



Tess

A film by Roman Polanski

Nastassia Kinski, Peter Firth, Leigh Lawson

Roman Polanski's critically acclaimed and triple Oscar-winning 1979 adaptation of Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* stars Nastassia Kinski as the ill-fated peasant girl of noble origin, whose beauty is both her fortune and her undoing. Mastered from a stunning new 4K ultra high resolution digital restoration, it is presented in a Dual Format Edition (DVD and Blu-ray discs) with extensive special features including three documentaries covering the adaptation, the technical challenges and the filming experience.

This faithful screen rendering of the classic Victorian-era romantic novel, by Academy Award-winning director Roman Polanski (*Chinatown*, *The Pianist*), captures with compassion, the painful cruelty of love. Unavailable in the UK for several years, the BFI is proud to release *Tess* for the first time on Blu-ray, in a stunning new restoration (premiered at last year's Cannes Film Festival) that is the best the film has ever looked.

Nastassia Kinski gives a career-defining performance as Hardy's heroine, with strong support from Peter Firth (*Equus*, *The Hunt for Red October*, *Spooks*) as Angel Clare and Leigh Lawson (*Being Julia*, *Casanova*, *Silent Witness*) as Alec d'Urberville. Geoffrey Unsworth and Ghislain Cloquet's exquisite Oscar-winning photography brings the author's Wessex setting vividly to life. Although filmed in France, Wessex was painstakingly re-created.

The film was nominated for five Oscars and three BAFTAs, eventually winning Oscars for Art Direction, Cinematography and Costume Design (the latter won by Anthony Powell, whose original designs are seen here in a short film), a BAFTA for Cinematography and also a Golden Globe for Best Foreign Film.

Hardy's enduring 1891 novel continues to sell strongly and last year booksellers reported a huge spike in sales after its appearance and significance in the 4 million-selling erotic novel *Fifty Shades of Grey* by EL James.

Special features

- New 4K digital restoration
- Presented in both High Definition and Standard Definition
- *Tess: From Novel to Screen* (Laurent Bouzereau, 2004, 29 mins, DVD only): Polanski on the adaptation of Hardy's classic novel, with contributions from Hardy scholars and cast and crew
- *Filming Tess* (Laurent Bouzereau, 2004, 26 mins, DVD only): cast and crew discuss the technical challenges they faced
- *Tess: The Experience* (Laurent Bouzereau, 2004, 20 mins, DVD only): those who worked on *Tess* discuss their experiences
- *Costume Designs* (2013, 2 mins): Anthony Powell's award-winning designs
- Original theatrical trailer
- Illustrated booklet with essays and credits

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Roman Polanski season at BFI Southbank

The second part of BFI Southbank's Roman Polanski season continues during February and includes six screenings of *Tess* (1, 2, 3, 8, 17 and 24 Feb). On Fri 1 February at 6.30pm the film will be introduced by producer **Timothy Burrill** and actor **Leigh Lawson**.

Product details

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIVD951 / Cert 12

UK, France / 1979 / colour / English, with optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / 172 mins / Original aspect ratio 2.35:1 // Disc 1: BD50 / 1080p / 24fps / Dolby Digital 5.1 (640kbps) and PCM 2.0 stereo / Disc 2: DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital 5.1 (448kbps) and 2.0 Stereo (224kbps)

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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

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