



Press Release:

'Arcadia for All'

29 April – 15 July 2016

Big Screen Southend focuses on Essex's radical utopias for the second quarter of 2016. 'Arcadia for All' includes work from six artists and filmmakers, all were selected in response to a project led by Focal Point Gallery examining radicalism in thought, politics, agriculture and lifestyle across the county and further afield. The project will also coincide with a series of public events.

Public Programme

Focal Point Gallery Big Screen Commission:

Credits, 2016 | Hannah Black

29 April to 2 July 2016

For her FPG Big Screen Commission, British artist Hannah Black has taken The Access Credit Card as her starting point. As Britain's first widely available credit system, Access's headquarters were located in Southend-on-Sea. The company was the town's main employer until they became defunct in 1996. The commission will launch as part of an event at Focal Point Gallery which will coincide with a reading by artist and writer Caspar Heinemann as part of 'The Peculiar People' at Focal Point Gallery.

Additional films by Alistair Oldham, Camille Summers-Valli, Nastassja Simensky, Stuart Bowditch, Ruth Philo and select archive footage from across the county will be screened daily 7 days a week between 8.00-10.00am, 12.00-2.00pm, 4.00-6.00pm.

Screening Events

28th April, 7.00pm

Hannah Black and Caspar Heinemann

Big Screen Commission Launch

Focal Point Gallery

1 July 2016, 7.30pm

The Battle of the Somme

Accompanied by a live orchestra

21 May 2016, 4.00pm

Artist Film Retrospective

As part of Southend Film Festival

14 July 2016, 6.45pm

The Royal Opera's *Il Trovatore*

Live screening with pre-performance

9 June 2016, 7.00pm

The Royal Opera's *Nabucco*

Live screening with pre-performance

Film information:

Raising the Souvenir and *Canvey Island*, 2015 | Alistair Oldham

These films part document 'Wrecked on The Inter-tidal Zone', an art and citizen science project that uncovers and highlights local knowledge about the changing ecology, society and industry of the Thames Estuary. It is led by artists YoHa (Graham Harwood and Matsuko Yokokoji) with Critical Art Ensemble, Andy Freeman and Fran Gallardo who have been collaborating with local people in Southend and Leigh-on-sea since 2013 through a series of public workshops, tastings, events and artworks. Curated and commissioned by Arts Catalyst.

Colloquy, 2014 | Nastassja Simensky

Southend-based artist, Nastassja Simensky, presents this short film as part of a two year research project mapping the complex ecologies, geographies and non-linear history of the Thames Estuary and North Sea. Collaborating with composer William Frampton, a composition in 5 movements, scored for String Quartet and Soprano was written, using the numeric data of the 'London' ship-wreck and the surrounding sea bed of the Thames Estuary. The composition was performed to the 'London' from the local cockleboat, Indiana, as it drifted across the breadth of the wreck, connecting the two sites.

To the Lighthouse, 2015 | Stuart Bowditch and Ruth Philo

Essex-based artists Stuart Bowditch and Ruth Philo collaborate on this short film set on Orford Ness, a former military test site turned nature reserve. The work draws upon the artist's interests in the mythical sites of the landscape and architecture enshrouded in a history of secrecy. Bringing together the lines of investigation of each artist for the first time, this piece examines this historical site against the wilderness of the outside world as it succumbs to time.

Black Mesa, 2014 | Camille Summers Vali

This experimental documentary film explores the modern day reality of a small Navajo community in Northern Arizona. Since 1974, their culture and traditions have been significantly impacted by a mass relocation due to the corporate interests of fossil fuel industries and on-going government manipulations.

Archive Film

A series of additional archive films will also include The Modernist Architecture of Silver End, Pitsea New Market Place, Harlow New Town, Reverend Jack Putteril's Village Observatory, Radio Caroline, The Bata Factory in Svita and The Meadows Housing Estate of Brentwood.

About Big Screen Southend:

Big Screen Southend welcomes proposals from artists and filmmakers to present work on its purpose-built display screen designed for the presentation of artist commissions, live transmissions and short and feature films relative to the cultural context of Southend, South Essex and further afield. Located at the centre of Elmer Square, the screen is a hundred yards from Southend Central Station. (Trains every fifteen minutes from London Fenchurch Street. Journey time fifty minutes.)

For more information on the public programme or Big Screen Southend, please contact James Ravinet: jamesravinet@southend.gov.uk



theforum8
southend-on-sea

