

Not gazing but watching: the enigma of the film audience

Edinburgh conference

For everyone involved in film, be it production, exhibition, education or any other service provided to cinema audiences, whether you think you have all the information required to do your job – is there anything you don't know? The latest academic research will be presented at the above conference, which runs from **3rd – 5th March 2005** and will be based at **Filmhouse, Lothian Road, Edinburgh**, by key academics. This work is done so that practitioners don't have to operate in the dark and by guess-work. No one can operate effectively without current research and unusually, there will be a number of papers that deal with research into the experiences of audiences as opposed to theorising about them.

There are papers on fans of horror movies (Dr Brigid Cherry, and Drs Ernest Mathijas and Mikel Kovan), arthouse cinema-goers and Being John Malkovich (Professor Martin Barker) and belonging to film societies (Dr Ailsa Hollinshead and Mr Peter Gray). There are also papers focusing on archival research into audiences as well as more contemporary issues of sub-cultural practices on-line. The conference's opening speaker will be Shane Danielsen (Artistic Director of the Edinburgh International Film Festival). The plenary session on the Friday afternoon so far comprises Professor John Izod (University of Stirling) and Professor Christine Geraghty (University of Glasgow). The final morning of the conference will feature an illustrated talk by John Gray on the history of audiences plus a contribution from Janet McBain of the Scottish National Film Archive.

For details of the provisional programme, abstracts of all the papers and an application form (which can be found under details of how to submit papers) please go to **www.edinburghfilmguild.com** and follow the links to the conference.

The conference is being held as part of the 75th anniversary celebrations of Edinburgh Film Guild and there will be an opportunity to explore the Guild's archive for interested participants. There is a ceilidh on the final night, which all participants are entitled to attend.

Delegates from non-academic backgrounds are positively welcomed so don't hesitate to fill in an application form today.

Ailsa Hollinshead