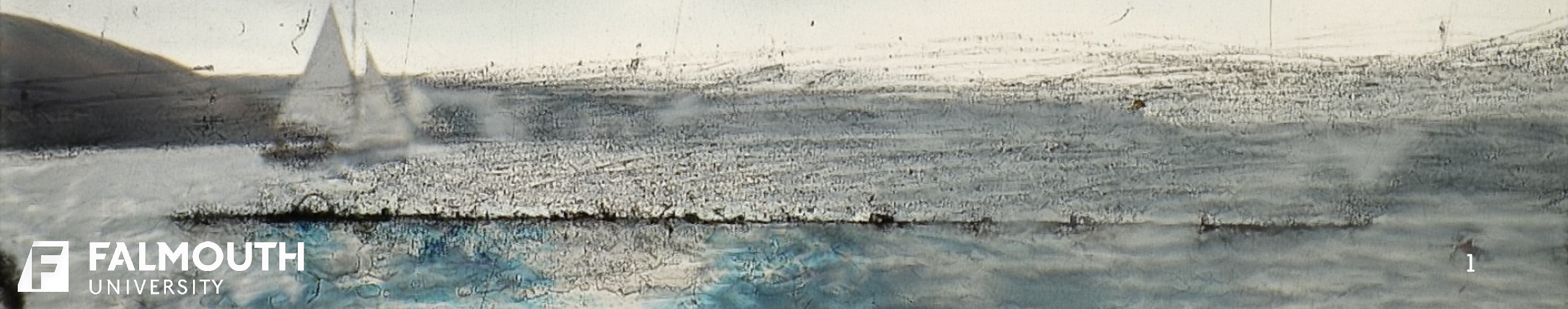


From the Culch

A documentary short edited from the bin cuts of a lost BBC documentary that was shot in Cornwall in 1978. The film has screened alongside Q&As and panel discussions at film festivals, community events and academic conferences throughout 2023.

Paul Mulraney

Research Theme - Practice: Research and Impact



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Project details

From the Culch (2023)

Dir: Paul Mulraney | 17mins |

Documentary | UK

- Shot in 1978, edited in 2023, premieres at Cornwall Film Festival, November 2023.
- Partners: Seamonster Media, School of Film & Television
- Staff Collaborators: Dr Kingsley Marshall (composer), Andrew Edney (sound),
- R&I Programme Alignment: Practice: Research and Impact



300-word supporting statement

From the Culch is assembled from the bin cuts of a lost 1978 BBC documentary about the Fal River oyster fishery. After the documentary was broadcast a can of randomly assembled 16mm film was given to Dennis Laity, crewman on the working boat *George Glasson*, as a memory of his brother who passed away just after shooting wrapped.

The can of film lay in Dennis's airing cupboard for 45 years, unseen, before being passed to the director. A 4K digital scan revealed the beauty captured in the celluloid and Dennis, now 82 years old, gave voice to his memories of the men who dredged the Carrick Roads and the boats they sailed on.

Working within a community of Falmouth University technicians and scholars, bringing in the technical expertise of Alive Studios in Plymouth for the restoration, the film is created as a collaboration with the Laity family in the village of Flushing, as an act of remembering for the community, as an act of remembrance for his brother, and as a eulogy for a threatened way of life.

Following a technique deployed by filmmaker Adam Curtis, *From the Culch* asks whether authenticity, honesty and emotional truth can be found in the unwanted, unplanned and unguarded moments left behind by history.

Harvested from Bin Cuts, a forthcoming paper to be delivered at the FIAT/IFTA *Rethinking Broadcast Archives* symposium, proposes that these once discarded moments of aesthetically and narratively undesirable footage are in fact a more fitting container for emotion and memory than the carefully staged and framed footage more common to broadcast documentary.

This research charts a production process that was cathartic and deeply moving, it considers how film can be impacted by a desire to remain true to the memory of people, language and place, looking to achieve this by working in a vernacular tradition to find production value within the raw material of life.



From the Culch (Paul Mulraney, 2023)

Research Output

From the Culch can be viewed at:

<https://vimeo.com/792259305>



The original can of 16mm film, *From the Culch*, courtesy Seamonster Media.



From the Culch (Paul Mulraney, 2023)

Dissemination

- Test screening and Q&A: *Flushing Sailing Club* (March 2023)
- Screening: *Falmouth Oyster Festival* (October 2023) – Rolling screening throughout the weekend
- Screening: *Cornwall Film Festival* (November 2023) – Public premiere in a Sunday evening themed screening
- Screening and Q&A: *Porthtowan Ocean Film Festival*, St. Agnes Marine Conservation Society (November 2023)
- Screening & Academic Paper: *FIAT/IFTA Rethinking Broadcast Archives: Dig, Deconstruct, Display*, BFI Southbank (December 2023)

| General Dissemination | Community Dissemination | International Dissemination |



Contextual Evidence



24 CHURCH ST, FALMOUTH : 01326 319461
THE ROYAL CORNWALL POLYTECHNIC SOCIETY

WHAT'S ON? THE GUILD SHOP ARCHIVES GET INVOLVED ABOUT US CONTACT

FILMS // COMING UP // CFF: TIDES OF CONNECTION: A CORNWALL WATERWAYS ODYSSEY

19

NOVEMBER
SUNDAY
7.30PM

CFF: TIDES OF CONNECTION: A CORNWALL WATERWAYS ODYSSEY

Dive into the captivating world of Tides of Connection: A Cornwall Waterways Odyssey, an immersive event that beautifully explores our deep...



Promo for the film's screening in the 'Tides of Connection' event in the 2023 Cornwall Film Festival

Time	Session 3	Duration
7.00pm	<p>From the River</p> <p>Production company: Seamonster Media Director: Paul Mulraney</p> <p>For millennia Sailor's Creek has been a haven for wildlife, boats and people. After a tragic accident the creek has passed into new guardianship. From the River tells the story of this unique and fascinating place, exploring what happens when the romantic ideal of living outside of societal norms meets the harsh realities of modern life - and the harsher realities of nature.</p>	28
	<p>Tonic of the Sea</p> <p>Director: Jonathan J Scott</p> <p>A mini-documentary showing the link between mental health and sea swimming. Katie swims off the rocks of Penzance, UK nearly every day of the year. Swimming has helped her overcome some of the struggles that life all too often throws our way. The hope is that her story may help others who are faced with similar challenges.</p>	8
	<p>Marine Meadows of Cornwall</p> <p>Director: Lewis Jefferies</p> <p>A short environmental documentary about Seagrass meadows in Cornwall, created from a collaboration between Project Seagrass & LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES, about one of the most important ecosystems on this planet - seagrass.</p>	6
	<p>Call me Peg Leg</p> <p>Production company: Mattr:Media Director: Josh Hine</p> <p>Winner of Shortie of the Year London Surf Festival 2016 Official selection 2016: Waimea Ocean Film Festival, exploring how people are using their bespoke prosthetic limbs to express themselves creatively.</p>	4
8.10pm	Q&A with film makers	30
8.40pm	Break - Additional films showing throughout	20



Promo in the Porthtowan Ocean Film Festival programme



Director's Q&A at the Porthtowan Ocean Film Festival

“Very much enjoyed the peacefulness of the imagery and commentary. Started a reflection on the sense of honesty within both, in comparison with the manipulation now inherent in the "documentary" form. Watching, there's no doubt about the truthfulness within, so one relaxes into trusting these fragments.”

Kirk Tougas (Cinematographer, *The Corporation*, *Manufacturing Consent* / Dir. *The Politics of Perception*)