



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**16 May 2008**

### **Fun for Children of all Ages!**

If you are looking for a free and unique way of entertaining your kids over the rainy Bank Holiday weekend, then a visit to The Curzon Community Cinema in Clevedon might be just the thing.

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May the Curzon opens its doors for the first of six Curzon Collection Open Days, and as it is school holiday time the theme for this event will be 'Toys and Handles', where visitors will get to see rare toy and hand-cranked projectors in full operation.

Kids will be well used to watching cartoons and films on TV, but seeing the film reels whizzing round and watching the resulting image magically appearing onto a screen will be a new experience for most, and something that most kids will never forget. This is a chance for children in 2008 to see how children in the 1920's and 1930's saw their films.

At Sunday's event there will be continuous demonstrations of toy and hand-cranked projectors including a rare hand-cranked Butchers 35mm projector which will be showing a 1911 French silent comedy - which by all accounts is hilarious. Alongside this there will be 9.5mm Pathe Baby hand-cranked projector featuring films of Felix the Cat, a Pathe Ace projector projecting Bonzo Dog cartoons and a Kodatoy projector showing Our Gang, Charlie Chaplin and Mickey Mouse.

Doors open at 10:30 and the event goes on until 15:00, and the visit is entirely free.

Curzon Collection Administrator Maurice Thornton said, "Lovers of cinema, heritage, nostalgia or social history will all find something to fascinate at our open days. Everyone of whatever age is guaranteed a unique and intriguing trip back in time through the history of cinema. One reason why during our 2006 and 2007 season we saw visitors travel some distance to get to us."

The remaining Curzon Collection open days – each with its own specific theme - take place on 22 June, 20 July, 13/14 September, 19 October and 23 November. Opening hours are between 10:30 and 15:00, (16:00 on 14 September). More details about the open days are available by calling 01275 790559. If you are unable to get to one of the open days in person, you can enjoy a virtual tour of a selection of some of the items by visiting [www.curzon.org.uk](http://www.curzon.org.uk).

#### **Notes to Editors:**

- 1. The Curzon is thought to be the oldest, purpose-built, continuously operated cinema in the world. We are committed to providing a high quality film experience and to be a thriving centre for cinema and the arts in our local community.*
- 2. We have plans for a major restoration of this historic cinema, the first phase of which will be the restoration of the roof during 2009. The 'Raise the Roof' campaign is being supported by international stage and screen star, Alan Rickman.*
- 3. The Curzon Collection is a unique and nationally significant accumulation of historic projection equipment and cinema artefacts celebrating over 100 years of cinema. It is the largest such exhibition in any working cinema in the UK, and offers the chance to view artefacts not on public display anywhere else.*

**If you have any questions regarding the content of this press release  
please call Chris Brain on 07919 018753 or  
Gareth Negus on 01275 879115.**

The Curzon Clevedon Community Centre for the Arts is a Registered Charity No 1058389  
**For all the latest film news visit [www.curzon.org.uk](http://www.curzon.org.uk)**