

The Floating Cinema 2013 Documentary Transcript

0:01 Audio

[Music]

1:20 Emma Underhill

Building on the success of 2011, we've been able to develop a permanent Floating Cinema working with a brand new boat that's been designed by Duggan Morris Architects. And we hope that this is going to be operating on London's canals and waterways for years to come.

1:34 Adam Hiles

Having won the competition, we're sort of faced with an exciting challenge of turning what was we felt quite an interesting scheme into reality. We started our design of the project thinking about the experience of cinema, that cinema is this experience ingrained within everyday culture. And that actually, it will be an amazing way of people engaging with the culture and history and legacy of, of London.

2:10 Joe Morris

I think you know, it's been an incredible journey for both ourselves as architects, designers, but I think also for UP Projects, and all of their team and all the other sponsors and contributors to the project. I mean, it's been incredible amount of energy, and effort to kind of do something with actually, if you look at it looks relatively simple. It's quite a basic looking thing, but the complexity sits underneath.

2:33 Emma Underhill

We've only really been able to do this project with the support of the Legacy List and Bloomberg and it's been fantastic to have their support throughout the build and also the programme.

2:43 Sarah Weir

We commissioned *The Floating Cinema* in 2011. It was a great success. That was before the Olympics had even happened. And I was thinking out of that, that we really should celebrate the water, people who live and work on the water, artists,

creatives, people own allotments around and about bring all of those together, and *The Floating Cinema* seemed to be a perfect way to do it.

3:15 Emma Underhill

We've been working with artists Nina Pope and Karen Guthrie from Somewhere who have been developing the creative programme for *The Floating Cinema*.

3:27 Nina Pope

So, the theme for this year's programme was extra ordinary. And we do show films on *The Floating Cinema*. But we try to offer something a little bit different as well. You can go to a multiplex and see a film. In a way if you come to *The Floating Cinema*, you want something a bit special. So, we also do tours, live events, all sorts of different types of events. *[Audience cheering]*

3:56 Karen Guthrie

We programmed a horror Weekender we had things like makeup artists, we had foley artists who do the sound effects for horror films, doing demonstrations and workshops on the cinema.

4:09 Steven Sheil

I think *The Floating Cinema* was a great idea and having films seen in different spaces is something that's kind of growing trend reading something that I think people are more kind of getting into - they - cinema needs to kind of work hard and nowadays things like this. We've got *The Floating Cinema*, you've got outdoor screenings like this, I think it's perfect for kind of giving the audience the feeling that cinema is still something very, very special and something very much to be experienced live.

4:34 Nina Pope

The main outdoor screening this year was Frankenweenie, which is a fancy dress event and that built on a relationship we have with Three Mills where the film was made. And those events were always good fun, but they're very different to the very small events on the boat.

4:48 Audience Member

It was great to see the film Frankenweenie and just by the canal. It's just lovely to sit down and watch it.

4:57 Nina Pope

Lots of the events this year looked at the kind of industrial history of the area of the canals where the boat travels. And you know that range from quite a straight taught by an expert on the area to a comedy set written by Helen Keen, which looked at concrete and parka zine as its subject through to Brendan Walker's tour, which he said rigged up this kind of bespoke sound system on the boat, which he used. So, it was fantastic to see different people approach that content in different ways. And it's really great to be able to commission that new work, you know, not to just pull stuff off the shelf. But to actually think, well, we'd really like to do something about this, let's find a really interesting person to deliver that content.

5:38 Karen Guthrie

The response of the audience at the flooding, cinema is always fantastic, because in a way, it's such a small venue, that the people that make it to the venue to actually inside the cinema, are there because they really want to be there. And they've chased that ticket down in the event of chase for they are really pleased to be one of those 12 or 15 people aboard. But the bigger scale events, of course, are when we project a film outside like at Kings Cross or at Three Mills. I mean, that's a very different thing. And young people and you know, passers by enjoy those films just as much as the people who are, you know, I suppose on the cinema during the small-scale events.

6:13 Nina Pope

I think that diversity is great in such a small space. So, on the ecology tour that we finished with, you know, the people on that lots of them were also experts. But you know, John's delivery was such a high level, and they were actually handling the materials and they had two hours with him and this really intimate environment to ask questions, it's a fantastic chance for an audience and quite unlike lots of other spaces, I think.

6:36 Jonathan Grey

To be able to cruise the canal at walking speed effectively. So, I can do a bit of talking. And then we can look out the windows, it's nice open plan. So, people can be viewing out the side, while I'm talking. There's deck space for us to interact from to collect samples from and being able to interact with a relatively small group of people while we're on board and while we're cruising is great.

7:00 Simon Cummin

One of my favourite types of participants are actually the people who hadn't planned on being a participant at all. Often we do outdoor events will, will set up somewhere like Bow or Kings Cross and there'll be a lot of public just walking by and a lot of people don't interact at all with the canals and they see this strange looking vessel with pink curtains and they stumble down and just ask what it's about. And we've quite enjoyed just telling people how the locks work, what the boat is, and, and it really gets people to interact with the waterways.

7:35 Karen Guthrie

We had a competition for a short documentary, we ran that with Brick Dock, and Oonagh Kearney was awarded that. And she made a beautiful short documentary that was kind of hybrid. And it was filmed around the canals of East London. So, when we showed it, obviously, people really recognise the location and it's got this beautiful narrative.

7:52 Oonagh Kearney

I really enjoyed working with UP Projects, who really trusted me to be a filmmaker and completely allowed the film to take its own organic journey. And we're just always saying, kook if you need any help, so that was really, really nice. It's so nice to be trusted as a filmmaker when you're given a commission.

8:12 Emma Underhill

Alongside the public programme, the *Extra-ordinary* programme, we've also run quite an extensive education programme, where the artists Tracy and Hobbs have been working with an intergenerational group of participants.

8:25 Emily Tracy

They asked us to make a film with local community groups, we came up with the project *Waterfolk*, which will be the film will be shown on the floating cinema. So we're working with a scientist called Professor Malcolm Burrows to film some of the bugs and creatures that we find in the canal. Using these films, we'll be working with the children to create drawn animation.

8:55 Gerry Jones

It raises fantastic sort of response from people it's been really, really positive. And I think the people that get to go on the boat, enjoy the experience. It's just really novel, and it really attracts, you know, some great comments from people.

9:11 Emma Underhill

Another important partner in this project has been the Canal and River Trust and they've been really supportive of our programme both in terms of facilitating the moorings and the kind of practical use of the canals, but also really encouraging us as a cultural sort of offer to take place on the canals and rivers of London. It's been a fantastic year and really something that we can build on to future years and we're already looking at what we'll be doing next year and looking at an international focus and hopefully also taking the cinema out of London as well. Really we can go wherever the canal network will take us.

9:50 Audio

[*Music*]