

6TH-9TH DECEMBER 2019

PROGRAMME

WELCOME

ur thirteenth Festival—farewell childhood and hello adolescence? This year we embrace the best of all ages with guests including best-selling author Denise Mina, acclaimed

journalist Lesley Riddoch, sound engineer to the stars Stuart Wilson and directors Zara Balfour and Vicki Lesley amongst others. We have films to make you think, laugh, scream, cry and maybe even dance. As always, the aim is to bring people together in this magical seaside town and share a weekend dedicated to enjoying film with a disparate group of fellow enthusiasts. ¶We'll be watching 'so bad they're good' couthy films, engaging in debate following hard-hitting documentaries, wallowing in ethereal visions, and buying a BAFTA or Oscar winner a pint at the Hub—it only happens at My Favourite Film Festival. The festival is a labour of love, sometimes difficult, a bit nail biting, but what makes it special is the community of volunteers, guests, and audience who make it the warmest place to be on a winter weekend—thank you all. TANYA KARLEBACH, Chair, CRFS *

TICKET INFORMATION

ickets go on sale at The Hugh Miller Institute, Church Street, Cromarty on Saturday the 16th of November. Available for Film Society members and Festival Friends from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and for all comers from 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Between the 17th November and the 4th December, tickets will be available from Eden Court box office, Inverness. Telephone: **01463 234234** or online at www.eden-court.co.uk We'll also be selling tickets at Cromarty library on the evenings of Tuesdays 19th/26th November and 3rd December 6 p.m.-7 p.m.

During the film festival, tickets will be available from our box office at the Old Brewery Hub, commencing at 5 p.m. on Friday the 6th December. *

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VENUES

- 1 THE HUB (OLD BREWERY, CAFÉ, BAR)
- 2 VICTORIA HALL
- 3 OLD BUOY STORE
- 4 THE STABLES
- 5 SLAUGHTERHOUSE COFFEE
- 6 CROMARTY LIGHTHOUSE
- 7 BEN'S HOUSE
- 8 SCREEN MACHINE

EAT & DRINK

- A CROMARTY ARMS PUB
- B THE ROYAL HOTEL
- C CROMARTY STORES
- D CROMARTY BAKERY
- E CHURCH STREET CAFÉ
- F THE CHEESE HOUSE
- G THE EMPORIUM
- H SLAUGHTERHOUSE COFFEE

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CROMARTY

he main star of the CFF is Cromarty itself. A nigh on perfect town, as lovely in the cold, snowy winter as it is under the high blue skies of summer. ¶As well as screenings throughout the town, there are lots of other attractions well-worth visiting—specialist shops, plenty of good eating and drinking opportunities and excellent places to walk and think. The Old Brewery is the convivial social hub for the festival with a late-opening bar and a special festival café, with warming soups and hearty eats.

Bar: Friday — 6 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Saturday — 1 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Sunday — 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. & 10 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Café: Friday — 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday — 12 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Sunday — 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Shuttle Bus: During the festival, a free minibus will circulate between venues. Based at the Hub, it's especially useful for getting up the hill to the Stables. *

GUESTS

LESLEY RIDDOCH. Lesley is one of Scotland's best-known commentators and broadcasters. With three decades of journalism and radio under her belt, she now runs her own independent radio and podcast company and advocates for new solutions to Scotland's present day challenges.

DENISE MINA. Best selling author Denise has won multiple awards for her crime fiction, including the acclaimed Garnethill trilogy and more recently The Long Drop and Conviction. A frequent contributor to radio programmes such as Saturday Review, Denise is also chair of Glasgow Film Theatre.

STUART WILSON. Stuart is an Oscar and BAFTA nominated sound recordist and engineer who has worked on some of Hollywood's biggest epics and with some of the most distinctive directors of our day, such as Martin Scorsese, and Wes Anderson, on various high-profile films including *Skyfall* and all the recent *Star* Wars films. He'll be with us to introduce some of his best work and to delve deeper into the art of sound.

ZARA BALFOUR. Zara is an award-winning director, producer and writer with 18 years experience in all forms of documentary, specialising in films about the world we live in and people and cultures worldwide. She will be introducing her first feature-length documentary, *Children of the Snow Land*. **VICKI LESLEY.** Vicki brings her first independent documentary, *The Atom: A Love Affair* to the festival for only its second public screening. After a busy career in the television industry, Vicki left to concentrate on the crowdfunding and production of this film, a labour of love and years.

CHRISTOPHER HIRD. Christo is an old friend of Cromarty Film Festival, as well as leading figure in u.k. independent documentary-making. With Dartmouth Films, he has pioneered new ways of funding, producing and distributing documentaries in the u.k. as well as promoting the work of new and emerging filmmakers. Christo will be hosting our documentary strand again this year.

SANNE JEHOUL. This year, our popular short film selections will be curated by Sanne from Glasgow Short Film Festival. Sanne is a colleague of Matt Lloyd, our usual programmer, and brings the same passion and care to the selection.

CAT BRUCE/KEITH DUNCAN. Cat and Keith return to Cromarty to run another fantastic hands-on animation workshop. Cat is an award winning animator and director based in Edinburgh and a wonderful teacher of ingenious animation techniques. Keith is a musician, sound engineer and sound designer who runs a thriving studio in Edinburgh's Summerhall.

LAWRENCE SUTCLIFFE. Lawrence is our Doctor of Film. He possesses a worryingly thorough knowledge of every obscure Scottish or Scottish-themed film out there. We feared that there was no more couthy nonsense to be discovered, but never doubt Lawrence. This year he'll be presenting some dubious sci-fi and a classic courtroom drama.

FILM LISTINGS

FRIDAY 6th december

18.30/The Lighthouse/Free FILMS ON THE LIGHTHOUSE

Our traditional open-air opener of amusing short films selected this year by Sanne Jehoul and projected onto the lighthouse. Join us for a mulled wine or a dram around the fire.

19.30/Victoria Hall/£7/£5 Under 16s THE LONG KISS GOODNIGHT (15)

Dir. Renny Harlin, 1996, 121 mins

An amnesiac action thriller starring the wonderful Geena Davis as a suburban single mom and teacher, looking to recover her past identity with the help of wise-cracking detective Samuel L. Jackson. Their pre-Christmas road trip catapults them into a world of assassins, spies and lots of other bad guys. This is one of Lesley Riddoch's favourite films and she will be here to introduce it. Ass-kicking seasonal fare from the nineties.

21.00/Screen Machine/£5/£3 Under 16s JOKER (15)

Dir. Todd Phillips, 2019, 122 mins An empathetic study of mental breakdown or an apologia for



violent behaviour? Joker has become one of the most talked about films of the year, with an indelible performance by Joaquin Phoenix and brilliant effects and score. In Gotham City, troubled comedian Arthur Fleck, disregarded and mistreated by society, begins a slow descent into madness as he transforms into the criminal mastermind known as the Joker.

SATURDAY 7th december

9.00/Victoria Hall back room/Free TOY STORY WORKSHOP 45 mins

Join us for a model-making workshop before we go To Infinity and Beyond! We'll have arts and crafts for the wee ones in a 45-minute workshop in preparation for Toy Story 4. Whether you want to be Buzz or Woody, Bo Peep or new arrival 'Forky', come prepared for some fun! Age range: 5-12, but all welcome.

10.00/Screen Machine/£5/£3 Under 16s TOY STORY (U)

Dir. Josh Cooley, 2019, 100 mins

Don't miss Woody, Buzz, beloved old friends and new, in this final exciting adventure to save Bonnie's new toy creation, Forky. 25 years on, the characters are surprisingly as fresh, funny and heartwarming as they were when they first lit up the screen. 10.00 to 13.00 or 14.00 to 17.00/ Old Brewery, Loft Studio/£3 per session

ANIMATION AND SOUND WORKSHOP

(Sunday also)

'IT'S ALWAYS OURSELVES WE FIND IN THE SEA.'

BAFTA award-winning animator Cat Bruce and sound designer Keith Duncan return to Cromarty this year following the great success of last year's wee film created over the festival weekend. Using very traditional animation techniques, Cat will guide participants to illustrate the themes of our chosen poem, while Keith will work with everyone to create a soundtrack. Suitable for both adults and children (children must be accompanied by an adult). Booking advised as there are only 10 places per session.

10.15/The Stables/£5/£3 Under 16s CHILDREN OF THE SNOW LAND (PG)

Dir. Zara Balfour & Marcus Stephenson, 2018, 97 mins A wonderfully touching film about five teenagers returning from boarding school in Kathmandu to their homes in the high Himalayas—one of the poorest and most remote places on the planet. Completely cut off from their families for over ten years, the children's trek homeward is a physical and emotional journey to reconnect with the lives they left behind. The film is introduced by Christo Hird and director Zara Balfour.

11.30/Victoria Hall/£7/£5 Under 16s THE CONSTANT GARDENER (15)

Dir. Fernando Meirelles, 2005, 129 mins

An intelligent and moving political thriller that should be held right up there with All The Presidents Men and The Killing Fields. Rachel Weisz received an Oscar for her performance as the disappeared wife of Ralph Fiennes' career diplomat. Our guest Stuart Wilson recorded and mixed sound for the film and will be here to talk about the challenges and rewards of recording on location in Africa, amongst other things.

13.00/Screen Machine/£5/£3 Under 16s HER CENTURY

Curated by Emily Munro, 2019, 90 min inc. discussion From work to home, classroom to croft, girlhood to motherhood, women in Scotland over the last 100 years have lived through, inspired and created major social change. *Her Century* explores their experience and resilience in this collection of fascinating archive film, curated for the National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive. These films capture lost times, hidden stories and the heartening victories of Scottish women. Please join us for some rare footage and wideranging discussion.

13.00/Old Buoy Store/£3 INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS

Dir. various/90 mins This year's selection of highlights from the Glasgow Short Film Festival International Competition takes us from belly laughs to quiet reflection, and includes Audience Award winner *Tungrus*, in which a pet rooster causes family tensions, as well as an animation on Ingmar Bergman and his (talking) facial lipoma. We also present Mahdi Fleifel's award-winning latest work, *I Signed the Petition*, alongside other upcoming film talent from across the globe.

15.00/Buoy Store/£3 STUART WILSON—THE ART OF NOISE

Talk, 60 mins

Wrapped up in the world of a film, we sometimes miss the fact that it's the sound as much as the visuals that are making us feel the way we do. Sound mixer Stuart Wilson has a towering cv—taking in James Bond and Star Wars franchises as well as indy gems such as The Fantastic Mr Fox. Stuart will play us some clips from his work to break down how he does what he does so well.

16.00/Victoria Hall/£5/£3 Under 16s BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY (12)

Dir. Bryan Singer, 2018, 134 mins

It wouldn't be a festival without some sing-along action. Remi Malek won an Oscar and BAFTA for his uncanny performance as Freddy Mercury in this film following Queen from the formation of the band in 1970 to their triumphant performance at Live Aid. It includes all the classics including We Are the Champions, Radio Ga Ga and everyone's favourite mini-opera Bohemian Rhapsody. White jumpsuits and moustaches optional.

17.00/Screen Machine/£5/£3 Under 16s FOR SAMA (18)

Dir. Waad al-Kateab, Edward Watts, 2019, 100 mins This autobiographical documentary follows the life of a young female journalist through love, marriage and childbirth in war-torn Syria. A beautiful story of strength and struggle during the darkest of times, it follows the choices made by al-Kateab to provide for her newly born daughter, Sama, through the calamitous conflict in Aleppo. It has deservedly won multiple awards since its release, including best documentary at Cannes.

17.45/Slaughterhouse Coffee/Free, but limited places THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL (15)

Dir. Wes Anderson, 2014, 99 mins

Wes Anderson's glorious 1930s confection is a multi-facetted delight with a hard nugget of politics at its core. Packed to the rafters with stars, but dominated by Ralph Fiennes's central turn as the charmingly camp and sexually generous concierge Gustave H. It must surely be this actor's finest hour (sorry, Constant Gardener).

19.00/Old Buoy Store/£5/£3 Under 16s THE MAN FROM PLANET X (PG)

Dir. Edgar G Ulmar, 1951, 71 mins

Mysterious "Planet X" has entered our solar system and is now near Earth. A spaceship from the planet lands on an isolated fog-shrouded Scottish moor, and a space-suited humanoid emerges who speaks in musical tones to the natives it meets. Classic B-movie fun. They don't make 'em in six days anymore! Introduced by our expert, Lawrence Sutcliffe.

19.30/Victoria Hall/£7/£5 Under 16s THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER (12)

Dir. Charles Laughton, 1955, 92 mins + chat

The favourite film choice of writer Denise Mina, The Night of the Hunter is an extraordinary expressionist thriller, the only film ever directed by Charles Laughton. Robert Mitchum stars as the psychopathic preacher terrorizing Shelley Winters and her children. Shot in black and white, its dark fairytale atmosphere still disturbs. The film was named by Cahiers du Cinema as the second best film of all time, and Denise will be with us to discuss its lasting appeal.

20.30/Slaughterhouse Coffee/Free, but limited places KENNY (15)

Dir. Clayton Jacobsen, 2006, 99 mins

It wouldn't be CFF at the Slaughterhouse without some Aussie comedy. This year brings a touching mockumentary about a

man who takes pride in his job. From the biggest festival to the smallest church social, Kenny Smyth delivers porta-loos to them all. Ignored and unappreciated, he is a knight in shining overalls taking care of essential business.

21.00/Screen Machine/£5/£3 Under 16s EIGHTH GRADE (15)

Dir. Bo Burnham, 2019, 94 mins.

A little masterpiece and one of the most powerful films of the year, Burnham's debut turns the experiences of one 13 year-old girl into something both universal and epic. In her final week of middle school, Kayla Daye is struggling. A determined proactivist, she posts advice videos on YouTube then attempts to apply them to her own reality. We travel with her through a world of social anxiety in search of that secure haven of self-hood.

SUNDAY 8th december

10.00 to 13.00/Old Brewery, Loft Studio/£3 per session ANIMATION AND SOUND WORKSHOP (Final session of our animation workshop—see Saturday's listings for full details.)

10.15/The Stables/£5/£3 Under 16s THE ATOM: A LOVE AFFAIR

Dir. Vicki Lesley, 2019, 92 mins

Featuring a wealth of fantastic archive footage and revealing interviews with those who had first hand experience, *The Atom* tells the turbulent story of the West's love-hate relationship with nuclear power over 70 years. It reveals how the post-war, romantic fantasy of an atom-powered future developed into the stormy, on-off relationship still playing out today. Vicki Lesley will be here to discuss her captivating new film.

11.00/Screen Machine/£5/£3 Under 16s THE BREADWINNER (12A)

Dir Nora Twomey, 2018, 94 mins

A treat for animation fans of all ages, this Oscar nominated film about a courageous girl who seeks to save her father from the Taliban is a magical adaptation of the novel by Deborah Ellis. A story-within-a-story provides both a potted history of Afghanistan and a parallel narrative of our hero Parvana's struggles to secure her father's release before it's too late.

11.00/Old Buoy Store/£3 SCOTTISH SHORT FILMS

Dir. various/90 mins

Our showcase of the best new Scottish shorts includes everything from fiction and documentary to animation and artists' moving image. These are stories about community and connection, in its broadest sense. Catch GSFF19's Scottish Short Film Award winner *Mum's* Cards by Luke Fowler, Zoë Hutber's moving animation Short Changed, and Robin Haig's latest, Slingshot, amongst others.

13.00/Screen Machine/£5/£3 Under 16s DOWNTON ABBEY (PG)

Dir. Michael Engler, 2019, 122 mins

Believe me, we tried to dodge this bejewelled juggernaut, but sometimes you have to bow down to popular demand and let it roll over you. Julian Fellowes' addictive storytelling has made a worldwide phenomenon of *Downton Abbey*, and now the whole caboodle returns as a spectacular motion picture, with the twinkle-eyed toffs and their intrepid staff preparing for the most important moment of their lives: a royal visit from the King and Queen of England! Pass the sherry...

13.00/Old Buoy Store/£3

FAROE ISLANDS—THE CONNECTED NATION

Dir. Lesley Riddoch and Al McMaster, 2018, 30 mins + discussion + Greenpeace film 12 mins

One of the Nation trilogy of films made by Lesley Riddoch exploring the very different path our Nordic neighbours have followed from that of the u.k. How have these places overcome the immense challenges of remoteness and relatively barren landscapes to achieve independence, or in the case of the Faroes, the world's most powerfully devolved parliament? We also have a bonus screening of *Shutdown*, documenting Greenpeace's daring occupation of a Transocean rig off the shore of Cromarty this summer. A timely discussion with Lesley on both films will follow.

13.30/Victoria Hall/£5/£3 Under 16s SHOPLIFTERS (15)

Dir. Hirokazu Kore-eda, 2018, 121 mins

A family of small-time crooks living a precarious life in Tokyo take in a child they find outside in the cold. This is a complex, subtle, mysterious film that builds to the most extraordinary surprise ending, a twist-reveal worthy of psychological suspense noir. 'A film that steals in and snatches your heart', Daily Telegraph.

16.00/Ben's House/Free, but limited places SALT OF THE EARTH (12)

Dir. Wim Wenders, Juliano Ribeiro Salgado, 2014, 110 mins For 40 years acclaimed Magnum photographer Sebastiao Salgado has travelled the world, capturing moments that have defined the worst of humanity—wars, famine, the mass exodus of people. He now embarks on a journey to discover the epic beauty of nature and encapsulate it in one sweeping tribute to our planet's magnificence. Not just a portrait of a great artist but of life itself. Enjoy in the comfort of Ben's home cinema.

16.30/The Stables/£5/£3 Under 16s 24 HOUR PARTY PEOPLE (18)

Dir. Michael Winterbottom, 2002, 117 mins

A colourful and chaotic film capturing the spirit of the Manchester music scene from the first Sex Pistols concert to the last bankruptcy. With a stand-out central performance by Steve Coogan as real-life entrepreneur Tony Wilson, this is the perfect raucous Sunday matinee. Our guest Stuart Wilson is a regular Michael Winterbottom collaborator and was sound recordist on this iconic film.

16.00/Old Buoy Store/£5/£3 Under 16s MADELEINE (U)

Dir. David Lean, 1950, 114 mins

Lean's film is based on the true story of Madeleine Smith, a young Glasgow woman from a wealthy family who was arrested in 1857 for the poisoning of her lover, leading to 'the trial of the century'. Starring Lean's then wife, Ann Todd, and introduced by Lawrence Sutcliffe.

19.00/Victoria Hall/£20 including meal

Gala dinner and Finale

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR? (12A)

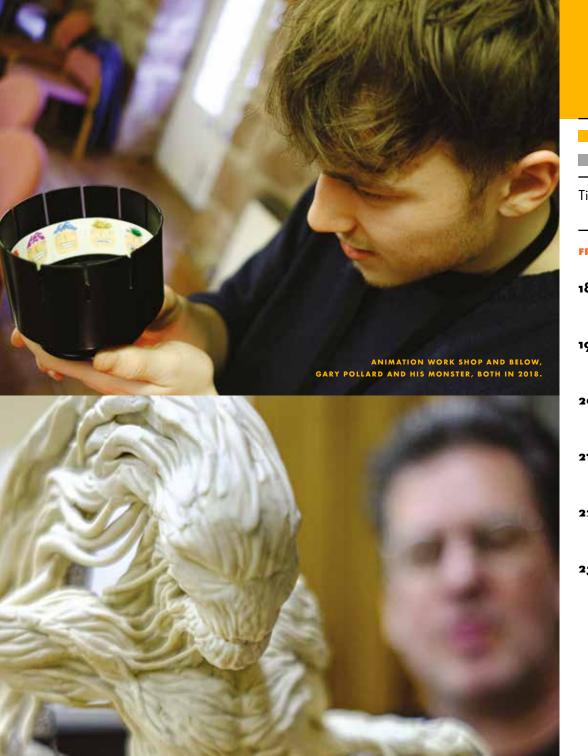
Dir. Morgan Neville, 2018, 94 mins Won't you join us for a splendid finale to the festival, with a communal curry and assorted cheer before we push back our chairs and enjoy Won't You Be My Neighbor?, a documentary by award-winning director Morgan Neville (20 Feet from Stardom). It profiles Fred Rogers, a creative genius whose compassion inspired generations of children through his quietly radical television show, *Mr Rogers' Neighborhood*. It may sound a bit obscure, but trust us, what the world needs now, what **we** need now, is *Mr* Rogers.

20.00/Screen Machine/£5/£3 Under 16s JUDY (12)

Dir. Rupert Goold, 2019, 118 mins

The dark side of the golden age of stardom is captured in this new biopic of Judy Garland, featuring a bravado performance by Renée Zellweger. Thirty years have passed since Judy shot to global stardom in *The Wizard* of *Oz*. Now broke, jobless and struggling with addiction she is offered a five-week residency performing at the Talk of the Town in London in the winter of 1968.



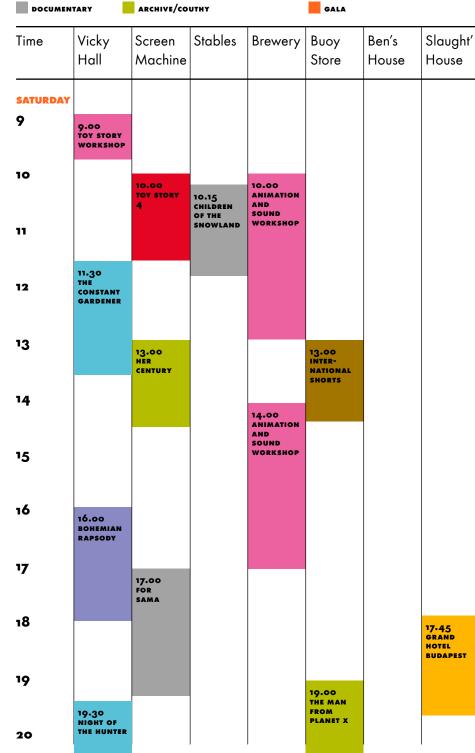


FILM TIME CHART

QUIRKY	QUIRKY VENUES WORKSHOP WITH A GUEST		A GUEST	NEW(ISH) DRAMA		FAMILY	SHORTS	
DOCUM	ENTARY	ARCHIVE/CO	UTHY		GALA			
Time	Other	Vicky Hall	Screen Machine	Stables	Brewery	Buoy Store	Ben's	Slaught' House
FRIDAY								
18								
19	18.30 THE LIGHT HOUSE							
20		19.30 THE LONG KISS GOOD NIGHT						
21			21.00 JOKER					4
22								
23								

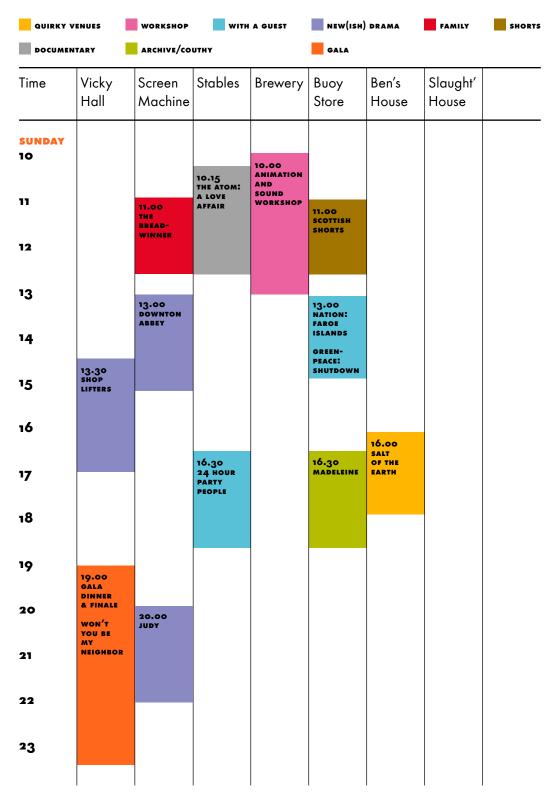


SHORTS FAMILY



Time	Vicky Hall	Screen Machine	Stables	Brewery	Buoy Store	Ben's House	Slaught' House	
20	NIGHT OF THE HUNTER CONT						20.30 KENNY	
21 22		21.00 EIGHTH GRADE						
23								





SPONSORS

We would like to give a big shout out to our generous sponsors:

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- * The University of Aberdeen
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- **★** Eden Court
- * Springbank Distillers













CROMARTY COMMMUNITY CINEMA UPDATE

et the Champagne on ice and prepare your gala outfits—we are almost ready to open our own cinema! ¶Down by the ferry slip, a 35-seat, fully accessible

modern cinema has taken shape over the last year. Interior fitting out will be taking place soon and we'll open in 2020 with a weekly programme of screenings in partnership with Eden Court, including big new releases, films for young people and the best independent cinema. As a community asset we want the cinema to be used as much as possible, so it will be available for rentals ranging from conference hosting and private screenings to gaming parties. ¶You can still support our mission by dedicating a star in the cinema's interior for only £40 (drop by the Hub for forms), or donating at our crowdfunding site www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ cromartycommunitycinema. The cinema, like many Cromarty schemes, started off as a wine fuelled dream, but has been made real through the incredible support of grant funders and lots of individual sponsors of seats, stars and givers of plain old cash! To all of you, a resounding thanks ... *



www.cromartyandresolisfilmsociety.org

www.cromartyfilmfestival.org

Designed by Jules Akel Photography by Erlend Barclay