

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
April 1991

BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE: FIVE YEARS OF NEW CINEMA, 1986-1990

April 12 - 23, 1991

BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE: FIVE YEARS OF NEW CINEMA, 1986-1990, on view at The Museum of Modern Art from April 12 through 23, 1991, features twelve feature-length films and five short subjects, most of which have never before been seen in the United States. The series opens with Andrew Grieve's *On the Black Hill* (1988), adapted from the Bruce Chatwin novel of the same name, and Timothy Neat's and John Berger's *Play Me Something* (1989), a witty contemplation of Scottish story-telling set over a series of Venetian landscapes. Also included is the New York premiere of *Venus Peter* (1989), Ian Sellar's dreamy coming-of-age tale about a young boy in a postwar Scottish fishing village. A complete schedule of films is attached.

Individually dynamic, the films are collectively notable for the range of their aesthetic strategies and for the complex issues they address. Colin MacCabe, Head of Production at BFI from 1986 to 1990, writes, "These films bear witness to experience that had not hitherto been thought worthy of cinematic record. From the homoerotics of art in *Caravaggio* (1986)...[to] the pre-consumerist Liverpoolian working class of *Distant Voices, Still Lives* (1988) to the postmodern urban youth of *The Love Child* (1987) and *Out of Order* (1988), the aim was to find fresh images and new sounds for the British screen."

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Other exhibition highlights are Gurinder Chadha's *I'm British, But...* (1989), a jaundiced perspective on British/Asian nationalism; Martin Jones's and Graham Young's *The Long Way Round* (1989), a clever study of an office building populated by three security guards, two business people, and a maintenance man; Richard Kwietniowski's *Flames of Passion* (1990), an award-winning film loosely based on Noel Coward's one-act play *Still Life*; and Karen Ingham's *Salvation Guaranteed* (1990), about a British woman who leaves her husband in Lancashire and runs away with her lover to a religiously fundamentalist Texas town. Challenging prejudices and preconceptions in cinema and society, these films offer an engaging, sometimes off-beat view of the world and its inhabitants.

BFI Production, the film production wing of the British Film Institute, has existed in various incarnations since 1951, when the Experimental Film Fund was set up in response to the needs of such avant-garde filmmakers as Ken Russell and Karel Reisz. In 1987, BFI Production established the New Directors program to encourage the production of short films and videos by artists in the early stages of their careers. More recently, the Production Projects fund was created to support film and video projects produced outside London.

BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE: FIVE YEARS OF NEW CINEMA, 1986-1990 has been organized by Laurence Kardish, curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art.

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No. 29

For further information or film stills, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.

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April 12 - 23, 1991

Film Program Schedule

Friday, April 12

2:30 p.m. *Play Me Something*. 1989.
Written and directed by Timothy Neat and John Berger.
With Berger, Tilda Swinton, Hamish Hamilton. 80 min.

The Long Way Round. 1989.
Martin Jones and Graham Young. 18 min.

6:00 p.m. *On the Black Hill*. 1988.
Written and directed by Andrew Grieve, from the book by
Bruce Chatwin. With Mike Gwilym, Robert Gwilym, Bob Peck.
116 min.

Saturday, April 13

2:00 p.m. *Venus Peter*. 1989.
Written and directed by Ian Sellar. With Ray McNally,
David Hayman, Sinead Cusack. A BFI/Miramax Production.
94 min.

5:00 p.m. *Melancholia*. 1989.
Written and directed by Andi Engel. With Jeoren Krabbe,
Susannah York. 87 min.

Sunday, April 14

2:00 p.m. *On the Black Hill*.
See Friday, April 12, 6:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. *Play Me Something* and *The Long Way Round*.
See Friday, April 12, 2:30 p.m.

Monday, April 15

- 2:30 p.m. *Melancholia*.
See Saturday, April 13, 5:00 p.m.
- 6:00 p.m. *Venus Peter*.
See Saturday, April 13, 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 16

- 2:30 p.m. *Fellow Traveller*. 1990.
Philip Saville. With Ron Silver, Hart Bochner, Imogen Stubbs.
A BFI/HBO Production. 97 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *La deuda interna (The Debt)*. 1988.
Written and directed by Miguel Pereira. In Spanish, English
subtitles. A BFI/Cinevista Production. 100 min.
- I'm British But....* 1989.
Gurinder Chadha. 30 min.

Thursday, April 18

- 2:30 p.m. *La deuda interna* and *I'm British But....*
See Tuesday, April 16, 6:00 p.m.
- 6:00 p.m. *Caravaggio*. 1986.
Derek Jarman. With Nigel Terry, Sean Bean, Garry Cooper.
A BFI/Cinevista Production. 93 min.

Friday, April 19

- 2:30 p.m. *Out of Order*. 1988.
Jonnie Turpie. A BFI/Birmingham Film and Video Workshop
Production. 13 min.
- Never Come Morning*. 1990.
Tim Burke. 85 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *Silent Scream*. 1989.
David Hayman. With Iain Glen, Anne Kirsten, Tom Watson. 86 min.
- Salvation Guaranteed*. 1990.
Karen Ingham. 21 min.

Saturday, April 20

- 2:00 p.m. *Friendship's Death.* 1987.
Written and directed by Peter Wollen. With Bill Patterson, Tilda Swinton. A BFI/Coralie Production. 78 min.
- 5:00 p.m. *Out of Order and Never Come Morning.*
See Friday, April 19, 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 21

- 2:00 p.m. *Distant Voices, Still Lives.* 1988.
Written and directed by Terence Davies. With Freda Dowie, Pete Postlethwaite, Dean Williams. A BFI/Avenue Production. 85 min.
- Flames of Passion.* 1990.
Richard Kwietniowski. A BFI/Frameline Production. 18 min.
- 5:00 p.m. *Silent Scream and Salvation Guaranteed.*
See Friday, April 19, 6:00 p.m.

Monday, April 22

- 2:30 p.m. *The Love Child.* 1987.
Robert Smith. With Sheila Hancock, Peter Capaldi, Percy Herbert. 102 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *Fellow Traveller.*
See Tuesday, April 16, 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 23

- 2:30 p.m. *Distant Voices, Still Lives and Flames of Passion.*
See Sunday, April 21, 2:00 p.m.
- 6:00 p.m. *The Love Child.*
See Monday, April 22, 2:30 p.m.