

2

Introduction

3

Investing in screenings and growing audiences



Hebden Bridge Film Festival/Dave Croft

5

Projects we've supported



Square Chapel Arts Centre/ Neilson Reeves

7

Developing a skilled network



Unpacking the Diversity Standards

9

Supporting archive film exhibition across the UK



Sisters of Silents/Katherine Mager

11

Nurturing new filmmaking talent



Obsession/Cameron Bruce

Film Hub North is a sector development organisation supporting film culture in the North of England. We work with a range of organisations and individuals to help great films get made, screened and seen.

The Hub is proud to award National Lottery funding as part of the British Film Institute's Film Audience Network and NETWORK programmes.

Introduction

We're excited to share news of the impact Film Hub North has made in its first year. Since launching in April 2018 with a new team and a fresh approach to nurturing grassroots film culture, the Hub has established itself as a vital resource for the industry in the North of England. Our funding has led to thousands of cinema admissions, supported dozens of projects from new filmmaking talent and provided hundreds of professional development opportunities for the exhibition and production sectors.

It's key that the Hub's work responds to the circumstances of the region and this has been an important year for forging local connections. We're grateful to the array of partners who have made this possible and continue to work with us to shape the Hub into the support system the North needs. We now manage an extensive network of organisations united by a commitment to screening great film. We're regular fixtures in the North's filmmaking communities, acting as a first point of entry for distinctive new voices working to make themselves heard. And we're connected with colleagues across the country through nationwide sector development initiatives, not least our own: This Way Up, the UK's conference for innovation in film exhibition.

From our bases in HOME, Showroom Cinema and Tyneside Cinema, we're working to bridge the North's expansive geography and harness the wealth of potential across the region. Our continued success relies upon the support of these leading venues and the wider collaborations started in this vital first year. Together we're building a more skilled, more connected screen sector in the North. We're expanding audience choice, improving access to film and nurturing an exciting new wave of filmmaking talent. We can't wait to move forward into 2020 and beyond.

The Film Hub North Team



The Hub has hit the ground running and is already making a difference to exhibitors, filmmakers and audiences in the North. Regionally led sector development is essential to the future of grassroots film culture and the Hub is well placed to serve as a vocal champion of local talent and creativity. We're excited to build on the progress made so far and to continue to grow a support network for the North that is greater than the sum of its parts. 🗨️

Holli Keeble, CEO at Tyneside Cinema

Investing in screenings and growing audiences

Growing audiences for independent, British and international cinema is central to the Hub's aims for a vibrant film culture in the North of England. We are, of course, pleased to have exceeded our overall admissions target for the year - and this first phase of audience development funding has offered up other valuable lessons too.

In mid-2018, we launched a new set of initiatives with the intention of making our funding easy to access and relevant to the needs of exhibitors. The resulting projects showcase an exhibition sector brimming with ambition and creativity. Micro-grants have helped organisations take their first steps in the world of film. The region's flourishing festival scene has benefited from new additions boasting impressive programmes, special events and industry guests. And key venues have received strategic support to realise ambitious business plans and develop into new centres of exhibition excellence.

Increasing admissions is important - but so too is making our film culture more sustainable, inclusive and representative of the North today. We've supported exhibitors to attract new audiences and engage groups typically under-represented within our cinema community. By celebrating their successes and listening to the challenges they've faced, we're continually refining our funding strategy. That way, we can maximise the impact of our investments for audiences, exhibitors and our own funders at the BFI and National Lottery.

NATIONAL IMPACT

1,000

Over 1,000 BFI Film Audience Network Members across the UK

500,000

More than 500,000 BFI Film Audience Network admissions across the UK

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

101,486

Admissions*
85,000 targeted

2,640

Events delivered by 28 supported organisations, across 125 locations

£210,857

Invested in screenings and events
Representing a subsidy of £2.08 per admission

28%

Of attendees were new to the venue

24%

Aged 16-30
15% targeted

14%

Identified as LGBTQ+
7% targeted

7%

Identified as having a disability
10% targeted

8%

Came from BAMER backgrounds
8% targeted

Projects we've supported



Square Chapel Arts Centre/Robbie Jay Barratt

SQUARE CHAPEL ARTS CENTRE

Square Chapel Arts Centre, Halifax has steadily increased the profile of its cinema operation since adopting a full-time film programme in 2017.

Now the venue are looking to cement the cinema's continued growth by widening community participation among BAMER audiences and audiences with disabilities. Hub funding will allow Square Chapel to replicate strategies that have proven successful in increasing participation within their live performance programme.

These include introducing flexible ticket pricing, increasing staffing for community engagement work and setting up audience steering groups who will programme events in collaboration with the venue. The project takes place in 2019/2020.

TYNE VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL



Tyne Valley Film Festival

After a successful screening of local archive footage in August 2018, the Forum Cinema, Hexham saw an opportunity to build audience appetite for stories from throughout film history.

Their response was the Tyne Valley Film Festival: a new event in the North East cultural calendar with ambitions to reach audiences in Hexham and beyond. Hub funding supported the festival's first edition - an inaugural programme spanning 11 days, 12 venues and over a century of screen heritage.

Special events ranged from a live score presentation of The Passion of Joan of Arc in the impressive surrounds of Hexham Abbey, to a guided walk of Hadrian's Wall which accompanied the 1974 Tyne Tees Television documentary, The Living Wall.



The MOMENT/
Charlene Jones

LIVE CINEMA UK

Our micro-grant funding provides exhibitors with the space, confidence and support to try new things.

In June 2018, Hub funding supported Live Cinema UK to explore a brave new world of film with The MOMENT: a dystopian sci-fi whose narrative, editing and sound mix are controlled by the brain waves of an audience member wearing a special headset.

The MOMENT - housed in a customised caravan that provides an intimate, intense viewing experience - made its world premiere at Sheffield Doc/Fest before touring to Blue Dot and Kendal Calling music festivals. Following its initial funded tour, The MOMENT has screened at events across the UK and internationally.

Developing a skilled network



This Way Up

Our Members are the life-blood of the Hub's audience development work and we're thrilled to have seen our exhibitor network grow throughout the year. The Hub's Membership now extends throughout the region and is as varied as the Northern landscape itself. Leading independent venues in urban powerhouses, pop-up cinemas in rural village halls and organisations of every size and shape in between all contribute to the collective intelligence of our community.



Introduction to Fundraising

The Hub's sector development strategy has been designed with the diversity of our Membership in mind. Our approach caters to the breadth of the North's exhibitors by providing opportunities for shared and peer-to-peer learning, as well as training options tailored to organisations' specific situations, skill sets and ambitions.

In 2018-2019, we've gathered Members together to discuss their work and take part in expert-led sessions on topics such as fundraising and inclusivity. The Hub team have criss-crossed the North meeting Members in person, touring venues and developing projects. And we've supported exhibitors to pursue their own training interests - be that attending an industry-leading conference, an intensive training course or festivals from Berwick to Berlin to Bologna.

179 MEMBERS ACROSS THE NORTH



Professional development sessions

63

One-to-one development meetings



Event and workshop attendees

45

Young programmers supported

31

Bursary awards

Supporting archive film exhibition across the UK

This year saw the Hub gain new nationwide responsibilities in addition to its regional remit in the North. Changing Times is our response to the exciting task of developing a funding initiative for archive film events across the UK. It's a celebration of our rich screen heritage and a showcase for the inspiring stories preserved by the UK's expert film archives.

Launched in late-2018, Changing Times is a four-year programme exploring over a century of social transformation as documented by the UK's public film and television archives. Our funding supports ambitious events that reconsider established historical narratives and the conventions of archive film exhibition itself.

Hub Members are supported to experiment with screen heritage material, archives are encouraged to discover little-seen items within their collections, and audiences are introduced to forgotten stories and new ways of experiencing history.

Each year, the programme takes a distinct theme that connects pressing debates in the present with images and insights from the past. In 2018-2019, funding supported projects inspired by the theme of Women's Histories. Responses included a 360 degree viewing experience in a city centre shopping mall and a festival marking the centenary of the 1918 Representation of the People Act through community art workshops, archive film and grassroots activism.

We're excited by the opportunity to work with partners nationwide through Changing Times and by the possibilities of using the UK's screen heritage collections to make creative, relevant interventions in the here and now. Our 2019-2020 theme, Shifting Ground, will explore one of the most pressing issues facing society today: our changing relationship with the environment.



The partnership between Friends of Stretford Public Hall, the North West Film Archive and MACFEST was really positive and we all enjoyed working together... Through Herstories Festival we have made good links with the North West Film Archive and are keen to work together in the future to host more archive film screenings. 🙏🙏

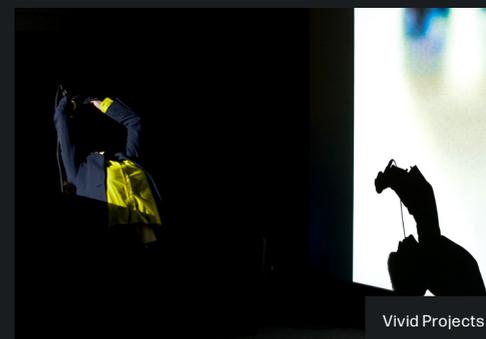
Friends of Stretford Public Hall



Glasgow Short Film Festival/Ingrid Mur



Sisters of Silents/Katherine Mager



Vivid Projects



Vivid Projects

Nurturing new filmmaking talent



An Everyday Act

Another exciting development in 2018-2019 has seen the Hub take a leading role in grassroots talent development in the North. In addition to supporting exhibitors, we are now responsible for nurturing the North's next generation of filmmakers - making the Hub a one-stop shop for sector development in the region.

In its first year, our talent development funding has financed production costs on an exciting slate of short films and provided grants to filmmakers in the early stages of feature development. In addition to funding projects, we've also spent the last year immersing ourselves in the region.

We've been busy making connections, kick-starting creative collaborations and identifying gaps in the region's existing career development opportunities. In response, we've launched a range of talent programmes for early-career writers, directors and producers - including an intensive scriptwriting course and a regular series of screenings that celebrates local talent and connects filmmakers with one another.



Doggerland

Raising the profile of our new responsibilities, and increasing awareness of the opportunities now open to local filmmakers, was a priority for the Hub in 2018-2019. We're therefore thankful to industry partners such as Channel 4, the British Independent Film Awards and venues across the region who have welcomed this new addition and helped us establish a strong presence in the North's filmmaking communities. Going forward, we're heartened by the growth already seen in the creatives we're working with and we can't wait to see our funded films meet audiences for the first time.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

556

Filmmaker development sessions through one-to-one surgeries and training programmes

1,000 >

Over 1,000 attendees at filmmaker events and screenings

28

New partnerships developed with organisations

FILM FUNDING

£185,856

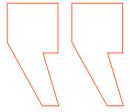
Invested in new film productions

12

Short films funded

15

Awards supporting early feature development



I'm a self-taught filmmaker based in Leeds, Yorkshire, who cut my teeth making experimental shorts with no budget or crew. For over five years, I've also worked as a freelance Assistant Director for the BBC, Channel 4, ITV and Warp, and for directors such as Shane Meadows.

Film Hub North have been very important to me as an emerging filmmaker. I'd been making shorts on the side of working in the film industry for a few years and was unsure how to progress to next stage. I come from a small town, have no family in the industry and never went to film school, so I didn't know how to get a foot in the funding door. Then a four minute short I'd made in my flat was selected for a screening at the Showroom Cinema curated by the Hub team. And, after that, I got a place on the Northern Exposure Script Lab.

Over the course of a few workshops, I wrote a new short film called Scrum about a single mother struggling to come to terms with her teenage daughter's love of playing rugby league. With that script, I successfully applied for production funding. And with that funding, I've finally been able to direct a short film 'properly' with a super talented cast and crew. I wrapped shooting Scrum in the middle of October 2019: it stars Kelli Hollis (Shameless) and Emma Wrightson (Gentleman Jack), and was edited by award-winning editor Matthew Gray (The Virtues). I can't wait to get it out on the festival circuit.

Film Hub North has also created more of a network of writers and filmmakers based in the North. They recently screened some of my work at their short film night in Leeds, which helped me link up with other filmmakers in the area and see the wealth of films being made up here. And they've invited me to roundtable discussions with amazing British directors like Peter Strickland and Joanna Hogg.

I think there comes a point when every filmmaker needs a confidence boost to get them to take their filmmaking seriously, and to start them on the road to making a career from it. Film Hub North have done that for me. I'd love to write and direct feature films, made in the North, telling interesting stories about complex women. I'd like to be the female Alan Clarke - always pushing boundaries and making interesting cinema, with whatever budget I can get. 🍷🍷

Kate Graham, Script Lab graduate and Hub-funded filmmaker



Scrum/Rob Connor



Scrum/Rob Connor

Note on the data

Investment figures represent funds committed from January 2018–March 2019. Audience figures represent admissions reported by September 2019. As projects supported during 2018–2019 are still in progress, these figures are incomplete and final audiences will exceed 101,486. Audience profile information based on surveys completed by 4% of attendees.



0114 221 0227
info@filmhubnorth.org.uk
filmhubnorth.org.uk

Led in partnership by:

HOME



SHOWROOM
WORKSTATION
SHEFFIELD

T Y N E S I D E
C I N E M A

Awarding funds on behalf of:

B F NETWORK



B F FAN