

Film Hub Wales Highlights 2025/26



Image: Manyatta screening - Watch-Africa at Chapter, Cardiff

From Cardiff Animation Festival's Wales-wide tour of an animated Welsh language classic, to the Magic Lantern bringing home the first BIFA Cinema of the Year award, 2025 has been packed full of big screen activities! You've been busy working on affordable and accessible events that brought the best UK independent and international film to local communities.

Let's take a look at just some of the things that happened during 2025/26...



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Members



**266
Welsh
exhibitors**



**193
FHW
members***



**14 new
members**
including Y Ganolfan
Porthmadog and Urban
Circle Newport. Welcome!



**18 out of 19 Hub
members were 'very
satisfied' with Hub
support,
and 1 satisfied**

* 31 community cinemas and festivals ceased screening activities.

Spotlight: Cardiff Animation Festival

CAF's year-round programme brought a mix of 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 14 independent Welsh venues. Their nine-month programme focused on building audiences, reaching 100% of their target admissions, connecting with communities through outreach, including asylum seekers and refugees (Oasis Cardiff), rural communities in Wales (CAF on Tour), a queer programme with Q&A, as well as greater opportunities for Welsh speakers and learners to engage with Welsh animation heritage through a subtitled tour of Y Dywysoges a'r Bwgan (The Princess and the Goblin). Previously only available on VHS, they created a subtitled DCP for future access.

"I've never seen a Welsh animation (before)..." - CAF Audience Member

Film Exhibition Funding

12 Full Time /
Mixed use /
Community
Cinemas

Activity
across 70
individual
locations

£13,500
awarded to 4
Melodrama
Projects

Circa
£103,000
awarded to 19
projects

7 Festivals
and 1 touring
project

1 x UK wide
Uncommon
Voices shorts
tour

4 x Spotlight
projects



- Abergavenny Film Society
- Abertoir International Horror Festival
- Arts Connection
- Canolfan Yr Egin
- Cardiff Animation Festival
- Cellb
- Chapter Arts Centre
- Cinema Paradiso Film Club (TAPE)
- Darkened Rooms

- Iris Prize LGBTQ+ Film Festival
- Kotatsu Japanese Animation Festival
- Llangoed Village Hall - Sinema Llangoed
- Mencap Môn
- Neuadd Dwyfor
- Off y Grid Venues (Cellb, Galeri, Neuadd Dwyfor, Neuadd Ogwen, Pontio, Storiel Bangor, Tŷ Siamas)
- Phantasmagoria Horror Film Festival

- Sheba Soul
- The Welfare
- The Luxor - Llanfairfechan
- The Magic Lantern
- Theatr Gwaun
- Torch Theatre
- Urban Circle
- Watch-Africa
- WOW
- Wyeside Arts Centre

*In case you missed it, we ran a series of blogs showcasing [Welsh cinemas](#), [festivals](#) and [‘community screens’](#) strand (by region) to support venue awareness which received more than 2370 total engagements and over 33,770 views on socials.

Films

1% of your audiences completed BFI FAN audience surveys. This is the snapshot from the sample:

**3%
aged 25
and
under**

**10%
LGBTQIA+**

**55%
Female**

**7%
Black &
Global
Majority**

**46%
D/deaf
and/or
disabled**

**8%
Working-
class**

42,715 physical admissions
(36,709 last year)

197 online admissions
(1279 last year)

1035 films
(467 last year)

90% of film screenings were British independent or international
a notable increase from 71% last year

15% accessible screenings
(32% last year)





Image: Theatr Gwaun © Jasper Photography

Spotlight: Theatr Gwaun

Theatr Gwaun went ‘back to basics’ by reviewing their progress in 2024/25 and putting a compelling and ambitious year-round programme of UK independent and international film at the heart of their strategy. In 2025/26 they focussed on delivering activities for younger audiences such as Kids Club and POINT Presents, understanding and evolving the offer for daytime cinema goers including a marketing campaign for occasional attenders, and finessing their evening cinema proposition, including more Welsh titles, Q&As and ticket offers.

Working with volunteers, they hand delivered their brochure across Pembrokeshire. They more than quadrupled their admissions target, with an audience average of 37 and noted particular success with Monday morning social screenings.



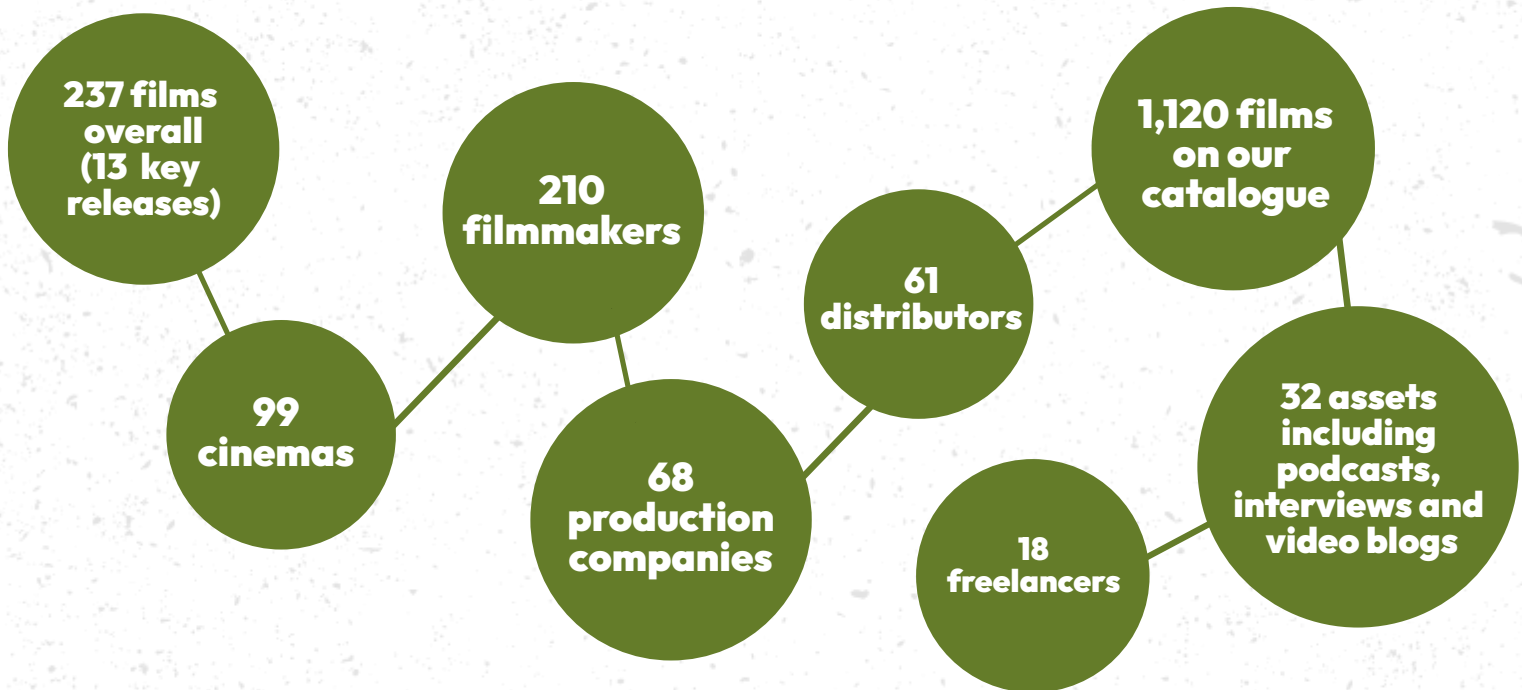
Theatr Gwaun Audience Feedback

“A superb theatre with an excellent programme of film. This is a huge asset to our small town.”

“The support we receive from Film Hub Wales is absolutely central to our ability to continue to screen our ambitious year-round programme of UK independent and international film. We pride ourselves on endeavouring to screen a diverse programme and we simply could not achieve that aspiration without the much-appreciated support from Film Hub Wales - thank you!” - **FHW Member**

Made in Wales

Supported



“I would never have screened a Welsh language film without the Hub’s support because [this] isn’t a Welsh language speaking area. We undertook surveys to see what percentage of the audience were Welsh speaking and that’s something we never would have done [...] It was the support from the Film Hub that got that going effectively.” - **Exhibitor feedback**

Spotlight: Brides

We worked with VUE Lumiere on the release of ie ie Productions’ Brides, offering an in person preview for Hub members. We filmed a [Q&A for use in cinemas](#) and podcast with Welsh producers Catryn Ramasut and Alice Lusher, Community Leader at Wales Somaliland Link Ali Abdi and hosted by 17-year-old Zaynab Ahmed. We also commissioned [editorial](#) by Hadeel Alfaraj whose own journey as an asylum seeker led her to work with Swansea Asylum Seekers Support. Find the full assets on [The Whole Story](#).

We also shared the results of the [Future of Welsh Film Survey](#), representing your views as film exhibitors on the future vision for Wales on screen before inviting a small group to meet with Welsh film funders.

Image: Brides © ie ie Productions. All Rights Reserved.



Member Spotlight

Engaging Audiences

Neuadd Dwyfor

Building on the success of their classic film club, Neuadd Dwyfor worked with the local community to expand their programme, including features from independent, Welsh and foreign language distributors. They included films such as Kneecap, O'r Ddaear Hen and archive shorts including The Flowers Stand Silently. They noted that this work has improved programming capability and confidence, as well as bringing new types of film to their regular audiences, with noticeable increase in return customers including under age 25. They exceeded admissions by 240%. They also partnered with local businesses to offer catering, retail discounts.

"Neuadd Dwyfor is an essential part of our rural community. It offers a range of films of different genres to reflect the diverse audiences. They show films from the first steps programme for a toddlers first experience of cinema to retirees. It is excellent!"

- Neuadd Dwyfor Audience Member

Abertoir International Horror Festival

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2025 with a 'gothic in film' theme, Abertoir was held at Aberystwyth Arts Centre from 12-16 November. Audiences travelled from across the UK and internationally to see an impressive 8 classic films, 29 short films, 4 presentations, 12 new feature films, 6 feature premieres, a performance by comedian Garth Marengi, an extensive exhibition of framed, original cinema posters for gothic films from the 1960s up to the present day, and a live concert by BAFTA nominated film composer Simon Boswell. They included titles from 17 different countries with a third of the short films being directed or produced by women, and two LGBT-themed features. Due to demand, they moved the screenings to the larger auditorium in Aberystwyth Arts Centre and reached 100% of admissions. A virtual edition followed the in-person event, featuring a selection of feature films, shorts, and recorded talks – all fully accessible to d/Deaf audiences.

"The organisers do the very best to make everybody welcome - it's an inclusive event that makes everybody feel they are part of this community".

- Abertoir audience member



Image: Neuadd Dwyfor, Pwllheli



Image: Abertoir International Horror Festival, Aberystwyth

Diversity and Inclusion

Spotlight: The Welfare, Ystradgynlais

Screen Social was a programme of 49 film titles targeting people who might find it difficult to attend regular film screenings due to social, health, financial or other barriers. Working with 3rd sector partners such as Credu (Young Carers), Calan DVS, Flying Start, Action for Elders, NAS and local food banks, the Welfare expanded their current offer to include 31 screenings with social activities after the films, combatting loneliness and improving mental health. Affordable or free tickets ensure that the community can get involved.

They noted that for some attendees of their Mother & Baby screenings, this was their first trip back to cinema in two years. The Road of Excess was also popular with new attendees and has resulted in a new collaboration around men's mental health.



Image: The Road of Excess - The Welfare, Ystradgynlais

Spotlight: Major programmes

We supported four partners to deliver Melodrama projects, including Sheba Soul, Torch Theatr and Darkened Rooms who had a special sold out Brief Encounter event at Insole Court. Chapter Arts Centre delivered an impressive 57 screenings, including films along the theme of 'hiraeth' meaning a longing for a past that exists in your imagination. Ticket sales showed that 18% of the audience for Hiraeth was under 30, supported by the new Chapter Clwb scheme. They screened the premier of Welsh language film Tanau'r Lloer (Fires of the Moon) with a bilingual Q&A, which was popular, as well as structured discussions around themes of racial identity for films such as Proud Valley, LGBTQ+ themes for films such as Polyester and Women's pictures around Now, Voyager and Stella Dallas.

Image: Kitsch n Sync performance for Major Programmes - Chapter, Cardiff © Sam Stevens



Spotlight: Socio Economic Champion

The [Uncommon Voices](#) shorts tour secured 10+ bookings across most of the FAN regions, with filmmaker Q&As. Final events are running up to June 2026. New guides and tips were also added to the live [BFI FAN resource: Reducing socioeconomic barriers for cinema audiences to support venues engaging with working-class audiences](#)

Spotlight: Neighbourhood Cinema

To conclude their three-year Spotlight programme across North Wales, TAPE Community Music and Film developed a celebratory film festival for 'Neighbourhood Cinema' venues to take part in.

Young people involved in TAPE's Media Club curated the festival - choosing the theme, programming the films, creating a [trailer](#) and marketing assets. Festival screenings took place at all Spotlight venues including Oriel Môn in Llangefni, The Luxor in Llanfairfechan, Llangoed Village Hall and TAPE's headquarters in Colwyn Bay. Watch their Spotlight [case study here](#).

"This was my first time attending. The venue was warm and welcoming. There were short films and clips that have inspired me to attend again. The organisers were fantastic, well worth the time to attend and value for money. Hoping more villages would do this as it really does bring communities together. Thank you Llangoed."

**- Audience Member,
Sinema Llangoed**

Spotlight: The Magic Lantern

Through 96 screenings of UK independent, Welsh and foreign language films, the Magic Lantern Cinema in Tywyn offered a selection of discount-deals for local audiences, including films for teenagers, children and families, over 60s and relaxed / hard of hearing groups. They also explored inclusive representation on screen, connecting local audiences to stories from diverse communities across the world and building a welcoming experience via relationships with community organisers and stakeholders. If you missed it, they also brought the first ever BIFA cinema of the year award home to Wales! [Watch their case study](#).



Member Support

- **19 x bursaries**
- **We logged 240+ member surgeries and attended 30 partner events**
- **98 films were added to the preview room**
- **1 x Hub Helo training event**
- **2 x Welsh film preview day**
- **2 x in person consultation events**
- **1 x community collaboration training event online**
- **4 x Film Forum - Quarterly programming get togethers**
- **3 x video case studies published**
- **20+ web resources uploaded including the updated Biodiverse Big Screen pack and Introduction to documentary.**



Spotlight: Skills

Members attended events across the UK from the ICO Screening Days, to Sea Change and London Film Festival, as well as participating in training courses like ICO REACH and Sponsorship. 23 members also came together for Hub Helo, our annual peer-to-peer event at Y Muni.

[Find out more about all of our projects here.](#)

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