The BFI National Archive's silent film curator Bryony Dixon is available to talk about the films and Mike Harding from Touch can talk about the new soundtracks.**

### Special features

- *Barbe-bleue* (1901): Georges Méliès' telling of the *Bluebeard* tale with music by SAVX
- *Au Pays de l'or* (1908): a trip to the magical underground gold foundry of the dwarves
- *Little Red Riding Hood* (1922) Anson Dyer's animation made for Hepworth Picture Plays with music by Rosy Parlane
- *La Danse du diable* (Sint-Lukas versions): nine alternative scores by students from Sint-Lukas Brussels University College of Art and Design
- Illustrated booklet with introductory essay by the BFI's silent film curator Bryony Dixon, music essay by Touch's Mike Harding, plus film notes and credits

### Product details

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIVD529 / U

France / 1901–1908 / stencil-coloured, tinted, and black and white / silent with music / 156 mins / DVD-9 / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / Dolby Digital stereo audio (320 kbps)

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Images are available at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) under BFI DVD 2012

Available from DVD retailers and the BFI Shop Tel: 020 7815 1350 or [www.bfi.org.uk/shop](http://www.bfi.org.uk/shop)

More information about Touch can be found at [www.touchmusic.org.uk](http://www.touchmusic.org.uk)

Cont...

**Film titles and soundtrack composers**

*Un Drame au fond de la mer* (Drama at the Bottom of the Sea) (1901) – Jana Winderen

*Les Sept châteaux du diable* (The Seven Castles of the Devil) (1901) – Joachim Nordwall and Henrik Rylander

*Ballet des Sylphides* (1902) – Marcus Davidson

*Ali Baba et les quarante voleurs* (Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves) (1902) – Leif Elggren

*Valse excentrique* (Eccentric Waltz) (1903) – Marcus Davidson

*Japonaiseries* (1904) – Pascal Wyse

*La Danse du diable* (Weird Fancies) (1904) – Leif Elggren

*Métamorphose du papillon* (Metamorphosis of a Butterfly) (1905) – Chris Watson

*La Poule aux œufs d'or* (The Hen That Laid the Golden Eggs) (1905) – Achim Mohné

*Martyrs chrétiens* (Christian Martyrs) (1905) – Sarah Nicolls

*Loïe Fuller* (1905) – Philip Jeck

*L'Album merveilleux* (The Wonderful Album) (1905) – Oren Ambarchi

*L'Antre de la sorcière* (The Bewitched Shepherd) (1905) – Maia Urstad

*La Peine du talion* (Tit for Tat) (1906) – Christian Fennesz

*La Fée printemps* (The Fairy of Spring) (1906) – Hildur Guðnadóttir

*Les Roses magiques* (Magic Roses) (1906) – Sohrab

*Le Scarabée d'or* (The Golden Beetle) (1907) – Michael Esposito and Mike Harding

*Cendrillon ou la pantoufle merveilleuse* (Cinderella) (1907) – Philip Jeck

*Le Spectre Rouge* (The Red Spectre) (1907) – Michael Esposito and Mike Harding

*Le Pied de mouton* (The Talisman) (1907) – BJ Nilsen

*La Sorcière noire* (The Black Witch) (1907) – Michael Esposito and Mike Harding

*La Belle au bois dormant* (Sleeping Beauty) (1908) – Sarah Nicolls

*L'Oiseau bleu* (The Blue Bird) (1908) – BJ Nilsen

*La Légende du fantôme* (The Black Pearl) (1908) – The London Snorkelling Team

*Le Faune* (The Fairies and the Faun) (1908) – Hildur Guðnadóttir