

DVD press release



Radio On

A film by Christopher Petit

Featuring music from David Bowie, Kraftwerk, Lene Lovich, Ian Dury, Robert Fripp, Wreckless Eric and Devo

Released for home viewing for the first time in the UK

Chris Petit's cult classic *Radio On* (1979), released on DVD in May by the BFI, is one of the most striking feature debuts in British cinema – a haunting blend of edgy mystery story and existential road movie, crammed with eerie evocations of English landscape and weather.

Stunningly photographed in monochrome by Wim Wenders' assistant cameraman Martin Schäfer, *Radio On* is driven by a startling new wave soundtrack featuring David Bowie, Kraftwerk, Lene Lovich, Ian Dury, Wreckless Eric, Robert Fripp and Devo, and reveals an early screen performance by Sting.

Following a young London DJ (David Beames) on the road to Bristol to investigate the mysterious death of his brother, *Radio On* offers a unique, compelling and even mythic vision of a late 1970s England, stalled between failed hopes of cultural and social change and the imminent upheavals of Thatcherism.

Previously Film Editor at Time Out magazine, Chris Petit interested the BFI Production Board and Wim Wenders in backing his first feature despite having no previous filmmaking experience. He went on to make more films during the 80s and in recent years has worked in collaboration with psychogeographer Iain Sinclair. His most recent film was *Ideal Love* (2006). Chris has also published several novels and regularly reviews books for The Guardian.

Extras

- New filmed interview with Chris Petit and producer Keith Griffiths
- *radio on (remix)* (Petit, 1998, 24 mins): a digital video essay – with radical disruption of the original soundtrack by Wire's Bruce Gilbert
- Original trailer
- Illustrated 28-page booklet with contributions from Geoffrey Nowell-Smith, John Patterson, Ian Penman, Chris Petit, Sukhdev Sandhu, Jason Wood and Rudy Wurlitzer; director biography and credits

Release date: 26 May 2008

RRP £19.99 / cat. no. BFIVD689/ cert 18

UK/Germany / 1979 / black and white / English language

100 mins / ratio 1.85:1 (16x9 anamorphic)

BFI DVDs are available from the Filmstore at BFI Southbank and all good DVD retailers; or by mail order from the Filmstore on 020 7815 1350 or at www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore

Press contact: Jill Reading, BFI Press Office

Tel: (020) 7957 4759 or e-mail jill.reading@bfi.org.uk

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