



Urban Lab Films present

## Cities After Hours

Wednesday, May 13, 6.30pm

AV Hill Lecture Theatre, UCL

Urban Lab's Nocturnal City programme explores how the introduction of gaslight and electric lighting into cities led to the expansion of urban night-time activity, creating new social customs, forms of leisure, opportunities for work, and power inequalities.

Cities After Hours is the fourth event in the series, following talks on the Architecture and Cinema of David Lynch, Nightwalking, and a screening and discussion on Nights in the Electric City. This evening follows a one-day colloquium bringing together UCL researchers considering the city 'after hours' from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

This evening focuses on the inequalities of the city at night. One of the UK's most celebrated experimental filmmakers William Raban, joins us to introduce and discuss his film *The Houseless Shadow* (2011), a contemporary portrait of London at night inspired by Charles Dickens's essay *Night Walks*. Matthew Beaumont, co-director of the Urban Lab and author of *Nightwalking*, chairs the evening. Roland-François Lack, Senior Lecturer in French at UCL and author of the *thecinnetourist.net* joins us to respond to the films and introduce *Nice Time*.

**6.30pm** Doors open

**6.40pm** Programme introduction by Matthew Beaumont (Urban Lab Co-Director and author of *Nightwalking*)

**6.45pm** *Under Night Streets*

**7.05pm** William Raban and Matthew Beaumont discuss London at night and introduce Raban's film *The Houseless Shadow*

**7.15pm** *The Houseless Shadow*

**7.35pm** Film response and Q&A with William Raban, Matthew Beaumont and Roland-François Lack

**8.10pm** *Nice Time*

**Sign up for future URBAN LAB FILM events at [bit.ly/UrbanCircular](http://bit.ly/UrbanCircular)**

# Films

## ***Under Night Streets* (dir. Ralph Keene, British Transport Films, UK, 1958)**

One of dozens of films made by the British Transport Commission's in-house production unit, this short documentary records the work done by maintenance workers and 'fluffers' (track cleaners) on the London Underground every night during the few hours when the trains are not running.

## ***The Houseless Shadow* (dir. William Raban, UK, 2011)**

William Raban's film uses the text of the Charles Dickens essay 'Night Walks' to explore continuities between London's nocturnal life as it is today, compared with how it was observed 150 years ago. What would Dickens's keen eye for social inequality have made of the growing numbers of houseless on the streets of this otherwise glittering cosmopolitan city?



## ***Nice Time* (dir. Claude Goretta and Alain Tanner, BFI Experimental Film Fund, UK, 1957)**

This short film, which came out of the Free Cinema documentary movement, was shot over 25 Saturday nights in and around Piccadilly Circus for a micro-budget of £240. Its montage of modern nightlife sets out to capture the hopes and disappointments of mid-1950s London crowds in search of amusement and adventure.

## With thanks to...

Chris O'Rourke, Jordan Rowe, Ruth Austin, Matthew Beaumont, Roland-François Lack, William Raban, Emanuel Zahariades, JFIGS, UCL Urban Laboratory, UCL Faculty of the Built Environment, UCL Faculty of Arts and Humanities, UCL Engineering, UCL Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences, British Film Institute, © TfL from the London Transport Museum.