

Digitally Remastered by the BFI National Archive

IT ALWAYS RAINS ON SUNDAY

Directed by Robert Hamer
UK 1947 | 92 mins | Cert PG

With Googie Withers, John McCallum, Jack Warner, Edward Chapman



A BFI release

www.bfi.org.uk/releases

Release date: 26 October 2012

Opening venues: BFI Southbank plus selected cinemas nationwide

Set over a single 24-hour period in postwar Bethnal Green, Robert Hamer's noir-ish thriller *It Always Rains on Sunday* was Ealing Studios' first popular success and is widely considered one of the greatest achievements of British cinema of the late 1940s. Digitally remastered by the BFI Archive, *It Always Rains on Sunday* is released on 26 October to selected cinemas nationwide and will be the centre-piece film of the 'Dark Ealing' season at BFI Southbank.

Hamer's acclaimed slice-of-working-class-life is set in the streets of the busy back-to-back terraced slums of East London, populated by a cast of connected characters who survive by their instincts, finding small pleasures in uncertain and difficult times. Ex-barmaid Rose Sandigate (Googie Withers) lives with her dull but decent husband George (Edward Chapman), their young son Alfie (David Lines) and

two grown-up stepdaughters, Vi (Susan Shaw) and Doris (Patricia Plunkett). One Sunday morning Rose's life is turned upside down by the arrival of Tommy Swann (John McCallum), her former fiancé, who has just broken out of Dartmoor and is demanding food and a few hours' refuge in their old air raid shelter ...

Adapted from a novel by Arthur La Bern (whose 'Goodbye Piccadilly, Farewell Leicester' formed the basis of Hitchcock's **Frenzy**), **It Only Rains on Sunday** was atmospherically shot by Douglas Slocombe and graced by a distinctive score from Georges Auric. The doomed passion of Rose and Tommy is brilliantly portrayed by Googie Withers and John McCallum (lovers in real life who married the following year). A potent mix of lyricism, realism and suspense, **It Only Rains on Sunday** is unafraid to show to seamier side of postwar Britain (many of its characters are crooks and chancers, and at least one kills) – prompting Bethnal Green residents of the time to protest at their portrayal and the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association's reviewer to declare it 'an unsavoury film ... with appeal only to those with very broad minds'. Despite (or because of) that, it was Ealing's box-office hit of the year and remains a triumph of postwar British cinema.

For further information please contact:

Sarah Harvey on 020 7232 2812 or email: sarah@sarahharvey.info

or

Lucy Aronica at the BFI on 0207 957 4833 or email: lucy.aronica@bfi.org.uk

***** PICTURE DESK ALERT *****

**A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting
BFI theatrical releases can be found at www.image.net**

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

The BFI will release *It Always Rains on Sunday* to selected cinemas nationwide on 26 October. It is the centre-piece film of the 'Ealing Dark' season at the BFI.

STUDIOCANAL will release 'IT ALWAYS RAINS ON SUNDAY' on DVD and Blu-ray on 12 November 2012

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