



May 2008 ~ Edition

Welcome

Welcome to the May e-edition of NewsReel. The top item this month is the **2008 BFFS Community Exhibitor Survey**.

A key activity of BFFS is to gather intelligence on the community cinema sector. By learning more about how community cinemas organise and deliver activities we can better serve the needs of the sector and provide effective advocacy. This year we have further streamlined the questionnaire, keeping it as concise and straightforward as possible.

All community cinemas such as film societies, village and community halls, and mixed use venues are invited to take part in this survey. The survey can be downloaded here:
http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/advice_and_support/community-exhibitor-survey-instructions.htm

Your responses should arrive back with us no later than **Friday 11 July 2008**.

BFFS National News

UK Film Council Funding

BFFS is pleased to announce that funding has been secured to 2010. The organisation will continue to act as National Agency for delivery of information, advice and support to the sector and will focus on priority areas: social inclusion, Higher Education, quality of and supply of content, the impact of d-cinema and digital technology.

BFFS Board of Trustees - update

Expressions of interest have been received from a wide range of candidates for positions as Elected and Appointed Trustees. The current Transition Board is presently reviewing applications and BFFS Members with voting rights will be balloted by post and email during June to select the Elected Trustees.

The full new Board of Trustees will be announced in early July.

BFFS Film Society of the Year Awards 2008 - reminder

The applications for the Film Society of the Year Awards 2008 are now open. You can download an application form here: http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/bffs_awards/awards_enter.html

Applications close on **Friday 01 August 2008**.

The awards ceremony will be held in the magnificent Cutlers' Hall in Sheffield on the evening of **Saturday 27 September 2008**.

Industry News

Are you a film buff?

The UK Film Council has published a report A Qualitative Study of Avid Cinemagoers looking at what turns film fans into film buffs. The report makes a number of recommendations about how to make film available to more people, and how to increase people's engagement and enjoyment with more diverse films. A key way of achieving this is the support of film societies. BFFS has long maintained that film societies are crucial not only for improving people's access to film but to developing a taste for different types of film. We are pleased to see this position endorsed by the UK Film Council's report.

To read the full report and find out if you are a film buff - go to: <http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/news>

Tromso International Film Festival, 15-20 January 2008

David Miller, BFFS Chair was on the IFFS (International Federation of Film Societies) jury for the Tromso International Film Festival. In a brief report David shares his experience with us:

The IFFS jury was one of five making awards at the festival. With my fellow jurors Hegge Kristen Widnes from Norway, Ada Guila Puig from Catalonia I was required to watch 12 pre-selected titles and select the winner of the Don Quijote Award. After much debate we agreed on the Norwegian entry The Kautokino Rebellion. This film depicted a traumatic period in the lives of the indigenous Sami tribe, and the story of bigotry, injustice and manipulation driven by greed still resonates to this day in many parts of the world. Any community exhibitor would find this a rewarding title to programme.

The awards ceremony took place in front of a sell-out crowd in the superb surroundings of the Fokus Kino. Other winners were Secret of the Grain, selected by the FIPRESCI jury, Water Lilies selected for the Aurora Prize, Little Moth selected by the Norwegian Peace Film Jury, and Summer Child won the Tromso Palm Prize for Best Newcomer for Director for Iris Olsson.

The hospitality of the Tromso Film Festival Committee could not be faulted and with the support of an army of volunteers, ensured everything ran to time and all went to plan. Add to this an impressive programme supported by film stars, directors and the media and you have a festival that manages to be intimate yet is clearly international in status.

ICO Spring Screening Days

"A very enjoyable and constructive weekend...Thank you to everyone – particularly ICO staff – lovely to be able to put faces to names on occasions like these."

"Everything has been perfect: the venue, the delegate room, the programme, the lunches."

The BFI Southbank, London, once again played host to the ICO Spring Screening Days, our most successful event to date. This is the seventh Screening Days event delivered by the ICO and over 270 people attended from 90+ organisations. Delegates relaxed and chatted on Saturday evening at the drinks reception at the National Theatre, which was kindly sponsored by Filmbank.

The event was held over the weekend of 8 – 10 March. Delegates were able to choose from 22 films and shorts programmes showing back-to-back over three screens. Garth Jennings' heart-warming nostalgic comedy, Son of Rambow, came out top of the audience reaction chart with 83.6% of the votes. The full list of audience reactions is available from the ICO website at:

www.independentcinemaoffice.org.uk/pdf/screeningdaysmar2008-reactions.pdf

Thank you to everyone who attended the event and for making it such an enjoyable occasion. A complete evaluation report of the Spring Screening Days is available to download from the ICO website at: www.independentcinemaoffice.org.uk/pdf/screeningdaysmar2008-evaluationreport.pdf

We appreciate all the feedback regarding the Screening Days and will take it on board for the next event which will be held at the Filmhouse, Edinburgh from 8 - 10 November 2008.

By Becky Clarke, ICO

BFFS Regional News

Create your own Community Cinema

On the afternoon of Saturday 17 May BFFS held a free training and networking event at the National Media Museum in Bradford. The event was designed to open access to organisations with limited knowledge of community cinemas to discover how to start up screenings in the heart of their community.

The event brought together local community volunteers, film fans, arts and cultural centres, community support organisations and arts and film networks. The afternoon included presentations, practical demonstrations, expert Q&A, detailed handouts and networking opportunities. Among the topics covered were:

- an introduction to the work of BFFS and the community cinema movement

- an overview on how to create your own community cinema - including how to get started, modes of operation, growing your audience, programming and legal aspects
- a demonstration of projection equipment
- a roadmap to success - sources of support from national, regional and local organisations

The event was well attended, comments included: 'good range of experience and diversity; community involvement; arts and culture', 'very informative, practical'

Following on from the event we hope to develop a network of community exhibitors across Bradford that will share resources, learning and information to the direct benefit of local audiences.

The event was supported by Screen Yorkshire and the Bradford City of Film project.

BFFS Scotland: Viewing Session and AGM

Members of BFFS Scotland had a very enjoyable spring Viewing Session at the Barony Theatre, Bo'ness on Saturday the 10th May. This was a first time at this venue and delegates agreed it was a delightful place to watch and discuss movies. The movies shown and the audience reactions to them were:

No Country for Old men	88.6%
The Kite Runner	86.8%
Son of Man	66.2%

After a delicious lunch, the AGM was held. Ian Kerr, chair, was glad to note that membership of BFFS Scotland has reached an all time high! In attendance were Julia Vickers from Partnerships and Development BFFS and from Sam Scott Market Development Executive Scottish Screen who took questions from delegates after the AGM.

BFFS South West Group: Viewing Session and AGM

WINCANTON RECORD BREAKER!

The South West Group's Spring Viewing in Wincanton last month broke all records with in excess of 140 representatives from 33 societies. Among these were over half-a-dozen in various stages of starting up and attending their first group event. Event host Wincanton Film Society managed an excellent event at the King Arthur Community School, supported by neighbours Yeovil Cinémathèque, and caterers from local pub, The Red Lion.

The interesting selection of six new and over-looked releases on DVD was mostly well-received with the excellent documentary *In the Shadow of the Moon* topping the ratings with over 90% and *The Counterfeiters* second on 83%. Another highly rated film was *Fear and Trembling* one of the recent additions to the BFFS's Block Booking Scheme. The short film selection featured titles from the BFFS's 'buy-screen-keep' scheme. Almost stealing the show was a screening of Buster Keaton's classic short *One Week* with live piano accompaniment from James Harpham, fresh from his triumph at Corsham's Global Village Film Festival. All in all, one of the most successful South West Viewings in the 31-year history of the Group – thank you, Wincanton!

Buster Keaton was a hard act to follow but the SW Executive did their best at the AGM. Co-Chair Ralph Willett reported a record number of societies in the region with more in the wings. Julia Vickers, the BFFS Partnerships and Development Officer, summarised recent and forthcoming BFFS activities including organisational changes, the continuing importance of the regional groups and recent additions to the National Block Booking Scheme.

More good news came from Chris Baker, Project Manager of the Group's initiative to promote new screens in the region, Film West by South West. Now in its second year, the project had dealt with 50 enquiries and assisted the launch of 8 new societies. Regional Secretary Brian Clay thanked Chris for his magnificent efforts and reported on two successful viewing sessions in Wotton under Edge and South Petherton, as well as the one hundredth edition of the Film South West newsletter. The Group Executive was re-elected with the addition of Barry Fowler of Kilmersdon Reel People returning after a two year absence.

BFFS Yorkshire Group: Viewing Session

The Yorkshire Group's Viewing Sessions at the National Media Museum, Bradford, last weekend were very enjoyable and well-attended. The programme consisted of new films on 35mm in the Cubby Broccoli Cinema and

new DVDs in the museum's On Location Conference Suite. The film that everyone really liked was *The Visitor* (82.1%), from the director of *The Station Agent*. An engaging and dryly humorous story about a strait-laced professor who returns to his little used apartment in Manhattan to find it occupied by a young immigrant couple, a situation which is to change all their lives. *Lemon Tree* was also well received (72.4%). The true story of a Palestinian woman who fights through the courts to prevent the Israeli Defence Minister from uprooting her beloved lemon grove for security reasons. The disappointment of the weekend was *The Oxford Murders*. Although based on a best-selling novel with a fine cast and great locations, the film received an audience reaction of 31.7%.

Information and Offers

Arrow Films Hit the Mark

For a limited period 25 classic world cinema titles have been added to the BFFS National Block Booking Scheme. The list includes cinematic classics *The Bicycle Thieves*, *Atlantic City*, *Cinema Paradiso*, *Rififi* and *Rome Open City*, and comes courtesy of Arrow Films (www.arrowfilms.co.uk).

These films are available for booking **now**. For more information on the Block Booking Scheme and to view all titles on the scheme visit: <http://bffs.futurate.com/>

CineClub Shorts

Those of you who attended the 2007 BFFS National Conference will recall the warm reception given to the screening of a number of shorts made by young people around the UK as part of the Cineclub network. BFFS is delighted to announce that a DVD of these shorts will be available free to any organisation booking titles on the National Block-Booking Scheme.

BFFS Interactive

Merton's First Film Festival: Wimbledon Shorts

Wimbledon Film Club launches a new artistic venture for Southwest London: Wimbledon Shorts, a short film festival/competition to be held 7th June 2008.

The panel includes world-famous filmmakers, critics and writers. Films will be judged in the following categories:

- Merton filmmaker (for a film shot in the Borough of Merton by people who live or work in Merton)
- Animated film
- WFC award for Best Wimbledon Shorts film
- And there will be an audience prize for the highest-rated film on the night!

Johnjoe McFadden, Wimbledon Film Club Chair says, "We have nearly 150 submissions from as far away Japan, Australia, the USA and as close as Merton. Many are from established filmmakers but, for lots of filmmakers, this is their first film put together on a shoestring budget with the help of a few friends. The shorts come in a wide variety of genres, from tense thrillers to quirky animation and arty film montages, or scary horror stories. On the festival night of the 7th June we will be screening about twenty or so of the shortlisted films and the actress Yaourou Konate (*Run Fat Boy Run*) will be presenting the prizes, so it will be a great evening!"

Short-listed films will be screened and awards presented at the festival night 7th June, 2008 at the Polka Theatre, 240 The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 1SB

Doors open 6.30, screenings start 7pm.

Advance tickets £5 from the Polka Theatre Box Office: 020 8543 4888

Find out more at www.wimbledonshorts.com/

35mm Film Projector for sale

Sadly Bath University Film Society has closed down and so the University of Bath Students' Union is looking for someone who is able to provide a home for a Westrex projector complete with Dolby Cell and Peerless Magnarc at an agreed fee. The projector comes with a Westrex single sided tower and 4 spools and split spool.

For more information and general inquiries about the projector please e-mail suactivities@bath.ac.uk

About BFFS Interactive

Research by BFFS estimates that there are over 800 community cinema providers in the UK. This includes all types of film societies and clubs including those in schools, Higher and Further Education colleges and universities, community groups, social clubs, youth clubs, small-scale film festivals, mobile and touring screen networks, mixed used venues that screen film and independent cinemas who run active programmes of community engagement. This markedly different collection of organisations shares a common vision: providing 'Cinema for All'.

There's a wealth of intelligence across the sector and in the spirit of cooperative engagement we'd like to invite you to share your resources, knowledge, expertise and experience. For example:

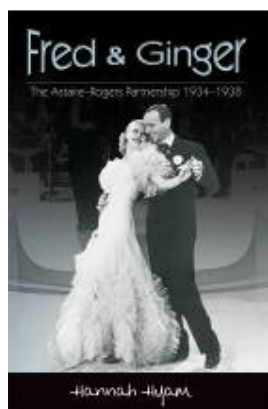
- Do you.....
- want to buy, sell, or hire 2nd hand film equipment?
 - want to screen a film but can't locate the distributor?
 - know a handy tip that other organisations may benefit from?

E-mail us with your request and we'll post it here.

Please note that this service is exclusively for use by not-for-profit community cinema providers.

For your Consideration

Information, offers and requests from selected external organisations and individuals.



Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers are renowned for their peerless dance duets, but these constitute only a small proportion of the time they appeared on screen. Their skills as performers and their rapport are equally apparent in their acting and singing, and in Fred and Ginger Hannah Hyam analyses all three aspects of their partnership in depth, illuminating the qualities that give it such timeless appeal.

Generously illustrated with iconic images

'unique in the Astaire library . . . an extraordinary accomplishment'
Larry Billman, Academy of Dance on Film, Hollywood

Publisher: Pen Press (0845 1080530, www.penpress.co.uk)
Paperback: 260 pages, 60 b/w illustrations, ISBN13: 978-1905621-96-5,
Price: £15.00

Dates for Your Diary

27-28	September	Sheffield	BFFS National Conference for Film Societies and Community Cinemas and Film Society of the Year Awards 2008
11	October	tbc	BFFS/Northern Ireland Screen: Networking and Viewing Session
26	October	tbc	BFFS South West: Viewing Session
08-10	November	Edinburgh	ICO Screening Days

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