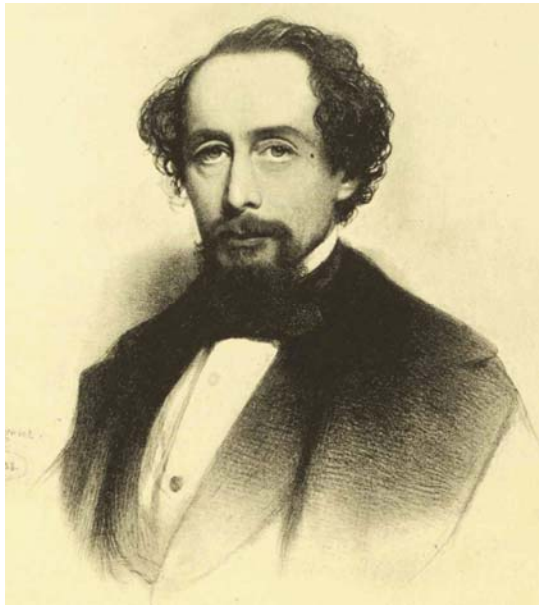




PRESS RELEASE November 2011

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## Adapting Dickens: A Television History A special event as part of the BFI's Dickens on Screen



**Adapting Dickens: A Television History** takes place at **BFI Southbank** on **Sat Jan 28**. Focusing on the many ways that Dickens' work has been adapted over the decades for British television, the day of lectures, screenings and panel discussions forms part of **Dickens on Screen**, the largest retrospective of Dickens work on film and television ever staged. The three month season takes place at **BFI Southbank** from **January – March 2012** and is part of **Dickens 2012**, the worldwide celebrations throughout 2012 marking the 200th anniversary of his birth.

Beginning with an illustrated lecture led by **Dickens on Screen** co-curator **Michael Easton** on the chronology of Dickens adaptations on television, the day's next session takes the form of a screening of **The Late Show: Who Framed Charles Dickens?** followed by a panel discussion with contemporary writers, adaptors and producers including **Kate Harwood** (Controller, BBC Drama Series & Serials), **Sara Phelps** (adaptor of the BBC's latest production of *Great Expectations*) and director **Susanna White** (BBC's *Bleak House*, 2005) to explore the best ways in which to adapt Dickens for television.

The day will conclude with a panel discussion illustrated with examples of the 30-minute 'tea-time' adaptations that were so popular in the 60s, 70s and 80s and which echo the originally serialised nature of Dickens' work. The panel discussion will involve contributions from writer-producer **Terrance Dicks** (BBC's *David Copperfield*, 1986), script editor-producer **Betty Willingale** (BBC's *Bleak House*, 1985) and actor **Martin Jarvis** (*David Copperfield* 1974).

- Ends -

### Press Contacts:

Tim Mosley [tim.mosley@bfi.org.uk](mailto:tim.mosley@bfi.org.uk) 020 7957 8918

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Session 1: A History of Dickens on Television

Presented by co-curator of the Dickens on Screen season, Michael Eaton, this lecture on the chronology of Dickens on television will include some unusual and rare examples and will be lavishly illustrated with clips from the archives. This session will also include a special focus on the five major television adaptations being screened during the three-month BFI Southbank season: **Barnaby Rudge** (BBC 1960), **Our Mutual Friend** (BBC 1976; **Hard Times** (Granada 1979), **Bleak House** (BBC 1985) and **Martin Chuzzlewit** (BBC 1994).

**Sat 28 Jan 11:15 NFT3**

### Session 2: Adapting Dickens for Television

*The Late Show: Who Framed Charles Dickens?* (BBC 1994. Dir Andrea Gauld. 40min) + panel discussion and Q&A

This fascinating documentary looks at how television has served Dickens over the decades, and is followed by a panel discussion examining how writers and producers approach adapting the classic Dickens novel for the small screen. Has television created a false idea of the 'Dickensian', and how much does each adaptation reflect the concerns and fashions of its own times? *Panellists include Kate Harwood (Controller, BBC Drama Series & Serials), Sara Phelps (adaptor of the BBC's latest production of Great Expectations) and director Susanna White*).

**Sat 28 Jan 13:45 NFT3**

### Session 3: Tea-Time Dickens

The original novels reached the public in monthly instalments and the work of Dickens became available to the working class via magazines. Using some of the greatest serialised short-form (30min) adaptations – and some that do not survive in their entirety – we take a nostalgic and often funny trip through these family-orientated Sunday 'tea-time' productions of the 60s, 70s and early 80s.

*The panel discussion will involve contributions from writer-producer Terrance Dicks, script editor-producer Betty Wellingale and actor Martin Jarvis.*

**Sat 28 Jan 16:00 NFT3**

**Tickets (per session) £10, concs £6.75; joint ticket available (three sessions) £20.75, concs £13.75 (Members pay £1.50 less)**

## Part of

DICKENS 2012



### About the BFI

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets

are £9.50, concs £6.75 Members pay £1.50 less on any ticket. Website [www.bfi.org.uk/southbank](http://www.bfi.org.uk/southbank)

**Tickets for FREE screenings and events must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment**

### **BFI Filmstore**

The BFI Filmstore is stocked and staffed by BFI experts with over 1,200 book titles and 1,000 DVDs to choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI.

### **The benugo bar & kitchen**

Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo's décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. The place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

**\*\*\* PICTURE DESK \*\*\***

**A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) under BFI / BFI Southbank /**