



Media Release

23rd July 2024

For immediate release

What's on in Welsh Cinemas: Affordable Films for Communities across Wales

Film Hub Wales (FWW) has awarded over £100,000 of BFI National Lottery funding to nineteen independent Welsh cinemas and film festivals, through its Film Exhibition Fund.

Funds will enable Welsh audiences to watch the latest UK independent and international films in their local communities, at affordable prices. From relaxed, family friendly films to eco cinema strands and the latest Welsh releases, there's plenty to choose from.

Audiences in Bridgend and Blaenau Ffestiniog will even get to watch the films in exciting new cinema spaces. Awen Cultural Trust is launching its Llynfi Valley Cinema Project alongside at Maesteg Town Hall following its multi-million-pound redevelopment. At Cellb, their new 'Sgrin Emyr Ankst', opens in memory of Welsh music and cinema pioneer Emyr Glyn Williams - his legacy is set to inspire the young people of Wales for many years to come.

Rhys Roberts from Cellb explains the importance of their new screen to the community:

"Cellb is located in the center of the town of Blaenau Ffestiniog, a high mountainous location under the Stiniog quarries with its rich past history in industry, heritage and culture. It was the location for the first ever Welsh language film, Y Chwarelwr, an important film that reflects the lives of the local quarrymen in its community. Its past historic Culture and Welsh language was a vital part of the social and cultural dynamics. Today, we feel that it's important to celebrate and to educate our young people about modern heroes such as Emyr and it is with this in mind that we wish to dedicate our Screen 1 to his name. Our youths need role models, whom have flourished in the arts and culture and Emyr is a fine example of a local boy who dreamt big and made a huge impact on Welsh Culture. This is for you Emyr, you have inspired us and we will shine your beacon on to the masses for years to come. Diolch Emyr, Caru chdi."

At the Torch Theatre in Milford Haven, they're building relationships with their audiences and local partners, exploring global themes of intersectional identity through their film programme. They're opening up the space to new communities by celebrating important awareness dates such as Black History Month, LGBTQIA+ History Month and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Chelsey Gillard, The Torch's Artistic Director explains:

"We are thrilled to work with Film Hub Wales to deliver a series of celebratory cinema seasons across six months. This funding will allow us to build relationships with our communities and discover what people want to see at their local cinema, informing our long-term sustainability. By working with partners across Wales that bring a wealth of lived

experiences, we will be able to screen a wider variety of films and facilitate post-screening events that we hope will support discussion, reflection and connection.”

Other highlights include youth-led activities at Taliesin Arts Centre in Swansea and Theatr Gwaun in Fishguard, works screened from neurodivergent filmmakers at both Hijinx Unity Festival and through Cardiff Animation Festival’s Different Voices strand, as well as a nature/ecology in horror strand at Abertoir International Horror Festival – think disgusting real-life parasites and ‘nature fights back’.

Hana Lewis, Strategic Manager for Film Hub Wales adds:

“The fund is designed to help cinemas, festivals and community screens to bring the best UK independent and international films to Welsh audiences, in accessible and affordable ways. There’s so much to look forward to this year, which communities simply can’t get from watching a film at home. By heading out to their local cinema space, they’re already part of something bigger within their community and with a host of activities on offer, audiences get a night out for the price of their ticket.”

The projects are supported by Film Hub Wales, which is part of the BFI Film Audience Network (FAN) using funds from the National Lottery to ensure the greatest choice of cinema is available to everyone across the UK. Funds in Wales are administered by FHW via Chapter as the Film Hub Lead Organisation.

More than £30M is raised each week for good causes across the UK by the National Lottery.

Projects Supported

South Wales

Awen Cultural Trust, Bridgend

November 24 – March 25

Awen’s Llynfi Valley Cinema Project will be hosted at Maesteg Town Hall, following its multi-million-pound redevelopment. Affordable films will be brought to the big screen in Y Bocs Oren (The Orange Box) for audiences across Maesteg and the wider Llynfi Valley, Bridgend - from a Welsh Language Film Festival, to the best new mainstream and independent cinema releases.

[Website](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

Taliesin Arts Centre, Swansea

August 2024 – May 2025

A brand new 35-week community-led scheme for young people and families in Swansea, Taliesin’s ‘Connecting Up project’ will introduce a young programmers’ group with creative industry workshops, masterclasses, venue/festival go-sees, plus programming and event management training – all designed to make the cinema experience for young people more welcoming. Audiences can expect a micro festival, themed film strands, ‘Welcome’ screenings that break down barriers and special events such as with live music, pop-up shops and stalls.

[Website](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

Gwyn Hall, Neath

July 19th and August 9th

Two of the latest films with Welsh connections are coming to Neath. *Chuck Chuck Baby* from Welsh director Janis Pugh - a story about love and loss, set within the falling feathers of a Chicken factory in North Wales – will screen on July 19th. *Kensuke's Kingdom*, an animated adaption of Michael Morpungo's novel from Welsh production company Bumpy Box and Welsh Art Director Michael Shorten will screen from August 9th.

[Website](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

This activity is supported by Film Hub Wales' Made in Wales strand, which celebrates films with Welsh connections.

South East Wales

Hijinx Theatre, Cardiff

8th – 9th November 2024

Since 2008, Hijinx Unity Festival, one of Europe's largest inclusive and disability arts festivals, has provided a vital platform for the best inclusive and disability-led performance from across the world. The second Unity festival will run in Autumn 2024, featuring a diverse array of 20-25 inclusive works created by and with learning disabled and autistic people. The programme will include both feature-length films and shorts, alongside Q&A / panel discussions to share best practice, providing professional exposure for 18 learning disabled / neurodivergent filmmakers, producers, and actors from across Wales, UK and beyond.

[Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

Watch-Africa CIC, Cardiff

25th May 2024 – June 2025

Watch-Africa Film Festival will celebrate its 10th edition in 2025. The festival will go back to its original roots, bringing African cinema to audiences across Cardiff with a localised, place-based approach of monthly screenings from May 2024, building up to the main festival in May 2025. Activity launched on Africa Day at Chapter Arts Centre, and is travelling to venues across Cardiff, including Jacob's Market and Snowcat Cinema – bringing film screenings, Q&A with filmmakers, panel discussions, organised showcases and much more.

[Website](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

Memo Arts Centre (MAC), Barry

1st September 2024 – 28th February 2025

MAC's Sinema Connect project will offer 18 screenings inclusive and affordable 'big screen' experiences, including 6 relaxed cinema events and 12 family friendly events. There will be reduced price and free tickets, as well as social matinees for neurodivergent and older audiences. The programme will aim to break down barriers that prevent people from attending the cinema, working with local agents of change to make stronger connections with the community.

[Website](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

Snowcat Cinema, Cardiff

14th June (event passed)

As part of a new partnership with Llanover Hall Community Arts, Snowcat Cinema commemorated the centenary of George Mallory's ill-fated attempt to climb the tallest mountain in the world with a screening of the 1924 documentary, *The Epic of Everest*. Almost exactly 100 years on from the events documented in the film. Tori James, the first

Welsh woman to climb Everest at age 25, introduced the film, which was also accompanied by a live soundtrack performed by Natalie Ollis.

[Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

North East Wales

Phantasmagoria Horror Film Festival, Wrexham

12th and 13th October 2024

Audiences can discover local and international films from around the world, with a selection of Q&As including trade stalls, music performances and a pub quiz. There will be classic films with a Sci-Fi Horror theme, such as Welsh director Jimmy Sagasta's 'Horror of Frankenstein' and the Japanese Godzilla film 'Destroy all Monsters', with talks about women in engineering and robot combat.

[Website](#), [Facebook](#)

South West Wales

Theatr Gwaun, Fishguard

May 2024 – March 2025

From new Friday afternoon films to reduced price Monday morning films, Theatr Gwaun are creating plenty of choice for their older audiences. There will be Welsh language films of offer as well, as well as Saturday Kids Club screenings and free 'POINT Presents' sessions with their partner POINT, who offer drop in services for young people across North Pembrokeshire. Theatr Gwaun aim to better understand their audience needs throughout the project, talking to the community not just at screenings but through regular visits to the local market hall.

[Website](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

Canolfan S4C Yr Egin, Carmarthen

1st June 2024 - 31st March 2025

Yr Egin are set to bring more films the big screen to Carmarthen, increasing showings to twice monthly. Sinema Babi for new parents will take place on the last Friday of every month, beginning in June, offering a relaxed cinema experience with sensory workshops. Another new strand is 'Sinema Sbesial', which will include Welsh classics from the archive, such as 'Y Dyn Wnaeth Ddwyn y Dolig'. These events will be paired with a Q+A session and / or themed evening.

[Website](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

Torch Theatre, Milford Haven

1st September 2024 – 31st March 2025

Alongside their main cinema programme of blockbusters and independent films, the Torch will host three cinema celebration seasons from September 2024 to March 2025 showcasing work in celebration of Black History Month, LGBTQIA+ History Month and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. These seasons will include screenings of independent films made by and featuring people with lived experience of being a member of the Global Majority, the LGBTQIA+ community and / or living with disability. They hope to strengthen relationships with local audiences, building a welcoming programme of independent cinema in collaboration with partners across Wales.

[Website](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

West Wales

Abertoir International Horror Festival, Aberystwyth Arts Centre

14th – 17th November (in-person), 23rd & 24th November (online)

Wales' International Horror Festival is back, featuring brand new, unreleased films, cult classics, presentations by experts, Q&As by filmmakers, short films, plus live commentaries and film score performances. The festival will run in person at Aberystwyth Arts Centre, followed by a fully captioned virtual edition the following weekend, packed full of features, shorts and recorded talks. This year's theme is nature/ecology in horror from disgusting real-life parasites to 'nature fights back'.

[Website](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

The Magic Lantern, Tywyn

1st September 2024 – 31st March 2025

'Film Chat' is a new project, bringing an array of British, independent, Welsh, documentary and foreign language films to Tywyn, creating opportunities for the community to learn more about films and the people who create them. The film-club chat (no spoilers!) will offer captioned online chats with the Lantern's team, giving audiences insights into the upcoming films. Other strands will include family films with art competitions, A Mor a Mynydd environmental strand that celebrates nature and outdoor activity, Welsh selections and films with live music.

[Website](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

North West Wales

Cellb (Gwallgofiaid), Blaenau Ffestiniog

September 2024

Cellb will launch their new space, Sgrin Emyr Ankst, in memory of Welsh music and cinema pioneer Emyr Glyn Williams. This big screen project will provide a modern cinema experience in Blaenau Ffestiniog with its core focus on providing 'City Vibes' and modern culture for local youths. Cellb will run a youth creative project side by side with the cinema, providing training in technical and box office duties, as well as offering the screen as a platform to promote youth topics via short films before main features.

[Website](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

The Dragon, Barmouth

1st August 2024 – 31st March 2025

A new series of affordable, family, cinema events in Barmouth will offer accessible activities such as children's parties and craft workshops alongside. With the aim of creating lasting memories for their young audiences, the Dragon will work with their own young programmer to offer a selection of independent films. They will also offer free tickets to foodbank users, maximising promotions on their new LED board.

[Website](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

Across Wales

Cardiff Animation Festival (CAF) – Chapter (Cardiff), Torch Theatre (Milford Haven), Pontio (Bangor), Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Riverfront (Newport), Blaengarw Workmen's Hall (Bridgend), Tŷ Pawb (Wrexham), Pontardawe Arts Centre, Sinema

Sadwrn (Llansadwrn), Yr Egin (Carmarthen) and The Met (Abertillery)

June 2024 - March 2025

CAF's year-round programme will bring a mix of exciting animated feature films, short film screenings, exclusive Q+As with industry professionals and informal social learning activities to diverse audiences in Cardiff, as well as a touring programme of Welsh Work to independent Welsh venues. During this nine-month programme, audiences can look forward to Planet Positive screenings for Great Big Green Week, a tour of *Robot Dreams* and a special Halloween screening in partnership with Darkened Rooms. CAF are continually developing their relationship with D/deaf audiences, rural communities and asylum seekers and refugees, aiming to make their events welcoming, with free Cardiff Animation Nights and pay what you feel models.

[Website](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

Iris Prize LGBTQ+ Film Festival - Chapter (Cardiff), Pontio (Bangor), Galeri Caernarfon, Taliesin Arts Centre(Swansea), Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Pontardawe Arts Centre, Newbridge Memo, Porthcawl Pavilion, Y Muni (Pontypridd), The Met (Abertillery), Blaengarw Workmen's Hall (Bridgend), Yr Egin (Carmarthen)

December 2024 – March 2025

The Iris on the Move 2025 brings two award-winning programmes of short films to communities across Wales. Classified by the BBFC, the films showcase exceptional talent within the LGBTQ+ filmmaking community whilst also fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of LGBTQ+ stories and experiences. Films will be offered with introductions and / or Q&As and can be programmed alongside features or as standalone events.

[Website](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

Wales One World Film Festival (WOW) Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Pontio (Bangor), Theatr Mwldan (Cardigan) and Theatr Gwaun (Fishguard)

October 24 – January 2025 and 17th – 30th March 2025

WOW will bring 34 of the best independent and international features and shorts to Welsh communities in March 2025. In the lead-up to the festival, WOW will co-host screenings in Aberystwyth with the local Ceredigion Socialist Film Club, WOW aims to strengthen presence at its festival 'home', re-building the WOW community.

For its 24th edition, WOW will amplify its 'small but beautiful' character connecting audiences to talent at the festival. They will partner up with film departments in Aberystwyth and Bangor to develop their relationships with younger audiences and work with Curate-It to train two young Welsh programmers who will go on to curate their own event at the festival. The major focus will be their flagship 'Ecosinema' strand, bringing environmentalists, academics, locals and filmmakers to Aberystwyth for environmentally themed screenings, events, and talks.

[Website](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

Kotatsu Japanese Animation Festival - Chapter (Cardiff), Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Pontio (Bangor) TBC

28th September 2024 - 30th November 2025

A selection of Japanese animated films will screen over three fun-filled weekends at venues across Wales. In partnership with The Japan Foundation (London), they offer free, online, anime-themed interactive discussions with a Japanese industry professional. Other activities include a live music performance by popular local Shamisen player Jero11, a short film programme of independent Japanese films selected by the New Chitose Airport International

Animation Festival, a Manga Comic Café (a free Japanese comic reading area) at agreed venues to promote recycling and sustainability, a marketplace for local traders and artisans, and a raffle of sponsor-donated prizes to raise money for future events.

[Website](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

– ENDS –

For further information, please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

About Film Hub Wales

Film Hub Wales (FWW) celebrates cinema. We support organisations that screen film, from film festivals, to societies and mixed arts centres. Working with over [300 Welsh exhibitors](#), we aim to bring the best UK and international film to all audiences across Wales and the UK. Since Film Hub Wales set up in 2013, we've supported over 347 exciting cinema projects, reaching over 589,000 audience members.

We're part of a UK wide network of eight hubs which forms the British Film Institute (BFI) [Film Audience Network](#) (FAN), made possible thanks to National Lottery funding. Film Hub Wales is managed by [Chapter](#).

We were also proud to lead on the UK inclusive cinema strategy on behalf of BFI FAN 2017-23.

[Website](#), [X \(Formerly Twitter\)](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

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 and HOME Manchester
- 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

[Website](#)

About the BFI

We are a cultural charity, a National Lottery distributor, and the UK's lead organisation for film and the moving image. Our mission is:

- To support creativity and actively seek out the next generation of UK storytellers
- To grow and care for the BFI National Archive, the world's largest film and television archive
- To offer the widest range of UK and international moving image culture through our programmes and festivals - delivered online and in venue
- To use our knowledge to educate and deepen public appreciation and understanding
- To work with Government and industry to ensure the continued growth of the UK's screen industries

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter.

The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Jay Hunt.

[Website](#), [Facebook](#), [X \(Formerly Twitter\)](#)

About Chapter

Set up by artists in 1971, Chapter is an international centre for contemporary arts and culture. It's a hub for the production and presentation of world-class, inventive and compelling work. Their gallery commissions and produces exhibitions of the very best in national and international art. Their theatre spaces are a platform for experimental and thought-provoking work. Their cinemas offer independent and challenging films alongside a range of unique festivals and events, and they bring more films, to more people, in more places through Film Hub Wales.

Alongside the core programme, it's also home to 56 artists and creative companies who are based in their studios. From award-winning animators and film production companies to artists, designers and photographers, and bespoke art framers, print and recording studios, the creative community are at the heart of everything that they do.

Their programme and community collide in the award-winning Caffi Bar that seats around 120 people and is a great place to meet up with friends, find a quiet spot to work away from home, or tuck-in to a tasty plate of freshly prepared, locally sourced food and drink from their extensive menu.

[Website](#), [Facebook](#), [X \(Formerly Twitter\)](#), [Instagram](#)