

Birthplace tribute to Hollywood hero Jack

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A Hollywood legend has been immortalised in his home town after a prominent plaque was installed in his memory.

Double Oscar winning cinematographer Jack Cardiff was born in Great Yarmouth and enjoyed a glittering 80 year career, which saw him work on iconic movies with idols of the silver screen.

And his link with the town was cemented when a blue plaque marking his birthplace was unveiled by his family.

Mr Cardiff's sons Johnny and Mason, his widow Niki and adopted daughter Jane gathered with friends and local history buffs on Sunday for the unveiling ceremony in Standard Place, on the spot where the famous filmmaker was born in 1914.

Mason, 43, who followed his father's footsteps into the film industry to become a director, entertained the crowd with the story of his father's birth.

He said: "My grandparents were

vaudevillians and used to travel around the country. On the 18th September 1914 they were here and as the first world war was just getting started my grandmother suddenly went into labour."

The plaque unveiling tied in with the third day of the Great Yarmouth Arts Festival, which this year is celebrating Mr Cardiff's life, work and links to the town through an exhibition at St George's Theatre.

Mason thanked all those involved in the exhibition and said his father held Yarmouth as "very special".

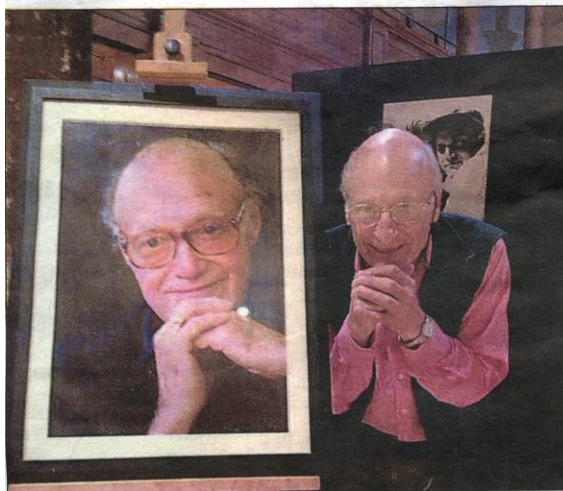
Johnny, 73, who travelled the world with his father and worked in the film industry before becoming a pilot, said it was a privilege to return to Yarmouth to unveil the blue plaque.

He added: "I have a memory of going out on a fishing boat, that was lovely. I haven't been back since then but I will come along a bit more now, now I know where he was born."

Hugh Sturzaker, festival director, said the unveiling was a "wonderful occasion" to remember Mr Cardiff, who he described as a "really remarkable person".



FAMILY: Jack Cardiff's sons Johnny and Mason with his widow Niki adopted daughter Jane at the unveiling of a blue plaque, marking the spot in Standard Place, Great Yarmouth where he was born in September 1914.



SON: Jack Cardiff's eldest son Johnny next to a picture of his famous father at an exhibition celebrating the cinematographer's life and work. His family have been touched by the town's efforts.

After the unveiling his family went on to the pub where Mr Cardiff's father was playing billiards a century ago to "raise a glass" to him.

Sunday also marked the launch of the Cardiff exhibition, which included a screening of *Cameraman* - a film produced by Mason about his father.

The free exhibition runs until Sunday. Visitors can also step into a star role in some of Mr Cardiff's most famous films through a trail of seaside-style cut outs, which have sprung up around the town.

■ For more information about the festival, and for a full programme, visit www.greatyarmouthartsfestival.co.uk



LEGEND: Cinematographer Jack Cardiff on location on one of his films. Throughout his career he won two Oscars.