

Top Tips for Running a Successful Film Night

Film Screenings are a great way to involve non-members in your activities as you can show almost any film you want if you have the equipment and they take minimum effort to organise. Most universities will allow you access to lecture theatres or projector equipment to use for your film nights.

Tip 1 – Be Prepared

Just in case the technology provided for you doesn't work, take the video on a couple of different types of media, a laptop, a VGA cable to hook it up to the projector, and your own set of speakers.

Tip 2 – Sound Quality

It's worth investing in a good set of travel speakers which you can pick up for less than £30. Don't rely on built in laptop speakers, they just won't be loud enough. Guitar amps can function quite well as loudspeakers if they have an AUX input as this is easy enough to connect to your laptop's headphone socket using a 3.5mm to phono cable, but be aware that they tend to make quite a bit of background noise.

Tip 3 – Enjoying the Film

Do make announcements before starting the film about turning mobile phones off and not talking during the film. If people start talking during the film, you are within your right to ask them to be quiet or to move next door if they want to chat. Lecture theatres can be cold, as far as possible ensure that a comfortable temperature is maintained.

Tip 4 – Food and Drink and New Members

Optionally serve popcorn. This is an especially good idea if you have prospective members present as you want to make them feel welcome and to join your society at the end of event. Do approach them about joining and have a signup sheet to hand.

Tip 5 – Capitalise

Conclude with a discussion, and even a presentation. For example when Liverpool Atheist Society (ULAS) screened *The God Who Wasn't There*, their AHS rep gave a presentation on factual accuracy and issues raised. It's a good chance to get a debate going which you could follow up with a social.

Non-fiction:

Baby Bible Bashers
Dispatches: What Muslims Want
Enemies of Reason
Jesus Camp
Root of all Evil?
The God Who Wasn't There
Religulous

Fiction:

Bruce Almighty / *Evan Almighty*
Dogma
Jerry Springer: The Opera
Monty Python's Life of Brian

More ideas at

<http://www.atheistempire.com/entertainment/movies.php#ath>

Edited by Jenna Catley

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