

## **About the Yorkshire Film Archive**

The Yorkshire Film Archive collects, preserves and makes available moving image material made in or about Yorkshire, dating from 1888 to the present day. The collections comprise approximately 16,000 items and are predominantly non-fiction. The material covers a range of subjects, including rural and urban life, industry and agriculture, family life, holidays and leisure, and wartime in the region, as well as a range of styles such as documentary, advertising, amateur footage, newsreels, animation, regional television news and educational material. The YFA offers public, educational and commercial services, and delivers active outreach and educational programmes across the region.

In autumn 2003, the YFA moved to purpose-built public access premises at the Fountains Learning Centre, York St John University, where it has temperature and humidity controlled vaults, film repair, viewing and editing facilities, and office and meeting space.

The YFA is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. It is governed by an active and engaged Board of Trustees from various sectors including media, heritage, commerce, the public sector and higher education ( see Trustee details ). It is also a member of the UK Film Archive Forum ( the Director of YFA is Deputy Chair of UK FAF ).

The YFA has a core staff team of eight full and two part-time posts ( see staffing structure ).

## **Access to the Collections**

Access is vital to the work of the YFA; it is a primary objective for the organisation in enabling the public to enjoy the moving image heritage of their own region. The YFA's access programme is multi-layered, organic and diverse, and has so far been characterised by good practice which in turn has enabled strong and successful partnerships for future collaborations. YFA is committed to providing access to its collections through a number of different mechanisms:

### **Commercial Access**

YFA provides a responsive service for broadcasters and production companies who wish to use the collections for programme making. In addition the YFA works in partnership with regional and national broadcasters to develop ideas for the commissioning of new programmes using archive footage - for example, YFA worked with ITV Yorkshire and True North Productions on the regionally broadcast programme, *The Way We Were*, which ran for 8 years.

## **Non –commercial Access**

The YFA is also committed to engaging audiences across a broad spectrum of activities and events that fall under the descriptor of ‘non-commercial’. This encompasses community screenings, exhibition within established venues such as cinemas, museums and galleries, outreach work, and educational programmes for both the formal and informal sectors. The range of access opportunities delivered by YFA staff represents a continuum of work across communities and the heritage and museums sectors. The YFA is committed to striking a balance between demand-led access and the proactive development of outreach and education projects instigated by YFA. A balance is also struck between large-scale audience engagement through, for example, big screen projections and permanent screenings in public spaces, and small-scale delivery ( in terms of audience numbers ), for example, film shows in rural communities, skills development workshops and one-to-one research collaboration.

The YFA delivers approximately fifty community film shows per year. These are organised in response to requests from the public and take place in both rural and urban locations. Requests come from community audiences, such as family history groups, film societies, WEAs and local charitable organisations, as well as the more traditional ‘film’ based bookings from organisations such as Leeds International Film Festival, Showcomotion Children’s Film Festival etc.

Many of the film shows take place in remote locations, reaching communities that wouldn’t otherwise have access to the YFA collections, or to cinemas and exhibition venues. The film shows are compiled by archive staff to give an overview of the collections, and relevant material is selected according to the specific interests and geographical location of the group. The shows are delivered in a presentation style, showing a series of edited ‘clips’, with the presenter setting the films within the historical context of the time, along with information about the production and the filmmakers, with opportunity for questions and discussion afterwards.

These shows are very successful – in part due to the skill and knowledge of the presenters, who have a thorough understanding of the films that are being shown, as well as experience in delivering public presentations.

### **YFA Online ([www.yfaonline.com](http://www.yfaonline.com))**

YFA Online is an interactive moving image website, with over 30 hours of film, catalogue notes and contextual information.

This enables YFA to reach new online audiences, but it was created as a project which also built on traditional audience development principles, undertaking screenings and focus groups from communities across the region to help make curatorial choices about the films that were selected for YFA Online.

### **YFA Online Learning ([www.yfaonline.com/yfalearning](http://www.yfaonline.com/yfalearning))**

YFA Online Learning is a cross-curricular moving image resource for education practitioners, full of clips designed for educational use. YFA Online Learning is an interactive site where teachers and learners can download and use the films creatively, uploading their own uses and activities onto the site for others to share.