THE LAST NITRATE PICTURE SHOW

FIAF SYMPOSIUM 1
4th & 5th 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 4th June
Morning Session: Chair Anne Fleming

09:30   Welcome: Caroline Ellis (Head of bfi Collections)
09:35   20th Century Treasure Trove (extract)
        Introduction: Clyde Jeavons
09:45   ‘And God Created Nitrate...!’
        Speaker DEAC ROSSELL (Early Film historian)
        Speaker JEAN-LOUIS BICOURDAN (Image Permanence Institute)
10:40   ‘Ideale Filmverzeugung’
        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 5th 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 BROWNOW (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 JEAVONS, with Elaine Burrows & Roger Smither