

# Bristol City of Film



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The gateway to England's West Country, Bristol is the 10th largest city in the United Kingdom and an established centre for cultural and creative innovation. Bristol is home to a diverse population with at least 45 religions, 185 countries of birth, 287 ethnic groups and 90 languages. It is also the birthplace of Hollywood icon Cary Grant and home to BBC Bristol Studios which has been producing internationally renowned radio, drama and television since 1934. Bristol is one of the UK's most filmed cities; its Film Office has assisted location filming since 2003, and The Bottle Yard Studios has been attracting major film and TV productions since 2010.

## What makes this UNESCO Designation special?

Cutting-edge output from the BBC Natural History Unit since 1957 has led to Bristol becoming home to the world's largest concentration of wildlife content producers. Award-winning studio Aardman Animations was founded in 1972 making Bristol a global centre for animation.

Bristol hosts 14 annual and biennial film festivals each providing a diverse and dynamic programme of events, drawing local, national and international audiences. Encounters is Bristol's globally renowned short film festival, connecting and springboarding new filmmaking talent, Watershed's Cinema Rediscovered season puts digital restorations, contemporary classics and film print rarities from across the globe on the big screen, Cary Comes Home Festival celebrates the life and Bristol roots of Archibald Leach, and the biennial Wildscreen Festival attracts visitors from the world over to celebrate cutting-edge natural history filmmaking.

Audiences have a choice of eight cinemas, including Watershed, the internationally renowned film culture and digital media centre that links many of Bristol's festivals, networks and initiatives together.

UNESCO Creative City of Film status has enabled the development of impactful programmes designed to support sustainable film and TV sector growth and wider audience engagement. In recent years Bristol UNESCO City of Film has enabled primary school education

programmes, flagship industry training and support schemes for people from underrepresented backgrounds, and hosted Bristol's Summer Film Takeover, nine free film-based events celebrating the quality and diversity of the Bristol's film culture designed to support the post-pandemic recovery and renewal of the city centre through cultural programming.



## Creative Cities

### Bristol City of Film

County:  
Bristol



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