

A BFI release

A New Restoration

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW
(Il Vangelo secondo Matteo)

Directed by Pier Paolo Pasolini
Italy 1964 | 137 mins | Cert tbc

With: Enrique Irazoqui, Margherita Caruso, Susanna Pasolini

Released 1 March 2013

Opening venues: BFI Southbank plus selected cinemas nationwide

www.bfi.org.uk/releases

On 1st March Pasolini's masterpiece, *The Gospel According to Matthew*, returns to UK cinemas in a magnificent new restoration released by the BFI.

'Non-believer Pasolini set out to film Matthew's gospel exactly as written, adding nothing - except, of course, a group of brilliantly chosen non-professional actors and extras, a wonderfully eclectic score and locations in southern Italy chosen when he found that the reality of Palestine in the 1960s offered few traces of the historic Holy Land. Refusing special effects, he anticipates his later 'myth' films by discovering the spiritual and the epic in the everyday. His Christ (played by a Catalan student who looks like a figure from an El Greco canvas, dubbed by the same man who voiced Clint Eastwood in his Leone westerns) is a fiercely virile and political figure whose attacks on hypocrisy and social injustice guarantee him an early death. He may not have been the Messiah, but he was certainly a revolutionary. The Vatican loved it and gave it a prize, Italian leftists accused Pasolini of selling out to the church, and audiences everywhere found it a truly extraordinary experience.' - Tony Rayns

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***** PICTURE DESK ALERT *****

**A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting
BFI theatrical releases can be found at www.image.net**

Notes to Editors:

The Gospel According to Matthew is released on 1 March to selected cinemas nationwide. This release also coincides with the *Pier Paolo Pasolini* season which runs at the BFI Southbank from 1 March – 30 April. Pasolini's *Theorem* (Teorema), starring Terence Stamp, will also be released by the BFI on 12 April.

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