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CORNERHOUSE

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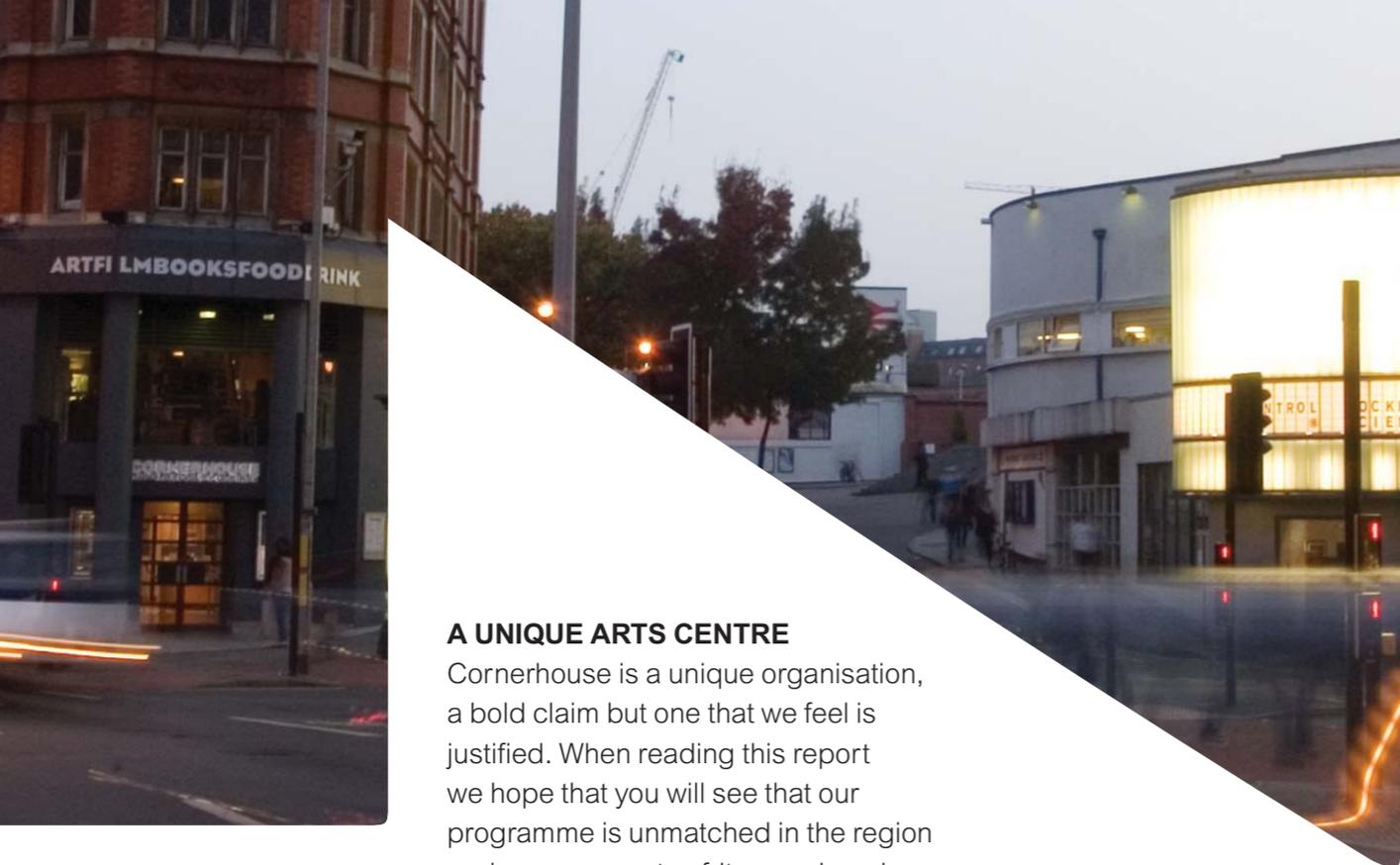
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**CORNERHOUSE
ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2006/2007**

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All figures and facts in this document refer to the year April 2006 - March 2007



A UNIQUE ARTS CENTRE

Cornerhouse is a unique organisation, a bold claim but one that we feel is justified. When reading this report we hope that you will see that our programme is unmatched in the region and many aspects of it are unique in the UK. As an organisation engaged in contemporary arts and culture our programme is in a state of constant change. This produces a vitality our audiences expect and enjoy. Our audiences are dynamic and demanding, they expect to be challenged and have fun in equal measure. As a direct result of this vitality it is easy to lose sight of our achievements as we push forward with the next project. Consequently we feel it is useful to reflect upon a busy year and celebrate our achievements.

Cornerhouse plays an essential role at the intersection of artforms, artists' practice, learning and audience engagement within Greater Manchester and the region and also acts as a busy social meeting place and networking hub for the city.

Dave Moutrey
Director

WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO

The programme is driven by our Mission, Vision and Values.

MISSION - The business are we in

Cornerhouse is Greater Manchester's international centre for cinema and contemporary visual art where audiences, artists and filmmakers are brought together to experience and debate cultural practice and ideas through a unique programme that aims to stimulate, entertain and inform.

VISION - Where we want to be

To be a leading international centre of innovation and ideas for cinema and contemporary visual art; a place where contemporary art and cinema are seen, enjoyed and discussed; where the unique programme inspires, influences and informs audiences, artists and filmmakers both locally, nationally and worldwide.

VALUES – How we do business

Cornerhouse values its relationship with audiences, artists, filmmakers, colleagues and partners.

We do this by ensuring that our programme is accessible and that it will attract a diverse audience to share our passion; creating a space to involve them in the work of artists and filmmakers; supporting and investing in our team to develop a stimulating and supportive environment that sets high expectations for quality; creating an environment where artists, filmmakers and audiences to want to be at Cornerhouse because of the quality of the programme and the social space built around it; actively engaging in dialogue, collaboration and partnerships to enable us to enhance experiences and opportunities for audiences, artists and colleagues.

We have taken our Mission, Vision and Values and developed over-arching artistic and customer service policies that guides how we develop our programme and the business.

Artistic Policy

Cornerhouse will present a unique programme of cinema and contemporary visual arts, that challenges and debates current film, art and cultural practice. Our cross-disciplinary and culturally diverse programme of exhibitions, screenings, commissions, publications and events, that are international in scope, brings together artists, critics, filmmakers and audiences to create a dialogue on contemporary issues in art and culture and celebration.

Customer Service Policy

Cornerhouse aims to provide an exemplary and complete service for its customers and visitors, and ensures that they are able to enjoy and experience the programme and facilities in a welcoming, accessible and safe environment.

2006/2007

In order to manage the complex and challenging role we have set for the organisation, Cornerhouse is structured around four programme areas; **Art, Film, Education and Books**. Our achievements in each of these areas are set out in this report.



ART

Cornerhouse aims to present a programme that debates, leads, surveys and documents current visual arts practice and contemporary culture through interaction and collaboration with local, regional, national and international curators and new and emerging artists.

In the past 12 months Cornerhouse has:

- presented 9 Gallery exhibitions showing the work of 37 artists
- exhibited 7 Projects in the Café/bar showing the work of 21 Northwest artists
- commissioned 17 new art works
- welcomed 3 touring shows
- toured 4 exhibitions
- included a further 14 artists in special screenings and Bigger Picture commissions
- worked with artists from Austria, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Mexico, The Netherlands, USA, Uzbekistan
- collaborated with 30 Manchester-based organisations, 10 from the wider Northwest, 26 UK based and 12 international

Three key themes have been explored over the past five years.

1. Cultural diversity: Investigation into cultural diversity and its varied political and social issues
2. Technology, Science and Communication: These themes have political and social elements: how do we communicate, in which media (from conceptual, 3D, video, performance, etc.), what does media communication allow artists to reveal that traditional forms of art do not
3. British artists and history



Images

Central Asian Project: Almagul Menlibayeva, *Apa (Grandmother)*, 2003
 Do Not Refreeze: Sibylle Bergemann, *Kirsten, Hoppenrade*, 1975
 Nick Crowe: *The Beheaded* (detail), 2006

During 2006/2007 we continued to explore these themes across the following exhibitions:

Tijuana Organic: women's border realities

The first UK show of ten female artists and projects from Tijuana, Mexico. The exhibition revealed the harsh realities of life in this busy and notorious border city, and more particularly explored questions of female identity and the evolving role of women in Mexican society. The exhibition also included a residency by two members of Tijuana based independent media collective Bulbo. Their name 'Bulbo' is Spanish for 'bulb' and signifies their desire to cast light upon people with ideas that are sidelined by mainstream media.

Clegg & Guttman: Social Sculptures, Community Portraits and Spontaneous Operas 1990-2005 *

The first UK solo exhibition by artist duo Clegg & Guttman featured a selection of their wide ranging public projects, produced between 1990 and 2006. The work engaged with different institutions, cultural forms and ideological structures. Clegg & Guttman also created a new Spontaneous Opera entitled *Manchester 1911*. Commissioned by Cornerhouse, it was inspired by Ludwig Wittgenstein's connections to the University of Manchester, and built on the artists' practice of nurturing cultural and intellectual relationships between disciplines that are not always in proximity to each other.

Central Asian Project *

The first joint exhibition of its kind in the UK, this was a collaborative exchange organised by Cornerhouse, SPACE (London), and AsiaArt+ (Almaty, Kazakhstan) dedicated to forging new links between the UK and Central Asia. Encompassing exhibitions, artist residencies and cultural exchange, the project aimed to increase communication and cultural understanding by acknowledging and reflecting upon the prejudices and preconceptions that are held about other cultures. *Central Asian Project* went on to show in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan

Do Not Refreeze

Stunning photography exhibition that gave a glimpse of day-to day life behind the Iron Curtain. This show brought together a group of photographers whose extraordinary contribution to European photography was 'frozen out' by the Cold War. Almost completely unknown in Britain, these artists developed their practice in the former East Germany negotiating the omnipresent secret police to create imagery which is increasingly being compared to luminaries such as Henri Cartier-Bresson, Dorothea Lange and Robert Frank.

Nick Crowe: Commemorative Glass*

A selection of new and recent works from artist Nick Crowe whose practice encompasses a wide range of media, including film & video, sculpture and the internet. This exhibition focused on Crowe's specific interest in glass as a contemporary artistic material. Ranging from large scale sculptures to delicate hand-engraved panels, the work explored issues relating to how we remember, from personal expressions of loss, to momentous political and historical events such as The Gulf War. The show included two new large scale sculptures produced specially for Cornerhouse, *The Beheaded* and *The Campaign for Rural England*.

(*denotes a Cornerhouse initiated project)



FILM

Cornerhouse aims to contribute to the development of film and moving image culture in Greater Manchester and the UK by presenting a distinctive range of moving image work and events that promotes audiences' interest in, and engagement with, these media.

In the last 12 months Cornerhouse presented:

- 3,850 screenings
- more than 370 films

including

- 648 screenings of British Films
- 1,111 screenings of films made in other EU countries
- 2,034 from countries outside of the EU

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

¡Viva! 13th Spanish & Latin American Film Festival

Our best-attended festival so far attracted an impressive array of high profile guests who came to introduce their films, answer audience questions, and of course enjoy our famous ¡Viva! parties.

- Attendance was increased for the sixth year in a row, topping the 10,000 mark for the first time – an average of 1,000 per day
- New development included an Irish arm of the festival at the Irish Film Institute in Dublin (20 films screened)
- A partnership with distributors Soda Pictures to create the new Soda ¡Viva! DVD label.
- An extended tour, that included 22 venues across the UK for an additional 111 screenings until the middle of June
- ¡Viva! also enabled us to build important partnerships with Spain and Latin America and businesses that trade into and out of these countries

In addition to the in-house curated festivals

(¡Viva! and exposures), Cornerhouse presented:

- The Commonwealth Film Festival, a regionally devised event
- UK Jewish Film Festival
- Italian Film Festival on Tour
- Sheffield Documentary Festival on Tour

During 2006/2007 Cornerhouse continued to present a regular programme of special events involving filmmakers and external contributors.

Highlights included:

- Barry Norman's introduction to INFAMOUS and co-hosting of the TCM Film Quiz with Chris Payne
- PANDORA'S BOX screening with musical accompaniment by Neil Brand
- Screenwriter Guillermo Arriaga Q&A and book-signing for THE THREE BURIALS OF MELQUIADES ESTRADA
- Sorted - BBC writersroom event with Danny Brocklehurst
- SUNSHINE preview with cast and crew + Danny Boyle recorded interview for preview and website
- AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH panel debate on climate change with David Milliband MP and leading environmentalists
- Terry Gilliam Q&A with screening of TIDELAND
- Director Andrea Arnold Q&A with the award-winning RED ROAD
- Acclaimed British/Danish cinematographer Anthony Dod Mantle Q&A with BROTHERS OF THE HEAD
- Launch of Arts About Manchester's In Touch project with a special Christmas preview of the new copy of THE WIZARD OF OZ with Audio Description for blind and partially sighted audience members + caption subtitles for Deaf and hard of hearing audiences
- Mitchell & Kenyon (Manchester & Salford) silent screenings with live accompaniment and narration

SEASONS – OVER 15 SEASONS WERE PRESENTED DURING THE YEAR, INCLUDING:

- Ambulante Tour (part of National Film Theatre's Mexican season)
- Chicas de Almodóvar season
- 'Censorship' screenings
- China @ Manchester
- Cornucopia of classics: new 35mm prints of 3 B&W classics
- Family Friendly Festival screenings
- Feel the Heat: Mexican Cinema Now (NFT Touring)
- Football films
- Granada Music season
- Haskell Wexler season

- Luc Besson season
- Mexican wrestler films season
- Refugee Week and Exodus screenings
- The Fast and the Furriest: European kids' matinees

EXPERIMENTAL SCREENINGS

Every two months, Cornerhouse took audiences on a journey through experimental screenings and artists' video. The screenings were followed by Q&As with the artist filmmakers.

REGIONAL FILMMAKERS

exposures UK Student Film Festival and the Bigger Picture programme for the BBC Big Screen in Exchange Square, Manchester provided the main outlet for regional made films. The overexposed strand was a bimonthly showcase dedicated to regional filmmaking and the best new short films being made today by the Northwest's independent filmmakers.

FIRST RUNS

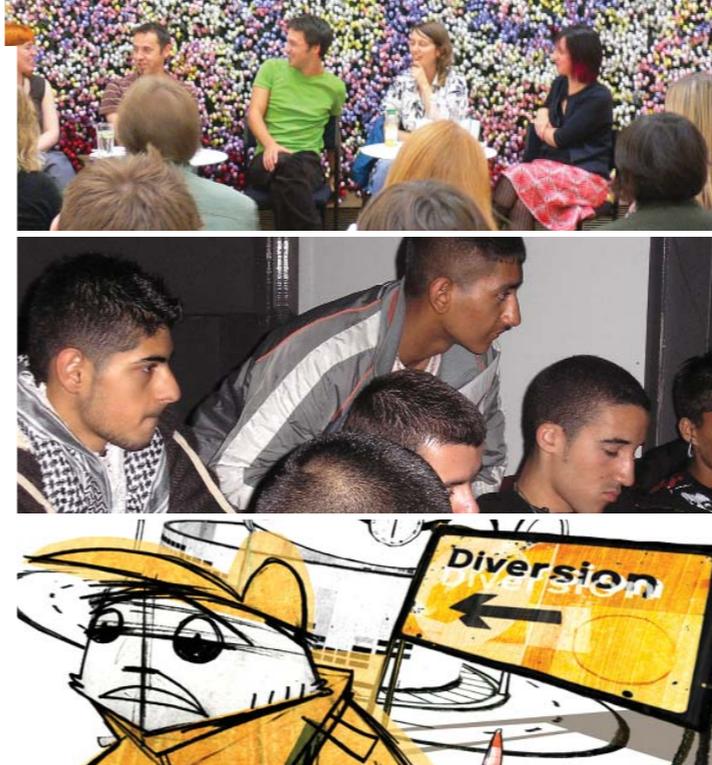
Screenings of new independent, UK, European and non European foreign language films is a vital part of the programme. Many of the titles screened are simply not available anywhere else in the region.

Top ten first run titles by admissions:

VOLVER - Spain
 PAN'S LABYRINTH - Spain
 HIDDEN - Austria
 THE WIND THAT SHAKES THE BARLEY – Great Britain
 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN - USA
 CAPOTE - USA
 GOOD NIGHT & GOOD LUCK - USA
 THE HISTORY BOYS – Great Britain
 LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE - USA
 WALK THE LINE – USA

INDUSTRY SUPPORT

In addition to supporting the film industry by screening their films and building audiences Cornerhouse also provided screening facilities for filmmakers during production and post production.



EDUCATION

An inclusive education programme targeting young people, schools, colleges, universities and lifelong learners, that offers real opportunities for participants to engage with, enjoy and learn about, contemporary visual art and moving image.

In the past 12 months Cornerhouse presented and hosted:

- 271 education sessions attracting 11,338 attendances in total
 - 4,050 young people
 - 2,629 students
 - 1,122 on outreach sessions
 - 148 teachers attending professional development sessions
- 78 Projector sessions for schools and colleges, attended by over 100 schools
- 2 conferences
- 1 residential project for young people

In 2006/2007 we firmly established our education department strategic vision, creating an integrated, diverse and collaborative education programme across our target audiences.

On a national level we hosted 2 conferences for our peer education groups - MoVIES (Moving Image Education Specialists, July 06) and Engage (National Association for Gallery Education, Nov 06).

LiveWire went from strength to strength with the young people running a film camp, reviewing city-wide cultural events with their Critics programme and collecting a prestigious First Light film award for Best Animation, presented by Hollywood actor Sean Bean.

Our respected schools and college programme Projector received record attendances across its five strands - Digital (a new strand that teaches tutors of all subjects to use and integrate digital technology into their subjects), Film & Media, Art & Design, ESOL, and Modern Foreign Languages.

By their very nature our education projects are diverse and often personalised to their target audience. Below are some examples.

SONIC POSTCARDS

To complement our summer sound art exhibition we collaborated with Sonic Arts Network on two projects in May 2006 at Chatsworth High School in Salford and Turton High School Media Arts College in Bolton. Unlike an ordinary picture postcard, a Sonic Postcard is a snapshot of sound instead of image, which captures a unique environment. The postcards were premiered at a unique special screening in our cinema and displayed on the plasma screen in our foyer.

PROJECTOR ESOL

(English for Speakers of Other Languages)
Cornerhouse's work with refugees and asylum seekers has developed strongly over the past three years to become a regular part of our education activity. Half day ESOL sessions were run once each term over the academic year and included an introduction, a full screening of a British film and language exercises, complete with study packs. Refugees and Asylum Seekers who took part in our ESOL courses came from a range of colleges, with regular attendees from MANCAT, Rochdale, North Trafford College and Manchester Adult Education Services.

TUESDAY TALKS

An ongoing collaboration between Cornerhouse and Manchester Metropolitan University, this is a series of lectures by artists, writers, curators and critics exploring the driving forces within contemporary art and visual culture by focusing on what has inspired each invited speaker.

Aimed at students and the local arts community, 16 Tuesday morning talks included the following speakers: Alex Farquharson, Lisa Milroy, Leo Fitzmaurice, Alexander Ugay, Paul Rooney, Zineb Sedira, Andrew Hunt, Nathan Coley, Otto Berchem, Graham Fagen, Ori Gersht, Bryndís Snæbjörnsdóttir & Mark Wilson, Win van den Abbeele, Kurt Johannessen, Jonathan Watkins, Susan Hiller, Nick Crowe, Matts Leiderstam, Rob La Frenais.

EXPOSURES UK STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL

Thirteen is unlucky for some, but certainly not for exposures! The 13th edition of the festival in December 2006 cemented its position as the UK's top student film festival. Special events included a preview of new British film LONDON TO BRIGHTON with its award winning director and producer. With over 500 entries, exposures provided students with a rare chance to see their creations presented on the big screen whilst competing for our prestigious awards. Grand Juror Mark Kermode stated, "There is real talent here, and real evidence of great things to come." www.exposuresfilmfestival.co.uk

LIVEWIRE STUDIO FILM CAMP

"Film Camp was a fantastic experience. It was a great chance to practically learn about all the aspects of film making from people who really know what they're talking about." Film Camp attendee

August 2006 saw the first ever LiveWire Film Camp. For one week, 16 young people aged 14-18 stayed in Borwick Hall in Carnforth with a team of professional filmmakers to produce two fantastic films, KILLJOY and SCRATCHING THE SURFACE.

To watch any films made by LiveWire Studio, log on to the LiveWire website at www.livewire-manchester.com



BOOKS

Cornerhouse aims to enable the documentation and dissemination of contemporary cultural practice through the provision of a specialist distribution service for contemporary visual arts and photography publishers and, through this service, promotes the work of Cornerhouse, its client publishers, published artists, writers and practitioners.

In the past 12 months Cornerhouse

- distributed publications for over 100 publishers
- sold over 40,000 books
- exhibited at the Frankfurt and London Book Fairs
- published 2 sales catalogues
- managed sales reps in the UK, Mainland Europe, the Far East and USA

Over the year Cornerhouse continued to provide a specialist sales and distribution service for many of the most exciting and innovative publishers, galleries and museums working in contemporary visual arts, working with over 100 client publishers including Arnolfini Publishing, Artangel, BALTIC, British Council Visual Arts & Design Publications, Hayward Publishing, The Henry Moore Institute, Institute of Contemporary Arts, Ikon Gallery, The Lowry, Modern Art Oxford, Photoworks, and the Whitechapel Gallery. We also worked with a large number of artist-lead organisations such as Art Editions North, Arts Catalyst, Autograph ABP, The Drawing Room, Information as Material, Picture This, and the Research Group for Artists Publications.

We provided a complete sales and distribution service including representation, marketing and publicity, warehousing and online sales. Sales reps in the UK, Europe and the Far East regularly visited all the major bookshop chains and independent bookshops, many of the smaller independents, and all retail outlets (including Museum and Gallery shops) that specialise in contemporary visual arts, architecture, design and photography. We also worked directly with specialist wholesalers and distributors in the USA and represented client publishers at the Frankfurt and London Book Fairs.

Comprehensive details of all publications distributed by Cornerhouse are listed on our online bookstore www.cornerhouse.org/books. Links are provided to our clients' websites and other relevant sites. Our titles are also available through Amazon.co.uk.

Cornerhouse continued to provide an advisory service on publishing and the book trade for our client publishers and advice was also given to other arts organisations and the public.

NETWORK HUB

Cornerhouse plays an important role as a social meeting place and networking hub. 2006/07 saw an increase in the footfall to the building to over 448,000 visits. Many of those people came to enjoy the café, bar and shop facilities provided by Cornerhouse to support the visitor experience of those attending film screenings, exhibitions and education events. Others used the venue as a place to meet and do business.

FOOD AND DRINK

Real Deal Mondays, The Breakfast Club on Sunday mornings and the weekly and monthly Quiz nights all contributed to the social remit of the organisation. Free wireless internet access in the café bar is very popular and a facility that is regularly cited by our customers as being important to them. Our café bar was used for a number of book launches during the year, supporting local publishers in partnership with our art, film and books teams.

BOOKSHOPS

Selling a unique range of cards and magazines the shop in the main building foyer has continued to be a reason for many people to visit Cornerhouse. In October 2006 we added a second bookshop in the gallery foyer. This is focused purely on art books and relates very strongly to the galleries programme and the books distributed by Cornerhouse Publications.

AUDIENCES

Cornerhouse continued to be a popular venue in the city:

APRIL 06 - MARCH 07

	TOTAL ATTENDANCE	AVERAGE / DAY OPEN	AVERAGE / SESSION
Cinemas	121,756	338	
Exhibitions	35,545	118	
Education	11,338		29
Footfall	448,493	1,246	

Year on year, our audience size keeps on growing:

	2002	2004	2006
Visits	236,250	375,550	505,953
Frequency	10.8	9.3	7.5
Audience Size	21,794	40,382	67,460

Sources Mathews Millman 2007.

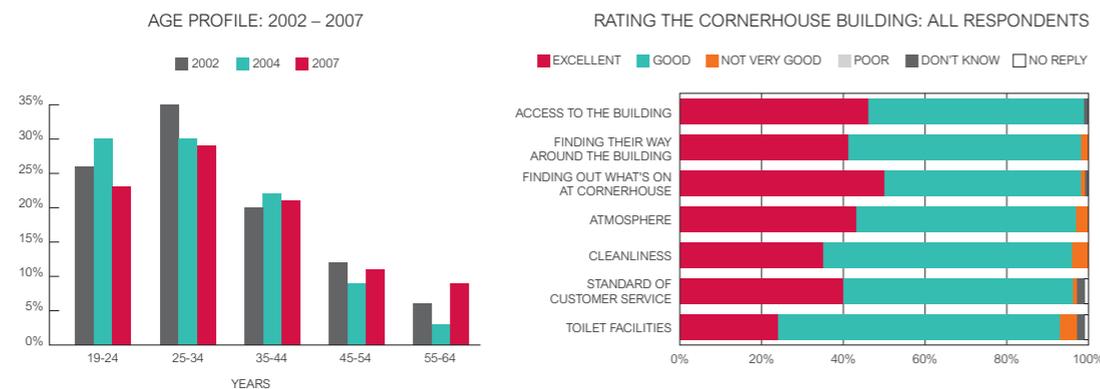
Ensuring the best experience for our existing audience, whilst developing new audiences is at the heart of our activity: we want the widest possible audience to discover and enjoy the breadth of experience Cornerhouse has to offer, in the best conditions possible. Our artistic and education programmes as well as our social spaces have been developed with this in mind.

One important audience development initiative for the year was our active participation to InTouch. The InTouch programme, organised by Arts About Manchester aims to increase accessibility to, and enjoyment of, the arts for disabled people, in particular those with sensory impairment. This project is set to improve area of promotion, programming, information dissemination in arts venues by establishing a dialogue and relationship between venues and disabled people organisations. Our regular subtitled and audio described screenings will be promoted by the networks that this project has helped to establish.

AUDIENCE PROFILE AND SATISFACTION RATING

We commissioned the latest in an on-going programme of audience research which provided some useful information about our audiences.

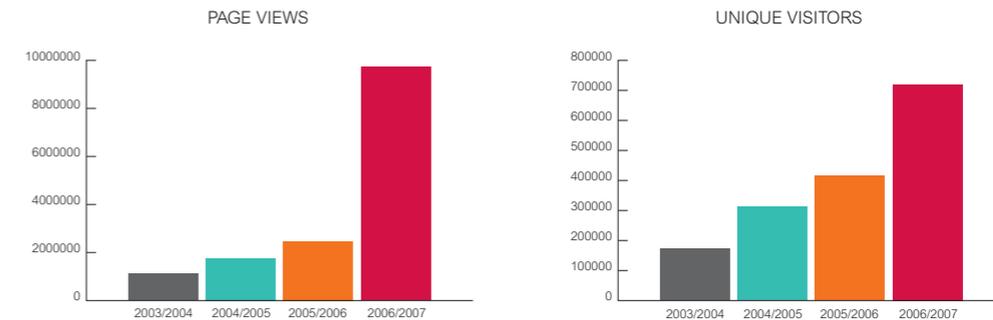
Work carried out in and around the building has paid off with significant improvements in audience approval ratings.



WEBSITE

The launch of our new website in April 2006 produced an exponential increase in its use (see below). It also enables audiences to access previously unavailable resources to further their enjoyment and knowledge: some Q&As and talks are available in video or audio streaming; Study Guides and film notes are also available. All of these have seen massive growth in usage over the year.

The traffic to our website has also grown significantly:



LOCAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ROLE

LEADERSHIP PROJECT

Cornerhouse is leading a national project involving five other major UK venues as part of the Creative Leadership Programme funded by Arts Council England. Over the next 12 months, a group of senior arts managers will undertake an action based learning programme that looks at how arts venues can develop effective strategies for audience personalisation of the services that they offer. They will also explore how developing personalisation affects leadership in creative businesses.

Other key regional, national and international organisations which Cornerhouse actively engages with include MoVies, the national association of moving image educators; Northern Film Network, the regional network of filmmakers; Engage, the national association of gallery educators; VAGA, The Visual Arts and Galleries Association; MANET, the North west media arts network; and Europa Cinemas, the European network of independent cultural cinema operators.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL BODIES

Cornerhouse plays a leading role within the independent film sector. The annual conference for the Association of Independent Film Exhibitors, an organisation which we are an active member of, was organised by Cornerhouse in December 2006. It looked at the cultural value of cinema and took place at the Curzon Cinema in Soho. Cornerhouse also continued to administer the North West Film Exhibitors Consortium and Film Education sub-group, organising regular meetings, disseminating best practice and information, and managing the website.

ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

Throughout the year Cornerhouse has continued to build on the strong links we have with the region's learning institutions. Apart from the work we do through programmes such as the Tuesday Talks in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University, the Clegg & Guttman project with the University of Manchester and exposures UK Student Film Festival with the University of Salford, we have been developing a key strategic partnership through our involvement in the Oxford Road Development Partnership and the Oxford Road Cultural Corridor. These are major regeneration initiatives for the area where we are located with plans for major infrastructural and product changes.