

Uprising: Spirit of '68

Creative Brief

May - September 2018

1968 wasn't just a seismic year politically - it also produced its fair share of brilliant films, many of them reflecting the tumult of the times. This summer there's an opportunity to explore the social and cinematic legacy of this unique period, and to join the dots between then and now. The *Uprising: Spirit of 68* season runs from May to September 2018, and will be underpinned by:

- A selection of late 60s restorations previously unavailable in the UK
- New releases which resonate with the theme
- A wider menu of titles available for direct booking
- A pool of guest speakers who can illuminate different aspects of Uprising
- An online programme showcasing Uprising activity across the UK, supported by a range of marketing assets and a press push linked to BFI Southbank's May 68 season and the release of *Redoubtable*

An audience development fund designed to support *Uprising* activity and encourage risk-taking, is now open for applications. In allocating resources particular priority will be given to the following areas:

- Screenings and events with the clear potential to attract new audiences to Uprising titles, and to illuminate the season's themes (see FAQ below)
- Activity aimed at tapping into an appetite for socially engaged filmmaking and discussion among 16-30 year olds, with a particular focus on themes around feminism and social justice.
- Programming which adds value to an existing venue or festival's offer, or which offers audiences in underserved areas films which they wouldn't otherwise have the chance to see
- Projects that create partnerships for audience development that have the potential to continue after the life of the season.

Uprising: Spirit of 68 is produced by Film Hub Midlands on behalf of the BFI Film Audience Network. If you have an idea for a screening or season, please get in touch:

uprising@filmhubmidlands.org

FAQ

Does it have to be political or revolutionary filmmaking?

No, not at all. We're adopting a pretty loose definition of 'uprising' which will cover grassroots cultural activity as well as campaigns and guerilla movements. 1968 was similar in some ways to punk; a generation questioning the values of their parents and getting their own thing off the ground – whether that be a protest, a band, a venue or a theatre company. The climate also seeps through in less direct ways, whether via George Romero's disenfranchised zombies, the multicultural wigout of *Hair* or the lysergic fantasia of *Yellow Submarine*. There is plenty of scope to have fun with this theme.

What does 1968 have to do with now?

You might argue that the late 60s saw the birth of 'identity politics' as we now know them, with civil rights and Vietnam protests in turn helping to pave the way for Black Power, radical feminism and the gay liberation movement. These strands carry powerful resonances with today, while there are striking similarities and contrasts to be found in the debates over race and immigration (from Powell to Brexit) and social housing (from Ronan Point to Grenfell). All of the above has clear potential to attract and animate a younger audience, as evidenced by the audience for Daniel Ng's *Dispossessed*.

How do I make this relevant to my town?

While there tends to be a big focus on Paris, Chicago or Saigon in talk of 1968, this is a moment which translated internationally. Whether you look at Belfast's burgeoning civil rights movement, the Rivers of Blood controversy in Birmingham or the Glasgow tornado which sparked a rethink of urban planning policy, there are all sorts of 1968 stories to be told on a local level. It's worth exploring relevant material in your regional screen archive, and also looking at links with museum and education partners planning their own 68 programming.

How do I access support?

The support available for *Uprising* can be found at spiritof68.org.uk and include:

- Easy to access screening and promotional costs of up to £1,000
- A simple Expression of Interest form process for requests larger than £1,000
- Cross promotional marketing support including listing your events on the site