



**BFI FAN FILM EXHIBITION FUND AWARDS OVER £750,000 TO UK EXHIBITORS TO
SUPPORT DIVERSE PROGRAMMING AND BRING BACK AUDIENCES**

***National Lottery funding aims to re-engage audiences with collective, big screen
film experiences***

London, Monday 14 December 2020: Over 140 film exhibitors around the UK have received a share of £759,159 to boost cultural programming and activities to engage diverse audiences as lockdown restrictions ease. The **BFI FAN Film Exhibition Fund** supports activity to re-engage audiences with collective, big screen film experiences at film festivals, mixed arts venues, and both community and traditional cinemas around the UK. This particular strand of support has been made available via BFI's National Lottery funding to the BFI Film Audience Network (FAN).

BFI FAN is a unique collaboration of eight Film Hubs managed by leading film organisations across the UK, who each distribute the funding in their region or nation. The BFI FAN Film Exhibition Fund will enable FAN Members to deliver a broad range of programming once they restart, ensuring excellent British and international independent cinema is available to audiences all over the UK. Other priorities of the fund are incentivising exhibitors to embed inclusion and environmental sustainability into their approach to reopening, post closure during the pandemic restrictions.

The BFI FAN Film Exhibition Fund was also supported by a donation from global streaming platform MUBI. The total figure awarded to Film Hub Scotland members of £220,000 includes additional funding from Screen Scotland as announced in early November. Film Hub Wales announced Film Exhibition Fund awards totalling £52,000, also in November.

The BFI is also working closely with DCMS to administer the £30m allotted towards independent cinemas in England from the Culture Recovery Fund. Further awards are expected to be announced this month.

Ben Luxford, Head of UK Audiences at the BFI, said: "We're committed to the big screen experience. Thanks to support from the National Lottery and our industry partners, we're really happy to be able to support so many of the UK's independent venues and community cinemas to bring a broad range of programming to their audiences. These cultural spaces across the UK are at the centre of their communities, so with this fund we hope that these film exhibitors will be in a stronger position to restart activity and programme films, seasons and deliver festivals that everyone is able to enjoy."

Federica Pugliese, Programme and Marketing Manager at Catford Mews in London, said: "This [funding] will allow us to keep serving the Catford community by delivering a varied and diverse programme throughout the year, and it will enable us to continue collaborating with local film collectives and individuals to make our programme as local and accessible as possible. As challenging as the last few months have been for both businesses and individuals, it means a lot to have the support to keep our venue running and to continue to champion local culture as well as delivering entertainment to the wider community."

Jade Turner, Cinema and Festival Programmer and Curator at Northampton Filmhouse, said: "Everyone at the Northampton Filmhouse is so excited about Shockwaves [a dynamic season of films and events celebrating the best in emerging filmmaking talent from around the world] and bringing the best new British and international debut films to our audiences. We are really grateful to the BFI

and the Film Audience Network for providing such vital support during these difficult times so that we can continue to showcase innovative filmmaking, which is at the heart of our programme.”

Claire Hills, Festival Manager & Producer, Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival, said: “Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival is continually inspired by and committed to engaging with the communities in Berwick-upon-Tweed. The generous support from the Film Exhibition Fund will allow us to develop this work in a more sustainable way, giving us more space and time to work with local young people through a series of screenings, talks and workshops.”

Jillian Thompson, Programme Manager of NI Science Festival, said: “Live cinema is a central part of Northern Ireland Science Festival so this year we were absolutely delighted to receive funding from the Film Exhibition Fund. Thanks to their generous support we hope to extend our outreach, work with priority groups and curate an exciting and diverse programme of STEM on film.”

Alice Black, Head of Cinema at Dundee Contemporary Arts (DCA), said: “DCA is grateful to have been awarded funding from the BFI FAN Film Exhibition Fund, which will allow us to continue to programme challenging and engaging cinema for our Dundee audiences. At this difficult time with so much uncertainty, we are more aware than ever of the transformative power of the cinema experience to connect and inspire us.”

Isabelle McNeill, Chair of the Cambridge Film Trust, which runs the Cambridge Film Festival, said: “We are very grateful for the continued support of Film Hub South East and the BFI, especially at this time when film festivals are having to adapt and explore new models. This fund will allow us to present “Cambridge Film Festival At Home”, enabling us to continue engaging with audiences while we discover innovative solutions to meet current needs and prepare to return to cinemas as soon as it is possible”.

Jessica Brewster, Director at The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, said: “Receiving FAN Exhibition Fund money is a gamechanger for us at The Roses. It will support us to transform our cinema programme and experience of the venue for children and young people, and help us engage and develop a new generation of audiences for British and independent film.”

Rhiannon Hughes, Festival Director at Wicked Wales Film, said: “This funding will help us to continue to work and train our young volunteers who run our cinema and our film festival, it will help us to provide screening opportunities to some of the most vulnerable and deprived communities in Wales and at the same time to celebrate and raise the profile of emerging young filmmakers in Wales and films under the Made in Wales brand.”

The National Lottery raises £30 million each week for good causes across the UK.

BFI FAN FILM EXHIBITION FUND AWARDS:

Film Hub London

Acton Arts Project, £3,000
Black Stock Media, £4,000
Catford Mews, £3,000
Doc’n Roll Films Ltd, £3,000
Fringe! Queer Film & Arts Fest, £5,000
Genesis Cinema Ltd, £5,000
Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) Ltd, £4,000
London East Asia Film Festival (LEAFF), £3,000
London Indian Film Festival, £3,333
London International Animation Fest, £3,000
London Kurdish Film Festival, £4,000

Other Cinemas, £5,000
Phoenix Cinema, £5,000
Rainbow Film Society, £2,400
Rich Mix Cultural Enterprises Ltd, £5,000
Rio Cinema Dalston, £5,000
Screen25 Cinema, £4,500
Sign for All Community Ltd, £5,000
Stow Film Lounge, £3,000
Streatham Film, £3,000
Theatron Media Ltd t/a The Castle Cinema, £5,000
UK Jewish Film, £3,000
Watermans (Hounslow Arts Trust Ltd, trading as Watermans), £2,520
We Are Parable, £4,000
Whirled Cinema, £4,000
Your Cinema Productions Ltd, £5,000

Film Hub Midlands

ArtReach, £5,000
Birmingham Indian Film Festival, £3,334
Black Arts Forum, £5,170
Black Country Touring, £4,440
Bonington Theatre, £2,600
Borderlines Film Festival, £8,700
Derby QUAD, £7,500
Kinokulture, £9,956
Light House Media Centre, £7,000
Live and Local/ Big Picture Show, £5,000
mac Birmingham, £10,000
Media Active Projects, £10,000
Northampton Filmhouse, £6,600
Phizzical, £7,000
Telford & Wrekin Council, £2,800
The Northern Light Cinema, £3,500
Unseen Cinema, £8,720
Victoria Park Productions, £8,400
Wem Town Hall, £3,792

Film Hub North

ArtReach, £5,000
Berwick Film and Media Arts Festival, £7,500
Chorley Empire Cinema, £9,484
Forum Cinema Hexham, £2,000
Hebden Bridge Picture House, £7,021
Leigh Film Society, £4,252
Seahouses Development Trust, £4,640
SIDE Cinema, £3,900
South Asian Film Festival Up North, £3,333
Storyhouse, £10,000
The Dukes, £9,930
UK Jewish Film Festival, £2,000

Yorkshire Silent Film Festival, £3,000

Film Hub Northern Ireland

Cinemagic, £5,000

NI Science Festival, £4,885

Out To Lunch, £3,800

Outburst, £2,000

Strand Arts Centre, £2,000

Film Hub Scotland

Africa in Motion, £4,900

Alchemy Film and Arts / Borders Screen Network, £4,400

An Lanntair, £3,840

Birks Cinema, £2,535

Caledonian Cinema, £3,000

Campeltown Picturehouse, £4,215

Campline, £1,294

CatStrand, £3,119

Centre for the Moving Image, £3,398

CinemaAttic, £4,375

Cromarty and Resolis Film Society, £2,624

Dardishi, £3,230

Dundee Contemporary Arts (DCA), £3,198

Driftwood, £3,158

Dunoon Burgh Hall, £1,675

Eastgate Theatre, £3,750

Eden Court, £4,627

Femspectives, £3,795

Glasgow Film Festival, £3,500

Hippodrome, £5,000

Macrobert, £5,000

Oban Phoenix, £4,450

Robert Burns Centre Film and Theatre, £5,000

Screen Argyll, £4,875

Shetland Arts Development Agency, £4,950

South West Media Factory, £2,750

Strathearn Arts, £2,565

The Barn, £4,135

The Pickaquoy Centre, £2,611

UK Jewish Film Festival, £458

West Coast Cinema, £4,570

Film Hub South East

Brighton Community Cinematheque, £1,862

Bute Street Film Festival, £5,000

Cambridge Film Festival, £15,000

CINECITY, £5,700

Connaught Theatre & Cinema, £5,267

Deal Film Club, £5,175

Electric Palace Cinema, £3,490
Fabrica, £1,400
Fisheye Film Festival, £2,015
Gulbenkian, £2,050
Ipswich Film Theatre, £1,750
Norden Farm, £8,000
Palace Cinema Broadstairs, £6,741
Saffron Screen, £3,016
The Picturehouse, Uckfield, £3,160
Towner, £4,900
Trinity Theatre, £3,500
UK Jewish Film Festival, £422
Ultimate Picture Palace, £5,867
WOFFF (Women Over Fifty Film Festival), £2,000

Film Hub South West

Ashleworth Cinema, £365
C Fylm (Creative Kernow), £6,500
COMPASS PRESENTS, £6,000
Cornwall Film Festival, £5,500
Exeter Phoenix, £5,200
Film Bath Ltd, £10,000
No6 Cinema, £7,510
Portsmouth Film Society, £4,000
Queer Vision Bristol, £5,000
Roses Theatre Trust, £6,675
Sheba Soul Ensemble, £6,000
South West Silents, £6,000
Stroud & District Film Society, £330
Stroud Film Festival, £5,060
The Point Theatre, £5,500
The Poly, £2,745
The Pound Arts Trust Ltd, £5,000
Trowbridge Town Hall Trust, £8,728
Windrose Rural Media Trust, £1,000

Film Hub Wales

Canolfan Ucheldre Centre (Holyhead), £4,000
CellB (Blaemau Ffestiniog), £ 4,000
Commodore (Aberystwyth), £2,500
Dragon Theatre (Barmouth), £1,677
Galeri Caernarfon, £5,000
Galeri Caernarfon Young Generation Scheme, £1,000
Magic Lantern (Tywyn), £4,700
Memo Arts Centre (Barry), £4,200
Neuadd Ogwen (Bethesda), £4,000
Savoy Theatre Monmouth, £600
TAPE (Old Colwyn), £4,000
Theatr Gwaun (Fishguard), £4,275
Torch Theatre (Milford Haven), £4,000

Wicked Wales Film / P&M Community Group (Rhyl), £4,000
WOW (Wales One World) Film Festival, £4,000

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Notes to Editors

During the COVID-19 pandemic the BFI has provided a package of measures worth over £5m to support the film sector including funding for productions that have had to halt before completion; a resilience fund for festivals and exhibitors; a contribution to the COVID-19 Film and TV Emergency Relief Fund for freelancers; a sales company support fund; and funding flexibility for its partners and projects. The BFI is also administering the Culture Recovery Fund for Independent Cinemas in England as part of the Government's £1.57 billion recovery package for arts and cultural organisations.

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 collectively 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 BFI

The BFI is the UK's lead organisation for film, television and the moving image. It is a distributor of National Lottery funding and a cultural and education charity that:

- Curates and presents the greatest international public programme of world cinema for audiences; in cinemas, at festivals and online

- Cares for the BFI National Archive – the most significant film and television archive in the world
- Actively seeks out and supports the next generation of filmmakers
- Works with Government and industry to make the UK the most creatively exciting and prosperous place to make film internationally

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The Interim Chair of the BFI Board of Governors is Pat Butler.

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 combatting the impact of COVID-19 on local communities across the UK.