



PRESS RELEASE

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CURZON OPEN DAY 2007

On Sunday 22 April the Curzon Cinema in Clevedon celebrates its 95 years continuous operation as a working cinema, as it throws its doors open for its annual Open Day.

The Curzon is believed to be the oldest purpose-built, continuously operated cinema in the world, having opened its doors for the first time in April 1912. It has been showing films to the public continuously since that time, even through the construction work that saw the cinema enlarged and a second storey added in the 1920's.

At the Open Day visitors will have the opportunity to take a behind the scenes guided tour of areas that are not normally open to the public. The informative tours include viewing of parts of the Curzon Collection – an archive collection of projection and other film equipment spanning the years of cinema. The collection includes items on loan from the Projected Picture Trust, individual donations and loans as well as items that have been saved from other cinemas – including the Odeon (Muswell Hill) and the now demolished Gaiety Cinema in Bristol.

In past years visitors have come from both the local community and further afield to see behind the scenes of what is both a working cinema and an international heritage treasure. Curzon General Manager, Jon Webber said, "Last year some visitors came from as far away as Honiton in Devon – so word is most certainly spreading about what a fantastic place The Curzon Cinema is. Everyone who attends one of our Open Days is overawed by the experience and some people come back year after year. Last year's Open Day was attended by nearly 500 people."

The Curzon Open Day runs from 11am through to 4pm. Refreshments will be available, there will be poster sales and it is hoped to have recitals on the Curzon's Compton Melbourn organ located in the main auditorium. Later at 5pm there will be a special screening of the 1942 film classic, *Casablanca (U)* starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, which has been re-released and will be screened using the Curzon's new state-of-the-art digital projector.

Of all the cinemas, in all the world...the Curzon is more than worth a behind-the-scenes visit!

PHOTOGRAPH ATTACHED:

File "Balcony.jpg": Open Day visitors viewing the Curzon's Balcony on one of the behind-the-scenes tours at last year's Curzon Open Day.

Notes to Editors:

1. *The Curzon Community Cinema is believed to be the oldest purpose built, continuously operated cinema in the world, having opened its doors for the first time in April 1912, just days after the sinking of RMS Titanic.*
2. *The Curzon Cinema is this year celebrating its 10th Birthday, having been operating as a not-for-profit community enterprise since saving the cinema from closure back in November 1996.*
3. *The Curzon Open Day takes place on Sunday 22 April 2007 between 11:00 and 16:00. The screening of *Casablanca (U)* commences at 17:00.*

**If you have any questions regarding the content of this press release
please call Jon Webber on 07976 140479.**