

CURIOUS

Creative Brief

JUNE 2022 - OCTOBER 2022



WHAT IS CURIOUS?

CURIOUS is a UK wide screen heritage programme that celebrates the human desire to learn more about the people and things around us. It is an invitation to broaden our outlook and to bring other points of view to audiences. For FAN members, it's an opportunity to programme something outside of the ordinary that is unique and engaging for returning audiences.

From June-October 2022, **CURIOUS** will support film screenings that showcase the unexplored and unexpected, through ambitious collaborations between exhibitors and archives. It is a chance to celebrate the collections of our National and Regional Film Archives and invite audiences to experience something new through the moving images of the past.

BACKGROUND

The pandemic has forced us to look at life through a new lens and over the last two years of disruption and isolation, we have recognised things we may have missed or never considered before. Through multiple lockdowns we have gained a new awareness of our communities and neighbourhoods, made discoveries of previously unacknowledged places on our doorsteps and found satisfaction in personal passions and curiosities. However we experienced it, the pandemic has asked us to question and learn something new, to understand the unfamiliar and seek solutions.

In this context of renewal and discovery, **CURIOUS** presents an opportunity to look beneath the surface and unearth new stories about our communities UK wide through the multiple programme possibilities held in our publicly funded film archives.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Supported projects should aim to develop audiences for screen heritage material and to find stories within the archive that are unfamiliar, underappreciated or of particular importance to audiences today. Project leads should be committed to authentically engaging with the various communities represented on screen, delivering accessible and inclusive events, and developing a new generation of archive film fans aged 16-30.

Recognising the wealth of resources available in the UK's public film and television



archives, **CURIOUS** is a broad and inclusive theme that explores the places we inhabit and the people we live alongside through new perspectives. FAN Members are invited to organise screenings, discussions and installations that tell these new stories for audiences. Examples include:

- unexpected stories from your region, town or city or the communities within these places
- exploring traditional ways of life long forgotten or alternative lifestyles
- underrepresented experiences of UK communities e.g. re-evaluating UK Black and Asian lives on screen, looking at the often hidden experiences of people who live with a disability, or exploring the changing expressions of personal identity and sexuality over the last 100 years
- how personal curiosity can lead to major developments that affect us all. E.g. the scientific discoveries and technological explorations that emerged from the human drive to answer the question ‘what if?’

In addition to these thematic prompts, we are especially interested in receiving proposals that complement the **StoryTrails** project which is taking place during the summer and autumn of 2022 and forms part of **UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK**.

StoryTrails is a deep dive into our collective history, an immersion in the lost and untold stories that shaped our towns, cities and communities – and a chance to start a conversation about who we are now and where we’re going next. Using screen heritage in new and innovative ways, StoryTrails will be taking place across the UK between 1 July and 30 September 2022. If you would like to organise a complementary activity, please see more [here](#) and contact us for further information.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Funding is available to support exhibitors who wish to forge collaborations with the UK’s Regional and National Film Archives, and to develop screen heritage film programmes inspired by the theme of **CURIOUS**.

Funding of between £1000 - £10,000 is available to support a wide range of projects, from one-off events to larger scale initiatives such as touring programmes or ambitious installations. More information on the funding available will follow shortly.



Please note that we are offering the **CURIOUS** screen heritage programme as a collaboration with **Film Feels** being run by **Film Hub Midlands**. If you are interested in developing a programme consisting of independent, national and international short, mid and feature films then head to [Film Feels](#) to read more about the opportunities involved or contact - filmfeels@filmhubmidlands.org.

GET INSPIRED

The material held in the UK's public film and television archives provides a wealth of programming options in response to the theme of **CURIOUS**. Exhibitors are encouraged to unleash their creative flair and to develop archive events that speak to their audiences and communities.

Here are some suggestions for recommended viewing to kick-start your project research. These are drawn from the numerous collections of archive film available to watch online for free via BFI Player.

- **[Black Britain on Film](#)**: Striking, illuminating and sometimes surprising images of black culture, community and characters, spanning over a century of British film and TV.
- **[Disabled Britain on Film](#)**: representations of disabled people on screen over the past ten decades offering a glimpse into the lives and experiences of people often hidden from screen history, and a chance to see how contemporary disabled artists and filmmakers are insisting that their own images and voices must be seen and heard.
- **[Festival Fever](#)**: From deep-rooted folk traditions to youth culture happenings: a celebration of the music and arts festivals of summers past.
- **[LGBT Britain](#)**: This colourful and challenging collection explores screen representations of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender lives over the past century.
- **[Other Grooves](#)**: An eccentric excursion to the furthest fringes of youth culture and alternative lifestyles, as captured in archive film and TV.
- **[South Asian Britain on Film](#)**: Discover a rich history reaching back over a century as we celebrate South Asian communities and culture across Britain.



If you want to source material that features your part of the UK, then continue your search on your national or regional film archive's respective database (see below). From there, you can get in touch with the archive's expert curators who will be able to advise what material is available and how you might use local interest films to develop a **CURIOUS** project.

For advice on developing archive film projects and examples of work previously supported through Changing Times, take a look at our [Screen Heritage Best Practice Guide](#).

CONTACT

CURIOUS is managed by [Film Hub North](#) on behalf of the [BFI Film Audience Network](#). Get in touch with Screen Heritage Producer Andy Robson to express your interest in taking part, talk about the programme, discuss your ideas and raise any queries.

Andy Robson, Screen Heritage Producer: andy@filmhubnorth.org.uk

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVES

Get in touch with your National and Regional Film Archive:

- [BFI National](#)
- [The Box](#)
- [East Anglian Film Archive](#)
- [London's Screen Archives](#)
- [Media Archive for Central England](#)
- [The National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive](#)
- [The National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales](#)
- [North East Film Archive](#)
- [North West Film Archive](#)
- [Northern Ireland Screen](#)
- [Screen Archive South East](#)
- [Wessex Film and Sound Archive](#)
- [Yorkshire Film Archive](#)

Images: Side Cinema (Carl Joyce), Side Cinema (Paul Alexander Knox), Sisters of Silents (Katherine Mager), Margate Film Festival (Daisy West), Light Up Lancaster (Robin Zahler).