



The National Archives

Date: 29 October 2008

Contact: Katrina McClintock on 020 8392 5277

katrina.mcclintock@nationalarchives.gov.uk

Award-winning history website short-listed for Children's BAFTA

A groundbreaking education website from The National Archives has been short-listed for an award from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts.

Focus on Film (www.learningcurve.gov.uk/focuson/film) is one of four nominees in the Secondary Learning category of the EA British Academy Children's Awards, which represent the best in children's productions - in film, television and online.

The e-resource, jointly funded by The National Archives and the South East Grid for Learning, presents film as a historical source and helps students to consider the advantages and disadvantages of it as evidence for the past. It is part of the award-winning education website The Learning Curve, which celebrates its tenth anniversary next month (November).

Focus on Film features a wide variety of original footage from the twentieth century as well as some reconstructions of earlier periods of history. It features a range of activities to engage users, including an innovative editing tool which allows students to understand the power of the film editor.

"We are incredibly proud to be nominated for this award, alongside a number of other fantastic projects," says Andrew Payne, Head of Education and Outreach at The National Archives.

"Our aim is always to produce exciting resources which make the best use out of the technology available, and which really inspire students' love of history. We have such a fantastic wealth of resources at The National Archives, and all our work is around making sure as many children as possible can benefit from that."

Since its inception in 1998, The Learning Curve has gone from strength to strength - with 1.8million users logging on last year (April 2007 - March 2008).

The National Archives Education Service has always made innovative use of technology to extend its reach to schools. As well as the web-based resources it has also grown to be the main provider of videoconference workshops to schools in the UK cultural sector. A total of sixteen sessions are offered for key stage 1 to key stage 5, covering topics ranging from Henry VIII to World War Two propaganda. It is now developing a range of virtual classroom sessions to further extend its programme for schools.

Last year a total of 13,718 students either visited The National Archives in person or via videoconferences.

Earlier this year Focus on Film scooped a BETT Award for Best Secondary Content and a Focal International Award for Best Use of Footage in Non-Broadcast Platform.

Winners of the EA British Academy Children's Awards will be announced at an awards ceremony on 30 November.

-ends-

Notes for editors

The National Archives is a UK government department and executive agency of the Ministry of Justice. As the official archives of the UK government, it preserves and protects one of the most important collections in the world, holding public records dating back almost 1,000 years.

The National Archives brings together the Public Record Office, Historical Manuscripts Commission, The Office of Public Sector Information and Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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

Learning Curve

The National Archives award-winning education website is an online teaching resource, structured to tie in with the History National Curriculum from Key Stages 2 to 5. The Learning Curve contains a varied range of original sources including documents, photographs, film and sound recordings.

Awards won by The Learning Curve include:

2000 - Pricewaterhouse Coopers 'Wow' Award for Innovation and Risk Management

2000 - Pricewaterhouse Coopers Overall Winner Award for Innovation and Risk Management

2005 - e-Government Awards Finalist

2006 - e-Government Awards Finalist

2007 - e-Government Awards Finalist

2007 - Jodi Award for web accessibility - Prisoner 4099

2008 - BETT Award for Best Secondary Content - Focus on Film

2008 - Focal International Award for Best Use of Footage in Non-Broadcast Platform - Focus on Film

To find out more visit www.learningcurve.gov.uk