



FESTIVAL DE CANNES

OFFICIAL SELECTION

CANNES CLASSICS

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Press Release

Passionate Friends in Cannes

BFI and Granada International showcase David Lean restorations

Sir David Lean (1908–1991) was one of the greatest film directors of our time, and to celebrate his centenary year, two of his newly restored films have been selected to screen at the **Cannes Film Festival**. The **BFI** and **Granada International** are delighted to announce that brand new restorations of ***The Passionate Friends*** (1948) and ***This Happy Breed*** (1944) are included in the Cannes Classics programme, with Gala screenings at the Salle Buñuel on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 May respectively.

These two titles are part of an ambitious £1 million project by the BFI National Archive, in partnership with Granada International and Studio Canal, to restore ten films directed by Lean during the 1940s and 50s. This restoration programme has been generously funded by **The David Lean Foundation** and will ensure the long-term preservation of Lean's films so they can be studied and enjoyed by future generations.

The screenings at Cannes mark the completion of this exhaustive three-year restoration project and launch the BFI's David Lean centenary celebrations in the UK. June sees the start of a UK-wide tour of the ten newly restored titles, a major two-month retrospective at **BFI Southbank** of all 16 of Lean's feature films as a director plus some of those he edited, and the theatrical release of ***The Passionate Friends*** (1948). ITV DVD will also be re-releasing the films on DVD in the UK, and Granada International will be distributing the films to broadcasters and DVD licensees around the world.

Amanda Nevill, Director of the BFI said:

"David Lean remains one of Britain's most widely known and respected directors and I am immensely proud of these beautiful restorations carried out by the BFI and our partners. The inclusion of David Lean's films in the Cannes Classics programme provides an ideal opportunity to unveil a lesser-known side of Lean to a wider international audience and the perfect setting to showcase the restorations for the first time."

Fiona Maxwell, Director of Operations and Servicing, Granada International said:

"Granada International's film services team and the BFI's technical team have worked in close collaboration on eight film restorations of David Lean's classic films. The restorations have gone back to original camera negatives to

preserve the films by making new 35mm protection elements. We have then used these new film facilities to create High Definition transfers with full digital restoration by Technicolor London. This work brings the films back to their former glory whilst keeping the integrity of the original.”

An absorbing love story, *The Passionate Friends* is a fascinating companion piece to *Brief Encounter* and first appeared in Cannes In Competition in 1949. Unfairly neglected to date, this story of desire, guilt and denial starring **Trevor Howard, Ann Todd** and **Claude Rains** constitutes a significant rediscovery and, as such, enjoys a UK theatrical release in June. *This Happy Breed* is based on a play by **Noël Coward**; it depicts an ordinary London family between the two World Wars, and offers a timely celebration of the British spirit. Beautifully acted by an ensemble cast including **Celia Johnson** and **Robert Newton**, it was Lean’s first film shot in Technicolor.

The BFI’s David Lean Centenary celebrations offer a rare opportunity to rediscover and celebrate this unique talent. These restorations would not have been possible without the generous support of The David Lean Foundation, Granada International and Studio Canal.



The David Lean Foundation



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NOTES TO EDITORS

David Lean’s *The Passionate Friends* is released by the BFI in cinemas nationwide on 6 June; the complete retrospective plays at BFI Southbank through June and July; a selection of David Lean’s films will also screen at cinemas across the UK as part of a tour.

The UK-wide tour is organised by the BFI and Park Circus in association with Optimum Releasing. For venues see: www.bfi.org.uk/lean

The BFI also launches a North American tour of the ten restored David Lean titles launches at the **Film Forum**, New York on 12 September 2008.

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.

www.bfi.org.uk

About Granada International and ITV Worldwide

Led by Peter Iacono, ITV Worldwide is the newly formed division of ITV combining the soon to be merged Granada International and Granada Ventures businesses. ITV Worldwide is the global distribution arm for ITV's theatrical, video, TV, publishing, consumer products and international networks.

Granada International sells thousands of hours of programming from ITV Productions and many other independent producers, to more than 200 countries worldwide.

ITV Worldwide is part of ITV Global Content, ITV's content division bringing together all of its UK and international production and content businesses.

About The David Lean Foundation

The Foundation was set up at Lean's request to promote the appreciation of film as an art form and to encourage skills and technical excellence in film-making.