

# The 19<sup>th</sup> British Silent Film Festival



## Around the World in 20 Films: Asia

Friday 15 September, 11.30am

Introduced by the programme's curator Bryony Dixon



This programme of rare early films, held in the vaults of the BFI National Archive, was conceived as a part of our five-year examination of issues surrounding centenary of World War One. We tried to imagine what the world of the 1900s was like *without* always seeing the cloud of WWI on the horizon. The short non-fiction form, known as the 'interest' film, which was very prevalent in the newly

developing cinemas, is a unique record of those years. Made by Western filmmakers – such as Britain's Charles Urban or the French Pathe Freres Company – they were of course intended mainly for western audiences so they reveal that curiosity and those biases about the remoter parts of the globe. However, they do also show us, over a hundred years on, the real places, peoples and activities of the 1900s – scenes now largely vanished.

Come with us on the Asian leg of our tour, *Around the World in 80 Films*. We will go white water rafting down the River Ozu, visit golden temples of Burma (Myanmar), pick tea in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and race buffaloes in Indonesian Islands amongst other really 'quite interesting' views of these fascinating lands.

### Programme

***Delhi, Great Capital of India*** (Pathé Frères, France 1909) 211ft

A muslim festival in Delhi with street scenes and view of Jami Masjid mosques

***Tea, Cultivation, Harvest and Processing*** (Pathé Frères, France 1909) 428ft  
Cultivation and processing of Tea in Ceylon

***The Dagon-Pagoda in Rangoon*** (Pathé Frères, France 1910) 415ft  
The temples of Rangoon in Burma including the concourse of the great Dagon Pagoda

***Modern China*** (Charles Urban Trading Company, GB 1910) 457ft  
Views of sights and people of Peking including the funeral procession of a mandarin

***Camels in the Gobi Desert*** (c1900s) 68ft  
Bactrian camels on the silk road in the Gobi desert

***Korea, Land of the Morning Calm*** (Pathé Frères, France 1908) 393ft  
Street scenes in a Korean village and Seoul

***In Japan, the rapids of the River Ozu*** (Pathé Frères, France 1910) 231ft  
Rapids on the Ozu river in Japan

***Picturesque Japan*** (Pathé Frères, France 1907) 474ft  
Scenes in Kyota taken from boat. Scenes in Tokyo including a funeral procession

***In the Land of Monkeys and Serpents*** (Pathé Frères, France 1910) 302ft  
Scenes of animal life in the Sunda Islands, near Indonesia.

***Trip through British North Borneo*** (Charles Urban Trading Company, GB 1907) 405ft  
1903 expedition to North Borneo

***Making Paper Umbrellas in Java*** (Pathé Frères, France 1911) 285ft  
Making paper umbrellas in Java

***Marriage of the Sultan of Pahang with the daughter of the Sultan of Perak, Malaysia*** (Pathé Frères, France 1911) 351ft  
Marriage of the Sultan of Pahang with the Sultan of Perak's Daughter, Malaysia

***Racing Buffaloes in Madura*** (Pathé Frères, France 1909) 330ft  
Buffalo racing on Madura Island NE of Java - these races are still held today

***Cultivation and Preparation of Pineapples, Singapore*** (Pathé Frères, France 1910) 270ft  
Cultivation and processing of pineapples in Singapore



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