

UPRISING! Spirit of '68

May-September 2018

1968 somehow managed to cram a decade's worth of news into one year, from the Prague spring to the Paris riots, from the Tet Offensive to the killings of Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy. The UK saw student protests flare up on campuses across the country and rising tension in the wake of Enoch Powell's 'Rivers of Blood' speech, while in June a machinist's strike at Dagenham's Ford plant heralded a burgeoning women's movement and paved the way for the Equal Pay Act.

These convulsions were writ large in the films of that year, whether it be the public school revolution of *If....*, the domestic dissection of Pasolini's *Theorem* or the zombie underclass in *Night of the Living Dead*. Uprising is a UK-wide programme of screenings and events exploring the cinema and the legacy of 1968, joining the dots between that period and our own turbulent times. The season will consist of three main strands:

- Substantial, multi-film seasons including planned activity at venues including BFI Southbank, HOME Manchester and in Glasgow, as well as a national programme of events produced by the Radical Film Network;
- A package of recommended titles, including recent restorations and new releases as well as associated guest talks (see over);
- A series of DIY Uprising screenings, targeted at emerging exhibitors with a supporting toolkit and suggested titles. This last element will take a broader approach to the '68 theme, incorporating more recent work which resonates with the underlying themes of counterculture and social activism.

From May onwards there will be a significant media conversation about the legacy of this period, and Uprising will aim to capitalise on this moment to shed light on a vital seam of international cinema. At the same time, it's also an opportunity to explore how this spirit manifested itself on a very local level - whether that be the burgeoning protest movement in Northern Ireland, the divisive debates over housing and immigration in Birmingham, or the wholesale rethink of Glasgow's urban renewal policy triggered by the lethal 1968 storm. Key aims of the season will include:

- To increase engagement with a diverse range of rarely-screened international film and archive material, including a number of new restorations;
- To create a rich context for this work - from guest talks and Q&As to site-specific and live music events - in a way that will spark conversation, raise profile and attract new audiences;
- To harness the '68 spirit as a means of encouraging budding exhibitors and community groups to put on their own film event.

How will it be promoted?

We will have our new website www.spiritof68.org.uk which will include listings of events from around the country. To have your own '68 themed screenings added, just send details to andy@filmhubmidlands.org

We will supply logo and artwork as well as assets such as posters, stickers and other promotional items which you will be able to request through the site. The logo and guidelines for use will be available shortly, but in the meantime please email uprising@filmhubmidlands.org if you have any questions regarding branding.

What kind of support is available?

There will be two main routes for support, both available on the website from May.

1. Expression of Interest - tell us your exciting idea on our simple form and we will work with ideas that meet the brief and share our target audience aims. This could be a series of screenings in unusual places, an event with live music and other related activities and beyond
2. Programme support- chose titles from our list (or pick your own!) and request funds to help cover screening costs, marketing and speaker fees

Before the launch of the site, please email uprising@filmhubmidlands.org with any queries or requests

What are the key dates?

April Launch of the website – this will include listings of '68 events from Southbank, HOME, across the Radical Film Network and more. All of FAN will be able to submit their events to be listed and benefit from shared marketing. There will also be a call to action and opportunities to get involved on the site, including a simple Google form to access modest funding as well as an Expression of interest form for larger events.

May Comms push on key events at Southbank/ HOME / RFN and highlighting opportunity to get involved. We will be engaging FAN and FH Midlands staff to target key members/ community groups and generate activity.

Jun/Jul/Aug/Sep – main delivery of events

Oct/Nov –evaluation

Programme outline

At the heart of the season will be a selection of features, both from the period and looking back on it (see draft selection below). These titles fall under a range of headings, and are purely suggestions - you may have other ideas arising from the theme. A number of galleries and universities around the country are staging 68-related activity and could well be interested in contextual screenings, and there's also ample potential for music tie-in events as well as more issues-oriented programming with talks and Q&As.

The other dimension of Uprising will be a smaller selection of more recent documentary titles which offer a contemporary slant on the same themes. Examples could include: *Dispossessed*; *Generation Revolution*; *Whose Streets?*; *Stonewall Uprising*; etc. Priority will be given to youth and community groups keen to try out hosting a film event, with support for equipment hire, speaker fees and film clearances. The spiritof68 website will also include a simple guide to mounting your own Uprising screening.

Suggested titles:

Activism and revolt

If... (Lindsay Anderson, UK '68) - public school revolution - DCP / Park Circus

The Fall (Peter Whitehead, UK '69) - new restoration out in the summer tbc - DCP / Network

Medium Cool (Haskell Wexler, USA '69) - filmed during the toxic Chicago Democratic convention - Blu Ray / Film Bank

The Big Flame (Ken Loach, UK '69) - TV play about 10,000 dockers occupying the Liverpool docks. Producer Tony Garnett is open to Q&As - DVD/Digibeta / BFI

Pop, cult and counter-culture

Yellow Submarine (George Dunning, UK '68) - 4K restoration released in July - DCP / Picturehouse

One Plus One aka *Sympathy for the Devil* (Jean-Luc Godard, UK '68) - Rolling Stones and Black Panthers - DCP / ABKCo - tbc

Night of the Living Dead (George A Romero, US '68) - new 4K restoration - DCP / Blu Ray tbc

Monterey Pop (DA Pennebaker, USA '68) - Jane Balfour Films - tbc

Black Power

No Vietnamese Ever Called Me Nigger (David Loeb Weiss, US 1968) - recent restoration by Anthology Film Archives - DCP / Cinema Guild - tbc

Up Tight (Jules Dassin, US '68) - Black militants plan a heist in the wake of Martin Luther King's assassination - Blu Ray / Filmbank - tbc

Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975 (Göran Olsson, Sweden 2011) archive collage - DCP / Thunderbird - tbc

International perspectives

Memories of Underdevelopment (Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, Cuba '68) - Recent 4K restoration by Cineteca di Bologna - DCP/Blu Ray / Mr Bongo

Funeral Parade of Roses (Toshio Matsumoto, Japan '69) - another restoration, and an off-kilter view of Tokyo's gay scene - DCP / Arbelos Films

Rocky Road to Dublin (Peter Lennon, Ireland '67) - scathing view of the Irish establishment, and the last film to screen at Cannes '68 before Truffaut and Godard shut it down - Movie file/DVD / Irish Film Institute/Thunderbird

Teorema (Pier Paolo Pasolini, Italy '68) - Terence Stamp dismantles a bourgeois family using tight trousers - DCP / BFI

Looking back on '68

Redoubtable (Michel Hazanavicius, France 2017) Wry, slapstick take on Godard's political awakening, from the point of view of his young wife Anna Wiazemsky - DCP / Thunderbird - released 11 May 2018

In the Intense Now (João Moreira Salles, Brazil 2017) Essay film reflecting on archive material from Beijing, Paris and Prague. Currently in talks with UK distributors. Lux Box DCP - available for a limited no. of screenings.

Milou en Mai (Louis Malle, France '71) - DCP / Curzon

Hair (Milos Forman, USA '78) - DCP / Park Circus

Made in Dagenham (Nigel Cole, UK 2010) - DCP / Paramount - TBC

Plus *Something in the Air*, a new shorts programme offering a feminist perspective on the period. Possible titles include Chantal Akerman's *Saute Ma Ville* and Agnes Varda's documentary *Black Panthers*.