

REF: 321

# The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS Collection

Title: **Blithe Spirit** (1941)

[1 Disc]



ISBN: 5037115041739

Library Image



Collectors Edition DVD

## Information

Title: **Blithe Spirit** 14<sup>th</sup> May, 1945 United Kingdom

Origin: United Kingdom

Release date: United States – 03<sup>rd</sup> October, 1945

AKA: Also known as: Blithe Spirit

Genres: Dark Comedy, Screwball Comedy, Fantasy

Classification: PG

Disc Nos. 1

Duration: 1hr 36m

Region Code:

Region: 2

Product Code:

MPN:

EAN:

UPC:

Languages: English, Spanish

Filming locations: Denham Mount, Blacksmith's Lane, Denham, Uxbridge, Buckinghamshire, England, UK(Condamine House, exteriors)

Sound mix: Mono

Pal –Colourised – B&W Version in Collection

Aspect Ratio: 1.37:1

**Blithe Spirit**

UK film quad poster

Directed by	David Lean
Screenplay by	David Lean Ronald Neame Anthony Havelock-Allan
Based on	<i>Blithe Spirit</i> 1941 play by Noël Coward
Produced by	Noël Coward
Starring	Rex Harrison Constance Cummings Kay Hammond Margaret Rutherford
Cinematography	Ronald Neame
Edited by	Jack Harris <sup>[1]</sup>
Music by	Richard Addinsell
Production company	Two Cities Films
Distributed by	General Film Distributors
Release date	14 May 1945
Running time	96 minutes
Country	United Kingdom
Language	English

Note: Reference Only – Not available for loan or Sale – Private Collection

# Title:

## Storyline

Seeking background material for an occult-based novel he is working on, writer Charles Condomine invites eccentric medium Madame Arcati to his home in Lympe, Kent, to conduct a séance. As Charles, his wife Ruth and their guests, George and Violet Bradman barely restrain themselves from laughing, Madame Arcati performs peculiar rituals and finally goes into a trance. Charles then hears the voice of his dead first wife, Elvira. When he discovers that the others cannot hear her, he evasively passes off his odd behaviour as a joke. When Arcati recovers, she is certain that something extraordinary has occurred, but everyone else denies it.

After Madame Arcati and the Bradmans have left, Charles is unable to convince Ruth that he had been serious about hearing his late wife. Elvira soon appears in the room, but only to Charles. He becomes both dismayed and amused by the situation. He tries to convince Ruth that Elvira is present, but Ruth thinks Charles is trying to play her for the fool, so becoming rather upset, she quickly retires for the night. The following evening, Elvira reappears, further confounding the situation. Relations between Charles and Ruth become strained until he persuades Elvira to act as a poltergeist and transport a vase and a chair in front of his current wife, Ruth. As Elvira continues her antics, Ruth becomes frightened and runs out of the room.

Ruth seeks Madame Arcati's help in sending Elvira back where she came from, but the medium confesses that she does not know quite how to do so. Ruth warns her disbelieving husband that Elvira is seeking to be reunited with him by arranging his mortal demise. However, ghostly Elvira's mischievous plan backfires; as a result, it is Ruth, not Charles, who drives off in the car she has tampered with and ends up dead. A vengeful Ruth, now too in spirit form, harasses Elvira to the point where she wants to depart the earthly realm.

In desperation, Charles seeks Madame Arcati's help. Various incantations fail, until Arcati realises that it was the Condomine's' maid Edith who summoned Elvira. Arcati appears to succeed in sending the spirits away, but it soon becomes clear that both have remained. Acting on Madame Arcati's suggestion, Charles sets out on a long vacation, but he has a fatal accident while driving away and joins his late wives as a spirit himself. [Wiki](#)

To get background for a new book, author Charles Condomine (Sir Rex Harrison) and his second wife Ruth (Constance Cummings) light-heartedly arrange for local mystic Madame Arcati (Dame Margaret Rutherford) to give a séance. The unfortunate result is that Charles' first wife Elvira (Kay Hammond) returns from beyond the grave to make his life something of a misery. Ruth too gets increasingly irritated with her supernatural rival, but Madame Arcati is at her wit's end as to how to sort things out.—J-26 [MDB](#)

## Cast

Rex Harrison as Charles Condomine  
Constance Cummings as Ruth Condomine  
Kay Hammond as Elvira Condomine  
Margaret Rutherford as Madame Arcati  
Hugh Wakefield as Doctor George Bradman  
Joyce Carey as Violet Bradman  
Jacqueline Clarke as Edith  
Marie Ault as Cook (uncredited)  
Johnnie Schofield as Man directing traffic (uncredited)  
Noël Coward as narrator (uncredited)



B&W Version  
DVD Cover

## Parental Guidance Certification

Argentina:Atp Australia:PG Canada:G (Québec) Finland:K-16 France:Tous publics Ireland:G (DVD rating) Italy:T Japan:G Norway:16 Singapore:PG Spain:A Sweden:15 United Kingdom:U (DVD rating) United Kingdom:A (original rating) United Kingdom:U (tv rating) United Kingdom:PG (tv rating: Talking Pictures TV channel) United Kingdom:U (2003, video rating) United States:Approved (certificate #11215, uncredited) West Germany:6 (fr 16)

**Sex & Nudity** –None **Violence & Gore**- None, **Profanity**- None **Alcohol, drugs & Smoking** - Mild, **Frightening & Intense Scenes** –None



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