



Scala!!! (2024)

## Description

### Celebrating London's Legendary Cult Cinema

Jane Giles and Ali Catterall's documentary *Scala!!!* is a nostalgic tribute to the legendary Scala Cinema in London. For anyone whose formative moviegoing years were defined by eccentric, urban cinemas that programmed eclectic films, *Scala!!!* will resonate deeply. This documentary [captures](#) the spirit of a bygone era when cinema was an adventure, and the Scala was at its heart, challenging and inspiring audiences with its daring programming.



The Scala, located in the King's Cross neighborhood before its gentrification, was more than just a theater; it was a hub for film enthusiasts and a crucible for future filmmakers and programmers. The documentary features interviews with notable figures such as John Waters, Ben Wheatley, Ralph Brown, Mary Harron, Beeban Kidron, and Isaac Julien, who share their memories and the impact the Scala had on their careers and the broader film community.

The film explores the [transformative power](#) of the Scala, which didn't just show films but stimulated interest in cinema, challenged societal norms, and pushed the boundaries of what was acceptable. It championed pro-union and LGBTQ-friendly films, early works by legendary directors like David Lynch, and underground movies that blurred the lines between arthouse and grindhouse. One notable tale is the enduring appeal of Curt McDowell's 1975 film *Thundercrack*, a surrealist art flick and hardcore porno hybrid that became a Scala staple.

The Scala's history is marked by its resilience and struggle to stay afloat amidst rising costs and the advent of VHS rentals. The final blow came from a lawsuit by Warner Bros. after the Scala screened Stanley Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange*, which had been withdrawn from UK distribution by the director. The theater went into receivership, and while it reopened in 1999, its focus shifted to live

entertainment.

â??Scala!!!â?• captures the essence of the Scalaâ??s eclectic programming and the colorful characters who frequented it. The documentary is based on Jane Gilesâ?? 2018 book â??Scala Cinema 1978-1993â?• and is brimming with enthusiasm, making it both exhilarating and exhausting. It recalls a time when cinema was a communal experience, and the Scala felt like the center of the universe for those who were part of its [unique](#) community.

### Strengths:

- Rich historical context and anecdotes
- Engaging interviews with notable filmmakers
- Captures the spirit of a unique cinematic era

### Weaknesses:

- May feel niche and overly detailed for non-enthusiasts
- The exhaustive enthusiasm might be overwhelming for some viewers

Fans of [documentaries](#) like â??Cinema Paradisoâ?• and â??The Last Picture Showâ?• will find â??Scala!!!â?• a heartfelt homage to the power of cinema and communal moviegoing experiences. Itâ??s a celebration of the rebellious spirit of independent cinemas and the vibrant communities they fostered.

â??Scala!!!â?• is a must-watch for cinephiles and anyone interested in the history of [independent cinema](#). Stream it now on [iwatchonline.cc](#) for an inspiring journey through the Scalaâ??s storied past.

## FAQ about â??Scala!!!â?•

### Is â??Scala!!!â?• based on true events?

Yes, â??Scala!!!â?• is a documentary that explores the history of the Scala Cinema in London, based on Jane Gilesâ?? 2018 book â??Scala Cinema 1978-1993â?•.

### Who directed â??Scala!!!â?•?

The documentary was directed by Jane Giles and Ali Catterall, both of whom have a deep connection to the Scala and its legacy.

### What themes does â??Scala!!!â?• explore?

â??Scala!!!â?• delves into themes such as the transformative power of cinema, the impact of independent movie theaters, and the vibrant film culture of the late 20th century. It also touches on issues of censorship, community, and the evolution of film exhibition.

### Is â??Scala!!!â?• available for streaming?

Yes, you can stream [Scala!!!](#) on [iwatchonline.cc](http://iwatchonline.cc). It is the best platform for watching this nostalgic documentary.

### What makes [Scala!!!](#) different from other film history documentaries?

[Scala!!!](#) stands out for its focus on the unique and rebellious spirit of the Scala Cinema. It captures the essence of a time when cinema was an adventure and celebrates the community of passionate film lovers and future filmmakers who were shaped by this iconic venue.

For further reading, you can check out the [Wikipedia page on the Scala Cinema](#) and [IMDb page for Jane Giles](#).

### CATEGORY

1. Reviews
2. Movies

### POST TAG

1. Cult Cinema
2. Cult Movies
3. Film Review
4. London
5. Scala

### ACTOR

1. Adam Buxton
2. John Waters
3. Stewart Lee

### DIRECTOR

1. Ali Catterall
2. Jane Giles

### GENRE

1. Documentary

### RATING

1. 6

### STREAMING-PLATFORM

1. iwatchonline

### MOVIE YEAR

1. 2024

### Category

1. Reviews
2. Movies

### Tags

1. Cult Cinema
2. Cult Movies
3. Film Review
4. London
5. Scala

### Date

2025/10/14

### Date Created

2024/07/20

### Author

mattzollerseitz