



The National Archives

Discovering history through film

Focus on Film has triumphed again by winning its latest accolade for Best Use on Non-Television Platform at the Focal International Awards 2008.

Described by one of the judges as 'just superb', *Focus On Film* transforms students into filmmakers. Interactive and free, the website provides access to over 8 hours of film clips and a huge collection of unique documents.

Teachers and pupils can download "lesson-ready" teaching activities to PCs or interactive whiteboards, helping schools meet the ever-increasing demand for personalised learning.

Developed by The National Archives as a collaborative project with the South East Grid for Learning, the website www.learningcurve.gov.uk/focuson/film encourages students to explore film as historical evidence. The online video-editing tool allows students to work with the source material and create their own documentaries and projects. In today's visual age viewers accept what's on screen without question, but the teaching tools urge students to view films with a critical eye.

Focus on Film demonstrates how film can be combined with innovative web-based technology to provide students with a powerful, interactive learning experience suitable for a range of curriculum subjects.

Andrew Payne, head of Education at The National Archives, said: "The National Archives has an excellent reputation for producing projects that make history real and exciting for students, and *Focus on Film* is no exception. This award is yet another recognition of our contribution to teaching history in schools and I am delighted to be here to accept it."

The National Archives continues to engage pupils with the treasures of archives through the *Unlocking Archives* project. Together with English Heritage, the British Film Institute (BFI) and the South East Grid for Learning (SEGfL), The National Archives has produced www.unlockingarchives.nen.gov.uk, which provides teachers with different types of archival material for pupils to use in the classroom.

Ends

The National Archive press contact:
Helen Barker
Email: hbarker@nationalarchives.gov.uk
Tel: + 44 (0) 208 392 5277

Notes for editors:

Focus on Film website comprises four areas: an illustrated introduction to the nature of film as source evidence; a range of pre-prepared teaching activities which allow students to understand films in their historical context; an extensive archive of over 8 hours of film clips, catalogued with contextual information; and a fully functioning web-based editing suite which allows students to work directly with around 200 film clips and still images to create their own work.

The National Archives online education resource receives over 1.8 million visits every year. One of its most popular tools is *The Learning Curve* a free resource for teachers and students of the History National Curriculum from key stages 2 to 5.

Focal International Award - Celebrates the use of footage archive images in the creative media.

The Federation of Commercial Audiovisual Libraries International Ltd is a not-for-profit professional trade association providing networking and marketing opportunities for content industry professionals. Today FOCAL International has a membership of well over 300 archives, researchers and allied services on all six continents and is fully established as one of the leading voices of the industry (source www.focalint.org)

The National Archives, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk, is a government department; and also an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The National Archives brings together the Public Record Office, Historical Manuscripts Commission, the Office of Public Sector Information and Her Majesty's Stationery Office. See also www.opsi.gov.uk

The National Archives is at the heart of information policy – setting standards and supporting innovation in information and records management across the UK, and providing a practical framework of best practice for opening up and encouraging the re-use of public sector information. This work helps inform today's decisions and ensure that they become tomorrow's permanent record.

The National Archives is also the UK government's official archive, containing 900 years of history from Domesday Book to the present, with records ranging from parchment and paper scrolls through to recently created digital files and archived websites. Increasingly, these records are being put online, making them universally accessible.

The vision of The National Archives is to:

- Lead and transform information management
- Guarantee the survival of today's information for tomorrow
- Bring history to life for everyone