



## Screening Films Online

[Watch Parties/ Watch Alongs](#) | Watch Parties aim to recreate a communal atmosphere for watching films, promoting audiences to watch a film already available on streaming platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, BBC iPlayer, All 4, Curzon or Mubi at a certain time and participate in discussion throughout the film. This could be within the comments of a Facebook event or page, on Twitter using a specific hashtag or via a dedicated chat group (i.e on WhatsApp, Facebook). Variations on the Watch Party include audiences watching the film at different times and feeding into the discussion at a set time instead.

Consider: Cost, accessibility, content. Watch-alongs on free or freely-accessible platforms like terrestrial/freeview television, BBC iPlayer, YouTube, Vimeo are ideal. Commercial television stations also allow ready-made breaks, ideal for commentary/catching a breath. Check if the film you're recommending/scheduling has descriptive subtitles/SDH/captions, as all the main television channels do, as well as iPlayer, Netflix and often Amazon Prime. Audio description is often available on Netflix and other platforms too. Finally, content - knowing the film you are going to watch means you can provide content or trigger warnings if necessary. Read more about those [here](#).

[Netflix Party](#) | Netflix Party is a free extension for Google Chrome which allows people to watch films currently on Netflix together through a shared link with an accompanying chat function running down one side of the screen. This allows for real-time interactions and engagement, although it does require all attendees to have a Netflix subscription. Hosting Netflix Parties does limit you to the films available on Netflix, but if you have a programming niche or focus (i.e queer representation, forgotten classics, bad films etc) you could frame a film in this context to offer deeper engagement and get your audiences discussing the film through a specific lens.

[Metastream](#) | Metastream is similar to Netflix Party and works with more streaming platforms like Twitch and Youtube. You can have private (invitation-only) or public sessions. NB Since it's still in development, it's fiddly and pretty glitchy; "theatre mode" may hide soft subtitles.

[Two Seven](#) | Works with Netflix, Vimeo, YouTube and private videos. An additional subscription fee is needed to host some of the streaming services (e.g. Disney+), though the paid features have been lowered in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Supports video/audio chat.

[Vimeo](#) | Vimeo is a video streaming platform, with free and paid-for options depending on what you need, and no ads. [Deptford Cinema](#) are currently screening shorts and features by local filmmakers on Vimeo, with a £2 pay-all or free if you email them. [Glasgow Short Film Festival](#) also use Vimeo for the embedded shorts on their website.

[Twitch](#) | Free and paid options to stream videos, usually used by gamers to stream gameplay but exhibitors like [Spectacle Theatre](#) are using the platform to screen a film once a week.



## Live/ Recorded Introductions and Q+As

Film screenings aren't the only things we can take online - there are a number of platforms that can facilitate live or pre-recorded activity.

[Zoom](#) | You'll be forgiven for never having heard of Zoom before the past few weeks. It's like Skype only a bit better, allowing you to video chat with multiple people, whilst also having typed chat and document sharing. This can be useful if you're wanting to run post-screening discussions with audiences or live Q&As. You just download it onto your laptop/device or you can use the website, then set-up an account to set-up 'meetings' or access them. NB [optimise your settings and apply best practice](#) to avoid unwelcome intrusion from randoms.

[Facebook Live](#) / [Youtube Live](#) | Facebook Live is useful if you're hosting a watch-along or a set-time screening and would like to provide the audience a live introduction. This can be posted on your main page or in the event page for whatever event you're doing, if you have created one. Cinemaattic have been using Facebook Live, via Zoom, to host their Sunday evening chats / Q&A sessions.

[Instagram Live](#) | This is a function on the Instagram app which allows you to do live introduction videos from your phone to Instagram followers. [If it's good enough for Jean-Luc Godard...](#)

[Periscope TV](#) | Periscope is a free streaming app that you can use on your mobile to go 'live' on the Periscope platform and on Twitter. Useful if you're doing a live film introduction or give live updates about your organisations or some informal chats.

[Hashtags](#) | Using a dedicated hashtag (such as #WatchingWithMatchbox or #FemspectivesAtHome) across all social media sites can connect your audiences, whether it be for a watch party, post-screening discussion or just to offer a unified thread for film-related chat tied into your organisation.

[Articles/ Film Writing](#) | Film screenings aren't the only things we can do online to stay engaged with our audiences. It's a good time to research and develop ideas and especially to write on some film-related topics for your own website or blog or even just social media.

[Quizzes](#) | Online quizzes are proving an easy and popular way for organisations to continue to engage audiences, creating a sense of community and something fun to do together. These can be hosted on Facebook Live (like [The Skinny](#)) or via Zoom (like [Screen Queenz](#)) with interactive Google forms as quiz sheets or simply a downloadable document people can type into.