

THE SPIRIT OF '45

A NEW FILM FROM KEN LOACH



MEMORIES AND REFLECTIONS OF THE LABOUR VICTORY 1945

SIXTEEN FILMS FLY FILM BFI FILM4 CHANNEL 4
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PRODUCERS REBECCA O'BRIEN KATE OGBORN LISA MARIE RUSSO
DIRECTOR KEN LOACH

Sixteen FILMS



Sixteen Films, Fly Film, BFI, Film4, Channel 4
presents

THE SPIRIT OF '45

Directed by **KEN LOACH**

Running time: 94 minutes

Format: DIGITAL

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Country of production: UK

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High definition pictures and press kit can be downloaded from
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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

The Second World War was a struggle, perhaps the most considerable collective struggle this country has ever experienced. While others made greater sacrifices, the people of Russia for example, the determination to build a better world was as strong here as anywhere. Never again, it was believed, would we allow poverty, unemployment and the rise of fascism to disfigure our lives.

We had won the war together, together we could win the peace. If we could plan to wage military campaigns, could we not plan to build houses, create a health service and a transport system, and to make goods that we needed for reconstruction?

The central idea was common ownership, where production and services were to benefit all. The few should not get rich to the detriment of everyone else. It was a noble idea, popular and acclaimed by the majority. It was the Spirit of 1945. Maybe it is time to remember it today.

Ken LOACH

FEATURING:

Dr Julian Tudor Hart and Dai Walters (South Wales)

Two impressive octogenarians - the pioneering GP Dr. Julian Tudor-Hart and Welsh miner Dai Walters (one of Dr. Hart's former patients) - recall the spirit of '45 and the changes it brought about in their own lives. They remember the poverty of the 30s, the war, their hopes for a new world at the war's end, and the reality of what followed. Dai remembers the changes in the mining industry, and the flaws in its nationalization, whilst Julian celebrates the NHS as an example of a nationalized industry that has really worked.

Ray Davies (South Wales)

82-year-old Ray Davis, former miner and steel-worker and lifelong political activist, talks with Keri Curtis, a community project worker from the Welsh Valleys. Ray recalls the death of his mother in the days before the NHS and his hopes and dreams for a better world after the war, where the dream went wrong as well as where it went right, and why he's still fighting for change.

Tony Mulhearn, Doreen McNally and John Farrell (Liverpool)

Tony Mulhearn of the 1984-87 militant Liverpool council talks with retired docker John Farrell and activist Doreen McNally. They discuss what the vision of 1945 meant and still means to them, and how their own lives improved as a result of the reforms. And they recall the ways they've tried to defend the vision and the changes: the programme of council house building Tony pursued whilst in office, for example, which provided homes and work at a time of supposed recession; or Doreen's fight against the re-casualisation of dock work and a return to the insecurity and indignity of the 1930s.

Eileen Thomson (Liverpool)

90-year-old Eileen Thomson recalls growing up in "poverty park" in the slums of Liverpool in the 1930s. She describes the suffering caused by the snaking dole queues of the 30s, and then the bombs that rained down on the city in the 40s, destroying her home and the hospital she worked in as a young nurse. She remembers the celebrations marking the end of the war and then the election of a Labour government, and the new world she hoped it would bring.

Sam Watts, Tony Nelson and Terry Teague (Liverpool)

Sam Watts shares the extremely moving story of his childhood in Liverpool's slums, growing up in a family destroyed by the First World War, battling the poverty and hunger that claimed two of his siblings. The Second World War killed another. Sam survived, returning from the navy to poverty and homelessness - but also a political awakening - in Atlee's New Britain. Dockers Tony Nelson and Terry Teague talk about the impact of that time on their own lives: the job security, decent housing, free healthcare and awareness of collective strength they owe to '45 - and the piece-by-piece destruction of that vision since the 1980s.

Karen Reissmann, Dena Murphy and Margaret Battin (Manchester)

Dena Murphy and Margaret Britton, now in their 80s, were young nurses at Park Hospital in Manchester when Nye Bevan visited on the 5th July 1948 to hand over the keys to the NHS. Karen Reissmann is a mental health nurse who has witnessed the erosion of Bevan's creation over the past 20 years (she was fired for speaking out about the impact of NHS "reforms.") The three nurses discuss the importance of a national health service as Bevan intended it.

Dot Gibson and Deborah Garvie (London)

General Secretary of the National Pensioners' Convention Dot Gibson and housing worker Deborah Garvie discuss the importance of council housing - and how the Atlee government's commitment to the construction of high-quality homes transformed their own families' lives. Deborah describes the contrastingly bleak housing situation today. Council housing is just one of the pieces of the post-war vision that Dot has witnessed the destruction of, and she explains why she is still committed to defending the changes she saw introduced in 1945.

James Meadway and John Rees (London)

James Meadway, senior economist at the New Economic Foundation and John Rees, political activist and writer, explore the new economic structure created for Britain in 1945, and the reasons behind its destruction from the 80s onwards. They debate the logic of and flaws in the post-war nationalisations of industries, the transport system, and the utilities; and the ideology and reality of their re-privatisation. Ultimately, they grapple with the idea of common ownership, the political failure to defend it - and argue for its continued relevance today.

June Hautot (London)

June Hautot remembers the hardships endured by poor families in the days before the NHS: as a young girl she nursed her dying mother at home without support other than hand-outs from charities. It explains why she is fighting hard to save the NHS today (recently grabbing headlines when she accosted Health Secretary Andrew Lansley at Downing Street.)

Tony Benn (London)

Tony Benn was part of the generation that went away to war and vowed to come home to a new world. He recalls the discussions about the post-war utopia onboard the troop ship he served on and, on his return home, his own part in campaigning for the Labour government that he believed would make that utopia a reality. He reflects on the importance of their historic victory and their remarkable project, and of his own later attempts to preserve it; defending the idea of common ownership that was the heart of the spirit of '45.

Raphie de Santos, Alan Thornett, Anthony Richardson (London)

Scottish economist Raphie de Santos used to work for merchant bank Goldman Sachs. He dissects the free-market capitalist economic system that he has seen from the inside, and puts forward the case for the alternative: a planned economy. Alan Thornett and Tony Richardson are both retired car factory workers, and they discuss the nationalization of their own industry, and along with Raphie, of the post-war nationalizations as a whole. They explore when and why things went wrong, and the relevance economic planning and common ownership have today.

Harry Keen, Jacky Davis and Jonathon Tomlinson (London)

Professor Harry Keen recalls the day the NHS came into being. He was working as a junior GP in North London, and he remembers how it transformed his profession and the lives of his patients. Jonathon Tomlinson is a young GP working in East London today, and he describes how 20 years of gradual dismantling of the system created in 1948 is beginning to affect his ability to treat his patients today. Together with Jacky Davis, chair of the hospital consultants' association and BMA council member, they make a moving case for the vital importance of a free, universal healthcare service, what it symbolizes in our society, and why the attack on it by successive governments has been a purely ideological one.

Ray Thorne and Alex Gordon (London)

Three generations of railwaymen discuss 70 years of change on the railways. 81-year-old Ray Thorne started work as a carriage cleaner for the Southern railway at Exeter Central during the war, and recalls how a haphazard, under-invested privatized railway system gave way to a more efficient one after nationalization in 1948. Alex Gordon, current president of the RMT (Rail, Maritime and Transport workers' union), talks about the form that nationalization took, and his own experience of British Rail - how the culture of safety and pride he knew was lost with privatization.

Bill Ronksley and Ray Jackson (Sheffield)

Former president of the train drivers' union ASLEF, Bill Ronksley started work in Sheffield railway yard in 1939 and worked as a train driver from 1941 to the 1990s, witnessing both nationalization and re-privatisation of the railways. Ray Jackson, now retired, was also a train driver, and he ended his career negotiating the new deals for workers after privatization.

David Hopper, Stan Pearce and Inky Thomson (Sheffield)

Stan Pearce was the youngest miner at his pit outside Durham on the 1st January 1947, the day the mines passed from private ownership to the National Coal Board, and Stan laid the plaque commemorating it. Inky Thomson was the National Union of Mineworkers official in South Yorkshire during the strike in the 80s. David Hopper is the current area official of the NUM in the North-east, where there are no longer any mines operating today.

Simon Midgley, Adrian Dilworth (Sheffield)

Simon Midgley has worked for Royal Mail for almost 20 years, and is currently the Bradford area representative of the Communication Workers' Union. Former Unison president Adrian Dilworth worked for Midlands Electricity Board for 20 years, and experienced the transition from public to private ownership.

CREW

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Kate Ogborn
Lisa Marie Russo

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Editor
Jonathan Morris

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Film Archivist
Jim Anderson

Original Music
George Fenton

Photography
Stephen Standen

Sound
Paul Parsons
Kevin Brazier
Ian Tapp

Colourist
Gareth Spensley

Contributors, in order of appearance

Eileen Thompson, Dr. Julian Tudor Hart, Dai Walters, Sam Watts, Ray Davies,
Dot Gibson, Tony Benn, Professor Harry Keen, John Rees, Raphie de Santos
James Meadway, Tony Richardson, Dena Murphy, Margaret Battin,
June Hautot, Bill Ronksley, Dr. Jacky Davis, Dr. Jonathon Tomlinson, Alex Gordon,
Ray Thorn, David Hopper, Inky Thomson, Stan Pearce, Ray Jackson, Deborah Garvie,
Alan Thornett, Terry Teague, John Farrell, Doreen McNally, Tony Mulhearn,
Adrian Dilworth, Simon Midgley, Karen Reissmann, Tony Nelson

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George Bestford and Dickie Beavie, Lily Fletcher, Nora and Ben Adams,
Professor Percy Johnson-Marshall, Lord Bruce

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Christopher Collins, Working Class Movement Library, Steve Balogh

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<i>Camera Loader</i>	Robbie Chapman
<i>Additional Location Sound</i>	Tim Watts
<i>Additional Locations</i>	Mark Volante, Geoff Skelding
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<i>Production Accountant</i>	Habib Rahman
<i>Online Editor</i>	Afzal Ali
<i>Technical Manager</i>	Phil Taylor
<i>Digital Post Production</i>	Des Murray, Gareth Parry Andrew Dearnley
<i>Titles Design</i>	Martin Butterworth
<i>Sound Mix Technician</i>	Adam Scrivener
<i>Music recorded by</i>	Steve Price
<i>Pro tools</i>	Jeremy Murphy

Musicians

Celli Chris Fish, Sophie Harris, *Clarinet* Barnaby Robson
Horns Roger Montgomery, Mark Vines
Trumpet / Cornet Mike Lovatt, *Piano* Simon Chamberlain

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Now the War is Over: Goodbye to All That, Home of Our Own
The Great Sell-Off, The Long Struggle
Pioneers: The Good Doctor

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Are You Havin' Any Fun?

Words by Jack Yellen, Music by Sammy Fain
Performed by Dolly Elsie (vocals), Jack Hylton & Orchestra
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They Can't Black Out the Moon

Written by Robert Dale, Sonny Miller, Arthur Strauss
Performed by Harry Roy & Orchestra
Published by EMI Music Publishing

It's Been a Long, Long Time

Written by Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne
Performed by Harry James
Published by Edwin H. Morris & Co. Inc. (ASCAP)
All rights administered by Chappell Morris Ltd

An Evening Pastorale

Composed by Quinton Ayrton & Wilfred Shaw
Performed by Pontarddulais Male Choir
Published by Chester Music Ltd trading as Dash Music Co.,
courtesy of Music Sales Film & TV and Delta Music Limited

Painting the Clouds with Sunshine

Words by Al Dubin, Music by Joe Burke
Performed by Jack Hylton & Orchestra
Published by EMI Music Publishing Ltd on behalf of Henrees Music Co.

Jerusalem

Written by Charles Hubert Parry, arrangement by George Fenton

Myfanwy

Arranged by Karl Jenkins, performed by David Childs,
© 2007 by Hawkes & Son (London) Ltd, published by Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd
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Without Rhythm

Composed by Al Hoffman, Maurice Sigler and Al Goodhart
Performed by Jack Buchanan
Published by Chester Music Ltd trading as Cinephonic Music,
courtesy of Music Sales Film & TV

Calling all Workers (Music While You Work)

Composed by Eric Coates, performed by Eric Coates and the London Symphony Orchestra,
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Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries

Written by Lew Brown and Ray Henderson
Performed by Jack Hylton
Published by Carlin Music Corp on behalf of Redwood Music Ltd;
Warner/Chappell Music Inc. and Ray Henderson Music

David of the White Rock

Arranged by Darrol Barry,
performed by David Childs & the Buy As You View Band
Published by Prima Arts, courtesy of World of Brass

Blue Skies Are Around Corner

Written by Ross Parker & Hugh Charles,
performed by Jack Hylton,
Published by Chester Music Ltd trading as Dash Music Co.,
Courtesy of Music Sales Film & TV

Camera Equipment Ice Film
Cutting Room Goldcrest Post Production
Digital Post Production Molinare TV & Film
Sound Re-recording Pinewood Studios

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Film4 Katherine Butler, Anna Miralis
Fiona Lamptey, Sue Bruce-Smith,
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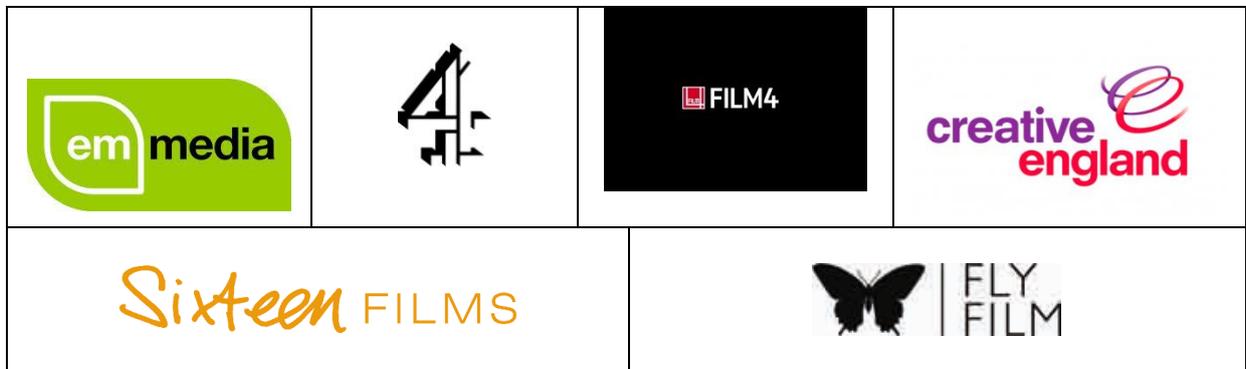
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