

**Night of the Broadcast 1888**

School of Contemporary Art and Graphic Design, Leeds Metropolitan University  
6-11pm, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Students from across the School have been working with international artist **Ben Parry** to create a series of large-scale projections in and around Broadcasting Place. Celebrating inventor **Louis Le Prince's** workshop venue, Ben and the students have explored early cinematic technologies in relation to digital projection methods. Ben Parry has worked on various large-scale outdoor projections, including *Terminus*, a cinematic recreation of the Liverpool Overhead Railway line ran along the docklands, referencing the Lumiere Brothers' famous tracking shot taken from the train window in 1897.

In conjunction with the **National Media Museum** in Bradford we are screening three Le Prince films were taken in October 1888 at his father-in-law's house in Roundhay and Leeds Bridge, using a camera that Le Prince had constructed in his workshop here on the site of this building at 160 Woodhouse Lane. They are fragments of some of the earliest moving images ever taken.

Two shots are taken in the garden of Oakwood Grange, Roundhay. One shows Joseph and Sarah Whitley (Le Prince's parents-in-law), his eldest son Adolphe and a family friend Harriet Hartley, walking in a circle for the benefit of the static camera; the other, Adolphe with a melodeon on the steps of the house. The film of Leeds Bridge was taken from the window of the ironmongers, Hicks Brothers, at the south-east end of the bridge.

These sequences were reconstructed from copies of frames printed from the three original negatives which no longer exist. The printed strips were bought by to Britain in 1930 by Le Prince's daughter Marie when she came for the unveiling of the plaque on the site of her father's workshop in Leeds. These were copied by the Science Museum and around ten years ago were carefully reprinted and animated by the National Media Museum, Bradford. The camera used to make the original films can be seen at the Museum.

With thanks to Michael Harvey at the National Media Museum.