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New Eyes Online

Anna Farthing is the curator of the Larkin: New Eyes Each Year exhibition at the Brynmor Jones gallery at the University of Hull from 5th July to 1st October. As a creative director of projects that interpret life stories in interesting and innovative ways, Anna has a keen interest in how personalities are represented in the media.

Here she discusses how some rare vintage Super 8mm film will be used in the exhibition, and highlights two documentaries currently in production that complement her approach and that will form part of the wider exhibition programme. She also signposts some of the key films that inspired her process.

Larkin About on Film.

We know that Philip Larkin visited the cinema several times each week throughout his life. What is less well known is that he took part in making spoof films with colleagues at the Brynmor Jones Library. Three of these films have been edited to be shown in the exhibition. The films, and this little GIF, reveal something of Larkin’s dry sense of humour.

ADD A A GIF HERE

*In production:*

*Sky Passions: Andrew Motion on Philip Larkin. A Sky Original Programme produced by Icon Films.*

Sir Andrew Motion, former poet laureate, recently revisited Hull and his relationship with his close friend for this innovative documentary. Motion is Larkin’s literary executor and wrote the award winning biography Philip Larkin: A Writer’s Life in 1994. Combined with Sir Andrew’s personal and candid story are performances of some of his best-known work, as everyday people from the city of Hull give recitals in a variety of locations, from pubs to supermarkets to car parks. The film will air on Sky in early 2018, but a special premier screening has been arranged as part of the exhibition programme after which Anna Farthing and director Cris Warren will discuss their various creative interpretations of Larkin’s contested and contentious life story.

Save the date: Sunday 17th September

Booking details to follow

*In production:*

*Larkin Reflections For BBC 4*

Hull University’s Larkin Reflections series runs alongside the exhibition and includes a premier screening of a new documentary film about Larkin’s photography presented by poet and Hull academic John Wedgwood Clarke This film promises new insights into how Larkin chose to frame the world, the people around him, and himself. It includes the background story to many never before seen photographs held in the Hull History Centre, which are reproduced for the first time in the exhibition.

Online: available now

**Larkin and Betjeman - Down Cemetery Road**

**BBC** [**Monitor**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00dtyvd) **(1964)**

Philip Larkin was famously controlled and controlling of his public persona, however, he did agree to be interviewed by Sir John Betjeman in a documentary for the BBC Arts flagship programme Monitor in 1964. In the film he talks about his life, his poetry and the city of Hull where he lived and worked as university librarian. The film features interesting footage of the city in the 1960s, as well as visual interpretations of his poetry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Coe11pgoj8E>

[BFI Mediatheques](http://www.bfi.org.uk/archive-collections/introduction-bfi-collections/bfi-mediatheques).

**Philip Larkin and the Third Woman (2010)**

While researching for the exhibition, Anna found mystery items that may shed light on Larkin’s love life and will be exhibited for the first time. In this TV documentary, Sir Andrew Motion discovers an unseen and unpublished poem by Philip Larkin when he returns to Hull to meet one of the poet's closest friends. Speaking for the first time about her relationship with Larkin, Betty Mackereth reveals the man behind the famous poems from her perspective as his secretary and his lover.

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/films-tv-people/4de8ba40b24d8>

Larkin’s work has also inspired many short film-makers and animators to interpret his work. Here are two of Anna’s fabourites.

The Trees

http://www.bbc.co.uk/culture/story/20151201-a-beautiful-animation-of-philip-larkins-the-trees

Old Fools (2002)

<http://animateprojectsarchive.org/films/by_date/2002_2004/the_old_fools>

The Voice:

Hearing Larkin’s distinctive voice really helps readers to understand how he intended his writings to be read. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to hear a conversation he recorded with his mother that has never been made available to the public before.

To hear Larkin reading his own work, listen to recordings at The Poetry Archive

www.poetryarchive.org/

For general information about Philip Larkin’s life and work, visit the website of the Philip Larkin Society

philiplarkin.com/