



The Boy from Space

By Richard Carpenter

**The classic BBC science-fiction series
2-disc set**

Never available in any video format, the classic BBC series *The Boy from Space* (1971/1980) is at last being released on DVD by the BFI on 25 August 2014 as part of *BFI SCI-FI: Days of Fear and Wonder*, a celebration of Sci-Fi film and television. This well-remembered *Look and Read* series is presented with a host of extras, including the complete audio from the 1972 BBC Records LP and alternative presentations of the filmed drama sequences which allow for this thrilling adventure

to be experienced in new and exciting ways.

When brother and sister Dan and Helen see a mysterious object falling from the sky one night, they set out to look for traces of a meteorite in the nearby sandpit. There, they are confronted by a strange thin man, and discover a white-haired boy called Peep-peep who speaks a bizarre alien language.

Written by Richard Carpenter (*Catweazel, Adventures of Robin Hood*), the series starred Sylvestra Le Touzel (*Mansfield Park, Amazing Grace, Happy-Go-Lucky*), Stephen Garlick (*The Tomorrow People, The Dark Crystal*), Colin Mayes (*Scum, All Quiet on the Western Front*), John Woodnutt (*Z Cars, Children of the Stones, Doctor Who*) and Gabriel Woolf (*Emergency-Ward 10, Doctor Who*).

The striking electronic music is by Paddy Kingsland of the BBC Radiophonic Workshop.

Originally broadcast in 1971, as part of the BBC's educational *Look and Read* strand, *The Boy from Space* was shown again in 1980 in a revised version featuring new presenters Wordy and Cosmo, as well as updates – including a new foreword and a voice-over – to the main drama.

Look and Read was a programme for primary schools, aimed at improving children's literacy skills. The programme presents fictional stories in a serial format, the first of which was broadcast in 1967 and the most recent in 2004, making it the longest running nationally broadcast programme for schools in the UK.

***The Boy from Space* with the BBC Radiophonic Workshop, live, at BFI Southbank in December**

On Saturday 6 December, to celebrate this DVD release, BFI Southbank will present the specially-created 70 minute version of the series, directed by Maddalena Fagandini, followed by a panel discussion with key figures in the BBC Radiophonic Workshop, who provided the original music for this and so many other series. Following this our regular *Sonic Cinema* strand will provide a chance to hear the group play a specially selected set of Sci-Fi music from *Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and *Quatermass to Doctor Who*.

Cont...

Special features

- The complete 1980 series (10 x 20 mins): all ten episodes of the BBC's classic *Look and Read* series, featuring Dan, Helen and Peep-peep's story, as well as helpful reading tips from Wordy and Cosmo
- Feature-length presentation (70 mins): exclusive version of Dan, Helen and Peep-peep's adventures, edited specially for this release
- BBC Records LP – audio version (55 mins): original spoken word recordings from the 1972 vinyl release, narrated by Charles Collingwood (the voice of Brian Aldridge in Radio 4's *The Archers*)
- BBC Records LP – film version (55 mins): an exclusive presentation, combining the audio from the 1972 LP with film and video footage from the 1980 TV broadcast
- Wordy's Think-ups: 19 original animations from the series
- Downloadable PDFs of the original 1971 and 1979 pupil's pamphlets
- Illustrated booklet with essays by British TV experts Ben Clarke and Christopher Perry, and recollections by composer Paddy Kingsland

Product details

RRP: £22.99 / cat. no. BFIV2001 / Cert PG

UK / 1971/80 / colour / English language, with optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / 200 mins / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / 2 x DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital audio (192 kbps)

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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 by mail order from the BFI Shop Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at www.bfi.org.uk/shop
- *Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder* will be a three month celebration of film and television's original blockbuster genre. It will include a three-month programme at BFI Southbank, from 20 October until 31 December 2014, and very special events, guests and screenings right across the UK. Classic Sci-Fi titles will be released into UK cinemas and on DVD and Blu-ray. There will be an extensive education programme, 50+ films available online through BFI Player, a BFI Sci-Fi Compendium, nine new BFI Film Classics published with Palgrave Macmillan, exciting new partnerships, special guests and commentators, all of which will celebrate cinema's most spectacular and visionary genre, exploring how the fear and wonder at its heart continues to inspire and enthrall.
www.bfi.org.uk/sci-fi

29 July 2014