

# HippFest Young Programmers: Recruitment Pack

## About HippFest:

HippFest (the Hippodrome Silent Film Festival) (est'd 2011) is Scotland's first and only festival of silent film with live music, centred in and inspired by Scotland's first and oldest cinema, featuring exceptional screenings, commissions, workshops, community events and touring.

We are a project of Falkirk Council and deliver on its priorities of:

- Supporting stronger and healthier communities
- Promoting opportunities and educational attainment and reducing inequalities
- Supporting a thriving economy and green transition

HippFest celebrates silent film – films made without synchronised sound, roughly from the first four decades of film production. This focus marries the heritage of the Hippodrome as Scotland's first, purpose-built cinema with that of the medium itself. Broadly we seek to produce an imaginative, balanced programme that is revelatory by virtue of being inventive, participatory, relevant, unfamiliar, newly restored, educational or presented with fresh musical interpretation. This approach is informed by our values to be inclusive, exceptional collaborative and sustainable.

## What Young Programmers Will Gain:

Young Programmers will collaborate with the Festival team to curate screenings with live music as part of our Autumn Taste of Silents season, and overseeing wraparound events such as Q&As, exhibitions, socials and workshops. There will be scope for them to contribute to the HippCast podcast, blogs and other HippFest at Home content and to have their opinions heard in the overall planning of the Festival. HippFest is excited to learn from young perspectives and voices. Each Young Programmer will also be offered a complimentary pass to HippFest 2026.

This opportunity is open to **16-25 year-olds**. It not only offers direct access to one of Scotland's best-loved film festivals, but also provides:

**New and Transferable Skills:** Develop skills in audience-targeted film programming, researching film rights, marketing, PR, audience development, and event management.

**Introduction to Adventurous Cinema Programming:** Engage in programming for film festival events with wraparound experiences and live music performances. Contribute to programming a multi-arts experience.

**Insights into Event Planning:** Learn about planning accessible and friendly events, brand/marketing, and audience development.

**Comprehensive Planning Experience:** Gain hands-on experience from initiation to production, building a valuable portfolio of planning skills.

**Mentoring and Training:** Receive mentoring and training sessions from the HippFest team and collaborators.

**Collaboration with Peers:** Collaborate with like-minded young people, and access a network of other Young Programmers and people working in independent cinema programming. Utilise free resources and training through the Independent Cinema Office and Film Hub Scotland.

## **Commitment:**

Each monthly meeting will be around 2 hours long, and will take place in a hybrid of Teams meetings and in-person meet-ups in Bo'ness. The ability to travel to Bo'ness is essential, but there will be travel reimbursements to cover the costs of your journeys on public transport or car/car sharing. In February, May, June and October, there will be an additional meeting, screening or event to attend. The monthly meetings will be scheduled at a time that suits the group. Our first gathering will take place at the Hippodrome, with free tickets offered to the Young Programmers to attend Buster Keaton's [Go West](#) (screening 18.10.25) as part of the 'Taste of Silents 2025' programme curated by the current Young Programmers cohort.

## **How to Apply:**

Please fill out an application form, which you can [download here](#), or send a short video answering the same questions to HippFest Development Officer Nell Cardozo at [nell.cardozo@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:nell.cardozo@falkirk.gov.uk) with the email subject 'Young Programmers Application'. Applications close on **01.10.25**.