



UK CINEMA ASSOCIATION AND SCREENSKILLS LAUNCH COVID-19 CINEMA SECTOR TRAINING RESOURCE

London, 23 July 2020: The UK Cinema Association and the sector skills agency ScreenSkills have today launched a free online e-learning module and assessment test around COVID-19 for those working in cinema exhibition.

The *Coronavirus basic awareness for cinemas* resource is adapted from training originally conceived for film and television production, developed by ScreenSkills with funding from the BFI awarding National Lottery funds and the ScreenSkills High-End TV Skills Fund.

The e-learning module explains the safety measures that cinema staff might expect to find when returning to work following the COVID-19 outbreak, providing basic awareness and understanding of the virus, the key personal responsibilities each cinema team member might expect when returning to work and some of the safety measures that might be implemented at each site.

Those who successfully complete the assessment test at the end of the e-learning module gain a certificate recognising their understanding in this area.

Welcoming the launch of the resource, UK Cinema Association Policy Executive James Connor said:

'The launch of this resource recognises that everyone working in cinema exhibition - regardless of the size of their venue or their role within the company/organisation - has a part to play in helping to ensure the safety of cinema audiences and other team members. We would encourage not just our members, but all working in the sector to undertake the training.

We would like to thank colleagues at ScreenSkills for all of their help and support in bringing this together.'

Gareth Ellis-Unwin, Head of Film and Animation at ScreenSkills, added:

'We want to help the whole industry work safely in the context of coronavirus so were delighted to take the training developed for working on production and adapt it for cinema workers, as part of the measures designed to help audiences feel confident to return.'

ScreenSkills developed the training to complement the Working Safely During Covid-19 guidance developed by an industry working group convened by the British Film Commission (BFC) as part of the BFI's Screen Sector Task Force.

Notes for editors

Coronavirus - basic awareness for cinemas - online training module

More information on the resource can be found here:

<https://www.cinemauk.org.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/training-for-cinemas/>

UK Cinema Association

The UK Cinema Association (UKCA) represents the interests of over 90 per cent of UK cinema operators by number and market share. Its membership ranges from single screen/owner managed sites to the largest circuit and multiplex operators.

ScreenSkills

ScreenSkills is the industry-led skills body for the screen industries. We work across the UK to ensure that film, television (including children's and high-end drama), VFX (visual effects), animation and games have the skills and talent they need.

ScreenSkills provides insight, career development and other opportunities to help grow and sustain the skilled and inclusive workforce which is the foundation stone of the UK's global screen success.

It is funded by industry contributions to skills funds for film, high-end TV, children's TV, animation and unscripted TV and by the BFI, awarding National Lottery funds as part of its Future Film Skills strategy.

About the BFI

The BFI is the UK's lead organisation for film, television and the moving image. It is a cultural charity that:

- Curates and presents the greatest international public programme of world cinema for audiences; in cinemas, at festivals and online
- Cares for the BFI National Archive – the most significant film and television archive in the world
- Actively seeks out and supports the next generation of filmmakers
- Works with Government and industry to make the UK the most creatively exciting and prosperous place to make film internationally
- Regularly publishes statistics on the UK film and high-end television screen sector as the official statistics provider for the industry.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

Further information

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