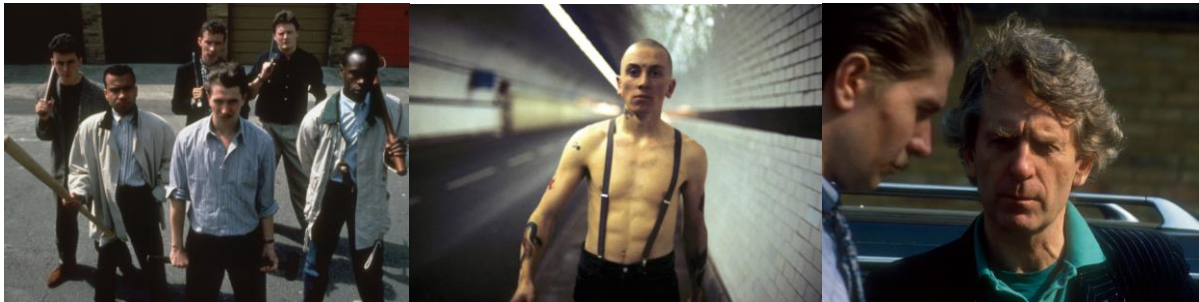


DISSENT & DISRUPTION: THE COMPLETE ALAN CLARKE
Legendary television drama director's compelling work presented
in its entirety by the BFI

Includes the newly-discovered Directors' Cut of *The Firm*, David Bowie in *Baal*, three previously-thought-lost episodes from 1967-1968 and footage from an unfinished documentary project



Gary Oldman in *The Firm*

Tim Roth in *Made in Britain*

Gary Oldman/Alan Clarke on set

"As a director you have to try to be like Alan Clarke – anonymous, subversive, compassionate, and moral." Paul Greengrass (*United 93*, *Captain Phillips*)

London, 3 February 2016 – Beginning **28 March**, the BFI will present the entire BBC and ITV drama, and film productions of the great director/producer/writer **Alan Clarke** (1935 – 1990) with a season at BFI Southbank, DVD and Blu-ray releases, via VOD on BFI Player and in BFI Mediatheques across the UK.

Although best remembered for three controversial and groundbreaking dramas – the notorious ***Scum***, ***Made in Britain*** and ***The Firm*** – the breadth of Clarke's radical, political, innovative, inspirational work, with actors including **Gary Oldman** (*The Firm*), **Ray Winstone** (*Scum*), **Tim Roth** (*Made in Britain*) and even **David Bowie** (*Baal*), and his influence on directors like **Gus Van Sant**, **Paul Greengrass**, **Harmony Korine**, **Clio Barnard** and **Shane Meadows** should see him rightly regarded as one of Britain's greatest ever filmmaking talents. While much of his work was documentary-like in its gritty realism, and in the way he focused on society's marginal groups and underdogs, his versatility saw him turn his hand to comedy (***Rita, Sue and Bob Too***), minimalism (***Elephant***, ***Christine***) and adaptations of writers as diverse as Bertolt Brecht and Georg Büchner.

Speaking in 2000 to *400 Blows Productions*, **Gary Oldman** said: "He radiated with energy. The energy coming off him. The enthusiasm. And one got the impression that he liked actors. Actors want to be liked, that's the game we're in... You felt very confident around Alan. He made you feel confident. That anything was possible and that you could... you could go the whole nine yards with him. You could try anything with Alan."

The BFI will offer the most comprehensive collection and widest possible access to Clarke's enduringly powerful work than ever achieved before, including ***Made in Britain***, ***The Firm***, ***Baal***, ***Penda's Fen***, ***Elephant***, ***Diane***, ***Nina***, ***Christine*** and ***The Road***. After a screening of the recently discovered Director's Cut of ***The Firm***, critic and broadcaster **Danny Leigh** (whose BBC film *British Film Mavericks: Alan Clarke* was broadcast in 2015), will host an on-stage discussion on Clarke's uncompromising style, looking at his legacy and the filmmakers he has inspired, with actor **Ray Winstone** (work permitting), producer **David M Thompson**, writer **David Leland**, and daughter **Molly Clarke**.

Clarke discovered incredible British talent. Among the young actors he cast in what became landmark moments early in their careers are **Ray Winstone** and **Phil Daniels** in *Scum*, **Tim Roth** (*Made in Britain*), **Jane Horrocks** (*Road*), **Lesley Sharp** (*Road; Rita, Sue and Bob Too*), **Lesley Manville** (*The Firm*) and **David Threlfall**, best-known for *Shameless*, who made his acting debut in *Scum*.

Great female writers and producers played a key part in Clarke's career and stories focusing on sometimes flawed, sometimes bewildered but always extraordinary women form an important part of his canon. In "*Alan Clarke's Women*", collaborators including producer **Margaret Matheson**, writer **Jehane Markham** and actors **Lesley Sharp** and **Eleanor Bron** will be on-stage (following a screening of *Nina*) to discuss his handling of feminine and feminist subjects.

Working in television during a significant period in the evolution of TV drama, Clarke's peers were the likes of **Mike Leigh**, **Ken Loach**, **Dennis Potter** and **Stephen Frears**, who said, in *Alan Clarke* (Faber & Faber): "*He was sceptical, cynical of authority, rebellious but not ideological, instinctively principled but also practical and canny, solitary but the best company, authoritative but not in search of power...as serious and as funny as anyone I've ever met...He was the best of us.*"

After beginning his career at ATV and Associated Rediffusion, Alan Clarke joined the BBC in 1969 and made his mark in the weekly feature-length drama strands *The Wednesday Play* and *Play for Today*, with a new and highly distinctive directorial style. He developed a cult following for his hard-hitting work which dissected the darker side of British life. He told stories about neglected or despised groups in contemporary society, like skinheads and football hooligans, and he focused on the troubles in Northern Ireland on three occasions. Clarke worked with a regular team of high-calibre writers that included **David Leland**, **David Rudkin**, **Roy Minton**, **Alun Owen** and **Edna O'Brien**. In 1977, *Scum*, his violent exposé of shockingly brutal conditions in a borstal, was banned by a nervous BBC and not shown for 14 years. Determined to see the story told, Clarke then made the film version released in 1979 to great acclaim.

Dissent & Disruption: The Complete Alan Clarke – BFI Southbank Season **28 March – 30 April 2016**

Among Clarke's best-known work that will be screened during the season is *Diane* (1975), *Baal* (1982), *Made in Britain* (1983), *Contact* (1985), *Road* (1987), *Christine* (1987), *Elephant*, (1989) and *The Firm* (1989). Rarely-seen productions will include *To Encourage the Others* (1972).

A **Missing Believed Wiped Special: Alan Clarke Half Hour Stories**, will reveal **three once-thought-lost episodes** from Associated Rediffusion's *Half Hour Story* strand where Clarke cut his directorial teeth in the late 1960s; *The Gentleman Caller* (with George Cole) (1967), *George's Room* (with John Neville and Geraldine Moffat) (1967) and *Thief* (with Alan Lake and Sian Philips) (1968).

A highlight of the season will be a preview of the forthcoming documentary *Alan Clarke: Out of His Own Light*, directed by Andy Kelleher. Contributors include Ray Winstone, Lesley Sharp and David Leland. Here, in the words of his peers, is a biography, a detailed survey of his work and an affirmation of Alan Clarke as one of the greatest British filmmakers of the 20th century.

BFI Blu-ray and DVD releases in May and June

The BFI will release two DVD box sets and a complete Blu-ray box set with **extensive newly created special features**:

Alan Clarke at the BBC, Volume 1: Dissent (1969-1977) - 6-DVD box set

Includes newly remastered presentations of all surviving Alan Clarke BBC TV productions up to 1977, as well as filmed introductions by writer David Leland, extracts from BBC discussion shows *Tonight* and *Arena*, new multi-part documentary *Alan Clarke: Out of His Own Light*, audio commentaries and a booklet containing new essays and full credits.

Release date: 23 May

Alan Clarke at the BBC, Volume 2: Disruption (1978-1989) - 6-DVD box set

Includes newly remastered presentations of all Alan Clarke BBC TV productions from 1978 to 1989, as well as filmed introductions by writer David Leland, extracts from BBC discussion show *Open Air*, new multi-part documentary *Alan Clarke: Out of His Own Light*, footage from Alan Clarke's unbroadcast documentary *Bukovsky* (1977), two versions of *The Firm*, audio commentaries and a booklet containing new essays and full credits.

Release date: 20 June

Dissent & Disruption: The Complete Alan Clarke at the BBC - Limited Edition 13-Disc Blu-ray box set

Includes all surviving BBC TV productions directed by Alan Clarke, extensive extra features (as detailed above), a comprehensive book with new essays and full credits, and an **exclusive bonus DVD** containing the seven surviving *Half Hour Story* episodes directed by Clarke: *Shelter* (1967), *The Gentleman Caller* (1967, previously considered lost), *George's Room* (1967, previously considered partially lost); *Goodnight Albert* (1968), *Stella* (1968), *The Fifty Seventh Saturday* (1968) and *Thief* (1968, previously considered lost).

Release date: 23 May

Also on 23 May, *The Firm* will be released in a stand-alone Blu-ray edition, presenting the newly-discovered Director's Cut and the original broadcast version in High Definition for the very first time.

BFI Player and Mediatheques

A further selection of Clarke's work, including rarities, will be available to **view for free** from early May at all of the BFI's nine Mediatheques around the UK and a different selection will be accessible online on BFI Player (www.bfi.org.uk/player) from April.

BFI experts will be available to talk about all aspects of the Alan Clarke project. We hope to be able to offer for interview some of the cast and crew who worked with him.

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Images are available at www.image.net under BFI>BFI Southbank>Southbank 2016>Alan Clarke

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 £11.00, concs £8.50 Members pay £1.50 less on any ticket – www.bfi.org.uk/southbank

Young people aged 25 and under can buy last minute tickets for just £3, 45 minutes before the start of screenings and events, subject to availability – <http://www.bfi.org.uk/25-and-under>

BFI releases are available from all good home entertainment retailers or by mail order from the BFI Shop Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at www.bfi.org.uk/shop