



LGBT Film Events: Community Consultation

Wednesday 29th April, 2015



LGBT Health and Wellbeing have consistently provided film events as part of our quarterly programme of activities for LGBT people. For those who have attended both regular (LGBT Film Nights) and one-off, larger film events, they can be a really fun, safe and engaging way to meet new people and share interests. An issue for LGBT Health over the past two years however, has been the low numbers of people attending our monthly film nights.

To ensure we're meeting the needs of a growing and diverse community, we hosted a consultation evening to give LGBT people a say in what type of film events we run in future. The consultation involved 7 members of the community, who contributed feedback and ideas via the discussion and email correspondence prior to the event. During the event we imagined as individuals and as a group, what the ideal LGBT film events might look like. This report aims to capture these ideas and suggestions, which will feed into our review of future delivery.

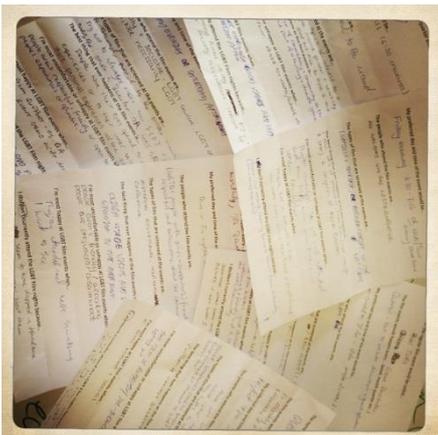
Imagining the ideal LGBT film events...

How frequent would you like film events to happen, and which day and time of day would suit you best?

The majority of the group agreed that monthly or quarterly was preferable, but also discussed the potential for quarterly events to be more structured, with a facilitated pre and post film discussion involved too. There was strong consensus in the group, that inviting guest speakers to help begin and stimulate discussion would make the events much more interesting and likely to attract bigger audiences. We discussed, that quarterly events would allow for more lead-up publicity time. Though different days were suggested, the whole group agreed that a weekend evening would be better (with Friday night's after 5pm being most popular).



Describe the type of people who would come along to the events:



"Friendly and sociable"



"LGBT aware and supportive"



"LGBTQI & super-cool!"



"Respectful and enthusiastic about the community"



"All welcome and LGBTQI supportive"



"Funny, friendly and good to be around"



"Those who love film"

The **best thing** that ever happens at LGBT film events is...

- 👍 *"People have their eyes opened to others' experiences or to their inner selves."*
- 👍 *"Free popcorn! The interaction and chat afterwards..."*
- 👍 *"You feel a genuine sense of comradery, so that you really feel included and part of a thriving and diverse group"*
- 👍 *"Lots of popcorn, have fun, chat, and laugh and play 6 degrees of Kevin Bacon"*
- 👍 *"The supportiveness through collective thought."*



I'm most **uncomfortable and unhappy** at LGBT film events when...

- "People aren't friendly or accepting of other people, prejudice or discriminate"*
- "I'm judged and the film is rubbish"*
- "They're cancelled or not well attended"*
- "Anyone's identity is shamed/ignored/minimised or mocked"*
- "People aren't respectful or friendly"*

I'm **most happy** at LGBT film events when...

- "There's a Q&A and there's LGBT activism"*
- "They're well attended and the film is something I want to see"*
- "The film gives everyone good vibes and leads to discussion after"*
- "The film evokes good discussion, the environment is really welcoming and friendly, and I come away feeling really positive"*
- "People fall in love with the film and you come away with with a new or old friend!"*
- "It feels relaxed and social"*

Safe Space

There was a firm consensus in the group that LGBT events need to be safe, inclusive and respectful spaces where people should be free from fear, prejudice or discrimination. Recognising that films often evoke a multitude of emotions and provoke very personal discussions, we all agreed



that however the events are structured, they should consistently provide a *safe space* for LGBT people to meet, socialise and enjoy themselves.

Summary

To conclude the event, we summarised the main themes that had emerged from all our discussions:

- LGBTQI people need safe, inclusive and friendly spaces
- Film events provide a way for LGBT people to share their interest, engage in the arts and activism, discuss and learn about relevant topics and meet other LGBT people in a safe, supportive environment
- A variety of films being screened, would be preferable
- Most people will be more likely to attend if they take place on a Friday, Saturday or a Sunday, in the evening
- Monthly events allow for a wider range of films to be shown and more frequent socialising opportunities
- Quarterly events have more potential for the events to be better structured, more organised, include guest speakers and facilitated discussion, with greater publicity build-up and reach
- Due to our capacity it would be unlikely that LGBT Health could deliver monthly as well as quarterly events
- LGBT Health would be very keen to speak to anyone who would like to get involved in running film events as a community group. Jules relayed that in order for such a community group to be supported, there would need to be at least 2 registered group leaders

Requests from participants

Via the event feedback form, we posed the following question to the group and received these responses:

Having heard everybody's ideas and thoughts tonight, what would you like our next steps to be?

- *"For LGBT Health to email us the outcomes, to see a possible expansion of the LGBT Film Nights, featuring discussion and guest speakers and look to farm out to sub-group"*
- *"To have our suggestions worked through and to have the LGBT Film Nights worked out"*
- *"To keep in touch with us to let us know what's next!"*

LGBT Health will be giving close consideration to the suggestions and ideas contributed at this event and will update the community via email and the website with any future plans. We thank all those who took part and would encourage anyone with an interest in LGBT film events, to continue

to let us know their ideas, to help shape events for the future.

Next Steps

Based on the requests from participants and the feedback we received throughout the consultation (by email and by participants in person), we will be piloting a new quarterly LGBT Film event which will feature in our July-September 2015 programme. In order to deliver the popular suggestion of a quarterly event, we will no longer be delivering a monthly LGBT Film Night due to our capacity. We will however, continue to deliver further quarterly events until the end of March 2016 when we will review the service once again.

LGBT Health and Wellbeing thanks all the participants of the consultation, for taking the time to share your views and bring us ideas to help shape our services going forward.