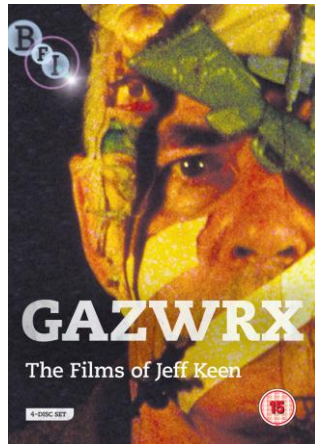


DVD press release



GAZWRX

The Films of Jeff Keen

Dedicated to the memory of Jeff Keen, the BFI re-issues **GAZWRX** on DVD on 20 August 2012.

“It went right over my head and seemed a little threatening, but I’m all for it.” Ken Russell on the trilogy *Cineblatz*, *Marvo Movie* and *White Lite*

In February 2009, the BFI released **GAZWRX: The Films of Jeff Keen** on DVD and Blu-ray; an audacious 9 hours of restored and re-mastered titles. Finally offering the opportunity to explore Jeff Keen’s explosive cinematic world, the releases coincided with a presentation of four screening events at BFI Southbank and a nationwide cinema touring programme.

Sadly, Jeff Keen died in June 2012 after a long illness. The re-issue of GAZWRX on DVD is a tribute to this visionary filmmaker. The new DVD contains the original film programme drawing from the various phases of Keen’s output and containing over 40 films on four discs. A smaller version of the original booklet, which is still extensive at 44 pages, is also included.

Born in 1923 and a soldier in World War Two, artist Jeff Keen began making films at the age of 37 when his local art school film society needed things to show. And so began over forty years of unique, imaginative, irrepressible filmmaking that has outlived the various scenes in which it has thrived: the sixties counter-culture, punk and beyond.

Films like *Marvo Movie*, *Mad Love* and others look like post-apocalyptic home movies and point to the sublime subversion of Jack Smith and Kenneth Anger, to Keen’s experiences in WW2 and to the trashy pop culture of B movies and comics.

Presented within a series of punchy programmes, the films reveal an astonishingly tireless talent and a unique individual not afraid to grapple with sex and war and to experiment with multiple screens, visceral noise soundtracks and brutal animation techniques.

Progressing through various film stocks, though always preferring 8mm – more oppositional, more disposable, less of a sell-out – this self taught artist and pioneer of independent film impresses his very personal and highly individual stamp upon all his work.

Special features

- Jeff Keen interview (2008, 25 mins) – Keen on his life and work
- *Art Flies Free* (2000, 3 mins) – short experimental documentary by Ian Helliwell
- Jeff Keen Films (1983, 36 mins) – documentary with interview and performance footage
- 44-page booklet featuring artworks and writings by Jeff Keen: film notes and articles by Tony Rayns, Jack Sargeant, Raymond Durnat and William Fowler

Product details

RRP: £34.99 / cat. no. BFIVD966 / 15

UK / 1960-2002 / colour, and black and white / English language, with optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / 585 mins / 4 PAL DVD-9s / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1 (+ some bespoke widescreen presentations, 16x9 anamorphic)

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BFI National Archive curator William Fowler is available to talk about the work of Jeff Keen.

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Available from all DVD retailers & BFI Filmstore Tel: 020 7815 1350 or www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore