



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

PRESS RELEASE

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Digital Jane Austin!

The Curzon Cinema Clevedon has truly moved into the digital age this week, with the unveiling of a brand new digital projector – bringing with it incredible benefits to the local community.

The very latest state-of-the-art digital projector has been installed thanks to funding from the UK Film Council. The Curzon, which is operated as a not-for-profit community cinema, is the only cinema in North Somerset to have come through the rigorous assessment process and to be awarded a grant for the new equipment.

The new projector will mean that the Curzon will be able to show selected films in digital format, which arrive at the cinema on password-protected disc. The image quality is as good as, if not better than, celluloid film.

Curzon General Manager Jon Webber said, "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."

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. 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."

And the first digital screening at the Curzon? Well, this will be the new film about a pivotal romantic liaison in the young life of author Jane Austin, *Becoming Jane* (PG) that will be arriving at the Curzon for nine nights starting on 13th April. This will be the first opportunity for the local community to see the new digital equipment in action.

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 the world, and this year is celebrating its 10th birthday as a community enterprise.*
- 2. The grants being awarded by the UK Film Council are under its 2005 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. Becoming Jane (PG), starring Anne Hathaway, James McAvoy, Dame Maggie Smith and Julie Walters, runs for 9 nights at 19:45 from Friday 13th April, plus two 14:00 matinees on 19th & 21st April. The film describes a pivotal romantic liaison in the young life of author Jane Austin.*

If you have any questions about the content of this Press Release please contact the Curzon's General Manager Jon Webber on 07976 140479.