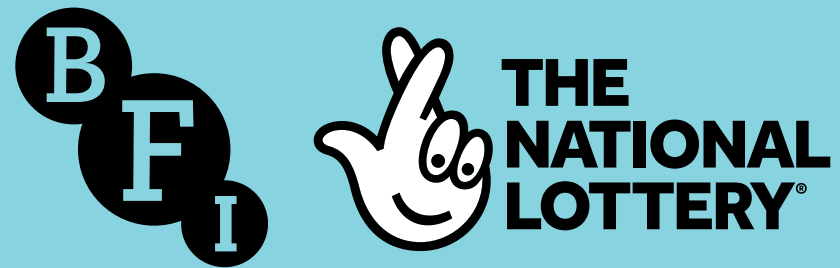


# The Box

## Call for Researchers



This opportunity has been made possible with the support of the BFI, awarding funds from the National Lottery (The BFI Screen Heritage Fund Resilience Awards)



The Box



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



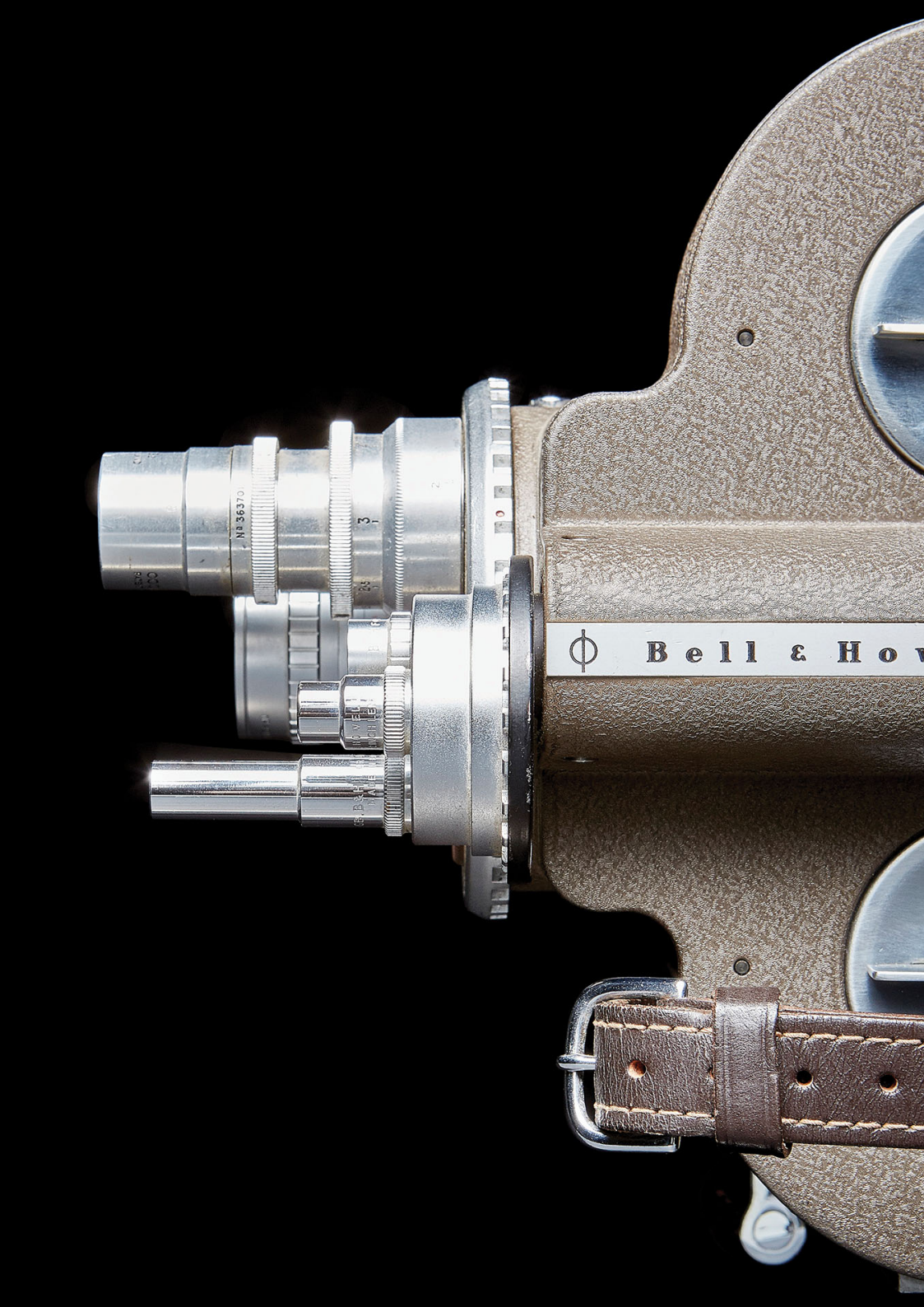
## BACKGROUND

The Box is an ambitious cultural organisation in Plymouth. It is part museum, gallery and archive, a social space for art, people and objects. The Box has recently undergone a significant transformation bringing collections from across the city into one new purpose-built venue, which is free to access.

We are opening our archives to researchers to discover more about the films in our collection, formerly held by the South West Film and Television Archive. They comprise of more than 250,000 works maintained in their original, digital and born digital formats. They form one of the largest regional film archives in the UK, which is recognised nationally as a significant screen heritage collection. Preserved in specialist cold and freezer stores within The Box, they depict many changes in the city and region from the late 1890s to the present day.

This call for research forms part of our journey of decolonisation at The Box. The process will help us to discover and share the stories in our film collection of diverse narratives that reflect the many communities in the South West and our connections across the globe. We are looking to commission research that will enhance our understanding of the collections we hold, reveal new narratives that can be shared in future projects and/or identify missing content from our film archive.





## RESEARCHER

With a rich mix of local television programmes, current affairs, news and documentaries along with substantial home movies collections, the archive provides hundreds of as yet unseen stories, many of which have not been catalogued fully and some that are as yet unknown. To enable us to unlock these stories we are particularly keen to welcome researchers from the global majority or with protected characteristics that are underrepresented in museums, galleries and archives.

The Box would like the researchers to look at one of two areas. One will examine how the archive ensures that its collection remains current and reflects the communities and society of 21st Century Britain. The other will research the Devon Education Library Collection (DCC) - an extensive and historically rich archive of educational films spanning from the 1960s to the 1980s, covering a wide range of topics including history, maritime heritage, tourism, transport, science, regional industry, public health, and social change.

Researchers will approach the collections, through an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and decolonial lens. We welcome applications from those without a formal research background (such as artists, film enthusiasts, community leaders or content creators).

We are flexible about how the research may be conducted – this could be over an intensive period or spread over a period of 3/4 months. Due to the nature of the film archive and the need to view the material, there will be a requirement for some of the research to be conducted on site at The Box, at mutually convenient times. The research must be completed by March 2026.



## **TIMESCALE**

Deadline for applications: 19 October 2025  
Interviews by end of October 2025

## **FEES**

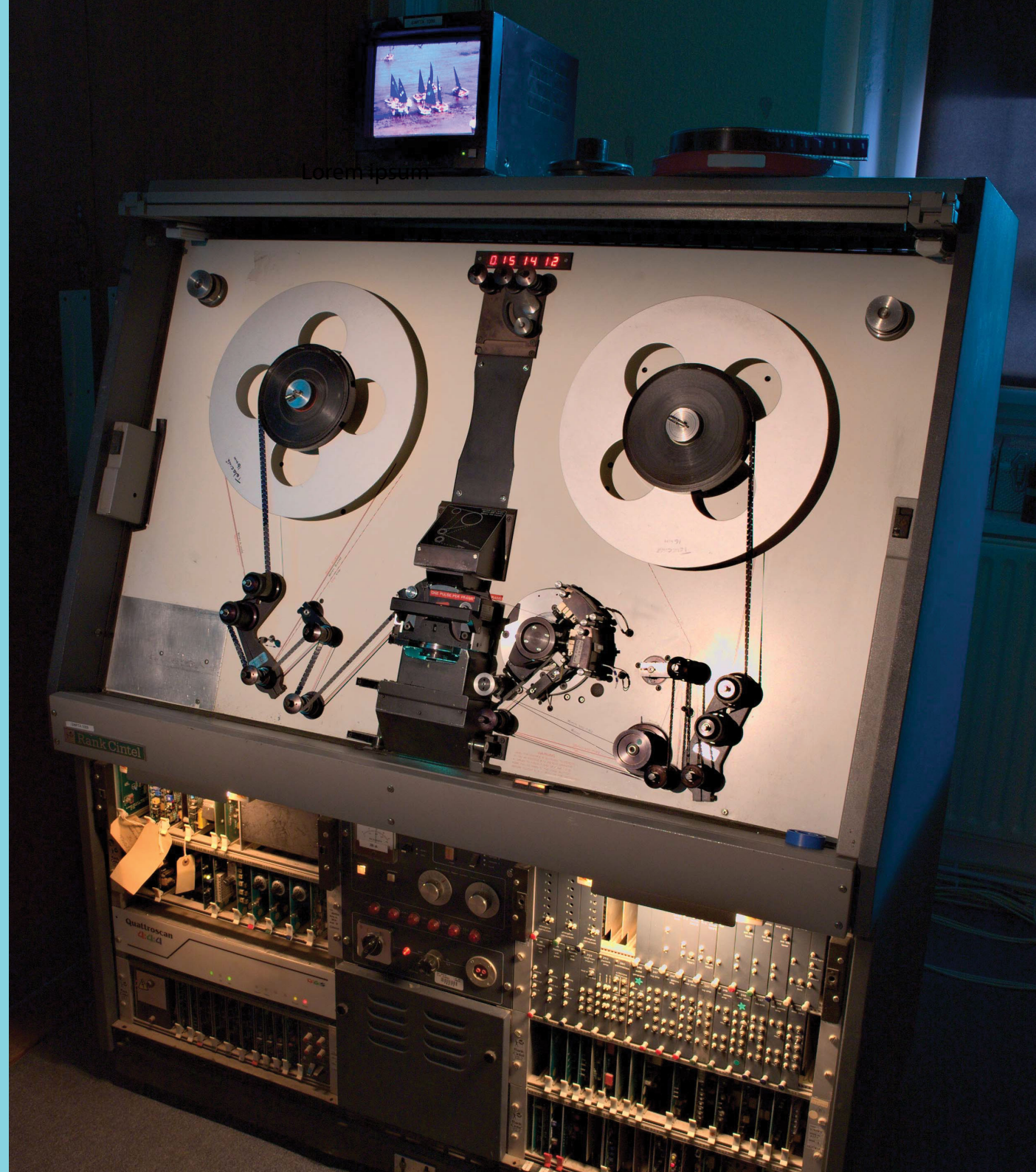
There is a total fee of £4000.  
The successful applicant(s) will be expected to present their findings to a public forum in Spring 2026.

A payment schedule will be agreed with the successful applicant(s).

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

To apply please send a statement of interest, which should include your experience, your research area interest, how you would approach the research, how the research would enhance and support the aims of The Box, as well stating how you envisage sharing / using the material uncovered from your research. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an informal discussion before the final two awards are announced.

Please send your application to [theboxenquiries@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:theboxenquiries@plymouth.gov.uk) marked F.A.O Tony Davey by 19 October 2025







## CONTACT

For further information or an informal discussion, please email [tony.davey@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:tony.davey@plymouth.gov.uk) or [Zahra.Khanum@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:Zahra.Khanum@plymouth.gov.uk)

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