

**BFFS NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
FOR  
COMMUNITY CINEMAS  
AND FILM SOCIETIES  
2009**



**YOUR GUIDE TO THE EVENTS**

**19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

**Showroom Cinema, Millennium Galleries  
and Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield**

**UK FILM | COUNCIL**



## Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to the third BFFS National Conference for community cinemas and film societies. Each year BFFS recognises the valuable work of volunteers and those working in the not-for-profit exhibition sector by dedicating a national event to your needs and interests.

We hope you take the opportunity to meet old and new friends, discuss issues with experts and colleagues and enjoy an array of films in comfortable surroundings.

We've some stimulating training sessions this year, focusing on two areas: Innovation and Education. Our Innovation day (Saturday) covers advances in programming, community outreach and digital technology. Our Education day (Sunday) presents a worked example of a simple educational session that any community cinema can put together, and provides you with the tools to deliver it. For student groups, our Student Cinema workshop at Sheffield Hallam University focuses on the needs of the student film societies and clubs operating within a Student Union or an educational institute.

More details on the individual training sessions are included in this brochure on pages 6-8.

The BFFS team has selected an exclusive collection of hard-to-access films for you to preview during this year's conference. These titles have received limited screenings via commercial and independent exhibition, providing you with a special opportunity to see some excellent and under-exposed films. All films shown during the weekend are, or will soon be, available to community cinemas with many titles available via the BFFS National Block Booking Scheme. You can find a full list of films on pages 9-13.

The 2009 BFFS Annual General Meeting will also be taking place during the National Conference on Sunday morning at 10am. The AGM offers Members the opportunity to have their say on the strategic direction of BFFS whilst providing the opportunity to meet and put questions to the recently appointed BFFS Board. All delegates are welcome to attend the AGM but only Members are able to vote. Please show your support for the future for the community cinema movement by attending the AGM.

This year's Conference also marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Film Society of the Year Awards. Please join us in the Winter Gardens at 6pm for a celebratory glass of fizz before the big event.

You can read more about the evening events on page 14 and in the commemorative brochure.

At the end of the conference you will be asked to complete an evaluation form. To ensure we maintain a high quality of service, we welcome your comments and suggestions and ask you to take the time to complete a form and return it to us. We also ask that you complete audience reaction slips for each screening. The results will be displayed in the delegate area throughout the conference.

Well, there you have it - an exciting weekend cram-packed with films, trainings session and celebrations. We hope you enjoy your time in Sheffield and have a fantastic weekend.

*The BFFS Team*

## Thanks

The event is organised by BFFS with funding from the UK Film Council, and we wish to thank them for their continued support. We also thank Screen Yorkshire for financial assistance and support for this event.

## Sponsors

We extend many warm thanks to this year's Main Sponsors, MPLC - Motion Picture Licensing Company (Gill Morris, Iain McDonald), Sponsors Sheffield Hallam University (Martin Carter) and AVCOM (Eric Bastin). We also extend thanks to our in-kind sponsors, Yoram Allon and Wallflower Press; John Letham and Park Circus; Sophie Bush and Axiom Films; Open Field Pictures, Ian Hawkins and Hawkinsian Productions; Jan Dunn and Medb Films; Joe Morris, Nicola Craddock and Practical Action; Amélie Thille and Raindance.

## Venue Coordination

Bill Lawrence, Mark Farnsworth, Dave Winstanley and all the Showroom staff and projectionists. Kelly Hodgson and the Millennium Galleries staff.

## Training Session Contributors

Donna Anton (BFFS Chair, Cornwall Film Festival, Penwith Film Society), Jim Barratt (Film Research Consultant), Jennie Bennett (Otley Film Society), Neil Chue Hong (BFFS Scotland), Roger Drury (BFFS Board), Caroline Hafner (Screen at Hay), Neil Johns (Dulwich Paradiso Film Society), Carol McNeil (Oxen Park Cinema Club), David Miller (Keswick Film Club), Peter Mitchell (Octagon Films), Adrian Pickering (BFFS Board, The Phoenix), Ian Robinson (Chorley Film Society), John Salisbury (Ventnor Film Society), Julia Vickers (Community Cinema Consultant).

## Event Organisation

Jaq Chell, Claire Elliott, Ros Hill, Julia Vickers

BFFS Interns: Chris Black and Peter Walsh

Volunteers: Bryony Forde, William Morley, Alex Unwin

## Venue and Event Information

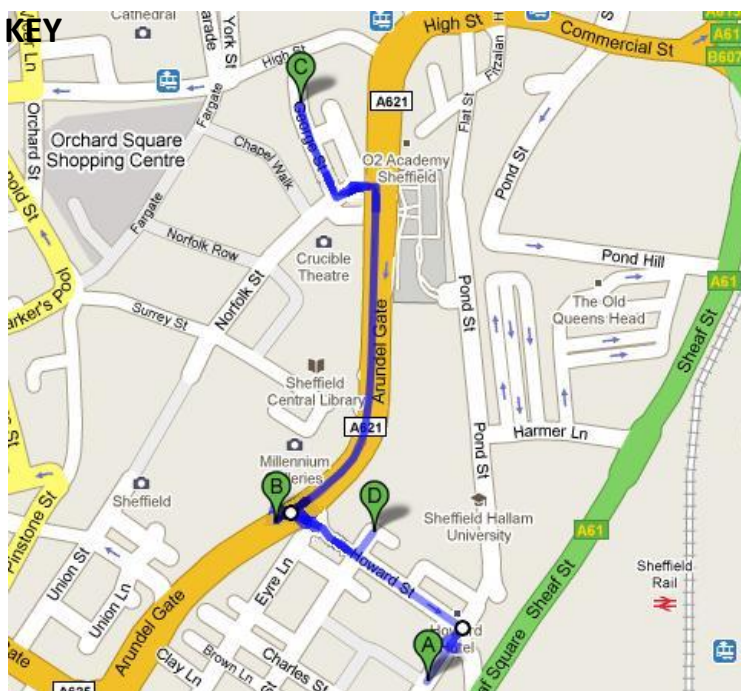
Registration is in the Showroom Cafe Bar from 9.30-10.00am on Saturday and Sunday.

Please pick up your delegate bag and name badge upon arrival. Your name badge will allow you entry to the sessions and screenings during the day so please keep it with you at all times.

Complimentary tea and coffee will be available during morning registration. A buffet lunch will be served in the Delegate Area both days.

Daytime events will take place in the Showroom Cinema, except for the Student Cinema Workshop, which will be in The Void at Sheffield Hallam University. A cloakroom will be available in the Delegate Area, but please be aware that we cannot take responsibility for anything lost or stolen. It is recommended that you carry any valuable items with you during the conference.

The evening events will begin at 6pm in the Winter Gardens (part of the Millennium Galleries) where you'll be treated to a complimentary glass of fizz. If you have pre-booked your place for the BFFS Annual Dinner, join us in the Long Gallery at 7pm for a delicious three-course meal.



A: Showroom Cinema  
(Main Venue)

B: Millennium Galleries  
(Venue for the FSoY Awards and BFFS Annual Dinner)

C: Cutler's Hotel  
(Accommodation for those who have chosen the residential package)

D: The Void, Sheffield Hallam University  
(Student Cinema Workshop Venue)

## Getting around in Sheffield

The Showroom Cinema is just a 5-minute walk away from the Millennium Galleries and Sheffield Hallam University.

## **BFFS Training and Networking Sessions**

At the core of the BFFS National Conference are the training and networking sessions dedicated to the needs of the sector. Delivered by and for volunteer-led community cinemas, the sessions are designed to address issues of real importance to you. Our aim is to give you the opportunity to broaden your knowledge, engage in critical and constructive debate with people from similar organisations, and gain the know-how to translate your passion into practical action.

At this year's conference the sessions are characterised by two overarching themes: innovation and education.

## **INNOVATIONS IN COMMUNITY CINEMA**

### **From Film Society to Film Festival**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September | 10.30 | Showroom 5

Film Programming is a core activity for every volunteer-led community cinema. The most successful (and award-winning) film programmes are those that are exciting and ambitious, offering local people screening events that are as unique as the community cinema itself.

In this session we will explore how your organisation can put in place a truly memorable screening event. In a series of interviews with representatives of community cinemas that offer spectacular screening events or have flourished into full-blown film festivals, Donna Anton (Penwith Film Society, Cornwall Film Festival), will draw out the recipe for success.

Whether your community cinema projects on 35mm, DVD, or is located in a large town or a small village, you will find both the inspiration and the practical tools to deliver your own festival in your own community.

Featuring panellists from Chorley Film Society, Keswick Film Club and Screen at Hay.

### **The Role of the Film Society in Digital Britain – sponsored by AVCOM**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September | 13.30 | Showroom 5

Technology is evolving as the digital revolution sweeps Britain. In this changing landscape, what is the role of the 21<sup>st</sup>-century film society? Neil Chue Hong (Edinburgh University Film Society) puts this question to community cinemas that are on the cusp of transition - from 35mm to D-Cinema, and from DVD to Blu-ray.

As well as exploring the impact of new technology, Eric Bastin from AVCOM will be on hand to deliver practical guidance on buying and using different types of kit. This is your chance to see D-Cinema and Blu-ray projectors in action and to put your questions to technical experts who understand your needs. Featuring panellists from Octagon Films (Market Harborough) and The Phoenix (Southampton)

**Student Cinema Workshop**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September | 13.30 | The Void, Sheffield Hallam University

As student cinemas and film societies start up and develop, what are the main issues they face, and what novel solutions do they develop? In this informal workshop, Julia Vickers (Community Cinema Consultant) will facilitate the sharing of experience, knowledge and ideas from representatives of recent start-ups and those who have been going for a number of years, including Claire Elliott of Film Unit, Sheffield University.

**Community Connections**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September | 15.30 | Showroom 5

All film societies grow from, serve and are a vital part of their local community. In this session community arts and media expert and BFFS Board Member Roger Drury will explore how you can develop new community connections by looking beyond your existing and loyal audience, and interact with different sections of your community. Community cinema panellists will discuss ways in which they have approached local outreach activities, including screenings for children and people with learning disabilities and facilitating filmmaking workshops. The session will also offer practical suggestions such as how to organise transport to and from residential homes, to enable older people to enjoy community screenings.

Come share ideas, get inspired and find out how to maximise the impact and reach of your community cinema.

Featuring panellists from Dulwich Paradiso Film Society, Otley Film Society and Oxen Park Cinema Club

**COMMUNITY CINEMA AND EDUCATION**

Along with enjoying the communal experience of watching a film as part of an audience, learning and education are at the heart of the community cinema experience. Many people choose to become part of their local community cinema because they want to learn more about film culture and cinema theory, filmmaking and the diversity of social culture across the world. Film can open up discussion and aid our understanding on a wide range of subjects, and community cinemas are instrumental in unlocking access to the informal education of their members and audiences.

**Aspects of Noir – An illustrated talk by John Salisbury MA, film educator, chair of Ventnor Film Society**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September | 11.15 | Cinema 1

Immediately after WWII, when cinema audiences were greater than they've ever been before or since, and the world was looking at a brighter and more secure future, Hollywood produced some of its most violent, cynical, downbeat, subversive (and enduring) work. John Salisbury walks those mean streets to find out why.

Illustrated with clips and slides, this talk will examine the flip side of the all-American success story. A screening of a classic of the Film Noir genre, *He Walked by Night*, will take place at 15.15.

**Film Education Workshop**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September | 14.00 | Cinema 1

Characterised by the theme of Film Noir, John Salisbury will provide expert training and guidance on how to devise and deliver an informal education session to your community cinema audience including:

- choosing a topic
- planning a session
- legality
- building a library of film clips, and
- using presentation software (PowerPoint, Keynote, Impress), to mount a session.

Notes will be provided.

**NETWORKING AND DELEGATE AREA**

We recognise that one of the most important aspects of the conference is the opportunity for delegates from a diverse range of community cinemas to network, make contacts, exchange ideas and practical information. Each training session will have a built-in networking component providing the opportunity for delegates to draw out the issues arising from the session in a peer-to-peer forum.

Wider opportunities to network will be provided throughout the weekend in the dedicated delegate area in the Showroom Café Bar, where you can also find:

- DVD stall – get great discounts on classic BFI titles
- BFFS Website and Forum demos – a chance to sign up to the forum and receive a guided tour of the new BFFS website
- Community Cinema Sourcebook – an opportunity to chat to us about your thoughts on this brand new publication. All delegates will be able to buy a copy at the discounted Member rate of just £15!

## Films and Booking Information

### FROZEN RIVER

Saturday, 10.00, Cinema 2

Courtney Hunt | US | 2009 | 97 mins | 15

This multi-award-winning festival favourite is a starkly shot thriller with current social issues at its heart. Set on the bleak and barren winter wastes of Massena, on the US-Canadian border, *Frozen River* follows the contemporary story of two single mothers struggling to make ends meet. Lila is widowed native American fighting for custody of her newborn son, and Ray is a mother of two whose gambling husband has skipped town with the down payment for their new trailer.



With no prospects, both reluctantly turn to the illegal venture of driving immigrants across the border. With one final run providing the glimmer of financial security that the two women require, things take a turn, forcing the women to confront a life or death decision about their friendship and their children.

*'Leo and Upham give performances of great conviction... the film is bold and uncliché'*

**Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian**

**With thanks to Axiom Films International**

### BOOKING INFORMATION

On general release

DVD bookings: BFFS Block Booking Scheme 1 Nov | [info@bffs.org.uk](mailto:info@bffs.org.uk) | 0114 2210314

All other bookings: Sophie Bush | [sophie@axiomfilms.co.uk](mailto:sophie@axiomfilms.co.uk) | 020 7243 3111 | [www.axiom.com](http://www.axiom.com)

+ short film

### BOY

Joe Morris | UK | 2008 | 12 mins | advisory 15

A short film by young Sheffield filmmaker Joe Morris, *Boy* is a brief window on inner turmoil tormenting a lost soul. Spending his days on an isolated allotment in the suburbs of Sheffield, a man strikes up a stilted friendship an alienated 12-year-old.



Shot on location with cast of local actors, *Boy* taps into the British social-realist vein to deliver an eerie and acutely-observed short.

### BOOKING INFORMATION

Available now

DVD bookings: Joe Morris | 07804 923784 | [joe\\_amorris@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joe_amorris@yahoo.co.uk)

### OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN

Saturday, 13.15, Cinema 2

Vladimír Michálek | Czech Rep | 2008 | 110 mins | advisory 15

One of the Czech Republic's most highly regarded filmmakers directs this comic yet poignant dialogue-driven drama of a father and son. A former scientist, whose memory is burdened by two wars, converses with his son over beer. They make merry over medical problems and the mysteries of women, with their discussion ultimately providing a cathartic airing of the guilt and anger each carries over long-remembered issues.



Director Vladimír Michálek creates a bittersweet comedy from a seemingly banal situation. The story is carried through the generations with flashbacks, from the family's private past to major historical events of the 20th century.

*'This expert adaptation of a prize-winning literary novel provides a visual equivalent of stream-of-consciousness.'* **Variety**

**With thanks to Open Field Pictures**

### BOOKING INFORMATION

Available now

DVD bookings: BFFS Block Booking Scheme | [info@bffs.org.uk](mailto:info@bffs.org.uk) | 0114 2210314

### THE CALLING

Saturday, 15.30, Cinema 2

Jan Dunn | UK | 2009 | 105 mins | cert TBC

Frustrated by her life and driven by the need to explore her long-buried religious feelings, Joanna (Emily Beecham) makes the decision to enter a convent. However, with the nuns abuzz with secret rivalries and tensions, cloistered life proves just as confusing and complicated as the life Joanna wishes to leave behind.



Joanna eventually begins to settle into convent life, but an unexpected revelation makes all the women, including Joanna, re-assess their commitment to the church.

With pitch-perfect performances from newcomer Beecham and co-star Brenda Blethyn, Jan Dunn's warm and perceptive drama gets to the heart of a world rarely seen.

*'Warmly accessible, but prepared to engage with sticky questions about sex, mental health and moral responsibility, The Calling is a stirring and unusual drama.'* **Edinburgh Film Festival**

**We are delighted to welcome writer-director Jan Dunn to introduce this special pre-release screening and hold a Q&A afterwards**

**With thanks to Medb Films**

19<sup>TH</sup>-20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, SHEFFIELD



### BLUE EYELIDS (PÁRPADOS AZULES)

Sunday, 11.15, Cinema 2

Ernesto Contreras | Mex | 2009 | 98 mins | 15

A poetic take on the usual girl-meets-boy story that carefully follows the awkward rituals of dating and the tentative early stages of blossoming love. Set in the sprawling metropolis of Mexico City, a young factory worker called Marina wins an all-expenses-paid holiday for two. Being single, she is unable to find a suitable travel partner, and so on a whim approaches her old school friend Victor.



Director Ernesto Contreras explores the difficulties of finding happiness in the modern world, through a series of stilted encounters and touchingly romantic moments. Critically acclaimed on its release, *Blue Eyelids* is strikingly shot and features a soundtrack by former Kinks frontman Ray Davies.

**With thanks to Axiom Films International**

### BOOKING INFORMATION

Available now

DVD bookings: BFFS Block Booking Scheme TBC | [info@bffs.org.uk](mailto:info@bffs.org.uk) | 0114 2210314

All other bookings: Sophie Bush | [sophie@axiomfilms.co.uk](mailto:sophie@axiomfilms.co.uk) | 020 7243 3111 | [www.axiom.com](http://www.axiom.com)

### MY DDR T-SHIRT

Sunday, 14.00, Cinema 2

Ian Hawkins | UK | 2008 | 53 mins advisory cert

East Germany was a country of 16 million people. In 1990 it disappeared forever, but the DDR lives on in souvenirs and the memories of those who lived there. *My DDR T-Shirt* takes a look at life in East Germany, asking people from the East and West about what the DDR was like. Director Ian Hawkins gets to the bottom of attitudes to a country whose symbols are sold as tourist souvenirs.



*My DDR T-Shirt* is completely independently funded and a triumph of do-it-yourself filmmaking. Using camera equipment available on the high street and his home computer, Hawkins proves that the world of fascinating international documentary filmmaking is accessible to all.

**We are delighted to welcome director Ian Hawkins to introduce the film and hold a Q&A afterwards. Ian may also be available for a Q&A at your screening; contact him on [ian.hawkins@gmail.com](mailto:ian.hawkins@gmail.com)**

### BOOKING INFORMATION

Available now

DVD bookings: BFFS Block Booking Scheme | [info@bffs.org.uk](mailto:info@bffs.org.uk) | 0114 2210314

Programme suggestion: My DDR T-Shirt + Tovarisch, I am Not Dead (BFFS Block Booking)

## HE WALKED BY NIGHT

Sunday, 15.15, Cinema 1

Alfred Werker | US | 1948 | 80 mins | PG

Policeman Robert Rawlins (John McGuire) is shot dead on the streets of Hollywood and sergeants Marty Brennan (Scott Brady) and Chuck Jones (Jimmy Cardwell) are assigned to apprehend his killer. Their prey is a mystery man - he has no prints on record and no criminal file, and he's too smart and too prepared to get caught. Hiding with his dog in a Hollywood bungalow and listening to police calls on his custom radio, Roy Martin (Richard Basehart) makes careful plans to avoid capture.



*'He Walked by Night is a high-tension crime meller, supercharged with violence but sprung with finesse.'*

### Variety

**With thanks to Park Circus**

### BOOKING INFORMATION

Bookings: Park Circus | [info@parkcircus.com](mailto:info@parkcircus.com) | 0141 332 2175 | [www.parkcircus.com](http://www.parkcircus.com)

## ON THE EDGE OF THE FOREST

Sunday, 15.15, Cinema 2

Barrie Oldfield | Australia | 1977 | 43 mins | U

This unique documentary is the only film written and presented by the renowned economist and author of *Small is Beautiful*, Dr E F Schumacher. Concentrating on the 'clear felling' of virgin native forests in Western Australia in the 1970s, the film describes the impact our way of life has on the environment. With a message as relevant today as it was then, Schumacher's vision gives us hope that there is an alternative way.



*On the Edge of the Forest* is a rare and extraordinary piece of filmmaking by one of the visionaries of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*'If we go on satisfying our wants and needs with such tremendous violence on the front line with nature, then, we can classify ourselves with the endangered species. For all life depends on this thin mantle of topsoil.'* E F Schumacher

**With thanks to Nicola Schumacher and Practical Action**

### BOOKING INFORMATION

Available now

DVD bookings: BFFS Block Booking Scheme | [info@bffs.org.uk](mailto:info@bffs.org.uk) | 0114 2210314

(A DVD on the work of Practical Action is available free with this booking)

Programme suggestion: 'Environment Matters': On the Edge of the Forest + The End of the Line

## **The Evening Events**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> | Millennium Galleries and Winter Gardens

### **WELCOME DRINKS**

Winter Gardens | 18.00

Join us for a celebratory glass of fizz before the big event in the stunning Sheffield Winter Gardens, the largest urban glasshouse in Europe.

### **BFFS ANNUAL DINNER**

Long Gallery | 19.00

The BFFS Annual Dinner will take place in the Long Gallery of the Millennium Galleries. After a full day of conferencing activity this is your chance to relax and enjoy delicious food with excellent company.

### **FILM SOCIETY OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2009 – sponsored by the Motion Picture Licensing Company (MPLC)**

Long Gallery | 20.45

The Film Society of Year Awards recognise excellence in the significant endeavours of volunteers in cultural and community cinema.

All delegates are welcome to attend the Awards Ceremony.

BFFS are delighted to have significant support from MPLC for this special event.

The 2009 Award for Best Student Society is sponsored by Sheffield Hallam University.



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