

# ARCADIA

Directed by Paul Wright

UK | 2017 | 78 mins | Cert 12A

A BFI release

Featuring an original soundtrack by  
Adrian Utley from Portishead and Will Gregory from Goldfrapp



Original artwork by Stanley Donwood

Opening at BFI Southbank and selected cinemas UK-wide from  
Summer Solstice, 21 June 2018

13 April 2018 – **Arcadia**, the new film from the BAFTA award-winning Scottish director **Paul Wright** (whose debut feature *For Those in Peril* premiered at Cannes in 2013), explores our complex connection to the land we live in. Combining over 100 film clips from the last 100 years and a grand, expressive new score by musicians **Adrian Utley** from Portishead and **Will Gregory** from Goldfrapp, the film goes on a sensory, visceral journey through the contrasting seasons, exploring the beauty and brutality, magic and madness of our changing relationship with the land and each other. A folk horror wrapped in an archive film, it's a very strange trip indeed...

*Arcadia* will be released by the BFI in selected cinemas UK-wide and on BFI Player on the symbolic, celebratory day, Summer Solstice, **21 June 2018**, followed by a BFI DVD/Blu-ray release on 20 August. There will also be a soundtrack album – details available soon.

Using a mixture of film and TV footage from the BFI National Archive and regional archives around the UK, director Paul Wright creates a mosaic of contrasting images, sounds and moods, taking in folk carnivals and masked parades, hunting and harvesting, communes and raves, mechanisation, environmental issues, fires, floods, storms and much more. *Arcadia* reminds us what happens when our connection to nature, and indeed each other, frays and unravels. By exploring and asking ourselves what we have gained and lost in the last century, perhaps we will discover something of what we'll need to survive in the next.

Paul comments: "The power of images and sound and how they rub up against each other to create different meanings and emotions is my main passion in filmmaking. With the wealth of amazing material in the archive, fantastic collaborators in Adrian Utley, Will Gregory and the BFI National Archive team, we had the opportunity to make something that explores the light and dark side of our relationship with our land in a vivid way."

The four seasons give the film its overall structure, enabling the contradictions and rhythms of nature to inspire its emotional and tonal depths; the darkness and the light. Focusing primarily on rural life, the film is a document of times past as well as a vital commentary on where we are now. Avoiding simply showing the dangerously nostalgic vision of an idyllic summer pastoral, these seasonal shifts dig deep into the land's troubled history, politics and its mysterious folk and esoteric roots, whilst looking at our often primal and peculiar connection with nature.

A fresh new film crafted from the past, *Arcadia* is produced by John Archer at Hopscotch Films, whose varied output of TV documentaries, arts programmes and feature films has included Mark Cousins' *I am Belfast* (2015). *Arcadia* was originated by co-producer Adrian Cooper from Common Ground, the arts and environmental charity based in Dorset. The second co-producer is Mark Atkin at Crossover, who has produced seven archive/music films including *From the Sea to the Land Beyond* (2012).

Paul Wright, who grew up in a small coastal village on the East Neuk of Fife, Scotland, was approached to direct, working with film editor Michael Aaglund. The duo immersed themselves firstly in BFI Player's *Britain on Film* (which can be viewed online at <http://player.bfi.org.uk/britain-on-film>) and then in darker pastoral material from British television and beyond.

Musicians Adrian Utley and Will Gregory, who collaborate outside of their respective bands, created the original score. Influenced by a mixture of genres – electronic, classical, folk and punk – the score also features the voice of folk singer Anne Briggs and the sound design strongly incorporates found sound.

*Arcadia* had its world premiere in the *Create* strand at the BFI London Film Festival 2017 and has since been screening at film festivals including the Glasgow Film Festival and Borderlines Film Festival this year. More festival screenings are planned for the coming months.

*Arcadia* is a Hopscotch Films Production, made with the support of the BFI (with National Lottery Funding) and Creative Scotland in association with the BBC and BFI National Archive.

-Ends-

**For further information and interview requests please contact:**

Jill Reading, BFI Press Office  
E-mail: [jill.reading@bfi.org.uk](mailto:jill.reading@bfi.org.uk)  
Tel: 020 7957 4759  
[@bfi](http://www.twitter.com/bfi)

Images are available at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) >BFI>Theatrical releases  
More film information and screening venues: [www.bfi.org.uk/releases](http://www.bfi.org.uk/releases)

**About Britain on Film and Unlocking Film Heritage**

The Britain on Film collections are accessible through the BFI Player: <http://player.bfi.org.uk/britain-on-film>

Britain on Film is one of the largest and most complex archival projects ever undertaken and is part of the BFI's Unlocking Film Heritage programme (2013-17). Unlocking film heritage for everyone in the UK to enjoy is a key strategic priority for the BFI, and Britain on Film is the public launch of a vast programme of work, which has been ongoing for over three years. Bringing together a partnership with Regional and National Film Archives and rights holder collections across the UK, this work has included a sophisticated programme of data capture, cataloguing, copying to archival standards, meticulous preservation of original materials, thorough searching of archives across the country, new state-of-the-art equipment and digital storage facilities and the transfer of films to the BFI's online video platform, BFI Player.

Unlocking Film Heritage and Britain on Film are thanks to £15 million funding from the National Lottery and the additional support of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

### **About the BFI**

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI is a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter.

The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

## **Synopsis**

An electric, eclectic mash-up of archive material looking at the past from the future, with a specially commissioned soundtrack, *Arcadia* examines the rich and strange history of the British countryside.

## **How *Arcadia* was made, by producer John Archer**

As with any archive film, the sheer amount of material was an exciting yet daunting prospect in the beginning.

As a starting place, Paul Wright took the idea of the four seasons (both literally and emotionally) and began to make a list of first ideas and rough sketches of what could be explored within each season and in the film in general.

The next step was watching hundreds of hours of material from the BFI National Archive, some directly relevant, some not so much, and starting to think where each piece of the puzzle may fit into the overall plan for the film.

This initially involved a paper edit of each film viewed, marking any moment or image that may later prove to be useful (for example, "strong image of reeds in river at 0.08 ... woman walking over bridge at 2.31...") and thinking about where these moments may work in the film as a whole: "This image feels like it could be in Summer" ... "This image in Winter".

Themes started to come to the fore: contrasting images and surprising mirroring sparked further ideas.

Paul approached the structure much as he would in writing a fiction film, trying to keep an eye on progression, cause and effect, as well as using light and shade to shape each act, to help us best navigate our way through the material and edit.

With a film like this, the edit itself is the biggest part of its success or failure. As Paul and editor Michael Aaglund delved deeper into the available archive material and began assembling chosen clips onto the timeline, the film began to take on an exciting life of its own, as new threads came to light and others fell by the wayside.

It was at this time that experiments with sounds and music were also first attempted, to help shape mood and progression with what would eventually become a rough guide for the composers and sound designers.

In creating *Arcadia* it was always Paul's intention to leave space for the viewer in the film, so that rather than becoming a pure polemic it would allow the audience to also go on a personal, sensory journey through the material and the themes explored.

## **Music and Sound**

Along with the subject matter and the rich material of the archive, the most thrilling thing for Paul was the possibility to create a rich tapestry of sound to accompany the images, providing an emotional movement that takes the audience on a sensory journey. The music and sound was essential to this.

Adrian Utley and Will Gregory's musical direction helped explore the themes of the film through a mixture of genres – electronic, classical, folk and punk – and arrange this into a cohesive soundtrack which enhances the shifting moods and narrative of the film.

*Arcadia* also uses slightly more sound than in previous archive based films: the wind in the trees... the pitter-patter of rain... the mechanical changes in agriculture and our re-modelling of the land. By using these sounds sparingly and at the right time, this further enhanced the possibilities of variation of pace and movement between music, silence and sound that suits the themes and structure whilst inviting us to look at the images differently.

## **Paul Wright – Director**

### **Filmography**

Arcadia	2017
Murder: Lost Weekend (TV Mini Series)	2016
For Those In Peril	2013
Until The River Runs Red (short)	2010
Photos Of God (short)	2010
Believe (short)	2009
Hikikomori (short)	2007

### **Biography**

Growing up in a small coastal village on the East Neuk of Fife I have always had a passion to create. Starting with drawing and painting, badly, I finally found the medium of film.

Armed with a dodgy VHS camcorder I'd venture alone onto the isolated beach and nearby forests to make strange little films that nobody ever saw about the texture of the sea and the light in the woods.

The following years saw my passion for film intensify as I'd visit the big cities of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee on a pilgrimage to try to hunt down VHS copies of films that I didn't always understand but felt a deep connection with. It was during this time that I was first introduced to filmmakers such as Werner Herzog, Alejandro Jodorowsky and Andrei Tarkovsky who opened my eyes to just what was possible in cinema.

From there I was fortunate enough to go to college to study film, starting in Glasgow and finishing at the NFTS in Beaconsfield. During this time my short films received international acclaim and awards including winning Best Short Film at the BAFTAs, The Leopard Of Tomorrow Award at Locarno and screened in numerous film festivals worldwide.

Shortly after graduating from the NFTS I made my first feature film *For Those In Peril* with Warp Films, which received international distribution as well as winning Best Film at the BAFTA Scotland Awards and Best New Work at the BIFA's, as well as being Nominated For Best First Time Writer/Director at the BAFTA's and having it's world premiere at Cannes Critics Week, before screening at many further renowned international film festivals.

I have also directed an episode of the BAFTA winning drama "Murder" which aired UK wide in March 2016 on BBC 2.

*Arcadia* is my first documentary film.

Throughout my time making films, whether alone on the beach or on the set of a feature film I have always been interested in pushing the boundaries of what is possible with cinema, making sensory films that explore engaging stories in unique and original ways whilst always keeping the emotional heart of the piece central to the work. This is something I hope to continue and take further still with my future work.

## ***Arcadia* – archive film sources**

<b>FILM TITLE</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>
This Was England	East Anglian Film Archive
Inheritance	Media Archive For Central England
Radford Review	Media Archive For Central England
Showtime	Media Archive For Central England
Cuckfield Jubilee	Screen Archive South East
A Dogs Life by Bonzo	Screen Archive South East
Hiker's Haunt	Screen Archive South East
Song of the Woods	Screen Archive South East (University of Brighton)
Dance & Song	BFI
Action in Slow Motion	BFI
Alice in Wonderland	BFI
Anchoress	BFI
Any Man's Kingdom	BFI
Apaches	BFI
Around the Village Green	BFI
Being and Doing	BFI
Bill Douglas Trilogy - My Ain Folk	BFI
Bill Douglas Trilogy - My Childhood	BFI
Bill Douglas Trilogy - My Way Home	BFI
Burryman	BFI
Contrasts in Kensington	BFI
Coves and Caves	BFI
Day in Hayfields	BFI
Elsie and the Brown Bunny	BFI
Emma	BFI
Extreme Sports	BFI
Fenlands	BFI
Floating	BFI
Gallivant	BFI
Getting it Straight in Notting Hill Gate	BFI
Haunters of the Deep	BFI
Here and There in the British Isles	BFI
Herostratus	BFI
Hitch in Time	BFI
Impatience	BFI
Inter-city Magic	BFI

Invisible City	BFI
It Never Really Happened	BFI
Lady Lazarus	BFI
Lakeland Poets	BFI
Lowland Village	BFI
Magpies House	BFI
Man from Nowhere	BFI
March Against Starvation	BFI
Near Enough	BFI
Oh to be in England	BFI
One foot in Eden	BFI
Open Road	BFI
Paradox City	BFI
Peaches	BFI
Psychedelic Trip	BFI
Punk Can Take It	BFI
Rapunzel Let Down Your Hair	BFI
Rave	BFI
Requiem for a Village	BFI
Salute to Farmers	BFI
Silent Village	BFI
Sinclair Pocket TV	BFI
Skinflicker	BFI
Solarflares Burn For You	BFI
Somewhere in Hackney	BFI
Spare Time	BFI
Springtime in an English village	BFI
Squatters	BFI
Swat that Fly	BFI
Tame Animals at Work	BFI
The Finishing Line	BFI
The Flood	BFI
The Heart of the Highland	BFI
The Mystery of Marriage	BFI
The Orchard End Murder	BFI
The Pioneers of Nudism	BFI
The Sea in Their Blood	BFI
The Smoke Menace	BFI
The Warning	BFI
Thumbelina	BFI
Today is Safe	BFI
Today we Live	BFI
Traveller	BFI
Watchers	BFI
West of England	BFI
Western Isles	BFI
Winstanley	BFI
Winter	BFI
Wisdom of the Wild	BFI
A Light Through the Clouds	Yorkshire Film Archive
Blowing up the Dales	Yorkshire Film Archive
Enchanted Garden	Yorkshire Film Archive
Harewood by George, a profile of the Seventh Earl	Yorkshire Film Archive
I Saw This	Yorkshire Film Archive
Romany Summer	Yorkshire Film Archive
Tribe of the Sun	Yorkshire Film Archive
Wonder of Yorkshire	Yorkshire Film Archive
Extremes	SAM FILMS/Tony Klinger
Legend of the Witches	Renown Films
Quiet Land	NIS
Stigmata	NIS

The Hungry Grass	NIS
Best of Friends: Russell and Victor	ITV
Wildlife in London	ITV
The Moon and the Sledgehammer	Philip Trevelyan
Pinner Week	Linguistic Society of America
Death is their Destiny	Phil Munnoch
Grassy Shires	The National Archives
Road to Yesterday	NSSAW
In Welsh Hills	NSSAW
The Airy Tomb	NSSAW
Future of Things Past	Screen Ocean
Empire Troops	
Spirit of Albion	Zooid pictures
All Manner of Customs	SWFTA
Burrator	SWFTA
Pixies of Ottery St Mary	SWFTA
Aetherius	SWFTA
Buther's Puma	SWFTA
Chudleigh Conservationalist	SWFTA
Hunt Ball	
Tichbourne Mummers' Play	WESSEX
New Year Fireball Festival	STV

## Credits

Director – Paul Wright  
 Producer – John Archer  
 Editor – Michael Aaglund  
 Music Composed by Adrian Utley & Will Gregory  
 Co-Producers  
 Mark Atkin  
 Adrian Cooper  
 Executive Producers  
 Mark Bell  
 Mary Burke  
 Clara Glynn  
 Ross McKenzie

Archive footage courtesy of BFI National Archive

Other archives:

Arte France  
 BBC  
 BBC Motion Gallery  
 British Tourist Authority  
 Channel 4, Screen Ocean  
 Garland Films  
 Internet Archive  
 ITV  
 London's Screen Archive  
 London Film School  
 Media Archive for Central England  
 National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales  
 North East Film Archive  
 Northern Ireland Screen  
 Pond 5  
 Renown



Salvation Films  
Screen Archive South East  
South West Film and Television Archive  
Steel Windows Association  
STV  
The National Archives  
The Moon and the Sledgehammer Films  
University of East Anglia and East Anglian Film Archive  
Wessex Film and Sound Archive  
Yorkshire Film Archive

Archive Thanks to

Libby Stanners BBC Information and Archive  
Francis Jones Northern Ireland Screen  
Stigmata (1970) Courtesy of Adam Darius  
The Hungry Grass (1981) by Archie Reid, copyright Elizabeth Reid  
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The Quiet Land (1974) Courtesy National Museums NI  
Doc Rowe Archive and Collection  
Beltane Fire Festival Nick Fiddes  
Extremes by Tony Klinger & Michael Lytton  
Death is their Destiny by Phil Munnoch  
La Vie Nouvelle by Philippe Grandrieux  
Alan Watts Project

Archive Transfers  
TK One  
Cameron Presentation

Voices  
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Laura Rennie

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Wilma Wright

Trainees  
Yasmin Al Hadithi  
Rowan Charleson  
Kaja Kryda

Research – Jack Archer  
Assistant Producer – Tom Millen  
Archive Research – Adam Scovell  
Archive Consultants  
John Carino  
Simon McCallum  
Sound Palette – Dario Swade  
Edit Assistant – Scott Bilsborough  
Assistant Editor – Michael Trevett  
Online Editor – Chas Chambers  
Grade – Ian Ballantyne  
Dubbing mixer – John Cobban  
Production Manager – Hannah Truswell  
Insurance – David Johnstone, WK Insurance  
Accountant – Ken Livingstone  
Business Affairs

Katharine Otway  
Kenren Media  
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English Pastoral Impressions, Spring Morning'  
Written by Ernest Farrar  
Performed The Philharmonia Orchestra  
Courtesy of Chandos Records Ltd

'Jerusalem'  
Lyrics by William Blake  
Composed by Charles Parry  
Courtesy of Universal Production Music

'POLEGNALA E TODORA'  
Composed by Philip Koutev and Maria Kouteva, published by Carthage Music Ltd  
Performance by Philip Koutev Ensemble licensed courtesy of Carthage Music Ltd

'Drone Logic' Performed by Daniel Avery  
Written by Daniel Avery and James Greenwood  
Published by Phantasy Songs, administrated by Imagem Music on behalf of Because Editions  
(P) & (P) 2013 Phantasy Sound under exclusive license to Because Music

Om Chanting  
Performed by Dilpreet Bhatia  
Courtesy of Meditative Mind Music

'The Time Has Come'  
Written and Performed by Anne Briggs  
Published by Universal Music  
Courtesy of Sony Music Entertainment UK

'My Bonny Boy'  
Performed by Anne Briggs  
Arrangement by Anne Briggs (Trad/Briggs) Published by BMG Rights Management (UK) Ltd (P)  
1964 Topic Records  
Licensed courtesy of Topic Records c/o Proper Records Ltd.

'Lowlands'  
Performed by Anne Briggs  
Written by (Sheppard/Briggs/Phelan)  
Published by BMG Rights Management) (UK) Ltd (P) 1964 Topic Records Licensed courtesy of Topic  
Records c/o Proper Records Ltd.

'Julie's Song' from 'The Watchers'  
Composed by Donald Fraser  
Published by FraserMusic Interactive  
Courtesy of BFI

'Strange Sky'

Written by Martin Green and Karine Polwart  
Performed by Martin Green, Dominic Aitchison and Adrian Utleby featuring Adam Holmes & Becky Unthank  
Published by Karine Polwart (MCPS/PRS) Music & Martin Green (MCPS/PRS)  
Courtesy of Reveal Records

'O Willow Waly'  
Words and Music by Georges Auric, Paul Dehn  
Performed by Isla Cameron and the Raymonde Singers  
Published by EMI Music Publishing Ltd  
Courtesy of Trunk Records

Music Supervisor – Gemma Dempsey  
Music Management – Deborah Rawlings  
Featured singer – Anne Briggs  
Voices – Jessica Cale  
Emily Dickens  
Katy Hill  
Ruth Kiang  
Jeremy Budd  
Jimmy Holliday

Strings – Balanescu Quartet

Violin soloist – Alexander Balanescu  
Double Bass – Mary Scully  
Drums – John Parish  
Guitar, Bass, Drums & Synthesisers – Adrian Utleby  
Piano & Synthesisers – Will Gregory  
Vocals – Rich Beale  
String & Choral arrangements – Will Gregory  
Orchestration – Ian Gardiner

Mixing, engineering & programming – T J Allen  
Mixing – Ali Chant, Adrian Utleby  
Engineering – Alessandro Baldessari

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