



## **CABBAGES, OTTERS, AUDREY HEPBURN AND STEAM TRAINS**

**Diverse highlights from BFI National Archive now freely  
available on YouTube as Culture Minister visits**

The BFI has today (Wed 9 July) formally launched its official channel on YouTube where people can watch a collection of 150 archive films that date back as far as 1896, completely for free. The launch came as the Rt Hon Margaret Hodge MP, Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism made a visit to the BFI National Archive in Berkhamsted.

The Minister was visiting the Archive to see the scale and extent of the restoration and preservation work carried out by the BFI as it cares for the national collections of film and television material and makes it available to the public. During her visit the Minister was able to see the huge vaults where much of the collection of 200,000 or more fiction and non-fiction films, 675,000 television programmes and other film related material is preserved. The BFI is digitising as much as possible so that it can be more widely seen by new audiences.

All of the films on YouTube are from a larger collection that has been originally digitised for the Mediatheque at BFI Southbank in London, thanks to a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The films are British or relate to Britain's place in the world and many were virtually unseen since their original release. Over 40,000 people have visited the Mediatheque since it opened in March 2007 to watch the archive and classic films for free and two new BFI Mediatheques are set to open in 2008 at Quad in Derby and at Library Central in Cambridge.

As the latest films were being made available on YouTube Margaret Hodge said:  
*"This wonderful collection of archive film dates back to the earliest days of the moving picture. It's a fascinating visual insight into Britain's history and undoubtedly one of the world's greatest collections of film and TV.*

*"Making the archive available through YouTube takes them out of the vaults and directly into people's homes, and means that millions more people can enjoy these carefully preserved treasures."*

Speaking during the Minister's tour, Amanda Nevill, Director of the BFI, said: *"The BFI National Archive holds the greatest collection of film and television on earth and our job is as much to make it widely accessible as it is to care for it.*

*" YouTube is a fantastic way for us to show people what is in the collection and we can reach many new audiences this way. We soft launched the channel as a bit of an experiment to test people's reactions and so far it has received 150,000 or more video stream requests with absolutely no promotion. This shows the incredible demand for people to see their heritage captured on beautiful moving images that really bring the past to life."*

Since the BFI's YouTube channel went live the most watched title is *Snow* (1963) directed by Geoffrey Jones for British Transport Films, with 15,600 views. *Nude Woman by a Waterfall* (1920), an experimental film aimed at capturing skin tones amid nature has been seen by more

than 8,000 viewers, while a silent film, *An Otter Study* (1912), showing otters at play has been viewed by more than 6,000 people.

Coinciding with the Minister's visit the BFI has uploaded new films for streaming online, including one of the earliest films *Blackfriars Bridge* (1896) and an imaginative fantasy of the future *The Fugitive Futurist* (1924).

<http://uk.youtube.com/BFIfilms>

1. For more information on the BFI visit [www.bfi.org.uk](http://www.bfi.org.uk)  
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.

**Press contacts:**

Brian Robinson, Communications Manager, Archive & Heritage

Tel: 020 7957 8940

Mobile: 0790 631 8407

[brian.robinson@bfi.org.uk](mailto:brian.robinson@bfi.org.uk)

Claire O'Brien, Press Officer, Corporate & Public Affairs

Tel: 020 7957 8993

[claire.obrien@bfi.org.uk](mailto:claire.obrien@bfi.org.uk)

**NEW TITLES ADDED**

Fugitive Futurist, The		1924	An oddball inventor startles Londoners with images of the city's future.
Growing Girls		1951	Mary discovers the minefield that is puberty.
Betcher		1971	A very young Keith Chegwin shows off his cycling prowess. India's cleanest child enjoys an enthusiastic wash and Ayurvedic massage.
Indian Washing the Baby, An		1906	
Old London Street Scenes		1903	Traffic congestion in Edwardian London.
Unwanted Guests		1943	Pay a visit to the nit nurse.
Trafalgar Square Riot		1913	A suffragette procession in Trafalgar Square causes a riot.
Coves and Caves		1920	Magical travelogue of Cornwall from the director of <i>The Open Road</i> .
Blackfriars Bridge aka A Rush-Hour Record on London Bridge		1896	Top-hatted Victorians and horse-drawn traffic cross Blackfriars Bridge.
Fat Man on a Bicycle aka W-H-O-R-K a la Pimple		1914	Pimple teaches a large friend to ride a bicycle, with disastrous results. A young George Orwell takes part in an Eton institution –
Eton Wall Game		1921	the notoriously perplexing Wall Game.

**PREVIOUSLY ADDED TITLES**

Snow		1963	Poetic portrait of running the railways through a perilous British winter.
Nude Woman By Waterfall (c1920)	Extract	1920	A woman poses - in and out of her diaphanous shift.
Holiday	Extract	1957	The kiss-me-quick pleasures of saucy Blackpool.
Otter Study, An		1912	Marvel at an otter from before WWI in this early nature film.
Colour on the Thames	Extract	1935	A rare glimpse of 1930s London in colour. The Thames never looked lovelier.
Scenes in Tibet	Extract	1940s	
Women's Rights aka Ladies Skirts Nailed to a Fence		1899	Rubbish Victorian cross-dressers.

Audrey Hepburn Test		c1952	Early silent colour footage of the future Holly Golightly.
View From An Engine Front - Ilfracombe		1898	A bendy train trip through Devon - full steam ahead!
Delhi	Extract	1938	Delhi as city of the future.
Darling, Do You Love Me?		1968	Germaine Greer gets amorous.
Tartans of the Scottish Clans		1906	Kilts but no Celts in this early film about the great Scottish icon.
Springtime in an English Village		c1948	A young black girl is crowned Queen of the May.
Six Little Jungle Boys		1945	Vibrant animated vehicle for a rather unsavoury message from the War Office.
Hints and Hobbies No.11	Extract	1926	Jiu-jitsu for ladies, how to get ink off a white apron and other life essentials.
Piccadilly	Extract	1929	The glitter of Jazz Age clubland meets the Far East (of London).
Mining Review		1954	Ballet dancing miners and the crowning of the 'Coal Queen'.
Two Cooks and a Cabbage		1941	How not to boil a cabbage.
Christmas is Coming		1951	Post early for Xmas! Santa threatens to strike in Lotte Reiniger's animation.
Nice Time	Extract	1957	Has Piccadilly Circus ever looked so bleak?
Kiddies and Rabbits		1901	
Acrobatic Fly, The		1910	Roll up, roll up! The fly circus is in town!
We Are the Lambeth Boys	Extract	1959	South London youth - members of Alford House Youth Club in Kennington at work and play. Extraordinary early portrait of people caught up in the remorseless round of industrial production.
Day in the Hayfields, A		1904	Rural life in the mountainous valley near Gilgit - now in the Northern Areas of Pakistan.
Life in Hunza		1937	
Petticoat Lane		1903	Sunday morning in the East End market.
Going Shopping with Elizabeth Allan [Harrods Shopping Guide]	Extract	1955	Brandy, teabags and 'Tupperware' are all on offer in London's most famous store.
M&K 58: Miners Leaving Pendlebury Colliery		1901	A young black miner is among the crowd leaving Pendlebury Colliery, Salford.
One Potato, Two Potato	Extract	1957	Children's games played out on the streets of London.
Panorama of Calcutta		1899	The Calcutta ghats - or are they?
Hull Fair No.2		1902	Two black boxers challenge fair-goers to a bout in the ring.
Mary Jane's Mishap		1903	Laura Bayley learns not to play with paraffin - the hard way.
On Ilkla' Moor Baht At	Extract	1921	The Yorkshire Dales - from Ilkley to Hubberholme.
Oyster Fishing at Whitstable, England (Urban Movie Chats)		1920	The harvest and consumption of everyone's favourite bivalve.
Yarmouth Fishing Boats Leaving Harbour		1896	Very early film footage that boasted the Royal Family for an audience.
Bradford Coronation Procession		1902	A procession celebrating the coronation of King Edward VII.
Making Fashion	Extract	1936	'30s models strut their stuff on the Hartnell catwalk.
Desperate Case, A		1958	How not to pack your suitcase - a guide from British Transport Films.
Quite Unfit for Females		1921	The Football Association proposes a ban on women players.
Who Would Not Welcome One?		1922	The Valentine's card, 1920s-style.
Terminus	Extract	1961	The ebb and flow of human life wryly observed during a day at Waterloo Station.
Old Maid's Valentine, The		1900	February 14th brings sorrow for one spinster. How to remove dirt from your finest stole and enthrall your guests with a few sugarlumps.
Hints and Hobbies No.7	Extract	1926	
Baby's Toilet		1905	Nothing to do with potties... Baby gets a good wash.
Mystery of Marriage, The	Extract	1932	A comparison of the mating rituals of humans, animals and plants unlocks the secrets of marriage.
James Guthrie's Home Movies	Extract	1945	Home movie footage including a potent scene featuring the young Dalai Lama in a golden palanquin.
Lights and Shades on the Bostock Circus Farm		1911	A tumultuous and tragic day on the Bostock Circus Farm. The sounds of the Home Front - with appearances from
Listen to Britain	Extract	1942	Dame Myra Hess, Flanagan and Allen and the Queen Mother.
Ladies on Bicycles		1899	Victorian ladies show off their slalom cycling skills.

Tilly, The Tomboy, Visits the Poor So Clever Are German Spies in Their Disguises That Even Nuns Have Their Passports Examined		1910	Anarchic fun with Alma Taylor and Chrissie White wreaking havoc as naughty schoolgirls.
		1914	Nuns at bayonet point... almost.
Captain Busby	Extract	1967	Quentin Crisp's acting debut - in a bizarre film that includes some entertainingly surreal interplay with a carrot at a railway station.
Hints and Hobbies No.1	Extract	1926	Want to know more about Persian cats, cardboard vases and treating fractured limbs?
Sir Basil Gould's Films of Tibet Commissioner Higgins Visits Ahmedabad Girls' School	Extract	1940	Remarkable colour footage of Tibet - including shots of the current Dalai Lama as a young boy.
		1904	The Salvation Army pays a regal visit.
Tibetan Scenes	Extract	1945	Extraordinary portrait of life in Tibet in the 1940s by Tsien-Lien Shen, resident Chinese Commissioner in Lhasa.
Solarflares Burn for You		1973	Road movie or acid trip?