

Lucy's fish hit the big time

ANOTHER big success has been chalked up by a young Gwent film-maker.

First it was Newport-born Julian Richards developing a script for Steven Spielberg; now it's Newport Film School graduate Lucy Lee getting one of her movies selected for screening at the London Film Festival — one of the biggest and most prestigious events of its kind in the world.

Lucy said that the news came "out of the blue" and that she was delighted to have her work chosen.

Her short film, entitled *The Hidden Hearts of Fish*, mixes live action and animation.

"It was an experiment to bring those two forms together. The film was based mainly on using colour rather than specific images," said Lucy, who organised a public screening of work by film students at the college earlier this year.

"The *Hidden Hearts of Fish* was inspired by the fantastic colour that you can get from painting on film — it's almost as fantastic as tropical fish. Also, because of the flattering movement the

film achieves, it's a bit like the thoughts you have but can't explain."

Lucy used a variety of techniques to achieve the unusual look of the film, apart from painting on the celluloid itself. She used sand animation and drawn animation as well as live action.

"The film explores the mystery of sea life, and possibly represents the thoughts of someone who is autistic, as the pictures are accompanied by the sound of someone asking the person to explain their thoughts — but she can't."

The Chapter Arts centre in Cardiff is planning to show the movie as a curtain-raiser to John Snykes' new film *Passion Fish*, probably in December.

■ What used to be called the film school is now part of the school of art and design at Gwent College of Higher Education.

The course, based at Clarence Place, Newport, has now been upgraded from diploma to degree status and lasts three years instead of two. Details from the college on Newport 432662.



A scene from Lucy's film *The Secret Hearts of Fish*



Hands on... Lucy Lee at work on one of her movies