

JILL CRAIGIE

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Recorded by Rodney Giesler for the BECTU Sound Archive on 27.4.95

Born: 7.3.14.

66. Pilgrims Lane,
London NW3.

Started as a scriptwriter with the British Council at beginning of the war. Great interest in art at the time. Also architecture. Idealism of new cities to be built. Slums cleared etc. First film "Out of Chaos" on-war artists, sponsored by Rank and promoted by FILIPO DEL GUIDICE. Project undermined by JOHN DAVIES, Rank's accountant, who also tried to stop filming of "The Way We Live" on the reconstruction of Plymouth. She recalls her first film on HENRY MOORE, which cost £7000. Negative destroyed on Davies' orders, but a new one was made from a print. Fond recollections of Moore: his understanding of film techniques. Memories of him sketching people in the tube shelters. Work as an air raid warden. Also worked with GRAHAM SUTHERLAND, STANLEY SPENCER, and PAUL NASH. Producer was WILLIAM MACQUITTY who had studied under Stekel, and could understand Nash's personality. JACK BEDDINGTON had been the sponsoring force at the Ministry of Information. Also responsible for encouraging British composers, through MUIR MATHIESON. After "The Way We Live" she went on to make "Blue Scar", and then spent two years at Pinewood writing "The Million Pound Note" and "Trouble in Store". Recalls the 1945 General Election when she met and campaigned for MICHAEL FOOT. Married him in 1949. Drifted out of films after writing "Wyndham's Way". Worked on "Genevieve" with HENRY CORNELIUS. Describes how budget was raised for it. But left films after that because she was unwilling to sacrifice personal relationships. (44'05")

End of Side 1

THE WAY WE LIVE

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Directed by JILL CRAIGIE

the film that created a new genre

The best of the new films... vivid and exciting entertainment... humour, beauty and imaginative understanding. A delicious sense of satire.

FRED MAJDALANY, Daily Mail.

... Lively, intelligent, well balanced... witty... Miss Jill Craigie, who wrote and directed the film, has, I think, done a really magnificent job... most absorbing. I honestly congratulate Two Cities.

ELSPETH GRANT, Daily Graphic.

Jill Craigie has made a brilliant film out of blitzed Plymouth's plan for rebuilding the city. It has beauty, humour, satire, excitement.

MOORE RAYMOND, Sunday Dispatch.

Honest, decent, exciting and distinguished. It should be shown in every cinema programme.

HUBERT GRIFFITH, Sunday Graphic.

Miss Craigie's picture is not only intelligent but full of heart; in its quiet way it is the sort of work that will captivate all types of audience. "THE WAY WE LIVE" is before all else a friendly film... witty, observant, sober and modest... Britain has gained a director of great promise.

C. A. LEJEUNE, The Observer.

... this stimulating 64-minute film has far more of the attributes of entertainment such as speed, tension, humour and humanity, than a dozen recent "A" films... I think, properly exploited, that it would succeed with almost any audience. You will be stirred and moved by this film.

RICHARD WINNINGTON, News Chronicle.

... Jolly good-tempered... wit, satire and sweet good reason... Do look out for it.

PAUL HOLT, Daily Express.

It is a stimulating and intelligently made picture.

A. E. WILSON, The Star.

Most moving and exciting... both informative and entertaining... by far the best film of the week.

PATRICK KIRWAN, Evening Standard.

... intensely human and wholly fascinating... depicts family life which is rounded and real, humorous and moving.

STEPHEN WATTS, Sunday Express.

Jill Craigie makes the most important item of film news this week... thoroughly entertaining... extracting the maximum of human interest, leavening all with a continual spice of humour and showing an understanding of ordinary people

JOAN LESTER, Reynolds News.

... one of the best and most entertaining factual films ever made in this country.

CAMPBELL DIXON, Daily Telegraph.

... lively... beautifully performed.

DILYS POWELL, Sunday Times.

Mr. J. Arthur Rank financed the making of this film, and the money has been well spent.

DICK RICHARDS, Sunday Pictorial.

A TWO CITIES FILM



RELEASE DATE SEPT. 9

GENERAL FILM DISTRIBUTORS LTD., 127-133 Wardour Street, London.

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