

📍 London

Screen time

This free streaming service shines the spotlight on forgotten cult movies from the '50s and '60s

Unlike other online streaming sites that require paid subscriptions, London-based, free culture platform byNWR is driven by a radical business model: passion. This independent project, established in mid-2018 by Danish film director Nicolas Winding Refn (*Drive* and *The Neon Demon*), celebrates "the rare, the forgotten and the unknown" in cinema.

This primarily includes '60s-era "exploitation films" – low-budget "B movie" flicks that exploit trends, niche genres or lurid content, and which were once shown in seedy theaters dubbed grindhouses.

For access to these films – sourced and selected by Refn (pictured, below) and his London-based team of archivists and guest editors ranging from music and film critics to authors and journalists – all users have to do is sign up with their email addresses via the website. Once in, they can view fully restored movies that have been curated into themed volumes. Each collection comprises three films accompanied by essays, videos, photos and even music, and the resulting effect is a multi-faceted and educational experience. The fifth and latest volume on the site, termed "Monstrous Extravagances",



Singapore's Asian Film Archive has opened a cinema at the National Archives of Singapore. Named Oldham Theatre, the 135-seater venue will show both vintage and contemporary Asian films, including older works captured on 35mm prints.

There will also be a screening of homegrown short films from August 10-18, with a special lineup curated by local writer, playwright and poet Alfian Sa'at.
asianfilmarchive.org



sits squarely in the grindhouse genre. Curated by film writer Kier-La Janisse, it features left-of-center works such as *Olga's House of Shame* (1964), a silent film centered on the titular brothel owner who moves her prostitutes to a deserted ore mine in a bid to evade the police. The other equally esoteric titles in the volume include *She-Man* (1967), a drama about a soldier who's forced to take estrogen and wear lingerie, and *Orgy of the Dead* (1965), an erotic horror flick involving half-naked ghouls.

While byNWR was initially launched with a focus on grindhouse cinema, the service plans to expand its repertoire to include other genres as well. "There is a misconception that we are only about this particular genre, when we're really interested in all kinds of films. For instance, we have a volume coming up that's devoted to film noir and another to music," Jimmy McDonough, byNWR's editorial director, shares. "Ultimately, byNWR has a simple directive – to inspire. We believe that culture is for everyone." bynwr.com
– Delle Chan

