PROGRAMME INTRODUCTION

New Directions is a season of archive film events retracing the historic steps that have brought the UK to its current political and cultural crossroads.

Running from May 2020 - February 2021, it is a nationwide funding programme for screenings that revisit pivotal moments of modern history where the people of the UK tried to break with the past, change direction or embark on new journeys. New Directions will support adventurous collaborations between exhibitors and archives that showcase screen heritage and invite audiences to reconsider contemporary issues with the benefit of historical insight.

WHAT IS NEW DIRECTIONS?

New Directions is the third instalment of Changing Times: a four-year nationwide programme of screen heritage events exploring a century of social change as documented by the UK’s public film and television archives. Changing Times provides Members of the BFI Film Audience Network (FAN) with funding to explore film history for new stories and reframe familiar narratives through experimental events. These screenings make the archive come alive for contemporary audiences; using the hidden or forgotten voices of the past to illuminate the here and now.

The UK is at a crossroads: New Directions is an opportunity to retrace some of the steps that have brought us here. Amid a fast-moving national debate about the future of the UK, FAN Members are encouraged to develop projects that add vital historical perspectives to contemporary discussions. New Directions is an opportunity to intervene in today’s rolling news cycle using images from the past; to rediscover stories of transformation to national identity and local life, connect them with current concerns and engage audiences in exciting and unexpected ways.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The material in the UK’s public film and television archives provides a wealth of programming options in response to the theme of New Directions. Recognising both the complexity of our current political moment and the wealth of resources available, New Directions is a broad and inclusive theme.
FAN Members are invited to organise screenings, discussions and installations that explore moments of historic change that have impacted the UK at a national, regional and community level. Events might explore:

- The UK's geopolitical journey from the end of the Empire to its changing relationship with Europe;
- The human stories behind major domestic projects such as the formation of the welfare state and the founding of the NHS;
- Stories of emigration and immigration - e.g. the arrival and experiences of new communities such as the Windrush Generation;
- Changes in regional and national identity and their impacts on the state of the Union - e.g. independence movements in Scotland and Wales, The Troubles and the peace process;
- The equality movements of the 60s and 70s - e.g. the impact of moments such as Rock Against Racism or the Ford Dagenham strike for equal pay;
- Changes to transport infrastructure - e.g. the Beeching cuts - and their impacts on town planning and regional life;
- The impact of modern cultural movements, such as the rise of youth culture, the 60s counterculture and punk.

New Directions events should aim to develop new audiences for screen heritage material, and to find stories within the archive that are under-appreciated or of particular importance to people today. Projects should be committed to authentically engaging with the communities represented on-screen (across fiction and non-fiction works), delivering accessible and inclusive events, and reaching a new generation of archive film fans aged 16-30.

GET INSPIRED

BFI Player features collections of archive film available to watch online for free. Collections that might inspire your New Directions project include:

- **Commonwealth Tales**: snapshots of life in member states before and after the foundation of the Commonwealth;
• **NHS on Film**: stories of the NHS - announcing its foundation in 1948, recruiting staff and spearheading public health campaigns;

• **Black Lives**: portraits of the public and private lives of Black Britons against the shifting social climate of the 20th century;

• **Chinese Britain on Film**: a collection charting the representation of Britain’s Chinese communities, from exotic Other to authentic self-portraits;

• **South Asian Britain on Film**: a celebration of the rich history of South Asian communities and culture across Britain reaching back over a century;

• **Refugee Week**: explorations of the refugee experience, past and present, around the world;

• **Never Mind the Ballots**: a fascinating collection of political and campaigning films;

• **Disabled Britain on Film**: a glimpse into the lives and experiences of disabled people often hidden from screen history;

• **LGBT Britain**: representations of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender lives over the past century;

• **Train to the Future**: stories of changes to the railways - charting technological advancements and social upheaval;

• **Other Grooves**: an excursion to the furthest fringes of youth culture and alternative lifestyles.

If you want to find footage that features your part of the UK, get in touch with your local national or regional film archive. Their expert curators will be able to advise what material is available and how you might use local interest films to develop a New Directions project. Archive contact details will be provided in our funding guidelines document.

The Independent Cinema Office also has programmes of archive films available to book that focus on topics such as Black Britain and the history of immigration to the UK. For examples of work funded through previous editions of Changing Times, visit the [Women’s Histories](#) (2018) and [Shifting Ground](#) (2019) homepages.

filmhubnorth.org.uk/new-directions
HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The Engagement Fund supports FAN Members to forge collaborations with the UK’s regional and national film archives and develop their own screen heritage events inspired by the theme of *New Directions*.

A range of ambitious activity can receive support from the Engagement Fund, including one-off screenings, film seasons and larger scale commissions.

**Expressions of Interest are open now**, giving you a chance to begin discussions with our team and potential archive partners to develop your project. Funding awards will be confirmed from 1 April 2020 onwards. Contact FAN’s Screen Heritage Producer, Andy Robson (details below) to start a conversation about how you might get involved with *New Directions*.

The Engagement Fund Guidelines - featuring more information on the funding available, application process and advice on working with archives - will be shared soon.

CONTACT

*New Directions* is managed by Film Hub North on behalf of FAN. Get in touch with Screen Heritage Producer Andy Robson to express your interest in taking part in the programme, discuss your ideas and raise any queries.

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Images: Margate Film Festival (Daisy West), Paradise Remix (Cathy Wade), Sisters of Silents (Katherine Mager), Archive Screening Day (Katja Ogrin), Light Up Lancaster (Robin Zahler).