

## Vintage at BFI Southbank



**BFI Southbank** has joined forces with fashion designer **Wayne Hemmingway** and fabled film producer and director **Stephen Woolley** for this year's **Vintage** festival, with a three-day extravaganza from **29** to **31 July**. This BFI weekender of classic films will perfectly complement Vintage's blend of fashion and music through the decades; from **Terry-Thomas** and **Alec Guinness** to **Oliver Reed** as the embodiments of the British Rogue, to a selection of films directed by **Ken Russell**, who will introduce a screening of **The Devils** (1971). Free screenings of **The Avengers**, that most stylish of cult television programmes, will also be available to view throughout the weekend.

The dapper selection of titles on view at BFI Southbank has been curated by Stephen Woolley, and celebrates the quirky, peculiarly British rogue (dictionary-defined as a mischievous or dishonest person). Over the years the bland leading man or ingénue has more often taken a back seat to the villainous or discontented rogue. Terry-Thomas, with his gap-toothed smile, plays the perfect cad as he learns to cheat and scheme for the attentions of a lady in **School for Scoundrels** (1960), but plays the most roguish of all – alongside **Peter Sellers** - in **The Naked Truth** (1957). **Dennis Price** plays a murderous villain in the classic Ealing comedy **Kind Hearts and Coronets** (1949), alongside the chameleon-like Alec Guinness, who also takes a dastardly turn in the caper **The Lavender Hill Mob** (1963). Oliver Reed, with his devil-may-care, damn-it-all attitude, stars as a quick-fix hedonist in **Guy Hamilton's The Party's Over** (1963) and as a psychotic gang leader in **Joseph Losey's The Damned** (aka *These Are the Damned*, 1963).

Oliver Reed also takes appears in two films by **Ken Russell**, the mischievous malcontent who stirred up the 60s with his groundbreaking *Monitor* TV documentaries, and challenged the 70s with classic, swashbuckling, anarchic film treatises on everything cultural, musical, political or fashionable. **The Devils** (1971) represents a defining moment in his career with a film that was deemed too strong for public taste in the 70s, with an account of a 17th-

century French town beset by demonic possession, and **The Who's** groundbreaking concept album provides the soundtrack to **Tommy** (1975).

Finally, Vintage proudly presents the entire Emma Peel/**Diana Rigg** series' of **The Avengers** – the classic TV programme of the 60s. Running non-stop in a specially-created 60s screening room within BFI Southbank, this unmissable marathon has everything that Vintage celebrates: music, fashion, satire, humour and the peculiar sexual frisson between Emma Peel and John Steed. This incredible event is free but seating preference will be given to BFI Members and Vintage wristband wearers. And well turned out audiences may also enjoy a sophisticated sup when **benugo** - one of the hottest destination spots in London - transform **The Blue Room** into the **Peter Cook Bar** especially for the occasion. Further events will be announced at: [www.bfi.org.uk/vintage](http://www.bfi.org.uk/vintage)



### **Programme:**

#### **Tommy**

UK 1975. Dir Ken Russell. With Roger Daltrey, Ann-Margret, Oliver Reed, Jack Nicholson. 108min. 15  
Russell's glorious OTT take on The Who's groundbreaking concept album extends the scope of its source material to deliver a metaphysical, kaleidoscopic view of life in the 50s and 60s. The pulsating soundtrack resonates with memorable tunes – most realised via such brilliant set-pieces as Elton John's 'Pinball Wizard' sequence and the stunning bordello backdrop to Tina Turner's explosive 'Acid Queen'. Play loud.

**Fri 29 July 18:00 NFT1**

#### **The Devils**

UK 1971. Dir Ken Russell. With Oliver Reed, Vanessa Redgrave, Dudley Sutton, Gemma Jones. 111min. Video  
Masterful art-rogue Russell cut his teeth on TV but it was the big screen that provided the most apt landscape for his outrageous vision, and *The Devils* represents a defining moment in his career. This fiery classic is a stunning account of a 17th-century French town beset by demonic possession – or is it political hysteria? Reed is the worldly priest who discovers his true religion in the face of satanic corruption. Thanks to Mark Kermode, Mike Bradsell and Ken Russell, sequences deemed too strong for public taste in the early 70s were restored for this high-quality video presentation, including the 'rape of Christ' scene.

**Fri 29 July 20:20 NFT1** We hope to welcome Ken Russell and Mark Kermode to introduce this screening.

#### **Kind Hearts and Coronets**

UK 1949. Dir Robert Hamer. With Alec Guinness, Dennis Price, Valerie Hobson. 106min. Digital. U  
Dennis Price is again the biggest rogue here as the rakish Louis Mazzini, who embarks on a murderous spree to eliminate the eight D'Ascoyne family members (all played by the brilliant Alec Guinness) who stand between him and a huge inheritance. Masterful black comedy with a literate and witty script and lavish production values.

Optimum Releasing will release *Kind Hearts and Coronets* at BFI Southbank and in cinemas from 19 August

**Sat 30 July 16:00 NFT1**

#### **The Lavender Hill Mob**

UK 1951. Dir Charles Crichton. With Alec Guinness, Stanley Holloway, Sidney James. 78min. Digital. U  
Sympathetic rogues Henry Holland (Guinness) and Pendlebury (Holloway) plot an audacious bank robbery, their inexperience in the field counterbalanced by the veteran (but small-time) underworld accomplices Lackery (James) and Shorty (Bass) they enlist as help. A hugely enjoyable caper from the pen of one of the greatest Ealing scribes, TEB Clarke

**Sat 30 July 18:30 NFT1**

### **The Party's Over**

UK 1963. Dir Guy Hamilton. With Oliver Reed, Eddie Albert, Anne Lynn. 95min. Blu-ray

Controversial in its day (and suffering a stringent censor's cut at the time, but screening here in the uncensored version), *The Party's Over* is a rarely seen, bitter and dark morality tale distinguished by a brilliant and charismatic central performance by Oliver Reed as atypical gang leader Moise. The wild parties that the gang members attend are suitably frenetic but a moral vacuity suffuses the atmosphere, painting the nascent Swinging London as a quick-fix hedonistic playland with dark consequences awaiting just around the corner.

**Sat 30 July 20:45 NFT1**

### **The Damned** aka These Are the Damned

UK 1963. Dir Joseph Losey. With Oliver Reed, Macdonald Carey, Shirley Ann Field. 87min

Reed again shines as 'teddy boy' gang leader King, a psychotic violent type, incestuously jealous over his sister Joan (Field). They become mixed up with wealthy American tourist Wells (Carey) and fall into a plot involving radioactive children with a poisonous touch. The blacklisted Losey's first feature for Hammer (he had earlier made the short *The Man on the Beach* for the company) was finished in 1961 but shelved for two years by the nonplussed producers, released only after his reputation blossomed following his masterpiece *The Servant*.

**Sun 31 July 16:00 NFT1**

### **School for Scoundrels**

UK 1960. Dir Robert Hamer. With Terry-Thomas, Alistair Sim, Ian Carmichael, Janette Scott. 94min. U

A classic comedy *tour de force* which cunningly exploits its basic premise to great effect. Carmichael is the genial sap whose general niceness allows others to ride roughshod over him. When he encounters a roguish rival (Terry-Thomas in fine arch-cad form) for his dream girl's affections, he enlists the aid of the School of Lifemanship to learn how to cheat and scheme his way to his goal.

**Sun 31 July 18:30 NFT1**

### **The Naked Truth**

UK 1957 Dir Mario Zampi. With Terry-Thomas, Dennis Price, Peggy Mount, Peter Sellers, Shirley Eaton 92min. U

A great gallery of rogues here. A hypocritical TV host (Sellers), a plagiarising novelist (Mount), a philandering peer (Terry-Thomas) and a glamour model (Eaton) join forces to thwart a gutter press blackmailer (Price), the biggest rogue of them all. A lively-paced romp with all the leads on splendid form in Michael Pertwee's constantly amusing satire.

**Sun 31 July 20:45 NFT1**

- End -

### **PRESS CONTACT:**

#### **BFI Southbank:**

Ilona Cheshire Tel: 020 7957 8986 email: [ilona.cheshire@bfi.org.uk](mailto:ilona.cheshire@bfi.org.uk)

### **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

## **Booking information**

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £9.00, concs £6.65 Members pay £1.40 less on any ticket. Website [www.bfi.org.uk/southbank](http://www.bfi.org.uk/southbank)

**Tickets for FREE screenings and events must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment**

## **BFI Filmstore**

The BFI Filmstore is stocked and staffed by BFI experts with over 1,200 book titles and 1,000 DVDs to choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI.

## **The benugo bar & kitchen**

Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo's décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. The place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

**\*\*\* PICTURE DESK \*\*\***

**A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) under BFI / BFI Southbank /July 2011**