

BFI FAN: Accessible Cinema Bulletin | Winter 2025

Welcome to the Winter 2025 edition of the **BFI FAN: Accessible Cinema Bulletin!**

Charlie Little (Access Consultant, Matchbox Cinesub) is the [BFI Film Audience Network](#)'s Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Champion, supporting the UK-wide FAN membership on access and inclusion for Deaf and Disabled audiences. This regular bulletin focuses on sharing recent news, resources, and upcoming films and events related to disability and access within the film industry.

If you know of any recent resources or upcoming events worth including in future editions, or if you have a question, please email: info@filmhubscotland.com.

This edition includes:

- [Events](#)
- [News & Articles](#)
- [Resources](#)



*Charlie Little, BFI FAN's EDI
Champion*

Disability History Month is from **20 November - 20 December**. This year's theme is Disability, Life, and Death.

→ Learn more via [UKDHM's website](#)

Events



Friday Late: Radical Kinship reimagines relating to the world through disabled creativity

[Friday Late: Radical Kinship | Crip Cinema Archive](#)

28 November | V&A South Kensington, London

[Crip Cinema Archive](#), an online archive documenting disability on screen, will be screening three films examining how disability shapes our sense of time, agency, and presence. The films will be played on a loop at the V&A South Kensington.

“Friday Late is a free event reimagining how we relate to the world through disabled creativity. No tickets, just turn up on the night for some crip magic.”

→ [Tickets and access information](#)

[Together! Disability Film Festival](#)

6-7 December | Online

Together!’s annual Disability film festival will be taking place online over YouTube, with industry events taking place over Zoom.



Every day, six programmes will be made available online, exploring animation, dance, documentary, drama, artist films, and the International Day of Disabled People.

→ [Tickets and access information](#)



[Invisible Women | Stronger Than Love: ¡Too Much Mexican Melodrama!](#)
December | Edinburgh, Cardiff, London

[Invisible Women](#) have curated a touring season of restored Mexican melodrama classics from the 1930s-50s. Invisible Women commissioned **brand new Descriptive Subtitles (DS)** from [Matchbox Cine](#) for one of these titles, and there are several scheduled accessible screenings taking place across different venues. Find more information about the film below!

Más Fuerte que el Amor (Stronger Than Love, 1955)

“This intoxicating melodrama stars Miroslava Stern as Barbara, a wealthy industrialist’s daughter whose desire for Carlos (Jorge Mistral), a former worker turned business partner, defies social codes and patriarchal control. With torrential storms, moonlit beaches and sweeping

Cuban backdrops, *Stronger than Love* ignites with passion, situating female lust and agency at the heart of its fiery drama.”

Find the scheduled DS screenings below:

→ [Filmhouse, Edinburgh: 2 December](#)

→ [Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff: 7 December](#)

→ [Rio Cinema, London: 17 December](#)



SAFE (1995, dir. Tod Haynes)

Crip Melodrama: She's Hysterical

December | Birmingham, Bristol

In partnership with [Independent Cinema Office](#), three disabled curators (Emily Simmons, Charlie Little, and Florence Grieve) have curated a mini-tour of *Safe* (1995) screenings and events that examine the representation of disabled women across melodrama. There are two more events taking place in December:

- [Midlands Art Centre \(MAC\), Birmingham | 7 December](#) - This film screening will be followed by a relaxed zine-making workshop with Florence Grieve.

- [Watershed, Bristol | 14 December](#) - This film screening will be followed by a discussion with Lindsey Dryden, hosted by Florence Grieve.

BFI FAN Webinar: Curating Disability with SQIFF & We Crip Film

→ Wednesday 3rd December, 1-2pm

→ Charlie Little (Matchbox Cine)

→ Indigo Korres (Scottish Queer International Film Festival)

→ Melissa Allada & Tara Elizabeth Brown (We Crip Film)



Tara Elizabeth Brown Indigo Korres Melissa Allada



[BFI FAN Webinar | Curating Disability with SQIFF and We Crip Film](#) **3 December | Online**

Marking International Disabled People's Day on **3rd December**, the next BFI FAN Equality, Diversity & Inclusion webinar will explore how disability-focused programming can be meaningfully embedded within film exhibition.

Charlie Little will welcome **Indigo Korres** (Director, [Scottish Queer International Film Festival](#)) and **Melissa Allada & Tara Elizabeth Brown** (BFI's [We Crip Film Festival](#)) to present case studies and answer questions. The session will be **live captioned** and recorded

→ [Sign up for the webinar](#)

[Gallivant | Relaxed Screening](#)

14 December | The Garden Cinema, London

Kinoema will present [a relaxed screening](#) of Andrew Kotting's *Gallivant* (1996), in collaboration with The Garden Cinema, followed by a Q&A with the director. There will be a short film before the screening, *Diseased and Disorderly* (2021, dir. Andrew Kötting).



GALLIVANT (1996, dir. Andrew Kotting)

“*Gallivant*, the director’s first feature work, is an archive of livelihood; he brings together his grandmother and his daughter, who has Joubert syndrome and had been told she would not live long, to get to know each other whilst they interview locals during their journey.”

→ [Tickets and access information](#)

News and Articles



Stills from *Freaks* (1932), *A Different Man* (2024) and *Children of a Lesser God* (1986)

[Letterboxd | Starter Pack for Disability Visibility](#)

“With her book *Popcorn Disabilities* soon to hit shelves, author Kristen Lopez offers a starter pack of twenty films about disability—from the

good (The Best Years of Our Lives) to the not-so-good (Rain Man)—unpacking common tropes and contextualising their depictions.”

[Find more information about *Popcorn Disabilities*](#), which will be available to purchase from Bloomsbury.

→ Read the article - [Disability Visibility: a starter pack on twenty depictions of disability on film](#)



WICKED: FOR GOOD (2025, dir. Jon M. Chu)

[The Guardian | Wicked: For Good and Disability Representation](#)

In [this article and interview](#) with Marissa Bode, who was the first wheelchair-user to play the character of Nessarose, the Guardian explores authentic disability casting and representation.

“Bode is calling on casting directors to follow Wicked director Jon M Chu’s lead to use disabled actors for disabled roles, and also to cast disabled actors in other roles where the character’s physical ability is not specified.”

→ Read the article - [‘It’s important that we tell our own stories’: how the Wicked movies are helping disability representation on screen](#)



FRANKENSTEIN (2025, dir. Guillermo del Toro)

[The Guardian | Frankenstein and Disability Horror](#)

In this article by Kathryn Bromwich, a horror fan with a disability, she discusses the horror genre's historical issue with using disability to reference depravity or villainy. The article looks at Guillermo del Toro's recent adaptation of *Frankenstein* and its approach towards casting and representation.

→ Read the article - [Horror movies have an ableism problem. Isn't it time we found new 'monsters'?](#)

Resources

[BFI FAN Webinar | Relaxed Screenings](#) **Online Recording | UK**

In the latest edition of the BFI FAN: EDI In Focus webinar series, Charlie Little was joined by Georgia Kumari Bradburn (co-director, *The Stimming Pool*, and co-curator, *Stims*) to discuss relaxed screenings and how exhibitors can mindfully engage neurodiverse audiences.

→ [Watch the recording on YouTube \(optional captions available\)](#)

**BFI FAN Webinar:
Creating relaxed
screenings for
neurodiverse audiences**

Featuring

Charlie Little
(Matchbox Cine)

Georgia Kumari
Bradburn (Stims
Collective)

**BFI FAN
Webinar:
Relaxed
Screenings**

Clear,
transparent
event
details and
access
information

**STIMS COLLECTIVE PRESENTS
BRIEF
ENCOUNTER**

Relaxed screening with intro + discussion
Monday 27th October BFI Southbank

The screening will be introduced by Sam, followed by an informal discussion in the BFI Reuben Library.

Monday 27th October 2025
18-19
BFI Southbank

Tickets cost £4 and are on sale now! Head to the link in our bio.

The Visual Story guide is from slide 3 onwards.

The screening is wheelchair accessible with a designated space in the auditorium. The bar is located in the foyer.

Tips & best practice!

[BFI FAN | Reducing Socio-Economic Barriers for Cinema Audiences](#)

Written by Linnea Pettersson, BFI FAN Socio-Economic Champion, this Guide is updated on a regular basis and was created to support exhibitors with identifying and addressing socio-economic barriers for audiences. The Guide includes information on ticketing, funding opportunities, data, and blogs related to this issue.

→ [Read BFI FAN: Reducing Socio-Economic Barriers for Cinema Audiences](#)