

BFI'S 'HITCHCOCK 9' GO INTERNATIONAL

Hitchcock restored silent films screen in 15 countries

Friday 14th June 2013 After a 3 year BFI National Archive project **Rescue the Hitchcock 9** to restore Alfred Hitchcock's 9 silent films and highly acclaimed gala premieres of the films in the UK in 2012, the Hitchcock 9 are being seen by audiences all over the world, with major presentations on three continents over the next few days alone. For the first time internationally ALL nine films will be showcased by the San Francisco Silent Film Festival from 14-16 June and at the Shanghai International Film Festival (SIFF) from 17-22 June. **BLACKMAIL** screens tonight with a live performance by Oulu Symphony Orchestra of Neil Brand's orchestral score at the Midnight Sun Film Festival in Finland.

Launching an extensive US tour, the San Francisco screenings at the legendary Castro Theatre will be accompanied live by Stephen Horne, Judith Rosenberg and the Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra. More than a dozen prestigious venues, each screening all of the titles, are already lined up for the tour across the US. The touring festival is a joint venture between the BFI, Park Circus/ITV Studios, and Rialto Pictures/Studiocanal. Simultaneously with the films' New York premiere at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), the Hitchcock 9 will also feature as a highlight of this year's Il Cinema Ritrovato in Bologna, Italy from 29 June – 6 July.

Individual performances of the films have so far been seen in France, New Zealand, Brazil, Ukraine, USA, India, China, Armenia, Sweden and Spain. Further screenings are planned for 2013/14 in Czech Republic, Mexico, Germany and Australia with more to follow (see notes to editors for confirmed screenings list).

From his directorial debut in 1925 with *The Pleasure Garden* to *Blackmail* (1929) Hitchcock created a group of films which already reveal his genius at work, and show that the brilliance of the Hitchcock touch, so admired in later works, was there at the very beginning of his career.

THE HITCHCOCK 9:

THE PLEASURE GARDEN (UK 1926)

THE LODGER (UK 1926)

DOWNHILL (UK 1927)

EASY VIRTUE (UK 1927)

THE RING (UK 1927)

CHAMPAGNE (UK 1928)

THE FARMER'S WIFE (UK 1929)

THE MANXMAN (UK 1929)

BLACKMAIL (UK 1929)

Using the latest restoration techniques, the BFI National Archive has worked from the earliest surviving materials of the silent Hitchcock films, in some cases using vintage nitrate prints or negatives, enabling the viewer to see the films in greater clarity than they have been seen for many decades. Original tints and toning have been reinstated and missing scenes reincorporated, changing our understanding of Hitchcock's silent works.

Work was undertaken at the BFI National Archive and key digital facilities supplied by Deluxe Soho. The work has taken almost two years to complete and has been supported by a wide range of industry and individual support, including a significant donation from The Film Foundation (chair: Martin Scorsese) and the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. This restoration project could not have taken place without the support and co-operation of rightsholders STUDIOCANAL and ITV Studios Global Entertainment.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Additional background information on *Rescue the Hitchcock 9*

Hitchcock's early films are among the finest achievements of British silent cinema. His subsequent films refined his techniques of stunning visual composition, richly cinematic storytelling linked to dramatic invention, which are uniquely Hitchcock.

The surviving nitrate materials for these films bear the marks of wear and tear over the decades. New digital techniques mean that the BFI's team of technical experts are now in a position to restore scratched and damaged negatives and produce much improved viewing copies.

Phase two of the restoration means we are actively seeking more funds for restoration and to enable us to produce these once in a lifetime events: from Hitchcock devotees, film lovers or anyone who cares about our cultural history. Even small amounts to help us reach our target and members of the public who would like to save an important and historic film can contribute by visiting www.bfi.org.uk/saveafilm.

BFI Silent Hitchcock Restorations – International Screenings

- **19 May 2012**
France - Cannes International Film Festival
THE RING - world premiere, with live accompaniment by Stephen Horne
- **5 August 2012**
New Zealand International Film Festival

- BLACKMAIL – Neil Brand’s score performed live by 18-piece orchestra
- **4 October 2012**
Brazil - Rio de Janeiro International Film Festival (Partnership with British Council)
THE PLEASURE GARDEN – Daniel Patrick Cohen’s score performed live
Opening film of Transform Festival as part of Rio Film Festival
Venue: Copacobana Beach
Daniel Patrick Cohen’s score performed live by youth orchestra of Orchestra Sinfonica
- **20 October 2012**
France - Lumiere Film Festival, Lyon
THE PLEASURE GARDEN (with solo piano accompaniment). Introduced by Kieron Webb, BFI National Archive
- **17 November 2012**
Ukraine – Kiev (20th anniversary of British Council Kiev)
THE LODGER
- **29 November 2012**
USA - Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Los Angeles
US premiere of THE RING with recorded score by Soweto Kinch
Introduced by Kieron Webb, BFI National Archive
- **3 December 2012**
France - Cinémathèque Française . ‘ Toute la mémoire du monde’ (Archive Festival)
BLACKMAIL
Closing event of festival in large auditorium accompanied by DJ Chloe with electronic music, DJ Chloe. Introduced by Bryony Dixon, BFI National Archive.
- **7 December 2012**
India – Kerala International Film Festival
THE RING – Soweto Kinch’s score performed live
- **7 December 2012**
France – La Ferme du Buisson
THE PLEASURE GARDEN
- **16 & 31 December 2012**
China – Beijing, British Council British Film Week
THE LODGER (DCP with recorded score)
Screenings at MOMA Broadway Cinematheque, Beijing
- **21 & 23 December 2012**
China – Xi’an, in association with British Council
THE LODGER
Screenings at Jackie Chan Cinema, Xi’an
- **1 – 10 March 2013**
Armenia – British Film Festival, Yerevan
THE LODGER (DCP with score)
In partnership with British Council
- **20 April 2013**
Sweden - Swedish Film Institute, Stockholm
BLACKMAIL (with live piano accompaniment by Matti Bye)
- **25 April 2013**
Spain - Filmoteca de Catalunya, Barcelona
BLACKMAIL (as part of FIAF Congress 2013)
Introduced by Bryony Dixon, BFI National Archive
- **14 June 2013**
Finland – Midnight Sun Film Festival
BLACKMAIL (with Neil Brand’s score for 18-piece orchestra performed live by Oulu Symphony Orchestra)
- **14 – 16 June 2013**
USA - San Francisco Silent Film Festival
West Coast launch of Hitchcock US tour.
Special weekend event at Castro Cinema

- **17 – 22 June 2013**
China – Shanghai International Film Festival
9 x Hitchcock silents including special presentation of BLACKMAIL in Shanghai Film Museum
- **18 June 2013**
USA - Academy of Motion Pictures, LA
BLACKMAIL at Samuel Goldwyn Theatre
- **29 June – 6 July 2013**
Italy - Cinema Ritrovato, Bologna
Presentation of 9 restorations in 35mm
- **29 June – 4 July 2013**
USA - BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music), New York
East Coast launch of Hitchcock US tour
- **30 June 2013**
Czech Republic – 48th Karlovy Vary Film Festival
THE RING – Neil Brand live piano
- **27 June – 13 July 2013**
USA - Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)
- **12 – 28 July 2013**
USA – Cambridge, Harvard Film Archive
- **13 July – 3 August 2013**
USA - AFI Silver Theater, Silver Spring
- **14 July – 4 August 2013**
USA - National Gallery of Art, Washington
- **26 – 28 July 2013**
USA - Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF)
- **July 2013**
Mexico – Cineteca Nacional, Mexico City
9 x Hitchcock silent
- **4 August – December 2013**
China - Hong Kong Film Archive
6 x titles plus BLACKMAIL as outdoor event at Clockenflap Festival
- **8 – 18 August 2013**
Germany - Bonn International Silent Film Festival
THE PLEASURE GARDEN (8 August – with Stephen Horne on piano, accordion, flute)
EASY VIRTUE (15 August – with Joachim Baerez on piano)
- **9 – 15 August 2013**
USA – Chicago, The Music Box Theatre
- **16 – 31 August 2013**
USA - Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, CA
- **16 August – 8 September 2013**
Finland - Helsinki, KAVA (National Audiovisual Archive)
9 x Hitchcock silents
- **13 – 14 September 2013**
Australia – Melbourne, ACMI
THE RING
Australian premiere.
- **10 October – 25 October 2013**
USA - Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH
- **1 – 25 November 2013**
USA - Museum of Fine Art, Houston

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

***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting the screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI / Archive / The Genius of Hitchcock