



The Floating Cinema On Tour Lock a Thon, UP Projects. Photo credit: Hydar Dewachi

Case Study: The Floating Cinema on Tour 2015

Following a successful three years in London, public art organisation UP Projects' purpose built wide beam barge, The Floating Cinema, made its first tour across South West England in the summer of 2015 exploring film, sound, heritage and community. Starting in London, it travelled along the Kennet and Avon canal, across Wiltshire to Bristol and back.

This epic journey explored the rich diversity of urban and rural living, celebrated a slower pace of life and encouraged a playful discovery of local landscapes and heritage through archive film and sound.

It presented a summer programme of events including open air and on-board film screenings, performances, talks and events created and tailored for the waterways.

Arts Symposium—17 November 2015



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Stonehenge, Avebury
and Associated Sites
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 1986

Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

New commissions

Along the route filmmakers duo, Somewhere, curated a programme of film screenings from national and local archives about the people and places the boat visited. With Alice Powell, they created a new archive film '[Repeat to Flourish](#)' charting the journey from Bristol back to London that offers a visual odyssey of the Kennet and Avon Canal's industrial past, subsequent decline and present day renaissance created from over eighty archives and individual footage of the route. Celebrating both people and places along the way, collated scenes paint the largely rural route as a unique slice of the UK – the film celebrates local creativity in all forms.

Sound artist in residence, Yann Seznec, travelled with The Floating Cinema meeting local residents of all ages and creating a floating digital sound library unique to each area, including forgotten sounds from the canal's industrial past, as well as exploring time-lapse and underwater sound recordings. The resulting sound installation '[Neither Here Nor There](#)' was showcased and experienced by audiences in blindfolds during the return journey.



The Floating Cinema On Tour Bradford on Avon, UP Projects. Photo: Paul Blakemore

Education and engagement programme

- **Moonrakers and Movies** – a workshop that enabled pupils at Devizes School to explore Wiltshire's myths, legends and superstitions and create their own animation film which was to be screened as part of the return journey programme.
- **A sound workshop** in which pupils from Holt School created light sensitive sound installations built in the woods near the school and pupils learnt about sound, how the ear works and how the circuit in a battery works.
- **'Lock-a-Thon'** - a horse drawn barge procession as The Floating Cinema descended Caen Hill Locks. A family day exploring the Kennet and Avon Canal from disrepair and restoration right up to the ecology and meaning in the present day. Visitors watched the horse, crew and volunteer ambassadors work the locks or joined the barge on-board to watch archive film and found footage and to meet and hear from local canal champions, ecologists, scientists, historian and archivist speakers.



Yann Seznec commission. Photo credit: Paul Blakemore

Achievements, outcomes and reflections

- New sound art commission
- New archive film
- An education and engagement programme with 857 participants in which pupils explored local landscapes and stories, creating their own animation film and light sensitive sounds installation
- 40 events over two months with 3,803 attending and 23 artists, speakers and workshop leaders participating
- A Tour Ambassador volunteer training scheme provided local community involvement and broadening of personal and career skills in the arts and outdoor event management
- Surveys reveal that there is increased engagement from local communities with the landscape and waterways
- Logistical challenges such as arranging crew accommodation and reserving moorings was time-consuming and underestimated
- Developed a new network of partners
- Created a legacy through the Tour Ambassadors, stakeholders, archive partners and commissions being viewed online
- **"It felt like quality art but remained friendly and accessible - one rarely sees both"** event visitor

www.floatingcinema.info

www.upprojects.com/projects/tour

UP
PROJECTS

Commissioners and funders:

UP Projects with Arts Council England, BFI through National Lottery, Canal and River Trust, Hounslow Council, Brentford Lock West, Awards for All and City Bridge Trust.

Project Partners and stakeholders:

A further 32 organisations supported the project along its journey including Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Kennet and Avon Canal Trust and Archive, Bradford on Avon Fringe Festival, Devizes Town Council, Crofton Pumping Station, Devizes and Holt schools.