

circulated by email: Recommended Slate of Trustees & Officers 2022; Notes on proposed changes to Constitution; WFC AGM Stats
 posted online: WFC AGM Voting Record 2021; WFC Accounts 2021; Revised Constitution subject to 2022 AGM approval

Chair's Report 2021

Programme and Schedule

The Curzon reopened on 4 June 2021. The WFC committee had prepared a programme and was able to recommence screenings on 15 June.

Of the eleven films screened to date, seven were Members' Choice films, and six were followed by Q&As with Invited Speakers.

Audience Figures

Capacity was reduced by half for the remainder of the spring season. The majority of tickets sold to members for themselves and their guests. Capacity increased after the summer break, and the audience has been growing.

Rocks, *Saint Maud*, *The Lighthouse* and *Mr Jones* attracted the highest number of young viewers.

Two films attracted an especially large non-member audience: *The Lighthouse*, preceded by *Candle Cops*, a locally directed short and WISFF winner; and *Mr Jones*, screened in partnership with the Ukrainian Institute London.

[TABLE 1] 2021 Season : Audience Figures in chronological order

Date	Film	Audience Total (* = sold out)	Members / Guests / Non-members	Students/U30s included in attendance figures:
15-Jun	<i>David Copperfield</i> +Q&A	47	40 / 4 / 3	1
29-Jun	<i>Birds of Passage</i>	50	35 / 13 / 2	2
13-Jul	<i>The Big Heat</i> +Q&A + <i>Film Noir</i>	50	35 / 14 / 1	2
27-Jul	<i>Honeyland</i> (MC) +Q&A	49	35 / 13 / 1	4
14-Sep	<i>Saint Maud</i> (MC) +Q&A	47	35 / 10 / 2	8
28-Sep	<i>Rocks</i> (MC) + Intro	47	33 / 9 / 5	8
13-Oct	<i>Talking About Trees</i> +Q&A	60	43 / 7 / 10	3
02-Nov	<i>The Lighthouse</i> (MC) + <i>Candle Cops</i>	54	32 / 7 / 15	10

16-Nov	<i>White Riot</i> (MC)	40	27 / 2 / 11	4
23-Nov	<i>Mr Jones</i> (MC) +Q&A	90 *	45 / 13 / 32	10
18-Jan '22	<i>Minari</i> (MC)	67	47 / 16 / 4	6

Audience Feedback

Eight out of eleven films scored 'very good' to 'excellent' (4-5*). For the first time, some attendees gave a score of "0" for some films. This obviously impacted the averages, but the honesty is welcome. Perhaps not coincidentally, these films engendered animated discussions in the Curzon bar, which has extended its opening hours on WFC film nights.

[TABLE 2]

Film	Average score
<i>Honeyland</i> (MC) +Q&A <i>White Riot</i> (MC)	4.6
<i>Rocks</i> + Director's Intro <i>Minari</i>	4.5
<i>The Big Heat</i> +Q&A (+ <i>Film Noir</i>)	4.4
<i>Birds of Passage</i> <i>Mr Jones</i> (MC) +Q&A	4.2
<i>David Copperfield</i> +Q&A	4.1
<i>Saint Maud</i> (MC) +Q&A <i>Talking About Trees</i> +Q&A	3.7
<i>The Lighthouse</i> (MC) (+ <i>Candle Cops</i>)	3.3

Financial Performance

The Curzon hire charge remained fixed at £312 for ten years. In September, the charge increased to £350 (which is far below their commercial rate). The rate applies for the Blue Room, which has a 90-seat capacity. The combination of price increases across the board and reduced attendance due to the pandemic meant that only one film, *Mr. Jones*, broke even; the rest registered a deficit.

[TABLE 3] 2021 Season (Jun - Nov) Screening Surplus / Deficit

2021	film	capacity	tickets booked	ticket income	film hire	venue hire *	surplus / deficit
15-Jun	<i>David Copperfield</i> +Q&A	52	47	233.64	93.00	312	-171.36
29-Jun	<i>Birds of Passage</i>	52	50	266.87	n/a	312	-45.13
13-Jul	<i>The Big Heat</i> +Q&A + <i>Film Noir</i>	52	50	251.81	188.40	300	-236.59
27-Jul	<i>Honeyland</i> (MC) +Q&A	52	49	242.92	90.00	300	-147.08
14-Sep	<i>Saint Maud</i> (MC) +Q&A	70	47	227.12	99.60	350	-222.48
28-Sep	<i>Rocks</i> (MC) + Director's Intro	70	47	237.58	90.00	350	-202.42
13-Oct	<i>Talking About Trees</i> +Q&A	80	60	340.76	90.00	350	-99.24
02-Nov	<i>The Lighthouse</i> (MC) + <i>Candle Cops</i>	80	54	308.01	116.83	350	-158.82
16-Nov	<i>White Riot</i> (MC)	80	40	241.76	90.00	350	-198.24
23-Nov	<i>Mr Jones</i> (MC) +Q&A	90	90	613.95	232.12	350	31.83
18-Jan	<i>Minari</i> (MC)	80	67	379.91	90.00	350	-60.09

-1509.62

Membership

The WFC has welcomed 1,048 members to date.

Current membership has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels, but growing. 35 new members have joined since reopening. Several have joined as a result of the Christmas WFC gift membership certificate.

	2021-22 to date	(2019-20)
Members	106	(118)
Renewal	65	(77)
New	37	(34)
Lapsed	4	(7)
Full Fee	36	(30)
Concession Fee	42	(58)
Student/U30	28	(30)

[TABLE 4] Membership revenue 2021-22 to date: £2,570 (£2,996)

Over the year, ticket income broadly needs to cover the cost of venue & film hire. Membership income covers the other costs incurred running the club.

		no. of paying members	income in £
Annual Membership	Full fee @ £40	20	800
	- early bird @ 30	8	240
	Concession fee @£33	27	891
	- early bird @ £25	7	175
Spring/Summer	Full fee @ £33	8	264
	Concession fee @£25	8	200
TOTAL		78	2570

Wimbledon International Short Film Festival

The annual WISFF, underwritten by the WFC, took place in October and showed thirteen short films from around the world. Having ceased to be associated with the Wimbledon Bookfest, the festival relocated to the newly refurbished Polka Theatre, where it attracted a sizeable audience and broke even. By decision of the WFC Trustees, the WISFF will henceforth become separate and run independently of the WFC.

Cinema for All Awards

The WFC received two national Film Society of the Year awards at the 2021 CfA virtual conference: Distinction for 'Best Film Programme' and a Commendation in the 'Green' Award category.

The Founding Chair of the WFC Johnjoe McFadden was shortlisted for the 'Peter Cargin Award for Outstanding Individual.'

Trustees & Officers

Two Trustees, Grace Alves and Penny Amerena, have stepped down after many years of service to the Club and the community. We would like to offer them Lifetime Membership as an expression of our thanks and wish them all the best. The Committee would also like to thank Peter Cargin, who is transferring the role of Treasurer that he has fulfilled for so many year, but who is standing again as WFC Trustee.

The Nominations Committee has recommended a slate comprising eight current trustees and one longstanding member, who have put themselves forward as Trustees for 2022. The AGM will be asked to ratify the slate.

Thank you