



**BFI Flipside presents  
Schalcken the Painter  
A film by Leslie Megahey**

The 28<sup>th</sup> Flipside title in the BFI's acclaimed series is one of the most wanted programmes from the BBC archives – *Schalcken the Painter* (1979). At last it will come to DVD and Blu-ray, released by the BFI on 18 November 2013 in a Dual Format Edition as part of the **GOTHIC: The Dark Heart of Film**. Extensive extras include two complementary films and a new interview with director Leslie Megahey and director of photography John Hooper.

Originally screened by the BBC during the dying hours of 23 December 1979, this exquisitely shot, atmospheric horror film explores the uneasy relationship between art, commerce and erotic desire.

An aspiring young painter falls for his patron's niece but forsakes love for ambition when a ghoulish stranger demands her for himself. Adapted from the chilling ghost story by **J Sheridan Le Fanu**, *Schalcken the Painter* weaves a fictional tale of terror around the work of real life seventeenth-century Dutch Golden Age painter, **Godfried Schalcken**.

The superb cast includes **Jeremy Clyde, Maurice Denman** and **Cheryl Kennedy**.

**Sam Dunn, the BFI's Head of Video Publishing is available for interview on the Flipside series and the BFI's range of Gothic-themed DVDs.**

*Schalcken the Painter* will be screened at the **National Gallery** in January followed by an 'In Conversation' with special guests Leslie Megahey and John Hooper as part of **GOTHIC: The Dark Heart of Film**. The National Gallery houses four of Schalcken's paintings. [More details on page 2.](#)

**Special features**

- Presented in both High Definition and Standard Definition
- *The Pit* (Edward Abraham, 1962, 27 mins): experimental gothic short, adapted from Edgar Allen Poe's 'The Pit and the Pendulum'
- Original sketches for *The Pit*
- *The Pledge* (Digby Rumsey, 1982, 21 mins): three criminals pledge to free the soul of their friend from his gibbeted corpse in this short film based on 'The Highwayman' by Lord Dunsany
- *Look Into the Dark* (2013, 39 mins): interviews with director/writer/producer Leslie Megahey and director of photography John Hooper on the making of *Schalcken the Painter*
- Illustrated booklet with new essays by Ben Hervey, James Bell and Vic Pratt; complete film credits

**Product details**

**RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIB1184 / Cert 15 / Flipside cat no: 028**

UK / 1979 / colour / English language with optional hard-of-hearing subtitles  
70 mins / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1 // Disc 1: BD50 / 1080p / 24fps / PCM mono audio (48k/16-bit) // Disc 2: DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital mono audio (320 kbps)  
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**Schalcken the Painter – screening at the National Gallery on Saturday 4 January 2014 at 2.30pm.** Tickets £6/£4 concessions, Sainsbury Wing Theatre, National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London, WC2. Tickets will be available online from 20 November. Book through <http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/whats-on/film/>. After the screening director Leslie Megahey will be in conversation with the cinematographer John Hooper and Betsy Weisman, the Gallery's curator of Dutch and Flemish paintings.

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**For further information, review copies or interview requests please contact:**

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Images are available at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) under BFI DVD 2013

BFI DVDs are available from all good DVD retailers; by mail order from the BFI Shop

Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at [www.bfi.org.uk/shop](http://www.bfi.org.uk/shop)

**About BFI Flipside**

Developed from its popular monthly screening slot at BFI Southbank, the BFI's Flipside series is designed to revisit and reappraise British films that have slipped through the cracks of cinema history – films that were overlooked, marginalised, or undervalued at the original time of release, or which sit outside the established canon of recognised classics.

BFI Flipside titles are all newly mastered to High Definition from original film elements, and are presented with rare and fascinating special features, including previously unavailable short films, documentaries and archival interviews, many of which are preserved in the BFI National Archive. Each title comes in collectable numbered packaging and is accompanied by an extensive illustrated booklet with insightful contributions from special guest writers, often including the filmmakers themselves.

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