

**Entry type:** Resource  
**Entry ID:** AWH002484

## Penicillin : The Magic Bullet

---

**Repository** National Film and Sound Archive

---

**Reference** [701263](#)

---

**Date Range** 2005 - 2006

---

### Details

As World War Two rages, a small team of scientists at Oxford University, led by Australian Howard Florey, make one of the greatest discoveries in the history of medicine: penicillin. As news of their funny yellow powder leaks out to the press, wartime Britain looked for a hero. Instead of Florey and the Oxford team, they choose someone else to shower with honours, Alexander Fleming. How it happened is a fascinating story of wartime scarcity, personal conflicts, and a sobering lesson in the damage done to truth by wartime propaganda.??There is documentation associated with the production of the television documentary held in the NFSA collection.

### Author Details

Nikki Henningham

**Created** 23 December 2010

**Last modified** 1 December 2017