

Moderator: Megan Mitchell (Scalarama Glasgow, Matchbox Cineclub)

Attendees: Aephie, Alex Misick (CCA Glasgow), Alice Miller (Scalarama Leeds), Amanda Rogers (Cinetopia, Scalarama Edinburgh), Amparo Fortuny (Cinema Up Collective), Annabel Grundy (Film Hub Midlands), Calvin Halliday (Pity Party Film Club), Caroline Rennox (Trash Cinema), Casci Ritchie (Backseat Bingo), Gary (CineMor77), Claire Vaughan (Chapter), Clarisse, Elisa Teneggi (Cinetopia), Eugene Gardner, Georgia Stride (Film Hub Scotland), Heather Bradshaw, Helen Kilbride (Filmmaker, Liverpool), Helen Wright (SQIFF), Herb Shellenberger (Berwick FF / Rep Cinema International), James Hindle, Jen Skinner (Screen Argyle), Kate Coventry (Southern Exposure), Kerstin, Laura, Maeve O'Brien (Red Thread Film Club), Maria Suarez-Alvarez, Mark Jenkins, Mark Wilkinson (Trash Cinema), Michael Pierce (Live Nation, Scalarama), Mike O'Brien, Milda Valiulytė, Morag Higham, Noemi Lemoine Blanchard (Confucius Institute), Rosie Beattie, Sam May (Red Thread Film Club), Sanne Jehoul (GSFF), Sarah Nisbet (Reel Girl Film Club), Sean Welsh (Scalarama Glasgow, Matchbox Cineclub), Serena Scateni, Shona Thomson (Regional Screen Scotland), Stephen (Red Thread Film Club)

1. Welcome + Update on Scalarama 2020 plans

Megan Mitchell, Producer of Matchbox Cineclub, welcomed guests and participants before introducing Sean Welsh, Coordinator of Scalarama Glasgow and Matchbox Cineclub's Programmer to give some updated information about Scalarama's activity in Scotland in the coming months. The update focused on Film Hub Scotland will support six Scalarama sessions in the lead up to September, to be delivered online until we are able to get back into physical spaces together.

2. Exhibitors Roundtable

The Roundtable saw seven Glasgow based independent exhibitors who have previously been involved in Scalarama share what they've been up to since Scalarama 2019, their plans for 2020 and any issues they would like to be raised in this session in regards to online activity.

Backseat Bingo

Casci Ritchie, who runs Backseat Bingo, screened cult cinema with a focus towards fashion. In October Backseat Bingo screened a witch-themed double bill for Halloween, looking at how they have influenced fashion. In December she partnered with Matchbox Cineclub to screen Pee Wee Herman's Christmas special. Backseat Bingo had planned to begin a curated screening season in May, running until September, about women in horror and fashion. Casci is also a writer and fashion historian so may use this time to write online content about these subjects related to film, or explore watch-along parties.

Pity Party Film Club

Calvin Halliday, who co-runs Pity Party Film Club which began through their involvement in Scalarama, has screened a number of films since Scalarama 2018 including a

partnership with Scottish Queer International Film Festival and the third edition of their all-day festival 'Suitable Women: Films of Female Friendship'. They have had to cancel a number of upcoming events including *Ask Any Buddy*, a gay archival film. In terms of online activity, they're attending this session to get some ideas.

Southern Exposure

Kate Coventry from Southern Exposure explained that her project screens a wide range of films from New Zealand, regardless of genre or age. This month was supposed to be their return to monthly screening for them after a short break, so Kate is looking to find helpful ways to think about future screenings when we all have venues again.

Red Thread Film Club

Meave, Steven and Sam from Red Thread Film Club spoke about their previous screenings, including a co-screening with Southern Exposure. They have also had to postpone screenings, including a weekend-long festival focusing on world cinema remakes, but have been keeping active on their social media channels. This has included setting up a specific Instagram page where they offer recommendations of films on streaming sites and promote other exhibitors watch-parties and content.

Cinemor77

Gary from Cinemor77 gave us an update on where his community screenings and yurt have been, including Tiree, Milton and Paisley before settling in at the new community-lead venue, the Pyramid in Anderston. Cinemor77 have also just been awarded a grant to purchase new screening equipment so Gary will be using this time to research this. Gary also suggested that now is a good time for Matchbox, Scalarama or Film Hub to think about creating a hub to collaborate with independent exhibitors and bring audiences to one online portal (NB this dovetails with Sanne Jehoul's proposed project, as outlined later in the meeting).

Matchbox Cineclub

Sean Welsh spoke for Matchbox Cineclub, who since Scalarama 2019 have delivered a number of screenings including events in London and Berlin and their third annual Nicolas Cage film festival, Cage-a-rama, in Glasgow. The lockdown has seen Matchbox postpone a number of events, including their event with Glasgow Short Film Festival, a monthly screening series with Arrow Video and Remakesploitation Fest 2020. They're currently exploring ways to take festivals they'll deliver later on in the year, particularly September's Weird Weekend, online.

Trash Cinema

Mark from Trash Cinema explained that they focus on bringing together the horror fans in Glasgow. They had to cancel their screening of *From The Beyond* but have been keeping their online presence by recommending films on Shudder for their audiences. Carolyn from Trash Cinema then expanded on their future event plans, explaining they

want to deliver an improved version of their drive-in style double-bill event for Scalarama. Carolyn was keen to note Trash are open to collaborations and would welcome ideas during this time for online activity.

3. Taking Things Online

Programmer Herb Shellenberger joined us to discuss some of the ways in which film exhibitors have been taking their content online. Herb is a film programmer and writer originally from Philadelphia and based in London. He is programmer of the Berwick Film and Media Arts Festival, where he has worked since 2016, and editor of Rep Cinema International, a newsletter on repertory and archival film programming around the world.

Herb began the discussion by offering context through some examples of exhibitors and festivals taking their film screening activity online. Herb shared his podcast which features Glasgow Short Film Festival, CPH Docs in Copenhagen and Vilnius Film Festival, and pointed towards MoMA and Kino Arsenal as originations he's been following. You can listen to Rep Cinema's *Film Festivals Going Online* podcast [here](#).

Megan also noted platform partnerships, such as HOME with BFI Player or cinemas with MUBI, have been popular in the UK.

Herb also noted that although it isn't the ideal situation, now can offer a time to take a pause and assess how we do things in terms of audience engagement and access, including things like offering captioning on screenings/videos and thinking about how we could use streaming of introductions/Q&A's post lockdown as well.

Megan brought up the possibility of using this time to contact and reach out to filmmakers. Herb seconded this idea and added that now could be a good time to connect with other exhibitors or collaborators that you would like to work with.

Heather Bradshaw posed the questions of how new exhibitors, who hadn't started screening films prior to the lockdown, could use this time. Herb pointed out that now offers a really interesting time for new exhibitors to try things out and experiment a little, if they feel able to, or use this time to formulate plans for the future and work towards what they want to be delivered once we have audiences in physical spaces again. Herb also suggested using this time to develop your voice through writing, whether about films or cinema in the current climate.

4. Funding/support

Film Hub Scotland's Knowledge and Network Coordinator, Georgia Stride, then joined the session to offer some information into FHS's new Online Cinema Fund and other opportunities.

The Online Cinema Fund, replacing the currently paused Pitch Pot funding, is to support

online activity including (but is not limited to) curated online seasons or festivals, watch-along screenings, online film clubs, paid-for scheduled streaming with shared chat/discussion and collective screening hubs. You can apply for £200 - £1000 via the Online Cinema Fund until the 31st of May, for activity taking place from now until Nov 2021. More information and how to apply can be found [here](#).

Georgia also pointed members towards Film Hub's Advice and Experience scheme, soon to feature lawyers if anyone has any questions regarding legal issues around cancelled events. Film Hub Scotland's Bursary fund is also still open for members to apply for professional development through online courses.

Georgia also mentioned that Matchbox Cine has now been put on retainer by FHS to assist members with advice, support, training and some production of access subtitles.

Film Hub Scotland are still currently accepting new members, all that is required is a separate business bank account and a written constitution. However, Georgia notes that this is the current situation and may change. If anyone has any questions about joining Film Hub or about any of the funding they can reach Georgia directly at georgia@filmhubscotland.com

5. AOB

Sean Welsh passed on some correspondence Matchbox had had with Arrow Video and Park Circus in regards to licencing films for online screenings.

Arrow Video are hoping to develop an online platform for their catalogue. It's not straightforward and since it involves digital rights rather than cinema, there are different variables to consider. "We'd need to draft an agreement, making sure it all adheres to various contractual points, rights, DMR and MFNs (a Most Favoured Nation clause in our contracts across TVOD where pricing, content and availability is all consistent across each platform)." They're still looking at options, and whether or not this project can or should be prioritised.

Park Circus can only help with licences for public screenings: "Anything streaming, etc, would be done directly with the studios as we don't handle those sort of rights." Park Circus will be able to consider reduced rates for licences as part of the Scalarama season, along the lines of previous offers: 30% vs £80 MG. NB with DCP/35mm shows, the usual lab rates will apply for supply.

Film Hub Scotland have put Matchbox Cinesub on retainer to consult, train *and produce* SDH/captions for Film Hub Scotland members. Sean can advise on providing subtitles for online screenings, social media and for IRL exhibition in almost any context. Any members interested can reach out to sean@matchboxcineclub.com. Any non-members interested please feel free to get in touch too.

Sanne Jehoul (Glasgow Short Film Festival), joined us to tell the session a little about a project GSFF are spearheading. GSFF, along with some other Glasgow/Scotland based festivals and independent exhibitors are beginning to plan for online activity, a limited series/temporary screening platform, to tap into FHS's funds as a collective. Sanne welcomed input from any exhibitors in the session - sanne.jehoul@glasgowshort.org.

6. Next meeting date + outline

The next Scalarama meeting will be on Sunday April 26th at 2pm and will focus on film licensing, with special guest film festival programmer/director Greg Walker (Pilot Light TV Festival, Rad Screenings and Manchester Animation Festival).