

What has Talkies been up to?

We are fast approaching Talkies end-of-year so here is our annual Friends' update with a reminder of what we've been doing over the past three years and a snapshot of more recent months.



From our formation in late 2012 to March 2020 we ran regular events across each year in several venues, most recently up to 30 events a year.

Then there was the Pandemic...

The stops and starts that followed had a major impact. We could not plan ahead with any certainty, and it took to the autumn of 2022 before we started up regular screenings again.

The break was also a time for reappraisal and we decided to reduce the size of the overall programme, focusing on world cinema at the Dugdale throughout the year and an October to May programme at a single venue - Waterhouse Hall in Winchmore Hill.

We try to make Talkies 'more than movies' by bringing you added interest, such as at Waterhouse Hall where local film makers Simon Lord and Clive Coleman, each introduced their films and answered questions from the audience. *The Enchanted Cinema* brought us live music to film and family events from to engage children. As well as film curation, we hope that the 'social glue' we spread through our events brings people together through the magic of cinema.

We've just completed our first annual programme of world cinema at the Dugdale Arts Centre (DAC) since the lockdown period, putting on a film each month from February to November 2023. As always, we've tried to include a variety of genres and cultures, introducing films from:

- Bhutan (Lunana: A Yak In The Classroom)
- Chile (1976)
- Denmark (The Guilty)
- France (Happy End)
- Iran (Tehran: City of Love and Hit The Road)
- Japan (Shoplifters)
- Korea/USA (Minari)
- Macedonia (Honeyland)
- Somalia (The Gravedigger's Wife)

We've been extremely gratified by the level of interest and support we've received. At a time when national cinema ticket sales are still struggling to recover (e.g. June 2023 tickets sales were down 36% against pre-Covid sales in June 2019) we were pleased to find that audience figures at the DAC were 4% up on our pre-Covid average.

And so, to the main purpose of having a group of Talkies' Friends: our specially commissioned Shorts.

Interviews with film makers this year confirmed that we are securing a strong reputation and interest among the wider film making community. This has enabled us to attract Heritage Lottery Fund money for two years to make documentaries located in Edmonton, currently of the covered market.

Funding the Shorts depends to a large degree on Friends' subscriptions. Last year Friends supported three films and this year nearly two films out of the three, given that we have raised the award to £1,000. [Read about this year's awards here](#). Last year and this, Palmers Green will feature prominently, with Friends and community invited to participate.

We want to continue to be ambitious and hope you feel confident to support us in our aim to give opportunities, particularly to young film makers. A past Talkies Shorts winner, Charlotte Regan, has recently released her first feature, Scrapper, to enthusiastic reviews, and there have been many more longer-term successes.

All our 2023 Shorts will be premiered in March 2024 and we hope to see you there.