

Curzon passes stage 1 of Lottery Funding process

The Curzon Cinema is celebrating the first round pass of its bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

Young film makers find their talent



Children from St John the Evangelist Primary School storyboarding their film project. As part of the Find Your Talent scheme, run by North Somerset Council, the Curzon is running a series of workshops that will lead to groups from seven schools making their own short films on the theme of identity. Full details on page 3.



This announcement gives the Curzon the green light to develop its project, *The Curzon Clevedon: conserving and sharing the living history of cinema, film and projection*, which will combine the most urgent protection needs of the building with the refurbishment of key interior areas and improved presentation and interpretation. This will enhance public access, experience and understanding of the cinema building and the Curzon Collection of Heritage Cinema Equipment, that together demonstrate the living history of cinema from the early 20th century to the present.

While this announcement does not guarantee that the £400,000 project will be fully funded, it means the historic cinema has been awarded £31,700 to help develop a more detailed bid for second phase of the awards process.

Hilary Neal, Chair of the Curzon Board, said "In a difficult economic climate, when competition for funding is tougher than ever, we are delighted that the HLF has recognised the community and historic value of the Curzon. We look forward to working with the HLF to further develop our plans for stage 2 of the application process."

Overleaf, Hilary addresses some of the most frequently asked questions about the Curzon's Lottery bid.

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The Lottery Explained!

Chair of the Curzon, Hilary Neal, on the Heritage Lottery Fund bid



Hilary Neal addresses a meeting of Curzon supporters

How much money has the Curzon raised so far?

The Curzon has currently got over £100,000 in reserves. This has been accumulated from regular and one-off donations and operating surpluses from the cinema over the years. From time to time we have had to use the money we have gathered for investments - such as the new screen, the Dolby sound system, the new projector, the seats and the toilet upgrades. Some of this investment has also been grant-aided from other sources such as the UK Film Council.

We will be using most of our accumulated reserves to match-fund the current HLF project bid, at both development and project implementation phases. So in the coming months we expect to develop a renewed fund-raising appeal so that we can replenish our resources, ready for subsequent phases of development.

What happened to the £5m bid and the second screen?

The second screen is still a longer term aspiration for the Curzon, and essential to develop our offer to the community and to reinforce our business plan. The full £5m restoration project, which included the second screen, was an extremely ambitious undertaking for a small organisation and we received strong signals from experts and HLF that it was unlikely that we would get it all in one go. The match-fund-

ing itself would have been very difficult to raise. We knew that this project would have to be addressed in stages in order to take advantage of the smaller amounts of Lottery money that in recent years have been available.

We still plan to undertake the full restoration and refurbishment of the Curzon to its Art Deco glory including installing a second screen, but we are realistic enough to understand that this will take some years. In the meantime we are confident that the current project will be a big step along the way and open up much more of the building to regular community use.

Why did you go back to the Lottery if they turned you down before?

The Heritage Lottery Fund remains the best opportunity available for funding the restoration of the Curzon for the benefit of the community, even though their funds are currently constrained. The project we have submitted is completely consistent with their aims and strategies and we believe we have an excellent chance of success. They will work with us over the coming months to develop our thinking and ultimately we hope to develop the project. The current project is more about involving the community in our plans and ensuring that we share the values of the Curzon's heritage more widely. We think the project is right for the Curzon now, and makes the most of the HLF's offer of supportive partnership.

Does this mean the whole roof will be fixed?

We will not be able to repair the whole roof under this project. However, our professional advisers have given us guidance about the most urgent roof repair works that are necessary to ensure we will be wind and weather proof for a good number of years to come.

Will you be able to open the balcony?

The balcony restoration will not be part of this project. However, we hope that, as we refurbish the upper gallery, we will be able to find a way of ensuring that the balcony is visible to the public more often, so that people can see what the cinema once was, and envisage how splendid it can become once again when we move towards subsequent phases of restoration in the future, as funds permit.

Will you bring the Oak Room into use as a cafe again?

As part of our immediate plans, we would like to be able to open up the lounge and Oak Room for refreshments on a limited basis before screenings and possibly at weekends when the Collection is open. This will be part of our immediate plans. We would also like to make sure that the Oak Room is available for wide community use (meetings, lectures, exhibitions), so, at present, reinstating the cafe as it was before the war would not allow for this flexibility.

Curzon Flogged!

The Curzon is to be featured in a forthcoming edition of the BBC2 antiques programme, *Flog It!*

Presenter Paul Martin (pictured below in the foyer) and the production team recently spent an afternoon filming at the Curzon, meeting staff and exploring the building and the Curzon Collection. The transmission date is yet to be confirmed, so keep an eye on the TV listings!





Two of the filmmaking group from Clevedon School

Curzon leads schools film project

The Curzon Cinema is currently a key partner in North Somerset's Find Your Talent programme, which aims to extend children and young people's experience of culture and creativity. The Curzon has successfully gained funding to carry out a film-making project in schools across the Clevedon area.

The Curzon is running a workshop series that will lead to groups from seven schools making their own short films on the theme of identity. The ideas come from the children involved, reflecting their interests, experiences and imaginations. Along the way, they are being introduced to the whole creative process of filmmaking, from ideas and storyboard-ing through to editing. The finished films will be shown at the Curzon to children from the participating schools.

The sessions are being led by freelance film practitioner Pippa Robinson. Pippa said, "The project has been an enjoyable and creative process. All the schools have put a lot of hard work into their films, and we have a whole range of different approaches to the theme of identity. For instance, Mary Elton School are working on two animations, one about a hippopotamus and one about an alien, both coming to terms with their identity. St Nicholas are producing a drama called *The Missing Baby*, and a documentary about family trees."

The schools involved in the Curzon project are St Nicholas Chantry Primary, Yeo Moor Infants, Yeo Moor Junior, Mary Elton Primary, St John the Evangelist Primary, Clevedon Community School and Ravenswood School.



Students from Ravenswood School work on their set designs



Setting up a shot at Yeo Moor School

Find Your Talent is being piloted in ten areas across England, and gives children and young people aged between 0 and 19 years, the chance to try out different cultural and creative activities. It's about helping them to discover new things, to express themselves, to develop a passion and to make the most of their talent. The aim is for all children and young people no matter where they live or what their background to have the chance to participate in at least five hours of high quality culture a week in and out of school.

Find Your Talent is funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, Arts Council England and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.



Working on animation at Mary Elton School

In brief... In brief... In brief... In brief...



Writer Danny Wallace (left, with Curzon director Gareth Negus) visited the Curzon at the end of January to introduce a screening of the Jim Carrey film *Yes Man*, based on his book.

North Somerset Arts Week

North Somerset Arts Week runs from 1 - 10 May, and will see five artists exhibit at the Curzon. The work of textile artist Caroline Cunningham, jeweller Gabbie Gardner, glass and jewellery designer Becky Wills, sculptor Anthea Matthews and photographer Jude Harrington will be shown in the Oak Room. More details can be found at www.north-somersetarts.org.uk, or in the Arts Week brochure.

Toilets refurbished

The Curzon toilets are enjoying a long-overdue refurbishment, following a successful listed building application to North Somerset Council. The work is partly funded by the UK Film Council's Capital and Access fund.

Last chance to enter film competition

Closing date for the Curzon's short film competition is Friday 17 April. Entries of up to 10 minutes in length should

be submitted on DVD. The best entries will be shown on Sunday 10 May, the final day of North Somerset Arts Week.

Curzon on Facebook

In addition to our website, www.curzon.org.uk, the Curzon also has a group on Facebook called 'I love the Curzon Community Cinema, Clevedon'. Why not drop by and join us? Search Facebook for 'Curzon Clevedon' if you're having trouble.

Open Day 2009

The Curzon's popular annual Open Day is this year taking place on Sunday 26 April. Between 11am and 4pm, the historic cinema will be open for visitors of all ages to explore, including access to areas of the building usually closed to the public. Rounding out the day at 5pm is a screening of *Britain at Bay*, a collection of short documentary films from the BFI National Archive. Produced between 1937 - 1940, the films include a look at a traditional English harvest, explores the hobbies of steel, coal and cotton workers - from pigeon racing to amateur dramatics - and watches London prepare for invasion in 1939.



Harry Potter waits for July

Summer highlights

Following a hugely successful start to 2009, which saw packed houses and return bookings for films including *Slumdog Millionaire*, *The Reader* and *Australia*, the Curzon is planning a busy summer programme. Already confirmed for June is a newly restored digital re-release of the Disney classic *Bambi*, and our ballet programme continues with The Royal Ballet's productions *The Tales of Beatrix Potter* (16 May) and *Swan Lake* (5 July). Further on, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* is finally scheduled for UK release on 18 July, and is expected to reach the Curzon on that date.

The Curzon
Community Cinema
46-48 Old Church Road
Clevedon BS21 6NN

Programme information: **01275 871000**

www.curzon.org.uk/whats-on.html

The Curzon Clevedon Community Centre for the Arts is a Registered Charity, no. 1058389.

Stay in touch! To receive our brochures and information by post, or join the email list, tick the relevant boxes below and return the form - with a cheque if appropriate - to: Curzon Cinema, 46 Old Church Road, Clevedon, BS21 6NN.

I would like to go on the **Mailing List** and enclose £3.50

I would like to go on the **eMail List**, my eMail is below

I would like details of the Curzon **Film Club**

I would like details of how to make a **Gift-Aid** Donation

I would like details on leaving a **legacy** in my will

Name:

Address:

Postcode: Date:

Blast from the Past:

The cover of the Picture House programme from February 1931. Showing that month were such titles as *New York Nights*, which the programme proudly announced starred Norma Talmadge in her first talking role. Unfortunately she only made one subsequent film, being one of the silent stars whose voice did not particular suit the talkies. It played with *Dreams of Youth* ('romance and laughter at the winter sports'). Also on offer was *Wings of Song* ('A radio singer's love story. All talking, smiling and singing'), while *Condemned* brought us Ronald Colman 'in his most romantic part - a dashing, debonair renegade redeemed by love'.

