



## THE BRITISH FEDERATION OF FILM SOCIETIES

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### Nic Roeg presents Forest Row Film Society with Web Award at "Film Society of the Year" Ceremony at BFI Southbank

The British Federation of Film Societies, BFFS, held its 2007 national Film Society of the Year Awards ceremony on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** at London's new BFI Southbank.

**Forest Row Film Society** was presented with an **Award** in the Best Website category by acclaimed director Nic Roeg (*Performance*, 1970, *Don't Look Now* 1973, *Puffball*, 2007).

Nic Roeg said "*I am very pleased to have been invited to present these Awards. Film societies play a crucial role in bringing new, and not so new, cinema gems from around the world to appreciative audiences across the UK. Their contribution should not be overlooked and this is a great opportunity to applaud their hard work*".

Brad Scott of Forest Row Film Society commented "This is a marvellous achievement for us; a few years ago the society was on the verge of closing and we are pleased that we have managed to turn our fortunes around. This year was the biggest ever season and we have exciting new plans ahead as we are looking to embrace digital technologies and get some wonderful new equipment. Thanks to all our patrons who have supported us over the years."

Forest Row Film Society is delighted that our site has been recognised by the representative body for over 200 societies in the UK. We have spent a great deal of effort ensuring the site is clear and useful to members, and is completely compliant with all web accessibility legislation and guidelines.

On the site users can subscribe to an email list giving reminders of film screenings, and can also find out about other independent and world cinema screenings in the county.

Each year BFFS rewards excellence in the vital work that film societies do in cultural and community cinema. The Film Society of Year Awards are vitally important in achieving recognition for the often unsung work of an army of dedicated film devotees, all of whom work for their film societies entirely voluntarily to bring high-quality cinema to their local communities throughout the country.

BFFS Chair, David Miller commented, "*This event is always an enormous pleasure and gives recognition to a vitally important contributor to the cinema heritage of this country. Having Nic Roeg present the Awards is the icing on the cake*".

**for further information contact :**

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Notes for editors: BFFS is funded by the UK Film Council and is the national support and development agency for the film society and community cinema sector with over 230 member societies across the UK - a membership of over 27,000 people. Film societies screen more than 4,000 films per year to a combined total audience of up to half a million. BFFS has supported specialised (art-house) cinema exhibition in the voluntary sector since its inception over 60 years ago and today continues to provide advice, technical support and education opportunities to communities across the UK. Each year BFFS hosts the Film Society of the Year Awards, recognising excellence in all aspects of film society endeavours.

BFFS extends a diversity of viewing choice critical within the UK cultural economy and offers increased opportunities for access and diversity – in more remote regions of the country where access to any sort of cinema is restricted, but also in metropolitan areas with no alternative to mainstream titles. Film societies have a strong history of bringing to audiences those films not on general commercial release and in this way have provided national exposure for many minority interest and foreign language films. Many recent specialised films made here and abroad owe much of their exhibition opportunities in Britain to film societies.