

Films from screenings and resource library can be viewed by arrangement at additional times.

Films available;

### **Waverley Steps**

John Eldridge, 1948

A half-hour dramatised documentary parading a diverse but interconnected cast of characters against a backdrop of Edinburgh in the 1940s. Based loosely on a film about Stockholm entitled Rhythm Of A City, Waverley Steps takes place over the course of a day, between the arrival of a railwayman at his girlfriend's Calton Road tenement and his reluctant departure the following night. All the city's life is here, from the young female medical student to the coalman who pins his hopes on the dog track. The court hears a bigamy case and, later on, a visit to the ballet is contrasted with a less sedate evening at Teviot Row Union. Star of the show is almost certainly the Danish sailor, whose excitement at finding himself in this strange new city is quite infectious.

### **A Broken Mosaic**

Calton Group, 1957

This was made years before the satire boom, and it's hard to tell how seriously we're supposed to take it. As a schoolboy gazes over the city, we hear his profound, poetic thoughts while viewing colour footage of Calton Hill, the old Royal High School and long-demolished parts of the Old Town. With the camera frequently lingering on symbolic images and an inappropriately frantic soundtrack of old-time piano-playing, A Broken Mosaic is a period piece as much for its style as its historic content.

### **Rose Street**

Margaret Tait, 1956

The filmmaker Margaret Tait was truly unclassifiable, making more than 30 films and writing poetry and short stories while dividing her time between Edinburgh and Orkney. This fifteen-minute film was shot more or less on the doorstep of her own Ancona Studios in Rose Street and records the comings and goings of daily life in one of Edinburgh's most famous thoroughfares. Lorries make deliveries to pubs while children play in the street and customers visit groceries, antique shops and milliners. Ending with a close-up of the door leading to her second floor studio, this is a charming slice of 1950s life.

### **Beneath The Skyline**

Mark Littlewood, 1966

This award-winning film features scenes of life in Edinburgh set to accompaniment which ranges from classics to kitsch lounge music. Littlewood was less interested in portraying the social life of Edinburgh than he was in its industries and architecture, so shots of people are in connection with their jobs, mainly shipbuilding and fishing, while rural life is represented by birds and wild flowers.

### **Waterfront Dreams**

( Director Neil Gray 2007)

A visually rich and intellectually elegant study of the transformation of the Edinburgh Waterfront. Interviews with developers, academics and members of the communities directly effected by this major regeneration project, discuss the plans and the process as well as some of the wider global issues relating to such schemes. A thoughtful and thought provoking film

### **A Walkabout Edinburgh**

(1970)

Richard Demarco leads the audience around some of the villages of Edinburgh highlighting the features and character which contribute to the uniqueness of Edinburgh and her people. Premonitions and concerns of possible future development and new building methods which have been realised are as relevant to today as this film demonstrates. The enthusiasm of Richard in his love of Edinburgh is highly infectious in this entertaining film.

### **In the Shadow of the Castle**

(Pilton Video)

This documentary about the West Port, Tollcross and Fountainbridge is related by local historians John Fee and George Brown who show the history and characters of these distinct areas from Medieval times to modern day. A detailed account of the history told through memories and stories, slides and video provides a thoughtful and educational experience as well as consideration of the rapid change in character of Fountainbridge area.

### **Hands off Our Homes**

(Pilton Video)

A short film highlighting the issues and opinions of some of the Edinburgh Against Stock Transfer campaign. This inspirational campaign which was successful demonstrates the thought and depth of understanding of Edinburgh's citizens about their city, the current housing crisis and the methods of consultation used.

### **Activism - Community Campaigning**

(Pilton Video)

Short inspirational film about activism highlighting North Edinburgh Community Campaigns. Featuring the techniques and methods employed by a variety of campaigns and advice on how to get heard and influence decisions. Includes the campaign to save the casualty department at the Western General, housing campaigns, and a campaign to stamp out racism.

### **Smoke and Mirrors**

(Neil Gray)

This film exposes the tricks and techniques used by both sides in the debate over stock

transfer. The Edinburgh Against Stock Transfer (EAST) campaign learned a lot from networking with residents in other areas of Scotland and this film illustrates an example of successful campaigning which resulted in a change in the proposed plan to sell off council housing in Edinburgh to a new 'super' housing association.

### **Fires In Tenement Buildings**

SSA (1945)

An instructional film about the particular difficulties and dangers posed by fires in Edinburgh tenements, which were never built with firefighting in mind and had huge access difficulties. As pointed out in the film, 150 people might have to rely on one winding staircase for escape. It's mainly aimed at firemen, and demonstrates methods of tackling tenement fires and searching for survivors in smoke-filled rooms, but is worth it for some fabulous monochrome street shots at the beginning.

### **A Letter From Edinburgh**

SSA (1950)

Don't expect a thorough, rounded portrait of the city here. This is a short film issued by the Edinburgh Accident Prevention Council, and the writer of the letter has a one-track mind: road safety. Over footage of Princes Street, Queen Street, Ferry Road and Morningside in 1950, the disgruntled chap vents his annoyance at how lightly the residents take traffic hazards, especially ladies who cross busy roads without a policeman present.

### **George Square Redevelopment**

SSA (1968)

A film crew visits George Square to see the complex of brand-new buildings that have sprung up around the University, like the black slate-clad David Hume Tower and the extension to Appleton Tower. There are some poignant moments when interviewees casually discuss the old houses to be torn down to make way for the development in the hope that it will somehow recreate "the ease and pleasant leisureliness of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century".

### **If Only We Had The Space**

Scottish Screen Archives (1974)

A full-colour film taking a fresh look at Glasgow's tenements in the age of the high-rise block. The pivotal Scottish director Charles Gormley sees how residents have, individually and in groups, applied for grants to bring these old homes up to the standards of the new housing. Includes lots of interior shots showing the improvements householders have made to their homes, which in most cases involves the installation of swish '70s kitchens.

### **Invasion Of The Home Snatchers**

Pilton Video (1997)

A film made by the Edinburgh Tenants Federation depicting the terrible state of public

sector housing and the attitudes that contributed to their deterioration once Mrs Thatcher came to power. With derelict houses substituting for playparks, and entire estates plagued by damp, mould and rot, the film crew records Council Chambers meetings on the crisis, the launch of a Shelter campaign for decent, affordable housing and ultimately a mass sell-off of council housing. A valuable piece of social history featuring contributions from leading Scottish politicians of the day.

### **Happy Weekend**

Norton Park School 1949

This lighthearted film made by pupils of Norton Park shows a variety of characters and activities over a typical weekend which form the subject of a school art project, The film features the making of a mural and moves from black and white to colour.

### **Smithfield Market**

(English Heritage 2007)

A short film made giving voice to the many objectors to the demolitions and development of Smithfield Market in London which was taken to Public Inquiry at the end of 2007. Contributions from a wide mix of resident visitors experts and professionals highlight the reasons to protect this valuable historic site for future generations. The save Smithfield campaign is fully supported by English Heritage.  
(available on line at English Heritage website)

### **Caltongate promotional DVD**

(produced and mail dropped by Mountgrange to 35,000 residents in Edinburgh)

This computer generated flythrough gives a three dimensional illustration of how Caltongate will appear when constructed and aims to strengthen support for the development. The voiceover claims the creation of a modern, functional mixed community in which an aspirational 'coffee culture' lifestyle is heavily promoted and little or no reference is given to the existing culture or needs which have been highlighted by the community.