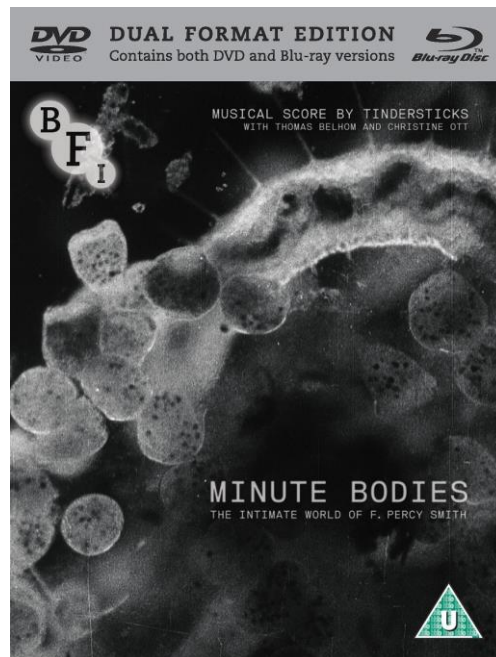


**MINUTE BODIES:  
THE INTIMATE WORLD OF F. PERCY SMITH**  
Directed by **Stuart A. Staples**  
Musical score by **tindersticks** with **Thomas Belhom** and **Christine Ott**  
UK / 2016 / 55 mins / Cert U

**BFI DVD/Blu-ray release on 12 June 2017**  
**Screening with live music at Barbican on 17 June 2017**  
**Soundtrack release on LP/CD/DVD on 9 June 2017**

See the trailer here: <https://youtu.be/BD3rTYQKKKs>



15 March 2017 – This meditative, immersive film by **tindersticks’ Stuart A. Staples** is a tribute to the astonishing work and achievements of naturalist, inventor and pioneering British filmmaker F. Percy Smith (1880-1945). After its screening in the BFI London Film Festival last October, **Minute Bodies: The Intimate World of F. Percy Smith** will be released by the BFI on DVD and Blu-ray in a Dual Format Edition on **12 June 2017** with additional special features comprising of eight short films from the *Secrets of Nature* series, made by both F. Percy Smith and his fellow filmmaker Mary Field.

The film will be screened with **a live score performed by tindersticks** at the **Barbican, London, on Saturday 17 June** (one of a series of live cine-concert events). The film and soundtrack will be released by City Slang on 9 June on Limited Edition LP and DVD as well as on CD and DVD.

Since its London premiere, *Minute Bodies* has been screened at a host of film festivals including International Film Festival Rotterdam, Gothenburg Film Festival and Dublin International Film Festival. Screenings lined up this year include FabioFest Prague, Thessaloniki International Film Festival, Istanbul Film Festival, BAFICI, Buenos Aires and Indelisboa, Lisbon. *Minute Bodies* will also be an installation at the Pompidou centre, Metz, as part of the much anticipated exhibition '[Jardin Infini](#)' from 18 April – 28 August.

Working in a London studio in the early years of the 20th century, Percy Smith developed the use of time-lapse, animation and micro-photographic techniques to capture nature's secrets in action.

*Minute Bodies: The intimate world of F. Percy Smith* is an interpretative work that combines Smith's original film footage – preserved within the BFI National Archive – with **a new contemporary score by tindersticks with Thomas Belhom and Christine Ott**. It creates a hypnotic, alien yet familiar dreamscape that connects us to the sense of wonder Smith must have felt as he peered through his own lenses and saw these micro-worlds for the first time.

Director Stuart A. Staples says: "*Radiating from within the classic 'Secrets of Nature'*\* educational film series is the pure, breath-taking photography of Frank Percy Smith. Mostly filmed at his north London home using equipment designed and built by himself, his work seems as fresh and bewildering today as when it was first screened.

*From a small glimpse of that work, I was compelled to learn more. The more I saw, the more I felt a need to collaborate with this F. Percy Smith. I felt the beauty and adventure in his images to be somehow trapped within their time and format. As I started to cut them loose, the musical forms and connections began to emerge.*

*My main aim for Minute Bodies is that it invites Smith's work to breathe and exist in the present. Smith was a major, unique figure. His work transcends the constraints of its time, and now it teaches us about patience, commitment, ingenuity and determination."*

Presented for the first time in High Definition, *Minute Bodies* utilises footage from several of the *Secrets of Nature* films alongside a number of other Smith films, which are yet to be seen by contemporary audiences.

F. Percy Smith himself once said: "*The world now sacrifices everything to speed; quiet seems to be regarded as a detestable condition to be expurgated by any means which applied science can devise; and this state of affairs does not encourage the production of the type of individual who can satisfy himself in an investigation of the hidden beauties of Nature.*"

\**Secrets of Nature* is released on DVD by the BFI

### **About the music**

The film and its musical score evolved over a three year period. The music was created from a loose collective of invited musicians. With tindersticks at its heart, it also greatly benefits from the involvement of Thomas Belhom (Percussion) and Christine Ott (Ondes Martenot and Piano). There are also cameos from David Coulter (Musical saw and Nose flute) and Julian Siegel (Saxophone). It was recorded and mixed at the band's studio in France.

### **Stuart A. Staples, director**

Writer, singer, producer and founding member of the band tindersticks, formed in 1992. At the helm of ten tindersticks studio albums to date, as well as seven film soundtracks for renowned French director Claire Denis. The band have been regulars in the concert halls of Europe over the last 22 years, playing often with orchestras and guest musicians and vocalists. Their music has been used variously in art installations, dance and theatre projects, numerous films and TV productions and fashion shows.

More recently Stuart has been creating the orchestral soundscapes for the In Flanders Fields Museum, Belgium and curating, in collaboration with the Clermont – Ferrand Short

Film Festival, 'The waiting room film project'; a series of short films inspired by the latest tindersticks album.

**Production credits**

Directed by **Stuart A. Staples**

Photography and animated sequences by **F. Percy Smith**

Editing by **David Reeve** and **Stuart A. Staples**

Original editing by **Mary Field**

Produced by **Stuart A. Staples** and **David Reeve** for **Lucky Dog inc.** and **Studio Moe**

Musical score by **tindersticks** with **Thomas Belhom** and **Christine Ott.**

Find more information on *Minute Bodies* at [www.minutebodies.com](http://www.minutebodies.com)

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**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