



# Michael Grigsby

Michael Grigsby filming *Engineman* in 1959

As a pupil, Michael Grigsby, OA 1955, presided over a weekly film club before persuading Headmaster James Cobban to purchase a camera and kick-start practical filmmaking at the school. Grigsby directed the first two films, *Ut Proficias* and *No Tumbled House*, with support from a small army of pupils and staff. Collectively known as ASPS – the Abingdon School Photographic Society – they made films rooted in school life that established Abingdon as one of very few schools in the country engaged in such activity.

Grigsby secured his first job as a cameraman at the new Granada Television company in Manchester. His subsequent career spanned six decades and produced more than forty films. Described as “one of Britain’s greatest documentary filmmakers”, Mike made films characterised by a concern for the lives of ordinary people and a desire “to give voice to the voiceless”.

In 2003, Mike returned to Abingdon to help establish the Abingdon Film Unit. His passion and energy were vital to the success of the enterprise as he recruited a formidable team of tutors and challenged new generations of Abingdon filmmakers to look with compassion at the world around them. His reputation helped the AFU’s work achieve a level of attention it would never otherwise have enjoyed, including national press coverage and screenings at the National Film Theatre in London. ■ *Jeremy Taylor*

## A History of Abingdon School in 63 Objects

Inspired by Neil MacGregor’s *A History of the World in 100 Objects*, Abingdon’s 63 objects illuminate the School’s past through its present possessions. New objects are uploaded every Tuesday and Thursday during term time. [www.abingdon.org.uk/63objects](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/63objects)



## Whats On

### Music

#### Wednesday 24 April

**Joint Chamber Choir Concert**  
7 pm: Yolande Patterson Hall, SHSK

#### Friday 26 April

**School Bands' Concert**  
7 pm: Amey Theatre  
Tickets: £6, £4 (concessions), £16 family

#### Wednesday 1 May

**Thames Vale Youth Orchestra Concert**  
7.30 pm Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford  
Tickets at the door

#### Friday 3 May

**Summer Orchestral Concert**  
7 pm: Amey Theatre  
Tickets: £6, £4 (concessions), £16 family

#### Wednesday 22 May

**Junior Scholars' Concert**  
7 pm: Amey Theatre

#### Wednesday 26 June

**Lower School Gala Concert**  
7 pm: Amey Theatre

#### Thursday 27 June

**Jazz on a Summer Evening**  
7 pm: Amey Theatre  
Tickets: £6, £4 (concessions), £16 family

#### Friday 28 June

**Leavers' Concert**  
7 pm: Charles Maude Room

### Drama

#### Friday 3 May

**4th Year Drama Performances**  
6.30 pm: Abingdon Drama Studio

#### Tuesday 14 May, Wednesday 15 May

**Twelfth Night**  
Lower School Production  
7 pm: Amey Theatre / Ingham Room

#### Tuesday 18 June, Wednesday 19 June

**4th Year Drama Production**  
7 pm: Amey Theatre / Drama Studio (tbc)

### Abingdon Film Unit

#### Saturday 18 May

**10th Anniversary Screenings**  
7 pm: Amey Theatre

### Loose-Limbed Collective

#### Thursday 30 May

**Sixth form theatre studies, AFU students and OAs' networking event and film screenings**  
2 pm: BFI Southbank, London

### Art

#### Tuesday 25 June

**AS Art and Design Exhibition**  
5.30 pm: Art Department

#### Monday 1 July

**Art Scholars and Exhibitors' Show**  
5.30 pm: Amey Theatre Foyer