



## Press Release

# Day of cinema celebrates French filmmaker Jacques Tati



*Mon Oncle* [1958]; Dr Matthew Sweet, BBC

17 February 2022, BRISTOL: Bristol Ideas, Slapstick and South West Silents are collaborating to celebrate French filmmaker Jacques Tati. Running at Arnolfini on Saturday 2 April, the day will include screenings of three of Tati's films, *Mon Oncle*, *Playtime* and *Trafic*, and discussions with speakers including Dr Matthew Sweet (BBC Radio 3's *Free Thinking*) and Serge Bromberg.

Film historian Matthew Sweet is a writer and broadcaster and a regular presenter of BBC Radio 3's *Free Thinking*. Sweet says: 'As a long-time admirer of Tati I'm delighted to be taking part in this joyous, immersive celebration of his work. Tati found a new



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way of doing cinema and a new way of looking at the world. He bankrupted himself in the process – but the work he left us contains riches’.

Three of Tati’s films will be screened, alongside introductions, panel discussions and audience Q&A sessions.

Jacques Tati’s multi-award-winning third feature, *Mon Oncle* (1958) is his first colour film and is a supremely amusing satire of mechanised living and consumer society that earned the director the Academy Award for best foreign-language film.

Tati’s gloriously choreographed, nearly wordless comedies about confusion in an age of high technology reached their apotheosis with his 1967 film *Playtime*.

Overlooked by many, Tati’s *Trafic* (1971) sees the bumbling Monsieur Hulot, kitted out as always with tan raincoat, beaten brown hat and umbrella, take to Paris’ highways and byways.

‘In our work looking at future cities, film plays an important role. Tati’s films look at cities and urban issues in unique ways. We can learn a lot from him as well as admire and enjoy the work of a great filmmaker.’ Andrew Kelly, Director, Bristol Ideas

The day starts at 11:15 with the screening of *Mon Oncle*, followed by *Playtime* at 14:30 and *Trafic* at 18:30. Tickets are £8 / £6.50 per screening or £20 / £15 for all three. Tickets are on sale at <https://www.bristolideas.co.uk/>

This programme is part of Opening Up the Magic Box, a heritage element of Film 2021 which marks the centenary of the death of Bristol-born film pioneer William Friese-Greene and the 125th anniversary of the first public cinema screening in Bristol, which took place at the Tivoli on 8 June 1896, as well as celebrating Bristol – a UNESCO City of Film since 2017. It is generously funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Tati Day is also part of Future City Film Festival, which this year is focusing on Paris on Screen. The festival normally takes place every two years in the autumn but had to be postponed last year due to the pandemic. It will now run through 2022 as a series of special events. We are grateful to the British Film Institute for their support for the festival.

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## Notes for Editors

### Press Contact

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### Tickets and Timings

All screenings take place at Arnolfini, Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA

11:15 *Mon Oncle*, introduced by Serge Bromberg

14:30 *Playtime*, introduced by Matthew Sweet and followed by discussion with Matthew Sweet and Andrew Kelly

18:30 *Trafic*

Tickets are £8 / £6.50 per screening or £20 / £15 for all three. Tickets are on sale at <https://www.bristolideas.co.uk/>

### Bristol Ideas

Bristol Ideas is a partnership organisation that explores the key issues of our time through the arts and sciences. At the heart of our work are ideas. We collaborate widely in the city, nationally and internationally. We are dedicated to building new futures for people, places and the planet. We are committed to commissioning new work; forging lasting partnerships; and supporting artists and organisations to contribute to major cultural programmes. Our projects include the creation and renewal of cultural organisations; citywide and national arts and heritage projects; and festivals – Festival of Ideas, Festival of Economics and Festival of the Future City.

### Slapstick

Slapstick Festival exists to build new audiences for and an appreciation of silent and visual comedy. We do this by showcasing and celebrating archive comedy predominately from the silent era of film (1895-1930) with live and online events in Bristol, a UNESCO City of Film. With a culture of innovation, branding and marketing we offer access to all sectors of the community, something we do by combining these films with live music from world-class musicians, well-known guests and experts to engage and build new and diverse audiences for this unique art form.

### South West Silents

South West Silents celebrates the history of cinema and shares its founders' passion for silent film with the wider cinema-going audience not only in the South West of England but throughout the United Kingdom. With expert knowledge of pre-sound cinema, several years' experience programming silent film events in and around Bristol, with extensive contacts in both the global network of film archives as well as with several film accompanist, we aim to be the first and best point of contact for all matters involving silent cinema in the region. South West Silents continues to give audiences the chance to discover brilliant silent films by introducing new and younger audiences to the wonder of silent cinema, through screenings, educational

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programmes and highlighting new restorations. We have a strong feel for independent cinema and a real passion for unique and brilliant silent cinema.