



DVD press release

Night Mail Collector's Edition

Featuring the music of Benjamin Britten and the poetry of W H Auden

One of the most critically acclaimed, best-loved and most iconic films produced within the British documentary movement, *Night Mail* (1936) tells the fascinating story of the travelling post office from Euston to Glasgow and the men who worked on it.

Given a modest budget of only £2,000 and conceived as a routine film promoting Post Office services, the collective talents of the GPO Film Unit turned out an ambitious and inventive fusion of image, sound, music and poetry that became an instant classic and archetype of the genre.

The memorable final section of the film, featuring Benjamin Britten's innovative score and verse by WH Auden, timed to the rhythms of the train is justly famous, and perhaps the most lyrical final sequence in the history of documentary film.

Following the recent publication of the BFI Film Classics book *Night Mail* by Scott Anthony, the BFI now releases a digitally re-mastered Collector's Edition of the film in partnership with The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) and the Royal Mail. Specially packaged, it contains extras including four short films and a booklet featuring an essay by writer and poet Blake Morrison.

Extras

- *The Way to the Sea* (UK, 1936) Features verse by Auden and music by Britten
- *Spotlight on the Night Mail* (UK, 1948)
- *Thirty Million Letters* (UK, 1963)
- *Night Mail 2* (UK, 1986) (updated version with poetry by Blake Morrison)
- Fully illustrated booklet with essays by Blake Morrison and film composer Miguel Mera, Benjamin Britten diary extracts and more

Scott Anthony's book *Night Mail* provides a lively appreciation of this vivid, witty and often just plain eccentric masterpiece. In doing so he uncovers the remarkable stories of civic-minded idealism, creative intrigue and political trickery that underpin this classic documentary. *Scott Anthony is a journalist and historian and is available for interview about the film.*

Release date: 3 December 2007

RRP £15.99 / cat. no. BFIVD522 / cert E

UK / 1936 / black and white / 23 mins + 93 mins extra films /
ratio 4x3 anamorphic 1.33:1

This disc contains optional subtitles for the hearing-impaired on all items

The BFI Film Classics *Night Mail* is out now RRP £9.99

BFI DVDs and books are available from the Filmstore at BFI Southbank, all good retailers,
by mail order from 0207 815 1350 or online at www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore

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