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## What's On in 2019 New Welsh Networks and Festivals Create Opportunities for Film Audiences in Wales

Film Hub Wales (FHW), led by Chapter and part of the part of the BFI Film Audience Network, has announced support for 10 new projects. Thanks to National Lottery funding they will bring more films, to more people, at more cinemas and film festivals across Wales.

Alongside film festivals celebrating animation, Italian cinema and LGBT+ stories, two inventive, new networks will offer accessible events for underserved Welsh audiences:

- The **Youth Film Festival Network** is set to support young film enthusiasts by encouraging regular film programming for audiences aged 16-30. Based in Rhyl with Wicked Wales, it will enable new talent to connect with over 40 film festivals here in Wales
- Working across the Vale of Glamorgan, **Vale Venues**, led by the Memo Arts in Barry, brings 11 cinemas together county wide to reduce community isolation and build sustainable rural film programmes

### **Hana Lewis, Strategic Manager of Film Hub Wales explains:**

*“We've learnt so much from the development of our existing Hub networks; Off Y Grid and The Queer Film Network, where members tested pioneering approaches. The ability to come together within a region or specialism brings many benefits, from skills development, to greater choice and representation for audiences. We anticipate that these new networks, with their focus on rural and young audiences, will enable Welsh exhibitors to connect with new cinema goers and impact on what is already an impressive Welsh festival calendar.”*

**Ben Luxford, Head of UK Audiences, said:** *“It's so great to see Film Hub Wales using National Lottery funding to connect and inspire venues and strengthening networks across the whole of Wales for the benefit of audiences.”*

FHW have brought a total of 29, new, eclectic film exhibition initiatives to Wales in 2019 in partnership with Hub members. The projects are supported by Film Hub Wales, part of the BFI Film Audience Network using funds from the National Lottery to ensure the greatest choice of cinema is available to everyone across the UK.

## **2019 Projects**

### ***Region: Wales Wide***

#### ***Youth Film Festival Network (August 2019 – March 2020)***

A new Welsh film festival network initiative, developed by Film Hub Wales, Wicked Wales (Rhyl) and key festivals within the region will work to increase British independent and international film programmes available for and made by young audiences. With over 40 film festivals active in Wales, this project will bring organisations together to find ways to engage with young film enthusiasts aged 16-30.

For more information, please contact the network coordinator [Lorraine Mahoney](#).

#### ***WOW Festival (Sept 2019 - March 2020)***

The mission of WOW “Wales One World” Film Festival is to promote solidarity, equality, understanding and dialogue, with global brothers and sisters and diverse communities here in Wales, reflecting a wide range of cultural perspectives. They offer a wide variety of films and events that represent diverse cultures and identities on and off screen, as well as addressing current global themes.

In the theme of Nomads, WOW Film Festival 2020 will bring international cinema to diverse audiences across rural and urban Wales. With a range of talks, panel discussions and introductions, the festival brings films outside of UK distribution to Wales. Special events include WOW Women’s Film Club in Newport and Swansea and the return of Abercon, a mini anime convention co-programmed with Mencap Ceredigion at Aberystwyth Arts Centre.

<https://www.wowfilmfestival.com/en/>

<https://twitter.com/WOWFilm>

<https://www.facebook.com/WOWfilmfest>

### ***Region: North East Wales***

#### ***Wicked Wales (Sept 2019 - March 2020)***

Wicked Wales are developing a year-round film programme in Rhyl, raising awareness of their annual Wicked festival in October 2019. Their programme appeals to all ages from ‘sing along cinema’ for audiences living with dementia, to short international films from 20 countries world-wide, which they deliver in partnership with the [European Youth Cinema Network](#) and [Into Film Cymru](#). The project is supported by a team of young volunteers, including a ten week work placement for one young person with additional needs.

<https://wicked.wales/community-cinemas/>

[https://twitter.com/wicked\\_film](https://twitter.com/wicked_film)

<https://www.facebook.com/wickedwales/>

### **Iris on the Move (Jan 2020)**

Iris Prize will travel to North Wales for the fourth time in 2020, bringing LGBT+ cinema to venues such as Cineworld Llandudno Junction, Pontio in Bangor and Oriel Mostyn.

The programme will include two new LGBT+ feature films and five programmes of shorts programmes from the Best of Iris 2019, the shortlist competing for the Iris Prize and the Iris Prize Best British Awards in 2019. Audiences in North Wales communities will be able to engage with emerging filmmakers through Q&As and networking. The programme is also set to tour across the UK following the festival.

<https://www.irisprize.org/irisonthemove/>  
<http://twitter.com/irisprize>  
<http://www.facebook.com/Iris-Prize-Festival>

### ***Region: South East Wales***

#### **Vale Venues (Sept 2019-Dec 2020)**

Vale Venues is a rural, county-wide project led by the Memo Arts Centre in Barry on behalf of 11 mixed arts venues and community cinemas across the Vale of Glamorgan. In 2019, the network coordinator will develop audience strategies to encourage inclusive and accessible programming across the different sites. Through curated monthly screenings, they will foster collaboration between partners and generate greater public awareness of local cinema screenings and film events in each venue.

<https://www.memoartscentre.co.uk/vale-venues/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/ValeVenuesCinema>

#### **Bedwas Arts Festival (26<sup>th</sup> October – 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019)**

Bedwas Workmens' Hall hosts a community arts festival, emphasising hands on participation in animation, dance, singing workshops and events; industrial and political history in illustrated talks and a heritage walk; and an evening to raise money for Ray's Lift Appeal, to make the Hall fully accessible for all. This is a pilot project which they hope to make an annual event.

Film activity includes Ms Rhymney Valley' (with Dir. Karl Francis, in conversation with Writer/Director Wyndham Price), screening/talk of 'Voices from a Mountain' and archive footage of Bedwas including 'Bedwas life' (1950's-90's) created by David Rhys James.

<https://www.bedwasworkmenshall.co.uk/>  
<https://twitter.com/bedwashall>  
<https://www.facebook.com/BedwasHall/>

#### **The Italian Film Festival (14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019)**

The Italian Film Festival Cardiff brings to the screens of Wales a dynamic and diverse portrait of

contemporary Italy with its beauty, complexity and contradictions. The selection of cutting edge films feature all genres of Italian cinematography with a strong emphasis on new narrative forms and independent productions. During the past three years the Festival has become a lively space for directors, actors and producers from both sides of the Channel. The Italian Film Festival Cardiff aspires to be a part of Wales' increasingly international artistic profile. Hub support is offered as part of UNESCO's International Year of Indigenous Languages.

<https://www.iffc.wales/>

<https://twitter.com/IFFC>

<https://www.facebook.com/ItalianFilmFestivalCardiff/>

### **Cardiff Animation Festival**

**(2-5 April 2020)**

Cardiff Animation Festival is a biennial four-day celebration of animation for everyone, with a high calibre program of screenings, masterclasses, Q+As, workshops, networking, accessible events and an inclusive community atmosphere. The festival is supported by regular free events and an engagement program in partnership with organisations across Cardiff.

<http://www.cardiffanimation.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Cardiffanimationfestival>

<https://twitter.com/CardiffAnimFest>

### ***Region: West Wales***

#### **Sinema Sadwrn**

**(25<sup>th</sup> Oct 2019)**

As part of Visit Wales' celebration of the Year of Discovery and FHW's Made in Wales scheme, Sinema Sadwrn will be screening acclaimed Welsh film, *Gwen* and Bafta Cymru nominated short film, *Neckface*, at Llansadwrn Reading Room.

<https://www.facebook.com/sinemasadwrn/>

#MadeinWales #ThisIsWales

#### **Yr Egin**

**(Sept 2019-May 2020)**

A series of monthly films at Canolfan S4C Yr Egin, which aim to develop audiences for non-mainstream indigenous and international film across Carmarthenshire. Celebrating the rich and diverse film industry in Wales and beyond, the programme will appeal to young audiences aged 14-30 by working with the new Yr Egin "Asbri", filmmaking club.

<https://yregin.cymru/>

[https://twitter.com/yr\\_egin](https://twitter.com/yr_egin)

<https://www.facebook.com/YrEgin/>

**Look out for other Hub projects coming up this year such as:**

- The international [Abertoir Horror Film Festival](#) from the 19<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in Aberystwyth,
- Watch Africa's Wales wide [film club events](#). With their upcoming screening at Taliesin, Swansea on the 13<sup>th</sup> November: *AKasha and This is not a poem*.

**Ends**

For images please copy and paste the following link into your browser:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bQsMVbdBKtaGMdb-v6kBvP91urbAt6Hk>

For more information, or tickets to events, please contact:

**Megan David**, Marketing Officer, on 02920 311 057 / [megan@filmhubwales.org](mailto:megan@filmhubwales.org) (part time Tues-Thurs),

**Lisa Nesbitt**, Development Officer, on 02920 311 067 / [lisa@filmhubwales.org](mailto:lisa@filmhubwales.org),

**Hana Lewis**, Strategic Manager, on 02920 353 740 [hana@filmhubwales.org](mailto:hana@filmhubwales.org),

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**ABOUT FILM HUB WALES:**

Film Hub Wales aims to bring more films, to more people, in more places around Wales. Part of the BFI Film Audience Network and supported by National Lottery funding, FHW regularly develops inventive ways for people in Wales to go to the cinema with its independent member venues.

Film Hub Wales (FHW) is one of eight UK wide 'hubs' part of the BFI Film Audience Network (FAN) and supported with National Lottery funding, with Chapter appointed as the Film Hub Lead Organisation (FHLO) in Wales. We aim to develop the exhibition sector through dedicated research, training and audience development project support. Since Film Hub Wales set up in 2013, we've supported over 195 exciting cinema projects, reaching over 420,000 audience members.

In partnership with our member cinemas, arts centres, community venues, societies, festivals and wider film practitioners, FHW aims to celebrate and support the vibrant cultural film sector here in Wales, working together to expand and increase choice for audiences, regardless of where they live.

[filmhubwales.org](http://filmhubwales.org)

[twitter.com/FilmHubWales](https://twitter.com/FilmHubWales)

[facebook.com/filmhubwales](https://facebook.com/filmhubwales)

## About the BFI Film Audience Network

Supported by National Lottery funding, the BFI Film Audience Network (FAN), is central to the BFI's aim to ensure the greatest choice of film is available for everyone. Established in 2012 to build wider and more diverse UK cinema audiences for British and international film, FAN is a unique, UK-wide collaboration made up of eight Hubs managed by leading film organisations and venues strategically placed around the country. FAN also supports talent development with BFI NETWORK Talent Executives in each of the English Hubs, with a mission to discover and support talented writers, directors and producers at the start of their careers.

BFI FAN Film Hubs are:

- Film Hub Midlands is led by Broadway, Nottingham working in partnership with the Birmingham-based Flatpack
- Film Hub North is led collectively by Showroom Workstation, Sheffield, HOME Manchester and Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle
- Film Hub South East is led by the Independent Cinema Office
- Film Hub South West is led by Watershed in Bristol
- Film Hub Scotland is led by Glasgow Film Theatre
- Film Hub Northern Ireland is led by Queen's University Belfast
- Film Hub Wales is led by Chapter in Cardiff
- Film Hub London is led by Film London

The BFI is the UK's lead organisation for film, television and the moving image. It is a cultural charity that:

- Curates and presents the greatest international public programme of world cinema for audiences; in cinemas, at festivals and online
- Cares for the BFI National Archive – the most significant film and television archive in the world
- Actively seeks out and supports the next generation of filmmakers
- Works with Government and industry to make the UK the most creatively exciting and prosperous place to make film internationally

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.