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PRESS RELEASE: Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

42 cinemas to share £650,000 in first awards from the Culture Recovery Fund for Independent Cinemas

- **Cinemas across England to benefit in first allocations of government's £30 million fund for independent cinemas, with more venues to receive cash in coming weeks**
- **Investment is part of the government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund and will help cinemas from Northumberland down to Devon through the pandemic**
- **Funding for independent cinemas welcomed by Luther co-stars Idris Elba and Ruth Wilson**
- **The UK Government's Film and TV Production Restart Scheme is now open for applications**

42 independent cinemas from across England have received a cash boost from the UK government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund, in the first awards made by the British Film Institute (BFI) to support England's screen sector, Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden announced today.

The first tranche of money from the £30 million pot is being allocated by the BFI on behalf of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), it will support cinemas across England from the Jam Jar Cinema in Whitley Bay, Northumberland, down to Devon's Totnes Cinema.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said:

"We all enjoyed the escapism of a good film during lockdown, but nothing beats the experience of the big screen. This first wave of emergency funding will help dozens of independent cinemas around the country, preserving their unique character and history for future generations.

"Our Film and TV Restart Scheme will keep cameras rolling on British-made film and TV - protecting jobs, boosting this hugely important industry and giving us more great content to enjoy.

"But now we need the public to pay their part too. So I urge everyone to get booking your seats and support your local cinema."

This important cash boost of more than £650,000 will help independent cinemas - the cultural organisation closest to home for so many people - weather the storm of the coronavirus pandemic.

The support for independent cinemas has been welcomed by Luther co-stars Idris Elba and Ruth Wilson.

Idris Elba OBE, award-winning actor, producer and director (Mandela, The Long Walk to Freedom, Yardie, Luther) and BFI Governor said:

"In a time with so much change and uncertainty around us, there is comfort in the familiarity of a comfy pair of seats and some popcorn at your local cinema. It's a simple and effective way of bonding with our cities and culture. We depend on the independent cinema and they depend on us to support them, now more than ever."

Ruth Wilson, actor and producer (Saving Mr Banks, His Dark Materials, Mrs. Wilson), Said:

"What lockdown has made very clear is how vital local communities are. I am thrilled independent cinemas will be able to access the Culture Recovery Fund. They, alongside all local arts organisations are lifelines for their communities and for the people that work in them. It was in my local cinema in Walton-on-Thames where I saw films for the first time that moved me, that made me understand the power of storytelling, the power of communal watching and made me want to be part of that world."

Cinemas are able to apply for Safety Grants, to help independent venues meet the additional costs of creating a safe and covid-secure environment for staff and audiences, and Business Sustainability grants of up to £200,000 to help stabilise venues as they reopen.

Ben Roberts, BFI Chief Executive said:

"The Government's support for independent cinemas through the Culture Recovery Fund is having a positive impact for venues and local communities in cities, towns and villages across the country as they reopen with new covid-safe measures in place and new releases including current hits *Rocks*, *After We Collided*, *Tenet* and *Monsoon*, re-releases of classics such as *La Haine* and *Star Wars*, and the forthcoming *Saint Maud* and *Eternal Beauty*, all from great talent. Thanks to the Culture Recovery Fund we look forward to more cinemas gearing up to reopen in the coming weeks."

Saffron Screen, received £46,096 to help the venue restart its screenings including its pop-up screenings in local villages providing the only opportunity in the area to see a range of films from mainstream to foreign language and archive as well as streaming performances like Matthew Bourne's *The Red Shoes*.

Kinema in the Woods, in Woodhall Spa, received a Safety Grant of £4,002 so that the site can welcome back its diverse audiences that attend its wide range of screenings including baby-friendly film showings and regular accessible screenings for local people with autism and dementia.

Philip Jones, Cinema Manager of Kinema in the Woods, said:

"We are very grateful to the Culture Recovery Fund for supporting the costs of putting into place safety measures and providing PPE which meant we could safely reopen our doors."

The £30 million fund will remain open for applications until 30 October and support for cinemas making an application is available from the BFI.

To support the UK's film industry at every point of the screen supply chain the government has also opened the application process for the Film and TV Production Restart Scheme to help productions get the cameras rolling.

Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, said:

“The UK’s cinemas and film & TV production industry are a key part of our culture - they provide thousands of jobs and help to entertain the nation. So I’m delighted that we can support independent cinemas through the Cultural Recovery Fund, and help to get productions up and running again through the Film and TV Production Restart Scheme, protecting vital jobs across the industry.”

The £500 million Scheme is designed to help TV and film productions across the country that have been halted or delayed by a lack of insurance to get back up and running. The Scheme will give productions the confidence they need that they will be supported if future losses are incurred due to Covid-19.

Detailed eligibility criteria for the scheme are available online so that productions can prepare applications ahead of the scheme formally opening in the coming weeks.

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Notes to Editors:

The full list of successful cinemas is:

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| ● Bellingham Film Palace, London | £4,662 |
| ● Hailsham Pavilion, Hailsham, East Sussex | £5,760 |
| ● Hollywood Plaza, Scarborough, North Yorkshire | £5,450 |
| ● Boleyn Cinema, East Ham, London | £8,325 |
| ● Lexi Cinema, north-west London | £8,439 |
| ● Jam Jar Cinema, Whitley Bay, Northumberland | £5,914 |
| ● Keswick Alhambra, Keswick, Cumbria | £4,884 |
| ● Kino, Hawkhurst, Kent | £8,469 |
| ● Kino, Rye, East Sussex | £8,469 |
| ● Kino, Bermondsey, south-east London | £8,469 |
| ● Regal Cinema, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire | £8,375 |
| ● Red Carpet Cinema, Barton under Needwood, Staffordshire | £9,973 |
| ● Kinema in the Woods, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire | £4,002 |
| ● Totnes Cinema, Devon | £4,602 |
| ● Savoy, Heaton Moor, Greater Manchester | £4,983 |
| ● Orion Cinema, Burgess Hill, West Sussex | £5,254 |
| ● Hollywood East, Dereham, Norfolk | £5,318 |
| ● The Clifton Community Arts Centre, West Midlands | £3,662 |
| ● Rex Cinema, Wilmslow, Cheshire | £5,365 |
| ● The Northern Lights Cinema, Derbyshire | £8,050 |
| ● The Regent, Christchurch, Dorset | £5,292 |
| ● Backyard Cinema, south-west London | £8,207 |
| ● Sherborne Cinema, Gloucester | £8,940 |
| ● Ritz Cinema, Belper, Derbyshire | £10,000 |
| ● Showroom, Sheffield, Yorkshire and the Humber | £10,000 |
| ● Reel Cinemas | £139,958 |
| ○ 14 Reel cinemas receiving support for health and safety equipment -
Borehamwood (Hertfordshire), Chippenham (Wiltshire), Chorley (Lancashire),
Dudley (West Midlands), Kingston Upon Hull (Yorkshire and the Humber),
Blackburn (Lancashire), Morecambe (Lancashire), Rochdale (Greater
Manchester), Wakefield (West Yorkshire), Widnes (Lancashire), Hollywood
Park (Burnley, Lancashire), Market Quay (Fareham, Hampshire), Scala
(Ilkeston, Derbyshire), Majestic (Bridgnorth, Shropshire) | |

- Royston Picture Palace, Hertfordshire £46,096*
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema, Essex £46,096*
- Catford Mews, south-east London £252,697*

The Saffron Walden Community Cinema, Royston Picture Palace and Catford Mews cinemas receive funding for health and safety equipment and for business sustainability planning.

Applications to the Culture Recovery Fund for Independent Cinema are open until 30 October. Further detail can be found [here](#).

Applications to the Film and TV Production Restart Scheme can be made from 9am on Friday 2 October, and further detail can be found [here](#).

Please note that as the Film and TV Production Restart Scheme is still subject to State Aid approval, it may be subject to change. We have opened applications now in order to give the sector the opportunity to submit their applications in advance, to expedite the process of reaching a decision on their application. The scheme will formally provide certificates of eligibility for successful applications when state aid approval has been granted. No fees will be due until that point in time.

Cinemas are allowed to reopen in England so long as they follow the COVID-19 secure UK Cinema Association guidelines. They are exempt from the 10pm curfew if a performance starts before 10pm, however no alcohol or food can be served after 10pm. Cinemas are able to continue to host more than 6 people in total but no one should mix in a group of greater than 6.