



The Formentera Council's Office of Culture reports that this year the island's cinema, or Sala Municipal de Cultura, will celebrate thirty years since opening.

The story of Formentera's "Hall of Culture" can be traced to the commemoration of Sant Jaume in 1987 and a conference which included the participation of historian Joan Marí Cardona. The stable, uninterrupted programming the Sala is known for today would begin a year later, on February 20, 1988, when, with the help of professionalised management, it was transformed into a multipurpose, 268-person capacity hall that played both as a centre for cultural programming and meeting place. What better pretext for the task than cinema, one of the most transcendent languages of artistic expression in modern society.

Thirty years after the Sala's first audiences saw *La Misión*, the site is a premier cultural outpost in constant renovation. The cinema's switch to digital was an expression of this, part of the Sala's passion for innovation in the service of islanders. It is this that makes the Sala a motor for up-to-date, stable film programming every Friday and Sunday of the year.

The cinema also hosts stage productions, music and dance series, conferences, book talks and theatre for kids, and serves as a backdrop for performing arts courses in theatre and dance.

Thirty-year celebration

To celebrate the event, at 9.00pm on Tuesday, February 20, the cinema will give a free screening of *La Bamba*, a film that originally ran the last week of March, in 1988, and generated the cinema's largest showing to date.

Tickets this weekend and next (February 16, 18, 23 and 25) are specially priced at €3. On Saturday the 24th, following *Evocación*, a recital by Formentera municipal school of music and dance teachers Nieves Portas and Jose Jaime Hidalgo de la Torre, light hors-d'oeuvres and cava will be served.

The Formentera Council would like to thank all the individuals whose efforts have made cinema possible on the island over the last thirty years.