

## **BFI MEDIATHEQUE LAUNCHES AT THE NATIONAL MEDIA MUSEUM, BRADFORD**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

On 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013 Yorkshire's only BFI Mediatheque will open at the National Media Museum, Bradford. The BFI Mediatheque is a free facility which allows members of the public instant access to more than 2,500 British film and television programmes drawn from the collections of the BFI National Archive and partner archives, including a selection from the National Media Museum's TV Heaven collection and the Yorkshire Film Archive.

***God's Own County: Yorkshire on Screen***, a specially curated collection of material relating to the Yorkshire and Humber area will be unveiled as part of the launch, featuring one hundred film and television programmes which offer a dazzling insight into the rich heritage of film-making in the county drawn from both the BFI National Archive collections and the holdings of the Yorkshire Film Archive. You can simply turn up, sit down at a viewing station and start browsing at the touch of a mouse. For the most part these are items it would be very difficult to access in any other way unless you were a specialist researcher.

**Amanda Nevill, BFI CEO**, *'Being Yorkshire born and bred and having worked in the city for many years, including at The National Media Museum, Bradford has a special place in my heart. It's an incredibly vital city with a rich screen heritage alongside dynamic new film initiatives including an ambitious new partnership with whistling woods studio in Mumbai to create a film school in the city. It's a pleasure to announce that Bradford will be the seventh BFI Mediatheque across the UK, giving the people of Yorkshire free access to hours and hours of well loved and extraordinary lesser known treasures from our great national cinematic heritage.'*

**Michael Terwey, Head of Collections and Exhibitions at the National Media Museum**, said: *"The National Media Museum is a natural partner for the country's most extensive and free-to-use film and TV programme archive. The BFI Mediatheque will give users their own viewing stations from which they can choose from a collection of more than 2,500 titles representing the history of cinema and television in this country, most of which cannot be seen anywhere else. It is the ideal addition to the Museum's existing galleries which feature some of the most significant objects used in making television and cinema."*

Highlights of ***God's Own County: Yorkshire on Screen*** include a filmic journey through Victorian Bradford in 1896; a turn-of-the-century Punch and Judy show in Halifax; or daring Edwardian egg harvesters on Flamborough Head. You can meet Hull's pioneering aviator Amy Johnson, caught on her own home movies; another real-life feminist trailblazer is rediscovered in *The Secret Diary of Miss Anne Lister* (2010). The gentle whimsy and irreverence of Yorkshire humour is here, exemplified by the pilot episode of *Last of the Summer Wine* (1973) and Alan Bennett's wry *Portrait or Bust*

(1994). Feature film depictions of the region range from schlocky treat *The Night Has Eyes* (1942) to the politically-charged *Brassed Off* (1996) and the classic *Billy Liar* (1963). You can even learn how to bake the perfect Yorkshire parkin in *Farmhouse Kitchen* (1972).

A hand-picked selection of home movies and documentaries preserved by the Yorkshire Film Archive offer a more personal and often strikingly creative perspective on Yorkshire life, framed by Queen Victoria's 1897 visit to Sheffield and contemporary docu-drama *The Last Tribe* (2010), an engrossing portrait of Leeds' Jewish community. Whether you're new to Yorkshire or a confirmed 'Tyke', this collection is full of surprises.

In addition to the new Yorkshire collection, TV Heaven, Britain's first publically accessible archive of TV programmes when it opened at the National Media Museum in 1993, will transfer a selection of its classic content to the BFI Mediatheque's national network .

BFI Mediatheques are now located in Glasgow, London, Derby, Cambridge, Newcastle upon Tyne and Wrexham with Bradford being the latest addition.

For a full list of all titles available to view go to: [www.bfi.org.uk/mediatheque](http://www.bfi.org.uk/mediatheque)

## ***God's Own County: Yorkshire on Screen***

### **Ten to try**

#### **Magnificent Reproductions of the Great Yorkshire Show at Bradford (1901)**

Classes mingle in Mitchell & Kenyon's multi-reel record of the annual agricultural event, filmed in the first months of Edward VII's reign.

#### **Helen of Four Gates (1920)**

A young woman suffers under an embittered and abusive guardian in Cecil Hepworth's picturesque silent melodrama, filmed around Hebden Bridge.

#### **Sheffield Spartan Swimmers (1933-34)**

Sheffield grocer George Surgey made this light-hearted film with his friends as they brave all weathers to enjoy the outdoor pool – 365 days a year!

#### **Down Cemetery Road (1964)**

John Betjeman joins Philip Larkin for a tour of the poet's adopted Hull in this edition of *Monitor*.

#### **The Bradford Godfather (1976)**

Meet Mohamed Fazal Hussain, founding member of Bradford's Pakistani community - and part-time action movie director.

#### **All Creatures Great and Small (1978)**

The very first episode of the long-running teatime series, starring Christopher Timothy as James Herriot's North Yorkshire vet.

#### **Yorkshire Disco Dancing Championships (1980)**

Step inside Romeo and Juliet's night club - Doncaster's answer to Studio 54 - for a glitter-strewn edition of the regional TV talent show.

**Rita, Sue and Bob Too (1986)**

Two teenagers from a Bradford housing estate have an affair with a married man in the boisterous feature version of Andrea Dunbar's play; Dunbar's life is also the subject of acclaimed docu-drama *The Arbor* (2010).

**David Hockney: A Bigger Picture (2009)**

Vibrant documentary marking the artist's return to his native Yorkshire - and a new chapter in his creative life.

**Wuthering Heights (2010)**

Andrea Arnold's bold re-imagining of the Emily Brontë classic, filmed on location around North Yorkshire.

All BFI Mediatheques are free to access. Anyone can drop in to browse an extraordinary range of over 2,500 complete films and television programmes drawn from the BFI National Archive and partner collections. The sheer diversity of the collection is dizzying: from vintage Morecambe and Wise, Monty Python or Top of the Pops to Edwardian natural history including unclassifiable gems such as *The Acrobatic Fly* (1910) or Claude Friese-Greene's *The Open Road* (1926) a journey through Britain filmed in colour in 1925, from Land's End to John O'Groats. There's silent comedy from pioneers such as R.W. Paul c.1903, documentary footage from Mitchell & Kenyon (1900 – 1912), or contemporary delights in films such as Ken Loach's *The Wind that Shakes the Barley* (2006) or Julien Temple's *London: The Modern Babylon* (2012). There are collections featuring the film-making of our industrial past, showing shipbuilding, coal-mining and steel-making, and films revealing the colonial histories of Tibet and India, alongside the finest in British television drama. A wide range of other themed collections are available, exploring aspects of British social and cultural history from the 1890s to today, and new titles are added regularly. Whatever your age or interest there's guaranteed to be something that's sure to excite and delight.

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**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
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

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**About The National Media Museum:**

The National Media Museum in Bradford, West Yorkshire, opened in 1983 with the remit to explore the art and science behind images and image-making, and has since become one of the most visited UK museums outside London. With the aim to be the best museum in the world for inspiring people to learn about, engage with and create media, it draws from more than 3.5 million objects in its National Photography, Television, Cinematography and New Media Collections to create special exhibitions, interactive galleries and activities for families and adults.

It is home to Europe's first IMAX cinema screen, the Pictureville Cinema and Cubby Broccoli Cinema. Entry to the Museum is free. [www.nationalmuseum.org.uk](http://www.nationalmuseum.org.uk)

**National  
Media  
Museum**