



Valentino

A film by Ken Russell

Starring Rudolf Nureyev

With Seymour Cassel, Felicity Kendal,
Leslie Caron, Michelle Phillips, Carole Kane

Controversial British director Ken Russell (*Women in Love*, *The Devils*) tells the story of one of the silver screen's greatest legends, Rudolph Valentino, in this flamboyant and sexually charged film. Made in 1977 and previously unavailable on Blu-ray, it will be released in a Dual Format Edition (contains both Blu-ray and DVD discs) by the BFI on 29 February 2016. The film is presented with numerous special features including an audio commentary, a new interview with cast member Dudley Sutton and other interviews.

Starring world-famous ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev alongside Seymour Cassel (*Faces*, *Rushmore*, *The Royal Tenenbaums*), Felicity Kendal (*The Good Life*, *Rosemary & Thyme*), Leslie Caron (*Gigi*, *An American in Paris*), Michelle Phillips (*Knots Landing*, *Forest Gump*) and Carole Kane (*Annie Hall*, *Dog Day Afternoon*), *Valentino* traces the adored silent film actor's journey from humble beginnings as an Italian immigrant in New York, where he worked as a gigolo, to Hollywood, where he seduces famous lovers and ascends to stardom. Despite such towering success, tragedy beckons however, as Rudy falls prey the mass-hysteria of his audience, the blood-thirsty press and his own indulgent lifestyle.

Valentino is an enthralling biopic from one of Britain's most distinctive and celebrated filmmakers and is the first of three DVD/Blu-ray releases of Ken Russell films by the BFI this year, five years after his death in 2011. On 28 March, *Ken Russell: The Great Composers* (containing *Elgar*, *The Debussy Film* and *Song of Summer*) and *Ken Russell: The Great Passions* (containing *Always on Sunday*, *Isadora* and *Dante's Inferno*) will be released in Dual Format Editions.

Special features

- Presented in both High Definition and Standard Definition
- Audio commentary with Tim Lucas
- Original TV spots and trailers
- *Dudley Sutton Remembers Ken Russell and Filming Valentino* (2016, 22 mins)
- *The Guardian Lecture: Ken Russell in conversation with Derek Malcolm* (1987, 89 mins, audio with stills)
- *Lynn Seymour remembers Rudolf Nureyev* (2003, 9 mins, audio with stills)
- *Tonight: Nureyev on Ken Russell and Valentino* (1977, 10 mins)
- *Stills and Special Collections gallery* (2016, 10 mins)
- *The Funeral of Valentino* (1926, 9 mins)
- Textless opening and closing credits
- Isolated music and effects track
- Illustrated booklet with extensive credits and newly commissioned essays

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Product details

RRP: £19.99 / Cat. no. BFIB1234 / Cert 18

UK / 1977 / colour and black and white / English language, with optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / 128 mins / Original aspect ratio 1.85:1 / BD50: 1080p, 24fps, PCM stereo audio (48k/24-bit) / DVD9: PAL, Dolby Digital 2.0 stereo (224kbps)

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