**FILM PROGRAMME CELEBRATES CULTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH UK-WIDE EVENTS**

**Changing Times inspires curious film experiences that connect future and past**

A programme of special events is underway across the UK, all of which use film to connect us in these ever-changing times.

The *Changing Times: Curious* screen heritage programme, which began in earnest at Thurrock Film Festival, uses archive film to find new ways to celebrate the human desire to learn more about the people and things around us, bringing heritage cinema to new audiences in many different ways. The programme from the BFI Film Audience Network is made possible thanks to National Lottery funding.

Later in the autumn, The Box, in partnership with Plymouth Arts Cinema and Compass Presents, will show a selection of films as part of *Changing Times: Curious*, which allow audience members to expand their connection with the work in the galleries. [CURIOUS About British Art Show 9](https://www.theboxplymouth.com/events/exhibitions/british-art-show-9#:~:text=British%20Art%20Show%20is%20a,togetherness%3B%20and%20imagining%20new%20futures.) will feature screenings that highlight the ways in which encounters between British and other cultures have enriched our society throughout history.

This follows the events in Thurrock by the Anglo Asiatic Arts and Heritage Alliance (AAAHA), which honoured several socio-historic milestones, namely the 75th anniversary of the Independence of India and Pakistan, the 50th year since the expulsion of South Asians and Sikhs from Uganda, and the 25th anniversary of the handover of Hong Kong.

Similarly, *Re:Score* was part of The Freedom Festival 2022, an annual feast of music and performance arts held since 2007 in honour of Hull’s slave trade abolitionist, the MP William Wilberforce. It featured commissions by The Broken Orchestra (UK), providing specially created scores to breathe new life into seemingly forgotten pieces of silent archive footage, featuring a Black May Queen in wartime Britain, and a charity supporting the families of local fisherman in the 1960s.

*Journey to the Isles, Marjory Kennedy-Fraser,* a new commission from the Hippodrome Silent Film Festival offered a glimpse into the landscapes, folktales and songs that inspired one of Scotland's great early collectors of traditional arts. The tour of the piece across Scotland, including at Sea Change Festival by Screen Argyll in Tiree, Dundee Contemporary Arts, and An Tobar and Mull Theatre, concluded at [Eden Court in Inverness](https://eden-court.co.uk/event/journey-to-the-isles) and featured a performer Q&A, plus a [live stream](https://www.hippodromecinema.co.uk/whats-on/hippfest-at-home-journey-to-the-isles-marjory-kennedy-fraser/) for international audiences.

In collaboration with the East Anglian Film Archive, [Reel Connections](https://reelconnections.co.uk/events/) in Norwich will host an archive package entitled[*Sounds of Silents: Curious Youth*](https://reelconnections.co.uk/sound-of-silents-curious-youth/) at the Octagon Unitarian Chapel in the city on 27 October. The event will include live scores by local musicians [Broads](https://broadsofnorfolk.bandcamp.com/music), featuring Jess Blake, [Kitty Perrin](https://soundcloud.com/kitty-perrin) and [Milly Hirst](https://millykirby.com/music). A short film version will then be made available for screenings at community venues in partnership with Creative Arts East, later in the year.

This will be followed by *I Ken Whaur I’m Gaun* *(I Know Where I’m Going)* by Cinetopia at The French Institute in the heart of Edinburgh’s Old Town between 27 and 31 October. The event, which will explore how folk songs have acted as a form of storytelling in Scotland over time, includes archive film screenings, live musical performances using material extracted from the National Library of Scotland’s moving image archive, and a looped audio-visual installation that will be on display throughout.

Having started on October 13 at Berneray in Borve, Uist Film will screen Gaelic documentary [*Dúthchas (Home)*](https://www.duthchas.org/) through the UK, accompanied by a minority language archival film programme using materials from across the UK’s film archives. *Dúthchas (Home)* is a touching and emotive exploration of what it meant – and still means to people, especially women, to have to leave the island of their birth.

For the finale of Yorkshire Silent Film Festival on 6 November at Morecambe Winter Gardens, No Dots Ltd will present [*Echoes of the North: Four Chapters in Time*](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/echoes-of-the-north-with-brighouse-rastrick-band-tickets-412779674117), the world premiere of a silent film made from more than 100 fragments of archive film, together with an all-brass live score performance from Brighouse and Rastrick Band. The event will be complemented by a selection of short films scored by Morecambe and Lancaster-based musicians.

Throughout November, [Birds’s Eye View](https://www.birds-eye-view.co.uk/)will present *Queerious,* an archive programme with short films from national archives that’s touring the UK, exploring a multitude of desires on screen in ways all too rarely seen in cinema, including stories of sexual awakenings and re-awakenings, and queer love through a feminist perspective. Venues include the Exeter Phoenix, Glasgow Film Theatre, Broadway in Nottingham, London’s Rio and Genesis, the Showroom in Sheffield, Chapter in Cardiff, and Depot in Lewes.

Venues in Glasgow, Leeds and Erith this month and next will showcase [*After Hours,*](https://www.tapecollective.co.uk/event/horizonlinesscreening)co-curated by Invisible Women and T A P E Collective to explore the significance of nightlife and safe cultural spaces through a queer/feminist lens.

Meanwhile, audiences in Walton, Liverpool can enjoy *Walton Wonders* under Cinema Nation’s [The Spirit of Liverpool](http://www.thespiritofliverpool.org.uk/) banner*,* a series ofscreenings and community events celebrating unexpected archive discoveries, including a Home Movie Day and a pop-up cinema at the Rice Lane Underpass in collaboration with the North West Film Archive.

A double bill of Welsh Horror films from the 1970s will be shown by Matchbox Cine in collaboration with the National Library of Wales Screen and Sound Archive. Screenings will take place at [Weird Weekend, Glasgow](https://www.cca-glasgow.com/programme/weird-weekend-iii-gwaed-ar-y-s%C3%AAr-or-ddaear-hen) on 30 October, and at [Abertoir](http://www.abertoir.co.uk/) – The International Horror Film Festival of Wales in Aberystwyth, starting on 15 November.

And last but not least, [Belfast Film Festival](https://belfastfilmfestival.org/)is to host *Vox Populi: The Voice of the People*, a walk-through installation at the Bank of Ireland building in the city featuring informal street interviews recorded between 1959-1969 from the Northern Ireland Screen’s Digital Film Archive, offering an insight into the area’s social history and highlighting unexpected attitudes of the day which both differ from, and echo, those held today.

Screen Heritage Producer Andy Robson was a key decision-maker selecting projects to make up *Changing Times: Curious*. Speaking on the theme of curiosity, and the forthcoming events, he said: “The last few years have forced us to look at life through a new lens. Through disruption and isolation, we’ve recognised things we may have missed or never considered before.

“Through multiple lockdowns, we gained a new awareness of our communities and neighbourhoods, made discoveries of previously unacknowledged places on our doorsteps, and found satisfaction in personal passions and curiosities.

“However we experienced it, we were asked to question and learn something new, to understand the unfamiliar and seek solutions. Through film’s unique ability to transport us, illuminate ideas and to spark a conversation, we can seek those solutions and understand those experiences together.”

Visit individual venues and organisations to find out more about events and to book. And to find out more about Changing Times: Curious, visit [filmhubnorth.org.uk/curious](https://filmhubnorth.org.uk/curious).

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors:**

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For downloadable media images, please visit: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NUJDSwJlHbqEHzEYIoZ0PGDf9yvQcf-3>

**Changing Times: Curious**

The BFI Film Audience Network Screen Heritage work is led by Film Hub North, and supported by National Lottery funding. Changing Times is a multi-year programme that supports film exhibitors to screen archive film, establish closer connections with the UK’s archives and grow audiences for screen heritage events. Each year, Changing Times focuses on a topical issue of social transformation – from the centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918; to the growing climate crisis; to the era-defining changes of Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic.

**About the BFI**

The BFI is a cultural charity, a National Lottery distributor, and the UK’s lead organisation for film and the moving image. The BFI mission is:

* To support creativity and actively seek out the next generation of UK storytellers
* To grow and care for the BFI National Archive, the world’s largest film and television archive
* To offer the widest range of UK and international moving image culture through its programmes and festivals - delivered online and in-venue
* To use its knowledge to educate and deepen public appreciation and understanding
* To work with Government and industry to ensure the continued growth of the UK’s screen industries

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Tim Richards.

**About the BFI Film Audience Network**

Supported by National Lottery funding, the BFI Film Audience Network (FAN), is central to the BFI’s aim to ensure the greatest choice of film is available for everyone. Established in 2012 to build wider and more diverse UK cinema audiences for British and international film, FAN is a unique, UK-wide collaboration made up of eight Hubs managed by leading film organisations and venues strategically placed around the country. FAN also supports talent development with BFI NETWORK Talent Executives in each of the English Hubs, with a mission to discover and support talented writers, directors and producers at the start of their careers.

**BFI FAN Film Hubs are:**

* Film Hub Midlands is led by Broadway, Nottingham working in partnership with the Birmingham-based Flatpack
* Film Hub North is led by Showroom Workstation, Sheffield and HOME Manchester
* Film Hub South East is led by the Independent Cinema Office
* Film Hub South West is led by Watershed in Bristol
* Film Hub Scotland is led by Glasgow Film Theatre
* Film Hub Northern Ireland is led by Queen’s University Belfast
* Film Hub Wales is led by Chapter in Cardiff
* Film Hub London is led by Film London

**About the National Lottery**

Thanks to National Lottery players, up to £600 million of funding has been made available to support communities across the UK during the Coronavirus crisis. The National Lottery is playing a critical role in supporting people, projects and communities during these challenging times. By playing The National Lottery, you are making an amazing contribution to the nationwide response to combating the impact of Covid-19 on local communities across the UK.

**About Film Hub North**

Formed as a partnership between HOME Manchester and Showroom Sheffield and, part of the BFI Film Audience Network, Film Hub North works with a range of organisations and individuals to help great films get made, screened and seen in the region.

Film Hub North covers Cheshire, County Durham, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside, Northumberland, North and North East Lincolnshire, Tyne and Wear, and Yorkshire. filmhubnorth.org.uk