

MORE FILMS IN  
MORE PLACES FOR  
MORE PEOPLE

Film Hub South West:

# BFI2022 REFLECTIONS

APRIL 2018 - MARCH 2022

AJANI CABEY IN PICKNEY (DIR: MICHAEL JENKINS)



# Introduction

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**Film Hub South West is the driving force behind film culture in the region. We work towards a thriving and inclusive film sector, enabling more people to show, watch, and make films where they are – thanks to the support of National Lottery.**

Led by internationally renowned cultural cinema Watershed in Bristol, UNESCO City of Film, Film Hub South West is part of the UK wide BFI Film Audience Network (BFI FAN.) This is at the heart of the British Film

Institute strategy, which seeks to ensure the greatest choice of film is available for everyone. Watershed is also home to BFI NETWORK and BFI Film Academy South West which nurture the region's new wave of filmmaking talent.

As the BFI 2022 strategy ends, we reflect on the impact of these programmes on audiences, talent, and the wider film sector over the past four-year period here in the South West.



# Impact on Audiences

## Total overview

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**£7,465,383**

Invested in Audience  
Facing Activity

**36%**

Of screenings had extra  
wraparound activity

**208,729**

Total Film Hub South West  
physical Admissions

**2,143**

Films

**12,852**

Total Film Hub South West  
Live Online Admissions

**90%**

Of hub members said  
they were Very Satisfied  
with Membership to  
the Hub.

**4,479**

Screenings

## Audience Survey Feedback

*\* based on 12832 surveys / 6% response rate.*

**64%** thought events were either 'good' or 'very good'



**44%** said 'Inspired to watch more film like the one they had seen'



**93%** would come to venue again.



**32%** were new attendees (audience)



**96%** thought the venue was either 'good' or 'very good'





IMAGE C/O ROBERT BROWNE: FORBIDDEN WORLDS FILM FESTIVAL, BRISTOL 2022

**“If you ran this festival  
every year, no matter where  
I was in the world, I would  
make the effort to come.  
Unparalleled experience.”**

Audience comment, Forbidden World  
Festival, 2021



IMAGE C/O CABLES & CAMERAS, INSPIRED BRISTOL 2021

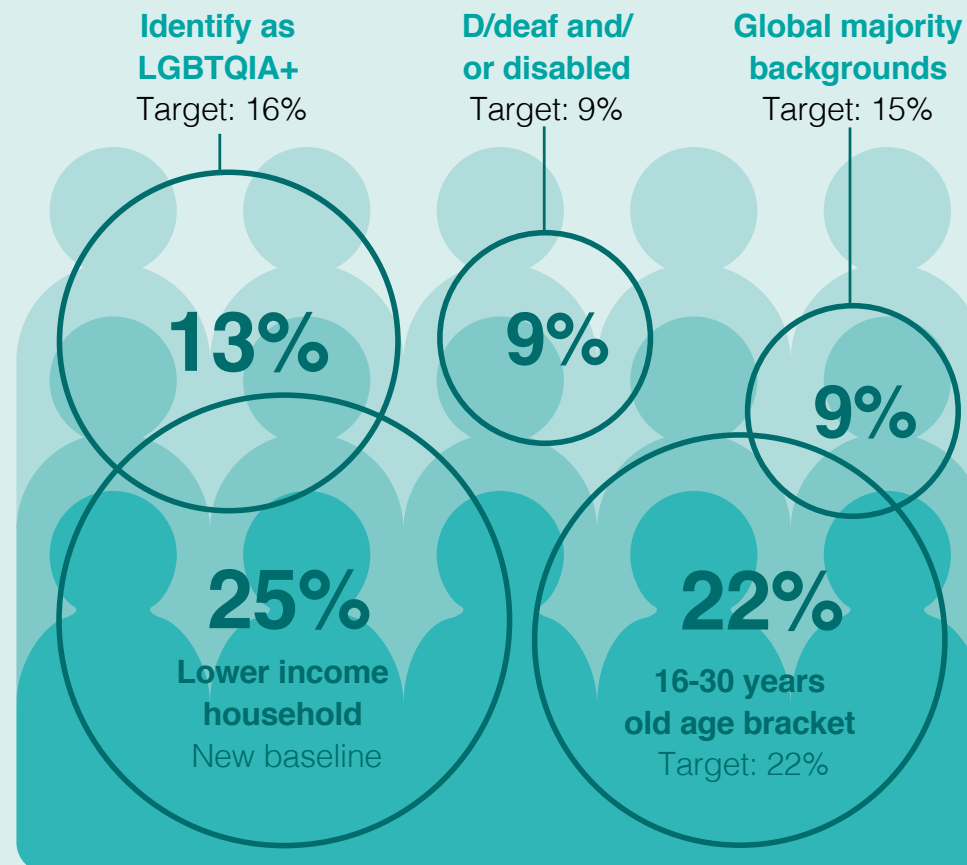


“We are dizzy with delight at being able to promote a host of amazing films by **BLACK\*** women directors - and not the usual suspects. Thank you **FAN** for allowing us to **FLY!** a little Higher with the profiles of brilliant **BLACK\*** women directors”

Akulah Agbami, Sheba Soul Ensemble



## Overall Audience Breakdown\*



\* based on 68,000 audience surveys.

\*Film Hub South West is committed to working towards a more accessible and inclusive sector. To that end, we are monitoring how well our members are connecting with specific audience groups. The figures above are based on 12,832 surveys / 6% response rate.

# Supporting Exhibition

## Sector Growth

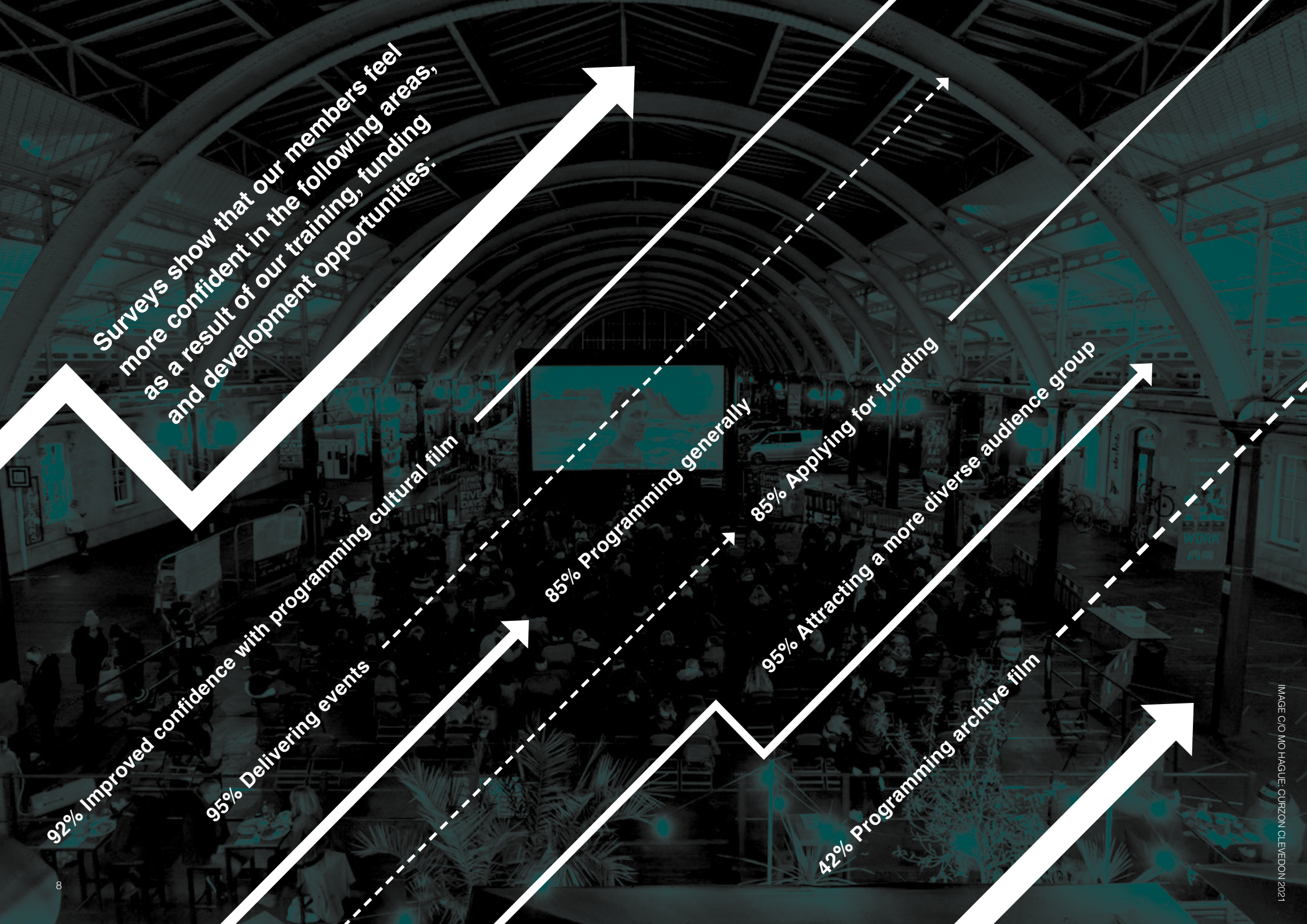
Membership has increased from **105** members in 2018 to **234** members in 2021/22, a **246%** increase in membership.

Since 2012, as Film Hub Lead Organisation for the South West, Watershed has built on its exemplary practice to inspire a growing membership of exhibitors to engage audiences.

100% of organisations surveyed indicated that they were satisfied or very satisfied as members.

**“This was a magical screening - watching a classic silent film which was superb in its own right (very funny) but accompanied by a live pianist playing along with the action on screen. A mixture of cinematic brilliance and live performance - what could be better than that?”**

Audience comment, Feel Good Festival, The Regal, Fordingbridge, 2021



Surveys show that our members feel more confident in the following areas, as a result of our training, funding and development opportunities:

92% Improved confidence with programming cultural film

95% Delivering events

85% Programming generally

85% Applying for funding

95% Attracting a more diverse audience group

42% Programming archive film

# Funding

**£257,474** National Lottery funding went to 116 South West organisations through open call funding pots.

£3.14 subsidy per head  
\*based on total reported member admissions for both online and in-person activity

**“The venue was brilliant. Tucked away, super cosy (yet well socially distanced!), and all the staff were so lovely. A real hidden gem! The event was so much fun. We were smiling the whole way through and felt really connected to everyone else in the cinema.”**

Audience comment, Compass Presents  
Foley Grail, The Cube 2021

IMAGE C/O JANA RUMLEY, COMPASS PRESENTS, FOLEY GRAIL, WARDROBE, BRISTOL, 2022

# Large scale projects

**The Film Exhibition Fund (previously Large Open Call Fund) is our annual open call offering £5-10k or large scale projects.**

**34** Funded Organisations **37,152** Audiences Reached  
(25,023 physical audiences and 12129 online)

## Organisations funded Include:

- Mor Film (Cornwall Film Festival)
- Stroud Film Festival
- FilmBath Film Festival
- Purbeck Film Festival
- Cheltenham International Film Festival
- Queer Vision Film Festival (Bristol Pride)
- Chagford Film Festival
- Afrika Eye Film Festival
- C Fylm
- No. 6 Cinema
- South West Silents
- Trowbridge Town Hall
- Wildscreen
- Sheba Soul
- Portsmouth Film Society
- Exeter Phoenix
- Ashleworth Cinema
- The Point
- The Roses
- The Poly
- Windrose Rural Media Trust
- And more...



IMAGE C/O NEIL RAMJEE: BEN ROBERTS, BFI CEO SPOTTED AT THE CHAGFORD FILM FESTIVAL PARADE 2021

**“I’ve been a film buff for decades and still never cease to be amazed by the power of film and by the diversity of takes on similar subjects”**

Audience comment,  
Cornwall Film Festival 2021

**“You gave us nothing but a positive experience from beginning to end. It is one of the most exciting things that happens in Bath.”**

Audience comment, Bath Film Festival 2019

# Large scale projects

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## Our Audience Pitch Pot offers up to £2k funding to widen audience reach.

51 Projects Funded **21,624** Audience Members Reached

### Those supported included:

- Libraries Unlimited's Discovery Screens Festival which brought a diverse range of films to libraries in Barnstaple, Crediton, Cullompton, Dawlish, Exeter, Newton Abbot, Okehampton, Seaton, South Molton, St Thomas and Tavistock.
- Queer Vision, now an annual celebration of UK & International LGBTQ+ films supported through also home to the South West Queer Filmmakers' Network.
- Sheba Soul's FLY! Festival of Black Women's Film celebrating black women's film. 87% of the audience identified as being from Black & Global Majority communities and 93% identified as being from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Ordinary/ Extraordinary, an arts and film festival co-curated by and for young people with learning disabilities with Lifeworks Charity at the Barn Cinema.
- Compass Presents The Box Shorts, a collaboration which brought four seasonal packages of regional archive shorts reaching 3,992 audiences over 567 screenings.



**“We were very pleased with the result overall and feel it gives us a strong base on which to build the Alternative Cinema season going forward. The support of the BFI and securing the Audience Pitch Pot meant we were able to bring a broader selection of films to our audiences without too much of a risk at a time where the business is still recovering after Covid.”**

Merlin Cinemas

# Bursaries

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**£17,997 bursaries  
to 66 organisations**

Bursaries have enabled members from across the south west to attend a full range of conferences, festivals, and training, in addition to visiting other members to share best practices and ideas.

**“My film knowledge and experience has been expanded, and I will share this with my network of film clubs to help their programming too. It helps so much with marketing to have seen the film, too.”**

Imogen Weatherly, C Fylm (ICO Screening Days, 2019)



**“Growing up in a town lacking in creative community engagement, seeing it as an adult is hopeful. The event highlighted the relationship between venue and event, which is important to consider in personal pursuits. The experience was super insightful.”**

Valentina Paz Huxley, Beyond Boundaries 360 participant (Exeter Two Short - Nights Film Festival, 2022)

## UK wide Projects, Local cinema

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	<b>Comedy Genius 2018-19</b>	<b>Musicals 2019-20</b>	<b>Film Feels 2020-21</b>	<b>Japan 2021-22</b>
Projects	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>
Awarding	<b>£18,972</b>	<b>£24,840</b>	<b>£8,250</b>	<b>£12,800</b>
Admits	<b>3,238</b>	<b>2,327</b>	<b>5,999</b>	<b>1,564</b>
	As part of the UK wide BFI season, 10 projects were supported in the South West awarding £18,972, resulting in 3,238 admits across the region.	As part of the UK wide BFI season, 7 projects were supported in the South West awarding £24,840, resulting in 2,327 admits across the region.	As part of the UK wide BFI season, 10 projects were supported in the South West awarding £8,250, resulting in 5,999 admits online.	As part of the UK wide BFI season, 6 projects were supported in the South West awarding £12,800, resulting in 1,564 admits online.

# Supporting Members

## During the Covid19 Lockdown

When cinemas had to close in 2020, we put on regular online meetups for our members encouraging peer-to-peer support at this challenging time. We helped members access funding and resources and offered responsive training for example around putting on online screenings and reopening strategies.

**“Thank you so much for helping me to order my thoughts and to understand what is possible and sensible given the enormity of the problems faced by us all.”**

Purbeck Film Festival

IMAGE C/O TIFFANY HOLMES: MEMBERS MEET UP IN 2020

# BFI FAN COVID-19 Resilience Fund

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**In June 2020, the BFI FAN COVID-19 Resilience Fund offered critical relief to 22 exhibition organisations across the South West, a total of £183,000.**

**“Being granted this emergency funding not only provides our beloved company with the vital support it needs in order to continue operating - it goes beyond the company, and offers those behind it a moment to sigh relief and enjoy a greater peace of mind - which in these uncertain times, is invaluable.”**

Compass Presents



IMAGE © FRY FILM: PURBECK FILM FESTIVAL, MOWLEM THEATRE, 2021

**“The BFI Resilience Fund is a game changer for The Roses at an incredibly difficult time. As well as ensuring our survival through the next few months, it will give us the staff capacity to innovate our film programme to better serve our communities while the doors are closed, allowing us to reach new audiences and start new conversations around independent film.”**

The Roses Theatre

# Working towards a more inclusive film exhibition sector



**“Not only are they giving me support [on] different levels, networking opportunities, training, finding the way [to get paid] for my work in a fair/professional way! This is something unique. A HUGE Thanks”**

Beyond Boundaries 360 Participant

IMAGE C/O TIFFANY HOLMES, BEYOND BOUNDARIES 2019-20 COHORT

# Beyond Boundaries

**Through Beyond Boundaries 360 we supported 37 creative practitioners, from backgrounds that are underrepresented in the sector, to make their film event ideas a reality.**

Beyond Boundaries 360 is a collaborative annual programme facilitates access to funding, ideas and business development, as well as access to a peer group.

**“It’s been wonderful. Enriching and informative on so many different levels.”**

Beyond Boundaries 360 Participant

**“Everything felt so tangible and doable, ALL sessions felt so useful, and action orientated. For me really did feel like it was cracking open things I wouldn’t have had any idea about”**

Beyond Boundaries 360 Participant

- **100% participants** were from backgrounds currently under-represented in the cinema sector from across the region including Bristol, Plymouth, Taunton, Gloucester, Trowbridge, Bournemouth, Stroud and Bath participated in the programme.
- **100% of participants** found the programme valuable and would recommend it to others (2019-20 evaluation.)



IMAGE C/O MARK PETERS: BRISTOL BLACK HORROR CLUB LAUNCH, 20TH CENTURY FLICKS, CINEMA REDISCOVERED, 2021

Alumni include organisations such as Cables and Cameras, Sheba Soul, Black Bristol Horror Club, DET Entertainment as well as a range of freelance practitioners matched with FAN member organisations such as Afrika Eye Festival and Exeter Phoenix.

**“I’ve really enjoyed working with a community of like-minded practitioners.”**

Beyond Boundaries 360 Participant

## Alumni Profile: Anne-Marie Dames

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**With a background in television production and an enthusiasm for film, Bournemouth-based participant, Anne-Marie Dames was part of our 2021 cohort.**

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Through her work and relationship with the Hub, Anne-Marie successfully partnered with BEAF – Bournemouth Emerging Arts collective – to produce and curate an event targeted at harnessing the growing Polish community in the area, which she felt was underserved. Her ‘BOSKINO’ evening

comprised of a screening of ‘The In-Laws’ (2020), with a post-screening discussion, delivered in both English and Polish, in addition to communal sharing of Polish cuisine.

The event was a sell-out, with Anne-Marie now in conversation with other Hub member organisations to further BOSKINO in her new locale of Southampton.

**“Meeting other creative people and that the weekly sessions kept my project on track. The Hub team were very helpful, inspiring, encouraging, insightful and accessible.”**

Anne-Marie on Beyond Boundaries 360

# Supporting home-grown films:

## Bait



We supported the BFI's regional campaign around Bait by Cornish filmmaker Mark Jenkin, which went on to play in 30+ Cinemas and community venues in the South West with numerous sell-out preview screenings and Q&As.

**Bait performed extremely well in the region, with the West Country and West regions contributing:**

- **32.5%** (£173,369) of the total UK box office income to date.
- **25%** of audience members had not previously been to the venue hosting the preview screening

The Bait campaign won **Screen Daily Distribution Awards** 2019 (199 sites and under)



IMAGE © DMO HAQUE CURZON CLEVELAND 2021

# Partnership Working: Stroud Film Festival

The 8th edition of the festival ran in person from 4-27 March 2022 at 10 independent venues across Stroud, returning after online-only events in 2021.

Working with ten venues, all of which had been affected by lockdown, Stroud Film Festival developed new partnerships, showcased regional creatives and forged connections with local businesses.

Highlights included a new collaboration with [Bike Drop](#) – a local initiative which uses cycling to deliver print; a partnership with [South West Silents](#) and [Stroud Arts Festival](#) involving young musicians playing live to classic silent shorts; and director, editor and photographer Hatty Frances Bell curated and introduced a screening and discussion of films by female directors from the south west.



**“Many thanks to you & Jo for giving us the platform to screen Pariah last night and after all the nerves I actually enjoyed it.”**

Derrick McLean, Black Ark Media

**“The festival has really added to the profile (and the income) of Stroud Film Society”**

Claire Carpenter, Stroud Film Society



# Young Audiences: Exeter Phoenix

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**As a result of a new targeted marketing campaign, Exeter Phoenix found 44% of the total audience for their new line-up were under 25s (a trend which continued 6 months on).**

In 2018, Exeter Phoenix embarked on a mission to reinvigorate its existing under 25s ticket offer by launching a new marketing campaign.

Two years on, Exeter Phoenix built on this with a new focus on inclusion. 14 young people were recruited to join a Young Audience Panel, an initiative led by Cinema Outreach Coordinator Thea Berry (also a FAN Young Consultant.)

This injected new energy and sense of possibilities into Exeter Phoenix as a whole, and especially for its young collaborators.



**“It was exciting to hear about the possibilities in film and broadened my mindset about what makes a good cinema event.”**

Young Audience Panel participant

# Screen Heritage: The Box X Compass

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## Reached 3,992 audience members

Archive aficionados Compass Presents collaborated with The Box in Plymouth to produce a programme of shorts. The culturally rich treasures, compelling in content were chosen specially to connect local audiences to their communities, landscapes and histories.

Handpicking clips from The Box archives, Compass created themed, seasonal packages for South West FAN Members to screen before feature films.

**“The Compass short films have been a great success in Moviola venues. Particularly in this difficult time, audiences have really enjoyed having something extra to accompany their feature film nights and the shorts have been very well curated to fit the months they are being shown.”**

Toby Walkley, Programme Director, Moviola (South West-based touring network)



# BFI

## Film Audience Network



**“I love the Arts Cinema, brilliant staff, comfortable venue, good wine ... They always have a great selection of films and, if I had time, I would probably go to see everything.”**

Plymouth Arts Cinema audience member

IMAGE C/O AMBER THORPE & BRETT LOCKWOOD; OPEN AIR CINEMA, PLYMOUTH ARTS CINEMA, 2021

# The Bigger Picture

**As part of our lead role for Marketing, Comms, and Audiences for BFI FAN, we set up The Bigger Picture platform in 2018 to better understand and communicate the impact of cultural cinema, support the sector and encourage peer sharing amongst the FAN membership.**

South West case studies have included [C Fylm: Cornish Tommies](#) and [Beyond Boundaries: Films in your Front Room](#)

We have also commissioned guides such as [A Simple Guide To: Making Your Cinema Greener](#) from Watershed's Environmental Emergencies Action Researcher Zoe Rasbash, and [Principles of Subtitling and Practical Subtitling](#) from South West based Matchbox Cineclub.

# New Releases for the Film Audience Network

As part of our UK-wide role leading on FAN New Release support, we have collaborated with 16 distributors to support 28 key venues with grassroots audience development initiatives around 14 new films from Peanut Butter Falcon and Ali & Ava to Limbo.

Here in the South West, key venues that have participated in the FAN New Release scheme have included Exeter Phoenix and Plymouth Art Cinema.

**“I love the Arts Cinema, brilliant staff, comfortable venue, good wine ... They always have a great selection of films and, if I had time, I would probably go to see everything.”**

Plymouth Arts Cinema audience member



IMAGE C/O CLAIRE HORROCKS: ALI & AVA, EXETER PHOENIX, 2022



IMAGE C/O AMBER THORPE & BRETT LOCKWOOD: OPEN AIR CINEMA, PLYMOUTH ARTS CINEMA, 2021 TITLE SPECIFIC PARTNERSHIPS

# Through BFI Network, we support the new wave of filmmakers



**Nurturing the region's new wave of filmmaking talent, BFI NETWORK supports writers, directors and producers at the start of their careers with original stories to tell.**

As of 2018, thanks to National Lottery funding, Film Hub South West has been home to two BFI NETWORK Talent Executives for the south west region.

**2,966 filmmakers** engaged with BFI NETWORK events, development workshops, webinars, 1-to-1's and networking events in the BFI2022 period

## We Fund Film makers

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**13 Early Development Fund** feature projects were produced, with a total award amount of **£22,042**



We have observed an encouraging increase in the number of regional submissions to the BFI NETWORK Funds – from 64 in Year 1 to 115 in Year 4, demonstrating the vital role that BFI NETWORK South West is fulfilling in the region.

**South West Shorts Catalogue & Trailer**

[watershed.co.uk/filmhub/catalogue\\_trailer/](https://watershed.co.uk/filmhub/catalogue_trailer/)

# From the South West to...

Festivals which BFI NETWORK South West Funded Shorts have Screened at:

**35th Brest Film Festival (BAFTA qualifying)**  
**International Film Festival Rotterdam**  
**Africa in Motion (Scotland)**  
**Indie Lisboa (Portugal)**  
**Berlin Film Festival**  
**Manchester Film Festival**  
**BFI FLARE**  
**MOTELX Lisbon International Horror Film Festival**  
**BFI London Film Festival**  
**South By South West (USA)**  
**BIFA Longlist**  
**Sundance (USA)**  
**Bolton Film Festival**  
**Third Horizon Film Festival (USA&Carribean)**  
**Cinemagic Film Festival (Belfast)**  
**Toronto Black Film Festival**  
**Festival Internacional de Cine Independiente de La Plata Festi-Freak (Argentina)**



# We are committed to inclusivity



IMAGE C/O STORM FORCE FILMS: 'DOG YEARS', BEHIND THE SCENES 2020

**BFI NETWORK (South West) has made me feel welcomed and valued as someone with interesting and unusual stories to tell. They've gone above and beyond with their accessibility provision... making me feel that a century later, there just might be a new era of deaf and disabled films with talent thriving behind the camera as well as in front of it"**

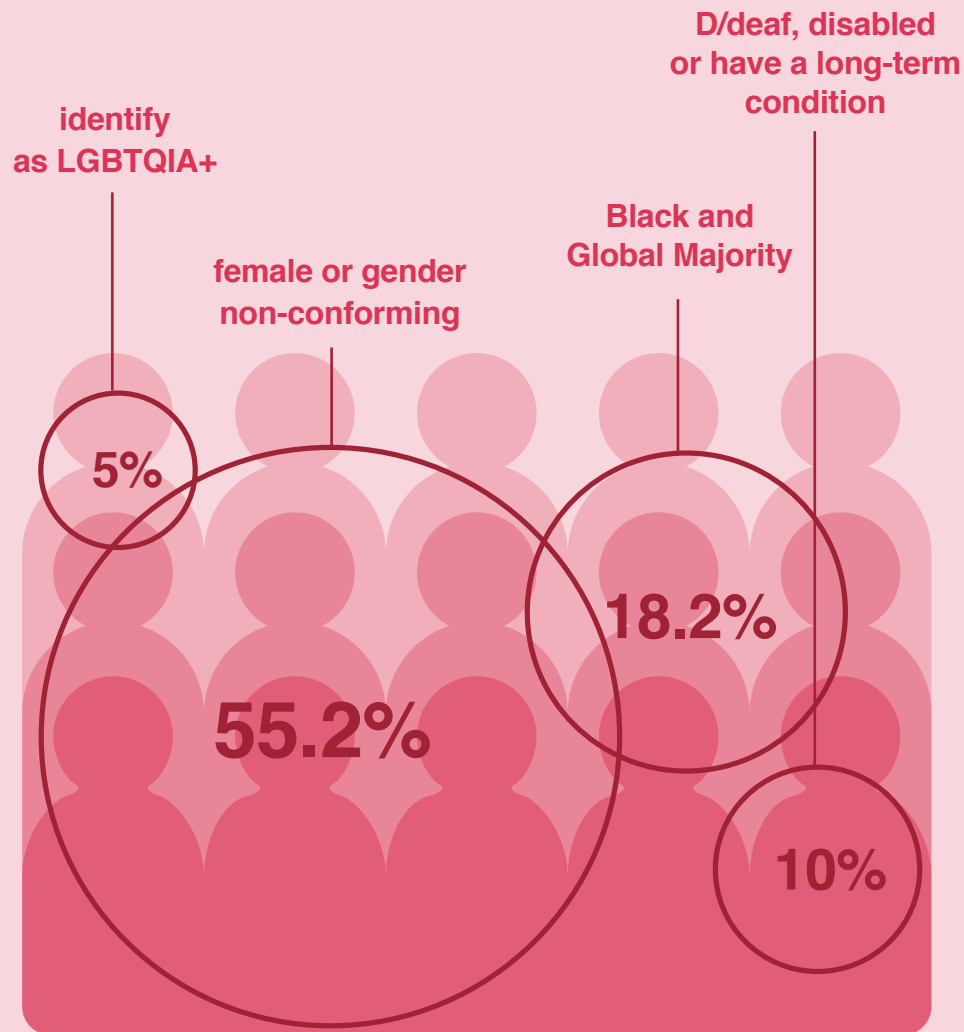
Writer-director William Mager

**"Working with BFI NETWORK South West is one of my very favourite things, and you're one of the most organised, thoughtful and supportive orgs I work with across the board"**

Lindsey Dryden, CEO of Little  
by Little Films

**This graph shows the makeup  
of our writers, directors and producers.**

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**BFI NETWORK South West is committed to working towards a more accessible and inclusive film industry. To that end, we are monitoring how well we're connecting with specific groups.**

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- 33% of our award grantees were from ethnically diverse backgrounds in 21-22, compared to 7% in 2019-20.
  - We see the same increase in our work with D/ deaf & Disabled talent, which has grown from an average of 6% of funding recipients in 2018-19 & 2 to 14% in Year 2019-20.
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This consistent progression is a direct outcome of our New Voices scheme, developed with partner organisations Blak Wave, Little by Little Films, Daniel Alexander Films & Deaffest.

# We train talented professionals in the region



## **109** Labs, Workshops and Events (2018-22)

We run regular professional training and networking events, including talent mixers, development labs, workshops and roundtables; as well as outreach activity across the region with organisations such as Cornwall Film Festival, Bath Film Festival, Encounters Film Festival, Southampton Film Week, Somerset Films and Exeter Phoenix.

IMAGE C/O ALEXIE SEGAL, 2019

# New Writers Lab

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**“Thank you so much! I really feel that my idea has progressed, and I have truer understanding of both why I’m making the film and what it is really about. This is something I would not have been able to do solo and am excited to keep in touch with all the other participants and see their films progress from page to screen soon!”**

Lab Participant Response

**“I liked the opportunity to have a safe space to reflect on creative work and get feedback and critiques that made my script stronger.”**

Script Development Lab Participant Response



IMAGE: SAM MASUD WORKSHOP, C/O TIFFANY HOLMES 2019

# We work collaboratively with partners



“Truly excellent. It’s not often you’re given such time and feedback one-on-one for this kind of training.”

Yazmin Joy Vigus, BFI NETWORK-backed Cornish writer-director of *Mermaids*

We work closely with partners across the South West including Exeter Phoenix and Screen Cornwall.

We developed a partnership with **Black Girl Convention** in 2018-19, supporting a filmmaking strand at their retreat and they are now a great partner; **Bristol Film Office** has offered us discounts for filmmakers who are funded by BFI NETWORK and require permits in the city.

# Working Across the Nation

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**We teamed up with Film Hub South East and Film Hub Midlands for three online Connect & Collab events in lockdown between 2020 and 2021. This project engaged:**

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**75 writers and directors  
50 producers**

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This online networking event was designed to bring together filmmaking teams to work on short form narrative projects that would be eligible for the BFI NETWORK Short Film Fund.

The second edition featured a masterclass from Screen International Star of Tomorrow & BAFTA Breakthrough producer Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor, hosted by NFTS Wales.



## Case study: **New Voices 2020 – 2022**

In partnership with South West-based production companies **Blak Wave** and **Little by Little Films**, we launched **New Voices**, a new talent development opportunity.

### 14 participants

**100%** of respondents are planning to or have already applied for the BFI Short Film Fund, of which 60% stating they wouldn't have applied without the New Voices Scheme

**80%** of respondents feel more prepared to apply for funding outside of BFI networks, one respondent has already applied successfully to an Arts Grants for Literature Writing

**100%** of respondents rated New Voices as increasing their skills

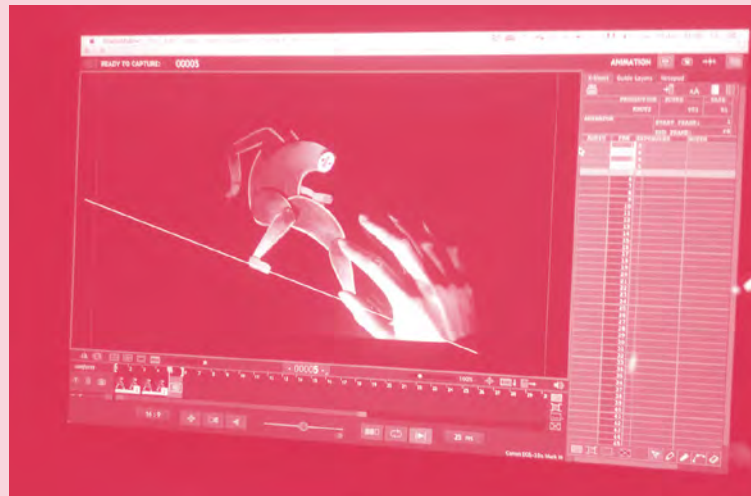


IMAGE C/O MARIE LECHAVALLIER: KNOT, BEHIND THE SCENES. 2019.

“I just feel so like blessed and so happy that this opportunity exists... I think in the past when I've looked at BFI funding opportunities, and you're like, oh, I don't have this thing, or I don't have this other thing that's supposed to be something that you need to have checked off on that list to be able to apply. And it feels unattainable. But then having a program like this [that is] actually helping foster and nurture new filmmakers is so so good.”

New Voices Participant

# Spotlight on BFI Network backed filmmakers



IMAGE © MICHAEL GOLDREI: THE THING THAT ATE THE BIRDS, FILM STILL

**“BFI NETWORK have been dream creative partners and really supportive ...We feel incredibly lucky and encouraged by the experience. They have offered us so much guidance and their involvement, along with our co-financier ALTER, has helped us to entice fantastic cast, crew, and other collaborators to the film, as well as helping us attract interest from festival programmers and press”**

Sophie Mair + Dan Gitsham,  
(Sketchbook Pictures)

# The Thing That Ate the Birds

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[The Thing That Ate the Birds](#), shot in the Yorkshire Dales, was made possible by BFI NETWORK's [Short Film Fund](#), which provided funding, supported script development, facilitated live table readings with actors, and continues to provide ongoing support through celebrating the films outstanding festival success, [streaming with ALTER](#), and multiple screenings across the south west.

Writer-directors Sophie Mair and Dan Gitsham are partners in life and film. They joined forces with genre producers Jude Goldrei and Rebecca Wolff for this short. They are now in development with a feature entitled Ginger, which was supported by BFI NETWORK South West and is now supported by the BFI Film Fund.

## The Thing That Ate The Birds has screened at 72 festivals including...

- BFI London Short Film Festival 2021, UK
- South By South West 2021, USA
- Indy Shorts International Film Festival 2021, USA Winner Heartland Horror Award
- Sundance London 2021, UK
- Indielisboa – International Film Festival 2021, Portugal

*'Head  
Gamekeeper  
Abel discovers the Thing  
that is eating his Grouse,  
and brings the horror back  
home to his already crumbling  
relationship with  
his wife.'*

IMAGE C/O MICHAEL GOLDREI: THE THING THAT ATE THE BIRDS, BEHIND THE SCENES, 2018



# Pickney

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Michael Jenkins, writer-director of Pickney, first took part in a BFI NETWORK South West [Script Development workshop in 2019](#), before securing funding for the short in the same year. With Mena Fombo, he [launched the only black-owned TV Production Company in the South West, Blak Wave](#), in 2020.

Jenkins has continued to develop filmmaking in the region and has supported our New Voices project. More

recently, he been awarded BFI NETWORK Early Development Fund money and was selected for a 'writer in residence' programme with ITV and 5 Act Productions.

[Pickney](#) has been showcased in over nine festivals, has been well received internationally, and was selected to represent Bristol in the UNESCO film festival and screened in Brazil in July 2022.

*Leon wakes  
from an unsettling dream  
with the sense that something  
isn't right. The feeling of unease  
grows as Leon sees the figure  
from his dream appear  
and vanish mysteriously.  
Somehow this stranger  
holds the key.*

## Pickney has screened at festivals including....

- American Black Film Festival 2021
- Afrika Eye 2021
- Africa in Motion 2021
- Two Short Nights Film Festival 2022
- Toronto Black Film Festival 2022



IMAGE C/O BLAK WAVE: PICKNEY FILM STILL

# Shiney

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*Two creative, yet impressionable kids hatch a plan to purchase their first packet of cigarettes, all the while clinging to their prized possession; an impossible-to-get shiny gold football sticker.*

Director Paul Holbrook describes himself as a “Bristol-born working-class writer-director and award-winning filmmaker.” Despite a lack of formal education, Holbrook started out as a screenwriter and went on to be selected for various industry-backed mentoring and career development opportunities through Creative England and BFI NETWORK.

**“Pre-production has been lots of fun; we’ve already built a fantastic team around the project who share my passion for the story we want to tell and we have had loads of invaluable support from our BFI NETWORK Exec too. Developing the script and seeing it come to life with depth, colour and character has been very rewarding and energising”**

Paul Holbrook, director



# BFI

## Film Academy South West



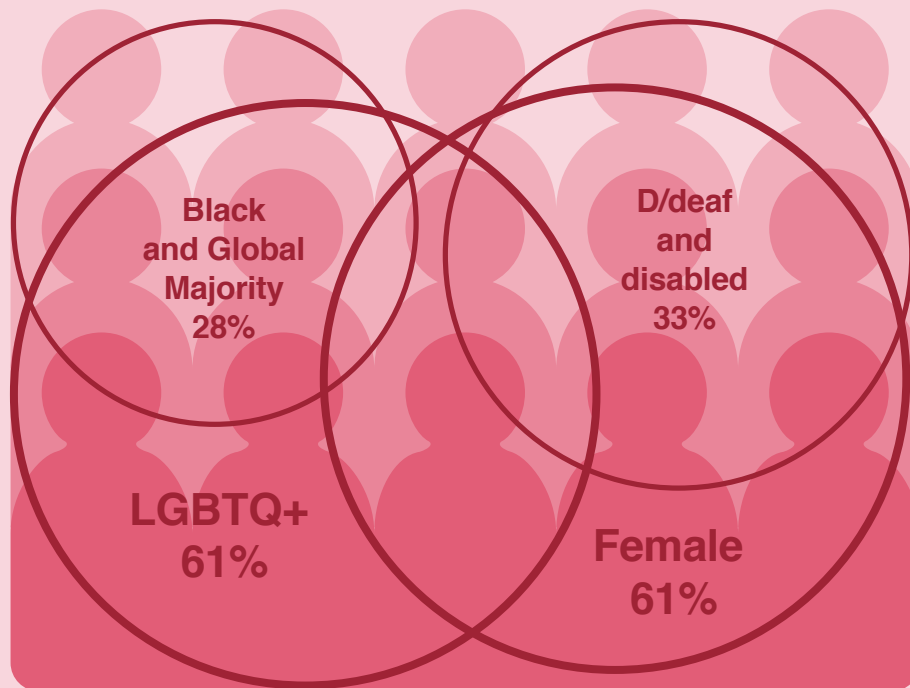
**“This is my first piece of credited work and my directorial debut that will be showcased on this scale. I don’t think I would have been able to do it without the skills and techniques I’ve learnt on the BFI Film Academy course at Watershed.”**

Ruru Matsitsiro, participant of monthly screenwriters group delivered by Artful Scribe

IMAGE C/O ELKIE ROSE: INSIDE FILM 2021

## Over **1,450** young people engaged in first year

Since 2021, we have supported over 16 – 25 year old creatives from across the region via BFI Film Academy South West.



In 2021-22, survey respondents indicated that we are connecting successfully with under-represented groups as above.

## Case Study: **Oona Chanfi**

**Oona took part in our creative mentoring programme and is was mentored by Tamsin Summers Managing Director at Drummer TV.**



Oona also hosted a LABS event on Producing with Emma Grazette and hosted the Frank Film Club at the Inside Film event.

**“I’ve been really enjoying the presenting/interviewing and mentoring opportunities I’ve had. I’ve felt really supported in both and been able to ask for help and feedback.”**

Oona Chanfi

**“With mentoring I’ve been able to get an insight from someone who has a career in film and been able to ask for guidance. I also think that I’ve been matched really well with my mentor and am learning a lot from our sessions with having goals in between.”**

Oona Chanfi

# Opportunities across the South West

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Placing young people at the centre, BFI Film Academy South West worked with regional partners such as Artful Scribe, Calling The Shots, Somerset Films and Exeter Phoenix to deliver a range of development opportunities and commissions.

Its annual showcase Inside Film attracted 100 admissions. Young people from across the South West gathered at Watershed to network, explore making 90 second short for Depict! and hear from speakers including Frank Film Club's Maisie Williams.

14 South West shorts were selected through open call to feature in a touring package available for venues to book after its launch at Wellington Film Festival with Somerset Film.

**“Being involved in Film Academy SW has been great, it’s allowed me to really step out of my comfort zone and given me a sense of confidence. The varied opportunities also really helped me to experience different sides of British film and meet incredible filmmakers, which is all invaluable when trying to build a career!”**

Arsalan (Young Audience Panel at Exeter Phoenix, BFI Film Academy SW as part of Encounters Festival 2021).



# Get in touch

## FILM HUB SOUTH WEST

 [filmhub@watershed.co.uk](mailto:filmhub@watershed.co.uk)

 [@FilmHubSW](https://twitter.com/FilmHubSW)

 [@FilmHubSW](https://www.instagram.com/FilmHubSW)

 [Film Hub South West](https://www.facebook.com/FilmHubSouthWest)

## BFI NETWORK SOUTH WEST

 [bfinetwork@watershed.co.uk](mailto:bfinetwork@watershed.co.uk)

 [@NetworkFHSW](https://twitter.com/NetworkFHSW)

 [@FilmHubSW](https://www.instagram.com/FilmHubSW)

 [South West Talent](https://www.facebook.com/SouthWestTalent)

## BFI ACADEMY SOUTH WEST

 [film.academy@watershed.co.uk](mailto:film.academy@watershed.co.uk)

 [@FilmAcademySW](https://twitter.com/FilmAcademySW)

 [BFIFilmAcademySW](https://www.facebook.com/BFIFilmAcademySW)

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South West

**BFI NETWORK** 

**BFI FAN**   
BFI FILM AUDIENCE NETWORK



AJANI CABEY IN PICKNEY (DIR. MICHAEL JENKINS)