

BRITISH FEDERATION OF FILM SOCIETIES JANUARY NEWSREEL

NEWS

BFFS RESPONSE TO FILM POLICY REVIEW

On behalf of the community cinema sector BFFS welcomes the Film Policy Review and its recognition of the leading role that community cinemas and film societies play in delivering British and a wide range of film from around the world to local audiences in the UK.

We are especially pleased at the recommendations to support these volunteer-led organisations through assistance to improve the provision of screening facilities, and to support the coordination of best practice by volunteers.

We look forward to working with the BFI in delivering the recommendations of the report.

Read the full report here: <http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/8743.aspx>

BFFS COMMUNITY EXHIBITOR SURVEY 2010-11: THE RESULTS

Many thanks to everyone who took part in BFFS's annual survey of community cinema activity.

The top findings of this year's survey are:

- Community cinemas and film societies support British film: 26% of films screened by community cinemas in 2010/11 were British.
- Community cinemas and film societies enhance film provision in areas otherwise neglected by commercial cinemas: 43% operate in rural areas (compared with 3% of commercial screens).
- We estimate that film societies and community cinemas recorded around 255,000 admissions in 2010/11. Theatrical ticket sales on this scale would have generated box office revenues of £1.5 million.
- The three most programmed films in the 2010-11 season were *An Education* (2009), *The White Ribbon* (2009) and *The Secret in Their Eyes* (2009).

Read the full report: <http://bffs.org.uk/newsandevents/news/annualsurveyresults2011.html>

NEW LOOK START-UP PACK

Groups and individuals looking to set-up a community cinema or film society can now access our newly updated and freshly designed Start-Up Pack, which is the first stage in our new partnership with the RBS Film First and NatWest Film First programmes. The partnership is aimed at supporting community cinemas up and down the country by providing new tools to enhance audience experience and increase the sustainability of the community cinema sector by attracting new audiences.

You can access the new resources here:

<http://bffs.org.uk/resources/advice.html>

More resources as part of the partnership will be available soon, so keep your eye out for next month's NewsReel, and the next Booking Scheme Newsletter.

JOINING BFFS 2012

BFFS would like to thank you for your continued support over the last 12 months. Application forms are now available on the BFFS website for joining/renewing in 2012: <http://bffs.org.uk/membership/>

The Guidance Notes include information on the category of membership that best suits your organisation. Membership subscription has been kept at £85, with a half price rate for organisations in their first year of operation.

As well as access to great services and offers, by joining BFFS you become part of a national network of community volunteers working together to make the vision of Cinema for All a reality.

For more information on the benefits of belonging to the UK's network of film societies and community cinemas go to: <http://bffs.org.uk/membership/>

COMMUNITY CINEMA NEWS

KESWICK FILM FESTIVAL: 23RD – 26TH FEBRUARY 2012

With guests John Hurt, Tony Palmer and John Britten, and fantastic UK premieres including *Pardon, David and Kama*, *Vacation, No Pain, No Gain*, *Sherpas – the True Heroes of Everest*, *Little Moth* and *The Year Dolly Parton was my Mum*. Preleases of *Carancho* and *Babycall* and the usual Best of the Fests plus more.

One of last year's attendees said 'I love it! I find the programme to be a brilliant mix of really interesting films. I love the venues. I like the intimacy of the fest as well, the familiar faces from intros, as well as regular audience members I keep seeing at screenings lets me feel I've been allowed to attend something really special'.

www.keswickfilmfestival.org

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Action for Happiness, (www.actionforhappiness.org/), a national campaign for positive social change bringing together people from all walks of life who want to play a part in creating a happier society for everyone, is seeking support from local communities and independent cinemas interested in hosting a one-off film screening of **Roko Belic's inspiring film 'Happy'**. Action for Happiness say this:

"The film will be shown in support of '**World Happy Day**' across hundreds of cinemas all around the world on 11th Feb. A map of all the screenings can be found here: www.worldhappyday.com/map. We would love to get local communities and independent cinemas involved in hosting a screening and being part of this unique glocal phenomenon. It would be great if the screening of 'Happy' could take place on 11th February although **other dates in the year are also particularly welcome**.

"The preview screening of the film to an audience of 400 in London late last year, received a really tremendous response including laughter, tears and spontaneous applause at the end. If you are a community cinema or film society, you would get a copy of the film (available on DVD or Blu-ray) and rights to screen it in return for film makers receiving 30% of the money earned from the screening (i.e. your cinema keeps 70% of the takings from the door). By choosing to include 'Happy' in your programme, you would be taking it on as your own event i.e. selling the tickets and promoting the screening etc. You would cover the costs and set the ticket price. Action for Happiness could also support this by promoting the screening to its members."

You can watch the trailer for the film here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcMQmuzvPml>.

You can also see the director, Roko Belic, talking about World Happy Day here: <http://vimeo.com/33300562>.

If you are interested in getting involved please do not hesitate to get in touch with **Jenny** at the **Action for Happiness Office**, jenny.camaradou@actionforhappiness.org

BOOKING SCHEME NEWS

NEW CATALOGUE ONLINE NOW

[Click here](#) to download a copy

NEW BOOKING SCHEME PARTNERS – EUROPE'S FINEST

We are very excited to be able to offer a new collection of titles from **Europe's Finest**, a Germany-based distributor making the best of European cinema available across the continent. Titles include early work from **Ingmar Bergman** as well as silent films from **Carl Theodor Dreyer**, more recent features from directors including **Friðrik Þór Friðriksson** and **East German classics** such as *The Legend of Paul and Paula*.

Bride of Glomdal (Glomdalsbruden): Carl Theodor Dreyer | Norway | 1926 | 115 mins

Tore takes over the rundown family farm. Applying his youthful energy, he intends to make it into a big farm like Glomgården on the other side of the river, where beautiful Berit lives. Tore falls in love with her, but her father has promised her to rich Gjermund. As her wedding to Gjermund draws near, Berit runs away and seeks refuge with Tore and his parents. She soon falls deathly ill but recovers, asking for her father's permission to marry Tore. Jealous Gjermund is determined to prevent their wedding, however and the climactic scene plays out around the rushing river.

Look out for Dreyer's classic **Vampyr** which will be available to book soon.

The Naked Night/Sawdust and Tinsel (Gycklarnas Afton): Ingmar Bergman | Sweden | 1953 | 92 mins

An early, expressionistic master-piece, this title is considered one of Bergman's finest films. The story centres around a small, run down circus company, touring the south of Sweden in very early 1920s. Every day is a fight for survival, for food, shelter and human dignity. Under the circus canvas a wide variety of human feelings are exhibited: passion, wrath, envy, jealousy, failure, endurance, humiliation, pride and the blessing of good laughter. One day, when the circus stops in the home town of Albert, the director, the result is a performance never to be forgotten.

White Night Wedding (Brúðguminn): Baltasar Kormákur | Iceland | 2008 | 98 mins

Jon, a middle-aged professor is going to get married for the second time tomorrow, to one of his ex-students half his age. But it's not all roses. Firstly, there's his mother-in-law-to-be who violently opposes the marriage and who demands repayment of Jon's loan before the wedding night. Secondly, his plans to build a golf course aren't going at all well. Thirdly, his extremely drunk best man is on the loose without any shoes and lastly, the presence of his emotional first wife is haunting his every move. When the guests start flocking to the island, Jon starts getting cold feet... After a very long night of drinking and thinking, will Jon be able to make it to the church on time?

Be quick! This exclusive opportunity to book *White Night Wedding* is only available until August 2012.

For a full list of titles available from **Europe's Finest**, look out for the Booking Scheme Newsletter at the end of January.

NEW DOCUMENTARIES ON THE BFFS BOOKING SCHEME

[Cultures of Resistance](#): Iara Lee | US | 2010 | 73 mins

Does each gesture really make a difference? Can music and dance be weapons of peace? In 2003, on the eve of the Iraq war, director Lara Lee embarked on a journey to better understand a world increasingly embroiled in conflict and, as she saw it, heading for self-destruction. After several years, travelling over five continents, Lara encountered growing numbers of people who committed their lives to promoting change. This is their story.

[Future of Hope](#): Henry Bateman | UK, Iceland | 2010 | 75 mins

Future of Hope is a documentary following the individuals that strive to change the world of consumerism, credit and debt that the Icelandic economy has been built upon for the past 10 years or more. Focusing on sustainable developments in organic farming, business, innovation, renewable energy and the environment - filled with positivity and emotion as we are taken on a story of struggle, determination and most importantly... hope.

[Robert Mugabe...what happened?](#): Simon Bright | UK, France, S.Africa | 2011 | 84 mins

Robert Mugabe... what happened? charts the Shakespearean rise and fall of the man who led Zimbabwe out of civil war into a very successful African country, and then ruined it. Mugabe was damned as a terrorist, then knighted by Queen Elizabeth, and is still in power more than 30 years later. The film explores what happened through interviews with some of his closest comrades. It assembles a unique collection of southern African archive to powerfully evoke each of the decades of Mugabe's reign. The result is a complex and compelling view of Zimbabwe the country and Mugabe the man.

[See What I'm Saying](#): Hilari Scarl | US | 2010 | 91 mins

This inspirational and heartfelt documentary follows four well-known entertainers in the deaf community: a comic, a drummer, an actor and a singer as they attempt to cross over to mainstream audiences. These uniquely talented deaf entertainers overcome great challenges on their way to personal triumphs and professional success. With humour and emotion, director Hilari Scarl captures with insight and honesty the many obstacles these performers face daily.

EVENTS

FESTIVALS, FESTIVALS, FESTIVALS

[Keswick Film Festival](#) 23rd – 26th February

[Exposures Moving Image Festival](#) 21st – 23rd February

[Fort William Mountain Film Festival](#) 15th – 19th February

[Glasgow Film Festival](#) 5th – 15th February

RELEASES

[A Useful Life](#) – 13th January

[Bombay Beach](#) – 3rd February

[Girl Model](#) – 10th February

[Carancho](#) – 2nd March

[Khodorkovsky](#) – 2nd March

[A Man's Story](#) – 9th March

REMINDERS

2011 FILM SOCIETY OF THE YEAR AWARDS WINNING APPLICATIONS

The winning applications from this year's awards are available on the BFFS website:

<http://bffs.org.uk/awards/Awardapps.html>

This page is a great place to start for tips on how to put together your 2012 application, as well as providing interesting insights as to how other organisations operate. Sharing ideas is key to growing and developing your organisation's activities.

POSTER HIRE SERVICE

The BFFS poster collection now includes a wide range of newer titles, available to BFFS Members and Associates for rates starting at just £5 for 5. Higher rates apply for Affiliates/non-members. Check the website for more information and to view the new additions.

GET CONNECTED

BFFS have compiled a list of organisations that are using social networks such as Twitter and Facebook. See the list on the BFFS website and get talking to your fellow community cinema volunteers. If you'd like to be added to the list please send a link to your pages to bryony.bffs@googlemail.com

If you would like to receive this newsletter in PDF form, please email bryony.bffs@googlemail.com

THE BFFS TEAM