



Roundabout 1963 – A Year in Colour

Roundabout: 1963 – A Year in Colour, released on 25 March 2013, is the first in a new series of previously unreleased ‘cine-magazine’ films from exactly 50 years ago, making an ideal gift for anyone celebrating a 50th birthday or anniversary this year.

In the 1960s, the British Government, through the Central Office of Information (COI), produced a range of topical films about Britain for distribution throughout the commonwealth. *Roundabout* was one of the most popular of these cine-magazines.

The BFI has collected together all the episodes of *Roundabout* produced during 1963 enabling viewers to travel back in time to see Britain and its place in the world – in particular its manufacturing partnerships with Commonwealth counties – 50 years ago.

Designed to promote British industry and values abroad, *Roundabout*’s colourful selection of topical stories – each episode featured three or four different subjects – was particularly aimed at the Asian market. To show the connections between the Commonwealth countries and Britain, many of the films illustrate how raw materials from one country, such as rubber, palm kernels, wood or cocoa, were used in manufacturing industries in the UK.

Highlights amongst the 11 globe-trotting films on this disc include a visit to the Royal Mint, trips around factories making the Mini car, cigarettes, sweets and books; a tour of a rubber tree plantation in South East Asia and a look at modern architecture in London, Djakarta and Saigon. There is a story on the then new activity of skin diving, the versatile British jet boat and the building of a new stand for racing at Ascot.

This set also includes an illustrated booklet with film notes and an essay about cine-magazines written by expert Linda Kaye of the British Universities Film and Video Council.

All the films in the *Roundabout* series are now preserved in the BFI National Archive.

Product details

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIVD985 / Cert E

UK / 1963 / colour / English language / 110 mins / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital mono audio (320 kbps)

Press contact:

Jill Reading, BFI Press Office

Tel: (020) 7957 4759

E-mail: jill.reading@bfi.org.uk

Images are available at www.image.net under BFI DVD 2013

BFI DVDs are available from all good DVD retailers; by mail order from the BFI Shop Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at www.bfi.org.uk/shop