

# ANNUAL REVIEW MAY 2008 – MAY 2009



# DIVERSITY FILMS



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## About Diversity Films

Diversity Films is a 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 aimed 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.

Through the project, we worked 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 focused 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 was 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.



# Community Filmmakers Project Productions 2008

Community Filmmakers Project pilot came to an end in June 2008 with 16 films under its belt including:

## **International Kingslink Carnival** 15'31

*Leo Saidenough/Kingsway Eye*

A short documentary about the annual carnival taking place in Kingsway Court in Glasgow's west end. In dear memory of our very own Eddie "Broomfield" Donnachie who passed away in spring 2008.



## **ExNE- The Movie** 32'16

*Various*

A musical extravaganza following a group of 60 budding young musicians taking part in the East by North East music initiative in Easterhouse. 50 songwriting and music workshops, 1 original album 3 performances and a youth music festival later...a new generation of musical talent awaits...



The documentary was filmed over eight months by a team of new and young filmmakers trained and mentored by Diversity.

## **Water Damage** 10'15

*Noreen Real/Leo Saidenough/Kingsway Eye*

A short documentary about the effects untreated water damage is having on local residents' homes and health.



## **First Day at Smithycroft** 14'46

*Smithycroft Secondary School*

In partnership with Platform, Diversity Films worked with students from Smithycroft Secondary School over winter 07/08 to make a film about the school to help students with the transition from primary school to secondary school.



## **Document 5** 16'47

*Various*

A short documentary about the Document International Human Rights Film Festival, featuring acclaimed filmmakers such as Paul Watson and John Akomfrah. Made by 15 new filmmakers.



**Get Real! 31'30**

*Noreen Real/Leo Saidenough/Kingsway Eye*

A community chat show pilot hosted by community activist granny Noreen Real from her 17th floor Glasgow flat.

Featuring chats and cups of tea with actor/ director Peter Mullan

(*My Name is Joe, Magdalene Sisters, Orphans*) and Nikita Angus (*X-Factor*), community information from the Kingsway Health and Wellbeing Centre and Drumchapel Law and Money Advice Centre. With musical interlude from the Michael Rojkov Jazz Quartet.



**From the Ashes 3'07**

*Thomas Simpson/Johnny Millar/Jason Burke*

A mini doc telling the story of The Bridge in Easterhouse - a cultural hub, hosting among other things an immaculate and aesthetically pleasing library. Made as part of Weekend Film School #2.



**Provanhall House 1'35**

*Debbie Hughes and Michael Mooney*

From Glasgow's oldest house, built in the mid 15th century, local Easterhouse resident Michael wonders if it'll be big shopping centres like the neighboring Fort which spells the future for his area. Made as part of Weekend Film School #1.



**Joe's Film 2'01**

*Joe Cleland*

In this mini-doc, Joe looks back to his childhood, growing up in Easterhouse. Made as part of Weekend Film School #1.



**My Career 1'24**

*Jade Quinn*

11-year-old Jade is a determined young lady who is into her cakes and cooking. Will she want to become a chef by any chance? Made as part of F.A.R.E. Film School #1.



**All About Me 2'31**

*Melissa Tierney*

There seems to be no end to Melissa's talents, packed as they are into this busy mini-doc. Made as part of F.A.R.E. Film School #1.



**Yogiho 4'17**

*Joseph McEnroe*

Mini-doc which sees Joseph explain the very complex rules of the Yogiho cards. Made as part of F.A.R.E. Film School #1.



**Saturday Sports Scene 8'30**

*Jaimini Jethwa / Sidekix Youth Group*

A short film about a youth sports project in North Lanarkshire filmed and partly edited by the participants.



**Pilgrimage 5'58**

*Bijan Sheidaei*

A short expressionistic documentary about a call to prayer at the annual Hajj.

Filmed and produced in Iran, re-edited and subtitled with Diversity Films.



**Bully Eyes** 4'06

*Platform Youth Film Group*

A short drama about how to stand up to bullying.

Made by four 11-year-old Easterhouse residents in the Platform Film Group.



**The Lost**, 10'

*Bijan Sheidaei*

Every year during the month of Hajj in the Arabic calendar, around 3,000,000 Muslims from all over the world to Mecca. Among such crowds, as in life, some people lose their way.





# Diversity Film Festival

To celebrate **Refugee Week 2008**, **Diversity Films** presented a mini film festival of international documentary films including work made in Glasgow by groups working with **Diversity Films**.

**TUESDAY 17th JUNE 2008**

**Platform at the Bridge**

7pm - 10pm

Programme included:

**First Day at Smithycroft**, dir. Smithycroft S3

(Diversity Films)

**Borderline**, dir. Sharon McCance (Diversity Films)

**The Lost**, dir. Bijan Sheidaei (Diversity Films)

**We are the Saharawis**, dir. Marta Fernandez

**Mimoune**, dir. Gonzalo Ballaster

**I for India**, dir. Sandhya Suri

**THURSDAY 19th JUNE 2008**

**STUC Centre**

7pm - 10pm

Programme included:

**Ten Minutes with The Truth**, dir. Bijan Sheidaei

**Pretty Dyana**, dir. Boris Mitic

**Iraq in Fragments**, dir. James Longley

**SUNDAY 22nd JUNE 2008**

**Knightswood Community Centre**

2pm - 9pm

Programme included:

**GET REAL!**, dir. Kingsway Eye

**Water Damage**, dir. Kingsway Eye

**International Kingslink Carnival**, dir. Leo

Saidenough

**Grafitti Street**, dir. Sergeja Krese

**ExNE – The Movie**, dir. Various (Diversity Films)

Live jazz music was provided by Russian jazz duo, **Electric Chicken Feathers** at each event.



## Diversity Films Volume One

To mark the completion of the first year of **Diversity Films'** project output, we have produced a double DVD of all films produced by our filmmakers in the year.

## Community Filmmakers Project Completion Ceremony

After a development day to evaluate and assess the project, 38 core participants were presented with certificates of attendance and project participation.



## Individual Projects

With continued support from 4Talent, Awards For All, Provanhall Housing Association, Glasgow Culture and Sport and Kingsway Health & Wellbeing Centre, a further 7 films were made in 2008 after the official completion of year one of Community Filmmakers Project.

### ***My Life, 10'***

*Peter McMahon*

Through attending Diversity Films Weekend Film School and Platform Film Group, new filmmaker Peter McMahon's first short film looks at anti-social behaviour and bullying towards people with learning disabilities.



### ***The Legacy, 30'***

*Sharon McCance*

**British Urban Collective** is a free nationwide youth music project that empowers Collectives of young people to write, record and promote their own albums for independent release under expert guidance. Sharon McCance follows the Glasgow leg in her first documentary.



### ***Provanhall Housing Association, 12'***

*Provanhall Youth Group*

When Provanhall Housing Association needed to communicate their annual report to their members, they got in touch with their local youth group to help out. Now there are annual reports and there are annual reports.



### ***Who knows Paul Rose?, 10'***

*John Beever*

First time filmmaker John highlights the musical talents of his guitar hero.



### ***Imagine a Different World, 4'***

*Abigail Howkins / Platform Youth Group*

A snapshot into a child's world of art and creativity.

**Kingsway Eye** also kept active producing a **Kingsway Eye Filmmakers Group** promo, **Kingsway Come Dancing**, a short documentary about two young Russian ballroom dancers in their community as well as covering the Glasgow show for a future episode of **Get Real!**

# Kingsway Eye

## Visions for the Future

Thanks to a development day, facilitated by Duncan Wallace [www.ideasandideals.co.uk](http://www.ideasandideals.co.uk) and funded by **Kingsway Health and Wellbeing Centre**, the group benefited from reviewing what they have achieved in the last year, identifying their visions for the future and working towards a development plan for **Kingsway Eye** for 2008/9.

## The Garden of Kingsway Eye



The flowers are unhappy, surrounded by weeds - apathy, fear, poverty



Kingsway Eye started to show where the weeds were and where the flowers were. Gradually the people were able to sort these out and start their own process of weeding.



Now there is space for the flowers to grow. With constant weeding, by many of the people, the flowers can flourish and everyone can value the garden.

## The Tools in the Garden

Step one in the development and maintenance of Kingsway Eye 2008/2009 is to spread the word and involve more of the community in Kingsway Eye's film projects and training workshops - in front of and behind the camera, sharing stories and visions to create more skills, films with impact and a better world for everyone involved.

Where better to start than the annual **International Kingslink Carnival, August 30th** where the team were out in force enjoying the day and sharing the spirit of **Kingsway Eye** with the community - both young and young at heart. 60 people signed up to find out more and get involved in the group.



## Kingsway Eye Open Day

The second stage of the new recruitment drive was a Christmas themed Open Day in December. Events included screenings of all of the Kingsway Eye films, a film-making taster workshop, a tombola and a Video Voice Box where community members could record their issues.

## Diversity Films @ Document

In October 2008, we celebrated the **Best of Diversity Films 2007/2008** - a varied programme of film work made by new filmmakers working with Diversity Films including:

**GET REAL!**, **Provanhall House**, **My Career**,  
**All About Me**, **From the Ashes**, **Bully Eyes**,  
**Pilgrimage**, **Water Damage** and **ExNE-The Movie**

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

## Diversity Films @ Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival

In collaboration with **Document 6 International Human Rights Film Festival** and **Kingsway Eye**, Diversity Films presented an evening of films and discussion on mental health, refugee issues and the impact of community engagement on wellbeing.

Films screened included: **Kingsway Eye Promo**, **GET REAL!**, **Water Damage** and **Kingsway Come Dancing**. Thanks to our guest speakers for the evening, Miana Badd (Kingsway Eye), Martin Coyle (Kingsway Health & Wellbeing Centre), Noreen Real (Kingsway Eye) and Mona Rai (Document).

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

One of our project participants, Leo Saidenough was commissioned through Diversity Films to compose the music for the SMHAFF trailer which appeared in front of all of the films at the festival nationwide.





## Brand New Launch

### Diversity Films @ Glasgow Youth Film Festival

**Tuesday 17th February 2009**  
**7.30pm**  
Platform at the Bridge  
1000 Westerhouse Road, Glasgow G34 9JW  
Free Entry

Come and enjoy some fabulous films made  
in Easterhouse by Platform Filmmakers  
including

- Glasgow's Urban Collective  
dir. Sharon McCance
- Provanhall Housing  
dirs. Provanhall Youth Group
- My Life  
dir. Peter McMahon
- Bully Eyes  
dirs. Platform Young Filmmakers Group
- First Day at Smithycroft  
dirs. Smithycroft S3

This will be an evening not to miss!

We will also launch our 2009 programme  
**brand new**  
so come along if you are interested in  
**making films**

Refreshments provided





# brand new

Launched in February 2009, Brand New is a new signature project of Diversity Films, supported by Scottish Screen, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Scottish Arts Council and 4Talent.

Building on what we learned from the Community Filmmakers Project, the project offers a free, open access community-based filmmaking training programme, where participants who would not otherwise have the opportunity can learn filmmaking skills from professional filmmakers.

The project aims to be inclusive and reaches out to people who may have no experience of making films at all, but also to people who've had some training but want more.

Brand New has three strands: drama, documentary and community TV, and it operates in three areas of Glasgow - Scotstonhill, Govanhill and Easterhouse - working to inspire people to tell their own stories on their own terms for a wider audience.

With monthly weekend film schools and weekly evening workshops as its main training delivery model, Brand New also provides free bookable access to HDV filmmaking and editing equipment for their enrolled participants at the appropriate stage of their project's development. Crucially, the programme is free, eliminating the most obvious barrier between prospective filmmakers and the training they need: finance.

The first Community TV weekend film schools kicked off in February at Kingsway Health and Wellbeing Centre closely followed by Brand New Drama at Platform in Easterhouse.



## Brand New 2009 Films

Workshops, film-development and film-making is well underway across Glasgow with the aim of making up to 20 projects by the end of the year, but first film to the finish post was **Get Real 2!** directed and produced by husband and wife team, Leo and Elena Saidenough from Kingsway Eye.

The episode was inspired by local community members Noreen Real and Jean Donnachie, who campaigned fervently against the dawn raids in Kingsway and were awarded Evening Times' Scotswomen of the Year 2008.

While Noreen normally presents Get Real!, Leo and Elena surprised Noreen and Jean with a special episode dedicated to them which tells the story of their award-winning campaign.

With support from the Scottish Community Foundation, a series of 5 Get Real episodes including Get Real 2! will be produced through Brand New and Kingsway Eye in 2009.



## Brand New 2009 Activity Feedback

"I felt as though this workshop broadened my line of thought, touching upon my creative side. Made me realise this is what I really want to do with my life, affect the public through films, and I'm glad I'm going to learn new things that will help me achieve this massive goal of mine."



"This workshop was really useful, we all learned brilliant stuff such as working with cameras, editing, lighting etc. I was always wondering how directors make films and all that but by now, most of the things are cleared to me. Love you Diversity Films"

"It's good. You have to make a film and it's really good. Today I've learned how to put on sound and use a monopod. If I wasn't here I wouldn't have that much fun and I'd be in the streets and it's pure boring"



"I wanted to learn more about how filming works and what it is like to film Community TV. The session met my expectations, I learn a fantastic amount and got excellent hands on experience. I also got the chance to put forward my ideas on what could feature on the next community film. The session has given me confidence and enthusiasm in learning more about filming. I felt the session was informal enough not to put me off, but still gave me loads of information and practice - the balance was just right!"

## 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.

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

## 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**

**Interview Techniques**

**Filming Diary Sheet**

**Camera Log Sheets**

Most of 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.

## Diversity Films Resources

In order to facilitate Brand New, Diversity Films increased equipment resources and now own the following for project use and hire to appropriate organisations and projects.

### **Camera:**

1 x Sony EX1 XDCAM camera kit

1 x Sony V1E HDV camera kit

1 x Sony A1E HDV camera kits

1 x Sony PD170 camera kit

1 x Sony PD150 camera kit

### **Sound:**

5 x Sennheiser Rifle Microphone Kits

1 x Sennheiser Wireless Rifle Microphone kit

5 x Sony Radio Microphone Kits

**Grip:**

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

**Editing:**

3 x Dell Precision Laptops with Avid Software  
2 x Apple MacBook Pro with Final Cut Studio Software  
1 x AVID & FCP finishing suite  
2 x Sony HDV Decks

**Lighting**

1 x Dedo Kit  
Lastolite

# 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

## Brand New Project Executives

Abigail Howkins  
Marie Olesen

## Brand New Project Manager

Sarah Young

## Brand New Project Assistant

Martin Dick

## Trainers/Mentors:

Doug Aubrey  
Abigail Howkins  
Vincent Hunter  
Jaimini Jethwa  
Basharat Khan  
Cassandra McGrogan  
Marie Olesen  
Richard Smith  
Ray Tallan  
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.



## 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)



**Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival** is a nationwide Scottish festival which aims to transform social attitudes towards mental health.

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



**The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama** specialises in music, drama and dance education in Scotland and is one of the leading cultural institutions in the United Kingdom.

[www.rsamd.ac.uk](http://www.rsamd.ac.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)



**Scottish Arts Council** is the lead body for the funding, development and advocacy of the arts in Scotland.  
[www.scottisharts.org.uk](http://www.scottisharts.org.uk)



**Scottish Community Foundation** works with individuals, companies and charitable trusts to match donors with causes.  
[www.scottishcf.org.uk](http://www.scottishcf.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)



**Awards for All** is a Lottery grants scheme funding small, local community-based projects in the UK.  
[www.awardsforall.org.uk](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk)