



PRESS RELEASE: CURZON CINEMA LAUNCHES NEW FILM COMPETITION

***Keeping Mum* director Niall Johnson joins judging panel**

The Curzon Cinema, Clevedon, will be holding a new filmmaking competition in conjunction with North Somerset Arts Week 2009.

Following the competition held during the 2007 Arts Week, budding Spielbergs and Hitchcocks are invited to submit their films for consideration. The best entries will be screened at the Curzon during the Arts Week (1 – 10 May 2009).

Joining the judges will be filmmaker and long-time Clevedon resident Niall Johnson, best known as writer and director of the hit comedy ***Keeping Mum***. Mr Johnson said, "I'm delighted to be involved with the competition, and can't wait to see what the entrants produce. Obviously, we'd love to discover a major new talent, but it's just as important that people of all ages be encouraged to learn about, and enjoy, films and filmmaking. It's been the love of my life since I was a child, so I'm proud to be involved in something that promotes it this way, and especially so because it's local."

While the last competition had the theme of song and dance, this time there is no restriction as to form or subject matter. Gareth Negus, Curzon Director, said, "We want to encourage as wide a range of entries as possible, be they comedy, drama or documentary. "

The competition is divided into several age groups: under 11, 11 – 14, 14-18 and 19+. Entries should last no more than ten minutes and be supplied on DVD. The closing date is Friday 17 April.

The Curzon's aim to help build the filmmaking community in North Somerset has also been seen in the recent Filmmaking Tutorials course. Organised by the George Inger, a former BBC producer and director, and Nailsea schoolteacher Brian Crewe of the Curzon's Education Committee, the course attracted eager participants of all ages.

For more information, please contact Gareth Negus, Director, on 01275 879115 or gareth@curzon.org.uk. More information on North Somerset Arts Week can be found at <http://www.northsomersetarts.org.uk/>