

BRITISH FEDERATION OF FILM SOCIETIES SEPTEMBER 2010 e-NEWSREEL

NEWS

FILM SOCIETY OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2010 – THE WINNERS!

The winners of this year's Film Society of the Year Awards were announced at a prestigious ceremony at the Ciné Lumière, London on Saturday 18th September, as part of the BFFS National Conference weekend.

The awards were presented by **Francine Stock**, writer, broadcaster and presenter of Radio 4's The Film Programme. In her address, Francine commended the hard work and dedication of the volunteers that bring cinema to all areas of the country. Francine said, 'Watching a film at your local film society is one of the best ways of sharing film'

The **Engholm Prize for Film Society of the Year**, for the most vigorous and dynamic film society demonstrating all qualities required of individual categories, was awarded to Birmingham International Film Society for excellence across the board.

For 44 years of service to the film society movement, the **Roebuck Cup** was awarded to **Jim Dempster**. It is volunteers like Jim that have kept the British Federation of Film Societies a vital part of the community exhibition network for over 60 years.

BFFS Chair **Donna Anton** said 'The Film Society of the Year Awards are our annual opportunity to recognise the fantastic work that volunteers do in bringing film to all areas of the UK. Only 3% of commercial cinemas operate in rural areas, community cinemas and film societies fill in those gaps to provide film to audiences who would otherwise be isolated. These volunteers support the film industry at a grass-roots level - and their dedication deserves shouting about.'

You can see a full list of winners here: <http://www.bffs.org.uk/awards>

You can see photographs of the event here:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/alexsnelltraveletc/sets/72157624984466876/>

Feel free to use them in your newsletter/ publications but please credit: www.studioalexandersnell.co.uk

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COMMUNITY CINEMAS 2010

On the 18-19 September 2010, volunteers from community cinemas across the UK gathered in London for the National Conference for Community Cinemas organised by BFFS. Focusing on the theme of Film Education, the weekend's activities comprised film screenings, training sessions and networking opportunities.

The event was held at the Institut Français, South Kensington – the site of the first ever national meeting of UK film societies, in 1956 – also a weekend of screenings and educational activities. In her welcome address, BFFS Chair Donna Anton said 'It's a happy coincidence that we are here again – and it is a fact worth celebrating that the film society movement is still going strong, 54 years later.'

Educationalist Sue Porter gave the keynote speech on the value of Film Education within community cinema. The delivery of Film Education was examined through both training sessions and film screenings. Training featured expert panel discussions, workshops and debates with the aim of examining and discussing the film education tools open to community cinemas. Film screenings offered examples of best practice, including contextual introductions, programme notes, Q&As, discussions and audience reaction measurement.

Delegates were treated to special screenings of feature dramas **Undertow** and **Pomegranates and Myrrh**, chilling anti-nuclear documentary **Countdown to Zero**, the classic **La Règle du jeu**, a selection of shorts

from the new **Raindance 17th Film Festival** collection, and **Hidden Herstories** – a compilation of inspirational short films about exceptional women. All titles were rated very highly by the audience. Films shown during the weekend will be widely available to community cinemas and via the BFFS National Booking Scheme. You can see the full audience reaction index here:
<http://www.bffs.org.uk/newsandevents/news/Natconfnews.html>

Ideas and examples of good practice emerging from the weekend's activities will assist in a BFFS project to form an educational toolkit of online fact sheets and downloadable resources. We'll keep you updated in future Newsreels.

FILM SOCIETY NEWS

TORBAY FILM CLUB 'PRIZE' NEW SEASON

Torbay Film Club kicked off its new season with *Looking for Eric* at Torquay Museum on Tuesday 14th September and a fantastic free Ken Loach prize draw.

Looking for Eric, which received the highest number of votes from club members, is about a football fanatic postman whose life descends into crisis when he receives some life coaching from a philosophical Eric Cantona. This uplifting story left everyone with big smiles on their faces.

The evening included a free draw with the prize generously signed and donated by the film's famous Director, Ken Loach, and also the chance to enjoy a delicious, themed 'Steak & Ale Pie' dinner.

"We're thrilled by the support of Ken Loach, the film's director," comments Karen White from Torbay Film Club. "We're a friendly not-for-profit club and welcome new members. A year's movie membership costs just £29." For more information see www.torbayfilmclub.co.uk

SCREEN AT HAY HOST 2ND HAY FESTIVAL OF BRITISH CINEMA

Featuring new and classic films, silents, shorts, directors talks with Francine Stock. September 24th-26th
www.filmfestivalhay.co.uk

FREE FILM SCREENING OF JELLY DOLLY FOR FILM SOCIETIES

Jelly Dolly is a low budget, independent feature film shot in and around Sheffield in 2004. It was awarded the British Council 'Best Feature Award' at the Britspotting showcase in Berlin.

This unusual film has been described as a 'feminist body horror' and takes the camera inside the head of its protagonist to offer a surreal world of visualised anxiety as she goes through a break-up. The film is both strange and funny.

Jelly Dolly was written, directed and co-produced by Susannah Gent, a multi-international award-winning short filmmaker, based in Sheffield. To promote its on-line distribution by Cornerstone Media International, the film is available on Beta SP or DVD free of charge to film societies along with short films by the director. To find out more, or to book, contact Susannah Gent on sgys05930@blueyonder.co.uk

EVENTS

ICO SCREENING DAYS

Saturday 13, Sunday 14 & Monday 15 November 2010
Cornerhouse, Manchester

Registration for the ICO Autumn Screening Days is now open. Choose from 20+ films that will be hitting the screens in the months ahead at a fraction of the cost of a film festival pass. Meet and network with fellow colleagues at the drinks reception on Saturday evening and gain advice from industry experts who are on hand throughout the event.

Titles confirmed so far include: [Animal Kingdom](#), [Beautiful](#), [The Debt](#), [The King's Speech](#), [Neds](#) and [West is West](#).

For further information and to download a registration form please visit: <http://www.independentcinemaoffice.org.uk/screeningdays-nov2010.htm>

FESTIVALS, FESTIVALS, FESTIVALS

- [Raindance Film Festival](#) : 29 September - 10 October
- [Cheltenham Film Festival](#) : 1-3 October
- [London Film Festival](#) : 13-29 October
- [Cornwall Film Festival](#) : 5-7 November

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@googlemail.com

THE BFFS TEAM

--

British Federation of Film Societies - supporting film societies and community cinemas for over 60 years
Unit 315 The Workstation | 15 Paternoster Row | Sheffield | S1 2BX
t: 0114 2210314 | e: info@bffs.org.uk

Visit our website: www.bffs.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ BFFS](https://www.twitter.com/BFFS)

Sign up to the BFFS Web Forum and start the discussion: www.bffs.org.uk/forum/

Company Ltd by Guarantee. Company No. 1391200 England & Wales. Charity No. 276633