



# DIVERSITY FILMS



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## About Diversity Films

**Diversity Films is a new Community Interest Company (CIC), established in April 2007, which aims to**

- **Work for and promote the elimination of discrimination and inequality based on race, colour, creed, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, sexuality, disability, age or class, within the area of moving image content production.**
- **Champion and nurture underused or existing media production skills and provide opportunities for new practical, creative and critical skills to be acquired through a programme of training, practical moving image content production, exhibition and critical debate.**
- **Enable community groups and individuals within those groups to realize their own talent with confidence**
- **Provide a platform for bold voices and visions and allow talent to express itself without fear of censorship, exclusion or retribution.**
- **Combat social exclusion through access to training, resources and inclusive community based activities.**

# Community Filmmakers Project

## Summary:

**Diversity Films'** first main project, the **Community Filmmakers Project** was set up to develop and work with a new generation of filmmakers from new and existing communities in Glasgow through a programme of structured training workshops, drop-ins and community cinema screenings. Through this project, we aim to provide a platform for these individuals and communities' distinct voices and visions to be developed, seen and heard on their own terms, and disseminated at a local, national as well as international level.

In our first year we have been working primarily in the Greater Easterhouse and Scotstounhill areas of Glasgow, with partners **Platform**, **Innerzone**, **F.A.R.E.** and **Kingsway Health and Wellbeing Centre**, to provide training, mentoring and film production equipment to community groups with the aim of creating sustainable film units in the areas which the groups will gain the skills to drive themselves.

In addition to working within specific communities, the project also focuses on creating an environment where individuals and groups within communities can come together to work with individuals and groups from other communities.

The Community Filmmakers Project is funded by **Scottish Screen**, the **Paul Hamlyn Foundation** and **4Talent**. More information about our funders and partners can be found at the end of the report.





## Kingsway Eye

**Kingsway Eye** is a filmmaking group set up in partnership with **Kingsway Court Health & Wellbeing Centre**.

**Kingsway Eye** is a diverse mix of people from around the globe including Iraq, Azerbaijan, South Africa, Zambia, Pakistan, Russia and Scotland, with different levels of filmmaking experience and no shortage of different interests and ideas to develop into film projects.

**Diversity Films** ran a series of taster workshops in the centre during July and August to gain interest in the notion of a filmmaking group in the community. Turnout was good and a regular group, who named themselves **Kingsway Eye**, started to meet on Thursday nights. Over three months, the weekly meetings focused on watching films and training in basic filmmaking skills, including camera, sound, editing, ideas development, production and editing. The weekly meetings moved to Saturday and have become bi-monthly as the structured training period came to an end and one-to-one and group mentoring took over as film projects went into development.

### Projects made through Kingsway Eye include:

- **Water Damage**, a ten minute documentary about the effects of untreated water damage on local residents' homes and health, directed and presented by Noreen Real, filmed and edited by Leo Saidenough.
- **The Carnival Series**, a series of short films documenting the annual **International Kingslink Carnival**, filmed by **Kingsway Eye**, edited by Leo Saidenough
- **GET REAL!**, an internet TV chat show presented by Kingsway's favourite community activist granny, Noreen Real. A mixture of community information and advice, celebrity interviews and a music showcase.

The group also regularly use their new found film skills to document the many community activities going on, including beach trips to Ayr, Céilidh dances and AGMs.

**Kingsway Eye participants: 33**







## New View

Working with partner organisation, **Innerzone Youth Club**, filmmaking training workshops kicked off in Wellhouse at the end of June 2007. The young people (aged 13-16) involved in the group spent their Monday evenings learning how to use **Sony PD150** and **PD170** cameras, record sound, shoot indoors and outdoors and generate ideas for films they can make themselves.

The filmmakers also put their new found skills to the test at the Auchinlea Festival and Wellhouse Gala Day in August.

Weekly training sessions with **New View** finished in September. Keen filmmakers from the group now have the opportunity to take part at the filmmaking projects **Diversity Films** run at Platform, including the Weekend Film Schools.

**New View** participants: 21

## F.A.R.E.

**(Family Action in Rogerfield and Easterhouse)**

Having identified a keen interest in filmmaking at **F.A.R.E.**, through well-attended taster workshops, **Diversity Films** ran a **F.A.R.E.** Film School in February 2008 which aimed to work with the existing and new workshop participants to develop a regular filmmaking group at **F.A.R.E.**

Six participants took part in the two days of training and filmmaking at the film school. The adult group started work on a short film about **F.A.R.E.** and the exciting new facility which they are developing. The young people's group (aged 10-11) produced three short films – **All About Me** by Melissa Tierney, **My Career** by Jade Quinn and **Yogiho** by Joseph McEnroe.

**F.A.R.E.** participants: 18





## Platform Weekend Film School – October 2007

**Diversity Films** held their first Weekend Film School at **Platform at the Bridge** in Easterhouse where the participants took part in two activity filled days of training and filmmaking.

Two short films were produced– a mini-portrait of a hidden gem in Easterhouse, **Provanhall House** by Debbie Hughes and Michael Mooney, and a journey to old haunts by local filmmaker Joe Cleland, returning to Easterhouse after a long absence.

**Weekend Film School participants: 14**

## Platform Weekend Film School – April 2008

Following on from the success of the first Weekend Film School, **Diversity Films** bounced into spring with another weekend at **Platform at the Bridge**.

This time a range of participants aged 11 to 42 took part and a short film about the Bridge library, **From the Ashes**, was produced and a wealth of ideas were developed with a view to taking them forward to a regular **Platform Film Group**.

**Weekend Film School participants: 19**

**platform**

## Platform Film Group

After a successful second Weekend Film School, the **Platform Film Group** started to meet weekly on Saturdays in April 2008. An exciting array of projects have been developed within the group tackling important subjects such as abortion and the rights of people with disabilities. The first film to be produced through the group this year is **Bully Eyes**, made by the younger members of the group.

**Platform Film Group participants: 16**





## First Day at Smithycroft

In partnership with **Platform**, **Diversity Films** worked with students from the Positive Behaviour group at **Smithycroft School** over winter 07/08.

The students produced a film called 'First Day at Smithycroft' about the school to help students with the transition from primary school to secondary school.

**Smithycroft participants: 21**



## Saturday Sportscene

In partnership with **Sidekix** and **North Lanarkshire Leisure**, **Diversity Films** worked with a group of young people from Saturday Sportscene to train them in filmmaking skills and produce a short film about their sports project.

Three members of the group also joined the **Weekend Film School** in April at **Platform at the Bridge** to take part in editing workshops.

**Saturday Sportscene participants: 8**

## Individual Participants

Outside the established community groups, individuals have also found their way to **Diversity Films**. Via the Princes Trust, a young Ethiopian refugee came on work placement and filmed a short music promo as well as attending **Kingsway Eye** workshops.

Via the Scottish Refugee Council, an exiled professional Iranian filmmaker joined **Diversity Films**, where he has learned AVID, subtitled three of his existing films so that they could be shared with a wider audience and developed a number of projects, both documentary and drama.







## Diversity Films @ Platform

From January 2008, **Diversity Films** held monthly film screenings at **Platform at the Bridge**. These included a stimulating mix of local and international films – award-winning drama and documentary work which would otherwise not be shown in the community beside that of local filmmakers, community groups and **Diversity Films** filmmakers.

Works-in-progress are also welcomed at the screenings as is feedback and discussion about the work screened.

**Diversity Films** collaborates with **Document 5 International Human Rights Film Festival** to bring international documentaries to Platform.

Films screened in 2007-8 include:

**Water Damage**, dir. Kingsway Eye  
**Bedroom Radio**, dir. Doug Aubrey  
**ExNE-The Movie**, dir. Diversity Films  
**Milk**, dir. Peter Mackie Burns  
**Wasp**, dir. Andrea Arnold  
**The Boy Inside**, dir. Marianne Kaplan  
**Document – The Movie**, dir. Diversity Films  
**People Who Drink Alone**, dir. John Traynor  
**Park**, dir. Justine Gordon-Smith  
**Black and White**, dir. Zam Salim  
**Mono**, dir. Richard Smith  
**GET REAL!**, dir. Kingsway Eye  
**Good Cop**, dir. Doug Aubrey  
**Love Me or Leave Me Alone**, dir. Duane Hopkins  
**Kamp Katrina**, dir. Ashley Sabin

**Screenings participants: c. 308**

**platform**

# Document



## Document – The Movie

In October 2007, **Document 5 International Human Rights Film Festival** commissioned **Diversity Films** to produce their festival documentary.

With support from **Awards from All**, 14 new filmmakers took part in training workshops prior to the festival and took up residence at the main festival hub, the **Centre of Contemporary Arts** in Glasgow.

Five days of filming events, discussion panels, vox-pops, exhibitions and interviews with local and international filmmakers produced over 20 reels of footage which were edited by trainee editor, Tulip Chicoine, into a half-hour documentary capturing the essence and vibrancy of this unique festival.

Filmmakers who took part in the documentary include:

**Justine Gordon Smith** (Park)  
**Beate Arnestad** (My Daughter, The Terrorist)  
**Pietro Silvestri** (The Nashipur Waters)  
**John Akomfrah** (Handsworth Songs)  
**Lindsay Hill** (The Glasgow Girls)  
**Paul Watson** (Malcolm and Barbara)



**Document – The Movie** participants: 16

[www.diversityfilms.org.uk](http://www.diversityfilms.org.uk)

**Diversity Films** also took the opportunity to launch their brand new video-streaming website which was developed by **Orange Hippo**. **Water Damage**, a short documentary made by Leo Saidenough and Noreen Real of **Kingsway Eye**, premiered at the launch as the first film to stream on the platform. **4Talent** kindly sponsored the event which was hosted by **Diversity Films** 'Chief Volunteer', Shahbaz Chaudhry. Documentary filmmaker, Paul Watson, joined us for drinks and spent the evening sharing top tips with the **Diversity Films** filmmakers.

**Website launch** participants: c. 75



## Media in Exile Discussion Forum

In collaboration with the **National Union of Journalists**, **Diversity Films** hosted a discussion forum with a focus on sharing experiences. Documentary filmmakers, camera people, journalists, photographers and media workers took part in this lively chat about how media practices, products and outlets differ across our globe.

**Forum** participants: 22





## ExNE – The Movie

**East by North East (ExNE)** is a year-long music initiative run by **Platform** with professional musicians Carol Laula, Marco Rea and Mick Slaven.

**Diversity Films** filmmakers documented the process which involved

- 60 budding new musicians
- 50 singing and music workshops
- One original album
- Three live performances
- A Youth Music Festival

Twelve **Diversity Films** filmmakers shot over 38 hours of material which was edited into a half-hour documentary by 2 editing trainees – Sharon McCance from Easterhouse and Leo Saidenough from Kingsway, who were supervised and trained on-the-job by professional editor, Cassandra McGrogan.

The documentary premiered at The Bridge in January 2008, to a near full-house of around 120 people and an electric atmosphere.

**ExNE – The Movie** will be part of an ExNE CD/DVD package and will also be exhibited on **Diversity Films** website.

**ExNE – The Movie** participants: 11

**platform**

## Diversity Films Newsletter

**Diversity Films** distributes a monthly e-newsletter with information about events, screenings and our project activities.

**Newsletter** recipients: 144

## Diversity Films Website

Our website ([www.diversityfilms.org.uk](http://www.diversityfilms.org.uk)) is a key part of the organisation's strategy to screen and distribute our filmmakers' work. With a **Forum** section, the possibilities for local, national and international cross-community communication and exchange are endless. The website has been used to stream filmmakers' work on a showcase **Films** page and also in the **Forum**.

Increasing awareness and functionality of the website, enabling high-quality video streaming and networking opportunities will be a key part of future developments.



# Working with Diversity Films

## Volunteers

The work of **Diversity Films** and the **Community Filmmakers Project** has been supported by a number of volunteers since its inception.

Through a formal volunteering programme advertised on our website and the **Volunteer Centre**, Glasgow, **Diversity Films** received over 30 requests to volunteer with the organisations. While unable to accommodate all requests, we have benefitted from the work of, and created opportunities for seven volunteers. On average, volunteers stay three months with the organisation before being encouraged to move on to new opportunities. In some cases, participants in the filmmaking groups also actively volunteer to help in other areas of the organisation, adding to the 'collective' nature of **Diversity Films**.

**Volunteers Programme participants: 10**

## Work Experience & Industry Visits

**We** provided three work placements during the first year, with an Ethiopian college student placed by the **Princes Trust** and two school students placed through **Hillhead Secondary School**.

Easterhouse filmmaker and **Diversity Films** volunteer, Sharon McCance, has also moved on to gain work experience as a production assistant with independent production companies, **Autonomi** and **Alcoba Films**, and paid work in production with the **Comedy Unit**. Autonomi also provided the opportunity for Leo Saidenough of the **Kingsway Eye** group to sit in on a professional audio dub of one of their broadcast programmes at **Arc Facilities** in Glasgow.

A visit to the BBC Studios at Pacific Quay in Glasgow was organised for Diversity Films filmmakers and volunteers in April 2008. Similar opportunities in London are also being developed with **4Talent** for Summer 2008 and beyond.

**Work Experience participants: 5**

# Diversity Films Training Materials

**Diversity Films** have developed a series of introductory filmmaking training materials which are used in their training workshops.

These include:

A **Basic Camera Manual** (developed for **Diversity Films** by filmmaker, Joe Cleland)

A **Ten Steps Production Manual**

An **Essentials for Filming Checklist**

A **Microphone Inputs Guide**

**Filming Diary Sheet**

**Camera Log Sheets**

These materials are also available for free download on the **Diversity Films** website. They are also currently being translated into community languages to broaden the possibilities for engaging with a diverse range of potential filmmakers, and so that anyone, anywhere in the world can have the benefit of free materials to make their own films.

## Resources

**Diversity Films** currently own the following equipment resources purchased for the **Community Filmmakers Project**:

### Camera:

- 1 x Sony PD150 camera kit
- 1 x Sony PD170 camera kit
- 2 x Sony A1E HDV camera kits

### Sound:

- 3 x Sennheiser Rifle Microphone Kits
- 1 x Sennheiser Wireless Rifle Microphone kit
- 4 x Sony Radio Microphone Kits

### Grip:

- 2 x lightweight Libec tripods
- 1 x heavyweight Manfrotto tripod
- 2 x monopods

### Editing:

- 2 x Dell Precision Laptops with Avid Software

The organisation also has various standard modern office resources for production and project delivery.

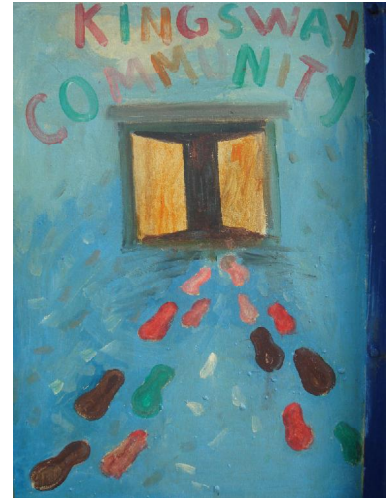
## Activity Feedback

"This is my fourth week of this workshop. I learn a lot of things about camera and movie making. I enjoy it and I want to learn some more and I want to make something which can prove that I can learn something"

**Safia, KINGSWAY EYE, August 2007**

"Over the last few months we have been taught how to use the camera and equipment. We have found the training excellent and easy to follow, good fun, and has given us ideas. It has let us capture a day trip to Ayr. Also 2 of our groups made a film. We are all very happy we took this workshop."

**Jean, KINGSWAY EYE, December 2007**



"I came to the course not knowing anything about how to film and work the cameras and now I can. It is something I would like to continue to learn more about and hopefully start making some films of my own in the future! Everyone was extremely helpful and approachable too, which was great, as I was a bit nervous about coming having not known what to expect."

**Debbie, PLATFORM, October 2007**

"Just a small note to say thank you for a great weekend at the Film School held at the Bridge. I got a lot out of coming to film school at the Bridge I learned a lot and you are all such a nice gang to work with and it was nice of you to lay on the lunch and tea for both days. I enjoyed the filming school at the Bridge I learned a lot about my own video camera as well and I learned a lot about interviewing people. Thank you once again for a great weekend."

**Peter, PLATFORM, October 2007**

"My Gran decided to let me join because down at my bit there's hardly anything for me to do and my Gran thought it would be a good idea for me to have something to get stuck into. It was scary, and I was nervous because I didn't know what I was going to be doing.

I've done acting, learnt how to use the camera, learnt to listen – that was the most important thing."

**Declan, KINGSWAY EYE, June 2008**



"For the past 3 months I helped out with a documentary called ExNE. In this project I volunteered to film the young kids rehearse for their gig and also practice their new song they wrote by themselves. I helped with the rushes and sub clipped all the tapes for Cass to start the editing process.

When joining Diversity to help out with the doc I thought doing the voluntary work would be great on my CV but since then I have gained a lot of hands on experience that I would never have got at college also it has set me on the right track to achieving my goal in life. To be a music video Director/Editor. This sort of work I will take with me the rest of my working days it has been very valuable to me.

My expectations have definitely been met as I didn't expect to be involved as much as I am. Diversity has been a very good learning curve for me and very well explained, never any bother to understand how to get things done.

My highlights of being involved have got to be the valuable experience I now have and can take with me too, and also access to professional equipment. The viewing of the documentary was very rewarding as being able to see the kids' faces when they saw themselves on the screen. Also the people that I have met have been amazing I have had some of the best mentoring ever.

I have a long term goal and that is to be a music video editor/director. I think this is the best experience to learn how to work in a production group/ office and how to bring the sequences together using AVID, I will be opting to use this equipment for my dream job I will need to have an understanding of it"

THANKS AGAIN EVERYONE – LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL SOON!!

**Sharon, PLATFORM FILMMAKER & DIVERSITY FILMS VOLUNTEER, January 2008**



## What's Next?

**Diversity Films** are looking forward to the next phase of our work. As well as celebrating the success of the pilot year of the Community Filmmakers Project, we are also evaluating and reflecting on lessons learned to take the best of the first year on to the coming year and beyond, with a new cross – community programme of training, mentoring and production planned to kick off in late autumn 2008, including documentary, drama, music video and community TV workshops.

Currently in development through the **Platform Film Group** are some five projects which will be completed in the next phase of workshops. Meanwhile, **Kingsway Eye** took part in a facilitated development away day in July 2008, supported by Kingsway Health and Wellbeing Centre to explore what everyone had learned and gained from the group so far and to develop the vision and plan for where **Kingsway Eye** wants to go.

With on-going access to equipment over the summer, individual filmmakers also continue to develop projects including a documentary about Iranians in exile, a drama about an interpreter and a short film about a refugee's future.

As an organisation, **Diversity Films** have also been commissioned to work with a group of young people in Easterhouse to produce a short film for Provanhall Housing Association and a short film about under-12's arts activities in Glasgow for the Children in Scotland 'Picture This' conference.



## Who's Who at Diversity Films

### Board of Directors:

Doug Aubrey, Documentary Director

Abigail Howkins, Film Producer

Marie Olesen, Film Producer

### Secretary:

Ian Reid, Finance Manager/ Accountant

### Trainers/Mentors:

Doug Aubrey

Abigail Howkins

Jaimini Jethwa

Cassandra McGrogan

Marie Olesen

Blair Young

As all of our trainers and mentors are experienced and multi-skilled independent filmmakers, most work across a variety of fields at **Diversity Films**, and the training and mentoring include camera, sound, direction, production, storytelling and editing.

## Summary Financial Review

Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008

Income	£	%
Community Filmmakers Project Income	95,300	94
Other Project Income	5,275	5
Bank Interest:	914.78	1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>101,489.78</b>	

Expenditure	£	%
<i>Community Filmmakers Project</i>		
Salaries	26,877.12	26.48
Sessional Tutors & Mentors	18,216.70	17.95
Volunteer Expenses	894.55	0.88
Travel Expenses	1,694.35	10.75
Capital Purchases (Equipment)	16,788.68	16.5
Equipment Maintenance	351.88	0.3
Events	994.97	1
Materials & Consumables	879.59	0.9
Facilities Hire	200	0.2
Advertising & Publicity inc Website	3509.01	3.4
Office Overheads / Admin	6795.84	6.7
Document 5	2113.56	2.08
Bank Charges & Interest	87.61	0.1
Contingency	2100	2.07

**Total Final Expenditure    81,503.95    80.31**

**Carried Forward    19,985.83    19.69**

Carried forward costs are allocated to completion of the Community Filmmakers Project and independently commissioned Platform projects.

These accounts are summarised and based on the information contained in the full audited accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 which can be obtained by contacting Diversity Films.

## Our Partners

Diversity Films works with the following partner organisations:



**Platform** is the multi-award winning arts centre at the hub of The Bridge in Easterhouse, managed by Greater Easterhouse Arts Company.

[www.platform-online.co.uk](http://www.platform-online.co.uk)



**Kingsway Court Health & Wellbeing Centre** is a centre for the local community with a range of activities and services including advice and information on health, benefits, money and debt and refugee and asylum seeker issues.



**F.A.R.E. (Family Action in Rogerfield and Easterhouse)** is a community centre for local people, providing all kinds of activities, community information services and advice.

[www.greatereasterhouse.co.uk/fare/index](http://www.greatereasterhouse.co.uk/fare/index)



**Innerzone** is the local youth club at the heart of the community in Wellhouse.

[www.innerzone.ik.com](http://www.innerzone.ik.com)



**Document International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival** is Scotland's only human rights festival which takes place annually in October in Glasgow.

[www.docfilmfest.org.uk](http://www.docfilmfest.org.uk)



## Our Funders



**Scottish Screen** is the national development agency for the screen industries in Scotland. **Diversity Films** are supported through the New Talent Development Initiative

[www.scottishscreen.com](http://www.scottishscreen.com)



**Paul Hamlyn Foundation** is an independent grant making body which funds organisations whose charitable activities help people to realise their potential and have a better quality of life.

[www.phf.org.uk](http://www.phf.org.uk)



**4Talent** is the branch of Channel 4 which identifies and nurtures the very best new and emerging talent, on and off-screen.

[www.channel4.com/4talent/national](http://www.channel4.com/4talent/national)