



16th December 2011 EMBARGOED UNTIL 17th December 2011

THE GENIUS OF HITCHCOCK CELEBRATING CINEMA'S MASTER OF SUSPENSE

BFI PRESENTS RESTORED, RARELY SEEN HITCHCOCK FILMS WITH NEW SCORES FOR LONDON 2012 FESTIVAL

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

2012 is the year that the BFI brings the master of suspense to audiences on a truly Olympian scale, with gala events of rarely seen early films and a major season at BFI Southbank. As part of the London 2012 Festival, the BFI is staging a series of spectacular one-off screenings of Hitchcock's British silent films from the 1920's, restored by the BFI National Archive, and brought to life for audiences with newly commissioned scores from the best of British contemporary musical talent. Tickets for the first two of these events are now on sale via www.bfi.org.uk. The BFI will also be holding a full retrospective of Hitchcock's work from his entire career at BFI Southbank from August - October 2012.

Nitin Sawhney, one of the world's most distinctive and versatile musical voices, is writing a score to accompany ***The Lodger: A Tale of the London Fog*** (1926) at the Barbican Hall, 7.30pm, Saturday 21st July 2012. The score will be performed by the London Symphony Orchestra and is commissioned by independent film distributor Network Releasing in partnership with the BFI. Ticket prices from £15.

Early booking is recommended as tickets sold out very quickly for ***The Pleasure Garden*** (1925) which will have a new score from promising young composer and recent graduate from the Royal Academy of Music **Daniel Patrick Cohen** to be performed by The Royal Academy of Music's Manson Ensemble at Wilton's Music Hall, E1, on Thursday 28 June and Friday 29 June, 7.30pm both nights. *The Pleasure Garden*, Hitchcock's first film as director, also marks Daniel Patrick Cohen's first commissioned score. Ticket price £20. Check website for returns only.

All events can be purchased online via ww.bfi.org.uk or via the BFI Southbank Box Office 020 7928 3232. Tickets for **The Lodger** can also be purchased via (**Barbican url/ticket purchasing to be added**)

Regarded as a creative genius and for many one of the greatest film directors of all time, Hitchcock was born and bred in East London in 1899 - the home of the London Olympic park - and he continues to inspire and influence still, 31 years after his death. Thanks to the BFI's fundraising campaign '**Rescue the Hitchcock 9**' new restorations of the films have begun by the world leading experts at the BFI National Archive in the biggest and most complex archival restoration project undertaken by the BFI. However, more funds are still needed if the BFI is to achieve its ambition to restore even more of these early works (1925-29) to their former glory and bring them to life on the big screen and with new scores for the 2012 celebrations.

Hitchcock's nine silent films were made in the silent era and he was very early on hailed as a genius by reviewers. Audiences and critics were captivated by his daring mix of European editing styles combined with dramatic composition and a powerful mixture of humour laced with high drama. Anyone who has thrilled to Hitchcock's later Hollywood classics such as **Vertigo**, **The Birds** or **Psycho** will recognise elements of the Hitchcock touch in his earliest works. Hitchcock's **The Mountain Eagle** - the tenth of his silent films - is still missing and top of the BFI's Most Wanted list.

The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog (1926)

Hitchcock's third feature is the first true 'Hitchcock' film, and was called "the finest British production ever made" by the trade journal Bioscope. His first suspense thriller, it's about a mysterious lodger who might also be a serial killer terrorising fog-shrouded London - and, much as he would later do with Cary Grant in *Suspicion* (1941), Hitchcock cannily cast matinee idol Ivor Novello in the title role and challenged his audience to think the worst of him. Visually, it was extraordinarily imaginative for the time, most notably in the scene in which Hitchcock installed a glass floor so that he could show the lodger pacing up and down in his room from below, as though overheard by his landlady.

The Pleasure Garden (1925)

The opening sequence of Hitchcock's debut as director uncannily anticipates many of the elements that characterised his later work: the camera stares fixedly at the legs of chorus girls, a spectator leers, the audience is implicated. The diverging lives of two dancers are told in suitably melodramatic style: one ascends to the heights, the other stumbles into a marriage with a dangerous womaniser who goes

spectacularly native with a girl in an unnamed colony. Shot in Germany and on Lake Como, the film was confidently 'signed' by Hitchcock with a handwritten signature on the opening credits, characteristically defending his decision: "Actors come and actors go, but the name of the director should stay clearly in the mind of the audiences".

The other 7 silent Hitchcock films are:

DOWNHILL (1927)
EASY VIRTUE (1927)
THE RING (1927)
THE FARMER'S WIFE (1927)
CHAMPAGNE (1928)
THE MANXMAN (1929)
BLACKMAIL (1929)

This project has been able to take place thanks to the generosity of some key organisations and companies and many individuals. Chief among the donors are The Film Foundation and the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, and the leading UK facilities house Deluxe where much of the digital restoration has been undertaken. There's still a chance for anyone who would like to ensure that these films are presented as widely as possible with our fund-raising site still able to accept donations via www.bfi.org.uk/saveafilm.

Restoration for both **The Lodger** and **The Pleasure Garden** is made possible with the assistance and co-operation of ITV Studios Global Entertainment who are the rights owners of both films. The deal for both pictures was negotiated by Park Circus who are the worldwide theatrical distributor and sales agent for ITV Studios.

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Notes to editors

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

Additional background information on *Rescue the Hitchcock 9*

Hitchcock's early films are among the finest achievements of British silent cinema. His subsequent films refined his techniques of stunning visual composition, richly cinematic storytelling linked to dramatic invention, which are uniquely Hitchcock.

The surviving nitrate materials for these films bear the marks of wear and tear over the decades. New digital techniques mean that the BFI's team of technical experts are now in a position to restore scratched and damaged negatives and produce much improved viewing copies.

Phase two of the restoration means we are actively seeking more funds for restoration and to enable us to produce these once in a lifetime events: from Hitchcock devotees, film lovers or anyone who cares about our cultural history. Even small amounts to help us reach our target and members of the public who would like to save an important and historic film can contribute by visiting www.bfi.org.uk/saveafilm.

BFI National Archive

The BFI National Archive was founded in 1935 and has grown to become the largest collection of film and television in the world with over 180,000 films and 750,000 television programmes. With specialist storage facilities in Warwickshire and Hertfordshire the archive also boasts significant collections of stills, posters and designs along with original scripts, press books and related ephemera. We are funded partly by OfCom as the official archive for ITV, Channel Four and Channel Five. We record a representative sample of television across Britain's terrestrial channels and are the official archive of moving image records of Parliament.

BFI Mediatheques

Anyone can get access to collections of over 2200 titles from the archive for free at BFI Mediatheques around the UK, currently at BFI Southbank, BFI National Library, QUAD Derby, Central Library Cambridge, Wrexham Library, the Discovery Museum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

BFI National Archive Online

Our YouTube channel **BFI Films** has over 350 items which can be viewed online. Over 1.2 million views have now been recorded for *Royal Wedding* (1923) released in April overtaking *Alice in Wonderland* (1903) which has had just over 1.17 million views. Academic access for higher education is through the **BFI InView** project. Schools and educational institutions have access to a wide range of material at screenonline.org.uk. This is in addition to paid access at the BFI for other research needs.

BFI Special Collections

Part of the BFI National Archive, Special Collections looks after and makes available collections relating to individuals and organisations involved in the British film and television industries. Highlights of the collection include the papers of Sir David Lean, John Schlesinger, Derek Jarman, Joseph Losey, Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, Carol Reed, Gerald Thomas, Lord Puttnam, Dirk Bogarde, Muriel, Sidney and Betty Box, the Children's Film Foundation and Hammer Films.

BFI Viewing Copies & BFI DVD

12,000 prints a year are loaned out by the BFI National Archive to support the programmes of 800 venues across the UK and overseas and our DVD label regularly issues selected items. These have included the hugely popular British Transport Films Collection series, the legendary documentaries of The GPO Film Unit and most recently an award-winning restoration of *The Great White Silence* (1922) the official film record of Scott's final expedition to the South Pole.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

Nitin Sawhney is a Mercury, Ivor, Mobo and Olivier nominated songwriter and composer, his output as a musician is astonishing. As the Guardian quite aptly put it, "it would be easier to jot down what this man can't do than what he can." He has scored for and performed with many of the world's leading orchestras, and collaborated with and written for the likes of Paul McCartney, Antony Gormley, Sting, Brian Eno, Shakira, Taio Cruz, Ellie Goulding, Cirque Du Soleil and Nelson Mandela. Sawhney is also, for instance, the only artist ever to play both the BBC Proms and the BBC Electric Proms, gracing London's Royal Albert Hall and Camden's Roundhouse respectively. Performing extensively around the world, he has achieved an international reputation across every possible creative medium. Often appearing as Artist in Residence, curator or Musical Director at international festivals, Sawhney works tirelessly for musical education, acting as patron of the British Government's Access-to-music programme and the East London Film festival and acting as a judge for The Ivor Novello Awards, BAFTA, BIFA and PRS for Music Foundation. He is a recipient of 4 honorary doctorates from British universities, is a fellow of LIPA and the Southbank University, an Associate of Sadler's Wells, sits on the board for London's Somerset House and in 2007 turned down an OBE for ethical reasons.

Daniel Patrick Cohen was born in 1988 and has been passionate about cinema and music from an early age. He studied Composition at the Royal Academy of Music between 2006 and 2010, during which time he has scored various short films, had a choral piece performed by the New London Singers in St. Martin-in-the-Fields, a chamber work performed by the Esbjerg Ensemble in Denmark and several orchestral and chamber pieces performed by musicians at the Academy. He is currently in the final stages of producing a concept album, entitled *The Passenger*, after the Michelangelo Antonioni film of the same name, and working on a project where music is created by electronically manipulating a recording of a poem.

About Network Releasing

UK film distributor specialises in independent cinema from across the world. Its British film library includes the rights to a number of films in the Hitchcock library including *The Lodger*, *The Pleasure Garden*, *Downhill*, *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, *The 39 Steps*, *Secret Agent*, *Sabotage*, *Young and Innocent* and *The Lady Vanishes*. Its film library includes *Abel*, *Afterschool*, *Flight of the Red Balloon* and *Heartbeats*. Forthcoming releases include *Avé*, *Bonsai*, *The Return* and *The Taqwacores*.

About the Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 Festival

The London 2012 [Cultural Olympiad](#) is the largest cultural celebration in the history of the modern Olympic and Paralympic Movements. Spread over four years, it is designed to give everyone in the UK a chance to be part of [London 2012](#) and inspire creativity across all forms of culture, especially among young people.

The culmination of the Cultural Olympiad will be the [London 2012 Festival](#), bringing leading artists from all over the world together from 21 June 2012 in this UK-wide festival – a chance for everyone to celebrate London 2012 through dance, music, theatre, the visual arts, film and digital innovation and leave a lasting legacy for the arts in this country. People can sign up at www.london2012.com/festival now to receive information.

Principal funders of the Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 Festival are [Arts Council England](#), [Legacy Trust UK](#) and the [Olympic Lottery Distributor](#). [BP](#) and [BT](#) are Premier Partners of the Cultural Olympiad and the London 2012 Festival. The [British Council](#) will support the international development of London 2012 Cultural Olympiad projects. [Panasonic](#) are the presenting partner of [Film Nation: Shorts](#).

For more details visit www.london2012.com/culture

About the Barbican

The Barbican Centre is one of the world's leading arts centres, founded and run by the City of London Corporation. It encompasses dance, film, music, theatre, visual arts and creative learning who work together in creating the model of tomorrow's international arts and learning centre. Committed to providing a world-class programme, which inspires, challenges and amazes its audiences, the Barbican is also home to Resident Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Associate Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra and Associate Producer Serious. Its Artistic Associates include Boy Blue Entertainment, Cheek by Jowl, Deborah Warner, Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre and Michael Clark Company. International Associates are Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and Jazz at Lincoln Center. The architecturally renowned Centre, now Grade II listed, opened in 1982, and comprises the 1,949 seat Barbican Hall, the 1,166-seat Barbican Theatre, the Pit theatre, a 286 seat cinema, the Barbican Art Gallery, a second gallery The Curve, foyers and public spaces, a library, Lakeside Terrace, roof-top tropical conservatory, conference facilities and three restaurants.

For more information visit www.barbican.org.uk.

About ITV STUDIOS Global Entertainment

ITV Studios Global Entertainment has the largest and most prestigious collection of Classic British Film and television in the world with over 1500 movie titles, representing award winning films from the Rank, Romulus, Rohauer, Korda and ITC Libraries. The film services team at our Perivale archive manages an ongoing film restoration, preservation and Digital re-mastering programme. We collaborate on these projects with many technical and funding partners such as the David Lean Foundation, the Scorsese Film Foundation and the BFI. Our catalogue includes eleven Hitchcock Directed feature films and four of the silent titles the BFI are campaigning to restore.

Our consumer label within Global Entertainment is ITV STUDIOS Home Entertainment, and is a major player in the UK and International Home Entertainment Market representing the UK's most comprehensive film and video collections with over 3000 titles. The range includes titles in contemporary and classic film (Shawshank Redemption, Fabulous Baker Boys, Brief Encounter, The Red Shoes), children's titles (Numberjacks, Thunderbirds, Big & Small, Pinky & Perky), drama (Inspector Morse, Cracker, Prime Suspect, Murphy's Law, Lewis, Ultimate Force) sport (Arsenal, and Liverpool football clubs) and comedy (Al Murray The Pub Landlord, Harry Hill's TV Burp).

Our Hitchcock holdings are:

ITVSGE Silent Hitchcock films:

Downhill 1927

The Lodger' 1926

The Pleasure Garden 1925

Easy Virtue 1927

Other Hitchcock's in ITVGE's collection:

'Young and Innocent' 1938

'Jamaica Inn' 1939

'The Lady Vanishes' 1938

'Sabotage' 1936

'The 39 Steps' 1935 Robert Donat

The Man who knew too much 1934

The Secret Agent 1936

About Park Circus

Park Circus is a leading international distributor and sales agent specialising in classic and repertory cinema. The company currently represents over 12,000 feature films from a number of library and content owners including Sony Pictures Releasing, ITV Studios Global Entertainment, Metro Goldwyn Mayer, The Walt Disney Company and Channel Four Television Corporation, as well as a number of independent producers and rights owners.

About the Royal Academy of Music

The Royal Academy of Music's impact on musical life is inestimable. Its alumni permeate today's global music profession, including iconic names like Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Harrison Birtwistle and Sir Elton John. It attracts talented students from over fifty countries, drawn by its renowned teachers, rich artistic culture, unrivalled calendar of events and superb collections.

About The Film Foundation

Since 1990, The Film Foundation (www.film-foundation.org), a non-profit organization established by Martin Scorsese, has been dedicated to protecting and preserving motion picture history by providing substantial annual support for preservation and restoration projects at the leading film archives. The foundation raises awareness of the urgent need to preserve films and has helped to save over 550 motion pictures. The Film Foundation is also teaching over 9 million middle and high school students how to "read" film through its unique educational curriculum, *The Story of Movies*. Joining Scorsese on the board of directors are: Woody Allen, Paul Thomas Anderson, Wes Anderson, Francis Ford Coppola, Clint Eastwood, Curtis Hanson, Peter Jackson, Ang Lee, George Lucas, Alexander Payne, Robert Redford and Steven Spielberg. The Film Foundation is aligned with the Directors Guild of America whose President and Secretary-Treasurer serve on the Foundation's board.

***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting the BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI / BFI National Archive