



BFI Film Audience Network (FAN)

Welsh film festivals in 2026

Bringing UK independent and international film and the moving image to audiences across Wales and the UK.

This guide is designed to give an overview of film festivals in Wales, in 2026. If you are a festival looking for funding, please see our [Film Exhibition Fund](#) or our [Training & Skills Bursaries](#).



CHAPTER

At a glance

40 Film Festivals in total

34 Welsh events

5 UK Events delivering in Wales [1]

1 International festival delivering in Wales

20 Distinct themes from Adventure to African Cinema

1.4 Festivals developed per year between 1980-2025

28 ceased to operate (an increase of 2 in 2024/25)

About Film Hub Wales

Film Hub Wales (FHW) celebrates cinema. We fund, train and advise organisations that screen film, from film festivals, to societies and mixed arts centres. Working with over 270 Welsh exhibitors, we aim to bring the best UK and International film to all audiences across Wales and the UK.

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

We're part of a UK wide network of eight hubs funded by the British Film Institute (BFI) which form the Film Audience Network (FAN), with Chapter appointed as the 'Film Hub Lead Organisation' (FHLO) in Wales.

For examples of our work to-date, please see our FHW highlights.

[1] This figure is likely to be far greater, as we do not include touring festival programmes. Currently based on returning festivals only.

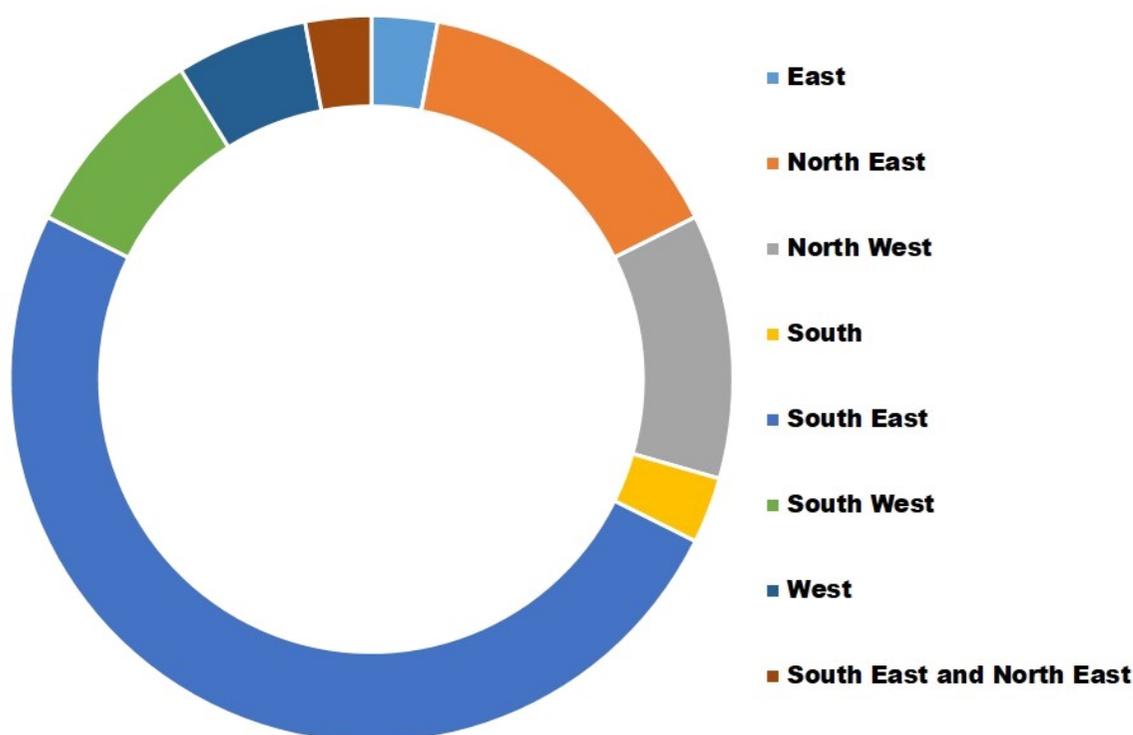
Who are the Festivals?

Please see [our member map](#) for a list of current festivals in Wales.

We update the map regularly. We also have a [blog outlining the festivals here](#).

Geographical spread

Wales wide coverage with concentration in the South East.



Admissions

Festival admissions range between **30 - 25,000**

73% of the festivals mapped are considered local, reaching up to 4,500 people annually. Some festivals include a portion of online figures in their totals.

Across a sample of 21, average admissions were calculated at 4,800. This is impacted by three significant events (two of which are UK with only partial delivery in Wales), which when removed from the sample, decreases the average to 2,225.

Unique Festival Themes



- Aging
- Animation
- Art and music
- Black British Cinema
- British / Independent / world cinema
- Coast and Sea
- Comedy
- Disability
- Film and Photography
- Football
- Horror
- Italian Film
- LGBTQIA+
- Mainstream outdoors
- Music / Science / arts
- New talent / Broadcast / Student work / Shorts
- Welsh Language / Culture
- Women on Film
- Young audiences

Useful Partners

- **BFI Audience Projects Fund**: Festivals of national (UK) significance can access funding from the BFI,
- **Ffilm Cymru Wales**: Festivals can access funding through their film exhibitor fund,
- **Creative Wales**: Contact the team for funding options,
- **BAFTA Cymru**: Festivals can become an accredited festival partner,
- **Iris Prize**: Access the Best of Iris and best practice as Wales' largest festival,
- **Independent Cinema Office**: access to national training schemes,
- **WCVA, VAW (Creative Lives)** and **University of South Wales**: provide volunteering opportunities for young creatives where practical,
- **British Council**: Feature on the [festivals database](#) and discover films,
- **Inclusive Cinema Legacy**: for access advice including '[Dismantling Structural Inequality in Your Cinema](#)',

Funding Available

Audiences:

- [Film Exhibition Fund \(FEF\)](#) (larger audience development screening programmes)
- [FEF Pitch Pot](#) (single events or short term programmes)
- [Made in Wales](#) (proposals should be made to FEF)

Training:

- [Training & Skills Bursaries](#)

We also offer networking events, training courses, marketing support, and industry news. Find a list of further external funding sources [on our website here](#).

Not a Film Hub Wales member?

To become a member, [fill in our Application Form](#). [Membership](#) is free to qualifying organisations and offers access to our range of funding, support and benefits.

Contacts

- **Lisa Nesbitt, Member Support Officer** - lisa@filmhubwales.org / 02920 311067
- **Hana Lewis, Head of Film Hub Wales** - hana@filmhubwales.org / 02920 353740

Appendix

What do we define as a Film Festival?

An extended presentation of films, of varying scale and size, in one or more exhibition venues and often with digital content. Sometimes within a single region but may include multiple touring, or community events. Increasingly, film festivals can include year-round activities that develop beyond a set of particular dates. Festivals often have a unique selling point but have common themes such as showcasing new talent, creative special events and new international and domestic releases designed to attract new audiences. They enable us to celebrate diversity on screen and develop creative outlets for regular audiences.