

Who let the dogs in?

Many cinema audiences are basically animals already. They spill popcorn on the seats, snog on the back row, and let their phones ring in the quiet bits. So, really,
5 would anyone care if they also scent-marked the seats, sniffed each other's bottoms on the back row and howled in the saucy bits? One cinema thinks not – and is letting dogs come to a
10 special canine film season.



Picturehouse Central in London has lined up a series of films about man's relationship with his best friend – the first of which, *Heart of a Dog*, will be open to dogs. Described as a reflection on love, language and death, inspired by the affection the
15 director had for her terrier, Lolabelle, the film seems perfect for thinking doggy-style.

“It's a brave cinema that opens up their doors to dogs and concerns have been raised about what would happen to the soft furnishings” admitted Clare Binns, programme director at Picturehouse. She is
20 expecting a higher class of canine clientele and, in keeping with her expectations, will concentrate on more arty dog films. These range from the harrowing realism of *Amores Perros* to the documentary *White God*: about the struggles of a dog cast out on to the streets of Hungary for not being pure bred.

25 If the screening goes well, Ms Binns said Picturehouse might extend the 'woof cinema' concept. Some interspecies issues may need to be addressed first. Not least the fact that *Heart of a Dog* has a 12 certificate. Is that dog or human years?

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