

CINEMA FOR ALL STARTER PACK SCOTTISH EDITION 2014



CASE STUDY #3 PIX IN THE STIX

Winners of the 2013 Jim Dempster Award for Innovation, [Pix in the Stix](#) is made up of a very special group of volunteers. Through collaboration with nearby communities they managed to help set up and develop a new community cinema on the island of Lismore, jointly run a film festival and even make a documentary about it.



INCEPTION

Pix in the Stix is a community cinema in East Linton and Tynninghame, two small villages in East Lothian. After acquiring lottery funding they purchased fully mobile cinema equipment to enable them to bring film to their small community. The nearest cinema is 30 miles away in Edinburgh.

The Isle of Lismore is 3-4 hours away from East Lothian by car, plus a further 45 minute ferry crossing. There are about 790 islands in Scotland, of which 130 are inhabited, and only 62 exceed 3 square miles. Lismore has 160 inhabitants who live on 9 square miles of land just off the west coast from Oban. They have 11 children. A trip to their nearest cinema would involve a ferry crossing to Oban of 45 minutes. A small group on the island were very keen to start a community cinema as there had been no film on the island for over 40 years. Pix in the Stix's link with Lismore came via family connections on the island. The Lismore community, knowing how successful Pix in the Stix had been when they set up a community cinema, asked for help to get started. The developing organisation soon became known as the 'Lismore Lumiere.'

JOINT VENTURE

A plan was formulated to have a film festival on the isle of Lismore run over a 4-day long weekend. Pix in the Stix would bring Cinema For All equipment on loan, run workshops on setting up and using the equipment, the joint teams would show a whole host of films and a film would be made about the whole process. Regional Screen Scotland also offered support in the form of a grant to support the festival.

The volunteers who formed Lismore Lumiere were responsible for choosing the films for the festival, setting up the programme and planning the film events (hall, food, drink, tickets and so on). Pix in the Stix supported by sending 10 volunteers to the island to set up the equipment and run workshops. As the weekend progressed, the responsibility of setting up the equipment was handed over to Lismore Lumiere.

THE DOCUMENTARY

In order to make a documentary film to record the creation of the Lismore Lumiere, Pix in the Stix called upon the expertise of The Film Bridge Ltd, a Leeds based business run by John Edmonds and Stephen Hay, university lecturers who also have a passion for bringing film and education together.

Together, Pix in the Stix, the Lismore Lumiere and The Film Bridge planned the documentary, which included interviews with people from Pix in the Stix, the Lismore Lumiere and members of the Lismore community. John and Stephen edited the film on their return to the studio and the result was a 16 minute documentary entitled [Are There Pixies on Lismore?](#)

THE FESTIVAL

A total of ten films were shown during the festival (1st – 4th June 2012). The programme included blockbusters, children's films, classics and even a short documentary about the history of the [Lismore Sailing Smacks](#) – an eye opener for non-islanders and a great trip down memory lane for the older islanders.

The premiere of *Are There Pixies on Lismore?* was set up as a 'red carpet' event, with the proceeds going to 'Sunshine & Smiles' a group set up for children with Downs Syndrome and their families. People were invited from local schools and businesses, community groups and others in the community. The premiere was a chance to thank those involved and raise the profile of the new community cinema but also to demonstrate and inspire others with the documentary.

Lismore Lumiere has continued to thrive and has shown films every month since the festival.