



Surrealists go to the cinema

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the publication of André Breton's First Manifesto of Surrealism in 1924 which gave a name to an adventure that is still going on. **Surrealists Go To The Cinema** is a major season of films made by and films admired by surrealists, spanning seven decades of their involvement in this magic art. Whether behind the camera or in the stalls, surrealists have always enjoyed a special relationship with the flickering image.

From the explosive and revolutionary **Un Chien Andalou** of Luis Buñuel and Salvador Dalí in 1928, surrealist filmmakers have explored the

unconscious without compromise, not being driven by aesthetic or financial goals. Nor has cinema been considered by surrealists using this medium to be an end in itself, but as a means of projecting their own vision of the poetic marvellous.

It is not only in films made by surrealists that we might discover the marvellous. In going to the cinema, surrealists look for films that challenge the rational conventions which constrain us; films that hold the keys of love, desire, chance, humour, or terror, even if only for five delicious minutes. For surrealists, watching a film is above all a question

of creative interpretation, rather than of critical evaluation. But this way of looking, removing us as it does from our everyday surroundings, is not a form of escapism. It is a confrontation with reality which should not be left behind in the darkness of the auditorium.

Although the selection of films chosen for this season can only represent a small constellation, its light will reveal something of surrealism's continued movement both on and off the screen.

Surrealists go to the cinema

Pictureville Cinema & Bradford Playhouse & Film Theatre

November & December '94



Švankmajer & Surrealism

Jan Švankmajer is one of the most original and inventive filmmakers today. As an animator, his work has been enormously influential. But those imitators and admirers who see his films solely in terms of style or technique have completely missed the point. Švankmajer's filmmaking is, above everything, an extension of his total commitment to Surrealism; indeed, he has described himself as being 'militantly surrealist'. From 1969 onwards, he has been an active member of the Prague Surrealist Group, and continues to be, whether through the gallery **GAMBRA**, contributing to the group's magazine **ANALOGON**, or attending the weekly meetings. It is not that Švankmajer's films simply contain 'surreal' elements, amongst other ingredients: they are *absolutely surrealist*.

In bringing out the latent power of the seemingly inanimate, Jan Švankmajer has the ability to evoke

a palpable disquiet, drawing us towards the point where the opposite poles of attraction and revulsion are no longer perceived as contradictory. This is the surrealist *locus* of Švankmajer's transformative magic.

Faust

Jan Švankmajer/Czech Republic 1994/90 mins

Commencing on Friday, 18th November, Jan Švankmajer's second feature film, **Faust**, will be screened at Pictureville Cinema. Only just released, **Faust** is a disturbing mixture of live-action and animation, plunging us into a macabre and astonishing re-working of a classic myth. Set in the present day, a man is lured by a street map into an enigmatic house. He descends to the cellar where he finds a soiled edition of *Faust*. Entranced, he summons Mephisto and is inevitably hurtled into a demonic universe where his desires become reality.

Dialogues With The Devil: Jan Švankmajer & The Surreal

Death, Surrealism & Imagination
Nightmares Of The Interior
Figures Of The Uncanny

Also, throughout December, three programmes celebrating Švankmajer's work, from his earliest to his most recent shorts, will be screened at Pictureville. These will include **A Quiet Week In The House** (1968) and **The Pit, The Pendulum and Hope** (1983), which Jan Švankmajer has personally selected for *Surrealists Go To The Cinema* as the most appropriate of his films to be screened. *Dialogues With The Devil* will also include work of other filmmakers who share something of Švankmajer's sensibility, including the Polish director, Walerian Borowczyk, who was very close to the Paris Surrealist Group in the early 'sixties.

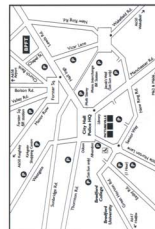
TICKETS

PICTUREVILLE CINEMA

	Single	Double (on same day)
Adults	£3.80	£6.20
Concessions	£2.60	£4.10

BRADFORD PLAYHOUSE & FILM THEATRE

	BPFT1	BPFT2
Adults	£3.00	£2.50
Concessions	£2.50	£2.00



National Museum of Photography
Film & Television, Pictureville
Bradford BD1 1NQ
0274 732277

Bradford Playhouse & Film Theatre

Chapel Street,
Bradford BD1 5DL
0274 820666

Published by the surrealist group in Leeds

November Diary

1	Tue	Un Chien Andalou plus L'Age d'Or	BPFT1	8.15pm
2	Wed	The Phantom of Liberty	BPFT1	8.15pm
3	Thu	Vertigo	BPFT1	8.15pm
5	Sat	Witchcraft Through The Ages	BPFT2	8.00pm
6	Sun	Witchcraft Through The Ages	BPFT2	5.45pm
9	Wed	Surrealism & Subversion	BPFT2	7.30pm
12	Sat	Dreams That Money Can Buy	BPFT2	5.45pm & 8.00pm
17	Thu	The Fisher King	Pictureville	8.15pm
18	Fri	Faust	Pictureville	6.00pm
19	Sat	Last Year In Marienbad	Pictureville	2.00pm
19	Sat	Faust	Pictureville	6.00pm
20	Sun	Faust	Pictureville	8.15pm
21	Mon	Last Year In Marienbad	Pictureville	8.15pm
26	Sat	Alice In The Cities	Pictureville	6.00pm
27	Sun	The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari plus Nosterla	BPFT2	6.15pm & 8.00pm

December Diary

1	Thu	Seventh Heaven	BPFT2	6.15pm & 8.00pm
3	Sat	King Kong	BPFT1	6.00pm
4	Sun	Surrealism, Myth & Magic	BPFT1	8.15pm
6	Tue	Peter Ibbetson	BPFT1	8.15pm
7	Wed	Dialogues With The Devil: Death, Surrealism & Imagination	Pictureville	8.15pm
8	Thu	Three Crowns Of The Sailor	BPFT1	8.15pm
9	Fri	The Wicker Man	BPFT1	8.15pm
11	Sun	Pandora And The Flying Dutchman	Pictureville	8.15pm
12	Mon	Surrealist Transformation	BPFT2	8.00pm
13	Tue	Dialogues With The Devil: Nightmares Of The Interior	Pictureville	8.15pm
14	Wed	Dark Passage	BPFT2	6.00pm & 8.00pm
15	Thu	Dark Passage	BPFT2	6.00pm & 8.00pm
17	Sat	Pennies From Heaven	Pictureville	8.15pm
19	Mon	Dialogues With The Devil: Figures Of The Uncanny	Pictureville	8.15pm
20	Tue	La Fiancée du Pirate	BPFT1	8.15pm



Absolute Surrealism!

Un Chien Andalou

Luis Buñuel & Salvador Dalí
France / 1928 / 17 mins

"Un Chien Andalou would not exist if Surrealism did not exist" (Luis Buñuel)

Mad Love in Mainstream Cinema

Seventh Heaven

Frank Borzage
USA / 1927 / 119 mins

A neglected classic embodying the lyrical quality of a love so powerful that it transcends all physical constraints.



plus L'Age d'Or

Luis Buñuel
France / 1930 / 60 mins

Officially banned following a riot not long after it first opened, the film is a blatant attack on a rotten society where love is suppressed by the restrictions imposed by government, church, police, and family.

Peter Ibbetson

Henry Hathaway
USA / 1935 / 88 mins

Described by André Breton as a "triumph of surrealist thought". A couple are separated by imprisonment but through dreams their love is able to overcome all obstacles, even those of time and death.

Dark Passage

Delmer Daves
USA / 1947 / 106 mins

Bogart and Bacall in a classic thriller. A man is transformed by plastic surgery to clear himself from being framed for murder. Characterised by its dream-like quality, it is an exaltation of total love.

Pandora And The Flying Dutchman

Albert Lewin
GB / 1950 / 112 mins

Dream seeps through into reality in this tale of the Flying Dutchman, condemned to eternally wander the oceans. His curse can only be lifted by the love of a beautiful woman.

Last Year In Marienbad

Alain Resnais
France / Italy / 1961 / 94 mins

"Surrealist in its baroque madness" (Ado Kyrou). A great deal of contention existed over this film being accepted into the surrealist pantheon: it had much support from the younger surrealists, but André Breton was firmly against it.

Dreams That Money Can Buy

Hans Richter
USA / 1947 / 90 mins

Seven sequences, each directed on a theme chosen by an artist, are connected by the story of a young man who discovers that he can influence dreams. By far the most poetic, an erotic dream with a commentary, is that of Max Ernst.

The Phantom of Liberty

Luis Buñuel
France / 1974 / 104 mins

A humorous and disturbing exploration of humanity's unwillingness to break the fetters of social convention and experience true freedom.

La Fiancée du Pirate

Nelly Kaplan
France / 1969 / 106 mins

The story of a 'pirate' woman, a social outcast who takes her revenge on the bigotry of the times. Her method is to become a prostitute in order to ruin her oppressors and then find liberation.

Of Terror & Phantoms

Witchcraft Through The Ages

Benjamin Christensen / Sweden
1921 (re-edited 1967) / 76 mins

An orgiastic witches sabbath is overtaken by the nightmarish repressions of the Inquisition. A violent indictment of the persecution, torture, and murder of thousands of women by the church.

King Kong

Merian C. Cooper
USA / 1933 / 100 mins

Admired for the disquiet evoked through the improbable story of a giant gorilla, as much automaton as animal, and his desire for a human female leading him to captivity by 'civilisation'.

The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari

Robert Weine
Germany / 1919 / 69 mins

An extraordinary story of a somnambulist used to commit murders. But in this claustrophobic domain of nightmare, with its stark contrasts of light and shadow, even the monstrous is transfigured by love.



Surrealism, Myth & Magic

A programme of shorter surrealist films including **L'Invention du Monde** (1953) by Michel Zimbacca, of the Paris Surrealist Group, and Jean-Louis Bédouin. Combined with Benjamin Péret's poetic commentary and a soundtrack of ritual music, the film draws us into the analogical thought of 'primitive' societies.

Surrealist Transformation

A programme of shorter surrealist films including **Reappearance of the Mystery Island** (1994) by Eugenio Castro of the Madrid Surrealist Group and **Backwards To Infinity** (1990) by Ludvík Sváb of the Prague Surrealist Group.

Surrealism Continues...



Vertigo

Alfred Hitchcock
USA / 1958 / 128 mins

Selected by the Prague Surrealist Group. Following the suicide of the woman he loved, a neurotic detective is haunted by her memory until one day he sees her in the street.

Surrealism & Subversion

A talk on the element of revolt at the core of surrealist thought, focusing on Claude Feraldo's **Thémroc**. **Selected by the Stockholm Surrealist Group.**

Alice In The Cities

Wim Wenders
Germany / 1974 / 110 mins

Selected by the Paris Surrealist Group. In Wim Wenders' poetic gaze we find a cinematic equivalent to the surrealist way of looking, of turning over that which otherwise might be neglected, allowing chance to intervene and reveal the marvellous in our lives.

Three Crowns Of The Sailor

Raul Ruiz
France / 1983 / 122 mins

Selected by the Paris Surrealist Group. A sailor's tales of his life's voyages grow more wild and vivid. Charting lost lands, sex, violence and death, they move poetically as if through a dream.

The Fisher King

Terry Gilliam
USA / 1991 / 137 mins

Selected by the Paris Surrealist Group. A disillusioned discjockey is rescued from suicide when he becomes involved in a hobo's obsessional quest for love and the Holy Grail. An oneiric and romantic film.



The Wicker Man

Robin Hardy
GB / 1973 / 102 mins

Selected by the Stockholm Surrealist Group. On a remote Scottish island an investigation into a schoolgirl's disappearance uncovers a frenzy of erotic paganism.

Pennies From Heaven

Herbert Ross
USA / 1981 / 108 mins

Selected by the Madrid Surrealist Group. Liberating daydreams given form by the popular tunes of the '30s lead us through a quest for emotional and sexual fulfillment in the era of the Depression.

What sets Surrealists Go To The Cinema apart from other seasons is the collaboration of surrealist groups active in Madrid, Paris, Prague, and Stockholm, who have nominated films especially for our festival.