



British Film Institute

David Lean website

About our client

The British Film Institute (bfi) is a charitable body that exists to promote and encourage all aspects of British and World film, television and the moving image. They promote the impact of such material on society and its importance as a record of contemporary life.

The bfi also establish, maintain and develop collections reflecting the moving image history and heritage of the UK. Typically, such collections contain stills, video clips, scripts, letters, costume designs and photographs amongst other materials.

Business requirements

The bfi intended to create a website that would bring its holding of material on Sir David Lean to a wider audience, encouraging the audience to explore the collections in greater depth. <http://lean.bfi.org.uk>

The website is intended as a showcase for selective bfi materials as well as displaying the catalogue of the David Lean Collection donated by the David Lean Foundation. It was also intended to raise the profile of the life and work of Sir David Lean with the general public as well as drawing attention to the work of the bfi and the David Lean Foundation.

The bfi wanted the website to be database driven, to be easily updateable and to be built so that they could extend the website themselves in later phases of the project's development. The site adheres to strict usability and accessibility guidelines, but also supports and presents, in an artistic manner, the numerous different types of material the bfi had to display - video, photographs, press books and so on.

Project Type

Website
Database
Templates

Keywords

Online identity
Bespoke functionality
Accessibility
Usability

Keymedia solution

We worked closely with the bfi special collections and web team to achieve their online requirements. The creation of the David Lean website was a technically intricate process requiring Keymedia to draw on its experience in website usability and accessibility. Due to the expected broad user base of David Lean website, we developed a site that is robust across all browsers, removing any software or hardware restrictions on the end user. The finished design provides the required functionality, is clean, fast and easily navigated in whatever form it is viewed.

The look and feel of David Lean website was to be entirely separate to that of www.bfi.org.uk. Due to our access to the exceptional David Lean material, it was felt that the site should display as much of the material as was reasonable, as high as possible in the site's navigation. The use of photographs of David Lean himself and stills from his films in the main navigation pages create an atmosphere that is reflected throughout the rest of the website and when viewing other materials that are available for public perusal.

The build of the site was based on templates that were differentiated vertically and also horizontally within this structure. A distinction was made between each template through the use of colour and graphics.

The bfi aims to make all of its websites as accessible to as many people as possible, regardless of location, connection speed, user agent technology or disability. The David Lean site had to adhere to strict WAI guidelines and the XHTML transitional standard. To fit with these requirements, we avoided using plug-in technologies, frames and tables, using Cascading Style Sheets (CSS1) to control colour, positioning and text metrics.

Business benefits

The bfi David Lean website is the main public source of the materials that reflect his life and work:

- Driving force to encourage people to visit the bfi collections library
- Ease of use due to adhering to usability and accessibility standards
- Cost effective dissemination of information
- Ease of updating and extending the site due to the database and template creation using Dreamweaver
- Establishes the bfi as a leader in providing such information within the public domain