

BRITISH FEDERATION OF FILM SOCIETIES

JULY 2010 e-NEWSREEL

NATIONAL NEWS

UK Film Council to be abolished

The UK Film Council is to be axed as part of a cost-cutting drive by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). UK Film Council chairman Tim Bevan called it "a bad decision". The announcement shocked BFFS board members. "The Film Council is our major funder," said Donna Anton, current BFFS chair. "We already squeeze water from stone by running a lean, accountable, volunteer-led organisation. The sudden and unplanned demise of the Film Council is a direct threat to us and many other worthy and unique film offices." BFFS will keep you updated as more news becomes available.

BFI to start building new archive storage facility in autumn

Despite the government budget cuts, the British Film Institute's new £12 million National Film Archive "sub-zero storage facility," to be housed at Gaydon in Warwickshire, is still set to open by early 2012. It had been claimed that 35% of its master collection (comprising 200,000 titles) had been at risk of being "lost." This includes films from directors such as Alfred Hitchcock, David Lean, Powell and Pressburger and Humphrey Jennings. Cost-cutting measures may still reduce access to the archive's holdings.

BFI Mediatheque Newcastle's Discovery Museum

Later this month the BFI's fourth Mediatheque outside London will launch at Newcastle's Discovery Museum. At this digital archive, the public will have access to more than 1,800 films and television programmes from the BFI National Archive as well as new material. The museum will host more than 50 specially curated collections, including a celebration of British fashion, rare home movies from India and Tibet, and a century of Jewish representation on British screens.

Beacon Hill Film Project a finalist in the National Lottery Awards 2010

In the annual search for the UK's favourite Lottery-funded projects, the Beacon Hill Film Project is one of three arts organisations named as a National Lottery Awards 2010 finalist.

A partnership between Beacon Hill Business and Enterprise College and Arpeggio Films, the project has made it possible for young people in North Tyneside with severe learning difficulties and autism to create and produce their own films – *The Middle of Nowhere* and *The Pirate and the Mermaid*. Thanks to Lottery funding, the group was able to use high-quality equipment and employ industry professionals to work with the young people, as well as secure locations for the films. The grant also allowed the Beacon Hill Film Project to have its own premiere so that everyone involved could feel a sense of achievement.

Public voting for the finals starts at 9am on 26 July and ends at midday on 13 August. You can vote for your favourite project in each category by going online to www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards

BFFS NEWS

Registering as a Charity

BFFS is revising its guidance on how to become a charity or charitable company. Prior to the Charities Act 2006, most film society charities had their primary charitable objective as 'education'. The range of charitable purposes has now widened to include 'the advancement of citizenship or community development' and 'the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science'. We would like to hear from any film society or community cinema that has successfully become a charity using the wider purposes. Please contact BFFS Board member Adrian Pickering on jap@thephoenix.org.uk

Community Cinema in Australia

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiHwM2LgTzk>

UK film societies might be interested in this inspiring short film from Australia about the efforts of small, rural communities to operate community-run cinemas, film societies and small-scale film festivals, despite the major obstacle of great distances between towns.

[BFFS on Facebook](#)

Pop by and say hello. If you have a Facebook group for your film society or community cinema, let us know, and we'll publicise it on our page: <http://bit.ly/9EKVeV>

Don't forget, we're also on Twitter [@_BFFS](#)

BFFS BOOKING SCHEME NEWS

Tigerlily Films now available!

We are very pleased to announce that selected titles from Tigerlily Films have been added to the BFFS Booking Scheme.

Two films by talented British director **Ben Hopkins** are available from this month: the award-winning and highly enjoyable [The Market](#) (*Pazar - Bir ticaret masali*) and [37 Uses for a Dead Sheep](#), a riveting and entertaining documentary about the Pamir Kirghiz people of Central Asia. Both would be excellent additions to a community cinema programme.

New Titles Coming Soon:

From Peccadillo Pictures, the award-winning [Eyes Wide Open](#) and [Villa Amalia](#). Both titles are available from September 2010.

Eyes Wide Open has been receiving rave reviews around the world, described by *Variety* as "An intense, restrained drama... quietly devastating".

Villa Amalia stars legendary French screen actress Isabelle Huppert in a sumptuous, passionate tale.

New Releases

- [South of the Border](#) – Dogwoof: Released 30 July
- [Undertow](#) – Axiom Films: Released 6 August

FILM SOCIETY NEWS

Bridport Film Society to offer £1,000 grant to local film student

Local young people hoping to become the next big British film director or screenwriter are to be given a boost by the Bridport Film Society. The 45-year-old community organisation has announced that it will award a £1,000 grant to a local university student to assist with tuition, with its inaugural Future Filmmaker University Grant award.

Any local university student currently reading film studies, film writing or film production (or planning to begin in 2010-11) is invited to apply for the award. Any student residing in western Dorset, between Lyme Regis and Dorchester and West Bay and Crewkerne, qualifies to apply.

The society's committee says: '*Bridport Film Society is one of Bridport's oldest community organisations and it is the right time for it to return something to the community. With the growing pressure on university funding and increasing fees, we want to encourage local young people to take their place in the British film industry.*'

Applications are available to download from the Bridport Film Society website www.bridportfilmsociety.co.uk and must be submitted prior to 31 August.

EVENTS

[The 2010 BFFS National Conference](#)

The 4th National Conference for Community Cinemas will take place 18th-19th September at the Institut Français, South Kensington, London. Focusing on film education, this year's event will offer a mix of training sessions, film screenings and networking opportunities.

Bookings will open very soon – keep your eye on your inbox!

[ICO Screening Days](#)

Cornerhouse, Manchester, 13th-15th November

[Festivals, Festivals, Festivals](#)

- [The British Urban Film Festival](#) : 3-5 September
- [Nunhead and Peckham Free Festivals](#): 8-12 September
- [The Cambridge Film Festival](#) : 16-26 September
- [Raindance Film Festival](#) : 29 September - 10 October
- [London Film Festival](#) : 13-29 October
- [Cornwall Film Festival](#) : 5-7 November

For all the very latest news and updates, go to the BFFS website: www.bffs.org.uk

REMINDERS

[Film Society of the Year Awards 2010 – application deadline extended!](#)

Due to requests by some keen (but busy) entrants, you now have until 6th August to submit your applications. The Film Society of the Year Awards ceremony will take place on Saturday, 18th September at the Cine Lumiere in South Kensington, London. We are delighted to announce that Radio 4's Francine Stock, film expert Ian Christie and BFFS President Derek Malcolm will be our special guests for the ceremony. We hope to see you there.

[BFFS Interactive Web Forum](#)

Share ideas and network with over 500 forum users. Sign up today!

[BFFS Community Cinema Sourcebook is now SOLD OUT!](#)

If your organisation or company is interested in sponsoring the next edition, please contact Jaq Chell on info@bffs.org.uk

NEWSREEL IS NOW AVAILABLE AS A PRINTABLE PDF – ALL THE LATEST INFORMATION AND STORIES IN ONE DOCUMENT FOR YOU TO SHARE WITH YOUR COMMITTEE. TO REQUEST A COPY, EMAIL BFFS OPERATIONS ASSISTANT BRYONY FORDE: bryony.bffs@gmail.com

THE BFFS TEAM

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