

# SIGN OF A FANTASTIC EVENT



Two representatives from Newsome High collecting their award

## National Media Museum host Yorkshire SignFilm Festival

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**THE National Media Museum in Bradford was the host of the second Yorkshire SignFilm Festival on Tuesday May 11.**

The event, which showcases several short films made by deaf young people from all across the North of England, was organised by Bradford-based Youth Deafinitions and funded by The Youth of Today Leadership Fund.

SignFilm Festival went well with great attendance from deaf young people aged 11-25. It was also MC'd by two deaf young adults on the Youth Deafinitions Youth Management Committee.

Firstly, the event showed off the talents of many of the young people by showing all the short films on the big screen, with films from Oldham, Doncaster, Huddersfield and Leeds.

The deaf young people and the teachers and staff that came along with them always cheered loudly for their own films and enjoyed watching what other groups had produced.

Nageena, the Youth Deafinitions' project worker for the Yorkshire SignFilm Festival, said: "As a deaf person, I've been told that I 'can't' do this or that. We want the Yorkshire SignFilm Festival to be an opportunity for deaf young people to show what they CAN do. The films are all made by deaf youth and they have a chance to see their films on the cinema screen, watch other films made by their peers and meet new friends from other cities - but they're all signing and laughing together."

The Yorkshire SignFilm Festival started in 2008 as a training event with workshops about film-making, but 2009 was the first time that the films made

deaf young people were screened.

This year, the Second YSFF films were judged by a panel of deaf film-makers and deaf people to select the winners of the different awards.

There was a definite feeling of excitement in the air, as Colin Philpott, the Director of the National Media Museum, was announcing the winners. There were four categories and then an overall Best Picture.

A student from award winners Hathershaw College of Technology and Sport said, "I think this filming has been a very, very good experience and I feel more confident. At first, I didn't really want to be involved but I started with trying to act a bit and, then, I wanted to be involved more and more! I feel good and liked the filming. I loved it! I never thought deaf people would have a chance like this. I'm really proud of it."

### Award Winners

- Best Directing: 'The Airport', Allerton Grange High School Deaf Unit, Leeds
- Best Editing: 'Blood Love', Newsome High School and Sports College Deaf Unit, Huddersfield
- Best Camera/Lights: 'Nightmare at Hathershaw', Hathershaw College of Technology and Sport Deaf Unit, Oldham
- Best Costumes/Props: 'Robin Hoodie', Wildcats Drama Group, Doncaster College for the Deaf, Doncaster
- Best Picture winner: 'The Airport'.