



Presents

A film directed by **KEN LOACH**

THE SPIRIT OF '45



Out 15 March 2013

Director **Ken Loach's** latest film **The Spirit of '45** is an impassioned documentary about how the spirit of unity which buoyed Britain during the war years carried through to create a vision of a fairer, united society. Set for general release on **15 March**, there will be a special one off nationwide satellite screening event on **Sunday 17 March** followed by a Q&A panel discussion with **Ken Loach**.

"The achievements of the '45 Labour government have largely been written out of our history. From near economic collapse we took leading industries into public ownership and established the Welfare State. Generosity, mutual support and co-operation were the watch words of the age. It is time to remember the determination of those who were intent on building a better world."

- **Ken Loach**

The Spirit of '45 theatrical release will be supported by a special interactive project in collaboration with the filmmakers and commissioned by the **BFI**, **Film 4.0**, and **Creative England** who have all been exploring and spearheading innovative ways to support releases by creatively using digital technologies.

The Spirit of '45 vividly illustrates the optimism of a nation and how a new, fairer state was created from the rubble of war. Using film resourced from Britain's regional and national archives, alongside sound recordings and contemporary interviews from the people who lived through the years of change including Tony Benn, Loach creates a rich political and social narrative of the years directly following WWII that would pave the way for the creation of a new state where the character of the times was to be our brother's and our sister's keeper.

After defeating fascism, the people of Britain sought a more equal society where the elites didn't control all the resources and where the working classes had access to healthcare, housing, and social care. Under a newly elected Labour Government led by Clement Atlee and spearheaded by visionary Health Minister Aneurin "Nye" Bevan, a new Britain was created in a few short years.

The Spirit of '45 hopes to illuminate and celebrate a period of unprecedented community spirit in the UK, the impact of which endured for many years and which may yet be rediscovered today.

Web: www.thespiritof45.com

Twitter: @thespiritof45

Facebook: [facebook.com/thespiritof45](https://www.facebook.com/thespiritof45)

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Notes to editors

About Dogwoof

Dogwoof is the UK's leading independent documentary film distributor. Founded in 2004, initial releases had a strong focus on social issues: Black Gold was widely credited with shifting Starbucks' position on fairtrade; The Age of Stupid, led to the 10:10 campaign; The End of the Line, was largely responsible for Marks & Spencer and Pret a Manger changing their tuna policy. Recent Dogwoof films include the 2011 Oscar® Nominated documentaries Restrepo, which stands as iTunes highest selling documentary in the UK, and Countdown to Zero which premiered in a 50-site simultaneous satellite feed. UK documentary Dreams of a Life premiered at the London Film Festival followed by a series of director and cast screenings across London resulting in and an unprecedented 10 week run at the Odeon. Also in 2012 Dogwoof launched two new initiatives: Popup Cinema <http://popupcinema.net/> which seeks to empower local entrepreneurs to screen Dogwoof films locally and in non-traditional venues and Dogwoof Global <http://dogwoofsales.com/> a consultancy agent based service designed to help documentary filmmakers promote and sell all their film rights globally through their network of fellow distributors, international broadcasters, theatrical, DVD distributors, VoD and mobile platforms. For further information please visit www.dogwoof.com

About Sixteen

Sixteen Films is the film production company formed by director Ken Loach and producer Rebecca O'Brien. Writer Paul Laverty is associate director of the company.

About Fly Film

Fly Film is a UK-based production company formed in 2009 by Bafta and Emmy award winning producers Kate Ogborn and Lisa Marie Russo.

www.thespiritof45.com

About Film4

Film4, headed by Tessa Ross, is Channel 4 Television's feature film division. Film4 develops and co-finances films and is known for working with the most innovative talent in the UK, whether new or established.

Film4 has developed and co-financed many of the most successful UK films of recent years, films like Danny Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire* and *127 Hours*, Martin McDonagh's *In Bruges*, Steve McQueen's *Hunger* and *Shame*, Mike Leigh's *Another Year*, Chris Morris' *Four Lions*, Richard Ayoade's *Submarine*, Joe Cornish's directorial debut *Attack The Block*, Lone Scherfig's *One Day*, Ben Wheatley's *Kill List*, Paddy Considine's *Tyrannosaur* and Ben Palmer's *The Inbetweeners Movie*.

Recent releases include Andrea Arnold's *Wuthering Heights*, Terence Davies' *The Deep Blue Sea*, Carol Morley's *Dreams of a Life*, Phyllida Lloyd's *The Iron Lady*, Pawel Pawlikowski's *The Woman In The Fifth*, Bart Layton's *The Imposter*, Peter Strickland's *Berberian Sound Studio* and Walter Salles' *On the Road*.

Forthcoming releases include Sophie Fiennes' *The Pervert's Guide to Ideology*, Roger Michell's *Hyde Park on Hudson*, Ben Wheatley's *Sightseers*, Martin McDonagh's *Seven Psychopaths*, Jonathan Glazer's *Under the Skin*, Shane Meadows' *The Stone Roses*, Kevin Macdonald's *How I Live Now*, James Griffiths' *Cuban Fury*, Richard Ayoade's *The Double*, Danny Boyle's *Trance* and Michael Winterbottom's *The Look of Love*.

In 2011 Film4 launched Film4.0, a talent and ideas driven hub within Film4 that explores innovation in filmmaking and works with emerging and established talent, supporting them to tell unique stories and connect with audiences in new ways.

For further information visit www.film4.com/productions

About the BFI

The BFI is the lead organisation for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI is now a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter.

The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Greg Dyke.