

## Cinema stranded in the dark ages

**Headliners member Damien McLaughlin, 14, thinks the cinema in Derry is simply not up to standards.**

Following recent renovations the Strand Multiplex Cinema now has eight different screens. Any visitor coming to the city for the first time would be fooled into thinking it was a well facilitated cinema, but anyone who lives here knows better.

The large multiplex cinema should be able to cater for the cinematic needs of anyone with any film preference, but unfortunately it doesn't come close.

The main problem with the cinema is it's complete lack of competition. It simply lacks competitive prices or any incentive to lower them. Every so often ticket prices seem to creep up, especially for over-fifteens.

Although the cinema does try to offer some special deals, for the most part you still end up paying a ridiculously high price for snacks of any kind.

What is more annoying however is that you are not even allowed to bring food in that you have bought elsewhere. If you haven't enough money you're left with the choice of letting your stomach rumble all through the film, or else try to secretly sneak something in from the near by Tesco's.

I think the cinema should also offer more art house or independent films, so that film fans have a wider choice to choose from.

At the moment independent films only get played in the Strand Multiplex during the Foyle film festival in Derry. Even if it was only one night a month, it would be a great improvement.

The cinema's owners need to realise that not everyone, especially young people, are able to pay the prices they are asking.

The cinema and films are a big part of many young people's lives. It can be a thoroughly enjoyable and educational experience, and it is one of the few sources of entertainment available to us in this city.

Speaking from the view point of a teenager, you only have to look at the cinema in Letterkenny to realise it is leagues ahead of the Strand cinema, and perhaps further development is needed.

### About this article

This article was written by Damien McLaughlin, 14, and published in the Derry [Sunday Journal](#).

### Comments

I have to agree with D

Well done to D for his piece, I agree with all the things he said. I would like to follow up on one comment D made about the lack of competition in the area. Why??? is there such a lack of competition in the area. I go to Dublin all the time and nearly all the areas in Dublin have a multi screen cinema's some areas have two. So why can't the second largest city in Northern Ireland have more than one cinema. C

Conor (age older) from Derry, 10 August 2007 16:18

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its good to see that finally some1 is doing something about our lack of cinematic resources. as a fan of foreign language films, i find it utterly disgraceful that i can not watch them in my home town!well done D for putting this out there.

Wendy Miller , 30 December 1899 00:00

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Thats very true, especially the food thing lol. It looks well now though an talk about comfy seats! Dunno about prices though... :S

Shannon (age 15) from Feeny, 30 December 1899 00:00

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