Leeds: the birthplace of film?

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In the run up to the 2018 BAFTA awards ceremony on the 18th February, we visit National Lottery-supported Hyde Park Picture House in Leeds to learn more about film in Yorkshire and to find out what makes this independent cinema so special.

Hyde Park Picture House

Hyde Park Picture House is one of the oldest cinemas in the UK, opening before the start of the First World War in 1914. As Marketing Manager Ollie says in our film, the cinema is ‘a bit of a time capsule’ full of stories and memories.

[quote]Many believe the first film was actually shot in Leeds in 1888 by Louis Le Prince.[/quote]

HLF support will help explore, celebrate and conserve the cinema’s rich heritage. From refurbishing the unique gas-lights and Edwardian plasterwork, to maintaining the ability to project and share traditional analogue film.

Find out more on the Hyde Park Picture House website.

The Yorkshire Film Archive

The plans for the Picture House complement another local HLF project, The Yorkshire Film Archive, awarded National Lottery funding last year. Its collections are unique and contain an astonishing and moving visual record of life in Yorkshire and the North East of England over the past 120 years. You can view some of this footage on their website.

Happy birthday BAFTAs!

Anyone looking for a deeper dive into archive film can look at 70 years of BAFTA’s history online – a project we funded as part of the film charity’s birthday celebrations.

So sit back, relax and enjoy the awards this weekend – let’s celebrate British film and cinema!



Morris and the silent era: £55m for heritage across England