



NEWSREEL

THE NEWSLETTER OF

THE BRITISH FEDERATION OF FILM SOCIETIES



December 2007 ~ Edition

Welcome

Welcome to the December e-edition of NewsReel. This month's edition begins with a special announcement regarding the Film Society of the Year Awards 2008.

Film Society of the Year Awards

The BFFS Film Society of the Year Awards 2008 will be held in the magnificent Cutlers Hall <http://www.cutlers-hall-sheffield.co.uk> in Sheffield on the evening of **Saturday 27 September 2008**. The awards ceremony will form an integral part of the second National Conference for Film Societies and Community Cinemas. The Film Society of the Year Awards recognise and reward excellence in the vital work that film societies do in cultural and community cinema, applications for the awards will open early next year.

Seasons Greetings

On behalf of the BFFS team we wish you all a very pleasant winter break.

BFFS National News

1st National Conference for Film Societies and Community Cinemas

The valuable work of volunteers and those working in the not-for-profit exhibition sector was recognised and enhanced last weekend by a national event dedicated to their needs and interests. The first BFFS 2007 National Conference for Film Societies and Community Cinemas was held on 1 Dec 2007 at the Showroom, Sheffield and was enjoyed by a modest but enthusiastic gathering of over 50 delegates, presenters and guests.

The feedback we have received has been very positive. At the training seminars and facilitated networking sessions participants welcomed the opportunity to meet with experts, network with a wide variety of organisations and explore opportunities for collaboration.

The films screened were rated extremely positively by the audience with *The Guernica Children* scoring an almost unprecedented 97%, and all other titles scoring very highly: *True North* 77%, *Born and Bred* and *Transylvania* 75%, and *Under the Mud* 73%, participants particularly enjoyed the exclusive screenings which featured film introductions and lively Q&A sessions with film makers and presenters. Wrapping up the event BFFS Chair David Miller welcomed Dr Sheldon Hall, Senior Lecturer in Film Studies at Sheffield Hallam University, who gave an address on the importance of the community cinema movement in developing a wider knowledge of and deeper interest in cinema.

For further details of the event go to

http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/advice_and_support/bffs_national%20_conference.html

BFFS 2007 Annual General Meeting

At the 2007 AGM held during the recent National Conference, the BFFS Management Committee requested – and received – full support for two Special Resolutions. These were aimed at restructuring and thus revitalising the organisation to take it forward into the next decade the better to deliver the needs of its Members and stakeholders.

The first Special Resolution was for acceptance of the redraft of the BFFS Articles of Association to revise the governance and membership structure, and to update in line with changes to the legal framework. The second was to appoint a Transition Board with two key tasks: to lead the organisation through the interim period while the new Articles and structures were put in place, and to recruit the new Board of Trustees as described in the new Articles.

The Transition Board is: David Miller – Chair, Ian Kerr – Vice-Chair and Jim Dempster – Treasurer.

All those stepping down from the Management Committee are thanked for their contributions and support over the years.

In line with the restructuring, the following Regional Representatives are welcomed to the Operations Team: Neil Chue Hong (BFFS Scotland), Brian Clay (South West Regional Group), Tony Davison (Yorkshire Regional Group) and David Rea (BFFS Wales).

Appointments

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 and Board Directors.

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

Editor Required for New BFFS Publishing Project

BFFS has secured funding from the UK Film Council's Publication Fund for a project to produce a Sourcebook of essential information for running and developing a community cinema enterprise, that will stimulate creative and innovative thinking about programming, audience development and other challenges that face such ventures.

BFFS is now seeking an experienced editor whose role will be to commission articles from acknowledged experts and to manage all editorial aspects of the Sourcebook.

This is a fixed-term contract over 4 months from the end of January consisting of 15 days paying a maximum fee of £3,000 including vat, where applicable. Applicants should contact Ros Hill at info@bffs.org.uk for a copy of the project specification and role description before sending their CV and covering letter outlining their vision for the publication and approach by **Monday 14 January 2008**.

BFFS Regional News

BFFS Scotland Viewing Session

"Films past teatime draw film society members to Glasgow for a wonderful day"

BFFS Scotland's recent event at the Glasgow Film Theatre was nicknamed "Films Past Teatime" in honour of the screening of *The Darjeeling Limited* and the generous offer from the Glasgow Film Theatre to give film society members free tickets to the evening events at the Italian Film Festival. In the end, a couple of less well known titles proved the most popular with the audience: *American Cousins* which was programmed after a chance encounter with its director and the rerelease of the underappreciated *Peau D'Ane* both scoring over 90%. Members were also treated to a tour of the projection box and the newly installed Christie Digital Projector. Networking took place over tea in the Cafe Cosmo, and one delegate remarked that "it is always interesting to find out how other societies are doing". For the rest of the reactions and more information about the event please visit the BFFS Scotland website: www.bffsscotland.co.uk.

by Neil Chue Hong, BFFS Scotland

BFFS Regional Events

BFFS North East England Event

BFFS and Northern Film and Media are holding a FREE networking event in Newcastle upon Tyne on the afternoon of 2nd February 2008. This facilitated networking event will bring together established film societies and volunteer-run community cinemas, and anyone interested in setting up such ventures, and will give delegates the chance to share experience and discuss needs. Go to <http://www.bffs.org.uk/ne-england-networking-event.htm> for further details.

Information and Offers

Cineclub shorts to be available via National Block Booking Scheme

Following the warm reception given to the selection of Cineclub short films screened at the recent National Conference, BFFS is delighted to announce that a DVD compilation of the best of recent Cineclub films produced in schools by young filmmakers will be available free to any organisation booking titles on the BFFS National Block Booking Scheme from early 2008.

It is hoped this partnership will allow film society and community cinema programmers to screen freely from the DVD and in doing so enable wider exposure both to the Cineclub project and to the work of the next generation of filmmakers and film enthusiasts. So if you have booked films for 2008 on the Block Booking Scheme, keep an eye out for the Cineclub DVD and let us know what you think of the films.

For more information on the BFFS National Block Booking Scheme see:
www.bffs.org.uk/Content/film/film_blockbooking.html

For more information on Cineclub see: <http://www.cineclub.org.uk/>

BFFS Interactive

Second Hand Film Projectors for Sale

Steyning Film Society in West Sussex has four 16mm projectors for sale, all reasonable offers will be considered. If you are interested in making an offer please contact info@bffs.org.uk.

About BFFS Interactive

Research by BFFS estimates that there are over 700 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.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Area	Event
02 February	Newcastle	BFFS and Northern Film and Media Networking Event
14-28 February	Glasgow	Glasgow Film Festival
08-10 March	London	ICO Screening Days
27-28 September	Sheffield	National Conference for Film Societies and Community Cinemas, Film Society of the Year Awards

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