

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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MoMA TO SCREEN TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY BRITISH FILMS BEGINNING OCTOBER 4

The distinctly regional flavor of British films produced from 1896 to 1914 is the dominant theme of the exhibition EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS, to be presented by the Department of Film of The Museum of Modern Art October 4-18, 1985 (complete schedule attached).

Laurence Kardish, curator in the Museum's Department of Film, states "The National Film Archive of the British Film Institute, London, has been very active in locating, rescuing, and preserving the work of Britain's first generation of filmmakers, several of whom came to film from the public and private worlds of science." David Francis, curator of the National Film Archive, has compiled nine programs identifying the more significant contributors to the early development of British film and the localities in which their operations were conducted. British film historians such as John Huntley have tried to assess the way in which early film producers used particular localities as a source of background and story inspiration. Included in the exhibition are films of fiction, fact ("topicals" and "industrials"), and animation, as well as contemporary footage of the first British studios.

The early filmmakers can for the most part be divided into two groups: the pioneers such as G.A. Smith, James Williamson, and Robert W. Paul, whose work stopped in 1906, and commercial producers such as Cricks and Martin, British and Colonial, and Clarendon, who began making films in 1908 but went out of business before the end of the First World War. The exception to these categories is Cecil Hepworth, who made films from 1897 through the twenties after surviving the competition from the large American and European producers.

EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS is presented as part of BRITISH FILM, a comprehensive exhibition organized by the National Film Archive and the Museum's Department of Film on the occasion of their mutual fiftieth anniversaries. BRITISH FILM is sponsored by Pearson, and Goldcrest Films and Television, London.

Schedule (The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2):

Friday, October 4 at 3:00 p.m.- EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS I: Williamson Kinematograph Company (films by James Williamson from 1901-1906, app. 65 min.)

Friday, October 4 at 6:30 p.m.- EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS II: Program of films by George Albert Smith (the Brighton School 1898-1899 and the Warwick Trading Company 1900, app. 50 min.)

Saturday, October 5 at 2:30 p.m.- EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS II: Program of films by George Albert Smith (see Friday, October 4 at 6:30 p.m.)

Saturday, October 5 at 5:30 p.m.- EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS I: Williamson Kinematograph Company (see Friday, October 4 at 3:00 p.m.)

Sunday, October 6 at 2:30 p.m.- EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS III: Hepworth Manufacturing Company, Walton-on-Thames (films by Cecil Hepworth from 1899-1913, app. 80 min.)

Sunday, October 6 at 5:30 p.m.- EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS IV: Paul's Animatograph Works (the Brighton School 1897-1908, films by Robert W. Paul, app. 60 min.)

Monday, October 7 at 3:00 p.m.- EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS IV: Paul's Animatograph Works (see Sunday, October 6 at 5:30 p.m.)

Monday, October 7 at 6:30 p.m.- EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS III: Hepworth Manufacturing Company, Walton-on-Thames (see Sunday, October 6 at 2:30 p.m.)

Friday, October 11 at 3:00 p.m.- EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS V: Cricks & Sharp, Cricks & Martin (the Croydon School 1901-1909, films by G.H. Cricks, H.M. Sharp, J.H. Martin, app. 70 min.)

Friday, October 11 at 6:30 p.m.- EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS VI: Clarendon Film Company (the Croydon School 1904-1911, films by Percy Stow and H.V. Lawley, app. 80 min.)

Saturday, October 12 at 2:30 p.m.- EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS VI: Clarendon Film Company (see Friday, October 11 at 6:30 p.m.)

Saturday, October 12 at 5:30 p.m.- EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS V: Cricks & Sharp, Cricks and Martin (see Friday, October 11 at 6:30 p.m.)

Sunday, October 13 at 2:30 p.m.- EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS VII: British and Colonial (1909-1913, films by A.H. Bloomfield and J.B. McDowell, app. 80 min.)

Sunday, October 13 at 5:30 p.m.- EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS VIII: Bamforth and RAB (1899-1903, films by the Holmfirth firm of Bamforth and Co. in collaboration with the Riley Brothers of Bradford, app. 80 min.)

Monday, October 14 at 2:30 p.m.- EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS IX: Miscellany, the Rest (including films from the London area, South Wales, and the North through 1914, app. 65 min.)

Monday, October 14 at 5:30 p.m.- EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS VII: British and Colonial (see Sunday, October 13 at 2:30 p.m.)

Friday, October 18 at 3:00 p.m.- EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS VIII: Bamforth and RAB (see Sunday, October 13 at 5:30 p.m.)

Friday, October 18 at 6:30 p.m.- EARLY BRITISH STUDIOS IX: Miscellany, the Rest (see Monday, October 14 at 2:30 p.m.)

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For further press information and photographic materials, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art 212/708-9752.