



BRITISH
PATHÉ

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Resurrected Archive Wins Top Prize

British Pathé, the company behind the world-famous Pathé newsreels, documentaries and cinemagazines, has been named “Footage Library of the Year” at the 2012 FOCAL Awards. The ceremony, held on 2nd May at the Lancaster Hotel in London, rewarded British Pathé’s resurrection as a brand from decades of near-dormancy. Over the last twelve months, the archive has had tremendous success in expanding into an unparalleled number of markets, providing access to its resources for filmmakers, museums, the general public, and 50 per cent of UK schools.

Once a dominant feature of the British cinema experience, British Pathé was known throughout the world for first-class reporting and for recording many of the key events of the twentieth century. Now saved for posterity, this treasure trove of 90,000 historic films ranges from the Boer War in the nineteenth century to the Silver Jubilee in 1977. Footage filmed by Pathé cameramen includes the Hindenburg disaster, the Coronation of Elizabeth II, and the 1966 World Cup, as well as a wealth of social and cultural images of immense interest to today’s audiences.

The rise of television marked the beginning of the company’s decline and British Pathé finally closed its doors in the late 1970s. The company’s archive passed through various hands, including the Daily Mail and General Trust, before re-launching in 2009 as a brand in its own right. It was purchased by private investors seeking to reclaim the company’s standing within the British cultural consciousness.

This year’s FOCAL Awards win was the culmination of this process. In the last year, footage from the British Pathé archive has become ubiquitous. The BBC produced and aired the four-part *Story of British Pathé*, a well-received series which detailed the company’s history. British Pathé also co-produced two iPhone apps, including one with renowned television historian Dan Snow; released more than 60 hours of content on DVD; launched a YouTube channel; and redesigned its website for the benefit of the general public. The entire content of the archive can be viewed online for free.

British Pathé’s win at the FOCAL Awards was met with warm praise by those in attendance. Alastair White, the company’s General Manager, thinks the ceremony “shows that British Pathé has become once again, and will remain, a recognisable and respected brand”. White remarks, “We’re delighted with the award, and we’re grateful to all of the filmmakers, teachers, and curators who supported us throughout the last year.”

Background information

BRITISH PATHÉ, 1896-1976



British Pathé is one of the oldest newsreel companies in the world. With their unique blend of information and entertainment, British Pathé's documentaries, newsreels, cinemagazines, and films shaped the way the world saw itself. Encompassing one of history's most remarkable centuries, the archive is the definitive source for moving images, pictures, and sound. Visit www.britishpathe.com.

- The archive contains 90,000 individual film items.
- The archive is used by a wide range of clients – the official websites for the Royal Wedding and the Diamond Jubilee feature footage from the archive selected by the Palace.
- Footage from the archive is particularly popular during anniversaries. British Pathé has a great deal of material relevant to the Diamond Jubilee, the Beatles, and the Second World War.
- Every film is available to view online for free.
- The website has recently added productions such as *A Day That Shook the World* and *20th Century Hall of Fame*, bringing the content of the archive into the twenty-first century.
- 50 per cent of UK schools have access to the archive through subscriptions. British Pathé has recently opened its education subscription service to academies and independent schools.
- In 2011, British Pathé released more than 60 hours of content on DVD. These included *British Royal Weddings of the Twentieth Century*, *Keep Calm and Carry On* and the popular *Year to Remember* boxsets.
- The BBC's revision of the classic British Pathé series *Time to Remember* has recently been launched on DVD by Studiocanal.
- The BBC recently produced the four-part *Story of British Pathé*, currently repeating on BBC4.
- British Pathé has co-produced two iPhone apps, including one with television historian Dan Snow.

You can also find the archive here:



Watch *The Story of British Pathé* on BBC4