



NEWSREEL

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE BRITISH FEDERATION OF FILM SOCIETIES



April 2008 ~ Edition

Welcome

Welcome to the April e-edition of NewsReel. In this edition you will find details of how to apply for the BFFS Film Society of the Year Awards 2008 – this is your chance to celebrate the work of your organisation and to reward the volunteers who bring the organisation to life.

Remembering Anthony Minghella

David Miller, BFFS Chairman recalls his meeting with Anthony Minghella

I only ever met Anthony the once. Yet he made a huge impression. The event was the 2006 British Federation of Film Societies Film Society of the Year Awards Ceremony. Anthony had accepted our invitation to present our awards and what a superbly gracious guest he was. His speech to the audience was a highlight of the event. We had hoped to work with Anthony again but are eternally grateful for the contribution he made not only to the BFFS but also to the world of cinema and music. He will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers go to his family, colleagues and all those who mourn his untimely passing.

BFFS National News

BFFS Film Society of the Year Awards 2008

We are delighted to announce that the applications for the BFFS Film Society of the Year Awards 2008 are now open.

The Film Society of Year Awards recognise and reward excellence in the vital work that film societies do in cultural and community cinema.

All UK film societies are invited to apply for awards in the following categories: Best Film Programming, Best Programme Notes, Best Marketing and Publicity, Best Website, Community Award, Best New Society and Best Student Society. The Engholm Prize for Film Society of the Year will be awarded to the most vigorous and dynamic film society demonstrating all qualities required of individual categories and showing matchless customer service and creativity.

- To download an application form go to: http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/bffs_awards/awards_enter.html
- To learn more about the award categories go to: <http://www.bffs.org.uk/awards.html>
- To draw inspiration from previous award winners visit the 2007 winners page: http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/bffs_awards/awards_win07.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**.

BFFS Seeks Trustees

Following the acceptance by Members of the recommended governance restructuring, BFFS is now seeking expressions of interest from both Members and other individuals in becoming Trustees on the BFFS Board.

If you are passionate about the not-for-profit, volunteer exhibition sector, and you want to make a difference to the diversity of viewing choice and opportunities in all communities, then BFFS would like to hear from you.

Opportunities are available to BFFS Members to be nominated as Trustees to stand for election to the Board in 2008, and to other individuals to become Appointed Trustees. Skills and experience are being sought in the following areas: financial, charities and the third sector, new technologies, small business development, education, charity and company law, human resources and employment law.



There is a minimum commitment to quarterly Board meetings, and while all positions are non-paid, reasonable expenses can be claimed.

To express interest in becoming either an Elected or an Appointed Trustee and for further information please email: info@bffs.org.uk

Industry News

Information on DVDs and 'Vanilla' Copies

BFFS has recently been receiving information on an increasing number of incidences of poor quality DVDs provided by distributors. It appears that in some cases where a title is still in its 'early window', ie before commercially available in the shops, a 'vanilla' DVD copy (pre-commercial without extras) is being made available that may be sub-standard, eg not the widescreen version, pan-and-scan, not with full Dolby sound and with an on-screen logo appearing periodically. While having titles available earlier is good news for community exhibitors, poor quality is not.

Our recommendations are:

- be prepared for early availability DVDs to be of poorer quality and...
- check with the distributor before you book as to precisely what you will receive.
- once booked and received watch the film before the screening to ensure the quality is acceptable.
- if you do receive a substandard DVD contact the distributor immediately and obtain a better copy.

BFFS will continue to gather your concerns and advocate to film distributors on your behalf.

ICO SD: Evaluation

The ICO Spring Screening Days took place on the 8 – 10 March at the BFI Southbank in London. BFFS has compiled a reaction index of the films screened at the event. You can download a copy of the reaction index here: <http://www.bffs.org.uk/news.html>

BFFS Regional News

BFFS South West Group: Film List

Each year the South West Group of BFFS produces a list of suggested programming for film societies. The list includes the names and contact details of the distributors supplying the films. You can download the 2008-2009 film list here: http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/film/film_getting.html

BFFS Regional Events

Create your own Community Cinema

In a project funded by Yorkshire Forward, BFFS is working in with Screen Yorkshire and the Bradford City of Film strategy to encourage the development of community cinema for and by minority ethnic groups.

BFFS is holding a FREE networking event at the National Media Museum in Bradford on the afternoon of Saturday 17 May: Create your own Community Cinema.

The event is open to anyone who is interested in learning how to set up and successfully sustain a volunteer-led film society or community cinema, established Film Societies and Community Cinemas are also welcome to attend. Delegates will have the chance to share experience, discuss needs and quiz experts.

The session will cover the following topics:

How to:

- show films to your community group
- find a venue
- attract an audience
- get hold of Projection Equipment
- find films from the UK and around the world
- learn about legal and operational issues
- make the most of the community cinema experience

To find out more about the event contact info@bffs.org.uk

Information and Offers



Bitesize Summer 07 Collection Now Available for Buy-to-Screen

Our friends at Bitesize Cinema have released another terrific selection of shorts for screening to community audiences. For £70 the Summer 07 Collection of five award-winning films is available to buy-screen-keep until the end of September. With a suggested 15 certificate the compilation comes highly recommended.

Care - Dir. Corinna Faith, UK, 2005, 19 mins: Mali, a home help, gives good care... but Archie, a cantankerous old bigot, is reluctant to accept it.

Nature's Way - Dir. Jane Shearer, NZ, 2005, 11 mins: A young girl is murdered and left for dead deep in native forest. The murderer's first instincts tell him he'll get caught, but as time goes on he thinks he's got away with it. Unfortunately for him, first instincts are usually right as nature aids revenge.

Goodbye to the Normals - Dir. Jim Field Smith, UK, 2006, 4 mins: Commissioned by Robbie Williams' production company, this comic tale explores what might happen if we grew up a little bit too fast...

Me & Her - Dir. Sarah Tripp, UK, 2006, 15 mins: Coleen works as a chambermaid in an inner city hotel. Damien has reluctantly taken a job alongside her during his summer holiday. During their last shift they fumble their way through hangovers, hoovering and personal insecurities until they finally confront the significance of their last working day together.

Comme Un Air - Dir. Yohann Gloguen, Fr, 2006, 9 mins: On a beautiful day in Paris, a well-known musical tune is suddenly picked up by all sorts of people in the streets of the city. Touching, uplifting multi-award winning short film from a hot new French talent.

For trailers see www.bitesizecinema.com

To purchase the DVD email info@bffs.org.uk

Block Booking Scheme

The full colour catalogue lists all titles currently available on the scheme including the French collection, you can download a copy here: <http://bffs.futurate.com/> or email info@bffs.org.uk and ask for a print copy.

BFFS Briefing Notes - Fundraising and Funding Sources

The BFFS Briefing Notes on Fundraising and Funding Sources has been updated – the newly revised edition is available online you can download a copy here: http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/publications/downloads_adleaf.html

Community Cinema in Action

In a series of focus pieces BFFS is pleased to offer film societies, clubs and community cinemas the opportunity to report on special events, educational activities, success stories and many other examples of cultural and community engagement. We hope that these pieces will provide a through-the-keyhole glimpse of these organisations in action, illustrating the unique breadth and diversity of the community cinema sector as well as providing inspiration for other exhibitors.

Film @ the Pound: Global Village Film Festival



From your Film Society to the far reaches of the world...

Now in its 5th year, the Global Village Film Festival presents a global tour of the best in world cinema, travelling from Canada to the Outback, from Ireland to India, as well as back in time to the silent era and into the far reaches of the imagination. With comedy and horror, drama and documentary, music and romance, this year's festival had something for everyone.

To read all about it go to:

http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/membership/member_commcinema.html

BFFS Interactive

Screening @ Multiplex Cinemas

BFFS is interested in hearing from any film clubs that are screening in Multiplex Cinemas eg Odeon, Cineworld. Please get in touch: info@bffs.org.uk.

Merseyside Film Institute

Simon Pople from Leeds University is interested in learning about the history of the Merseyside Film Institute. Please contact: S.E.Pople@leeds.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?



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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.

NEW Taught Postgraduate Programme: MLitt in Global Cinema



The University of Stirling has long been renowned for its excellence in film studies.

Global Cinema is concerned with the way cinema operates as a global medium and with the patterns of development and interaction of cinematic culture around the globe. Instead of simply looking at a selection of national cinemas from around the world, the focus of the Master's is on the global phenomenon of cinema itself.

For further information: contact Professor Andrew Ginger, School of Languages, Cultures and Religions
Tel: +44 (0) 1786 467542 Email: a.j.ginger@stir.ac.uk Web: www.slcr.stir.ac.uk

Dates for Your Diary

19	April	Pontardawe	BFFS Wales - Viewing Session
26-27	April	Bradford	BFFS Yorkshire Group - Viewing Session
27	April	Wincanton	BFFS South West Group - Viewing Session
10	May	Scotland	BFFS Scotland - Viewing Session
17	May	Bradford	BFFS Networking event
27	September	Sheffield	BFFS National Conference for Film Societies and Community Cinemas and Film Society of the Year Awards 2008

Get in Touch

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