

# Screen Talk

The Newsletter of The Curzon Community Cinema, Clevedon



Graphic courtesy of Penny Ling, Mercury Newspapers

The Curzon - Clevedon Community Centre for the Arts (Registered Charity No. 1058389)



## WELCOME

Welcome to the latest issue of *Screen Talk*, bringing you, our loyal customers, all the latest news from the Curzon Community Cinema.

If you have any comments about *Screen Talk*, or if there are any aspects of The Curzon or the people behind the scenes that you would like to

see featured in *Screen Talk* then please get in touch.

You can email The Editor at [info@curzon.org.uk](mailto:info@curzon.org.uk).

## Festival Fever hits The Curzon

The Curzon is to stage its very first film festival this year, as part of North Somerset Arts Week 2007.

The "Gotta Dance!" Film Festival will be made up of four elements:

- Screening of classic song and dance musicals
- A 'song and dance' community film competition (see page 2)
- Film and video by young

people in Clevedon, in association with The Barn youth project (see page 2)

- Video art, including pieces by Barry Lockwood

The programme of film screenings includes film classics such as *Grease*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Dirty Dancing*, *West Side Story*, *Top Hat*, *High Society* and *Chicago* as well as a new Bollywood release *Metro*,

featuring Celebrity Big Brother winner, Shilpa Shetty.

Talking about the new festival, Curzon Chair Hilary Neal said, "Since the very first 'talkies', song and dance films have captured the imagination. This seemed to be the perfect theme for our first ever film festival."

The festival has been organised to coincide with

the Curzon's 10th anniversary celebration year.

Classic screenings will take place each day of the festival, that runs between 4th and 13th May this year.

For a full schedule of film screenings during the "Gotta Dance!" Film Festival please visit our web site or pick up a leaflet from the foyer.

## Gotta Dance!

## Film Festival



[WWW.CURZON.ORG.UK](http://WWW.CURZON.ORG.UK)

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### Art in the Oak Room

During North Somerset Arts Week 2007, the former Oak Room Café at the Curzon will host a special exhibition of work from local artists.

Eight exhibitors, including Caroline Cunningham and John Pope, will be displaying paintings in a variety of media, ceramics and jewellery.

The Oak Room exhibition will be open to the public between 4th and 13th May. For details of opening times please visit our web site, or pick up a North Somerset Arts Week brochure from our foyer.

A percentage of all sales will go towards the Curzon Restoration Fund.



[WWW.NORTHSOMERSETARTS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.NORTHSOMERSETARTS.ORG.UK)

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FILM INFORMATION LINE: 01275 871000



*"Involving young people in film projects is part of what we are about as a community cinema"*

## Young Persons' Film Project

Young people in the Clevedon area will soon be seeing their very own film on the big screen, thanks to an initiative launched jointly last year by The Curzon and Clevedon Youth Centre (The Barn), in association with North Somerset Council.

Under the guidance of Senior Youth Worker Johnny Gough, the project has provided the opportunity for young people between the ages of 13 and 19 to take part in workshops on scripting, writing, storyboarding, direction and production of film and video material.

The final product will be shown to the public for the first time at The Curzon during the climax to the "Gotta Dance!" Film Festival on 13 May (see page 1).

The Barn's spokesman John Neal said, "This project is a real chance for young people in Clevedon to learn new skills and use the media of film to explore current social issues."

The Curzon's Director of Community & Education Brian Crewe added, "Involving young people in film projects is part of what we are about as a community cinema. Who

knows, some of our local young people might be inspired to develop the skills they learn and turn this into a Hollywood career. We could be showing their first full length features at The Curzon in a few years time."

The initial project funding was for 12 months and it is hoped to secure further funding to build on the success of the first year.

Do you know someone that might be willing to help fund the future of this project? Then please get in touch (see below).

[WWW.CURZON.ORG.UK](http://WWW.CURZON.ORG.UK)



## Film Making Competition

*"This is the chance for local people of all ages to start out on the road to fame and fortune in the film industry."*

As part of the "Gotta Dance!" Film Festival, being run within North Somerset Arts Week 2007, the Curzon has launched a brand new film-making competition.

So, anyone who fancies themselves as the new Steven Spielberg or Sofia Coppola now have the chance to put their film-making skills to the test.

Entrants are being invited to submit a DVD film of up to 10 minutes on the theme of 'song

and dance'.

The closing date for entries is 27 April 2007, so there really is very little time to lose.

There are three age categories for film entries:

Under 14

14 to 19 and

19 and over

Winning entries will be showcased at a gala award ceremony prior to the screening

of West Side Story on 13 May.

Full details of how to enter can be found on our web site.

This is the chance for local people of all ages to start out on the road to fame and fortune in the film industry.

If you know someone that might consider sponsoring our next film festival, please make contact with us (see below).

[WWW.CURZON.ORG.UK](http://WWW.CURZON.ORG.UK)



## 95th Birthday Open Day

This month sees The Curzon's 95th Birthday, that's 95 years of continuous film presentation since our doors first opened in April 1912, the last 10 of those years as a charity.

To mark the occasion we will, as in previous years, be holding our annual Open Day on Sunday 22 April, between 11.00 and 16.00.

The Curzon Open Day is the opportunity to view behind the scenes on guided tours of this historic cinematic treasure, including the projection room, the balcony and part of the remaining original wall from the 1912 building.

There will be refreshments and merchandise on sale, including a sale of film posters, organ recitals in the auditorium and also viewing of The Curzon

Collection, an archive of projection and other cinematic equipment (see page 3).

After the Open Day there will be a special screening of the classic 1942 film Casablanca (U), starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. This is a re-release, and will be shown using our new digital projector (see page 3), and will commence at 5pm.

[WWW.CURZON.ORG.UK/OPENDAY23-04-06.HTML](http://WWW.CURZON.ORG.UK/OPENDAY23-04-06.HTML)



Visitors taking a guided tour at last year's Open Day

Do you know someone that might be interested in providing funding support to our Community & Education Programme, such as our Young Person's Film Project or future Film Festivals? If so, please get in touch with Brian Crewe on [fundraising@curzon.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@curzon.org.uk)



## Curzon Collection

The Curzon Collection began with the Heritage Open Day in September 2000, featuring mainly 16mm vintage projection equipment that had been donated to The Curzon for protection and preservation.

During 2001 the Projected Picture Trust (PPT) needed to relocate equipment that they simply had run out of room for at their Bletchley Park base.



The Curzon stepped in to secure the loan of those parts of their collection that could have been lost.

The Curzon Collection is set out in museum style at various locations around the cinema, including the foyer, the balcony and balcony projection room and also beneath the main cinema auditorium.

It is a valuable collection, charting as it does, the development of film and cinema technology.

For those involved in Media Studies the collection offers a wealth of information, and students and course developers are encouraged to use the collection for study and research.

The Curzon Collection is open for viewing and tours by appointment and on published opening days during the year.

You can view parts of the collection online and see the collection in person at the forthcoming Open Day on 22 April (see page 2).

[WWW.CURZON.ORG.UK/COLLECTION/INDEX.HTML](http://WWW.CURZON.ORG.UK/COLLECTION/INDEX.HTML)



A Kalee 19 35mm projector, part of the Curzon Collection.



## New Board

For the past few months we have been going through a process to expand the Board of Trustees at The Curzon, to enable us to respond to the challenges that lie ahead.

The recruitment process has been a tremendous success with a great deal of interest being shown. This has resulted in the Board growing from 3 to 13!

Curzon Chair Hilary Neal said, "The Board took the decision

that we needed to grow if we are to deliver all those things set out in our Strategic Plan, published in 2005.

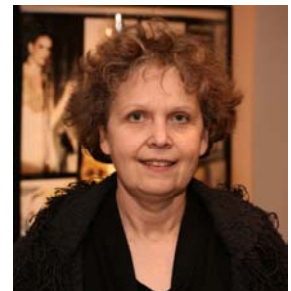
We are delighted with the response, and have recruited some excellent new people bringing new skills and extra capacity to the organisation.

This is an exciting time to be involved. I am confident that The Curzon will continue to meet the community's needs for generations to come."

New Trustee John Reeve said, "I am excited by the prospect of getting involved with the Curzon. It is part of the fabric of the local community and a place we should all be proud of. I am looking forward to making my contribution to its future development."

Details of all the Curzon's Trustees will shortly be found on a new page on our web site (see below).

[WWW.CURZON.ORG.UK/COMPANY.HTML](http://WWW.CURZON.ORG.UK/COMPANY.HTML)



*"...The Curzon will continue to meet the community's needs for generations to come."*

Hilary Neal, Curzon Chair



## Curzon Goes Digital

The Curzon has truly moved into the digital age, with the unveiling of a brand new digital projector – bringing with it incredible benefits to the local community.

The very latest state-of-the-art digital projector has been installed thanks to funding from the UK Film Council.

The Curzon is the only cinema in North Somerset to have come through the rigorous

assessment process and to be awarded a grant for the new equipment.

The new projector will mean that we will be able to show selected films in digital format, which arrive at the cinema on password-protected disc. The image quality is as good as, if not better than, celluloid film.

Curzon General Manager Jon Webber said, "This is fantastic news for the Curzon and for

the cinema-going public and community we serve. The fact that we are one of only 31 independent cinemas to be offered this new digital equipment is a demonstration of the important role the Curzon has in enriching the culture of the area and in providing local cinema entertainment."

The Curzon's first digital screening was *Becoming Jane* on 13 April.

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The Curzon's new NEC digital projector



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## Dear Jon

Now in his eleventh year as the Curzon's General Manager, Jon Webber will be retiring during the summer to take a much-earned rest.

It was Jon, back in 1995, who galvanised the local community into raising the money to save The Curzon from what looked like certain closure.

Faced with the prospect of Clevedon losing its only cinema, and the building being converted to a wine bar, bingo hall or church, Jon was not one to sit back. He put out a rallying cry for local people to come together and donate into the fund that enabled the building to be purchased from the Administrators of the former Cleve Cinema Co.

But that is far from Jon's only contribution. Over the past eleven years Jon has been the guiding light for the cinema, injecting vital enthusiasm and energy into what has become for him a 24/7 job.

Jon has inspired local people to donate both time and money into keeping the Curzon operating, been an ambassador for what we stand for as a community cinema and been the public face of the charity both to the general public and funding bodies.

It is impossible to over-emphasise Jon's contribution. It has been immense, and he will be missed by us all.

Mind you, such is The Curzon part of Jon's heart, that we find

it hard to believe he will not remain involved in some capacity.

The current Management Board and all involved at The Curzon, extend their thanks to Jon on behalf of the people in our community that have reaped the benefits of his hard work and dedication.

Chair Hilary Neal said, "Jon Webber has been the driving force behind our success for over 10 years. He will be a hard act to follow."

Interviews for Jon's replacement take place towards the end of April, and we hope to unveil the identity of the new recruit in the next issue of *Screen Talk*.



*"Jon Webber has been the driving force behind our success for over 10 years."*

**Curzon**  
1996 - 2006

The Curzon - Clevedon Community Centre  
for the Arts (Registered Charity No. 1058389)

The Curzon Community Cinema  
46 Old Church Road  
Clevedon  
BS21 6NN

Film Information Line:

**01275 871000**

What's On:

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## Snippets



### The Arts Debate

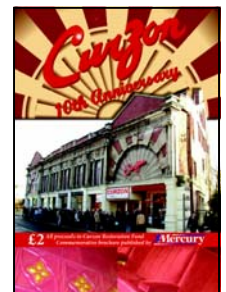
Arts Council England have launched a major consultation running through to 11 May 2007, on the future of public investment in the arts in this country. If you think that more money should go into film you can make your feelings known by responding to the consultation. Full details of how to respond may be found at [www.artsdebate.co.uk](http://www.artsdebate.co.uk).



### 10th Anniversary Brochure

There is still time to buy your personal copy of our special brochure we have published to celebrate our 10 years as a community owned and operated cinema. The brochure charts the story of our first 10 years, and all the successes along the way.

The brochure is priced at only £2, and copies are available from the Box Office. All proceeds go to the Curzon Restoration Fund.



### Date for your Diary

**Pirates of the Caribbean: at World's End** arrives at The Curzon on its release date of 24 May for a 3-week run. Another example of our ability to secure the best films on release!



**HAVE YOU GOT A FUNDRAISING IDEA?**  
**PLEASE EMAIL US ON [FUNDRAISING@CURZON.ORG.UK](mailto:FUNDRAISING@CURZON.ORG.UK)**

