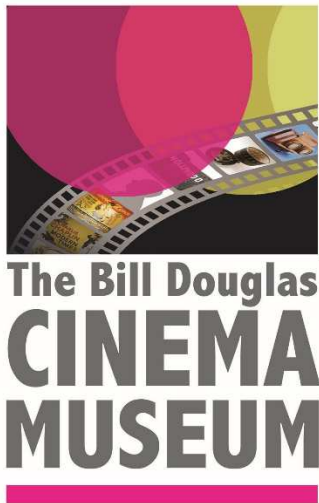


The Bill Douglas Cinema Museum Annual Report 22-23



This annual report covers the period from August 2022 to July 2023

Foreword by Patrick Swaffer, Chair of the Museum Board

Each year brings memorable moments and for me the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the museum's establishment was a high point. In November 2022 we held a very successful and enjoyable evening event attended by many current and past supporters of the museum. Perhaps more significantly, it was also marked by the publication of an important work about Bill Douglas and his work as a film maker.



Board Chair Patrick Swaffer speaking at the 25th anniversary celebration.



Principal Donor and Honorary Patron of the Museum, Peter Jewell, at the 25th anniversary event with Patron Filmmaker Carol Morley.

The high regard in which the museum is held and its importance as a centre for study, research, and innovative presentation of artefacts means each year we receive many offers of donations. Not all can be accepted. Of those which are suitable the Director would be keen to accept more but high-quality storage is restricting factor. Of course, we are fortunate that the materials collected by Bill and his lifelong friend and colleague Peter Jewell are outstanding and continue to remain at the heart of the museum.

The museum continues to fully contribute to all aspects of life at the university. Volunteering positions for students at the museum has never been higher and these provide excellent opportunities for students to develop suitable life skills. Every year the museum contributes directly to teaching and encouraging students in their studies and also in providing support for the wider academic community of the university in their educational and research activities. We are particularly proud of the successful reintroduction of the stipend scheme.

Community engagement, which is an important part of the Museum's purpose, continues to grow. Visitor numbers have climbed, organised tours by schools and other groups are increasing, and outreach activities of the Museum and its curator are growing with particular attention to widen visitor diversity.

We look forward to the future with confidence seeking to utilise opportunities for the museum to contribute further to the Faculty of Humanities and the wider strategic objectives of the university. I am very grateful to my fellow Board Trustees for their work on behalf of the Museum and the wider University for their continuing support.

Executive Summary

The suspension of plans for a new premises and the retirement of the museum's Curatorial Assistant have provided both challenges and opportunities for the museum this year. The Br!l consultation is a welcome chance to consider the evolution of the museum in the medium term, though a new premises remains the long-term goal. The retirement of the Curatorial Assistant allowed this role to be upgraded to Assistant Curator and Matt Lee, previously Head of Film for the Imperial War Museum, has been appointed to the role to support the curator in developing the museum and implementing the outcomes of the consultation (Item 5).

The museum continues to attract significant new donations, including a collection of taped interviews between film critic Trevor Johnston and filmmakers, and a substantial deposit of publicity material from the Cambridge Arts Cinema. These acquisitions augment the importance of the collection but present an increasing demand for improved storage and interpretation spaces (Item 1). New digital acquisitions have provided opportunities to work with Digital Humanities colleagues to develop best practice but present an increasing need for a dedicated university Digital Preservation System.

Research within the museum continues to strengthen post-pandemic, with the successful reintroduction of the stipend scheme and continued work on the major funded project 'Women's Screen Work: Archives and Collections made Visible' (Item 2). The museum celebrated its 25th Anniversary in November 2022 with a successful launch of the book 'Bill Douglas: A Film Artist', edited by the curator and Amelia Watts. The curator has also worked with Hopscotch Films on a new documentary on Bill Douglas (Item 1.3).

The launch of new rounds from major funding bodies provided further opportunities for the museum. An AHRC bid from the Women's Screen Work project names the museum's Academic Director and Curator as co-applicants, and a Research England bid seeks to secure financial support for the museum to enhance their offer to external researchers (Item 2).

The museum has supported a full programme of seminars, teaching and Reading Room visits this year, despite the impact of industrial action. The number of students attending seminars represents an 18% increase on last year, and several new modules have requested seminars. The museum continued to support student recruitment and outcomes through volunteering placements, internships, the Pathways to Heritage programme, and Exeter Scholars sessions. Demand for volunteering positions has been significant, with 16 volunteer placements this year (Item 3).

Work on engaging harder to reach audiences continues, both internally and externally, with additional AHRC funding for the 'Culture Box' project and museum support for a new cross-faculty module on Black British Studies planned for next year (Item 3.5).

The museum continues to support the university's civic commitment with sessions for local schools, workshops for older people, a collaborative screening at Exeter Phoenix, regular contributions to BBC Radio Devon, and a public event on stereoscopy for British Science Week. The museum also began an annual A-level student co-curation project with Exeter College (Item 4).

The new Museums Development Officer for Devon, Joanna Cairns, joined the board after the retirement of Susan Eddisford (Item 5.7)

Caroline Walter, Interim Head of Heritage Collections

Annual Report 22-23

1. THE COLLECTION

AIM: For the collection to be recognised as one of the leading resources on the moving image in the world

1.1 Student volunteers Chloe Jarrett-Bell and Jess Fulton have recorded a series of 8 podcasts interviewing academics and students about aspects of the collection. The podcasts are being released at intervals over the summer and autumn on the museum's YouTube channel.

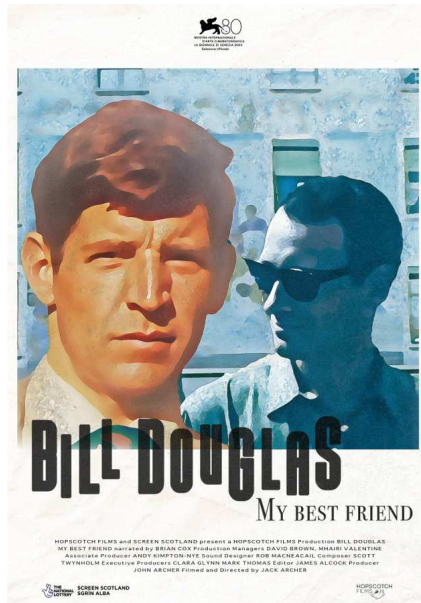


Students Jess Fulton and Chloe Jarrett-Bell recording their podcast.

1.2 We have acquired material this year through several significant donations. These have included:

- a) A collection of objects and papers on pre- and early cinema from renowned expert Stephen Herbert.
- b) A collection of around 80 audio-recordings of interviews with filmmakers acquired from film critic Trevor Johnston.
- c) Following an appraisal by the Curator we acquired 70 boxes of film publicity material from Cambridgeshire Archives. This was material originally belonging to Cambridge Arts Cinema before its closure in the late 1990s and covers international and independent films across three decades.
- d) The audio-visual elements of the latest tranche of Don Boyd's archive have been delivered to The Box in Plymouth, where they can be best archived.

1.3 In addition we have had donations of further archive material on Bill Douglas from Peter Jewell. We have also been working with Hopscotch Films on a new documentary on Bill and his work, which will be completed this year.



Poster for *Bill Douglas, My Best Friend*, which screened at the Venice Film Festival in 2023.

1.4 The Curator held an online meeting with Sir David Puttnam, regarding his collection of personal career artefacts. This follows discussions with the Vice-Chancellor and, indirectly, the Chancellor, of the University. Sir David is working with the Film staff on initiatives around skills and training.

2. Research

AIM: For the museum to inspire research projects and funding that enhances the study and understanding of the moving image and reflects the University of Exeter's excellence as a world-leading research institution.

2.1 The Museum will be applying in September to Research England's Museums, Galleries and Collections Fund. This offers an annual award for 5 years to University Museums who can demonstrate that they provide significant research services beyond their own institution. The Curator is working with Research Services and the Management Accountancy team to draw up and cost the bid, which will request money for additional staffing to maintain and extend our service to external researchers. The deadline is noon on 14th September.

2.2 Work is continuing on the major funding project; Women's screen work: Archives and Collections made Visible (ACTIVE). The project, which will bid to the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) for substantial funds when new processes are launched this summer is led by the museum's Academic Director and the Curator will also be a co-applicant. The BFI are

also participating in the bid, and Exeter participants visited the BFI's archive at Berkhamsted in September 2022.

2.3 We were able to reintroduce the successful stipend scheme funding visiting scholars, researchers, and artists to visit the museum for the first time since the pandemic. We had over 30 applications from the call in February and the Academic Director selected 14 to receive an award on a wide range of aspects of the collection including the Rank Scripts, Bill Douglas's archive, Early cinema, items relating to 1929, and cinemagoing cultures. Some stipend holders have already visited and as usual they will contribute a blog to our website.

2.4 In May we hosted a field trip from Birkbeck College, University of London's MA Programme in Film Curation. Three students and their course leader, Professor Ian Christie, visited for three days, consulting the collections and meeting Peter Jewell, our Principal Donor and Honorary Patron.

3. Teaching and Student Experience

AIM: To make a significant contribution to learning and the student experience at Exeter, in alignment with the University's strategy and values.

3.1 The museum contributed items to classes across the curriculum in this academic year and a list of them can be seen below in appendix 1.

3.2 The 'British Screens' module, taught by the Curator and the Head of Film, ran successfully again in the Spring term and four new student exhibitions were opened to the public in the museum foyer in March.

3.3 Demand for volunteering positions at the museum by students has never been higher and we have had around 12 student volunteers working with us this year as well as four non or former students. There has also been a recent funded intern appointment appointed with funds from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences to assess and scope issues and materials around Don Boyd's archive, including born-digital materials. Dayna Hurst undertook this internship in early Summer and scoped the collection to enable further research and digitisation.

3.4 The curator ran a session in June for the Pathways to Heritage programme run by the careers service for students. In May we also hosted tours and facilitated a seminar using the collections for the Exeter Scholars programme for 16-17 year olds considering university.

3.5 Following discussions with academics from the Faculty, the collection, and in particular the material around *Babylon* from the Gavrik Losey Collection, will be used next year for a new cross-faculty module on Black British Studies.

4. Community Engagement

AIM: To be a vibrant and welcoming visitor attraction that helps to link the University of Exeter with the wider community.

- 4.1 The bid for follow-on funding from the AHRC by the University Medical school's 'Culture Box' project was successful and included provision for the museum providing Community workshops for older people in Exeter. This develops the work on memory and cinema undertaken in the last couple of years by Sarah-Jayne Ainsworth and the Curator.
- 4.2 The Curator and board member John Plunkett are delivering an event on stereoscopy for British Science Week in September.
- 4.3 We developed our long-term collaboration with Exeter College through a co-curation project where four students from the A Level Film Studies programme curated a physical exhibition in the museum on Chinese Wire-Fu cinema. Further groups from the College's Media, Fine Art, Animation and Skills for Living programmes also visited.
- 4.4 We have welcomed tour groups from schools including Park School, Barnstaple, St. Peter's School, Exeter and The Beacon Primary School in Exmouth, as well as a French language school. Other tour groups included Topsham Local history Society and The Marketing Department of the National Trust. The Curator also delivered a well-attended talk externally in January for the Teignmouth Science Café.
- 4.4 The Northcott Theatre staged a student theatre production of *Comrades*, adapted from Bill Douglas's film by Drama lecturer Tony Lidington.
- 4.5 The Curator has become a regular contributor to the Friday afternoon show on Radio Devon, talking about the latest film releases and is given the opportunity to discuss what the public can see in the museum.
- 4.6 The museum is collaborating with the University of Bristol to explore the possibility of using a VR application developed for a research project on British studios with the public for a day in our galleries. This may be useful research for us in future adoption of such technologies in the museum.

4.7 In collaboration with Exeter Phoenix we presented a screening of *Babylon* at the Phoenix in October, introduced by stipend Holder Dr Clive Nwonka from UCL and attended by Gavrik Losey.

4.8 This year's Bill Douglas Memorial Lecture for the public was held in June 2023 and featured board members Pamela Hutchinson and Keith Lodwick talking on *The Red Shoes* and film costume respectively.



Pamela Hutchinson and Keith Lodwick presenting the annual Bill Douglas Memorial lecture.

5. Governance and Stewardship

AIM: To create a new home for the collections commensurate with their importance and to ensure the museum is supported in maintaining the highest standards of operational and collections management.

5.1 As it seems the plans for a new building for the museum are unlikely to come to fruition in the short to medium term, it was decided by the board to employ consultants who can help us to forge a future path for the museum. After an interview process in May Br!! Consultants (Laura Crossley and Becky Jefcoate) have been appointed and will be consulting with stakeholders over the Summer and early Autumn, reporting back in November.

5.2 Curatorial Assistant Mike Rickard retired in December and is thanked for his service. It took an unexpectedly long time to be in a position to replace the role but a Grade E Assistant Curator role was approved by HR and interviews took place in the summer. Matt Lee, currently Head of Film at the Imperial War Museum, was appointed and takes up his post in November. It has been a challenging ten months with only one staff member, but the Curator would like to

thank Heritage Collections colleagues, especially Sarah-Jayne Ainsworth, for their help.

- 5.3 The Curator ordered two interpretation boards for the galleries and some addition signs from the University's design team. These were installed this summer and help to focus visitors on the collections and the story we tell about moving image history.
- 5.4 Our Principal donor and honorary patron, Peter Jewell has very generously donated a further £50,000 to the endowment fund supporting the museum. We have also received £4276.62 in royalties from the BFI; a total of £207.97 from the Author's Licensing and Collecting Society and £220.51 from the Director's guild UK. These have all been added to the other Trust fund for the museum held by Global Advancement.
- 5.5 We held a very successful event in November for our 25th anniversary of opening to the public and for the launch of the book on Bill Douglas. Patron Carol Morley attended, along with around 60 others. The book was very favourably reviewed in *Sight and Sound*.
- 5.6 We hosted a visit from the UK representative of the Korean Film Council in January. The Council are planning to open a film museum in Korea and are researching examples from other countries.
- 5.7 Following Susan Eddisford retirement, Joanna Cairns has replaced her as Museums Development Officer for Devon. Joanna has visited the museum and met the Curator and can offer advice on museum matters. She and/or South West Museums Audience Development Officer Rachel Miller have been invited to attend the board on future occasions.
- 5.8 Leading executives from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences were given tours of the museum and follow up meetings have taken place to discuss the museum's work.

APPENDIX 1: Classes using Museum Collections Academic Year 2022-23

Something to See: War and Visual Media (3rd Year Film Studies Dr Debra Ramsay) 1 session, 2 groups

British Screens (3rd Year Film Studies Dr Phil Wickham/Prof Linda Williams) 14 sessions, 1 Group *

Introduction to Film History (1st Year Film Studies Dr Aidan Power) 2 sessions, 3 groups*

Comics Studies (2nd Year Art History and Visual Culture, Dr Paul Williams) 1 session, 1 group

Shots in the Dark (2nd Year Film Studies Prof James Lyons) 2 sessions, 9 groups

Introduction to Visual Culture (1st Year Art History, Dr Sabina Rahman) 1 session, 1 group

From Wigan Pier to Piccadilly Britain between the Wars (1st Year History Dr David Thackeray) 1 session, 1 group

Women and Performance (2nd year Drama Prof Kate Newey) 1 session, 1 Group

Victorian Things (3rd Year English Dr Tricia Zakreski/ Prof John Plunkett) 2 sessions, 1 group

Global Art and Empire (2nd year Art History, Dr Sabrina Rahman) 1 session, 2 groups)

Heroes (3rd Year History, Dr Sarah Hamilton) 1 session, 2 groups) *

MA International Film Business (MA Film Studies, Prof Will Higbee) 1 session, 2 groups)

Critical Approaches to Violence and conflict (MA History, Dr Claire McCallum) 1 session, 1 group

Against the Mainstream (3rd Year English, Dr Paul Williams) 1 session, 1 group

Dickens: Novelist, Journalist and reformer (3rd Year English, Prof John Art, Industry and the Modern (3rd Year Art History, Prof John Plunkett) 2 sessions, 1 group

Female Screens (3rd Year Film Studies, Prof Helen Hanson) 2 sessions, 2 groups

Adaptation (2nd year Film Studies/ English, Prof Joe Kember) 2 sessions, 9 groups

The Literature of the Cold War (MA English, Prof Sinead Moynihan, Dr Paul Williams) 1 session, 1 group

Global Modernisms (3rd Year Art History Dr Sabrina Rahman) 1 session, 2 groups

Creative Industries (2nd year English, Prof Gabriella Giannachi) 2 sessions, 2 groups plus Field Trip and Lecture

Approaches to Art History and Visual Culture (1st year Art History, Dr Sabrina Rahman) 1 session, 2 groups

The British World (2nd year History, Dr David Thackeray) 1 session, 1 group

Performance in/as Culture (3rd year Drama, Prof Jerri Daboo) 1 session, 1 group

Queering British Film and Television (3rd Year Film Studies, Dr Benedict Morrison) 1 session, 2 groups

MA Making Progress (MA English Literature, 2 Sessions, 1 Group)

Italian Audiences (3rd Year Italian, Prof Danielle Hipkins) 1 session, 2 Groups)

European Cinemas (2nd Year Film Studies, Dr Zlatina Nikolova) 1 session, 2 Groups)

Northcott Production (2nd Year Drama, Dr Tony Lidington) 1 session, 2 Groups)

Drama for Popular Entertainment (3rd Year Drama, Dr Kate Holmes) 1 Session, 1 Group)

Melodrama (2nd Year Drama, 1 session, 1 Group)

Contemporary Film Industries (1st Year Film Studies, Prof Linda Williams) 1 session, 2 Groups

Art, Industry and the Modern (3rd Year Art History and Visual culture, Prof John Plunkett) 3 sessions, 1 Group.

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 *	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
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Number of BDC items consulted by researchers	2745	2593	6891	4827	4025	2077	720	878	1699
Number of visitors looking at BDC Material	262	259	289	333	280	172	74	78	110
Number of BDC Seminars	159	132	122	104 (7 cancelled due to industrial action)	139	107 + 21 cancelled due to strikes or Covid 19 lockdown.	41	96	113 + 15 Cancelled Due to industrial action.
Number of students attending BDC Seminars	2451	1962	1819	1699	2135	1498	393	1580	1871+ 97 not attending due to industrial action.
Number of BDC items used in seminars	4562	3929	3843	3385	4570	3317	623	3395	3889
Number of Visitors to Galleries	3302	4893	8044	8032	9311	5416 *	969	8241	8000 est
Number of outreach events/tours to public	69	64	75	60	76	Not available	Not Possible	35	48
Number of people attending outreach events/tours to public	1122 (+over 100,000 at Central Library exhibition)	1289	1421	1142	1358	Not available	Not Possible	335	888

Number of Collection enquiries	230*(est)	220* est	246	285	250 est*	200 est	170 est	200 est	220 est.
Number of Website Users	27,534	34,912	28,249	24,673	27,145	24,027^	19,265	59,585	60,891
Number of Website Sessions	32,583	41,613	35,798	32,190	35,160	29,734^	23,851	68,040	69.030
Number of Website Pageviews	116,716	124,496	121,171	102,982	113,710	84,994^	34,947	132,282	131,886

*up to 1st June 2023

^up to 14 December 2022 – failed people counter following this date. Estimated numbers since then 864.