



BFI FUND BRINGS CINEMA TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UK

- **BFI invests £2m over four years in new Neighbourhood Cinema initiative**
- **Community cinemas growing from Aberdeenshire to East Sussex and Yorkshire to the Vale of Glamorgan**
- **Film fans across the UK to get more opportunities to see a range of films and enjoy the cinema experience**
- **Established not-for-profit community cinemas can now apply for cinema equipment**

LONDON – Friday 5 September 2014: The BFI wants to hear from community cinemas throughout the UK working to bring great films to their areas and capture the imagination of their audiences.

For many people in the UK, regular access to a cinema isn't possible, perhaps because their nearest cinema is too far away. The BFI Neighbourhood Cinema project aims to bring a cinema experience to more people by supporting and inspiring communities to host regular film screenings in their local community centres, village halls, or even local pubs.

Amanda Nevill, BFI chief executive said: "Audiences love cinema and we passionately believe that everybody should be able to see and enjoy a wide range of films locally, no matter where they live in the UK. This initiative is

about supporting existing Neighbourhood Cinemas and encouraging and inspiring communities to rise up and get new ones off the ground, so that the magic of film can be enjoyed by audiences everywhere. This is at the heart of the BFI's rally cry, Film Forever!"

The UK benefits from a thriving film society movement and growing community cinema sector. Film societies, film clubs and community cinemas from across the UK are joining the BFI's Neighbourhood Cinema project, from Aberdeenshire to East Sussex and Yorkshire to the Vale of Glamorgan.

However, the BFI recognises that it can be difficult to cover all the costs associated with running a small community cinema and would like to help by providing equipment such as screens, projectors, Blu-ray players, sound equipment, chairs and blackout blinds to established not-for-profit cinemas in both rural and urban communities across the UK.

Communities interested in setting up a cinema can get advice and inspiration through a dedicated website – <http://neighbourhoodcinema.org.uk> – which offers technical guidance and information from the BFI and its partners (including the Independent Cinema Office and Cinema For All, formerly the British Federation of Film Societies). Community Cinemas are also able to create their own profile on the website to promote their screenings to local audiences and indicate if they have equipment to donate or share with other cinemas.

As well as providing equipment and professional advice and services, the BFI is also supporting 'touring cinemas' – organisations that can take films on the road and show them in community venues, helping to set up new Neighbourhood Cinemas and bring a wider range of films to existing ones.

More information about the BFI's Neighbourhood Cinema initiative

The BFI's Neighbourhood Cinema initiative is one of a number of projects that come under the banner of audience development and complements the BFI's Film Festivals Fund, its Programming Development Fund and the BFI

Film Audience Network (FAN), collectively backed by £22 million of Lottery funding. Creating opportunities for people to access and enjoy film experiences and build a lifelong relationship with film wherever they live in the UK lies at the heart of the BFI's work for audiences as described in its five year plan [Film Forever](#).

The deadline for BFI Neighbourhood Cinema Equipment applications is 5pm, Friday 10 October 2014.

Find out more and download application guidelines and forms here:
<http://www.bfi.org.uk/neighbourhoodequipment>

Ends.

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About the BFI

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema

- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI is now a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural,

creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

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

www.bfi.org.uk

