



DVD press release – Film Noir Collection

Night and the City

A film by Jules Dassin

Richard Widmark, Gene Tierney, Googie Withers, Francis L Sullivan

The BFI adds more titles to its DVD Film Noir Collection on 15 October with the release of three films in conjunction with Twentieth Century Fox: *Night and the City* (Jules Dassin, 1950), *Cry of the City* (Robert Siodmak, 1948), and *Kiss of Death* (Henry Hathaway, 1947).

Adapted from the lowlife novel by Gerald Kersh, *Night and the City* is a baroque masterpiece of corruption, paranoia and doom that ranks among the true works of art in the *film noir* genre. Produced by Twentieth Century Fox, yet employing American, British and Continental personnel and filmed on the streets of London, it was directed by Jules Dassin, under suspicion in Hollywood for his political beliefs, who made it at great speed before he was blacklisted.

Much of the filming was done in actual after-midnight hours, shooting night scenes in a London still shattered and skeletal from wartime bombings. Soho, Piccadilly and the Festival of Britain construction site on the South Bank were all locations.

Richard Widmark delivers an indelible performance as Harry Fabian, a small-time American nightclub tout and desperate dreamer who tries to worm his way into the wrestling rackets of post-war London. In his path lie the formidable obstacles posed by a vengeful club owner Phil Nossfeross (Francis L Sullivan) and the racketeer Kristo (Herbert Lom). The club owner's sultry wife (Googie Withers) schemes with him, and a long-suffering girlfriend (Gene Tierney) does her best to save Harry from himself. Like many a *noir* hero before him, Harry thinks he can outrun his fate. He's wrong.

Extras

- Interview with Jules Dassin
- Feature commentary by *film noir* specialist Paul Duncan
- Short film comparing the US and British versions of the film (the studio produced a second edit for the British market with a different music track)

The DVD also contains a fully illustrated 18-page booklet – whose cover features the original film poster artwork – with essays by author Lee Server and Paul Duncan; cast and credit details.

Release date: 15 October 2007

RRP £19.99 / cat. no. BFIVD615 / cert PG

UK / 1950 / black and white / 92 mins / ratio 1.33:1

This disc contains optional subtitles for the hearing-impaired on all items
BFI DVDs are available from the Filmstore at BFI Southbank, all good retailers, by mail
order from 0845 458 9910 or online at www.bfi.org.uk/video

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