

Which films to show & where to get them?

SELECTING YOUR FILMS

Take your time to think about who you are targeting your films to, and aim for a mix of different films to attract a broad range of people from your local area.

There are various websites that can help you with reviews of films. Here are a few to get you started:

www.imdb.org.uk

www.filmclub.org

www.metacritic.com

uk.rottentomatoes.com

All the national newspapers have regular days (usually at weekends) when they review films. These films will usually be available to rent after 3 months. If a film is going to be popular, book it as soon as possible from the distributor.

You may want to start with films that you know will be popular with your local community – for example more recent releases. As your audiences build and you feel more confident you can experiment with different types of film so that your audiences can enjoy a different range of cinema experience,

and you can attract new audience members to your venue.

WHERE TO GET FILMS

There are two basic ways to get films to show for community screenings. You can hire the film from a distributor, or you can buy or rent a DVD from a shop or a rental service like LoveFilm.

www.lovefilm.com

However you will need to have the appropriate licence for the film you intend to show. See [Factsheet 2: Licencing](#) from

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/arts/film

FILM DISTRIBUTORS

All film distributors will require you to send them the name and screening date for the film, and the delivery address. You will have to pay postage and packing, as well as the fee to hire the film. You should receive confirmation of your booking before your screening date; if not, it is advisable to contact them again.

Once you have decided on a film, you will need to research which films you

would like to screen and find out who owns the copyright for the film. The easiest way to identify the copyright holder is to search for the film on the BBFC website:

www.bbfc.co.uk

The majority of films can be obtained from Filmbank, and other film distributors, including The British Film Institute. See below for details of distributors and an idea of costs.

FILMBANK

Filmbank distributes DVDs and videos from the major film companies and many of the smaller ones. Films rented from Filmbank are licensed for public screening whether or not admission is charged.

To order films you will need to pay a membership fee of £150 (this is refundable when you close your account). Visit:

www.filmbank.co.uk

to download a membership application form.

Filmbank are well used to dealing with community cinema groups as they are one of the major sources of films.

However, the way Filmbank will deal with your group does depend on

whether they categorize your screenings as either commercial or non-commercial (see [Factsheet 2: Licensing](#)). Even if your group is not setting out to make a commercial profit, Filmbank will class your screenings as commercial if:

- The general public can turn up
- You charge admission
- You advertise the screening with a specific film title

When you apply for an account, you should explain whether you plan to operate along the lines above, or whether yours is a members-only film club where members pay an annual subscription only ('non-commercial'). If in doubt, contact Filmbank and discuss it directly with them.

If Filmbank categorizes your screenings as 'commercial', you will have to submit a return after each screening, stating how many tickets were sold and what the ticket income was. Filmbank provide a form for this.

Web site: www.filmbank.co.uk

Email: licences@filmbank.co.uk |

enquiries@filmbank.co.uk |

bookings@filmbank.co.uk

Tel: 0207 984 5957/8

BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE

The British Film Institute (BFI) has a large collection of films for hire from its own catalogue and also distributes world cinema films from Artificial Eye and on behalf of Soda Pictures. The BFI specialises in classic films and modern independent material. A list of films available can be found on the BFI website at:

www.bfi.org.uk

You can obtain the most up to date list of films by emailing the BFI requesting the latest catalogue.

WORLD CINEMA

Bollywood films: Eros distribute most of the Indian films released in the UK.

Bollywood movies are usually around 3 hours long and most are romantic action-comedies packed with songs and dancing, appealing to a wide audience.

Eros bookings are available through Filmbank

www.filmbank.co.uk

Other foreign language films: Artificial Eye specialises in distributing foreign language films from many different countries. The catalogue on the company's own website is very easy to use, and gives a good idea of the films they can provide. However, note that,

although you can buy DVDs for home use from Artificial Eye direct - DVD rentals for screening purposes must be booked through the British Film Institute.

www.artificial-eye.com

PARK CIRCUS

Another source of films is Park Circus. Their website is

www.parkcircus.com

The site carries a wide range of specialist and classic titles including MGM/UA, Disney and Film Four. You need to ring on **0141 332 2175** in order to book.

NEW REALM

New Realm stock a very short list of films, though it is growing constantly.

www.new-realm.co.uk

LOCAL ARCHIVES

The Media Archive for Central England (MACE), based in Leicester, carries an enormous range of historic local film and television. MACE makes packages available on DVD under the banner Midland Journey, which can sometimes be available for local community cinema screenings. For more information visit:

www.macearchive.org

Here is a list of contacts for booking films on DVD:

Artificial Eye - Handled by BFI

Axiom Films - Sophie Bush | 020 7243 3111 | sophie@axiomfilms.co.uk

BFI - Andrew Youdell | 020 7255 1444 | bookings.films@bfi.org.uk

Blue Dolphin - Bernie Watters | 020 7255 2494 |
berniewatters@bluedolphinfilms.com

Capers-Matcine - Tony Carr | 020 7287 2332 | capers@btinternet.com

CinéFile - Allison Gardner | 07970 025243 | Allison@cinefile.co.uk

Dogwoof - Oli Hartpottle | 020 7833 3599 | oli@dogwoof.com

E1 Films - Handled by Filmbank

Entertainment - Handled by Filmbank

Eros International - Handled by Filmbank

Eureka Entertainment - Martin Myers | 0208 958 8512 |
martin@miracle63.freemove.co.uk

Filmbank - 020 7984 5957/8 | info@filmbank.co.uk

Film Quest Limited - Maggie Atlas | 020 8783 1661 | maggie.fq@ntlworld.com

Fox - Handled by Filmbank

ICA - Sara Squire | 020 7866 1415 | saras@ica.org.uk

ICO - Becky Clarke | 020 7079 0473 | beckyc@independentcinemaoffice.org.uk

Icon - Handled by Filmbank

Lionsgate Films - Handled by Filmbank

Metrodome - Handled by Filmbank

Momentum - [Henrietta Swan](#) | 0207 391 6975 | henrietta.swan@momentumpictures.co.uk

New Realm Distributors - [Paul Hennessey](#) | 020 7436 7800

New Wave Films - Handled by [Verve](#)

Optimum - Handled by [Filmbank](#)

Paramount - Handled by [Filmbank](#)

Park Circus - [Nick Varley](#) | 0141 332 2175 | bookings@parkcircus.com

Pathé - Handled by [Filmbank](#)

Peccadillo Pictures - [Kahloon Loke](#) | 0207 837 1118 | kahloon@peccadillopictures.com

Revolver Entertainment - [Carly Morrell](#) | 020 7243 4300 | carly@revolvergroup.com

Soda Pictures - Handled by [BFI](#)

Sony - Handled by [Filmbank](#)

Spier Films - [Maya Gnyp](#) | 020 7326 8484 | maya@spierfilms.com

Tartan - Bookings not available at the moment.

Trinity Filmed Entertainment - Handled by [Filmbank](#)

Unanimous Pictures - Handled by [Filmbank](#)

Universal - Handled by [Filmbank](#)

Vertigo - [Hubi Liel](#) | 0207 428 7555 | hubi@vertigofilms.com

Verve - [Elliott Binns](#) | 0207 299 3684 | Elliott@vervepics.com

Warner Bros - Handled by [Filmbank](#)

The Works - Handled by [Film Quest Limited](#)

Yash Raj - 0870 739 7345 | prakash@yashrajfilms.com

Rates vary from between £80-100 for DVDs and £50 upwards for VHS rentals.