

Dual Format Edition press release



Mon Oncle

A film by Jacques Tati

The BFI's re-mastered Jacques Tati series continues with the world premiere Blu-ray release of *Mon Oncle* (1958) on 29 October. Tati's multi-award-winning third feature – a satirical assault on the twin targets of efficiency and the modern world – confirmed his reputation as the foremost comic artist of his day. This new Dual Format Edition contains two cuts of the film mastered to high definition; the original French language version and the alternative English language version aimed at the overseas market.

Jacques Tati's second outing as the accident-prone Monsieur Hulot (first seen in *Les Vacances de Monsieur Hulot*, already available in a BFI Dual Format Edition) takes him to Paris where the aggressively high-tech lifestyle of his relatives, the Arpels, is contrasted with his old-fashioned ways in a scruffy part of town. Young Gérard Arpel is very fond of his gauche uncle but his disapproving parents resolve to get Hulot a job or a wife. The disastrous outcome is a masterpiece of design and symmetry and of technically brilliant gags. The heart-warming ending is true to Tati's vision of the modern world as a confusing place that is ultimately full of charm and humanity.

Mon Oncle was a major hit and picked up a string of awards, including the *Prix spécial du jury* at Cannes, the New York Critics' Circle Award for Best Foreign Film and the 1959 Oscar for Best Foreign Film.

Mon Oncle was shot between September 1956 and February 1957 at three different locations. The old Parisian suburb of Saint-Maur served for 'le vieux quartier', where Hulot's wonderfully ramshackle house was built into the town's main square. The Arpels' modernistic dwelling was constructed at the Victorine studios in Nice, and the wasteland between the two was shot at Créteil, a few miles outside Paris, where a new town was about to be built.

With an eye on the international market, and wishing to avoid subtitles, which he always disliked, Tati shot two versions of the film – *Mon Oncle* and *My Uncle*, the latter with signs like 'Ecole' and 'Sortie' replaced with their English equivalents and much of the main dialogue dubbed into English, but with some characters speaking French.

Special features

- Presented in both High Definition and Standard Definition (on both Blu-ray and DVD)
- High Definition premiere release of both versions of the feature
- *My Uncle*, (Jacques Tati, 1958, 109 mins): Tati alternative English language version – produced simultaneously with *Mon Oncle* – featuring alternative opening titles and inserts, and re-worked soundtrack
- Original trailer (DVD only)
- Illustrated booklet with film notes and credits

Product details

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIB1049 / Cert U

France / 1958 / colour / French with English subtitles / 116 mins / Original aspect ratio 1.37:1

Disc 1: BD50 / 1080p / 24fps / PCM audio (48k/24-bit) / Disc 2: DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital audio (320 kbps)

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Images are available from www.image.net under BFI DVD 2012

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