

BILLY LIAR ON LOCATION - LEEDS, BRADFORD

Film ID: 1120 **Year:** 1962

Filmed in 1962, this film captures a behind the scenes look at part of the making of the John Schlesinger film, Billy Liar (1963). This film gives an interesting look at the production of Billy Liar as portions of the Leeds and Bradford location shoots have been documented on this film.

Billy Liar is the story of an undertaker's clerk, Billy Fisher, who longs to escape his monotonous existence for the bright lights of London to become a scriptwriter. But his life is one long round of tightly knotted, but steadily fraying lies. Ever the dreamer, Billy weaves an ever-growing web of deceit as his outrageous fantasies spiral out of control. The film was shot on location in Yorkshire between October and December, 1962.

October, 1962: The film opens with soldiers marching in a parade led by a brass band. The parade passes in front of Leeds City Hall. A few tanks bring up the end of the parade, and actors dressed as dignitaries are standing on the steps of City Hall watching the procession pass by. Various crew and film equipment can be seen, and director John Schlesinger uses a blow horn to give instructions to the surrounding extras. He also instructs the actors on the steps of the City Hall. Further crewmembers set up a camera on a tripod outside the city hall to capture the scene from a different angle.

The next scene takes place in Bradford during the filming of one of Billy's grand fantasy scenes. Billy, played by Tom Courtenay, is directly in front leading the large military parade. Some of the marchers carry a large banner. Surrounding the scene are different members of crew who work the tracking equipment necessary to get a tracking shot. Many extras have turned out for the shoot and are all dressed in military uniform. The majority of this portion of film focuses on the technical crew and the various cameras and other pieces of equipment required to make the movie.