



# NEWSREEL

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE BRITISH FEDERATION OF FILM SOCIETIES



## September 2007 ~ Launch Edition

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## Welcome

Greetings!

Welcome to the first ever *e-edition* of NewsReel.

### NewsReel Evolves

NewsReel is the newsletter of the British Federation of Film Societies. Since its revival in February 2005 as a high quality print publication, NewsReel has been edited and produced on a quarterly basis. However, following a review of member needs, the increase in frequency of e-mail communications, rising publication costs and the global need to reduce our carbon footprint, we decided a new approach was needed.

From September 2007 NewsReel will be published monthly as an e-bulletin. This will allow up-to-date information to be delivered in a single email, provide live links to a wide range of websites and give the publication a wider reach. The new e-bulletin can easily be forwarded to all of the members and contacts for your organisation.

The new e-NewsReel, will continue to contain news and features that reflect the interests and concerns of the community cinema movement. In addition we have added brand new sections designed to encourage more interaction and information-sharing across the sector. This is a new initiative and we'd value your feedback on this and anything else you'd like to see included.

So, on with the news - it's a brand new season and there's a lot to report!

## **BFFS National News**

### **A Year in Sheffield**

September marks the end of our first 12 months in Sheffield and so provides a good point to take stock and review what's been achieved by this move.

Early in the year the City of Sheffield honoured BFFS with a Civic Reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield Jackie Drayton, allowing us to mark our arrival among the business and creative communities of both Sheffield and Yorkshire.

The day-to-day needs of our busy office and the development of new partnerships and initiatives have been well-served by our location in The Workstation. This busy cultural hub has enabled us to build links with many other film, media and service companies and is adjacent to one of the UK's largest independent cinemas, The Showroom Cinema, an ideal location for the BFFS Annual Conference.

This year has seen increased activities and strengthened regional links across the UK. No more so than with Screen Yorkshire, whose support has made possible an innovative development project in minority ethnic communities, and has enabled us to expand our office staff to the benefit of all organisations served by the BFFS throughout the country.

We're very much looking forward to our second year in Sheffield!

### **Departure of John Salisbury**

It was with much regret that BFFS said goodbye to our Publications and Education Consultant John Salisbury at the end of July. John has made an immense contribution to BFFS and the sector over the past 4 years.

Whether advocating the importance of film societies in film education, developing key BFFS publications, the BFFS website, the national Student Awards or advancing the strategic direction of the organisation with projects such as the National Block-Booking Scheme, John's impact will be sorely missed. He is currently busy with other commitments and we hope that we can welcome him back at some point in the future.

### **Contacting BFFS by phone**

On 1st November 2007 the BFFS phone no. 0845 6037278 will cease to operate. The new phone no. for BFFS is **0114 2210314**. You can use this number now and calls will cost you less!

The BFFS telephone advice and query service is available from Monday-Friday 10am – 1pm. Where possible we prefer to be contacted via e-mail to allow us to supply you with the best researched response: [info@bffs.org.uk](mailto:info@bffs.org.uk)

## **BFFS Regional News**

### **BFFS Regional Groups**

What's happening in your region? From regional viewing opportunities, equipment loan and technical support, to local expertise, advice, support and encouragement.

Go to: <http://www.bffs.org.uk/reggroups.html> and check out what your group is doing for you.

### **BFFS Regional Development Events Hit the Spot**

During the summer BFFS has been holding a series of networking events for film societies, community cinemas and other organisations interested in the community exhibition provision. The aim of these has been to provide opportunities for both established and embryonic enterprises to discuss needs, share experience, and discover what support is available to their ventures. You can read the full report here: [http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/regional\\_groups/regional\\_development.html](http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/regional_groups/regional_development.html).

### **BFFS Southern England Event**

BFFS and Screen South are holding a free networking event on the afternoon of 6th October. This facilitated networking event will bring together established film societies and volunteer-run community cinemas, and anyone interested in setting up such ventures.

Go to [http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/advice\\_and\\_support/supportfs\\_seevent.html](http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/advice_and_support/supportfs_seevent.html) for further details.

## **Industry News**

### **UK Film Council Statistical Yearbook: Community Cinema Provision**

The UK Film Council recently published the 2006/07 Statistical Yearbook. Chapter 9: Exhibition contains a substantive contribution from BFFS on community cinema provision in the UK. In the past the role played by the community cinema movement has often gone unnoticed at a national level because there has been very little information about the size, composition and geographical distribution of the sector. Recent work by BFFS is aimed at addressing this deficit. The inclusion of data provided by BFFS in the UKFC Statistical Yearbook is a significant step towards meeting this aim. You can read this chapter on the UKFC website:

<http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/information/statistics/yearbook/?pf=&low=&y=2006&c=9&s>

### **UK Film Council Capital Access Fund**

The UK Film Council Capital Access Fund has been set up to help independent cinemas with the cost of capital works and to provide improved access for all audiences. The fund is open to existing as well as new cinemas, and to mobile cinemas serving at least twenty venues. The deadline for applications is 30 November 2007 and the maximum award is £50,000.

<http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/cinemagoing/distributionandexhibition/capitalandaccessfund/>

## National Events

### BFFS National Conference for Community Cinemas

The *only* national event dedicated to the needs and interests of Film Societies and Community Cinemas. The BFFS National Conference for Community Cinemas will take place on Saturday 1st December 2007 at the Showroom Cinema, Sheffield. The event will offer facilitated networking, training and information sessions and screenings of hard to access cinema gems. More details coming soon...

### ICO Screening Days

ICO Screening Days: Twice a year, the ICO organises a Screening Days event, providing exhibitors with a crash course in key forthcoming independent releases. The event comprises intensive preview screenings of up to 25 features that will be hitting screens in the months ahead. The next ICO Screening Days will be held at the Broadway Cinema in Nottingham from the 3 – 5 November 2008. Further details about the event are available from the ICO website:

[http://www.independentcinemaoffice.org.uk/screening\\_daysnov2007.htm](http://www.independentcinemaoffice.org.uk/screening_daysnov2007.htm)

## Information and Offers

### BFFS National Block Booking Scheme \*New Title\*



The Guernica Children: Eye Witness Productions

#### *The Guernica Children*

This exceptional film chronicles the story of the four thousand Basque refugee children who were evacuated to Britain during the Spanish Civil War.

For further information go to:

[http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/film/film\\_blockbooking\\_guernica.html](http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/film/film_blockbooking_guernica.html)

To book the film download a booking form and e-mail to [info@bffs.org.uk](mailto:info@bffs.org.uk). Please remember that you need to enrol on the Block Booking scheme before you can make a booking.

[http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/film/film\\_blockbooking\\_enrol.html](http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/film/film_blockbooking_enrol.html)

### Cinema Business magazine - special offer

BFFS members have the opportunity to open a subscription to industry publication Cinema Business at a generous discount. Follow the link for an application form:

[http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/membership/member\\_offers.html#cb1](http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/membership/member_offers.html#cb1)

## Student film societies – marketing campaign

This autumn we are carrying out a marketing campaign - Your Union Your Cinema - aimed at increasing cinema-going on campus and the membership of student societies, clubs and cinemas. Go to BFFS Student Group and check out the exclusive FREE offer for student film societies.

[http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/student\\_group/student\\_news.html](http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/student_group/student_news.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.

In the first piece Alex McMullen from Louth Film Club in Lincolnshire reports on the Louth Children's Film Festival, organised by Louth Film Club. You can read Alex's report here:

[http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/membership/member\\_commcinema.html](http://www.bffs.org.uk/Content/membership/member_commcinema.html)



Image Copyright: Ian Holmes

### *Louth Film Club's screen treats for children*

Children from Lacey Gardens Junior School wait outside the Playhouse Cinema for one of the schools performances at the Louth Children's Film Festival, organised by Louth Film Club.

## 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 organizations 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.

### **Research project on product placement in film**

Helen Cocco is a postgraduate student at the University of Wales, Swansea. Helen has a keen interest in film and has chosen to write a dissertation on product placement in film. This area of research includes brands that are deliberately placed in films. For example, Aston Martin automobiles in James Bond. The objective of the study is to identify film attitudes and opinions to the marketing medium, 'product placement' within film.

You can participate in Helen's project by answering a simple e-questionnaire:  
<http://cocco.daiowen.co.uk/questionnaire/>

The survey is for research purposes only and data collected will enter only into a dissertation. No personal information or contact details will be asked for. It will take no longer than 10 minutes to complete.

[If you would like to advertise in NewsReel, please contact BFFS: [info@bffs.org.uk](mailto:info@bffs.org.uk)]

## **Dates for Your Diary**

06 <sup>th</sup> October	BFFS/Screen South Networking Event
13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> October	BFFS Wales Viewing Session
14 <sup>th</sup> October	BFFS South West Viewing Session
03 <sup>rd</sup> -05 <sup>th</sup> November	ICO Screening Days
01 <sup>st</sup> December	BFFS National Conference
08 <sup>th</sup> -09 <sup>th</sup> December	BFFS Yorkshire Film Education Weekend

## Get in Touch

- If you would like to be added to the NewsReel distribution list
- If you would like to be removed from the NewsReel distribution
- If you would like to comment on NewsReel content
- If you are having difficulty reading this e-mail

Then get in touch: [info@bffs.org.uk](mailto:info@bffs.org.uk)

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