



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

Digital Cinema comes to Clevedon

Cinema in Clevedon is moving into the digital age, it was announced this week, and with it incredible benefits to the local community.

The very latest state-of-the-art digital projector will be installed at the Curzon thanks to funding from the UK Film Council as part of its commitment to broad access to screenings of highly acclaimed specialised films. Such films do not always reach a wide enough audience because there are not enough copies of the film print to enable widespread screenings at the time of release.

The Curzon Community Cinema is the only cinema in North Somerset to have come through the rigorous assessment process and to be awarded a grant from the UK Film Council for the installation of the very latest digital projection equipment. Once installed, the new equipment will mean that the Curzon will be able to show selected films in digital format, which could arrive at the cinema on disc, by cable or by satellite dish! The image quality will be as good as, if not better than, celluloid film.

Curzon General Manager Jon Webber said of the announcement, “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, and one of only 19 cinemas between Wiltshire and Cornwall 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. We really appreciate the support from the UK Film Council.”

As well as providing earlier and wider access to specialised films, there will be added community benefits. The Curzon already boasts a long track record in supporting local film makers, schools and youth clubs by screening locally made films, and the new digital equipment will provide even greater scope for this in the future, offering access to a wide selection of educational films, classic & archive material, foreign language films and specialised short films.

The Curzon’s Director of Community Education, Brian Crewe, commented, “We already have a strong Community Education Programme, working in partnership with local schools and youth groups – one example of which is the six-minute film called *Come Play* produced by Clevedon Community School and The Barn which we screened in March. It has since won the Best Short Drama category at the Reel Teens Festival in New York.

This new projection equipment is the newest and very best available and will provide even greater flexibility for the screening of locally made films - a core element of what we are about as a community enterprise.”

Further details of the installation date of the new equipment and the date of the Curzon’s first ever digital screening will be announced over the coming weeks, as the UK Film Council release details of their installation programme across the UK.

Notes for editors:

1. The Curzon Community Cinema has operated as a registered charity since November 1996, following a massive public campaign to save it from closure. It is believed to be the oldest purpose built, continuously operated cinema in Europe, maybe the world.
2. The grants being awarded by the UK Film Council are under its Digital Screen Network initiative, totalling some £12m across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Curzon is one of only 209 cinemas (and one of only 31 independent cinemas) around the UK to have been awarded a grant.
3. The Curzon recently announced plans for a phased restoration of the historic building, including the re-opening of the Grand Circle, refurbishment of the auditorium tin panelling, new foyer and box office and the construction of an educational lecture theatre. The cost is estimated to total around £5m, with the bulk of funding hopefully coming through the Heritage Lottery Fund.

If you have any questions about the content of this Press Release please contact the Curzon's Director of Marketing Chris Brain on 01275 341101 or 07919 018753.