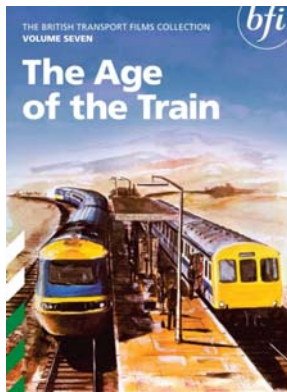


DVD press release



The Age of the Train

The British Transport Films Collection Volume Seven

The Age of the Train, the seventh volume of British Transport Films digitally re-mastered and released in a double-disc DVD digi-pack by the BFI – over four hours long – focuses on the later films made by the BTF unit. This, the ‘corporate blue’ era of British Rail brought about some of the greatest advancements in rail travel that the world had ever seen.

Once 100mph running was standard, travelling inter-city was the new word in getting about and BR was determined to modernise further. **Inter-City 125** is the story of the building of a new generation of high-speed trains. Two shorter films included on this release are **Centenary Express**; a gastronomic journey from Yorkshire to London on a special train made up of vintage restaurant cars to celebrate a hundred years of train catering, and **Sir Peter Parker Talks to Jimmy Savile** – two film inserts which would have been used as projected ‘participants’ in a live internal staff conference.

British Transport Films also produced staff information and public service films, and safety was a major theme of these during the unit’s latter years. Included here is **The Finishing Line**, a film to discourage young children from straying or playing on railway lines. The film was shockingly effective and as such was shown with strict controls. Also featured and with a similar theme is **Robbie**, aimed at eight to eleven year olds.

Other gems on Volume Seven include **The Stone Carriers**, thought to be BTF’s last production as a fully functioning unit, **Discover Britain by Train** which was aimed at American audiences and **Old Sam the Signaller**, a film made for schoolchildren in which old Sam reminisces over the railways and how they have changed.

Now preserved in the BFI National Archive, these films will fascinate not only transport enthusiasts but also fans of historical British documentary filmmaking. A booklet with film notes by BTF historian Steven Foxon who programmes this series accompanies the discs. **NB. Steven Foxon is available for interview.**

Disc one

The North Eastern Goes Forward (1962)
Right Time Means Right Time
aka The Pain Train (1969)
Motorsport Tries Motorail (1969)
Discovering Railways (1977)
Current Affairs on the Midland (1980)
Railways Conserve the Environment (1970)
Discover Britain by Train (1978)
Old Sam the Signaller (1982)

Disc two

Journey Inter-City (1972)
Power to Stop (1979)
Inter-City 125(1976)
A New Age for Railways (1979)
The Stone Carriers (1982)
The Finishing Line (1976)
Robbie (1979)
Centenary Express (1980)
Sir Peter Parker Talks to Jimmy Savile (1982)

Release date: 28 April 2008

RRP £19.99 / cat. no. BFIVD746 / cert E
UK / 1962-1982 / colour / 250 mins / ratio 1.33:1

Press contact: Jill Reading, BFI Press Office
Tel: (020) 7957 4759 or e-mail jill.reading@bfi.org.uk

Notes to editors

About British Transport Films

British Transport Films are one of the largest and most impressive collections of documentary films in Britain and form one of the jewels of the BFI National Archive. These fascinating films entertain just as much as they inform and will appeal equally to film historians, transport enthusiasts and anyone wishing to catch a rare glimpse of a Britain rapidly vanishing from the present day.

Following the post-war thirst for visual teaching and educational entertainment and the nationalisation of transport in 1948, the British Transport Commission set up its own in-house film production and distribution unit in 1949. Over a period of 37 years, until its closure in 1986, it made over 700 films promoting travel on Britain's railways or providing technical instruction.

Edgar Anstey OBE, one of the pioneers of British documentary films, led the BTF unit for 25 years and it occupied a prestigious position alongside the Shell Film Unit and the National Coal Board Film Unit, winning over 200 film awards including an Oscar® in 1966.

Where to buy BFI DVDs

BFI DVDs are available from all good DVD shops, from the Filmstore at BFI Southbank, London SE1, by mail order from the Filmstore on 0207 815 1350 or online at www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore

About the BFI

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archive, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you. To find out more go to www.bfi.org.uk