



"My greatest ever film"

**Orson Welles**

"Greatness... Here is a film to treasure"

**Roger Ebert**

"A dark masterpiece, shot through with slapstick and sorrow. Magic"

**Time Out**

"Welles majestic portrayal of Falstaff as 'the old England, dying and betrayed'"

**Total Film**



**MR BONGO**

# FALSTAFF

## CHIMES AT MIDNIGHT

50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY RESTORED EDITION

<http://falstaffchimesatmidnight.com>



On the brink of Civil War, King Henry IV (John Gielgud) attempts to consolidate his reign while fretting with unease over his son's seeming neglect of his royal duties. Hal (Keith Baxter), the young Prince, openly consorts with Sir John Falstaff (Orson Welles) and his company of "Diana's foresters, Gentlemen of the shade, Minions of the moon". Hal's friendship with the fat knight substitutes for his estrangement from his father. Both Falstaff and the King are old and tired; both rely on Hal for comfort in their final years, while the young Prince, the future Henry V, nurtures his own ambitions.

Orson Welles considered *Chimes at Midnight* his personal favorite of all his films. Perhaps the most radical and groundbreaking of all Shakespeare adaptations, the film condenses the Bard's *Henriad* cycle into a single focused narrative. Its international cast comprises of Jeanne Moreau, Fernando Rey, Margaret Rutherford, and Ralph Richardson as the narrator, in addition to Welles and Gielgud. The film's harrowing war scenes have proven especially influential, cited in Kenneth Branagh's *Henry V* as well as Mel Gibson's *Braveheart*.

## FALSTAFF CHIMES AT MIDNIGHT

<http://falstaffchimesatmidnight.com>





For the 50th anniversary edition of 'Chimes At Midnight', Mr Bongo presents the Filmoteca, Luciano Berriatúa restoration. This restoration has been undertaken with upmost respect for Welle's original vision for the movie. The work of the historian is not based on providing a quality of picture and sound according to the standard of current technologies (attempting to better what Welles filmed in the sixties), but to recover the film so that the viewer can watch the movie the same way they could watch it at the time. Berriatua said of his restoration; "For me the most important aspect of this restoration is to make a copy as accurate as possible to the original, with original photography. The most important thing is to play the grading, shadows and contrast selected by Welles. It is not a digital restoration in which the image is absolutely clean and no grains or problems. There is a stereo 5.1, is a mono sound, as of the time, "

#### CAST

Orson Welles  
Keith Baxter  
John Gielgud  
Margaret Rutherford  
Jeanne Moreau  
Norman Rodway  
Marina Vlady  
Fernando Rey

#### Cinematography:

Edmund Richard  
**Editor:** Fritz Mueller  
**Music:** Alberto Lavagnino  
**Costumes:** Cornejo Madrid

#### AWARDS

Cannes Film Festival  
20th Anniversary Prize &  
Technical Grand Prize

#### CREDITS

**Director:** Orson Welles  
**Producers:** Orson Welles, Emiliano Piedra,  
Angel Escolano  
**From plays by:**  
William Shakespeare  
**Assistant Director:**  
Tony Fuentes

## FALSTAFF CHIMES AT MIDNIGHT

<http://falstaffchimesatmidnight.com>



MR BONGO

**Release date:**

Theatrical: from 1st May 2015 (as part of the 100 years of Orson Welles celebrations)

DVD and Blu Ray: 29 June 2015.

Certificate: PG

Running Time: 115 mins approx.

**For further information contact:****Press:**

Debbie Murray at Aim Publicity

- 020 8292 2818 / [debbie@aimpublicity.com](mailto:debbie@aimpublicity.com)

**All Other Enquiries:**

David Buttle at Mr Bongo

- 01273 600 546 / [david@mrbongo.com](mailto:david@mrbongo.com)

**Theatrical bookings:**

Martin Myers

- [martin@miracle63.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:martin@miracle63.freeserve.co.uk)

**Mr Bongo:**

Since starting life as a record shop in 1989, Mr Bongo has been known primarily for championing music from around the world. In 2004 we began releasing World Cinema titles, a venture that has grown to compliment the music. In keeping with our record label philosophy, we aim to unearth iconic, stylish, hard-to-find gems and cult classics from around the world and make them readily available. Our catalogue now includes films by esteemed directors including Scorsese, Welles, Coppola, Fellini, Antonioni, Has, Bertolucci, Rocha, and Dovzhenko amongst others.

<http://www.mrbongo.com/>

**FALSTAFF CHIMES AT MIDNIGHT**

<http://falstaffchimesatmidnight.com>



**MR BONGO**