



The Day the Earth Caught Fire

A film by Val Guest

Newly remastered by the BFI National Archive, this definitive version of the classic British science fiction thriller will be released by the BFI on both DVD and Blu-ray on 17 November 2014 as part of *Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder* presented with O2.

Both formats contain a host of extras, including a commentary with director Val Guest (the *Quatermass* films), a newly-created documentary, a selection of bomb-related archive films and much, much more.

When the USA and Russia simultaneously test nuclear bombs, the earth is knocked off its axis and set on a collision course with the sun. As the planet inexorably heats up and society slowly breaks down, Peter Stenning (**Edward Judd**), a washed-up *Daily Express* reporter, breaks the story and sets about investigating the government cover-up.

Made at a time when the nuclear threat of the Cold War loomed large, *The Day the Earth Caught Fire* is an expertly crafted sci-fi film that boasts a BAFTA-winning screenplay, gritty characters and a vision of end-of-days London that really burns. It also stars **Leo McKern** (*Rumpole of the Bailey*), **Janet Munro**, real-life reporter **Bernard Braden** and one-time *Daily Express* editor **Arthur Christiansen**. Many scenes were filmed on location at the former *Daily Express* HQ on Fleet Street and in the surrounding area.

Special features

- Brand new 4K transfer by the BFI National Archive
- *Hot Off the Press: Revisiting the Day the Earth Caught Fire* (John Kelly, 2014, 34 mins): a newly-created documentary with contributions from Kim Newman, Marcus Hearn and BFI Archive curators John Oliver and Jo Botting
- Audio commentary with Val Guest and Ted Newsom
- *An Interview with Leo McKern* (Paul Vanezis, 2001, 9 mins)
- *The Day the Earth Caught Fire: An Audio Appreciation by Graeme Hobbs* (2014, 9 mins)
- Original trailer, TV spots and radio spots
- *Stills and Collections Gallery*
- Three nuclear films from the BFI National Archive: *Operation Hurricane* (Ronald Stark, 1952, 33 mins); *The H-bomb* (David Villiers, 1956, 22 mins); *The Hole in the Ground* (David Cobham, 1962, 30 mins)
- *Think Bike* (1978, 1 min): road safety film with actor Edward Judd
- Illustrated booklet with extensive credits and newly commissioned essays from John Oliver and Marcus Hearn

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Blu-ray exclusive feature:

- *The Guardian Lecture*: Val Guest and his wife, actress Yolande Dolan are interviewed by David Meeker, filmed at the National Film Theatre (1998, 63 mins)

Blu-ray product details

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIB1198 / Cert 12

UK / 1961 / black and white, with tinting / English language, with optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / 100 mins / BD50 / 1080p / 24fps / Original aspect ratio 2.35:1 / PCM mono audio (48k/16-bit)

DVD product details

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIV2009 / Cert 12

UK / 1961 / black and white, with tinting / English language, with optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / 96 mins / DVD9 / Original aspect ratio 2.35:1 (16x9 anamorphic) / Dolby Digital 1.0 mono audio (192 kbps)

BFI DVD producer James Blackford and curator John Oliver are available to talk about the film.

***The Day the Earth Caught Fire* at BFI Southbank during October**

As part of the *Tomorrow's World* strand of *Sci-Fi: Days of Fear and Wonder*, *The Day the Earth Caught Fire* can be seen on the big screen at BFI Southbank on Tue 21 Oct 20:45 (NFT1 with introduction), Sat 25 Oct 18:40 (Studio), Mon 27 Oct 18:00 (NFT1) and Thur 30 Oct 20:45 (NFT1). Tickets are on sale now at www.bfi.org.uk/whatson

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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 enthrall in one of the largest and most ambitious Sci-Fi projects ever created.
www.bfi.org.uk/sci-fi

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

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