



The Lacey Rituals: Films by Bruce Lacey (and friends)

Who links The Beatles, Ken Russell, Peter Cook, Richard Lester, Fairport Convention, The Goons, The Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band, cartoonist Bob Godfrey (*Roobarb*) and Turner Prize winning artist Jeremy Deller? The answer: Mr Bruce Lacey. And if Bruce Lacey himself has somehow remained 'off our radar' in recent times, it wasn't always like that. A legendary figure on the British counter-cultural art scene during the 1960s, Lacey has enjoyed five decades of defining cultural moments, collaborating with all manner of filmmakers, musicians and artists, and making appearances in such era-defining pop cultural experiences as *Help!* and *Not Only... But Also*.

In the 1960s Lacey was known for his unpredictable humour and strong political views; his wide-ranging and idiosyncratic art practice saw him construct all manner of mechanical, sci-fi devices and robotic beings as well as exhibiting films and interactive environments in the era's groundbreaking, underground art-happenings scene. His work also made it into more overtly prestigious galleries and he was a regular on TV and in film. He was the flute-playing gardener in *Help!* and a mad scientist in *Smashing Time*. He collaborated with cult photographer-filmmaker George Harrison Marks on the comedy film *Uncle's Tea Party* and had a song named after him on a Fairport Convention LP.

Whether over or underground, everything Lacey did pushed the boundaries. He continued on this course during the 1970s with his wife and collaborator, artist Jill Bruce (now Smith). Together, they made lively community art and explored the rhythms of the Earth through pagan-style rituals and documentation of ancient sites.

Bruce Lacey exerted considerable influence on post-War culture yet, bafflingly, much of his work has remained obscure and little seen in recent years. This July, the BFI and Camden Arts Centre celebrate and revisit the richness and diversity of his output with a 2-disc DVD set **The Lacey Rituals: Films by Bruce Lacey (and friends)**, released on **23 July**, and **The Lacey Rituals**, a special season of his rarely-screened films and TV shows at **BFI Southbank** from 5 – 31 July. **The Bruce Lacey Experience**, a major new exhibition at Camden Arts Centre runs from 7 July – 16 September.

The Lacey Rituals: Films by Bruce Lacey (and friends) is an indispensable 2-DVD collection which finally brings together many of Lacey's rarely-seen films for the very first time. It includes *The Running, Jumping & Standing Still Film* (Richard Lester, 1960), *The Lacey Rituals* (1973), a delightful and experimental home movie featuring Lacey's children and much more – [full film listing on page 2](#). Also featured is **The Bruce Lacey Experience** (2012), the new film by Turner prize-winning artist **Jeremy Deller** and **Nick Abrahams** (which is premiered on 5 July to launch the BFI Southbank season.) Accompanying the discs is an illustrated booklet of film notes and newly-commissioned essays with contributions from Richard Lester and art curator Jasia Reichardt.

William Fowler, Curator of Artists' Moving Image at the BFI National Archive, is available to talk about Bruce and his work. Filmmakers **Jeremy Deller** and **Nick Abrahams** are also available for interview.

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Disc 1

EARLY FILMS

Head in Shadow (1951)
Agib and Agab (1953)
The Running, Jumping & Standing Still Film (1960)
Battle of New Orleans (1960)
Everybody's Nobody (1960)
Uncle's Tea Party (1962)
One Man Band (1965)

HUMAN BEHAVIOUR FILMS

Kissing Film (1967)
How to Have a Bath (1971)
The Lacey Rituals (1973)
Double Exposure (1975)

Disc 2

PERFORMANCES AND DOCUMENTATION

The Flying Alberts (1965)
The Flying Alberts (Bruce Lacey edit) (1965)
Humanoid Race (1965)
Universal Integrator (1971)
Laceys at Home (1972)
British Landing on the Moon (1973)
Outside in (extract) (1973)
R.O.S.A B.O.S.O.M (1996)
If I Had a Talking Picture of You (2002)

PERFORMANCE INSERTS

Heads, Bodies and Legs (1973)
Stella Chase (1974)

EARTH RITUALS AND LATER FILMS

Awakening of the Earth Goddess, Rougham (1982)
Castlerigg (c. 1981)
Wales Stone Circles (c. 1981)
Breaking Away to Come Together (1984)
The Re-Awakening of My Ancestral Spirits (1987)

THE BRUCE LACEY EXPERIENCE (Jeremy Deller & Nick Abrahams, 2012)

RRP: £22.99 / cat. no. BFIVD942 / Cert 18

UK / 1951 – 2012 / colour and black & white / 365 mins / mixed aspect ratios

For further information and review copies please contact:

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

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