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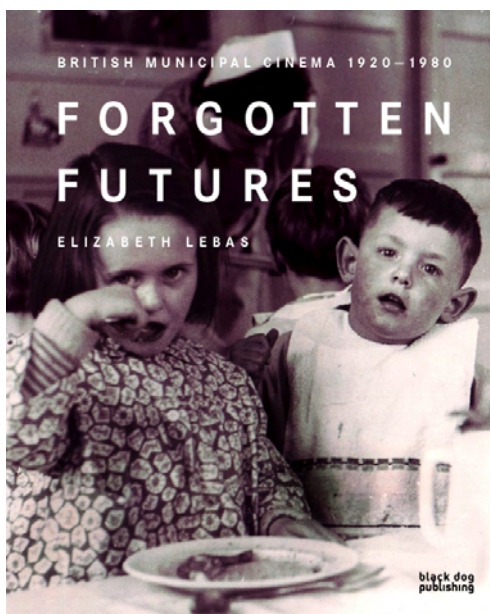
FORGOTTEN FUTURES

British Municipal Cinema
1920-1980

Author: Elizabeth Lebas

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Forgotten Futures: British Municipal Cinema 1920-1980 is a ground-breaking title; the first survey of British municipal cinema, this new book by Elizabeth Lebas covers films from the Department of Public Health, documentary and local authority films. *Forgotten Futures* is a fascinating account of a distinct era in filmmaking history, and the impact these community films had on city environments and reforms in society.

From the 1920s until a decade after the Second World War, British municipalities not only controlled commercial screenings and cinemas, but also almost all projected and non-commercial films. *Forgotten Futures* examines municipal cinema as a filmic representation of urban and social reform in twentieth century Britain by looking at the relationship to documentary and educational cinema, the influence of nineteenth century documentary photography and traditional forms of popular culture. It is the first book to handle the subject of municipal cinema in Britain and examines new perspectives on documentary photography, film and art.

Forgotten Futures explains why municipal films were more than simple propaganda, and what their influence was in the making of the social democratic model of modern British life. There is a closer look into the activities of the Glasgow Corporation and the Bermondsey Borough Council: films produced by local authorities in Bristol, Liverpool, Hackney and Southgate also feature.

Forgotten Futures finishes with a look at the imagery of social reform that began in the late nineteenth century. Beautifully presented with stunning visual material, including film stills and many unseen images of life in Britain throughout the twentieth century, *Forgotten Futures* is a glorious presentation of this important subject, arguing the necessity of understanding these films within their historical context, as documents of their time, and a fundamental part of our social, political and cultural heritage. *Forgotten Futures* is a remarkable account that will fascinate anyone with an interest in cinema, history and the social evolution of Britain.



Elizabeth Lebas was brought up in Quebec City and has a background in politics and urbanism. She is Reader in the History of Art and Architecture at Middlesex University. She is co-editor of *Henri Lefebvre: Key Writings and of Writings on Cities*