



## **Underground** A film by Anthony Asquith

Anthony Asquith's *Underground* (1928), a subterranean tale of love, jealousy, treachery and murder, evokes the daily life of the average Londoner better than any other film in Britain's silent canon. Restored by the BFI National Archive and following an acclaimed theatrical release in January, the BFI now brings the film to DVD and Blu-ray for the first time on 17 June 2013 in a Dual Format Edition. It is presented with a new orchestral score composed by Neil Brand and performed by the BBC Symphony Orchestra; along with five short complementary films and an alternative score by musician/sound recordist Chris Watson.

In the late 1920s Asquith, along with Hitchcock, was one of the most audacious young talents in British film and *Underground* was his own original screenplay. With its scenes of the bustling tube (passenger behaviour is strikingly familiar) and the capital's parks, double-decker buses, pubs and shabby bedsits, Asquith masterfully balances the light and dark sides of city life, aided by a superb cast of **Brian Aherne** and **Elissa Landi** as the nice young lovers and **Norah Baring** and **Cyril McLaglen** as their unhappy counterparts.

At just 26, Asquith's direction is assured, efficient and spare with some remarkably cinematic flourishes, clearly inspired by contemporary German and Russian filmmaking. It climaxes with a thrilling chase scene across the rooftops of the Lots Road Power Station.

For many years the restoration of *Underground* presented insurmountable difficulties, but developments in digital technology have enabled the BFI to make a significant improvement to the surviving film elements.

**BFI National Archive curators are available to talk or write about *Underground*.**

**Neil Brand, writer, composer and silent film accompanist is also available for interview.**

### **Special features**

- Feature presented in both High Definition and Standard Definition
- Newly commissioned score by Neil Brand presented in 5.1 and 2.0
- Alternative score by Chris Watson
- *The premier and his little son* (1909-12, 1 min): previously unseen footage of Anthony Asquith as a child
- *A trip on the Metropolitan Railway* (1910, 13 mins, DVD only)
- *Scenes at Piccadilly Circus and Hyde Park Corner* (1930-32, 6 mins, DVD only)
- *Seven More Stations* (1948, 12 mins, DVD only): a film about the expansion of the Central Line beyond Stratford
- *Under Night Streets* (1958, 20 mins): a documentary about the tube's nightshift workers
- Illustrated booklet featuring film notes and new essays by Christian Wolmar and Neil Brand

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**Product details**

**RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIB1036 / Cert PG**

UK / 1928 / black and white/ silent with music / 93 mins / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1

Disc 1: BD50 / 1080p / 24fps / DTS-HD Master Sound 5.1 (448Kbps) and PCM 2.0 stereo audio (48k/24-bit)

Disc 2: DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital 5.1 surround audio (448Kbps) and Dolby Digital 2.0 stereo audio (320Kbps)

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Images are available at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) under BFI DVD 2013

BFI releases 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](http://www.bfi.org.uk/shop)

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