

WOMEN'S HISTORIES

Film Menu Guidelines



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INTRODUCTION

What is Changing Times?

Changing Times is a four-year, nationwide programme of screen heritage activity delivered by the BFI Film Audience Network (FAN). It is an exploration of over one hundred years of social change as documented by moving image material held in our film and television archives. Through a series of screenings and public events, Changing Times will offer audiences the chance to reflect on a century of cultural transformation by discovering the many voices, hidden histories and forgotten stories that make up our collective past, and will foster stronger links between the archive and exhibition sectors.

What is Women's Histories?

In its first year, Changing Times centres on Women's Histories as reflected within the UK's screen archive collections. From January to May 2019, we will celebrate the inspiring advances made by generations of remarkable women who have transformed attitudes and changed our everyday lives. The programme will respond to ongoing discussions around women in society, in culture and in film culture, and acknowledges that these conversations are of particular importance to contemporary audiences.

There are two simple ways for FAN Members to get involved:

- **Film Menu** - A selection of features curated in response to the theme of Women's Histories is available to book at reduced rates, with funding available to enhance screenings.
- **Engagement Fund** - A wide-ranging fund to support a variety of screening projects that respond to the theme of Women's Histories - from one-off events to full film seasons to larger-scale commissions. The Engagement Fund is open now, read the [Fund Guidelines](#) for more information on how to apply.

All activity supported through Changing Times: Women's Histories will also screen a new 5 minute version of *Born a Rebel*, a short film produced as a North East, North West and Yorkshire Film Archive collaboration to uncover stories of women's representation from within their screen heritage collections, and inspired by the original 15 minute *Born a Rebel* production commissioned by Cinema For All as part of the Vote 100 programme, supported by the Women's Centenary Grants Fund. The original production is available to book via the Cinema For All Booking Scheme.

ABOUT THE MENU

Curation

The Film Menu has been curated in response to the theme of Women's Histories, emphasising female contributions to British cinema and, in particular, drawing attention to films made by women that have been underseen, forgotten or misunderstood.

These titles demonstrate that, despite the obstacles placed before them in a male-dominated industry and the frequent lack of attention paid to their films critically, women have fought for the space to make films, carving out their own niches in the commercial, student and independent film industries.

The titles in the Women's Histories Film Menu span decades and are diverse in genre, tone and aesthetic - but, taken together, they represent an opportunity to reassert female filmmakers into the received narrative of British cinema history. They can be screened as one-off events highlighting the work of great individual filmmakers or programmed together to form a diverse season exploring the theme of Women's Histories from a number of angles.

Available support

Film Menu titles are available for FAN Members to book at reduced rates, providing easy-access programming options for those looking to engage with a variety of topics raised by the theme of Women's Histories.

In addition to reduced rental fees for titles on the menu, **funding of £50 - £500 is available** to support additional activity that will enhance Film Menu screenings.

For example, FAN Members may wish to:

- Invite a special guest to introduce a screening and hold a Q&A session, or invite a panel of speakers to discuss themes arising from the film
- Create bespoke marketing materials for Film Menu screenings or a Women's Histories season
- Promote screenings through social media advertising or partnerships with local organisations
- Book accompanying films to create a fully-rounded programme; suggested shorts have been provided in the following pages

AVAILABLE TITLES



The Happy Family

Dir. Muriel Box | 1952 | 82mins | U

A light and witty satire about gentrification, class and culture from the most prolific female director in British cinema history.

The Lords, a working class family led by parents Henry (Stanley Holloway) and Lilian (Kathleen Harrison), own and operate "The House of Lords," a grandly titled grocers on London's South Bank. When preparations for the 1951 Festival of Britain threaten the Lord's home and business with demolition, the plucky family refuse to move aside for the event and find themselves at war with the government as they attempt to protect their own small patch of the country.

Programme it because... the under-watched Muriel Box is ripe for rediscovery. Box is the most prolific female filmmaker in British cinema history, directing 12 features between 1952-1964 and writing screenplays for dozens more. The gentle comedies and melodramas that Box made have rarely received serious critical attention and have frequently been dismissed as light entertainments. However, in recent years her work has been reassessed and, viewing it today, it's easy to see the subversion, inventiveness and charm that ranks Box's work alongside Ealing Studios' celebrated output of the same period.

Screen it with... *They Also Serve* (Dir. Ruby Grierson | 1940)

Enhance your event... with a Q&A with Rachel Cooke, author of *Her Brilliant Career: Ten Extraordinary Women of the Fifties* which dedicates a chapter to Muriel Box.

Terms: 25% vs. £80 minimum guarantee.

Available on: 35mm (twin projectors only), DVD.

AVAILABLE TITLES



Together

Dir. Lorenza Mazzetti | 1956 | 52mins | U

A beautiful and expressive experimental feature about two deaf-mute dockworkers wandering the streets of London, directed by Lorenza Mazzetti - the only female filmmaker to be associated with the Free Cinema movement.

Spearheaded by Lindsay Anderson, Karel Reisz and Tony Richardson, Free Cinema aimed to challenge the conservatism of mainstream film and find beauty and poetry in everyday working class lives. This mission is clearly apparent in *Together*, a bold and striking "silent" docu-fiction-feature (with music and sound effects) about the friendship between two labourers, which also draws clear inspiration from Italian Neo-realism.

Programme it because... *Together* is an effective take on the wonder and melancholy of London living from a key moment in the history of both the city and British film. Like Jill Craigie, Muriel Box and, later, Lynne Ramsay, Lorenza Mazzetti continues the tradition of bringing ordinary existence artfully to life on screen. Here, Mazzetti's experimental vision and deep empathy for the characters she depicts provides a unique insight into urban isolation and the lives of others.

Screen it with... *Homes for the People* (Dir. Kay Mander | 1945)

Enhance your event... with an introduction from writer Pamela Hutchinson, an expert on women in film and silent cinema, who has published a piece on Mazzetti in *Sight & Sound*.

Terms: 25% vs. £80 minimum guarantee.

Available on: DVD.

AVAILABLE TITLES



Orlando

Dir. Sally Potter | 1992 | 93mins | PG

Sumptuous, singular and gloriously queer, Sally Potter's seminal adaptation of Virginia Woolf's novel about a time-travelling, gender-switching aristocrat is a landmark work in the history of British feminist cinema.

Orlando (Tilda Swinton) is bequeathed a handsome inheritance by a dying Queen Elizabeth I (Quentin Crisp, in a delicious cameo) - but only on the unusual condition that the aristocrat retains their vibrance and refuses to age. This begins a journey through centuries of Britain's political and cultural history as the androgynous noble navigates patriarchal property laws, romantic entanglements and creative frustrations.

Programme it because... despite being the best known title on the menu, *Orlando* demands and rewards rewatching - and now is the opportune moment. Not only is it a brilliant example of a female filmmaker claiming space to create visionary work and break through into the international arthouse scene, with its luscious design and charismatic performances, *Orlando* is also a delight to watch. Indeed, Potter's freewheeling approach to gender and sexuality may perhaps resonate more strongly than ever with 21st century audiences.

Screen it with... *Flight of the Swan* (Dir. Ngozi Onwurah | 1992)

Enhance your event... with a Q&A with So Mayer, author of *Political Animals: The New Feminist Cinema* and *The Cinema of Sally Potter: A Politics of Love*.

Terms: 25% vs. £80 minimum guarantee.

Available on: 35mm (twin projectors only), Blu-ray, DVD.

AVAILABLE TITLES



Welcome to the Terrordome

Dir. Ngozi Onwurah | 1995 | 90mins | 18

Raw, dazzling and provocative, streaked through with neon light and hip hop, Ngozi Onwurah's tragedy about a racially divided dystopia was misunderstood in its time, but has found new resonance in the era of Trump, Brexit and Black Lives Matter.

It follows a woman who sets out to avenge the murder of her son. In order to do so, she must journey through the Terrordome: a bleak, racially segregated slum plagued with bigotry and police brutality. The future hell that Onwurah creates, where the majority black inhabitants are trapped in cycles of poverty, drug abuse and racist violence, was inspired by footage of the LA riots.

Programme it because... the first feature made by a black woman to be theatrically released in the UK, *Welcome to the Terrordome* was widely misunderstood in its day, but seems at last to have found its moment. Powerful and hard-hitting, this is a stunningly inventive watch that feels frighteningly "now" - vindicating Onwurah's uncompromising approach to the story that proved too much for critics on its first release.

Screen it with... *Coffee Coloured Children* (Dir. Ngozi Onwurah | 1988)

Enhance your event... with an introduction from writer Varaidzo, a champion of Onwurah's work, or a panel discussion with Dr Clive James Nwonka and Dr Anamik Saha, organisers of the Black Film British Cinema Conference 2017.

Terms: 25% vs. £100 minimum guarantee.

Available on: DVD.

AVAILABLE TITLES



Morvern Callar

Dir. Lynne Ramsay | 2002 | 93mins | 15

This mesmeric second feature from Lynne Ramsay remains a visually stunning revelation with an unusually compelling and complex female protagonist at its heart.

Morvern Callar perfectly demonstrates Ramsay's signature style, combining the grit of working class life with an oblique narrative and striking, surreal imagery. Whether its story of a recently widowed woman on the run from reality and aiming to live off the proceeds from her husband's novel is a dark satire of female authorship, a meditation on grief, a buddy road movie or a psychological thriller, what remains fascinating about *Morvern Callar* is its unreadable, sometimes unlikable, yet beguiling central character.

Programme it because... *Morvern Callar* is a statement of intent, signalling a new wave of ambitious female authored work in the new millenium and ushering in more exciting films by women in the following years. It identifies Lynne Ramsay as a singular talent who has built on the legacies of her pioneering forebearers and inspired subsequent generations of filmmakers.

Screen it with... *The Swimmer* (Dir. Lynne Ramsay | 2012)

Enhance your event... with an introduction from Dr Sarah Artt or Dr Lucy Bolton, two leading scholars on the work of Lynne Ramsay, or Sophie Monks Kaufman, a film journalist specialising in feminist film.

Terms: 25% vs. £80 minimum guarantee.

Available on: 35mm (twin projectors only), DVD.

GET INVOLVED

How to book

To screen one or more of the titles on the Film Menu, please email roisin@filmhubnorth.org.uk with the following information:

- The title(s) you wish to screen
- The formats you wish to screen from
- Your planned screening date(s)
- Details of any activity you are planning to enhance your screenings and how much support (£50 - £500) you are requesting

After receiving your email, a member of the team will get back to you to discuss your plans.

Note that screenings should not be advertised until they have been confirmed by our team. Reduced rental rates and support for enhanced activity will be available until the Film Menu budget has been fully assigned.

Timeline

Bookings for titles in the Film Menu and applications for enhanced screening support will open on 18 December 2018. Film Menu screenings will take place from **early-January until 31 May 2019**.

The Film Menu and enhanced screening support will close for bookings/applications on **1 April 2019**. Assessments will be made on a rolling basis.

All activity must be complete by 31 May 2019.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

What's required

- **Branding** - Promotional materials for all Film Menu screenings must carry the FAN and Changing Times logos. All promotional materials must be signed off by FAN prior to publishing, printing or sharing. The required logos will be sent in a booking confirmation email.
- **Monitoring and reporting** - FAN Members holding Film Menu screenings will be required to survey audiences using the FAN Audience Survey, as well as providing box office data and a final project evaluation. All survey and evaluation materials will be sent in a booking confirmation email.
- **Payment** - Film Hub North are leading Changing Times activity on behalf of FAN. The Sheffield Media and Exhibition Centre Limited (Showroom), as signatory for Film Hub North, will pay your award by BACS. You will be asked to submit an invoice after we have received the agreed reporting requirements.
- **Use of award** - Support must be used exclusively for the purpose for which it was requested. Please maintain financial records, including invoices, as these may be audited.



GET IN TOUCH

Contact us

Film Hub North are leading Changing Times on behalf of FAN. To discuss any aspect of your project, please feel free to contact:

Andy Robson, Screen Heritage Producer
andy@filmhubnorth.org.uk

The 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 8 Hubs managed by leading film organisations and venues strategically placed around the country.

The eight Film Hubs are:

- [Film Hub London](#)
- [Film Hub Midlands](#)
- [Film Hub North](#)
- [Film Hub Northern Ireland](#)
- [Film Hub Scotland](#)
- [Film Hub South West](#)
- [Film Hub South East](#)
- [Film Hub Wales](#)