

Movie Trail: Bradford City Centre



National Media Museum 1

The National Media Museum is a fabulous free museum devoted to film, photography, television, radio and the web. Without question one of the most important film resources in Bradford, the National Media Museum provides a focus for screenings and festivals including the annual Bradford International Film Festival, Bradford Animation Festival and BAF Game. Pick up a programme and don't miss the amazing IMAX Screen - as tall as five double-decker buses, it screens spectacular large-format films in 2D and 3D.

www.nationalmediamuseum.org.uk

The Dresser (1983) 3

Director: Peter Yates
Cast: Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay, Edward Fox, Eileen Atkins

Not long ago practically every provincial town and city boasted a repertory theatre providing a home for touring companies and the actors that made up their ranks. Bradford was no different with the Alhambra respected as one of the North's premier venues.

In *The Dresser*, set in wartime England, an eccentric actor leads his disenfranchised company and devoted dresser on a journey from one drab venue to another. The Alhambra was chosen as it retained so many of its original Georgian features and remains proud of its connection with the film. Visitors will find a modest tribute to the movie and its cast as they enter the auditorium.

www.bradford-theatres.co.uk/alhambra

Coronation Street (1960 - present) 6

The UK's longest running TV soap shot part of a sensational courtroom appearance in Bradford City Hall in early 2007.



Spooks: Code 9 (2008) 7

In the aftermath of a nuclear attack on Britain, a team of rookie MI5 'spooks' works to rebuild the country by gathering intelligence from local communities. The former Central Police Station provided locations for this series.

The Royal (2003 to the present)

ITV favourite *The Royal* is a medical drama set in St Aidan's Royal Free Hospital in the sea-side town of Elsinby. The show is filmed primarily in Scarborough however many hospital ward scenes are shot at St Luke's Hospital, Bradford in the now disused Maternity Wing.

LA Without a Map (1999) 5

Director: Mika Kaurismaki
Cast: David Tennant, Vinessa Shaw, Julie Delpy, Vincent Gallo

A Bradford-based undertaker (David Tennant) takes off on a journey of a lifetime - to the bright lights of California - when he falls for an American actress.

Bradford-born writer Richard Rayner's cult best-seller '*LA Without a Map*' focuses on 22-year old Richard, who has inherited his father's business in Bradford and is destined to marry the dull but well-meaning daughter of a wealthy local businessman but longs for



something more exciting. During a funeral his life is turned upside down when he meets Barbara, a beautiful young actress from Los Angeles.

The film's Bradford sequences were shot in Undercliffe cemetery, Forster Square (now demolished) and the unique sandstone sculpture of a grandfather clock, mirror and armchair in Little Germany.

The Damned United (2009)

Director: Tom Hooper
Cast: Michael Sheen, Jim Broadbent, Timothy Spall, Joseph Dempsey

This fictional take on Brian Clough's troubled 44-day tenure as manager of Leeds United FC in 1974 is based on the novel by David Peace.

The Red Riding Trilogy (2009)

Directors: Julian Jarrold, James Marsh, Anand Tucker
Cast: Sean Bean, Mark Addy, David Morrissey, Daniel Mays, Warren Clarke

A tv adaptation of David Peace's *Red Riding* Quartet these three films, set against a background of serial murders, deal with multi-layered corruption in the police and local government. Though real crimes feature, they are fictionalised and dramatised versions of events rather than factual accounts. In common with the *Damned United*, locations included the former Central Police Station in Bradford.

Room at the Top (1959) 4

Director: Jack Clayton
Cast: Simone Signoret, Laurence Harvey, Heather Sears, Donald Wolfitt



It is hard to believe the shock waves that jolted through the literary world when John Braine's novel of sex and lust hit the bookshelves in March

1957. The novel tells the story of Joe Lampton who arrives in the fictional town of Warnley determined to make something of himself.

He sets his sights on the daughter of a rich industrialist, but falls in love with an unhappily married older woman, Alice Aisgill. The film, which was nominated for six Oscars, was shot in City Hall, at the Boy and Barrel pub on Jamesgate, on Ivegate, Westgate and Kirkgate and at Cartwright Hall.

Billy Liar (1962) 2

Director: John Schlesinger
Cast: Tom Courtenay, Julie Christie, Wilfred Pickles, Rodney Bewes



Without doubt the leader of the pack when it comes to the 'kitchen sink' films of the late 1950s and early 1960s, Billy Liar is a Bradford film through and through.

In a North Country industrial town, a provincial undertaker's clerk Billy Fisher (Tom Courtenay) exists in a drab monotony but escapes, Walter Mitty like, into a world of fantasy and invention. The district became the backdrop for the film: the Victoria Hotel, War Memorial, Victoria Square, and of course Southgate, location for the fictional firm of undertakers 'Shadrack & Duxbury' where in 1997 a plaque was unveiled by Director John Schlesinger as part of the Cinema 100 celebrations.

Monty Python's The Meaning of Life (1983)

Director: Terry Jones
Cast: Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin

This film, which marked a nostalgic return by the Python team to the sketch format of their original television shows, was to be the last significant project that all six Pythons would collaborate on.

The film is by far their darkest work but also features some of the Python's most elaborate musical numbers, including the classic 'Every Sperm is Sacred', parts of which were filmed in Bradford's Lister Park.

www.bradfordmuseums.org/cartwrighthall

The King's Speech (2010)

Director: Tom Hooper
Cast: Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush, Helena Bonham Carter, Jennifer Ehle

The King's Speech is a forthcoming historical drama directed by Tom Hooper, who also directed *The Damned United* (see below).

The film stars Colin Firth as King George VI and Geoffrey Rush as the former Australian gold miner and unorthodox speech therapist Lionel Logue, who was employed to help the king overcome a stammer.

The opening scene, set at the close of the 1925 British Empire Exhibition at Wembley Stadium, was filmed on location at Odsal Stadium, home of the Bradford Bulls.

www.odsal.com

People

Steve Abbott (Born 1954)

Originally trained as an accountant, producer Steve Abbott was employed by ex-Beatle George Harrison at Handmade Films where he worked on Monty Python's *Life of Brian* and met the team for the first time. In 1979, he became the Python's Business Manager and in 1986 helped set up Prominent Features, the production company responsible for many projects by Python members. Steve is currently chair of the City of Film Board



Tony Richardson (1928 - 1991)

A double Oscar-winner in 1964 for directing and producing the smash hit *Tom Jones*, Tony Richardson was one of Britain's finest filmmakers and undoubtedly the biggest director to come out of Bradford to date. Born at 28 Bingley Road, Saltaire in 1928 Richardson enjoyed considerable success in the late 1950s and early 60s in the vanguard of the British 'new wave' with films such as *A Taste of Honey* and *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner*.

James Hill (1919 - 1994)

Beginning his film career making documentaries with the GPO film unit and during the WWII with the RAF Film Unit, he made a film for Granada about Fidel Castro's rise to power, *Cuba...si!* and, for BB, *Guiseppeina*, a film showing the comings and goings at a remote petrol station in Italy. The film won an Academy Award in 1963.

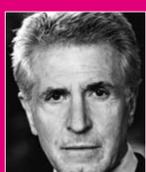
Simon Beaufoy (Born 1967)

Nominated for an Oscar in 1997 for his script for *The Full Monty*, Keighley-born Beaufoy brought some gritty realism to his tale of desperate steel workers shedding their clothes to raise hard cash. Of course Simon Beaufoy went on to win the Academy Award in 2009 for his screenplay for the multi-award winning *Slumdog Millionaire*.



George Layton (Born 1943)

An accomplished actor, screenwriter and author, George Layton became a familiar face on British TV screens in the 1970s as one of the young GPs in the series *Doctor in the House*. He slipped easily into the writing role and went on to become lead writer. As an actor he appeared in *The Liver Birds*, *It Ain't Half Hot Mum*, *The Sweeney* and *Minder* whilst his writing credits include *Don't Wait Up* and *Executive Stress*.



John Braine (1922 - 1986)

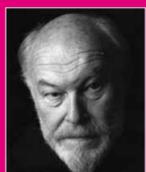
John Braine's earth-shattering debut novel *Room at the Top* sent shock waves through the literary establishment in 1957 and, when it hit the big screen two years later, ushered in a new permissive world of sexual liberation. Born in Bradford, Braine endured a number of dead-end jobs until becoming a librarian in Bingley. Following wartime service in the Royal Navy, Braine took up writing full-time in 1951.

Peter Firth (Born 1953)

Initially a child star in TV's *Here Come the Double Deckers!*, Firth burst onto the theatre scene in 1974 as psychologically damaged Alan Strang in *Equus*, opposite Anthony Hopkins. The film version gave him a best supporting actor Oscar nomination. He went on to a string of films including *Letter to Brezhnev*, *The Hunt for Red October* and *Pearl Harbor*. Since 2002 he has starred in the TV series *Spooks*.

Timothy West (Born 1934)

A most versatile and accomplished actor his film credits include *The Day of the Jackal* alongside Edward Fox, *Cry Freedom* with Kevin Kline and *Iris* with Judi Dench. He is also a prolific and popular television actor in roles such as hard-nosed 1930s Yorkshire Baron Bradley Hardacre in *Brass*.



A Private Function (1984) F

Director: Malcolm Mowbray
Cast: Michael Palin, Maggie Smith, Denholm Elliott, Liz Smith

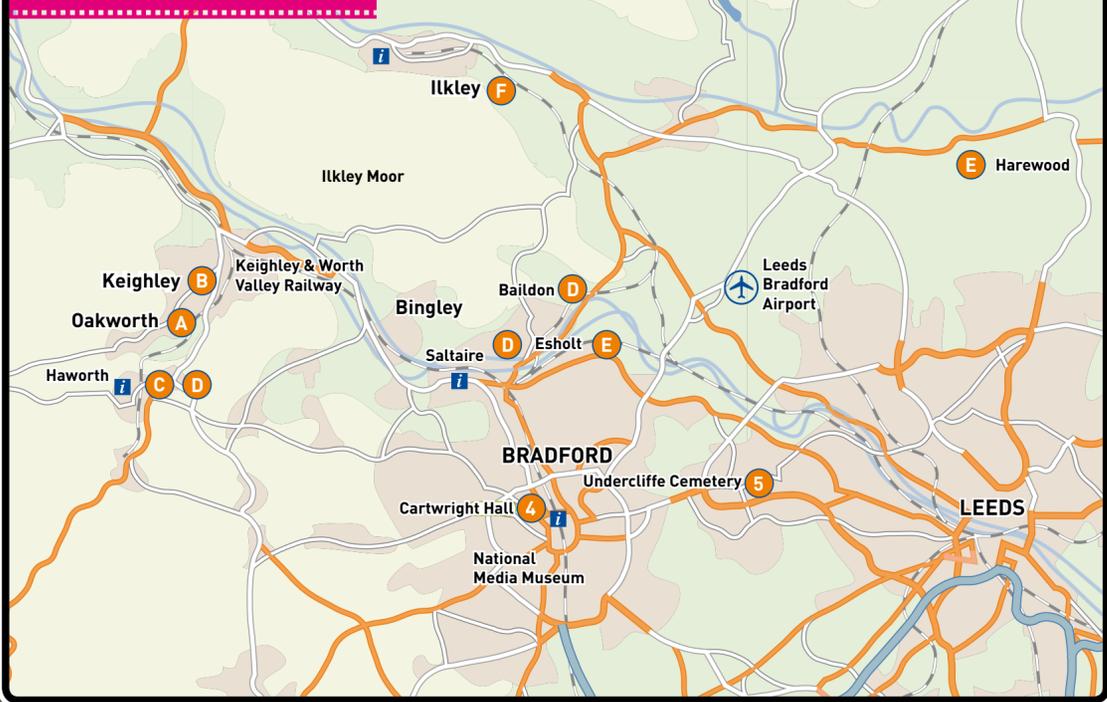
In a small northern town in 1947, Dr Swaby and his accomplices plan a private dinner to celebrate the Royal Wedding. The success of the feast depends on one secret ingredient: a black market pig named Betty.

Featuring a veritable gallery of British acting talent and written by Alan Bennett, the film stars Michael Palin as hen-pecked chiropodist Gilbert Chilvers and Maggie Smith as his ambitious wife.



The majority of the story was filmed on location in Ilkley, where an empty parade of shops was restored to life, whilst country sequences were shot in Wharfedale.

Movie Trail: Bradford District



Yanks (1979)

Director: John Schlesinger
Cast: Richard Gere, Lisa Eichhorn, Vanessa Redgrave, William Devane

John Schlesinger's film of Colin Welland's nostalgic script provides a capsule portrait of one ordinary town's reactions to the 'Yanks' who brought a freshness and a sense of fun and freedom – feelings many Britons had not allowed themselves to feel since the outbreak of war in 1939.

Many local people were involved in Yanks as extras and remember the experience with affection, particularly a sequence shot at Keighley Railway station in which, in the film, the entire town turns out to see the GIs off on their way south and then on to D-Day.

The Railway Children (1970)

Director: Lionel Jeffries
Cast: Dinah Sheridan, Bernard Cribbins, William Mervyn, Iain Cuthbertson, Jenny Agutter

Few children's films are as beloved as The Railway Children, the adventures of three children plucked from their London home to live in rural Yorkshire close to a railway line. Shot largely on locations at Oakworth Station, near Keighley, in the summer of 1969, the film is a timeless classic that evokes memories of a gentler world and kinder times. The Keighley & Worth Valley Railway provided the steam locomotives and the track, five miles of preserved



line nestled in the heart of Bronte country. In 1968, shortly before it re-opened, the line was used as the base for the BBC's television adaptation of E. Nesbit's 1906 novel. Two years later Jenny Agutter, then aged 17, recreated her television role of Bobbie for Lionel Jeffries' film.

Haworth & the Brontë Parsonage Museum

Numerous films have been made of the work of the Brontë sisters, many of which have used Haworth as a location. The Brontë Parsonage Museum has in its collection some graveyard headstones used in the 1939 film of Wuthering



Heights which starred Laurence Olivier and Merle Oberon, as well as an original film poster. The museum often organises screenings of Brontë films, old and new, sometimes even outdoors for extra atmosphere.

www.bronte.org.uk

Rita, Sue & Bob Too (1986)

Director: Alan Clarke
Cast: Michelle Holmes, Siobhan Finneran, George Costigan, Lesley Sharp, Kulvinder Ghir

The film tells the story of two girls from a rundown Council estate in Bradford who babysit for a relatively affluent couple living in a more desirable part of the city. They have a relationship with the married man, Bob, who develops a preference for Rita causing the two girls to fall out. Sue then falls for Aslam, a colleague from the taxi firm that she works for.



The film was adapted by Andrea Dunbar from her stage play of the same name and was filmed on the Buttershaw estate where the play was set as well as in Baildon, Haworth and Shipley.

Emmerdale (1972 to present)

Emmerdale, known as Emmerdale Farm until 1989, was filmed in the village of Esholt from 1976 until 1998 when a purpose-built set was built on the Harewood Estate.



Film Heritage



The Riley Brothers – 55/57 Godwin Street

At their height the Riley Brothers claimed to be the largest lantern outfitters in the world. Their workshop, which manufactured lantern slide equipment, occupied this site and in 1896 they submitted a patent application for a device that became known as the Kineoptoscope which was designed to be fitted to any optical lantern. They also, in cooperation with Bamforth & Co of Holmfirth began producing RAB films.

R.J. Appleton & Co – 58/60 Manningham Lane

This is the business address of R.J. Appleton, who is connected with a piece of apparatus called the

Cieroscope which combined the three functions of camera, printer and projector and was introduced on the market in February, 1897. In 1996 the address was honoured with a Cinema 100 commemorative plaque, designating it as a significant site in the history of British cinema.

Baxter & Wray – Borough Mills, 76 Manchester Rd

This is the site of the workshop of Cecil William Baxter & Cecil Wray, the latter of whom was the designer of the Riley's Kineoptoscope. They produced the black-and-white cinematograph which was specifically designed for the foreign market and was the first cinematographic apparatus imported by Japan and is thus regarded as the first steps towards the establishment of the Japanese film industry.

Captain Kettle Film Company – Towers Hall, Manchester Road

The company, set up in 1913 by Henry Hibbert of Hibbert's Pictures and novelist Cutcliffe Hyne, using as a studio Towers Hall, a former roller skating rink. The firm turned out some 30 assorted productions over the last half of 1914 including dramatic footage of local beauty spots as well as street scenes in West Bowling.

The People's Palace – Pictureville (1875)

On the site where the National Media Museum now stands, one of the first cinema shows outside London took place in a music hall known as the People's Palace. It later became the city's Library Theatre and was handed over to the museum in 1982 becoming today perhaps the most advanced movie house in the country.

Bradford Picture House – Morley Street (1914)

In 1916 the Independent Labour Party (ILP) wanted to hire the Picture House for a speech by Ramsay MacDonald, later to become Prime Minister. The owners refused to allow this, so the ILP bought the building and ran it until 1924 when it became the Morley Street Picture House. Silent films accompanied by an orchestra were shown here until 1933. In 1986 it was incorporated into the rebuilt Alhambra Theatre.

Empire Music Hall – Great Horton Road (1899)

For a long time this was a music hall, becoming a cinema in 1918 after fire destroyed the stage. It hosted three comedians who went on to fame in films: Charlie Chaplin, Stanley Jefferson (later to be better known as Stan Laurel) and W.C. Fields. The Empire was at the back of the Alexandra Hotel, now demolished.

The Odeon Cinema (1930)

Now due for re-development, the 'wonder cinema of the North' began life with 3,130 seats and a ballroom, and Margaret Lockwood and Gracie Fields appeared here. It was rebuilt in 1969 with its twin towers.

Bradford Playhouse & Film Theatre – Chapel Street (1837)

Originally the Temperance Hall, films were shown here in 1900 on an experimental basis. It became a permanent cinema nine years later and housed Hibbert Pictures, an early production company established by movie millionaire Henry Hibbert, plus a film library and a trade theatre. After a fire in 1935, the premises re-opened as the Bradford Civic Playhouse and gave two giants of the film world, directors James Hill and Tony Richardson, invaluable experience.

www.bradfordplayhouse.co.uk

St George's Hall, Hall Ings

In 1905 this became a major venue for touring films, showing Charlie Chaplin's The Idle Class among others. The last film screened there, in 1949, was Pin Up Girl starring Betty Grable.

www.bradford-theatres.co.uk/st-georges-hall/about

W E Berry Ltd

W E Berry Ltd, one of the most important producers of film posters, was set up in 1888 at 13 Currer Street, Bradford by William Berry, before his son William Edward took over in the early 1900s. During the 1920s William Edward met Fred Martin of Paramount and they started a business relationship that cemented W E Berry's position as one of the leading producers and distributors of film posters until the business folded in 2004. The National Media Museum has a substantial collection of posters donated by the firm in its archives.

think film | think bradford

www.bradford-city-of-film.com
 www.visitbradford.com
TAKE YOUR TIME AND BE AMAZED



Bradford
MOVIE TRAIL
 a UNESCO creative city
BRADFORD
 CITY OF FILM

Bradford

the world's first City of Film

Land in destination film, follow the Bradford Movie Trail and enjoy a day, weekend or longer celebrating and relishing film. Visit the National Media Museum, the only national museum dedicated to Film, TV and Media in the UK, visit our film locations and places of film history and relax by enjoying the many films on show.

Bradford City of Film is working to give Bradford a fantastic film-filled future. By 2020, Bradford will be the place to enjoy film, learn through and about film, make film and visit because of film.

www.bradford-city-of-film.com
www.visitbradford.com

