



Riddles of the Sphinx

**A film by Laura Mulvey and Peter Wollen
With music by Mike Ratledge**

Laura Mulvey and Peter Wollen's visually accomplished and intellectually rigorous *Riddles of the Sphinx* (1977) is one of the most important avant-garde films to have emerged from Britain during the 1970s. Newly mastered to High Definition from materials preserved at the BFI National Archive, this extraordinary, era-defining work will be released by the BFI in a Dual Format Edition on 23 September 2013, presented with a wealth of essential bonus material.

The second collaboration between Mulvey and Wollen, both of whom are recognised as seminal figures in the field of film theory, *Riddles of the Sphinx* explores issues of female representation, the place of motherhood within society and the relationship between mother and daughter. Composed of a number of discrete sections, many of which are shot as continuous circular pans, the film takes place in a range of domestic and public spaces, shot in locations which include Malcolm LeGrice's kitchen and Stephen Dwoskin's bedroom.

The film's ground-breaking electronic score, by **The Soft Machine's Mike Ratledge**, was composed on synthesisers which were developed in collaboration with Denys Irving (the man behind the mysterious and controversial 1970s band Lucifer).

Special features include a newly-recorded feature-length commentary by Laura Mulvey, Mulvey and Wollen's film *Penthesilea: Queen of the Amazons* and a video interview with Laura Mulvey in conversation with the University of Bremen's Winfried Pauleit. Also included is an extensive booklet with new essays and complete film credits.

Special features

- Presented in both High Definition and Standard Definition
- Newly recorded feature-length audio commentary with Laura Mulvey and academic Winfried Pauleit
- *Laura Mulvey in Conversation* (2013, 15 mins): the filmmaker and academic discusses *Riddles of the Sphinx* and her other films
- *Penthesilea: Queen of the Amazons* (Peter Wollen and Laura Mulvey, 1974, 98 mins): trail-blazing avant-garde film exploring the image of the Amazonian woman in myth and popular culture
- Illustrated booklet featuring new essays by Sophie Mayer, Laura Mulvey and Rob Young, and complete film credits

Special screening and Q&A at BFI Southbank on Friday 4 October 18:10, NFT2

To re-launch the *Essential Experiments* strand that explores the rich history of artists' cinema, a pristine new digital print of *Riddles of the Sphinx* will be screened at BFI Southbank, followed by a Q&A with Laura Mulvey.

Tickets £9.50 (Members), £11 (Non-Members), available from www.bfi.org.uk/whatson or the Box Office Tel: 020 7928 3232 or in person.

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Product details

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIB1176 / Cert U

UK / 1977 / colour / English language (optional English hard-of-hearing subtitles) /
91 mins + 98 mins / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1

Disc 1: BD50 / 1080p / 24fps / PCM mono (48k/24-bit) // Disc 2: DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital
mono audio (192 kbps)

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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

Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at www.bfi.org.uk/shop

30 August 2013