

Film Festival Season

Task 1: Discussion

- What kind of programmes do you watch on the TV?
- Do you ever watch films at home? Where do you watch them?
- Do you ever go to the cinema? What kind of films do you like?
- What was the last film you saw?
- Have you got a favourite film? Tell your partner about it.
- Does your country ever have film festivals? Where are they and what type of films do they show?

Task 2: Reading

In England, going to the cinema is one of the most popular leisure activities. Most towns have a cinema, usually one with several screens. These cinemas show all the big films from Hollywood in the USA, and a much smaller number from other countries. However, there are many festivals which show films that may normally not be shown at cinemas. The festivals last for several days and show many films. You are going to find out about two festivals in England.

Read the text quickly (or listen to your teacher) and answer the questions:

1. In which cities are the two festivals held?
2. What is the main difference between the two festivals?

Text:

The film festival season in the UK lasts from June until October. In June, Sheffield hosts the International Documentary Festival, and in October there is the London Film Festival. Both festivals show new films from around the world, with one essential difference. The London Film Festival shows fiction films, the Sheffield Festival shows factual films.

The Sheffield festival is now 22 years old, and it has grown from a small weekend festival into a week long festival that not only shows new documentary films, but also runs training workshops for new directors and has interviews with important film makers. Film makers can also present ideas to try to raise money for their film projects. Normally documentaries are only seen on TV, so, this festival, which shows the films in modern cinemas in Sheffield, is a great opportunity to see documentary films on the big screen. There are films from all over the world, from Japan to Australia, from West Africa to Russia. In all, over 150 films are showing this year. The director of the festival, Heather Croall, says she is proud of how many different cultures and lives are represented in the film schedule.

The London Film Festival is a rather different affair. It has been running for nearly 60 years, and it lasts for two weeks. The festival takes place in the largest cinemas in London and the attendance figures are high. It attracts many glamorous stars to the premieres of the bigger movies that are being shown in the festival. The festival is an international showcase of cinema, but it is also an opportunity for British directors to show their work. The opening film at the 2016 festival was 'A United Kingdom', a British drama about an interracial romance that changed the world, and the closing film is 'Free Fire' which is about gangs in Boston in the 1970s.

There really is something for everyone who loves the big screen with these two festivals.

Task 3: Read the text again and choose the best answer.

1. The Sheffield festival lasts...
 - a) two days
 - b) seven days
2. The Sheffield festival...
 - a) only shows films
 - b) offers films and other events
3. In England, it is common to find...
 - a) documentaries at the cinema
 - b) documentaries on the TV
4. The Sheffield festival takes place in...
 - a) one cinema only
 - b) several cinemas
5. The London Film Festival is...
 - a) bigger than the Sheffield festival
 - b) smaller than the Sheffield festival
6. The films at the London Festival are...
 - a) watched by a few people
 - b) watched by many people
7. At the London festival...
 - a) some famous people go to see the films
 - b) no-one who is famous goes to see the films
8. At this year's London festival the first film is...
 - a) from Hollywood
 - b) from Britain
9. At this year's London festival, the final film is...
 - a) a comedy
 - b) a gangster film
10. Which film would you prefer to watch?
 - a) A United Kingdom
 - b) Free Fire

Task 4: Vocabulary

Match the words from the text (A) with their definitions (B)

A	B
1. to host	a. a special event where people share and develop ideas
2. essential	b. feel satisfaction about something you have done
3. workshops	c. the large white area on which the film is shown in a cinema
4. the big screen	d. very important, necessary
5. proud	e. to organise and provide space and equipment for a special event
6. schedule	f. the number of people who go to an event
7. glamorous	g. present something in a positive way
8. attendance figures	h. Involving things or people from different races
9. to showcase	i. a timetable of events
10. interracial	j. very attractive in a special way

Task 5: Writing and Discussion

Talk with your partner. Think of a film you have seen recently.

- What was it called?
- Who was in it?
- Who directed it?

- What type of film was it?
- What was the basic story?
- Did you like it?
- What was good about it?
 - -The story?
 - -The atmosphere?
 - -The acting?
 - -The special effects?
- Would you recommend the film?

Use your answers to the questions to write a short review of the film.

Task 6: Plan your film festival

Look at the different reviews your teacher has given you. Work with your partner(s) and select some films (your teacher will tell you how many) for a new film festival in your local area.

- Where will you show the films?
 - At a cinema?
 - In a community centre?
 - Outdoors?
 - At school?
- Will your festival include other events?
 - Meet the stars?
 - Meet the directors?
 - Interviews?
 - Workshops on film making?
 - What will you call the festival?
 - How long will it be?
 - How much will the tickets cost?

Make a poster advertising your film festival

- Say where and when it is
- Say how much tickets are
- Give information about the films and events (make two sentence summaries from the reviews of the films you have chosen)

Look at the other posters. Which festival will you go to?