

BFI Film Classics: a new look for a flagship series



Almost 30 years since its inception, and with 200 titles in print, the [BFI's Film Classics](#) series is relaunching with a fresh new cover approach and new titles. This signals a change of focus, with women, LGBTQI+, black, Asian, mixed ethnicity and the Global South to be foregrounded in films selected for the series and authors commissioned to write about them.

The BFI and its publishing partner, Bloomsbury, relaunch the series on 28th May 2020 with 20 titles. This comprises three brand new books: *Babette's Feast* by philosopher Julian Baggini, *Touch of Evil* by poet and art critic Richard Deming and *Rosemary's Baby* by author and academic Michael Newton. 17 series favourites are also being reissued including: A.L. Kennedy on Powell & Pressburger's *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp*, Camille Paglia on Hitchcock's *The Birds*, and Ed Guerrero on Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing*.

Reissues include new forewords by their authors highlighting the films' contemporary relevance to issues such as #MeToo, Brexit, the rise of Trump and police victimisation of young African Americans. In addition, in a major cover refresh, each book features specially commissioned cover artwork by leading illustrators, designers and photographers.

Forthcoming titles in the series include film critic and scholar Rebecca Harrison on *The Empire Strikes Back*, feminist scholar and advocate Patricia White writing on Hitchcock's *Rebecca* and writer and activist So Mayer on Sally Potter's *Orlando*.

Founded in 1992, the BFI Film Classics series grew out of an initiative of the National Film and Television Archive (NFTVA), now known as the BFI National Archive, to build a collection of 360 key films in the history of cinema. Authors published in the book series include Salman Rushdie, Manohla Dargis, Amy Taubin, Simon Callow, Marina Warner, Greil Marcus and Mark Kermode.

Jenny Ridout, Global Head of Academic Publishing at Bloomsbury, commented: "The BFI Film Classics series enables readers to discover landmarks of world cinema and gain new perspectives on much-loved favourites. We are delighted to be re-presenting the series and to have this opportunity to challenge and broaden the film canon to better represent the diversity of film history and culture. With our shared commitment to developing film literacy and promoting greater diversity in our publishing, we are thrilled to be working with our colleagues at the BFI on this project."

Heather Stewart, BFI Creative Director, further added: "For anyone interested in film, BFI Film Classics offer a great introduction to the breadth of British and world cinema, and are essential resources for film students. I'm thrilled that these new editions will introduce audiences to great cinema and make discussion of the breadth and depth of cinema relevant to contemporary cultural and political conversations. This is at the heart of what we do at the BFI: safeguarding cinema's history, bringing forgotten films back to light and introducing classic films to new audiences through a contemporary lens. Bloomsbury's expertise across an amazing range of publications, teamed with their international reputation, will help the BFI in our mission to reach a broad spectrum of readers."

A number of films featured in the BFI Film Classics series are available to rent now on BFI Player, these include Orson Welles' *Touch of Evil* (1958), *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp* (Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, 1943), Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds* (1963) as well as *The Big Lebowski* (Ethan Coen and Joel Coen, 1998) and Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing* (1989).

For more information, please contact:

Mollie Broad | mollie.broad@bloomsbury.com | +44(0)77 1848 8810
Elizabeth Dunk | Elizabeth.Dunk@bfi.org.uk | +44(0)79 0133 1811

April 2020

About the BFI:

The BFI is the UK's lead organisation for film, television and the moving image. It is a cultural charity that:

- Curates and presents the greatest international public programme of World Cinema for audiences; in cinemas, at festivals and online
- Cares for the BFI National Archive – the most significant film and television archive in the world
- Actively seeks out and supports the next generation of filmmakers
- Works with Government and industry to make the UK the most creatively exciting and prosperous place to make film internationally

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

About Bloomsbury:

Bloomsbury Publishing Plc is a global independent publisher across trade, specialist, professional, school and higher education markets. Its Academic division has grown rapidly since its inception in 2008, and specialises in the arts, humanities and social sciences. It leads the field in innovative publishing, with a fast growing portfolio of digital resources. Output of titles and services is c.1200 per year and the division includes the imprints Bloomsbury Academic, The Arden Shakespeare, Methuen Drama, T & T Clark, Bloomsbury Visual Arts and Fairchild Books. Bloomsbury is the largest academic Visual Arts publisher globally and Europe's leading Performing Arts publisher.

Praise for BFI Film Classics:

- 'Magnificently concentrated examples of flowing freeform critical poetry.' – *Uncut*
- 'A formidable body of work collectively generating some fascinating insights into the evolution of cinema. -*Times Higher Education*
- 'The series is a landmark in film criticism.' - *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*
- 'Possibly the most bountiful book series in the history of film criticism.' - *Jonathan Rosenbaum, Film Comment*

Publication Schedule:**28th May 2020**

- *Touch of Evil* • Richard Deming • 9781844579495
- *Babette's Feast* • Julian Baggini • 9781911239673
- *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp* • A.L. Kennedy • 9781838719104
- *Thelma & Louise* • Marita Sturken • 9781838719289
- *Sansho Dayu (Sansho the Bailiff)* • Dudley Andrew & Carole Cavanaugh • 9781838719326
- *Cléo de 5 à 7* • Steven Ungar • 9781838719364
- *The Birds* • Camille Paglia • 9781838719401
- *Rosemary's Baby* • Michael Newton • 9781844579525
- *Performance* • Colin MacCabe • 9781838719449
- *Ratcatcher* • Annette Kuhn • 9781838719487
- *Spirited Away* • Andrew Osmond • 9781838719524
- *Caché (Hidden)* • Catherine Wheatley • 9781838719562
- *The Big Lebowski* • J.M. Tyree & Ben Walters • 9781838719609
- *The Manchurian Candidate* • Greil Marcus • 9781838719647
- *Mother India* • Gayatri Chatterjee • 9781838719685
- *Meshes of the Afternoon* • John David Rhodes • 9781838719722
- *Pandora's Box (Die Büchse der Pandora)* • Pamela Hutchinson • 9781838719760
- *2001: A Space Odyssey* • Peter Krämer • 9781838719807
- *La dolce vita* • Richard Dyer • 9781838719845
- *Do the Right Thing* • Ed Guerrero • 9781838719883

29th October 2020

- *The Empire Strikes Back* • Rebecca Harrison • 9781911239970
- *The Servant* • Amy Sargeant • 9781839021671
- *Near Dark* • Stacey Abbott • 9781911239277
- *The Cloud-Capped Star (Meghe Dhaka Tara)* • Manishita Dass • 9781838719999
- *Star Wars* • Will Brooker • 9781839021633
- *The Exorcist* • Mark Kermode • 9781839021718
- *Throne of Blood* • Robert N. Watson • 9781839021879
- *Night of the Living Dead* • Ben A. Hervey • 9781839021916
- *Sunrise* • Lucy Fischer • 9781839021985

12th November 2020

- *The Seventh Seal* • Melvyn Bragg • 9781839021756
- *Fear Eats the Soul (Angst Essen Seele Auf)* • Laura Cottingham • 9781839021794
- *L'Âge d'or* • Paul Hammond • 9781839021831
- *Rocco and his Brothers (Rocco e i suoi fratelli)* • Sam Rohdie • 9781839021947
- *The Big Sleep* • David Thomson • 9781839021596

For more information, please contact:

Mollie Broad | mollie.broad@bloomsbury.com | +44(0)77 1848 8810
Elizabeth Dunk | Elizabeth.Dunk@bfi.org.uk | +44(0)79 0133 1811