

Watershed, 1 Canon's Road, Harbourside, Bristol BS1 5TX

Box Office: 0117 927 6444

## **Watershed August 2010 Podcast**

I have just taken receipt of the first batch – some 80 films – of shorts to begin the shaping of the **Encounters International Film Festival** programme. Over the next three weeks I will be working my way through over 400 films to whittle down to the programme for November's festival - already these have been preselected from some 1600 submissions.

What does this mean? Well, for a start I shall be entering the imaginations of a host of filmmakers, excited by the anticipation and the prospect of the visions and stories they will be telling. But it also says something about the amount of talent out there who want to get their creativity seen. And this, for me, is the essence of Encounters and any film festival worth its salt – that it is a place where new talent can be profiled and seen. So I will be spending the first part of August immersed in these new visions which you will be able to see in November - bear in mind the short film form is where directors such as Andrea Arnold, Shane Meadows and a raft of international directors first signalled their exciting new presence. The selection will be announced by the end of September and you can keep in touch by following the website ([encounters-festival.org.uk](http://encounters-festival.org.uk)) and Twitter (@EncountersSFF).

In the meantime to keep you busy in August we have a first at Watershed – a **Bike Film Festival**. **Cyclescreen** came about through two members of staff at Watershed Box Office pitching an idea about cycling and cinema and who avoided the clichés of “well lets screen The Bicycle Thieves and Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid because of the drippy scene where the film slows down to include a musical number on a bike.” Instead they had a veritable treasure trove of ideas bringing together talks, screenings and events that at their core have cinema and a passion for cycling. They include Bristolian Nick Hand who cycled and documented his 5000-mile route round the coastline of Great Britain, Alistair Humphreys who at 24 decided to leave England and cycle 46,000 miles round the world plus Cally Callomon who will present an illustrated social history of the bike. You can also get physically involved with Rollapaluza where two stationary bikes will be set up in Watershed Café/Bar and you are challenged to a 500m sprint with

DJ musical accompaniment. For more information see  
[www.watershed.co.uk/cyclescreen](http://www.watershed.co.uk/cyclescreen)

Last year we augmented the **London Lesbian And Gay Film Festival** with the Bristol made feature film *Shank* this year we are working with **Pride Bristol** to present a broader range of lesbian, gay and transgender films and events. There is a preview of **Release** from the team behind **Shank** as well as a Pre-Pride Party. For more information visit [pridefestival.com](http://pridefestival.com) and [watershed.co.uk](http://watershed.co.uk).

Throughout the summer we are presenting the cinematic comic genius that is **Jacques Tati**. Tati was a sublime visual comedian whose films, whilst largely silent, relied on his grasp of the visual comedy to poke fun at the absurdities of modern life. The animator Sylvain Chomet who made the wonderful **Belleville Rendezvous** has made a film of a previously unmade Tati script about an old style stage variety act who finds himself being marginalised by the popularity of cinema. **The Illusionist** opens at the end of August and the Tati films can be seen on Sundays throughout the month

If you have ever found yourself thinking about the impact of the internet – is there too much information out there? What does it mean to be able to find anything out immediately? How does this affect the nature of knowledge? These and many other issues will be being discussed by writer **Nicholas Carr** on 31 Aug who asks “How is the Internet is changing the way we think?” A timely and stimulating debate presented by the Festival of Ideas which promises to fire up those relaxed summer brain cells.

Something we have been dealing with at here at Watershed is the very practical detail of how do we keep those popular films on for longer so that audiences can catch up with them whilst maintaining as wide a selection of films to choose from. In the past we have had films which have pleasantly surprised us by how popular they have been – *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo* is an example – but because of the way we produce our monthly brochure with exact information on what is happening that month we cannot respond to that demand. The upside though is that you can look at our calendar and book for any film that is on that month. The downside is if a film begins to take off in popularity we cannot keep it playing. So from September you will see a change to our brochure as we address this issue.

We'll be posting more information around the building and online at **[watershed.co.uk](http://watershed.co.uk)**.