



## THE LAST NITRATE PICTURE SHOW

FIAF SYMPOSIUM 1  
4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> June 2000  
National Film Theatre



**An anthological celebration of cellulose nitrate in all its aspects: its history, technology, chemistry and archaeology; its loss, rescue, preservation, conservation and restoration; its impact on the art of cinema; its vices and virtues; its champions; and the role it has played in the evolution of film archives. Complemented by a series of evening programmes of surviving original nitrate prints at the British Film Institute's National Film Theatre; and a book on the history, properties and archival experience of nitrate, *This Film Is Dangerous*.**

### DAY ONE

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Morning Session: *Chair* Anne Fleming

- 09:30 Welcome: Caroline Ellis (Head of *bfi* Collections)  
09:35 *20<sup>th</sup> Century Treasure Trove* (extract)  
Introduction: Clyde Jeavons  
09:45 'And God Created Nitrate...!'  
*Speaker* DEAC ROSSELL (Early Film historian)  
10:15 'The Nitrate Experience: Properties and Preservation'  
*Speaker* JEAN-LOUIS BIGOURDAN (Image Permanence Institute)  
10:40 '*Ideale Filmerzeugung*'  
*Speaker* Dr NIKOLAUS WOSTRY (Austrian Film Archive)  
11:00 'The Wizards of Oz'  
*Speaker* RAY EDMONDSON (ScreenSound Australia)  
11:20 'The First Film Archive'  
*Speaker* STEPHEN BOTTOMORE (Early Film historian)  
11:35 'The First Film Archivist'  
*Speaker* HAROLD BROWN (former Preservation Officer, NFTVA)  
12:10 Questions/Discussion  
12:30 Lunch Break

Afternoon Session: *Chair* David Francis

- 14:30 'Projecting Nitrate'  
*Speaker* STEPHEN HERBERT (technical historian)  
15:00 'Phantom Fires'  
*Speaker* VANESSA TOULMIN (National Fairground Archive)  
15:10 'Black-and-White in Colour'  
*Speaker* JOAO OLIVEIRA (film restorer, *bfi* Collections)

- 15:55 'Raising the Colours' (Restoring Kinemacolor)  
*Speaker* NICOLA MAZZANTI (L'Immagine Ritrovata)
- 16:15 'An Epiphany of Nitrate'  
*Speaker* PAOLO CHERCHI USAI (George Eastman House)
- 17:00 Questions/Discussion
- 17:30 Close

## DAY TWO

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June

Morning Session: *Chair* Eva Orbanz

- 09:30 *Secrets of a World Industry* (film)
- 09:40 'French Without Tears' (The Nitrate Experience in France)  
*Speaker* MICHELLE AUBERT (CNC)
- 10:10 'A Colour Box' (Len Lye Recovered)  
*Speaker* ANNE FLEMING (Head of Preservation, *bfi* Collections)
- 10:30 'The Sound of Nitrate'  
*Speaker* MARTIN SAWYER (Hendersons Laboratory)
- 11:00 'Fire Down Below'  
*Speaker* FERNANDO OSORIO (archivist and historian)
- 11:20 'Beggars of Life' (Why Some American Silent Films Survive)  
*Speaker* DAVID PIERCE (film historian)
- 12:05 Questions/Discussion
- 12:25 'The Revenge of Mr Thomas Atkins'  
*Speaker* ROGER SMITHER (Imperial War Museum)
- 12:30 Lunch Break

Afternoon Session: *Chair* João Bénard da Costa

- 14:30 'Exotic Europe'  
*Speakers* MARK-PAUL MEYER (Filmmuseum) & MARTIN HUMPHRIES (Cinema Museum)
- 14:50 'URGENT! Nitrate Can't Wait'  
*Speaker* LUISA COMENCINI (Cineteca Italiana)
- 15:00 'Mea Culpa: or How I Abused the Nitrate in My Life'  
 SAM KULA (archivist)
- 15:30 'Reproduction...Disappearance'  
*Speaker* DOMINIQUE PAÏNI (Cinémathèque Française)
- 16:00 'Burning Enthusiasm'  
*Speaker* KEVIN BROWNLOW (film historian and restorer)
- 16:40 'Just when you thought it was safe...' (Film Preservation Challenges Today)  
*Speaker* JEAN-LOUIS BIGOURDAN (Image Permanence Institute)
- 17:00 Questions/Discussion
- 17:25 *Reflections* (film)
- 17:30 END OF SYMPOSIUM

The symposium will be fully illustrated with film extracts and other audio-visual materials (details on separate sheet).

NB Because of time pressure, there will be no morning or afternoon breaks.

*Symposium devised by* CLYDE JEAUVONS, *with* Elaine Burrows & Roger Smither