



How to plan: an outdoor cinema evening

For summer fun nothing beats watching a film al fresco. Gather some friends, some drinks and some popcorn, choose the perfect summer flick and settle down to a night amongst the stars!

Mark, one of our fab fundraisers held a cinema night in his back garden to raise funds for CLDF, here's his advice:

How much time did it take to plan/organise?

Not much. Luckily we already have a projector as my mother in law was a teacher. But you can also rent them by the day from around £50. You don't want muffled dialogue to ruin things, so you'll need decent speakers – though you don't need to spend hundreds on woofers. Stereo speakers or even computer speakers are fine. A bedsheet won't do for a screen as it doesn't reflect light, so either rent a proper projector screen, borrow one or buy one cheaply online. I picked one up from eBay for £60 and built a simple wooden frame in around 2 hours one afternoon. A small screen (3m x 2m) is suitable for groups of up to 100 people. I'd recommend a practise run to make sure everything works OK.

How much did you raise?

We raised £600 on the night. Entry tickets cost £10 each to include popcorn and a complimentary drink. We set up a bar area and one of my friends made cocktails, the bar alone made nearly £300 profit! We were thrilled with the amount and couldn't believe the amount raised from such a fun event.



What you'll need:

The kit: Projector, speakers, projector screen, video source, seating

The grub: It's not a proper cinema without popcorn. You can raise extra funds by asking for donations for classic cinema treats like popcorn, sweets, pick and mix and drinks.

Things to consider:

Choosing a date: Have a think if there are any dates that are coming up that match a particular film e.g. Star Wars and May the 4th! Also if you are using a public space have a think of any any other local events on the horizon to make sure nothing conflicts.

Weather: Have a look at sunset times for the day of your event. The best time to start a film is 15-30 mins after the sun has set. Make a wet weather contingency plan!

Thinking of going BIG? Make sure to have council approval for all of your plans so you can get all of the relevant permits needed! For some activities you may need an entertainment licence. To find out about what licences you need, contact your local council. You can find yours by searching 'local councils' at direct.gov.uk