

Call for British public to hunt for wiped Scottish TV series *Plus a rare screening of missing 50 year old TV play starring Sean Connery*

16 October 2013, London.

The ultimate TV treasure hunt is on for 100s of lost episodes of vintage Scottish TV series as **Edinburgh's Filmhouse** teams up with the **BFI (British Film Institute)** to present a special ***Missing Believed Wiped*** event at the Edinburgh Filmhouse on **Sunday 1 December**. The public are being asked to search their attics and basements for classic Scottish television which is missing from the archives. This is the first time the BFI has concentrated its search efforts on Scotland and Scottish television; missing material includes episodes of ***The One O'Clock Gang*** (1957-1964), ***Garnock Way*** (1976-1979) and ***Dr Finlay's Casebook*** (1962-1971).

The UK's National Collection, the **BFI National Archive**, is the most significant collection of TV and film in the world. ***Missing Believed Wiped*** was launched by the BFI in 1993 with the aim of tracking down and screening material long missing from the official TV archives. Finds over the years have included material from television programmes such as *The Avengers*, *Till Death Us Do Part*, *Dad's Army*, *Armchair Theatre* and *Top of the Pops*. In the last 20 years over 2,000 items, once thought missing, have been recovered (by various people through various sources), the most important of these finds have been screened at the BFI's annual ***Missing Believed Wiped*** events at BFI Southbank.

The special event at the Edinburgh Filmhouse will include screening of rarities including a recently rediscovered BBC play, ***Colombe***, from 1960 starring a young **Sean Connery**, footage from the pre-*Monty Python At Last the 1948 Show* featuring **John Cleese**, **Graham Chapman** and **Tim Brooke-Taylor** and a once-lost episode of 1960s ***Doctor Who***.

Ahead of the event, the BFI is asking the public to search their attics and gardens sheds for lost episodes of Scottish TV series which are no longer held in the archives of UK broadcasters. Many series have been wiped or destroyed over the years, either for cost-cutting reasons or by mistake. Some of the series still missing from the archives and much wanted by the BFI are:

- ***Para Handy – Master Mariner*** (1959-1960): Six episodes of this BBC maritime comedy, starring Roddy McMillan and John Grieve, were adapted from the short stories by Neil Munro. All are now missing from the archives.
- ***Garnock Way*** (1976-1979): STV's forerunner to *Take the High Road*, set in a small fictional mining town between Edinburgh and Glasgow, ran for 150 episodes. Only four episodes still exist.
- ***The Adventures of Francie and Josie*** (1961-1965): Ricki Fulton and Jack Milroy starred as former Teddy Boys in 16 episodes of this STV comedy series which combined music and jokes. No episodes survive in the archives.
- ***Dr Finlay's Casebook*** (1962-1971): This classic medical drama, starring Bill Simpson and

Andrew Cruickshank, ran for nine years and amassed 191 episodes in total. Of those, 123 are now missing.

- ***The One O'Clock Gang*** (1957-1964): Shown, as the title suggests, at one o'clock each weekday, this entertainment show featured music, songs and comedy in front of a live audience at Glasgow's Theatre Royal. Sadly, although 1832 episodes were made, only one remains in the STV archives.

Announcing the search, Dick Fiddy, co-ordinator of the BFI's *Missing Believed Wiped* campaign, said: *"Every year sees long-lost episodes and behind-the-scenes footage returned to the BFI by members of the public. Sometimes they buy them at jumble sales or discover that a member of their family worked on a series and kept episodes for posterity. We return as many shows as we can to broadcasters before screening the best at Missing Believed Wiped."*

James Rice, programmer at Filmhouse, added: *"We're delighted to welcome Missing Believed Wiped to Scotland in its 20th year, particularly as it gives us a chance to show a Sean Connery performance only screened once in the last 50 years. We also hope we can raise awareness about the number of Scottish series still missing and would urge anyone who knows of old cans of film or videotapes gathering dust in the attic to check them out. If any classic programmes are returned before December we hope we can show them at the event."*

If any member of the public thinks they have a full episode, clips or behind-the-scenes footage from a missing TV series they should contact Dick Fiddy at the BFI – dick.fiddy@bfi.org.uk

The Filmhouse screenings will take place on Sunday 1 December.

Press Contacts

Liz Parkinson | Assistant Press Officer, BFI Cultural Programme
liz.parkinson@bfi.org.uk | 020 7957 8918

Notes for Editors

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

About the CMI

The Centre for the Moving Image (CMI) was founded in 2010 with a vision to be the lead agency for film and the moving image in Scotland. The CMI currently comprises the EIFF, Edinburgh Filmhouse and Filmhouse Café Bar and its aim is to lead, inspire, educate and entertain in the moving image space. The CMI is currently developing an ambitious plan to create new businesses and initiatives in Scotland related to film thought and practice. The Centre for the Moving Image is

a registered charity in Scotland, Scottish Charity No. SC006793.
www.filmhousecinema.com / www.edfilmfest.org.uk