



Ration Books and Rabbit Pies Films from the Home Front

Continuing the BFI's exploration of Britain on Film, this fascinating DVD collection brings together a selection of public information films, propaganda shorts and adverts from the Second World War, drawn from the BFI National Archive. *Ration Books and Rabbit Pies: Films from the Home Front*, released on 18 January 2016, contains films that give essential advice to a nation living in an age of austerity. Amongst the handy hints and tips, we learn how to support the war effort from home by rationing, staying healthy, growing vegetables, cooking and salvaging.

Highlights of the collection include *Tea Making Tips* (1941), with 'the six golden tips' for making the perfect cuppa; director/artist/ animator Len Lye's *When the Pie Was Opened* (1941); *Did You Ever See a Dream Talking* (1943) starring 'silly ass' comedian Claude Hulbert playing a Home Guard volunteer; *Wisdom of the Wild* (1940), a wartime twist on the long-running *Secrets of Life* natural history series; *The Wicked Witch* (1943), an advert for Rinso and *A-Tish-oo!* (1941), an instructional film on how to make a face-mask.

BFI National Archive curator Sue Woods is available to talk about these films.

The release of *Ration Books and Rabbit Pies* accompanies the season *Blitz Flicks* running at BFI Southbank throughout January 2016. Each weekend, audiences have the chance to experience a matinee programme, 1940s-style, with all features playing with a supporting programme of propaganda shorts, just as they would have been shown at the time.

Ration Books and Rabbit Pies: Films from the Home Front – The Films:

COOKERY TIPS

COOKERY HINTS: OATMEAL PORRIDGE (1940) 6 mins
 WHEN THE PIE WAS OPENED (1941) 8 mins
 MRS T AND HER CABBAGE PATCH (1941) 12 mins
 TWO COOKS AND A CABBAGE (1941) 6 mins
 TEA MAKING TIPS (1941) 10 mins
 FOOD FLASHES: MILK, FISH AND POTATOES (1942-1944)

SAVE YOUR SHILLINGS AND SMILE

DID YOU EVER SEE A DREAM TALKING (1943) 6 mins
 KEEP THEM SAFE KEEP THEM HAPPY (1939) 2 mins
 BOB IN THE POUND (1943) 2 mins
 SAVE YOUR SHILLINGS AND SMILE (1943) 7 mins
 GET CRACKING (1944) 1 min
 FOOD FLASH: BREAD AND DOUGH (1942-1944)

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MAKE DO AND MEND

SALVAGE WITH A SMILE (1940) 6 mins
WISDOM OF THE WILD (1940) 13 mins
SABOTAGE! (1942) 2 mins
MRS MOPP ENTERTAINS (1943) 2 mins
THE WICKED WITCH (1943) 2 mins
DUSTBIN PARADE (1942) 6 mins
LITTLE ANNIE'S RAG BOOK (1942) 2 mins
LITTLE MISS MUDDLEHEAD (1943) 2 mins
FOOD FLASH: RATION BOOKS (1942-1944)

FIGHTING FIT

FITNESS WINS: 4 AND 20 FIT GIRLS (1940) 11 mins
A-TISH-OO! (1941) 6 mins
ABCD OF HEALTH (1942) 9 mins
ROUND FIGURES (1944) 9 mins
FOOD FLASHES: EGGS, COCOA AND COD LIVER OIL (1942-1944)

DIG FOR VICTORY

THE BACKYARD FRONT (1940) 16 mins
BAMPTON SHOWS THE WAY (1941) 6 mins
FOOD FLASHES: CANTEENS AND RATS (1942-1944)

This set also contains an illustrated booklet with essays, film notes and full film credits.

Product details

RRP: £19.99 / Cat. no. BFIV2071 / Cert E

UK / 1939 - 1944 / black and white / English language / 151 mins / original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital 1.0 mono (160kbps)

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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

More details on BFI Southbank's *Blitz Flicks* are at www.bfi.org.uk/whatson

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