



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 04/10/2016

Film Oxford is 30!

2016 marks the 30th Anniversary of Film Oxford – Oxford’s flagship centre for film and digital media. To celebrate this milestone we are running a series of Special Anniversary events between October and December 2016 at top venues across Oxford. The series kicks off with 2 events. This Friday 7th October we are at Pegasus Theatre with *Moving Borders* - a Poppadom Pictures special looking to examine the real human crisis behind migration and displacement. The following week Film Oxford set up at Modern Art Oxford with ‘Creative Bridges’ and the inspirational Shadowlights artists.

MOVING BORDERS

Poppadom Pictures @ Pegasus.

Friday 7th October: 5.00 – 9.30pm

An evening of film around themes of prejudice, difference and moving borders explored through a compelling children’s story for our younger audience *Ernest and Celestine* (5.00pm), followed by a short experimental film about the experiences of a young Kurdish refugee living in Oxford ‘*Not Just War*’ and *Exodus: Our Journey to Europe* (7.30pm) a ground breaking BBC documentary, broadcast over the summer, about migration. Following the screening there will be a Q+A with Oxford based filmmaker James Bluemel who directed the Exodus series.

Poppadom Pictures started as a local ‘cinema and curry’ at Film Oxford for residents around Howard Street. Offering a children’s film followed by curry (supplied by our local Nepalese restaurant – The Everest) and then a later adult film. From these beginnings the group has gone onto run filmmaking workshops, bring in directors to talk about their films and expand their footprint through outdoor screenings in Rose Hill and Florence Park.

To book tickets go to: http://pegasustheatre.org.uk/?post_type=shows&p=9923

CREATIVE BRIDGES

The Shadowlight Artists @ Modern Art Oxford

Tuesday 11 - Sunday 16 October (Tues – Sat 11.00am – 6.00pm, Sun 12.00 – 5.00pm)

Film Oxford presents a body of new work by the Shadowlight Artists, an independent group of six artists with learning disabilities based in Oxfordshire. Working in a variety of media but with a shared interest in digital forms, their work is personal, moving and at times challenging. The group presents work spanning sculptural installation, painting and theatrical production alongside digital media, and encompassing subjects ranging from urban regeneration to our neolithic ancestry.

Through this body of work we are offered a glimpse into the lives of six talented individuals setting out to challenge perceptions of learning disability.

<https://www.filmoxford.org/shadowlight-artists/>

<https://www.modernartoxford.org.uk/event/film-oxford-shadowlight-artists/>

Shadowlight Artists, running since 2008, is an independent group of artists with learning disabilities supported by Film Oxford. Nurtured by the Arts Council over the years Shadowlight has become a beacon of successful inclusive art with its emphasis on co-creation – working with other artists with and without disabilities.

What does Film Oxford do?

Film Oxford is a busy studio supporting a community of local filmmakers and digital creators through TRAIN, NETWORK, CREATE, EXHIBIT. We run professional training, facilitate networking groups, support production and offer a range of screening and distribution opportunities – for beginners through to industry professionals. As a

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registered charity and organisation funded by Oxford City Council, we run innovative projects in the community enabling the widest possible participation in our work

For further Information: <https://www.filmoxford.org/>

History of Film Oxford

In 1986 OFVM – Oxford Film and Video Makers (previously the Filmmakers Workshop) was set up as a publicly funded independent workshop to support film making in Oxford. In the early years funding came from the Arts Council and Oxfordshire County Council. In the 1980's a government initiative, the Enterprise Allowance scheme enabled a group of enthusiastic filmmakers to develop time and energy to create new work in documentary, drama and experimental film and video. This was the bedrock of Oxford Film and Video Makers and allowed a core group to flourish and grow. Off the back of this grounding many filmmakers went onto broadcast work with several securing Channel 4 commissions around 80's trade union, gender and environmental politics. In the mid 80's the workshop became a registered charity and secured annual cultural funding from Oxford City Council for its programme of training and projects in the community. In 2000 (now Film Oxford) the charity moved from the Stables in Headington to the heart of East Oxford and took over the old public bath house on Catherine Street where it first started receiving support from the government Film Agency, Screen South. The next 10 years saw the development of innovative project work in schools, film festivals, mobile screenings and work with groups who rarely get opportunities to train in film or digital media - including young people, artists with disabilities, ethnic groups, women's groups, the unemployed and older people.

Today Film Oxford enjoys regular funding from the BFI for its academies with young people looking to break into the industry as well as from the Arts Council for the ground breaking work with artists with disabilities. The centre also receives government support for our adult training programme and Lottery funding for project work in our communities.

In thirty years Film Oxford has trained around 10,000 local people through courses and project work and supported getting onto 1000 productions (drama, documentary, campaigning, dance, experimental and digital art) – and in doing so has built a community of passionate filmmakers and digital creators at its heart. Many have gone on to employment in the industry and work for established companies, others set up as freelancers or build their own businesses. Some use their skills in teaching whilst others continue to explore film and digital media as a creative, expressive or campaigning platform. Many stay around and commit hours and hours unpaid to the aims the organisation – helping build and sustain a space for local filmmakers and digital creators to meet, be inspired and develop new work together

That Film Oxford has thrived for 30 years shows how an arts organisations with a commitment to serving its communities - alongside a passionate workforce and volunteers - can ride ever changing economic climates and fashions and survive the 'merry go round' of public funding.

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