WATCH TOGETHER

‘Movies are’, Roger Ebert said, ‘like a machine that generates empathy. If it’s a great movie it lets you understand a little more about what it’s like to be a different gender, a different race, a different economic class ... it helps us to identify with the people who are sharing this journey with us.’

The Great Get Together (21–23 June 2024) is the UK’s annual celebration of everything that unites our communities, inspired by Jo Cox’s belief that “we have more in common than that which divides us.”

In partnership with Cinema for All, we are encouraging people to run Watch Together events as part of the Great Get Together. This initiative aims to celebrate the power of cinema to bridge divides, to encourage community cinema groups to host screenings for their community, or events to celebrate their volunteers.

IDEAS FOR YOUR WATCH TOGETHER

Celebrate your volunteers: Community cinemas bring their communities together throughout the year, and many wouldn’t be able to do this without their volunteers. Why not run a Watch Together to celebrate their efforts? This could be a simple thing: drinks, food and a film screening. It could be a chance to offer awards and to invite in prospective volunteers.
Community film screenings: Every cinema has a wider community around it of people who come along to watch films. You could run a series of screenings across the week leading up to the Great Get Together Weekend, showcasing films that make us feel empathy, and celebrating the special community that you’ve developed.

Reach out: If your community cinema is trying to reach new demographics or audiences, being part of the Great Get Together can be a great way to do so. You could run a screening for this purpose, supported by a discussion event and refreshments.

Discussion groups: Once you’ve watched a film, have a discussion group so that people can explore the topics together and connect with each other more deeply.

SUGGESTED FILMS TO SCREEN

Documentaries:
- **Shabu** (2022, certificate: 12).
- **Being Frank: The Chris Sievey Story** (2018, certificate: 15)
- **The Story of Looking** (2021, certificate: 15)
- **The Street** (2019, certificate: 15)

Feature films:
- **Three Day Millionaire** (2022, certificate: 15, Comedy)
- **Hive** (2021, certificate: 15, Drama).
- **The Rider** (2017, certificate: 15, Drama)
- **The Olive Tree** (2016, certificate: 15, Comedy/Drama)
WHAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR?

Last year over 25 different cinemas took part in the Great Get Together, bringing people together with special screenings, socials and speakers. Read the story of how Leigh Film Society participated.

It was fantastic to see so many cinemas getting involved and we hope for even more this year!

CINEMA FOR ALL

Founded in 1946, Cinema For All is the national charity for the support and development of community cinema, helping more than 1600 volunteer-led cinemas and film societies across the UK bring film to their local communities. Find out more about their work.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Remember you can find the full range of event resources – including template press releases, planning checklists, and conversation starters – in our toolkit, where you can also find a template poster for your Watch Together event.