

# Curzon team await Heritage Lottery bid decision



A design prepared by Imagemakers for a foyer display of items from the Curzon Collection

Imagemakers prepared designs for the Collection, including an art wall installation intended for a redesigned and expanded foyer (pictured). The intention is to place some of the Collection exhibits in an expanded foyer, enabling regular access for all visitors. It is hoped that the parts of the Collection housed in the upper areas of the building will also be opened before the evening film screenings. At the moment, the Curzon Collection can be seen by ap-

pointment, or on specific open days.

HLF staff have been consulted regularly over the past year about the Curzon's proposals, and have proven to be consistently supportive. Hilary said, "The HLF really seem to feel that the Curzon is well placed to use an HLF grant effectively. We are confident that we have a very strong application. Our only concern is that the HLF have been up-front about the fact that they

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**On November 25, the Curzon Cinema submitted its Stage 2 bid for funding to the Heritage Lottery Fund.**

The cinema is seeking support for a £500,000 project to restore some of the most badly damaged sections of the roof, improve the foyer area and expand and enhance the display of the Curzon Collection.

Alongside the main application, the Board - along with Project Manager David Hill of Artreach, the Imagemakers design consultancy and Education and Learning Coordinator Sophie Clarke - have spent months preparing comprehensive supporting documents. These include a

revised and updated six year business plan, a maintenance and management plan, a conservation management plan, and an education and learning activities plan.

Hilary Neal, Chair of the Board, explained, "In order to gain HLF support, it was necessary to demonstrate that we would be able to open up the Curzon and make its decades of heritage accessible to a wider section of the public. With this in mind, we have been working on some exciting plans for the Curzon Collection that will allow us to introduce more of our visitors to the history of both the Curzon building, and of cinema projection."

## Who is Alan Cortez?



*Anyone passing by the Curzon in the week of 16 November might have been surprised by the promotional material in the window for The Alan Cortez Psychic Experience. But who is Mr Cortez, and what was he doing at the Curzon? See page 2...*

# Ghost caught on film in Curzon



Lenora Crichlow (right) with *Being Human* co-stars, Aidan Turner and Russell Tovey. Below: The auditorium during a break in filming.

The Curzon was looking a little different for several days in November. The building was closed to the public, while the posters in the window advertised not the latest films, but the Alan Cortez Psychic Experience. Inside, ghosts walked the auditorium.

For four days, the Cinema building had been taken over by a BBC film crew, who were shooting the second series of *Being Human*. The Bristol-based drama centres on a vampire, a werewolf and a ghost striving to live as normal people.

The Curzon will be featured prominently in episode 6 of the new 8-part run, and sees the ghost Annie (Lenora Crichlow) attending Alan Cortez's show. Filming took place outside the cinema, in the auditorium, and in the Curzon's closed-off balcony.

Curzon Director Gareth Negus said, "It's the first time the Curzon has been closed for so long to accommodate a film crew, but we were delighted to be involved with *Being Human*. It's great for the Curzon to be featured in such a popular and critically acclaimed series."

The new series is due to air early in 2010.



# Lottery Bid decision awaited

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receive far more applications than they are able to fund, which means that some excellent projects have to be turned down. We are hoping for the best."

One disappointment for the team was the loss of Sophie Clarke, as the new Education and Learning Coordinator took up a permanent post elsewhere. Hilary said, "Although it was a shame to lose Sophie so soon, we were fortunate to have someone of her experience working with us throughout the crucial period of preparing the application. She has also done a substantial amount of planning that will greatly benefit her successor, whom we hope to appoint early in 2010."



Hilary Neal

# Curzon doesn't quite score *Nine*



Though the Curzon has recently been seen on television in *Flog It*, and an appearance in *Being Human* is imminent, the cinema also came close to featuring in the movie *Nine*. A location scout for the production, which stars Daniel Day-Lewis (above) and Judi Dench among others, visited the cinema last year. Though he liked the venue the production ultimately went elsewhere. You can try to guess which scenes could have taken place here, when the Curzon shows *Nine* from Friday 29 January.

# Star visitors introduce films



**The Curzon recently welcomed two leading ladies to introduce films in which they took starring roles.**

Clevedon actress Tuppence Middleton joined us at the end of September for a screening of the recent British film *Tormented*. A mix of horror and black comedy, the film has recently been released on DVD.

A few weeks later, Caroline Munro came to Clevedon for a screening of the 1977 James Bond adventure *The Spy Who Loved Me*, in which she appeared alongside Roger Moore and Barbara Bach. After the film, shown in a freshly restored digital print, Caroline took questions from the audience, then spent some time signing photos from her many film roles.



Tuppence Middleton (top) and Caroline Munro (above, with Curzon director Gareth Negus)



## Fresh Find Your Talent projects

Following successful projects run through the North Somerset Find Your Talent programme, the Curzon is working on a filmmaking project with three local Youth Clubs. Film practitioner Pippa Robinson is working with groups from The Barn Clevedon, Nailsea Youth House and Clevedon YMCA, helping them create short films on the theme of identity which will be screened at the Curzon in the new year. The young people involved are aged 11 - 21; the films include animation, drama, digital storytelling and a spoof documentary.



One of the participants in the Find Your Talent project

## Youth Panel Documentary on Youtube

Members of the Curzon's Young People's Panel have been working on a video documentary recording the full restoration process. While the complete film is a work in progress, a three minute taster was prepared in time for the HLF bid, and can be seen online at <http://www.youtube.com/CurzonCinema>. You can also find some of the best entries from the Curzon/North Somerset Arts Week short film competition, held earlier this year.



Buster Keaton in *The General* - coming to the Curzon on 31 January

## Buster's Back

Classic Buster Keaton comedy *The General* will be shown at the Curzon on Sunday 31 January. The silent masterpiece will be have a live organ accompaniment by Welsh Wizard, Byron Jones.

Co-written and directed by Keaton, the film stars Keaton as a train engineer who must recapture his stolen locomotive, and the heart of his beloved Annabelle Lee, during the American Civil War. A treat for fans of both comedy and action, the film climaxes with the single most expensive shot of the silent film era.

Tickets cost £6, with family tickets (four people, at least two under 15) at £18. You can book in advance by calling 07868 422089.

## Blast from the Past 3:

An advert that appeared in the Curzon's August 1966 programme; the salon is now known as Walton Reflections. That month, in addition to Bingo every Thursday at 8pm sharp, audiences were treated to the likes of James Coburn in *Our Man Flint*, Julie Andrews in *Mary Poppins*, Michael Caine in *Alfie* and Frankie Howerd and Dora Bryan in *The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery*. The new St Trinian's film is with us this January - looks like they do still make them like they used to after all. Incidentally, if anyone has any old publicity material or photos of the Curzon, could you get in touch? There's loads of stuff we're missing.



# New CTA film comes to Curzon



Christopher Hawes as Spurgeon

The award winning Clevedon based Christian Television Association is to premiere its latest production at the Curzon, on Monday 22 January. It follows a sold out screening of the CTA's previous production, *Robber of the Cruel Streets*.

*Charles Haddon Spurgeon - The People's Preacher* is a drama/documentary, filmed locally and in Germany, France and Scotland. It's a story for today - an innocent country lad from the remote fens of eastern England goes to London. He has the 'X' factor, finds romance and becomes a celebrity. He earns the love and respect of a nation, becoming one of its most influential figures. But he has principles - strong principles

which run against the culture of the times. In standing up for them he becomes isolated and ridiculed by the media - and broken hearted.

Who is he? A preacher! But not just any preacher. By the age of 20 he was preaching to 6,500 people every Sunday in London's biggest church. He was the "Peoples' Preacher" - the most famous preacher of the Victorian era, whose writings continue to be published and avidly read today, around the world. His story is nothing short of inspiring.

Written and Directed by Crawford Telfer, the film features Stephen Daltry and Christopher Hawes as Spurgeon.

# Curzon

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

Programme information: **01275 871000**

**[www.curzon.org.uk/whats-on.html](http://www.curzon.org.uk/whats-on.html)**

**[www.twitter.com/CurzonCinema](https://twitter.com/CurzonCinema)**

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