

# BEESTON FILM FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL GUIDE

23<sup>RD</sup>-26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

**THE ARC**  
CINEMA

**BIFA**  
QUALIFYING  
FESTIVAL



# WELCOME TO THE 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BEESTON FILM FESTIVAL!

Between April 23–26, the lights will dim and the ARC Cinema screens will glow as we gather once again to celebrate the power of storytelling through film. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing the cinematic experience of the 96 remarkable short films our dedicated team has carefully reviewed and selected for this year's edition.

Film has the extraordinary power to evoke emotion in its purest form. A single image can move us. A quiet glance between characters can speak volumes. A story unfolding over just a few minutes can remind us of our deepest fears, our brightest dreams, and our shared humanity. Cinema reflects who we are, not only as individuals, but as communities.

At Beeston Film Festival, we celebrate that shared human experience. We believe storytelling connects us across cultures, languages, generations, and borders. In a world that can feel divided, film invites us to sit together and truly see one another. It nurtures empathy. It sparks conversation. It opens our eyes to lives lived differently from our own and reminds us how much we have in common.

This festival honours both our commonalities and our differences. We champion stories that shape communities around the world from intimate personal journeys to bold explorations of identity, justice, love, resilience, and imagination. We stand in awe of the creativity, courage, and craft of filmmakers who share their perspectives with honesty and vision. Through their work, we are invited not only to witness other realities, but to reflect more deeply on our own.

Short films hold a unique magic. Within a brief span of time, they capture entire worlds. They surprise us, challenge us, and linger in our thoughts long after the credits roll. Their brevity demands clarity, imagination, and emotional precision. Each screening at Beeston Film



Festival is a carefully curated journey — a mosaic of voices and visions forming a vibrant global tapestry.

Join us for four unforgettable days of short films from across the globe. From powerful dramas and thought-provoking documentaries to imaginative animation and uplifting comedies, every session offers something to move, inspire, and surprise you.

Christie Sietos  
Marketing Director

**AND FIRST...**

**LET'S WATCH SOME FILMS TOGETHER.**

# GUIDE

	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
11 AM			
12 PM			
1 PM			
2 PM			
3 PM		<b>SCREEN 7</b> RESILIENCE NON-FICTION	<b>SCREEN 8</b> GIVE & TAKE VARIETY PACK
4 PM			
5 PM		<b>SCREEN 7</b> I'M NOT OKAY VARIETY PACK	<b>SCREEN 8</b> WEATHERING THE STORM VARIETY PACK
6 PM			
7 PM	<b>PRE-DRINKS</b> ARC FOYER	<b>NETWORKING</b> ARC FOYER	
8 PM	<b>SCREEN 3</b> WE'RE NOT IN BEESTON ANYMORE GALA OPENING NIGHT	<b>SCREEN 3</b> SCARES & GIGGLES VARIETY PACK	
9 PM			
10 PM	<b>FESTIVAL CLUB</b> BISTRO 66	<b>FESTIVAL CLUB</b> BISTRO 66	
11 PM			

*The Festival Programme is potentially subject to change without prior notice. Show  
Bistro 66 will once again be our Festival Club for*

SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
<b>FESTIVAL BRUNCH</b> THE WHITE LION		<b>FESTIVAL BRUNCH</b> THE WHITE LION	
<b>SCREEN 7</b> WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? VARIETY PACK	<b>WORKSHOP</b> HOW TO MARKET YOURSELF IN FILM	<b>SCREEN 7</b> LOVE LOUD & QUIET PRIDE	<b>SCREEN 8</b> THE HEART OF ENGLAND VARIETY PACK
<b>WORKSHOP</b> SOJO ANIMATION	<b>SCREEN 8</b> HUMAN ACTS INTERNATIONAL DRAMA	<b>WORKSHOP</b> A SCREEN ACTORS LIFE	<b>SCREEN 8</b> ROUND THE WORLD VARIETY PACK
<b>SCREEN 7</b> STANDING OUR GROUND WOMEN'S VOICES	<b>SCREEN 8</b> UNUSUAL OBSERVATIONS SCI-FI	<b>SCREEN 7</b> THE KIDS AREN'T ALRIGHT VARIETY PACK	<b>SCREEN 8</b> YESTERDAY'S GHOSTS UK DRAMA
<b>NETWORKING</b> ARC FOYER		<b>PRE-DRINKS</b> ARC FOYER	
<b>SCREEN 3</b> KEEP ON KEEPING ON EAST MIDLANDS FOCUS		<b>B'OSCAR AWARDS</b> SCREEN 3	
<b>FESTIVAL CLUB</b> BISTRO 66		<b>FESTIVAL ENDS</b>	

*Should this be the case we will post information about any change on our social media.  
networking after films have finished for the day.*

# SCREEN 3 / WE'RE NOT IN BEESTON A

## THE 12<sup>TH</sup> BEESTON FILM FESTIVAL



### THE FUNERAL REHEARSAL

20 MINS

THE NETHERLANDS



When Herman's granddaughter forces him to rehearse his funeral, the man who's been dodging death has no choice but to confront it.



### THE THIRD CHILD

25 MINS

IRAN



Mehdi is the only hearing child in a completely deaf family, struggling with pronunciation & speech, yet he became a professional voice actor, dubbing artist, & cherished son.



### WORLD NAKED BIKE TOUR

10 MINS

CANADA



A nude cycling event is hounded by a right-wing picketer attempting to sabotage it. Cartoon slapstick ensues!



### JAEL DRIVES THE NAIL

11 MINS

UK



A wry, witty historical short where three women test power, conscience and rebellion in a sharply transgressive moral standoff.



### THE SECOND TIME AROUND

12 MINS

UK



On a stormy night, a café closes, and a young waitress is surprised by a mysterious older woman, evoking a strange feeling that this moment may matter more than the waitress realises.



### UNQUITOUS

8 MINS

UK

A poetic, music-driven short about a young man wrestling with self-acceptance and unspoken love for his closest friend.



B'Oscar Nominated



Best in Festival Nomination



## BURNOUT

6 MINS  
UK

Burnout is a stop motion that combines dark cinematic visuals with unexpected moments of comedy. The film follows the character trapped in a furious cycle of work as mounting stress begins to unravel him.



## OUR NEIGHBOUR'S ASS

14 MINS  
UK

A widow, left caring for her late husband's donkey, comes up against her neighbour's frustrations as the donkey becomes a local nuisance.



# SCREEN 7 / RESILIENCE

## NON FICTION



### THE LOST BOYS OF CARBIS BAY

30 MINS  
UK

A daring band of unlikely explorers embark on a quest to uncover forgotten mines of Cornwall, only to unearth an unexpected journey of self-discovery.



### ESME BOGGART

30 MINS  
UK

A family resists a Section 21 no-fault eviction notice, invoking the spirit of Esme Boggart, a mystical figure known for aiding those in distress.



### PAINTED

30 MINS  
UK

Through the portrait painting process, 4 of Bradford's Afro-Caribbean elders share their knowledge, experience & wisdom about community, identity, racism, & legacy.

*"A well organised event with a friendly atmosphere showcasing some great films of different genres. The festival organisers, who have a deep appreciation for independent cinema, did a great job of making sure all the filmmakers felt welcomed."*

Loren Alleyne



B'Oscar Nominated

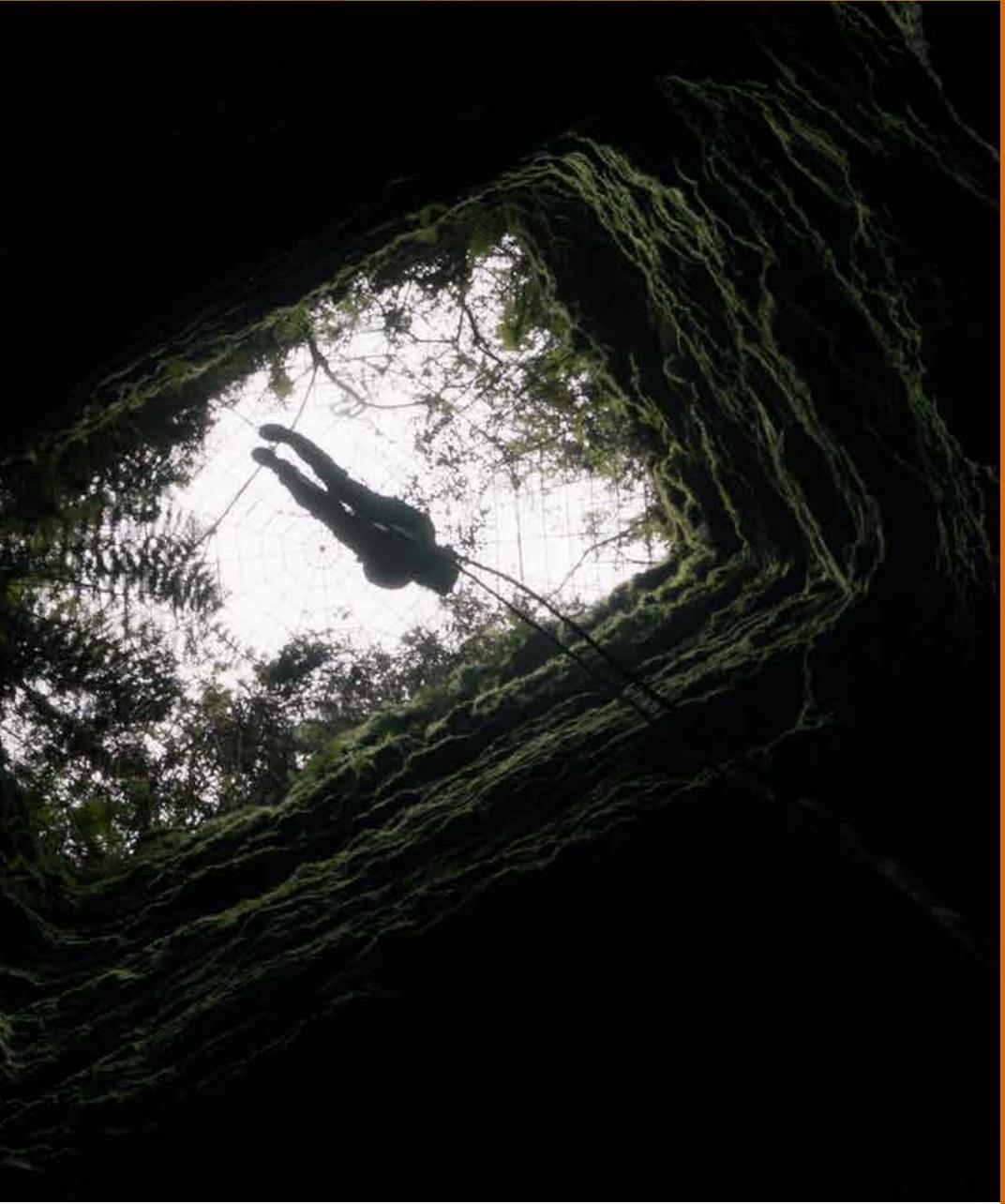


Best in Festival Nomination



FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 3PM

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# SCREEN 8 / GIVE & TAKE

## VARIETY PACK



### MILES OF LIFE

15 MINS  
UGANDA



After falling short of his athletic dreams, a once-promising Ugandan runner rediscovers purpose – using sport to rebuild his broken community & to honour his trainer’s life.



### FINAL SCENE

20 MINS  
ARGENTINA

A theatre class for six strangers turns into a profound exploration of personal boundaries, leading to an intense, unpredictable experience.



### NEST

13 MINS  
IRAN

Shamila and her siblings are Afghan immigrant orphans in Iran. They attempt to enrol their brother in school, but they are prevented by Iranian law.



### LEVIATHAN

18 MINS  
UK

1888, as the Whitechapel murders continue, fate has brought together an unlikely alliance who must put aside their differences and unite to end the autumn of terror.



### A SPOON FOR GRANDPA

6 MINS  
FRANCE

Ben is reluctant to finish his plate, to the despair of his mother. But when his grandpa is there, it’s a different story.



### CHLOÉ

19 MINS  
FRANCE

In wartime France, a child’s imagination blurs fear and fantasy as danger creeps closer. A haunting portrait of innocence under pressure.



B'Oscar Nominated



Best in Festival Nomination

FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 3PM

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# SCREEN 7 / I'M NOT OKAY

## VARIETY PACK



### GLITTER KISS

19 MINS  
LITHUANIA

Homophobe Rolandas finds a drag queen brutally beaten; after taking them to the hospital, he is forced to rethink his beliefs.



### DARK ORANGE

6 MINS  
IRAN

A young couple appears to live a peaceful life yet beneath the surface their relationship is fractured by emotional neglect and physical violence.



### HABITUATION

13 MINS  
UK



A moving fantasy blending faith, memory and ecology, as a dying nun reflects on her Pacific homeland and a world shaped by loss and change.



### LIQUID LIKE WATER

20 MINS  
DENMARK

Neel struggles to support her mother's art residency: as she starts to realise herself, the walls begin to crack and water finds a way through.



### QUIET

12 MINS  
UK

Unable to leave her room, Gert spends her anxiety ridden days talking to a bird outside her window, until he tells her the world has ended.



### POPCORN PARANOIA

21 MINS  
NETHERLANDS

A cinema worker's routine fractures as paranoia and unease take hold. A stylish psychological mystery blurring control, obsession and reality.



B'Oscar Nominated



Best in Festival Nomination

FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 5PM



# SCREEN 8 / WEATHERING THE STORM

VARIETY PACK

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FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 5PM



### MORE LIKE PAUL

23 MINS  
UK

An award-winning, life-affirming documentary on purpose & resilience as Paul Youd, aged 88, attempts to complete 100 ultramarathons before his 100th birthday.



### LEARNERS

20 MINS  
UK

David starts teaching his son's girlfriend Ellen to drive, but they are off to a bad start. As the unpleasant lessons go by, they learn to navigate each other's lives.



### HIDE & SEEK

9 MINS  
IRAN

During a religious ceremony, a 10-year-old boy witnesses the invisible boundaries of gender, unspoken taboos, and the natural curiosity of childhood.



### THE TIDE

25 MINS  
CHINA



Two strong women struggle to survive in a traditional fishing occupation threatened by privatization of ocean resources.



### MOVING

10 MINS  
USA

On the eve of his family's big move, ten-year-old Carl turns to stone.



### THE WOLF

10 MINS  
UK



Leah thought the man known as 'The Wolf' was going to be her knight in shining armour, but when he tries to hurt her son, she knows its time to escape.



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Best in Festival Nomination

# SCREEN 3 / SCARES & GIGGLES

## VARIETY PACK



### PLASTIC SURGERY

12 MINS  
UK



A doctor, on her last day before maternity leave, is thrown into chaos when a hidden threat emerges.



### THE QUACKENING

20 MINS  
UK

A grumpy Welshman reluctantly visits his grandmother, only to discover she has gone and got herself cursed! Now he needs to save her (and the world) from a demon duck.



### THE CAULDRON

16 MINS  
SLOVENIA

In 1918, a young man and his family are accused of witchcraft. As his panic sets in, he must confront the demon within to break the cycle of violence.



### RESTRAINING ORDER

9 MINS  
ISRAEL

Dori issued a restraining order against her violent husband but she didn't imagine he would find a way to invade her peaceful home.



### TEXT ME WHEN YOU'RE THIRSTY

11 MINS  
IRELAND

As tensions simmer, Kate struggles to keep up appearances during a ritual annual brunch with estranged friend Izzy.



### CITY OF PIGS

10 MINS  
UK

In a future UK run by lottery, ex-rockstar Lenny Hicks becomes PM against his will. Trying to fail spectacularly, he only grows more popular.



B'Oscar Nominated



Best in Festival Nomination

FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 8PM



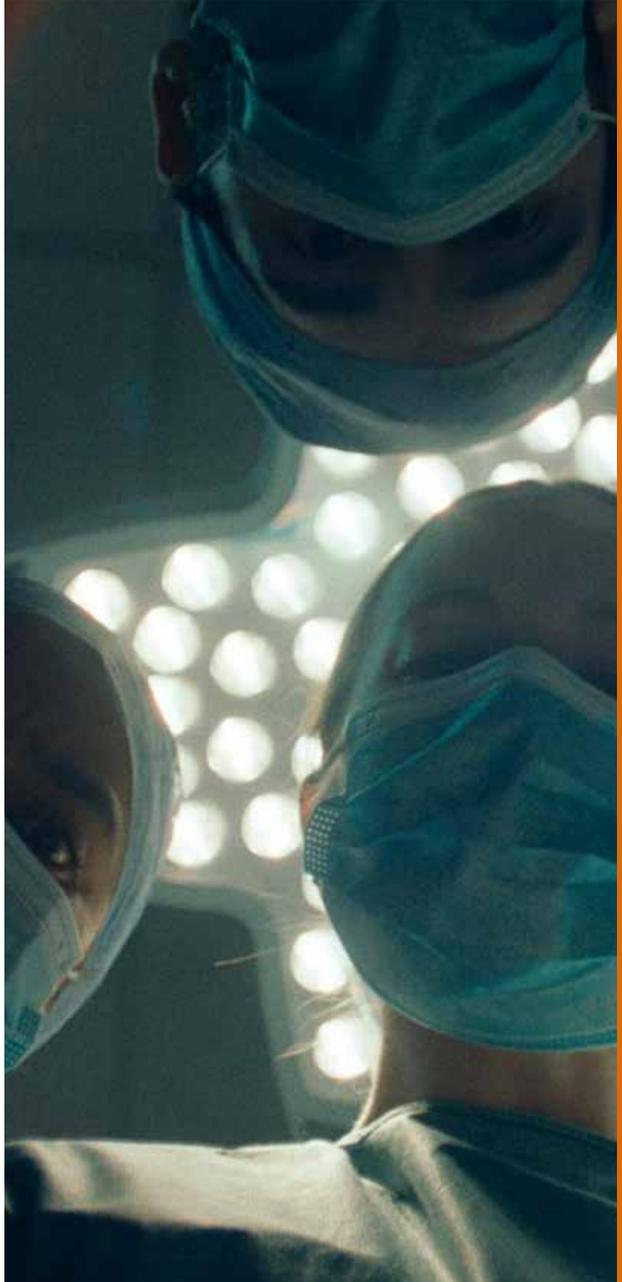
## ODD SOCKS

20 MINS  
UK

In a world where humans live alongside sock-monsters, detective McGuin hunts a killer, battling lies, clichés, and chaos after a sock-monster is murdered.

*"A well organised event with a friendly atmosphere showcasing some great films of different genres. The festival organisers, who have a deep appreciation for independent cinema, did a great job of making sure all the filmmakers felt welcomed."*

Loren Alleyne



# SCREEN 7 / WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO W

## VARIETY PACK

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### I HAD SEX, BUT...

15 MINS  
CHINA

A filmmaker questions intimacy through candid encounters and conversations, probing desire, connection and what closeness really means.



### MAGID / ZAFAR

19 MINS  
UK

Tensions arise amidst the heat of a chaotically busy British Pakistani takeaway as Magid's friend unexpectedly shows up.



### BRIDGE-MY LITTLE FRIENDS

10 MINS  
JAPAN

"I'll bring Shiro to you, I promise!" Jin the cat promises Mugi, who is deeply sad about losing her beloved dog. Can Jin heal Mugi with the help of his animal friends and the mythical rainbow bridge?



### IT'S A FAMILY THING

22 MINS  
FRANCE/UK

This intimate look into an African American family uncovers the story of a long-lost brother & explores the transformative power of family & belonging.



### SEX AT 70

10 MINS  
SPAIN

A widowed grandmother is set up on a dating app by her granddaughter. Reluctant but curious, Marga meets a salsa-loving suitor and an unexpected night unfolds.



### JUST MATES

6 MINS  
UK

Flatmates Joe and Ella are forced to confront the truth of their relationship - despite being adamant that they are "just mates."



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WITH IT?

SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1PM



# SCREEN 7 / WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1PM

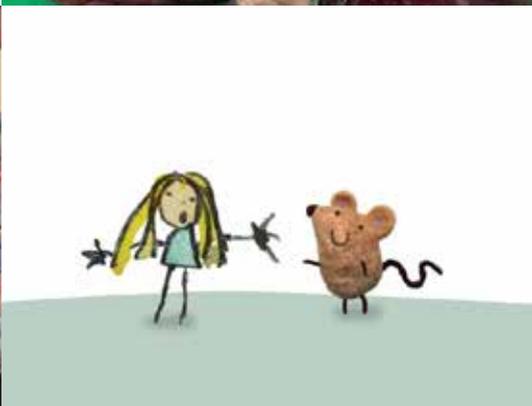


## HOW TO MARKET YOURSELF IN FILM

This workshop explores marketing yourself in the film landscape through social media channels, collaboration, and a variety of other methods. The session will be led by Award winning filmmaker and content creator, Joey Lever, with 15 years industry experience and 150 million views across all social channels. From fan-made films capturing the imagination of fans worldwide to passion projects breathing new life into beloved classic cartoons. Joey will share stories of his own experience and advice for fellow filmmakers looking to grow their social media footprint.

# SCREEN 8 / WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 3PM



## SOJO ANIMATION

Join us for an exciting, hands-on animation workshop led by the creative team at Sojo Animation. Whether you're a beginner or an aspiring animator, this interactive session will guide you through the fundamentals of animation—demonstrating how simple sketches become dynamic animated scenes. A family friendly workshop celebrating creative sparks in all age groups, led by Sophie Johnson Hill.

# SCREEN 8 / HUMAN ACTS

## INTERNATIONAL DRAMA



### NIGHTFACES

23 MINS  
AUSTRIA



During a raining night in Vienna, two wounded hearts find the courage to meet the dawn.



### NAK MUAY

20 MINS  
UK

A Thai Boxing fighter is torn between fame and excess, and memories of friendship and tragedy.



### THE PERFECT BALL

23 MINS  
ETHIOPIA

The paths of a travelling photographer and a street kid obsessed with finding 'the perfect ball' intertwine when he steals her camera.



### MELODY OF MEMORIES

19 MINS  
SWEDEN

As her grandfather slips into forgetfulness, a girl keeps their shared memories alive through music.



### RAY THE RUG

7 MINS  
THAILAND

Meet Ray the Rug, a tiger with a story to share. A charming yet vital animation featuring the voice of acting royalty Ray Winstone.

*"Wonderful festival to attend, the team are all amazing and work so hard to make it a special affair. Despite its size you get the feeling it's a real labour of love. Cinema used was fabulous!!!"*

Craig Ford

### FESTIVAL BRUNCH

11AM - 1PM  
at The White Lion  
Saturday, Sunday



B'Oscar Nominated



Best in Festival Nomination

SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 3PM



# SCREEN 7 / STANDING OUR GROUND

WOMEN'S VOICES

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SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 5PM



### OVARY-ACTING

13 MINS  
UK



A thirty-something woman is forced to decide whether she wants children after unexpectedly giving birth to her reproductive organs at her sisters baby shower.



### MY FRIEND SONGZHI

25 MINS  
CHINA



A lonely girl forms a tender bond shaped by memory and imagination in this beautiful, moving story about connection, loss and becoming.



### CARROT CAKE

19 MINS  
UK



A quiet, soulful portrait of a mother and daughter navigating memory, change and tenderness, grounded in beautiful performances and gentle intimacy.



### THE CONTRACEPTION FAIR

13 MINS  
UK

A surreal, funny dive into reproductive choice and bodily autonomy, as one woman navigates pressure, persuasion and personal agency.



### AFTER ALL

25 MINS  
FRANCE

A therapist navigates delicate terrain, providing solace to a grieving student grappling with the suicide of a trans woman on campus.

*"Great festival!  
Thoroughly  
recommend  
submitting &  
attending :)"*

Patrick Ireland

FESTIVAL BRUNCH

11AM - 1PM  
at The White Lion  
Saturday, Sunday



B'Oscar Nominated



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# SCREEN 8 / UNUSUAL OBSERVATIONS

## SCI-FI



### THE CATCHER

30 MINS  
BELGIUM

Robin, a lonely young man, works for the government as a catcher of invisible birds. One day, Robin decides to bring a bird home with him.



### DON'T WATCH THIS

15 MINS  
USA

A woman slowly realizes she's a character in a movie. Everyone around her dismisses her as delusional-unaware that she knows that we are watching.



### DOWNIZED

10 MINS  
UK

On his last day of work, a software engineer attempts to salvage the digital remains of his wife before being discovered by his coworker.



### ICARE 9000

14 MINS  
UK

A vulnerable old lady is looked after by the ICare 9000, a high tech robot carer, but not everything is as it appears.



### FOCAL POINT

23 MINS  
USA

In a dystopian future, a grieving scientist discovers Earth exists within a single neuron. He launches a quest across space and time to find his son.

*"It was a pleasure to be selected this year with our film 'An Olive Branch' - Beeston is fantastic festival with great communication throughout. I would highly recommend and look forward to submitting future work!"*

*Joan Burney-Keatings*

### FESTIVAL BRUNCH 🍴

11AM - 1PM  
at The White Lion  
Saturday, Sunday



B'Oscar Nominated



Best in Festival Nomination

SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 5PM

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# SCREEN 3 / KEEP ON KEEPING ON

## EAST MIDLANDS FOCUS

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### SWIM SIESTAS

12 MINS

UK

Swim Sistas is a poetic, visually stunning love letter to water, sisterhood, and the enduring strength of Black women across generations.



### WE'RE ALL BLACK DOWN HERE

16 MINS

UK

In racially divided 1950s Britain an Afro Caribbean miner struggles to find acceptance above ground.

SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 8PM



### LACUNA

15 MINS  
UK

Reclusive art student Mia's fledgling romance with Danny, a charming boy from her class, is threatened by the ghosts of her past.



### LAZAR

19 MINS  
UK

A self obsessed bard flees for his life into Sherwood forest, only things are not quite as they seem when he's interrupted by... a wood nymph?



### DETACHABLE

28 MINS  
UK

A young deaf woman wakes up hungover unable to find the processor for her cochlear implant, unable to hear she is forced to retrace her steps from the night before..



### NOTES FROM PLANET THREE

14 MINS  
FINLAND/FRANCE/UK/USA

A boy shares the science of our solar system with his two year-old sister.



### AN ORDINARY DAY IN MANSFIELD

17 MINS  
UK

An animated film co-created by children and young people on the autistic spectrum about their home town.

*"Thank you for the official selection of our film THE PROFESSIONAL PARENT. The atmosphere at the festival was wonderful and offered many great networking opportunities. The film is currently For Your Consideration in category Best Live Action Short Film, and I believe that participating in this festival has also helped increase its visibility. I'm grateful that my film could be part of your festival. Wishing you all the best!"*

*Erik Jasañ*



B'Oscar Nominated



Best in Festival Nomination

# SCREEN 7 / LOVE LOUD & QUIET

## PRIDE

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### HI MOM, IT'S ME, LOU LOU

21 MINS  
TURKEY



Hakki, a university student working as a drag queen, attends the funeral of his mother, facing his family's prejudice.



### I HATE HELEN

14 MINS  
UK

First Love is Hard. I Hate Helen snapshots teen life: a short film about the tidal wave of gay lust at school. But our protagonist Priya isn't going down without a fight. She hates Helen, and she hates the way she is feeling.



### TICKER

10 MINS  
UK

A long car journey and an old mixtape open cracks in a decades-long relationship, as two men navigate love, ageing and vulnerability.



### UNA NOTTE

20 MINS  
UK

One summer evening, two young men drift through an English village, sharing fleeting connection, curiosity and the ache of becoming.



### THE WANDERING TREES

24 MINS  
CHINA

Two women reunite after years apart, revisiting shared memories and questioning what love looks like now.



### WAVELENGTHS

4 MINS  
UK

Two people tune into each other across the noise of the world. When the signal fades, what remains? A story of connection built not on certainty but on echoes, pauses and the quiet rhythm of shared moments.



B'Oscar Nominated



Best in Festival Nomination

SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1PM



## THE GREEN ARBOUR

12 MINS

UK

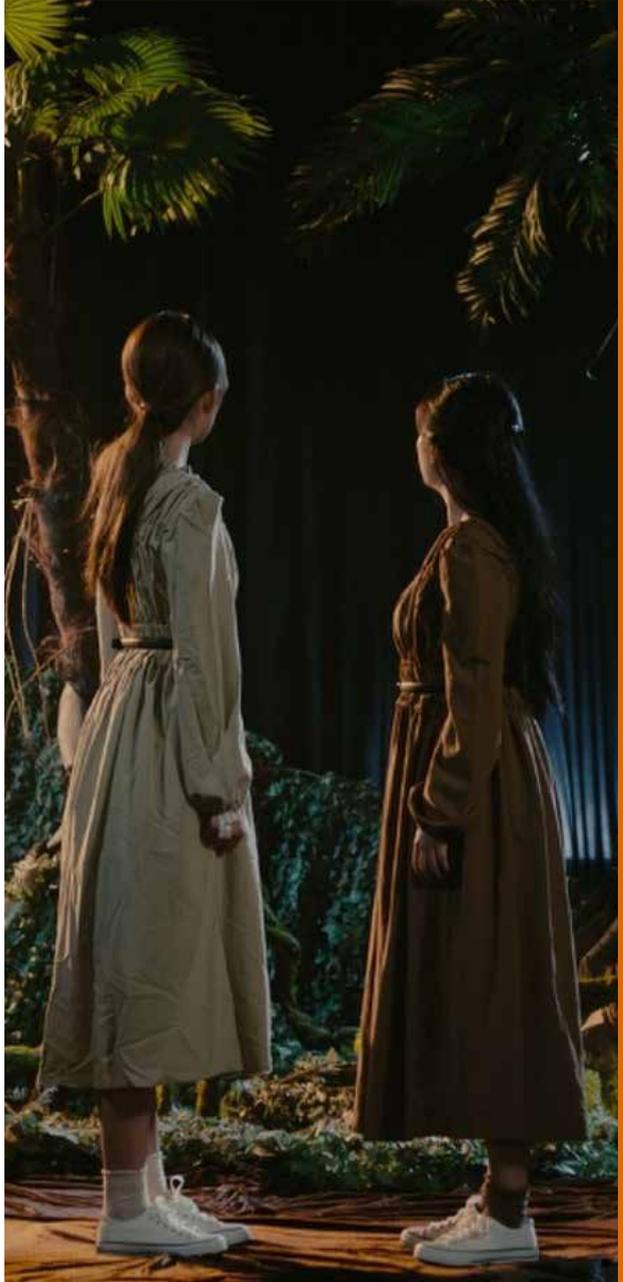
A lyrical portrait of a quiet artist whose life with plants preserves memory, love and queer history across changing times.

*"Thank you so much to John and all the Beeston FF team for selecting and nominating Exchange Rate as part of your 2025 programme. Such a great festival, I was made to feel so welcome, fab venue too. Passionate people who champion independent filmmakers, can highly recommend entering your film"*

*Emma Stansfield*

### FESTIVAL BRUNCH

11AM - 1PM  
at The White Lion  
Saturday, Sunday



# SCREEN 8 / THE HEART OF ENGLAND

## VARIETY PACK

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### FRIDAY IS MUSHROOM SOUP

17 MINS  
UK



The tired home-nurse, Kate, arrives to the sofa-ridden Doug. Although everything seems as usual, Kate notices something is not right with Doug.



### TILL DEATH DO US PART

30 MINS  
UK

Abby's husband insults the Village Watch kingpin. To avoid exile and save their mansion, she tries cake, wine, and flattery—until something bigger is required.



### DANCE, THEN

15 MINS  
UK

Iris has been ignoring the death of her mother for too long. She hasn't collected her ashes and the crematorium keeps leaving her voicemails. When she finally embarks on the journey from London to Bradford she has no idea that crossing the threshold of the M11 will take her on the ride of her life.



### STROKES OF WILDFLOWERS

4 MINS  
UK

Stroke survivors share their stories about the mental and physical struggles they face and the importance of community within their recovery.



### DARE TO DREAM

12 MINS  
UK

Israel Adekunle Balogun, who pursues his dream despite hardships, shares his story encapsulating his belief that disability should never define you.



### NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK

14 MINS  
UK

After the suicide of a childhood friend, Connor and Liam are reunited by the difficult task of choosing their friend's burial clothes.



### CARE

17 MINS  
UK

Assigned to clean up an inmate's prison cell, Ali does not only have to deal with the old man with dementia, but also his own neglected life.



*"Thank you for selecting my animation to be screened at Beeston Film Festival. The communication was excellent throughout, and it was a pleasure to be part of such a well-organised and welcoming festival."*

*Putik Amirasar*

### FESTIVAL BRUNCH

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at The White Lion  
Saturday, Sunday



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Best in Festival Nomination

# SCREEN 7 / WORKSHOP

SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 3PM



## THE LIFE OF A SCREEN ACTOR

Anton Lesser and special guests take to the stage sharing advice and set stories from major motion pictures to iconic tv projects. From Game of Thrones to a Galaxy Far Far Away, Anton Lesser is celebrated for his versatility, gravitas, and commanding presence in both dramatic and Shakespearean storytelling. Accompanied by a selection of special guests, Anton will share a very special peak behind the camera and celebrating the life of a midlands screen actor.

# SCREEN 8 / ROUND THE WORLD

VARIETY PACK

SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 3PM



## DIRTY CHANGE

23 MINS  
HUNGARY

Richie tries to repay his debt by fighting in illegal bouts. But as he gets to his final match, his freedom does not look as close as he thought.



## SAGAH

14 MINS  
FRANCE

After filing a complaint, Sagah struggles to tell the police the unspeakable, as she's suffering from complex post-traumatic stress disorder.



## OF STONE

26 MINS  
SERBIA

Provocative Montenegrin Sculptor, Ratko Vulanović's, work reveals his acceptance & compassion for humanity, & his unshakeable will built of stone.



## BLEEDING

5 MINS  
UK

Mollie, a young woman in her twenties, is struggling with her mental health. She writes a diary entry, pouring out all her unexpressed emotions.



## MARIANA, THE SIDEKICK

20 MINS  
ROMANIA

When her husband obsessively plans his own funeral, devoted Mariana finally snaps, and hatches a plan to reignite his love for life.



## THE BOY WITH WHITE SKIN

15 MINS  
FRANCE

Entrusted by his father to a group of gold-miners, an albino child embodies all of their hopes.



# SCREEN 7 / THE KIDS AREN'T ALRIGHT

## VARIETY PACK

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### **FINN**

10 MINS

UK

A raw exploration of trauma and female vulnerability, set against the backdrop of the punk scene in South West London, 1991.



### **FOLLOWING THE LINE**

7 MINS

TAIWAN

Set in 1960s–70s Taiwan, Grandma embodies women who sacrificed under economic pressure; threads bind her past, scissors cut free.

SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 5PM



### THE DIVA, MY GRANDMA AND ME

10 MINS  
SPAIN

A journey through time, inspired by a tune that connects generations of wonderful and free women.



### HEAT HAZE

10 MINS  
UK

A vulnerable teen caught between religious pressure and a stranger's influence navigates innocence, coercion and quiet menace in a tense search for belonging.



### FALCON EYES

20 MINS  
UK

Fourteen-year-old June struggles with face blindness. June tries to remember her deceased mother's face, and also uncovers a secret kept by her father.



### STARBOY

14 MINS  
UK

A rising rapper grapples with the consequences of his music's influence when he attends the birthday party of one of his young fans.



### BESHERT

20 MINS  
UK

As the reluctant Barmitzvah boy is introduced to a grumpy old man in a care home, he must realise there is more to life and his religious heritage.

*"Great festival - we were delighted to screen our film OURSELVES ALONE at the 2024 edition, and were also nominated for Best Crime Film. Really fun and friendly festival, with lots of networking opportunities and a lovely venue. Would love to come back in future"*

Barney Pells Choles

### FESTIVAL BRUNCH

11AM - 1PM  
at The White Lion  
Saturday, Sunday



B'Oscar Nominated



Best in Festival Nomination

# SCREEN 8 / YESTERDAY'S GHOSTS

## UK DRAMA

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### LARGO

19 MINS  
UK

A young Syrian refugee, struggling to feel at home in the UK without his parents, resorts to building a boat and attempting to sail home to find them.



### THE ROUNDS

20 MINS  
UK

After Alan's son disagrees having another pint on Christmas Eve, Alan recounts his attempt of buying his first-ever round. But his story is not as funny as he remembers it.



### INVISIBLE

23 MINS  
UK

Luke wants to prove his worth as a Dad. This manifests in toxic expressions of masculinity, plunging him into self-destruction.



### PARANOIA

16 MINS  
UK

While Gila lets her date sleep on the couch, she locks her bedroom. When he wakes, feeling unwell, she hesitates to unlock the door. Something doesn't feel right.



### IN THE CLOUDS

14 MINS  
UK

Sara sneaks out with her sister to explore their home after escaping Iran, but the line between reality and imagination blurs in a world shaped by loss.



B'Oscar Nominated



Best in Festival Nomination

SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 5PM

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# B'OSCAR AWARDS

## BEST IN FESTIVAL

- Plastic Surgery
- Nightfaces
- The Funeral Rehearsal
- Friday is Mushroom Soup
- Hi Mom, It's Me, Lou Lou
- The Third Child
- World Naked Bike Tour
- My Friend Songzhi
- Carrot Cake

## DRAMA UK

- Magdid / Zafar
- Friday is Mushroom Soup
- The Rounds
- Invisible

## DRAMA - INTERNATIONAL

- Glitter Kiss
- Nightfaces
- Nak Muay
- Hi Mom, It's Me, Lou Lou

## CRIME

- Leviathan
- Dirty Change

## COMEDY

- City of Pigs
- I Hate Helen
- Till Death Do Us Part

## HORROR

- The Quackening
- THE Cauldron

## NON-FICTION

- The Third Child
- Miles of Life
- It's A Family Thing

## ANIMATION

- Burnout
- Bridge-My Little Friends
- Ovary-Acting

## WOMEN'S VOICES

- Jael Drives the Nail
- My Friend Songzhi
- Carrot Cake
- The Contraception Fair

SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 8PM

### EMERGING TALENT

- A spoon for Grandpa
- Plastic Surgery
- Dare to Dream
- Bleeding
- Finn

### DIRECTION

- The Second Time Around
- Nightfaces
- The Funeral Rehearsal
- Friday is Mushroom Soup

### SCI FI & FANTASY

- The Catcher
- Don't Watch This
- Focal Point

### SCRIPT

- Nightfaces
- The Funeral Rehearsal
- Friday is Mushroom Soup
- Jael Drives the Nail

### PRIDE

- I Had Sex, But...
- Ticker
- The Green Arbour

### PERFORMANCE

- The Funeral Rehearsal
- Friday is Mushroom Soup
- The Wolf
- Care

### EAST MIDLANDS FOCUS

- Swim Sistas
- Lacuna
- Lazar
- Detachable

### CINEMATOGRAPHY

- Miles of Life
- The boy with white skin
- Plastic Surgery

### SOUND DESIGN & SOUND TRACK

- Plastic Surgery
- Ovary-Acting
- Habituation

# THE B'OSCARS AWARDS

SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 8PM

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The 12th Beeston Film Festival reaches a climax with our traditional end-of-festival awards ceremony.

Join us from 7pm for sparkling wine, dress to impress, and help us celebrate the great films shown when we present B'Oscars across a wide range of categories including the coveted Best in Festival Award.



# TICKETS & LOCATION

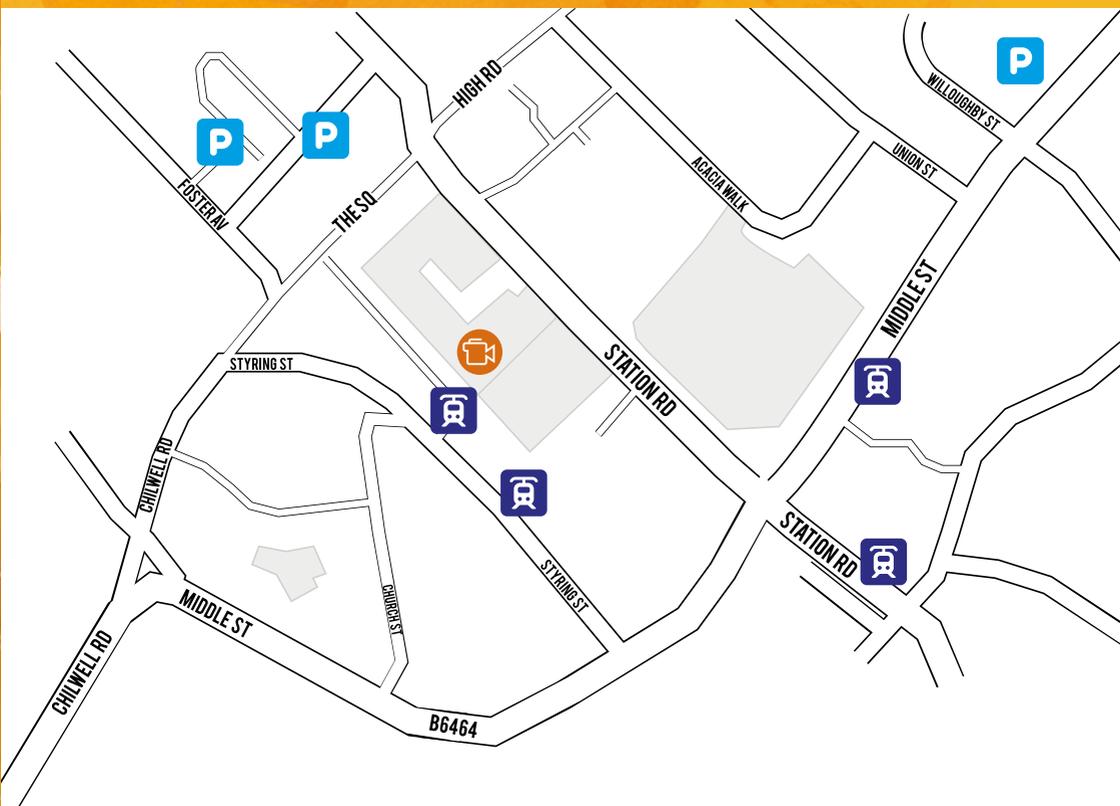
You can buy your tickets for both the film sessions and the workshops on the ARC ticketing website.

[BEESTON.ARCCINEMA.CO.UK](http://BEESTON.ARCCINEMA.CO.UK)

## USEFUL MAPS



Arc Cinema



THURSDAY - SATURDAY / FROM 10PM

# THE FESTIVAL CLUB



## THE BISTRO CLUB

A welcoming place to meet in an exclusive environment (for film-makers, festival organisers & festival goers to discuss the films of the day).

*Open from  
10pm to 1am*

66 High Rd  
Beeston  
Nottingham  
NG9 2LF

[www.bistro66.co.uk](http://www.bistro66.co.uk)

# SPONSORS

We would love to thank the following organizations for their support.

**BISTRO 66**  
**CHARLIE FOGG'S**  
**NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY**  
**THE FESTIVAL DOCTOR**  
**FESTIVAL FORMULA**

**EROIN FILMS**  
**SELECTED FILMS**  
**THE STAR INN**  
**WHITELEY MILL HOTEL**  
**RELAXEDLY**



★ **BUY TICKETS** ★



**NOW ON SALE!**

**SEE YOU AT BISTRO 66 FOR THE POST-EVENT DRINKS!**

# **FESTIVAL CLUB AT BISTRO 66**



**WHEN WE FIRST OPENED THE DOORS OF BISTRO 66 IN MAY 2022, WE WERE STILL A BRAND NEW INDEPENDENT BUSINESS FINDING OUR PLACE ON THE HIGH STREET**

In 2023, one of our dedicated regulars, John Currie, approached us with the idea of hosting post festival drinks for the Beeston Film Festival.

It immediately felt right.

John shared his vision of bringing film communities together here in Beeston and supporting independent filmmakers and celebrating their craft. At the time, the festival was growing into something new and ambitious. As a small independent restaurant ourselves, that connection was clear. Independence supporting independence made complete sense to us, so we were more than happy to open our doors.



That first year brought a completely different energy into our space. We opened later than usual, welcomed guests standing with drinks instead of seated for meals, and watched filmmakers, artists and locals fill the room with conversation about the films they had just seen. It was relaxed, informal and full of life.

We have continued to host each year because the festival keeps growing. It goes from strength to strength, welcoming more filmmakers and drawing more people into Beeston. The post festival gathering has become a casual, chilled space where people can connect, network and celebrate together. The one constant is the sense of connection and the fact that it feels bigger every year.

One of our biggest highlights is representing Beeston to an international community. Welcoming creatives from around the world into our restaurant and onto our High Street makes us incredibly proud. It reminds us why independent spaces matter and how much warmth this town has to offer.

The festival also brings something special to our everyday conversations. We've loved seeing our own customers discover a new side of themselves through conversations sparked here — picking up brochures, discussing a screening, or talking about workshops, discovering a new interest in film and art. It strengthens our community in ways that go beyond just those few days.

Hosting it in April adds to that feeling. As spring begins and the evenings grow lighter, there's a renewed sense of energy in the air. Seasonal drinks return, new faces join familiar ones, and the atmosphere feels fresh and open. It feels like the perfect time to gather and celebrate creativity.

It is always a privilege to celebrate creativity and a sense of community in our little corner of Nottinghamshire.

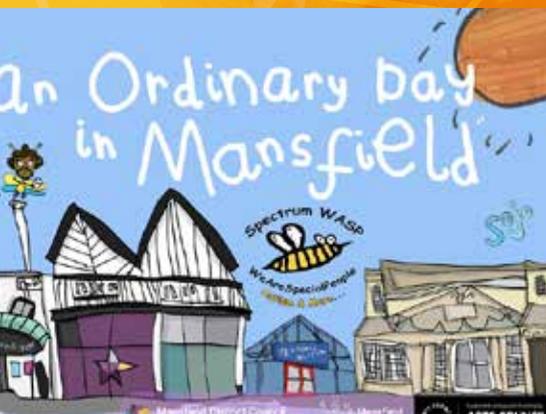
**FROM ALL OF US AT BISTRO 66, OUR DOORS WILL BE OPEN, GLASSES READY, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU BACK FOR BEESTON FILM FESTIVAL 2026.**

# OUR LOCAL GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Beeston Film Festival is a local gem that welcomes those from near and far with open arms. Everyone feels at home, whether they were born and raised in Beeston, whether they moved to Beeston, or whether they are visiting. Its reputation as the largest international short film festival in the Midlands holds true. For four exciting days, Beeston becomes a cultural centre that hosts people from around the world.

The Festival's team itself is multinational, with connections to countries such as Greece, Germany, Italy, the USA, and India, and our wonderful jury bring international expertise, hailing from countries such as Belgium, France, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Iran and China. We are also incredibly proud that our fabulous Festival Director, John, is an official member of the remarkable Cinetour Committee. The Cinetour Committee is an international collective of directors, filmmakers, festival leaders and creatives. This internationally recognised institution is supported by the United Nations, bringing to light stories from far and wide that deserve representation.

Our programme this year, as every year, has lived up to the expectation of representing a truly global perspective — capturing the world's hopes, dreams, fears, aspirations, humour and mischief. The films showcased during our festival have been crafted and created across 19 countries, including Iran, Ethiopia, Turkey, Italy, Spain, Taiwan, Japan, Canada and Sweden, among many others. This is proud evidence of our local commitment and our global community.



Perhaps the strongest proof of our welcoming community is the trust of our alumni whose films have graced our screens in previous festival editions and who have trusted us again this year with their new creations. This year, we are proud to welcome back an extraordinary list of alumni:

**SIMON PANAY**

BFF Award Winner for Nobody Dies Here, returning with The Boy with White Skin, an Oscar-nominated film.

**CATHERINE JOY WHITE**

Award winner for 54 Days, returning with Swim Sistas and now serving on the BFF Jury.

**SOPHIE BLACK**

BFF Award Winner, returning with Lacuna.

**SIMON ELLIS**

Previously screened with The Terminator, returning with Notes From Planet Three.

**SOPHIE JOHNSON-HILL**

Returning with An Ordinary Day in Mansfield and hosting a workshop at the festival this year.

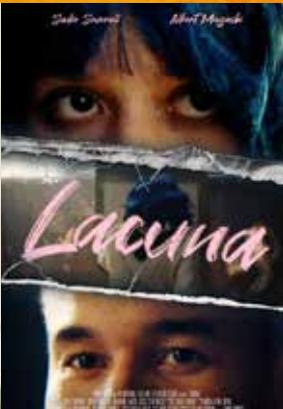
**RAFE AND MICHAEL BIRD**

BFF Award Winners, returning with Lazar.

**DAVID LEDGER**

BFF Award Winner for Rejoyce!, returning this year with Odd Socks.

Global storytelling has once again found its home at the Beeston Film Festival and the screens of The Arc Beeston!







# THANK YOU

A huge thank you to the Arc team for all their support.  
This festival truly values this amazing crew.

*John Currie, Festival Director*