

TYNESIDE CINEMA

JOIN OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CURRENT CHAIR

Thank you for your interest in our advertised roles for a new Chair and several Trustee positions.

We are one of the oldest and largest independent cinemas in the UK.

I joined as Chair of Tyneside Cinema in 2021 as the cinema re-opened post Covid. It's been a rewarding time to be part of the evolution of the Cinema, while also being a challenging period as Tyneside Cinema reacted to the financial consequences of changes in audience numbers and patterns of behaviour, and a lack of new film releases. We have addressed those issues and now we have a stable financial platform that enables us to look at the future with confidence. I would like to thank all colleagues during that time, (Trustees, staff, and supporters) who have worked tirelessly to get to the positive position we find ourselves in now.

So, this is a fantastic time to join the organisation as either Chair or a Trustee, as you can help us achieve our ambition for this cultural jewel of the city. You will be joining the Cinema at an exciting time with the recent appointment of a new CEO, Nic Greenan, with a new business plan and new resources, and a clear vision for the organisation.

We look forward to receiving your application.

JIM BEIRNE

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

It's nearly 12 months since starting in my role as CEO, and I can honestly say there's never been a dull day. Tyneside Cinema is the most extraordinary venue I've ever come across.

Steeped in stories, it's a home to so many people. It has a rich, local heritage, from the architects who crafted our mosaic tiles and stained glass windows to the couples who first met each other at our film clubs.

Now I'm committed to engaging with those who have never been here before. Showing them it is a creative and accessible space for everyone, and truly embodying our mission to be a safe space and a way of sharing the arts since opening our doors in 1937.

As CEO I changed my title to Custodian for a very specific reason: my role is to ensure the Tyneside's future for generations to come.

This role and institution is a privilege to work for and I would be delighted if you decided to throw your hat in the ring to be part of shaping the future of the Tyneside.

NIC GREENAN

THE NORTH EAST'S LEADING INDEPENDENT CINEMA AND CENTRE FOR FILM



Tyneside Cinema is a community venue, with film and people at the heart of everything we do.

We believe in the power of film to educate, inspire, facilitate empathy by immersing us in the stories of lives we haven't led, and to provide meaningful, enriching experiences for people from all walks of life.

In the setting of our beautiful 1930s newsreel theatre, 150,000 people sit down to watch a film at the Tyneside Cinema each year, choosing from a programme of over 600 films from more than 40 countries.

Another 200,000 people visit the building each year to dine and socialise - and in the recent past more than 2,000 young people have enhanced their knowledge, skills and experience through one of our learning programmes.

When Tyneside Cinema was subject to severe financial pressure as a result of the pandemic, the support of our community and key stakeholders, including the British Film Institute, National Heritage Lottery Fund, Newcastle City Council and our audiences, allowed us to conclude a refinancing of the organisation. This is a testament to those around us - those that visit us are not just our guests, but our supporters, and the cornerstone of our future success.

New funding has secured Tyneside Cinema's immediate future, and we are now implementing a turnaround plan that aims to transform our financial position over the next two years.

We are now looking to appoint a new Chair to our board, as well as up to three additional Trustees who are passionate about our region, film and the power of the arts, and who are as committed as we are to a bright future for Tyneside Cinema.

Situated at the heart of the city, the Tyneside is the only independent cinema of scale in the region, with four screens and a varied programme of film and events.

The cinema also operates two bar, dining and café spaces, and has a growing events business.

As we move into 2025 we have ambitions to develop our outreach and engagement work, and have secured funding to help deliver this.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to enrich the lives of people in the North East through film, and to inspire, educate and entertain people with the work that we do.

We do this by:

1 - Presenting a diverse programme of film and moving image work from the UK and around the world that explores the past, present and future of the art form we love.

2 - Using our knowledge, passion and expertise to deepen audience engagement with film and film culture.

3 - Creating an inclusive social hub in the heart of the city where conversations about film - the fun, the frivolous, the nerdy, the curious and the serious – can come together to provoke creativity and debate.

4 - Celebrating the heritage of our unique venue and its place in the cultural life of our city.

5 - Engaging with communities regionally and nationally to enrich, extend and deepen our work.

Tyneside Cinema aspires to present the best of what cinema has to offer, with a programme unavailable anywhere else.

Most importantly, we offer the opportunity for people to engage more deeply with film through live events, Q&As, discussions, writing, educational activity, specialist introductions, or exploring film as a medium for social change.

Accessibility

We are committed to accessibility for all audiences through creating a safe and welcoming social hub within our building, accessible communications with a variety of communities and audiences, and through programmes such as subtitled and relaxed screenings, programmes representing diverse communities, and accessible pricing for priority audiences.

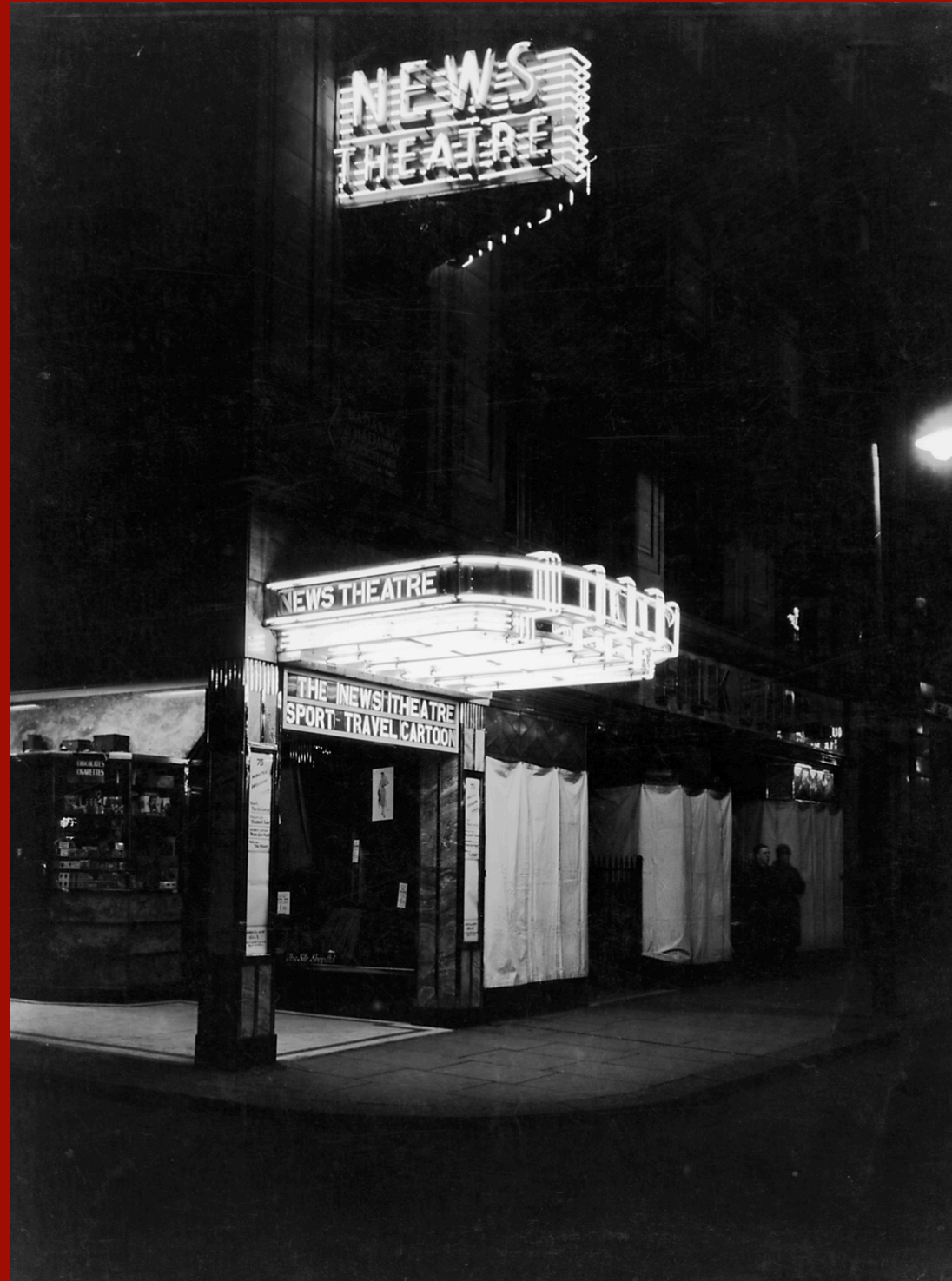
Creativity

We bring innovation, fun and imagination to our work. We encourage approaches that are bold, adventurous, ambitious and forward-thinking, and believe that embracing experimentation in finding out what works is key to being successful.

Education

We try to inform and deepen the knowledge of our audiences by talking about film, our history, and the North East and its communities. We are committed to offering learning and participation programmes to enrich knowledge and skills, and to enhance pathways into the industry for participants, particularly young people and those from working class backgrounds.

OUR HISTORY



We started life as a newsreel theatre, and are the only original newsreel still operating as a cinema in the UK.

Founded in 1937 by Dixon Scott (great uncle of directors Sir Ridley Scott and Tony Scott), our founder wanted Tyneside Cinema to be a 'window on the world.' Almost 100 years later, our cinema has seen so many changes, but we remain committed to that vision.

Moving away from our newsreel history to eventually become the Tyneside Cinema in the 1970s, we are proud to be the North East's leading specialised independent cinema and multi-arts venue.

Since then, we have played a vital, often pioneering role in the cultural life of the North East. We are particularly proud of founding (as it was then called) the UK's first gay & lesbian film festival, and of the fact that our Coffee Rooms was a vital meeting place and safe haven for many LGBTQIA+ people who had to hide their sexuality in the 1980s.

We maintain that focus on inclusivity, accessibility and cultural education through screening cinematic classics and new releases, hosting cultural events - from filmmaker Q&As to live cross-arts performances - and celebrating independent experimentation. We believe in being open, collaborative, engaging and outward looking, and hope to be a knowledgeable friend to our audiences.

The Dream Palace is a documentary exploring our heritage through guest videos, archive footage and special interviews. Watch it [here](#).

The film explores the Tyneside's rich history from its heyday as a newsreel theatre in the 1940s to its reinvention as an art house venue in the 1970s and 1980s - welcoming guests including Derek Jarman and Daniel Day-Lewis - and its role in launching the UK's first lesbian and gay film festival. Alex Ayre, a local filmmaker who directed The Dream Palace, is a graduate of Tyneside Cinema's learning programme.

There is also an excellent accompanying Q&A with Andrea Riseborough and Briony Hanson (the British Council's Director of Film), which you can watch [here](#).

FINANCIAL POSITION



Tyneside Cinema generates the majority of its income from Cinema, Events and Hospitality, and audiences are growing year on year following reopening after the pandemic. However, the charity has been making losses and we have restructured our operations to address the situation.

In June 2024, the Tyneside Cinema drew down a £700,000 loan from Northstar Ventures and has been awarded £233,475 in grant funding by the Heritage Lottery Fund to upgrade our listed building and facilities to offer a better experience to our customers, and reduce our energy use. Realignment of staff roles and responsibilities is yielding both cost savings and operational efficiencies.

These actions, along with an extension to capital repayment terms on other long term loans, will provide the funds to support the strategic and operational changes that are intended to see the charity return to generating annual surpluses.

The successful applicants will work with all the Trustees and newly appointed CEO to continue to investigate opportunities to enhance the long term sustainability of the charity, through improving the financial and operational performance of existing offerings and expanding our audiences.

THE ROLE



We are looking for a new Chair and additional Trustees to join us, and to bring experience and new ideas to support us in our mission.

As part of the role, trustees improve our performance and culture to help ensure that the cinema both engages the community and serves our objectives whilst complying with all legal and regulatory requirements.

A primary role of the Trustees is to ensure the charity has a clear vision, values and strategy, and that the Chief Executive and management team are focused and supported to achieve these objectives.

Trustees act as guardians of the charity's assets, taking all care over their security and proper application; ensuring that the cinema's governance is of the highest standard.

Trustees provide strategic guidance for the cinema, using their skills, backgrounds and contacts to assist the cinema in continuing to sustainably make a real difference.

Time Commitments:

Trustees are expected to attend regular Board Meetings and strategic planning sessions.

You may also be invited to serve on one of our committees as required.

Attendance at our events and launches is also encouraged.

Trustees are appointed for a three year term which may be extended for a further three years.

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In addition to the general responsibilities of a company director and charity trustee, the duties of the Chair include the following:

- Providing leadership and guidance to the organisation and the board by ensuring that everyone remains focused on the organisation's charitable purpose.
- Chairing and facilitating board meetings, ensuring that everyone has an equal chance to express their views.
- Giving direction to board strategy and policy making, and bringing impartiality and objectivity to board discussions.
- Ensuring that decisions taken at meetings are implemented.
- Representing the organisation at functions and meetings, acting as a spokesperson and advocate.

In addition, the Chair will work with Tyneside's Chief Executive to:

- Plan the annual cycle of board and committee meetings.
- Set the agenda for board meetings.
- Develop the board, including induction, training, appraisals and succession planning.
- Address conflict within the board and the organisation.
- Liaise with the CEO to keep an overview of the cinema's affairs, providing support as appropriate.
- Supporting and appraising the performance of the Chief Executive.

The Chair should also have the following skills and qualities:

- Leadership Skills
- Experience of board and committee work.
- An ability to provide direction and guidance with tact and diplomacy.
- Good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Impartiality, fairness and the ability to respect confidences.
- Experience of governance.

TRUSTEES

The principal duties of our Trustees are:

- Ensuring that the organisation pursues its charitable objects by developing and agreeing a long-term strategy.
- Ensuring that the charity complies with its articles of association, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- Ensuring that the organisation applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its charitable objects for the benefit of the public.
- Ensuring that the organisation defines its goals and evaluates performance against agreed targets.
- Determining the overall strategic direction and development of the charity by agreeing organisational policies, budgets and objectives, and ensuring targets are set and performance is measured.
- Safeguarding the good name and values of the organisation.
- Ensuring the effective and efficient administration of the organisation.
- Ensuring the financial stability of the organisation.
- Protecting and managing the property of the charity and ensuring the proper investment of the charity's funds.
- Working collaboratively with other Trustees.
- Providing constructive challenge, strategic guidance and specialist advice where applicable.

Using their specific skills, knowledge and experience to help the Board and the management team to reach sound conclusions by contributing to discussions, and providing guidance in areas where the Trustee has special expertise.

A Trustee should also have the following qualities:

- A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort to the organisation's affairs.
- Strategic vision.
- Good, independent judgement.
- An ability to think creatively.
- A willingness to speak their mind.
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of company directorship and charity trusteeship.
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team.
- A commitment to Nolan's seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
- An ability to work collaboratively and towards consensus in supporting the effective operation of the charity.
- An ability to inspire confidence and build positive relationships with principal stakeholders.
- A shared belief in the transformational power of film, arts and culture.
- A commitment to the North East.

WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We welcome applications from all backgrounds to ensure that our board reflects the diversity of our communities and encourages diversity of thought.

We are looking for a new Chair, and additional new Trustees. Skills and experience in the following areas would be of interest:

- Business turnaround and/or operational business experience
- Organisational change management
- Events and/or hospitality
- Consumer sales and marketing
- Film production and/or exhibition
- Arts, culture, music and other forms of entertainment
- Community engagement

We are also interested in applications from people with other forms of knowledge and experience. **The examples above are not strict and we welcome a range of applicants.**

We particularly welcome applications from people with experience that is currently under-represented on the Board: this means we are eager to receive approaches from global majority applicants, those from different socio-economic backgrounds, those living with disabilities, and those from the LGBTQIA+ community.

We welcome applicants with unconventional work experience, from both experienced non-executives and people who have not been directors or Trustees before.

NEXT STEPS

For an informal conversation about being a Trustee at Tyneside Cinema, please contact our CEO, Nic Greenan, via nic.greenan@tynesidecinema.co.uk

To apply please send a covering letter or video message and CV outlining your experience and why you wish to become Chair and/or a Trustee of Tyneside Cinema to [**joinus@tynesidecinema.co.uk**](mailto:joinus@tynesidecinema.co.uk)

The application **deadline is 6pm on Thursday, March 6th, 2025.**

We will be having initial conversations between March 17th and 28th, 2025.

Please let us know if there are any days or times when you will not be available during that period.