

# **Out of the Unknown**

**Created by Irene Shubik** 

BBC Television's *Out of the Unknown*, the classic anthology science fiction series – broadcast between 1965 and 1971 – was daring, ambitious and inventive, drawing from writers of the calibre of John Wyndham, Isaac Asimov, J G Ballard, J G Priestley, Ray Bradbury, E M Forster and Troy Kennedy Martin.

On 27 October 2014, as part of Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder, the BFI will release a comprehensive 7-disc DVD box set that brings together all 20 surviving episodes from the four original series, all digitally remastered from the best available materials.

Created by Irene Shubik (*The Wednesday Play, Rumpole of the Bailey*), *Out of the Unknown* employed the cream of British talent to bring a variety of often chilling, sometimes darkly comic, and always thought-provoking science fiction tales to the small screen. Dramatists such as J B Priestley and Leon Griffiths, directors such as Philip Saville and Rudolph Cartier, visionary designers such as Ridley Scott, and actors of the calibre of Yvonne Mitchell, George Cole, Milo O'Shea and David Hemmings were brought together to produce one of the most prestigious science fiction series ever made.

When plans to release this classic TV series for the very first time were originally announced, the BFI was inundated with letters and e-mails from private collectors and die-hard fans, all of whom generously offered their invaluable help. Collectively, they have ensured that the contents of this long-overdue release are as thorough and exciting as possible. The impressive range of extra features (produced by 'professional fans' in collaboration with the BFI) includes 4 episode reconstructions, an incomplete episode, 11 audio commentaries, extensive stills galleries, an interview with director James Cellan Jones, and a newly-created 42-minute documentary featuring interviews with original cast and crew members as well as rarely-seen clips from lost episodes.

Out of the Unknown: The Dead Past + Out of this World: Little Lost Robot at BFI Southbank, Sun 2 Nov 15:50 NFT3

To celebrate the DVD release of *Out of the Unknown* and *Out of this World* (to follow in December), BFI Southbank will host a special screening of one episode from each, followed by a panel discussion and Q&A featuring author Mark Ward, director John Gorrie and SFX sound engineer Brian Hodgson. Tickets are on sale at www.bfi.org.uk/whatson

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### **Special features**

- All 20 surviving episodes from Series 1 to 4
- Digitally remastered picture and sound
- Return of the Unknown (2014, 42 minutes): exclusive documentary, featuring interviews with cast and crew, as well as rare clips
- 11 audio commentaries with cast and crew, including Philip Saville,
  John Glenister, Wendy Gifford, Peter Sasdy and John Gorrie, moderated by actor-comedian Toby Hadoke
- An Interview with James Cellan Jones (2014, 16 minutes): the legendary TV director discusses his career and approach to filmmaking
- Episode reconstructions for *Beach Head*, *The Naked Sun*, *The Yellow Pill*, and *The Uninvited*
- Film insert from *Deathday* episode
- Seven extensive stills galleries
- 44-page illustrated booklet with essays by Out of the Unknown expert Mark Ward and full episode credits

### **Product details**

## RRP: £69.99 / cat. no. BFIV2006 / Cert 15

UK / 1965-71 / black and white, and colour / English language, optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / 1,325 minutes / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1 /  $7 \times DVD9$  / PAL / Dolby Digital 1.0 mono audio

### **Press contact:**

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Images are available at www.image.net under BFI DVD 2014

- BFI DVD and Blu-ray releases are available from all good video entertainment retailers or from the BFI Shop Tel: 020 7815 1350 and online at www.bfi.org.uk/shop
- SCI-FI: DAYS OF FEAR AND WONDER will be the BFI's biggest season to date, with over 1000 screenings of classic films and television programmes at over 200 locations across the UK. It includes a three-month programme at BFI Southbank, from 20 October until 31 December 2014, with special events, guests and screenings right across the UK. With outdoor events at iconic British sites, classic Sci-Fi titles released into UK cinemas and on DVD and Blu-ray, 50+ films available online through BFI Player, a BFI Sci-Fi Compendium and much more, SCI-FI: DAYS OF FEAR AND WONDER, presented together with 02, will celebrate cinema's most spectacular and visionary genre, exploring how the fear and wonder at its heart continues to inspire and enthral in one of the largest and most ambitious Sci-Fi projects ever created.
  www.bfi.org.uk/sci-fi @BFI #BFISciFi

### **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