



# NEWSREEL

THE NEWSLETTER OF

THE BRITISH FEDERATION OF FILM SOCIETIES



**October 2008 ~ Edition**

## Welcome

**BFFS National News**  
**Industry News**  
**Regional News**  
**Regional Events**  
**Information and Offers**  
**BFFS Interactive**  
**For Your Consideration**  
**Dates for Your Diary**  
**Get in Touch**

## Welcome

Welcome to the October e-edition of NewsReel.

## BFFS National News

### “QUID PRO QUO”

### URGENT, URGENT, URGENT: THE BFFS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Pop quiz time: what do these film titles have in common?

- Moneydrifter
- The Last Distress
- Down the Pope's Toilet
- Bummers Town
- In Search of a Midnight Quid
- Not Our Daily Bread

Catch our drift?

Mirroring the current economic climate and the tightening of available funding, the BFFS 2008/09 budget – already operating on a shoestring – is currently facing a £20,000 shortfall.

While the newly organised board works hard on long-term budget solutions and alternative funding sources, we are imploring film societies across the UK to consider making a special donation.

Three suggestions:

- 1) raise your membership fees next year by £1 per member and donate the surplus to the BFFS;
- 2) target one of your screenings as a one-off fundraiser for BFFS;
- 3) you name it.

The BFFS has been supporting community cinema for 60 years. Please help us to help you for 60 more.

With advance thanks for your consideration.

## Wow, what a Weekend!

The National Conference

The second National Conference for Film Societies and Community Cinemas took place on the weekend of Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 September at the Showroom Cinema, Sheffield. The weekend was packed with activities including seminars and training sessions, facilitated networking opportunities, introduced film screenings and Director Q&A.

### The Training Opportunities:

Lecturers in film, industry experts and community exhibition specialists shared expertise and lively discussion in a series of dedicated seminars. The conference explored the technical and aesthetic aspects of cinema sound, how best to programme films in urban vs rural areas, inspirational ideas on film education and top tips on marketing.

### The Films: Audience Reactions:

97.5	Blindsight
91.7	Summer
90.4	Klass
90.3	Ruby Blue
85.7	Tovarisch, I Am Not Dead
85.0	Love Letters and Live Wires
70.0	The Swenkas
67.5	Eraserhead
62.5	Shorts Selection
58.3	The Virus of War (Short)
52.3	My World (Short)

Seen it? Loved it? Book it on the National Block Booking Scheme.

### The Networking:

People buzzed, chatted and shared ideas, friendships were formed and connections made – a great idea from a new Film Society was a mentoring scheme where established organisations were matched up with and ‘adopted’ newly-formed ones.

### The Film Society of the Year Awards

The Annual Dinner and Awards ceremony at the Cutlers’ Hall in Sheffield brought together independent filmmakers and independent community exhibitors.

BFFS President Derek Malcolm introduced talented Kent-based director Jan Dunn (*Gypo* 2006, *Ruby Blue* 2008) who presented the prestigious awards.

Jan commented, *“What an absolute honour to be invited to speak at the annual BFFS awards when my own interest and motivation to become a film director stems from joining my school Film Club in the 1970’s. Watching something other than commercial films was a whole new discovery for me and expanded my life as well as my interest in film. Today as an independent filmmaker in the UK, it is very exciting to be speaking to what I think of as the Front Line, when it comes to building a cinema audience that sustain British films and open our eyes to the cream of foreign cinema.”*

### The Winners:

Best Film Programming:	Louth Film Club (Lincolnshire)
Best Programme Notes:	Bracknell Film Society (Berkshire)
Best Marketing and Publicity:	Chorley Film Society (Lancashire)
Best Website:	Keswick Film Club (Cumbria)
Best New Society:	Denbigh Film Club (Clwb Ffilmiau Dinbych) Clwyd
Best Student Society:	Warwick Student Cinema
Community Award:	Oxen Park Cinema Club (Cumbria)

The Engholm Prize for Film Society of the Year was awarded to Louth Film Club for their inspirational work across the board in innovation, dedication and commitment.

In recognition of significant contribution to the film society movement, The Roebuck Cup was awarded to Tom Brownlie, previous Secretary of BFFS

### What you thought:

*‘This weekend was instrumental in awakening us to the potentials of our collective role as societies in the wider industry of film, and in such things as enabling an interface between filmmakers and the public’*

*‘Valuable to us in all sorts of ways, including networking, socializing, picking up masses of info’*

*‘Very eclectic mix (of films)’ ‘Klass was class!’*

What we thought:

Recently appointed BFFS Chair, Julieanne Crothers-Gibson commented, *"The achievements of community exhibitors is amazing and deserves to be recognised widely. All should be congratulated on attaining excellence in such a diversity of endeavours. BFFS is proud to support your work."*

The team here in Sheffield continues to be inspired by your enthusiasm and endless creativity and we look forward to seeing you all next year.

## Industry News

### Mamma Mia! Security Breach Affects Community Screenings

By now you've probably heard of the major security breach that led to the title Mamma Mia! being illegally available for download via the internet. As a result of this, the parent distributor Universal has made the decision to pull all early window bookings on this film, except in a few individual cases. This means that non-theatrical distributor Filmbank, who handles these bookings, has contacted hundreds of customers to let them know of the situation and that they will not be able to screen the film prior to its DVD release on 24 November.

The implications on future early window releases are yet to be quantified, and while it was not a Filmbank DVD that was the cause of the breach, this instance does illustrate the importance to distributors of knowing that pre-release DVDs are being handled with vigilance.

### Final line up announced for the ICO Screening Days!

The final list of titles for the ICO Screenings Days has now been confirmed. This is an unparalleled opportunity to see exclusive previews of the latest films from all the major UK & US distributors, many of them award winners.

- Anvil! The Story of Anvil | Sacha Gervasi | The Works
- Blindness | Fernando Meirelles | Pathe
- Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia | Sam Peckinpah | Park Circus
- Bronson | Nicolas Winding Refn | Vertigo
- Che: The Argentine | Steven Soderbergh | Optimum Releasing
- Che: Guerrilla | Steven Soderbergh | Optimum Releasing
- The Class | Laurent Cantet | Artificial Eye
- Country Profiles: Modern Life | Raymond Depardon | Soda Pictures
- Dean Spanley | Toa Fraser | Icon
- Far North | Asif Kapadia | Soda Pictures
- Four Minutes – BFFS Choice | Chris Kraus | Peccadillo Pictures
- Il Divo | Paolo Sorrentino | Artificial Eye
- Love Letters and Live Wires: Highlights from the GPO Film Unit | various | BFI
- Patti Smith: Dream of Life | Steven Sebring | Verve Pictures
- Rachel Getting Married | Jonathan Demme | Sony Releasing
- The Silence of Lorna | Jean-Pierre & Luc Dardenne | New Wave Films
- Summer | Kenny Glennan | Vertigo
- Three Monkeys | Nuri Bilge Ceylan | New Wave Films
- 'Tis Autumn: The Search for Jackie Paris | Raymond De Felitta | Verve Pictures
- Tokyo Sonata | Kiyoshi Kurosawa | Eureka
- Vicky Cristina Barcelona | Woody Allen | Optimum Releasing
- W. | Oliver Stone | Lions Gate Films

Please note ICO reserve the right to alter or cancel screenings

The ICO Screening Days are being held from 8 – 10 November 2008 at the Filmhouse, Edinburgh.

For further information and to download a registration form please visit:  
[http://www.independentcinemaoffice.org.uk/screening\\_daysnov2008.htm](http://www.independentcinemaoffice.org.uk/screening_daysnov2008.htm)

### ICO Training Courses

The Independent Cinema Office presents two training courses which have been developed for independent cinemas, film festivals and film societies from across the UK:

### Developing Your Audience

11th November, Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh

- Learn about successful strategies for audience development
- Gain inspiration from industry experts
- Choose from a range of sessions focusing on research and monitoring, working with young people and culturally diverse audiences
- Develop staff skills

### Programming Specialised and Archive Film

11th December, Norwich University College of the Arts

- Learn how to create a strong programme of cultural film
- Develop a good working relationship with film distributors
- Find out about accessing the collections of public sector moving image archives and take a tour of the East Anglian Film Archive
- Get advice on the creative, practical, technical and legal considerations of screening archive film

Further information: [www.independentcinemaoffice.org.uk/training](http://www.independentcinemaoffice.org.uk/training)

### **Black Film Exhibition Cultural Leadership Sector Programme 2008/9**

A programme of seminars and business development training for those cultural leaders currently working to exhibit Black Film, whether through a film festival, arts centre or independent cinema

Open to applicants across the UK, this specifically designed course offers:

- Tips and training to enable you to capitalise on the new business opportunities in Black Film
- Networking with industry experts including distributors and press contacts
- Skills for adding impact to your event and gaining larger audiences
- The chance to strengthen Black Film exhibition across the UK

The deadline is 5pm Mon 3rd November; to find out more go to:

<http://www.filmlondon.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=1121&ArticleID=1831>

### **Regional News**

#### **BFFS and Northern Ireland Screen – Information Day**

On Saturday 11th October an Information event was held in Queen's Film Theatre, Belfast. The purpose of the event was to bring together established film societies, volunteer-run community cinemas and anyone interested in setting up such ventures.

Northern Ireland Screen has been working to open up the rich world of film to challenge, inspire, unite and amaze people by encouraging the organisation of film clubs in local communities.

Over 50 people turned out for the event and feedback was very positive with collaborations already happening on the establishment of film clubs as well as the creation of a social networking group for those who attended.

Linda Hanna, an attendee commented "*The Networking and Viewing session organised by Northern Ireland Screen was a great success. The panel of experts offered a great deal of clear advice on setting up our own clubs. They made us aware of what the rest of the UK and Republic of Ireland have done in this area, before us. Their positive attitude gives me and others the encouragement to make the leap from thinking about it, to taking steps to actually doing it. I appreciate the fact that they offered us ongoing support, rather than just a one off contact. It was inspiring to listen to speaker from Newry film club, who have set up in this country from scratch and are very successful. We met some great like-minded people with whom we can build relationships with for future reference. We were introduced to a guy who had the same ideas, attitude, vision as us, from our home town! We would otherwise would not have met, without this day happening! So as it goes we are setting up a mobile film club, the three of us, and currently recruiting 6 more individuals from varying age, sex and back grounds to help us launch it. Taking good and positive cinema to the Community, as well a channel for Amateur film-makers, like myself, to showcase work*".

Northern Ireland Screen launched its Support Fund for Film Societies/Community Cinema at the event. This fund has been created to sustain and develop the community cinema movement in Northern Ireland. Funding

will be available of up to £1,500 per film society. Visit [www.northernirelandscreen.co.uk](http://www.northernirelandscreen.co.uk) for more information or email [julianne@northernirelandscreen.co.uk](mailto:julianne@northernirelandscreen.co.uk)

### **Success in the South West**

We're delighted to share two fantastic success stories with you.

#### Community cinema group in Looe wins grants of £13,000

Lottery funding of nearly £10,000, together with a grant of £3,000 from Cornwall County Council and money raised by Looe Film Society at several successful fundraising events will pay for new cinema equipment to be installed in a new community hall in the Barbican in Looe.

Operating since October 2006 Looe Film Society is run by volunteers and is a Registered Charity. In 2007 the Society won national recognition for its work by gaining a distinction in the British Federation of Film Societies' prestigious Film Society of the Year Awards (Best New Society category).

As a result of the funding the Film Society plans to work in partnership with Cornwall County Council staff to provide more film shows especially for children and young people.

For more information go to [www.looefilmsociety.org.uk](http://www.looefilmsociety.org.uk)

#### Writer of Mamma Mia! joins the Wotton Cinema

The volunteers at the Electric Picture House in Wotton under Edge Gloucestershire, are celebrating the arrival of its first Patron Catherine Johnson, the playwright and screenwriter who created the popular show and subsequent film Mamma Mia!

The Electric Picture House are thrilled that Catherine has come on board. Spokesman Jeff Walshe said, "We are delighted Catherine has agreed to become our Patron and together we hope to be able to further the principles on which the Picture House operates by helping other groups in the community benefit from its success."

The Wotton Electric Picture House is a community co-operative Social Enterprise cinema run by shareholders and volunteers. While bringing cinema to Gloucestershire the ultimate aim is to raise more funds for other community projects.

For more information go to: [www.wottoneph.co.uk](http://www.wottoneph.co.uk)

### **Scottish Screen: Digital Projection Equipment Fund**

In the August edition of NewsReel we reported that Scottish Screen had opened applications for a Digital Equipment Fund. The fund is open to cinemas, arts spaces, community halls and other venues in rural and remote areas of Scotland. A further 100,000 is available through HI~Arts for smaller scale organisations such as community groups and film societies.

The deadline for applications is now approaching – exhibitors should enter their applications no later than Friday 31 October 2008

For details on eligibility or how to apply, please visit [www.scottishscreen.com/digitalprojection](http://www.scottishscreen.com/digitalprojection). For small grants, go to [www.hi-arts.co.uk](http://www.hi-arts.co.uk).

### **Regional Events**

#### **BFFS Yorkshire Group – Film Education Weekend**

This popular annual event takes place on 5-8 December at Cober Hill Conference Centre, Cloughton, Scarborough.

The theme for 2008 is a survey of recent South American Cinema. Titles include: El Bano Del Papa (The Pope's Toilet), El Violin, Buena Vida Delivery, Foreign Land and more...

The weekend will also include a Screen Goddesses strand featuring: Theda Bara, Louise Brooks, Marlene Dietrich, Greta Garbo, Catherine Deneuve, Jeanne Moreau and Monica Vitti. There's also a rare chance to see La Roue (The Wheel), Abel Gance (1923)

For more information on the weekend contact Tony Davison 01723 361661

## **Information and Offers**

### **Block Booking Scheme – Over 100 films now available!**

We are delighted to announce a significant extension to the National Block Booking Scheme.

This autumn has seen the number of titles held on the scheme almost double, with a further 42 titles added to the collection.

Spanning from classics of world cinema and recent Indie successes to home-grown dramas and inspiring documentaries, the new additions have been chosen to offer fantastic range to film societies and community cinemas.

The new collection gives your audience the chance to see some real cinematic gems including one of The Times Online films of 2008, Blindsight. A huge success at this year's BFFS National Conference, Blindsight is an inspirational documentary that follows a group of visually impaired teenagers as they scale the north side of Everest.

Music fans are treated to the fantastic new documentary from Julien Temple, Joe Strummer, The Future is Unwritten along with John Sayles' 2007 success Honeydripper, a rock n' roll movie with a stunning soundtrack.

In addition we are particularly pleased to offer you several titles from Axiom's Wim Wenders collection including the recently re-released masterpiece, Paris Texas.

Feel free to browse the entire collection in the PDF attached and enjoy programming your next season. Titles can be booked by contacting the BFFS central office [info@bffs.org.uk](mailto:info@bffs.org.uk).

## **BFFS Interactive**

### **Top Tips**

An occasional series of brief and helpful tips for community exhibitors, this month the tips are from The Phoenix in Southampton.

1. If you operate any form of membership system, why not use an \*envelope\* as a temporary 'member record card'?

For our associate memberships we ask the applicant to write their own name and address on an A5 envelope. To ensure that it is written in the right place, we pre-rubber-stamp the self-seal envelopes with our logo (top left) and 'if undelivered' address (bottom left). With no further effort, you then have a stock of pre-addressed envelopes ready for your next season's publicity mailing.

2. If you have access to a digital projector use it for your pre-showing announcements while the audience gathers. We use a PowerPoint presentation in cycling, slide-show mode to give information on:

- venue safety and facility information (what to do in case of fire, where the toilet facilities are, etc)
- cumulative audience reaction statistics for the season
- neighbouring community cinema information/promotion
- where to get further information about the club (website details etc)

We still give a personal welcome but the on-screen management of information allows us to concentrate on just that!

### **FREE Film Festival: The UCL Festival of the Moving Image**

The Festival of the Moving Image is a partnership between the Film Group of the British Cuban Heritage Foundation and UCL. The central theme of the 2008 FMI is cities in/on film, in the context of the international festivities honouring the great filmmaker Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, on the 80th anniversary of his birth with a screening of his film Memorias del Subdesarrollo. The FMI also pays special tribute to late directors Humberto Solás and Sergio Núñez and to the late actor Paul Newman for their exceptional work in cinema. To learn more about the project and the festival screenings go to <http://www.thefestivalofthemovingimage.co.uk/>

### **Do you still use a 16mm Film Projector?**

If so, you may be interested to learn that Chris White (Chairman, AVANT-GARDE Film Society 1963-2000) has a collection of 16mm film projectors, spares, accessories and other interesting items for sale. Listed below is a small sample:

- Bell & Howell 16mm projectors.
- Brand new Bell & Howell lenses
- A CIR 16mm film tape joiner, the latest professional model
- Brand new and boxed 16mm Separate Magnetic Film (full coat SEP MAG) for double band projector users at only 3 pence a foot!
- Bell & Howell "Ringmaster" sound/slide projector. When last made these retailed at over £1000.
- "MUGGS OWNS UP". A B&W 16mm short comedy starring "The Bowery Boys" 35 mins

If you would like to receive a full list of what is currently available, please send a SAE to: Chris White, 9, Elmbridge Drive, Ruislip, Middlesex. HA4 7XD. For technical enquiries, please call 01895-634610 (afternoons or evenings only).

### **About BFFS Interactive**

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**

#### **Home movie of life in World War II**

Available Light Productions are making a programme for the BBC on how the population of Britain went about their daily lives from 1939–1945. The film will depict those precious family moments that newsreel or government films rarely portray giving us the ability to humanise and understand what life was like for a country at war. If you have an old home movie from this time which depicts a personal story of you, your family, or even the lives of those living in your community please contact Laura Feilden at Available Light Productions on 0117 908 4433 or [lfeilden@availablelight.tv](mailto:lfeilden@availablelight.tv)

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

### **Dates for Your Diary**

08-10	November	Edinburgh	ICO Screening Days
22-23	November	Aberystwyth	BFFS Welsh Group: Viewing Session
05-08	December	Scarborough	BFFS Yorkshire Group: Film Education Weekend
11-12	April	Falkirk	BFFS Scotland: Community Cinema Festival

### **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)

### **NewsReel is published by:**

British Federation of Film Societies (The)  
Registered Office: Unit 315, The Workstation, 15 Paternoster Row, Sheffield S1 2BX, UK.  
Company Limited by Guarantee. Company No. 1391200 England & Wales. Charity No. 276633

Ph: 0114 2210314  
E-mail: [info@bffs.org.uk](mailto:info@bffs.org.uk)  
Web: [www.bffs.org.uk](http://www.bffs.org.uk)