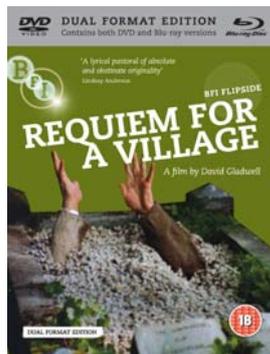


DVD & Blu-ray press release



BFI Flipside presents: Requiem for a Village A film by David Gladwell

David Gladwell is perhaps best-known for his celebrated work as editor on Lindsay Anderson's *If...* and *O Lucky Man!* *Requiem for a Village*, along with the four exquisite and startling short films also included in this BFI Flipside Dual Format Edition, reveal him to be an unfairly overlooked director of ground-breaking work.

The idyllic, rural past of a Suffolk village rises to life in *Requiem for a Village* (1975) through the memories of an old man who tends a country graveyard. With influences that range from the poet TS Eliot to the artist Stanley Spencer, and using real village residents as amateur actors, the film powerfully suggests that history and memory are ever-present in our lives, regardless of the unrelenting drive towards modernisation.

This extraordinary, little-seen film, an archetypal Flipside discovery, is preserved in the BFI National Archive and newly transferred in High Definition.

Writing in the 1975 London Film Festival programme, Lindsay Anderson commented: 'David Gladwell's film is an authentic, lyrical pastoral of absolute and obstinate originality – the work of a unique artist... *Requiem for a Village* is one of that handful of works which prove that the English poetic genius is fully capable – given the right, rare circumstances – of expressing itself in cinema, as it always has in literature and painting.'

Since his wide and accomplished career as a film editor, writer and director, David Gladwell has returned to painting. He enjoyed a residency at Lambeth College in South London in 2004-2005 and currently lives and works in South London.

Special features

- Presented in both High Definition and Standard Definition
- *A Summer Discord* (David Gladwell, 1955, 17 mins, silent): a visionary drama centred around a young girl's argument with her mother
- *Miss Thompson Goes Shopping* (David Gladwell, 1958, 23 mins): a sensitive and inventive portrait of an elderly lady's shopping trip
- *The Great Steam Fair* (David Gladwell, Derrick Knight, 1964, 18 mins): a lyrical example of Gladwell's extensive work as editor and director of documentary shorts
- *An Untitled Film* (David Gladwell, 1964, 9 mins): an extraordinary piece of film art, exploring the power, beauty and violence contained in a single moment of time
- 36-page booklet illustrated with Gladwell's paintings, with essays by Elizabeth Sussex; Rob Young, author of *Electric Eden: Unearthing Britain's Visionary Music* (2010), and Patrick Russell and William Fowler from the BFI National Archive. David Gladwell himself also contributes an essay.

Release date: 18 July 2011

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIB1096 / BFI Flipside no. 018 / Cert 18
 UK / 1975 / colour / 68 mins / English (optional hard-of-hearing subtitles) / original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / Disc 1: BD50 / 1080p / 24fps/ PCM mono audio (48k/24-bit)
 Disc 2: DVD9 / PAL / PCM mono audio (48k/16-bit) (Extras Dolby Digital 320kbps) Available from DVD retailers & BFI Filmstore Tel: 020 7815 1350 or www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore

Press contact: Jill Reading, BFI Press Office

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

www.bfi.org.uk/theupside

Images are available at www.image.net under BFI DVD & Blu-ray 2011

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About BFI Flipside

Developed from its popular monthly screening slot at BFI Southbank, the BFI's Flipside series is designed to revisit and reappraise British films that have slipped through the cracks of cinema history – films that were overlooked, marginalised, or undervalued at the original time of release, or which sit outside the established canon of recognised classics.

BFI Flipside titles are all newly mastered to High Definition from original film elements, and are presented with rare and fascinating special features, including previously unavailable short films, documentaries and archival interviews, many of which are preserved in the BFI National Archive. Each title comes in collectable numbered packaging and is accompanied by an extensive illustrated booklet with insightful contributions from special guest writers, often including the filmmakers themselves.

About the BFI

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

10/6/11