

John Berger: a Film and Television Retrospective

14-30 April: A major presentation of John Berger's work with the moving image

National Film Theatre, South Bank, London, SE1. Box office: 020 7928 3232; www.bfi.org.uk/nft

Ways of Seeing Parts 1 & 2 + Drawn from Life

Thu 14 Apr 6.10 NFT2* Fri 22 Apr 6.00 NFT2 One of the most influential TV series ever made, *Ways of Seeing* (BBC 1972/Dir Mike Dibb; 2x30 mins) revolutionised how art and advertising were perceived and read. *Drawn from Life* (Granada 1962/Dir Mike Wooller) tested art against experience through conversations with 'ordinary people' about the relation of paintings to their lives. Years ahead of its time. Total 116 mins. *Introduction by Mike Dibb.

Ways of Seeing Parts 3 & 4 + 10,000 Days, 93,000 Hours, 33 Years of Effort + An Artist from Moscow

Thu 14 Apr 8.30 NFT2* Fri 22 Apr 8.20 NFT2 The concluding parts (2x30 mins) of Berger's path-breaking analysis of fine art. Plus two lyrical odes to idealism and resistance in art, made for landmark arts strand *Monitor* (BBC 1965 & 1969; 2x28 mins). Total 116 mins. *Introduction by Mike Dibb. Joint ticket available £10.50, concs £8.25.

The Salamander

Fri 15 Apr 5.45 NFT2 Thu 21 Apr 8.30 NFT2 Switzerland 1971/Dir Alain Tanner. With Bulle Ogier, Jean-Luc Bideau, Jacques Denis, Véronique Alain. 129 mins. J-Cert 15. The first of three films Berger made with Swiss director Tanner. A teasing tale of social relations, subversive but never didactic.

The Middle of the World

Sat 16 Apr 3.00 NFT2 Mon 18 Apr 8.40 NFT2 Switzerland-France 1974/Dir Alain Tanner. With Olimpia Carlisi, Philippe Léotard, Juliet Berto. 117 mins. Charting an affair between a waitress and a married local politico, this is a deeply empathetic and quietly optimistic work.

Jonah Who Will Be 25 in the Year 2000

Sat 16 Apr 6.00 NFT2 Wed 20 Apr 6.00 NFT2 Switzerland-France 1975/Dir Alain Tanner. With Jean-Luc Bideau, Rufus, Miou-Miou, Jacques Denis. 115 mins. One of the most important films of its decade, *Jonah...* follows eight characters all affected by the events of May 1968. An honest, humorous, moving exploration of diverse attempts to reconcile life and ideals.

Tickets: members - £7.20/£5.25; non-members - £8.20/£6.25, Friday matinees £4.75; £4.25; non members £5.75; £5.25

Pig Earth + Parting Shots from Animals

Sat 16 Apr 8.40 NFT3 Mon 25 Apr 6.10 NFT2* Perhaps Berger's finest TV essay, *Pig Earth* (Omnibus; BBC 1979/Dir Mike Dibb; 50 mins) is both praise song and threnody to peasant life. *Parting Shots* (Omnibus; BBC 1980/Dir Mike Dibb; 50 mins) looks at humans – and their growing solitary confinement – from the perspective of animals. Total 100 mins. *Introduction by Mike Dibb.

About Time: Once Upon a Time + Crumbling Houses + 12 August 2002

Sun 17 Apr 2.50 NFT2 A deliriously vagrant episode from this important series (C4 1985/Dir Mike Dibb; 54 mins), that illuminates storytelling, art and time. Plus Gianni Celati's lyrical essay on memory, history and the Po river valley. Plus *12 August 2002* (Belgium 2002/Dir Milena Trivier; 9 mins), in which the demolition of a tower prompts thoughts on the moment we're living through. Total 114 mins.

Another Way of Telling: Views of Photography + I Send You This Cadmium Red

Mon 18 Apr 5.50 NFT2 Sun 24 Apr 5.40 NFT2* An illuminating four part series (BBC 1989; 4x30 mins) on all aspects of the photographic image and its relation to experience. Plus a short meditation (UK 2002/Dir John Christie; 8 mins) on the implications of colour. Total 128 mins. *Introduction by John Christie.

John Berger and Geoff Dyer in Conversation

Tue 19 Apr 6.20 NFT1 Joint ticket available with *Play Me Something* (Tue 19 Apr only) £10.50, concs £8.25.

Play Me Something

Tue 19 Apr 8.20 NFT1* Sat 23 Apr 6.20 NFT2 UK 1989/Dir Timothy Neat. With John Berger, Lucia Lanzarini, Charlie Barron, Hamish Henderson, Tilda Swinton. 72 mins. J-Cert 15. This widely admired meditation on people, places, love, politics and culture sees Berger in compelling performance mode as a storyteller. A poignant, independent British film. *Introduction by Timothy Neat. Ticket offer with *John Berger in Conversation*.

Cover: photograph by Jean Mohr, script from *I Send You This Cadmium Red* by John Berger and John Christie.

Publicity design by Emma Sangster.

Caught Between Culture and Commerce? Independent Film and Television in the UK and Beyond: a Panel Discussion

Tue 26 Apr 6.20 NFT2 With documentary maker Mike Dibb, critic Chris Darke, writer Colin McCabe, director Agnes Varda (tbc) and others to be confirmed. Moderated by co-editor of *Vertigo* magazine, Holly Aylett, and preceded by a screening of *About Time* (see above).

A Telling Eye: the Work of John Berger + Germinal

Wed 27 Apr 8.20 NFT2 Sat 30 Apr 6.20 NFT2* This overview essay by Berger's long-standing filmic collaborator (BBC 1994/Dir Mike Dibb; 60 mins) traces the diverse strands of Berger's career, and includes tributes from Marina Warner, Geoff Dyer and Susan Sontag. *Germinal* (the Nineteenth Century Novel and Its Legacy; BBC 1983; 23 mins) sees Berger revisiting Zola's 1872 social classic by descending a Derbyshire coalmine. Total 83 mins. *Introduction by Mike Dibb.

The Spectre of Hope + John Berger in Conversation with Michael Ondaatje + His Name Is Tyler

Thu 28 Apr 5.50 NFT2 Fri 29 Apr 8.30 NFT2* In *The Spectre of Hope* (Arena; BBC 2001/Dir Paul Carlin; 60 mins), Berger talks with Brazilian photographer Sebastiao Salgado about his stunning humanitarian images. Plus Berger and novelist Michael Ondaatje on the nature and mystery of writing (USA 2003/The Lannan Foundation; 40 mins). Plus a short (C4 2001/Dir Paul Carlin; 3 mins) in which Berger reads from his work. Total 103 mins. *Introduction by Paul Carlin.

The Three Lives of Lucie Cabrol

Fri 29 Apr 5.20 NFT2 Sat 30 Apr 8.10 NFT2* Previously unseen document of the enormously successful Complicite stage adaptation of Berger's story about peasant life in Europe (UK 1995/Dir Mike Dibb; 120 mins). Plus a short *Late Show* (BBC 1995; 10 mins) item on the production. Total c130 mins. *Introduction by Simon McBurney and members of the cast.

Readings, exhibitions, film and television, discussion, performance

John Berger

Here Is Where We Meet

London, 11 April - 18 May 2005



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John Berger Here Is Where We Meet

One of the most internationally influential British writers of the last fifty years, **John Berger** has explored the relationship between the individual and society, culture and politics and the tension between experience and expression in a series of novels, book-works, essays, plays, films, photographic collaborations and performances, unmatched in their diversity, ambition and reach. His television series and book *Ways of Seeing* (with Mike Dibb) revolutionised the way that

visual art is read, while his engagements with European peasantry and migration in the fiction trilogy *Into Their Labours* and *A Seventh Man* stand as models of empathy and insight.

Central to his creative identity is the idea of collaboration, and those with whom he has worked include *Complicite's* Simon McBurney, artists Juan Munoz and John Christie, photographer Jean Mohr and film-makers Mike Dibb, Alain Tanner and Timothy Neat.

What the Hand Is Holding: Writing Now

11 April 7.30, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, SE1. 0870 401 8181/ 020 7960 4242; www.rfh.org.uk. £9/ £6.50 concessions.

Readings by and discussion with John Berger, Geoff Dyer, Anne Michaels, Timothy O'Grady and Michael Ondaatje. Moderated by Patrick Wright.

A Seventh Man: Migration and Photography

12 April 6.30, Austrian Cultural Forum, 28 Rutland Gate, SW7. 020 7584 8653; www.austria.org.uk/culture. Free.

Panel with photographers Jean Mohr and Mehmet Emir and writer Timothy O'Grady. Moderated by Asu Aksoy. See 17 May and exhibition opposite.

John Berger: a Telling Eye

13 April 6.00, Lyttelton Theatre, National Theatre, South Bank, SE1. 020 7452 3000; www.nationaltheatre.org.uk. £3.50/ £2.50 concessions.

Panel with Jean Mohr, John Christie and Maggi Hambling on writer / artist collaborations. Moderated by Geoff Dyer. See exhibition opposite.

John Berger: a Film and Television Retrospective

14-30 April National Film Theatre. See overleaf for full listings.

A major presentation of John Berger's work with the moving image.

Vanishing Points

14-16 April 8.00, German Gym, Pancras Rd. NW1, (beside entrance to new St Pancras Station). Bookings 020 8510 9786 or www.johnberger.org. £15 & £10. New commission supported by the Moose Foundation.

Commissioned especially for this season, an encounter with railways, migration and memory. Written by John Berger and Anne Michaels. Directed by Simon McBurney. In association with *Complicite*.

Yes

17 April 6.00, Ritzy Cinema, Brixton Oval, Coldharbour Lane, SW2. 08707 550 062; www.picturehouses.co.uk.

Special preview of Sally Potter's new feature, plus Q/A with the director.

John Berger and Geoff Dyer in Conversation

19 April 6.20, National Film Theatre. See overleaf for details.

Titian: a Portrait

22 April 7.00, National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, WC2. 020 7306 0055; www.npg.org.uk. £5/£3 concessions.

In this reading and slide presentation, John Berger and his daughter Katya explore the meaning of Titian in art and their own relationship.

Caught Between Culture and Commerce? Independent Film & Television in the UK: a Discussion

26 April 6.20, National Film Theatre. See overleaf for details.

A Fortunate Man

26 April 7.30, Drapers Lecture Theatre, Geography Building, Queen Mary University of London, Mile End Rd, E1. Free. Call 020 8510 9786 to reserve.

An exploration of the book by John Berger and Jean Mohr about general practice and social medicine. With writers Michael Rosen and Sukhdev Sandhu and doctors Iona Heath, Patrick Hutt, Jane Simpson and Tony Calland. Moderated by Gene Feder.

A Small Freedom

27 April 6.00, Goethe Institute, 50 Princes Gate, Exhibition Rd, SW7. 020 7596 4000; www.Goethe.de/london. £3.

Screening of Turkish/German feature, directed by Yuksel Yavuz, about African and Kurdish teenagers in Hamburg. Plus a discussion with the director and critic Sukhdev Sandhu. See exhibitions.

John Berger's internationalist perspective, and refusal to be contained within narrow definitions of what might constitute the life of a writer, has meant that few perhaps have encountered the full oeuvre. This unique season represents important work, recontextualises well-known pieces and offers new, ongoing projects. It provides a remarkable opportunity to consider what it means to be a committed artist in a rapidly changing and challenging period of our history.

To the Wedding

27 April 7.00, The London Lighthouse, Lancaster Rd, W11. 020 7792 1200; www.tht.org.uk.

A discussion, inspired by John Berger's novel, about responses to HIV/AIDS, with Nick Partridge, Chief Executive of The Terrence Higgins Trust, Consultant Physician Dr Jane Anderson and others.

My Beautiful

6 May 6.30, Purdy Hicks Gallery, 65 Hopton St, Bankside, SE1. 020 7401 9229. £5.

A reading around *Giacometti* by John Berger, photographer Marc Trivier and artist Yves Berger. See exhibitions.

Love Is the Devil + I Could Read the Sky

8 May 12 noon, Curzon Soho Cinema, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. 020 7734 2255, www.curzoncinemas.com

John Maybury's imaginative biography of Francis Bacon will be introduced by photographer Marc Trivier, who knew and photographed the artist. *I Could Read the Sky* is adapted from Timothy O'Grady's book on the life and memory of an Irish migrant in London. It will be introduced by director Nicola Bruce.

Goya's Last Portrait

9 May 6.30, National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2. 0870 990 8453; www.nationalgallery.org.uk. £7/ £5 concessions (booking fee).

A reading by John Berger and Nella Bielski from their drama on the Spanish artist. With actor Lilo Baur.

A season catalogue featuring writing from many participants, as well as full season details, is available from artevents, 107 Mayola Rd, London E5 ORG for £7.99 + £2.50 p+p. Cheques and postal orders payable to 'artevents'. 020 8510 9786; www.johnberger.org

I admire and love John Berger's books. He writes about what is important, not just interesting. In contemporary English letters, he seems to me peerless; not since Lawrence has there been a writer who offers such attentiveness to the sensual world with responsiveness to the imperatives of conscience. Less of a poet than Lawrence, he is more intelligent and more citizenly, more noble. He is a wonderful artist and thinker. Susan Sontag

The Look Exchanged: Considering Animal Perception

10 May 7.00, ICA, The Mall, SW1. 020 7930 3647; www.ica.org.uk. £8/ £6 concessions.

John Berger and Despina Chronopoulos in conversation about the human response to the non-human, and vice-versa. With photographer James Mollison presenting images from his book of primate portraits *James and Other Apes*.

King: a Street Story and Response

11 -12 May 8.00, In the East End. Phone 020 8510 9786 or www.johnberger.org for venue details. Entry by donation. Cardboard Citizens workshop group will present a 'scratch' performance in reaction to Berger's *King*, an anonymously published novel about homelessness. The group will work on the text for a week: elements may include a film made by a dog, a soundtrack by Cardboard Citizens New Music Ensemble and a semi-staged reading of a scene from the book.

And Our Faces, My Heart, Brief as Photos

12 May 7.00, London Review Bookshop, 14 Bury Place, Bloomsbury, WC1. 020 7269 9030; www.lrb.co.uk/lrbshop. £4 subscribers/ £3 non-subscribers. Reading by John Berger to mark republication of his innovative book.

Refusing to Accept the Absurdity of the World Picture Offered Us

13 May 7.30, A venue between Bank and Liverpool St. Phone 020 7403 3738 or email info@platformlondon.org for further information; www.platformlondon.org. Inspired by John Berger's writings, social artists' collective Platform will explore capitalism and the nature of transnational corporations in the heart of London's Square Mile.

A Seventh Man: Then and Now

17 May 6.00, Institute of International Visual Arts 6-8 Standard Place, Rivington St, Shoreditch, EC2. 020 7729 9616; www.iniva.org. Free.

A discussion with writers Gary Younge, Letife Tekin, Moris Farhi, Emine Sevgi Ozdamar (tbc) and Asu Aksoy. Moderated by Professor of Sociology, Kevin Robins. See exhibition opposite.

John Berger and Simon McBurney in Conversation

18 May 7.30, Purcell Room, South Bank Centre, SE1. 08703 800 400; www.rfh.org.uk. £8.50/ £6 concessions. John Berger and theatre director McBurney of *Complicite* consider the nature of creative collaborations.

John Berger: Here Is Where We Meet was made possible with the financial and partnership support of:



photo by Jean Mohr

Exhibitions

All exhibitions are free.

John Berger: a Telling Eye - Visual Collaborations with Jean Mohr, John Christie and Maggi Hambling.

5 April-28 May, Mon-Sat, 10am-11pm. Lyttelton Circle Foyer Gallery, National Theatre, South Bank, SE1. 020 7452 3400; www.nationaltheatre.org.uk. Presentations of *A Seventh Man, I Send You This Cadmium Red, Pages of the Wound* and drawings by Maggi Hambling.

Mein Vater und Ich

12 April-12 May, Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm. Austrian Cultural Forum London, 28 Rutland Gate, SW7. 020 7584 8653; www.austria.org.uk/culture. Photographs documenting the experiences of a (Turkish) Kurdish guestworker in Vienna, and the relationship between a father and son. By Mehmet Emir.

John Berger: Portraits by Jean Mohr

14 April-18 May, Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm. City University, School of Social Sciences, St John St., near Angel. For info: 020 8510 9786 or www.johnberger.org. Photographs drawn from over four decades of friendship.

My Beautiful

5-21 May, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm; Wed: to 7pm; Sat: 11am-5pm. Purdy Hicks Gallery, 65 Hopton St, Bankside, SE1. 020 7401 9229. An exhibition of photography, drawings and text exploring the work of Giacometti, by John Berger, photographer Marc Trivier and artist Yves Berger.

Ways of Seeing Revisited

from 7 May, daily, 10am-5.50pm. Tate Britain, Millbank, SW1. 020 7887 8000; www.tate.org.uk. An exhibition of archive material surrounding the hugely influential book and TV series by John Berger and Mike Dibb, with regular screenings of the four part series.

www.johnberger.org
020 8510 9786