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Getting Rights Plugged In

‘In or out of copyright, what are our obligations and who holds the rights?’ This presentation will share insights from the recent intensive work of the BFI rights and contracts team to clear rights for digitisation and making available thousands of films under the BFI’s *Unlocking Film Heritage* programme. What are the challenges and implications on finite resources in order to achieve such high volumes of copyright clearances within given deadlines? It will also discuss particular issues encountered - systematic and procedural, internal and external – for clearing the multiple layers of rights incorporated in moving image works including the ‘music-in-film’ component rights - and the agreed rationale for criteria to reach agreements and ultimately deliver the programme.

Attendees will gain an insight into the challenges of a national archive and its rights team to deliver increased access to heritage moving image collections to a varied and global user community. It will seek to stimulate discussion about the challenges, lessons learnt and trade-offs involved in negotiating rights clearances under UK Copyright Law.