



NEWSREEL

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE BRITISH FEDERATION OF FILM SOCIETIES



January 2008 ~ Edition

Welcome

Welcome to the January e-edition of NewsReel. The BFFS team wishes you all a very Happy New Year.

NewsReel

NewsReel can be printed off and circulated to any members of your organisation who do not have email access; ANY individual can sign up to receive NewsReel directly, see the Get in Touch section at the bottom of the page.

BFFS Film Society of the Year Awards

The BFFS Film Society of the Year Awards will take place in **September 2008** – applications will open shortly.

BFFS National News

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

Joining BFFS in 2008

The BFFS membership structure has been revised in line with changes to the Articles of Association agreed at the 2007 AGM. There now three categories: Member, Associate and Affiliate. For full details of the benefits received by Members, Associates and Affiliates please visit: www.bffs.org.uk/Content/membership/member-benefits.html

Renewal forms will be sent to all current members at the end of this month together with details of each category and how to apply. To download an application form, explanatory notes and services and benefits please visit www.bffs.org.uk/Content/membership/member-joining.html or contact the BFFS central office.

Industry News

ICO Spring Screening Days

Registration for the next ICO Screening Days will open at the end of January. Taking place over the weekend of the 8 – 10 March 2008 at the newly refurbished BFI Southbank (formerly the NFT) the event will be packed full of preview screenings of up to 25 features (as well as shorts) that will be hitting screens in the months ahead.

The ICO are delighted to announce that the first film confirmed for the event is Love in the Time of Cholera – based on the famous novel by Nobel Prize-winning author Gabriel García Márquez and adapted for the screen by Oscar-winning screenwriter Ronald Harwood (The Pianist).

Full details and registration forms are available from the ICO website: www.independentcinemaoffice.org.uk

New Realm Ceases Distribution

Distributor New Realm is no longer handing DVD or 35mm bookings for film societies, cinema clubs and community cinemas. Momentum titles are now booked directly through Momentum Pictures:
Henrietta.Swan@MomentumPictures.co.uk 020 7391 6975 Fax: 020 7383 0404

British Council Film Department to Close

The British Council - the cultural arm of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Britain's overseas cultural organisation - is to disband its film department, set up to promote contemporary and innovative work from the UK to audiences around the world. The decision to close the film department, along with specialist departments for drama, dance, literature, design, and the visual arts was apparently taken by the executive board of the British Council very recently, reportedly without any prior public consultation.

The British Council has long declared that the main purpose of its activities in film is to broaden and build international audiences particularly amongst young people for new work from the UK. So far it has done this with a core team of specialists in the film sector with critical skills, a wide knowledge of contemporary UK cinema and personal relationships with a range of film industry professionals.

You can read the full story, plus a full account of the support the British Council has - up to now - given UK filmmakers here: www.moviescopemag.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=380&Itemid=10046

The decision to close the Office appears to have been done without any public consultation and none with bodies that support indie filmmaking in the UK such as the New Producers Alliance and Shooting People.

If you feel the British Council should continue to support a film department, please email your MP and:

1. Tell him/her that you wish to see the British Council Film Department continue to be supported.
2. Get him/her to ask if there has been any public consultation, or consultation with interested parties on this closure.
3. Ask for his or her support in trying to get this decision to close the film office reversed.
4. Refer him or her to the movieScope article so they can see for themselves why this office is important to the future of independent filmmaking in this country.

It is the MP's job to hold government to account on behalf of their constituents, so if you have concerns about this let your MP know, their contact details can be found at: www.parliament.uk/directories/hc/olists/alms.cfm

Please copy your letter/email to: martin.davidson@britishcouncil.org (CEO) and venu.dhupa@britishcouncil.org (Head of Arts).

These proposals are being implemented as we write and I would urge you to act quickly.

BFFS Regional News

BFFS Yorkshire: Film Education Weekend

Each year BFFS Yorkshire hosts a residential film education weekend at Cober Hill, Scarborough. The topic for 2007 was German cinema since reunification. Tony Davison, Chair of BFFS Yorkshire reports on the event.

At the BFFS Yorkshire Group's annual Filmfest in December four of the twelve feature films were excellent German comedies. Of the twelve films the only title shown in Britain thus far was 'Das Leben des Anderen'; the rest new to us all. This year expanded to three nights, the popularity of this annual event was proven by it being sold-out months before the programme was announced. The second screen of titles, too long for most film societies, included the

seven-hour 'War and Peace' (Bondarchuk) and 'Rang de Basanti' - cross the board winner at this year's Bollywood Oscars; Ford's 'Knights of the Teutonic Order' and other rarities. The Goethe-Institut in London greatly helped in the selection of titles making no charge for half of the German programme. Altogether a highly successful event disproving Hitchcock's belief that 'conversion is the enemy of good food and drink'. Cober Hill has them both.

BFFS Regional Events

BFFS North East England Networking 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.

BFFS South West Regional Group Viewing Session and AGM

Wincanton Film Society with the support of Yeovil Cinematheque are the SW Group's hosts at King Arthur's Community School in Wincanton for a day of film previews. Titles already confirmed include Michael Clayton, Fear and Trembling and Golden Door. The event will take place on Sunday 27 April.

More details coming soon from www.bffssouthwest.org.uk

Information and Offers

NEW Block Booking Titles

Nine new titles have been added to the BFFS National Block Booking Scheme. These films are now available for booking, contact info@bffs.org.uk



The Bridesmaid
www.cinefile.co.uk



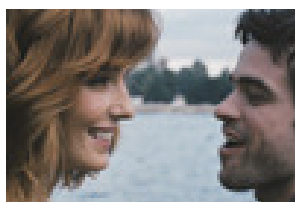
Fear and Trembling
www.cinefile.co.uk



Keltoum's Daughter
www.cinefile.co.uk/



Pot Luck
www.cinefile.co.uk/



Russian Dolls
www.russiandollsthemovie.com



Tais Toi!
www.cinefile.co.uk/



The Three Marias
www.cinefile.co.uk



True North
www.truenorth-film.com



Transylvania
www.peccadillopictures.com/63.html

More titles coming soon!

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

02	February	Newcastle	BFFS Northern Film and Media Networking Event
14-28	February	Glasgow	Glasgow Film Festival
08-10	March	London	ICO Screening Days
27	April	Wincanton	BFFS South West Group Viewing Session
27-28	September	Sheffield	BFFS National Conference for Film Societies and Community Cinemas and Film Society of the Year Awards 2008

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