

# Victorians on Film: Entertainment, Innovation and Everyday Life

Explore the everyday lives  
of Victorians, captured by the  
early pioneers of film



## INTRODUCTION

***Victorians on Film: Entertainment, Innovation and Everyday Life* brings together an essential library of rich film content from the British Film Institute (BFI) in one easily navigable platform.**

Capturing a unique view of the lives of Victorians at the dawn of cinema, from workers at the factory gates to royalty and other dignitaries, these films showcase the inventiveness and artistry of the medium's pioneers in its earliest stages.

From well-known films by leading names such as Mitchell and Kenyon, to lesser-known titles, the material represents the most extensive collection of films available from the era.

This must-have collection offers insight into the experimental work of early filmmakers in creating news, animation, drama, and special effects, as well as providing an invaluable exploration into how Victorians went about their day-to-day activities, from their work life to their leisure time.

**AM Adam Matthew**  
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## HIGHLIGHTS

- The British Film Institute's complete Victorian Film Collection, showcasing the dawn of British filmmaking
- The extraordinary collection of filmmaking pioneers Sagar Mitchell and James Kenyon
- Films charting the development of film technologies from the Victorian age through the Edwardian period
- Comic film shorts, showcasing a range of innovations, as filmmakers experimented with illusion and editing including the famous film where the subject 'swallows' the camera and cameraman
- Everyday life in the late Victorian and Edwardian eras, documented via the most extensive surviving collections of actuality films in the world
- The leisure and sporting lives of the age captured in films of football and rugby matches, performing gymnasts, military sports days, the Oxford and Cambridge boat race, athletics, and horse racing
- Films of Queen Victoria, on procession or at home in Balmoral, as well as other members of the royal family
- Films documenting key moments in Britain's imperial history, with footage of military leaders and military operations, as well as films recreating incidents in the Boer War.



## ABOUT THE ARCHIVE

The British Film Institute (BFI) is a cultural charity and the UK's lead organisation for film and the moving image. The BFI National Archive has one of the most important film and TV collections in the world and its teams of experts ensure that the collection is preserved and developed for future generations and made widely accessible to today's audiences.

## KEY THEMES

- Entertainment
- Everyday life
- Film techniques and technology
- Leisure and sports
- Industry and work
- Royalty and celebrity
- Science and engineering



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