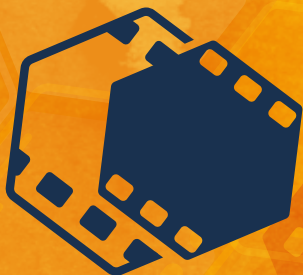


# THE MIDLANDS' BIGGEST INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL



## BEESTON FILM FESTIVAL

### FESTIVAL GUIDE

23-28 APRIL 2024



# THE BIGGEST INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL IN THE MIDLANDS

*Welcome to our 10<sup>th</sup> annual Beeston Film Festival (BFF) Guide*

This year's festival is a special milestone for us and we're celebrating it in style! We've extended the film festival to six days, and we're excited to be showing, for the first-time, full-length feature films! There are two groups of features, first, "In Competition" films selected by our festival reviewing team, including films from Spain and Iran that are battling for B'Oscar. Secondly, we're screening an acclaimed group of feature films, curated around the theme of 'Protest and Resistance'.

Of course, short films remain the creative backbone of our film festival and we're showing more than ever: we're screening 156 shorts over six days, from 28 countries covering the globe.

A huge thanks to our wonderfully dedicated festival reviewing and selection team, all volunteers, who have collectively amassed over 725 hours of reviewing time when watching nearly 1000 submitted 'shorts'. Truly, a stupendous effort.

We also take our hats off to our intern staff who provide such an invaluable service, ensuring that our film festival runs smoothly and making festivalgoers and filmmakers feel so warmly welcomed. This is also the third year of our flourishing partnership with Arc Cinema and we are delighted to be offering film-makers such impressive state-of-the-art facilities in which to showcase their work.

One of the great pleasures this year has been appreciating the fruits of creative partnerships forged between well-established, highly acclaimed actors and some of the most promising film-making talents. Highlights of such productive collaborations this year include: Kate Dickie working with Nick Tree in the compassionate, deeply affecting 'If Not Now, When?', Juliet Stevenson working with Amelia Sears in the deft, poignantly urgent, 'Ceres', and Charlotte Riley collaborating with Beth Park in the brilliant, blistering 'Wild Animal'.

In our inaugural feature film section, we're screening an acclaimed group of feature films, curated around the theme of 'Protest and Resistance' culminating in Ken Loach's reputedly final film, 'The Old Oak' (2023) and including the rarely screened, groundbreaking anti-Apartheid film from South Africa, 'Mapantsula' (1988). In addition, we are excited to have included international films from Spain and Iran. Another pleasingly noticeable development this year has been the growing number of outstanding short films submitted in our relatively new East Midlands submission category. We have also received a growing number of submissions from the African continent, and we will be screening excellent shorts from Egypt ('I Promise You Paradise') and South Africa ('Father's Day'), and we're excited to be introducing a new category this year called 'African Voices'. These developments very much chime with the ethos of BFF: celebrating both the local and the global.



The short film sector in the UK is as vibrant and important as ever. As the great New Zealand film director, Jane Campion, once observed, 'short films give a freedom to filmmakers', allowing them to hone their craft and develop their artistic visions, and to feel less constrained by commercial pressures which often beset the longer form of feature film-making. In doing so, within a matter of minutes, short films can transport audiences to new worlds, challenge our perceptions, and broaden our understanding: even more necessary as our world descends further into conflict and division.

Short films also win Oscars, BAFTAs, BIFAs, Césars and some are fortunate enough to win our very own B'Oscars! We hope you enjoy watching them and relish the veritable filmic feast on offer during our festival.

We have achieved so much over the past 10 years. We have become a BIFA short qualifying festival and for several years maintained a high position in FilmFreeway's TOP 100 Best Reviewed Film Festivals and who knows what the next 10 years will bring? Certainly more great international independent films.

*Simon Leyden*  
BFF Review & Selection Team

# GUIDE

TIME	TUESDAY SCREEN 3	WEDNESDAY SCREEN 7	WEDNESDAY SCREEN 8	THURSDAY SCREEN 7	THURSDAY SCREEN 8	S
13:00						
14:00						
15:00						
16:00		SUFFRAGETTE	THE SHOW	MAPANTSULA	FINDING THE LIGHT (VARIETY PACK)	S
17:00						
18:00		THE SPACE BETWEEN (DRAMA)	INNER BEAUTY (DRAMA)	BONDS (WOMEN'S VOICES)	KEEPING IT REAL (DRAMA)	S
19:00	RECEPTION					
20:00	OPENING NIGHT (VARIETY PACK)	THE FOOTBALL AFICIONADO	MADE IN DAGENHAM	MIGRANTS	NEXT GEN (STUDENT)	INN (
21:00						
22:00		BISTRO 66				

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

FRIDAY SCREEN 7	FRIDAY SCREEN 8	SATURDAY SCREEN 7	SATURDAY SCREEN 8	SUNDAY SCREEN 7	SUNDAY SCREEN 8
			HOLLYWOOD STUNTMAN	NEEDS (WOMEN'S VOICES)	NOTTINGHAM FILM OFFICE
		ETERNITY (SCIFI/FANTASY)	SMASHING DISABILITY BARRIERS		BIRMINGHAM FILM MARKET
SURVIVAL (DRAMA)	PROMISES (AFRICAN VOICES)		BOUNDARIES (WOMEN'S VOICES)	THE OLD OAK	HALLELUJAH! (DRAMA)
		THE GOOD & THE BAD (COMEDY)			MOVING & NOT MOVING (NON-FICTION)
CUTTING! (COMEDY)	IN THE COSMOS (SCIFI/FANTASY)	BLUELIGHT (CRIME)	DAZZLING (NONFICTION)	B'OSCARS RECEPTION	
OVERGROWTH (HORROR)	REVEALING (PRIDE)	HOME TEAM (EASTMIDLANDS)	THE IMPOSTERS	B'OSCARS AWARDS!	

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

# PROTEST AND RESISTANCE IN FILM: 'STRONGER TOGETHER'

As part of our Protest and Resistance series of films showing in the festival, Simon Leyden considers different ways in which protest has been represented on screen.

If protest is essentially 'telling truth to power', then ever since Sergei Eisenstein's revolutionary masterpiece of montage, 'Battleship Potemkin' (1925), film has proven itself to be a powerful and persuasive medium of conveying such 'truth'.

One important consequence can be injecting fresh momentum into pressing societal issues and moral concerns. In 1966, Ken Loach, made a gritty, ground-breaking social realist drama for BBC television, 'Cathy Come Home', highlighting the growing plight of homelessness in Britain. In doing so, he cemented the urgent relevance of newly formed housing action group, Shelter.



Later on, widespread fears over the looming threat of nuclear war were given greater urgency by both the terrifying apocalyptic BBC television drama, 'Threads' (1984) and 'When the Wind Blows' (1986), an animated film adaptation of Raymond Briggs' graphic novel about a Soviet Union nuclear attack on Britain. Perhaps, unsurprisingly, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament's (CND) popularity continued to surge during this period.

The years 2010–2015 saw the entrenchment of a new age of austerity in Britain and the return of mass street protests. Huge cuts to public spending and a steep rise in food banks would form the basis of Ken Loach's anti-austerity polemic, 'I, Daniel Blake' (2016), his compelling look at the dignity-sapping, byzantine benefits system, and the first of his unofficial trilogy of modern-day Britain, continuing with 'Sorry We Missed You' (2019) and 'The Old Oak' (2023).

Films not only give fresh insight and propulsion to contemporaneous issues, they also serve as aesthetic representations of historical protests and acts of resistance. Though set in the past, such films may also carry with them enduring moral and political messages. To illustrate this, during the same 2010–2015 period, three acclaimed British films were made which all harked back to earlier times of industrial conflict and political protest: 'Made in Dagenham', 'Pride' and 'Suffragette'.



'Suffragette' (2015) focuses on the hard-fought struggle for women's enfranchisement during the early 20th century. A struggle marked by violent state repression, civil disobedience, and astonishing acts of self-sacrifice and collective resistance. 'Suffragette' addresses a central myth of the Suffragette Movement: that it was the sole domain of middle-class women. Through centering the narrative on laundry worker, Maude Watts (Carey Mulligan), who is radicalised by her experiences of oppression and horrifying abuse, the film reminds us of the invaluable contributions

made by working-class women to female political enfranchisement.

'Suffragette' also taps into the widely held suspicion that working-class women were more harshly treated in prison than their middle-class counterparts. To demonstrate this point, in 1910, suffragette activist, Lady Constance Lytton, disguised herself as a seamstress and was treated far more cruelly in prison, including being force-fed, than when previously incarcerated as herself. The experiences of working-

class women are also foregrounded in 'Made in Dagenham' but here the mood is lighter, more upbeat and celebratory. It chronicles the 1968 sewing machinists strike at the Ford Dagenham plant, where female workers walked out to protest against sexual discrimination, demanding equal pay. The successful strike led to the Equal Pay Act 1970.



Representations of the effectiveness of collective workers' resistance have a chequered history in British cinema: one only has to think of 'I'm Alright Jack' (1959) and its satirising of the labour movement through its stereotypical use of corrupt 'union leaders' and 'indolent', 'self-interested' workers. In 'Made in Dagenham' the women machinists team up and fight together for a just cause. Collective action leads to victory and enhanced levels of self-respect.

In a trio of earlier made British films: 'Brassed Off' (1996), 'The Full Monty' (1997) and 'Billy Elliot' (2000), broadly coinciding with the arrival of the New Labour Government, no such opportunities seemed available anymore for effective grassroots protest and the collective resistance of working class communities.

Instead, these three films belonged to an emerging post miners' strike sub-genre of British films. Less overtly

political in representation and intent, they salvaged heart-warming and feel-good tales out of Britain's industrial decline. In doing so, they offered small-scale but symbolic victories to the idea that we had not all become selfish, atomised individuals. The Thatcherite dictum was wrong. 'Society' stubbornly refused to go away.

Although made much later than this trio of films, 'Pride' (2014) looks back to the Miner's Strike, 1984-85, and avoids these films' pervasive sense of pessimism around the effectiveness of grassroots' protest. 'Pride' becomes an unabashed celebration of joined-up activism; the shared belief that systems of oppression and discrimination inevitably overlap and are most fruitfully considered and confronted in relation to one another.

Scripted by Loach's long-time collaborator, Paul Laverty, 'The Old Oak' (2023) is set largely around its eponymous run-down pub, which becomes the setting for dramatising the rising tensions caused by the arrival of political refugees in a northern community, decimated by years of economic marginalisation. Loach noted in a promotional interview for the film, "Paul had read the first story of the Syrians arriving in the North East," "So it began



with Paul and then we talked about it and what ideas we would explore through the collision of the two communities.”

Stylistically, with its use of broad humour and its affectionate evocation of period fashion and music, 'Pride' seems much closer to 'Made in Dagenham' than to 'The Old Oak'. However, what unites 'Pride' and 'The Old Oak' is their unyielding commitment to the overarching importance of solidarity and shared resistance.

'Mapantsula' (1988) has been hailed as the "first South African film to truly represent apartheid onscreen". Banned in its homeland and made guerrilla-style while evading government authorities, the film was screened in the Un Certain Regard section at Cannes and went on to be selected as the South African entry for Best Foreign Language Film at the Oscars.

Initially, it seems to lack the sharp political and moral focus characteristic of Loach's work. Set in late apartheid South Africa, it begins as a gangster melodrama, where its black anti-hero, 'Panic', is a petty thief who straddles the racial divide by picking pockets with a quick smile and an even quicker knife.

However, when he ends up in prison, 'Panic' is forced to choose between individual gain and taking a stand against the oppressive apartheid regime. 'Mapantsula' morphs into a blistering moral critique of an unequal society built on racial division. As with Loach's late trilogy, the underlying message is that oppressed individuals and communities remain stronger together.



# OPENING NIGHT

OPENING NIGHT OF THE 10TH BEESTON FILM FESTIVAL



## SOULMATE

15 MINS

UK

Anna, a lonely computer coder, has been nurturing an illegal romance with an AI in a computer simulation for the past six months. When her company uncovers the affair, she is forced into a desperate battle to save her precious relationship. Starring Joe Dempsie.



## HOW TO BUILD A LIFE

10 MINS

UK

Louis, a young man with Asperger's, opens up to his brother about the decade of bullying that nearly ended his life. He shares his journey from depression to hope through his canine best friend and his renewed passion for Lego in the form of stop-motion.



## BIG GEORGE

16 MINS

USA

When a middle-aged actor gains too much 'pandemic weight' to pull off his survival gig as a George Clooney impersonator, he finds himself trying to justify to his nine-year-old daughter—and to himself— why he's still chasing his dream.



## ECHO

15 MINS

UK



A young woman, Alice, and her husband, Tom, are staying at a beach house. She explores an imagined memory with her lost child, Echo. As she begins to drown in the memory, Tom calls her back to reality. But, what will she choose?



## LINDA

8 MINS

UK



Linda gets a new job in a post office. Tarik, her co-worker, starts training her, and customers start coming in. She greets everyone with her stories, but her tall tales soon raise suspicions. Directed by Joe Lycett.



## DIFFERENT ROADS - NAVIGATING CHANGE

10 MINS

UK

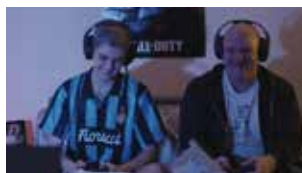
For those with Parkinson's, it's a condition widely misunderstood. While Janet, diagnosed at 47, navigates personal challenges, her social world shifted as well. Witnessing its onset, Janet discusses her body's decline, awareness campaigns, refusing to be defined by misconceptions.



B'Oscar Nominated



Best in Festival Nomination



## CoD AND CHIPS

5 MINS

UK



Widower, Steven, cooks dinner for his teenage son, Oscar, every night. And every time, he ends up eating alone due to Oscar's video game fixation. Then Oscar appears to forget his dad's birthday.



## THE INNKEEPER

14 MINS

IRELAND



When a spirited eight-year-old lands the part of Innkeeper in the school nativity play, she battles her perfectionist teacher who insists that she 'stick to the script' and refuses Mary and Joseph a room.



SCREEN 7 / WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 16:00

# SUFFRAGETTE

PROTEST & RESISTANCE IN FILM



## SUFFRAGETTE

It's 1912 and in London, a young working mother (played by Carey Mulligan) is galvanized into radical political activism. She joins a diverse group of women who fight for equality and the right to vote. Faced with growing police action, they play a dangerous cat-and-mouse game, risking their jobs, homes, families, and lives.

SCREEN 7 / WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 18:00

# THE SPACE BETWEEN DRAMA



## SOUR MILK

14 MINS  
ESTONIA

Sandra receives a call from an unknown number. It is her son, Ivar, who has not been in touch for a decade. For a moment, her house seems to be filled with life again, but can this newfound relationship survive the true reason for his return?



## MARIA

11 MINS  
GERMANY

Maria, a young actor, tries to get to a casting that her agent thinks she is not ready for. Maria is determined to convince her. If she succeeds, she will finally recite a monologue that holds all of her grim secrets.



## EVERYTHING IS OUT TO GET ME

9 MINS  
UK

An abused housewife finds out that her ex-husband has happily re-married and has a newborn baby, but there's more to his newfound happiness than meets the eye.



## MOVE IN, MOVE OUT, MOVE ON

17 MINS  
HONG KONG

'Drowning' in a room cluttered with mementos of her ex-partner, Mevius comes across a storage service that caters for people suffering from breakups. Takuji, the eccentric and mysterious manager, helps her to navigate her grief. The decluttering begins.



## JUST FOR A WHILE

21 MINS  
CHINA

Zhou lives in the same nursing home as Hui Zhen. They spend their days admiring flowers and enjoying music. Zhou is determined to show Hui Zhen the Epiphyllum Oxypetalum ('The Queen of the Night') in bloom – something she has never seen before.



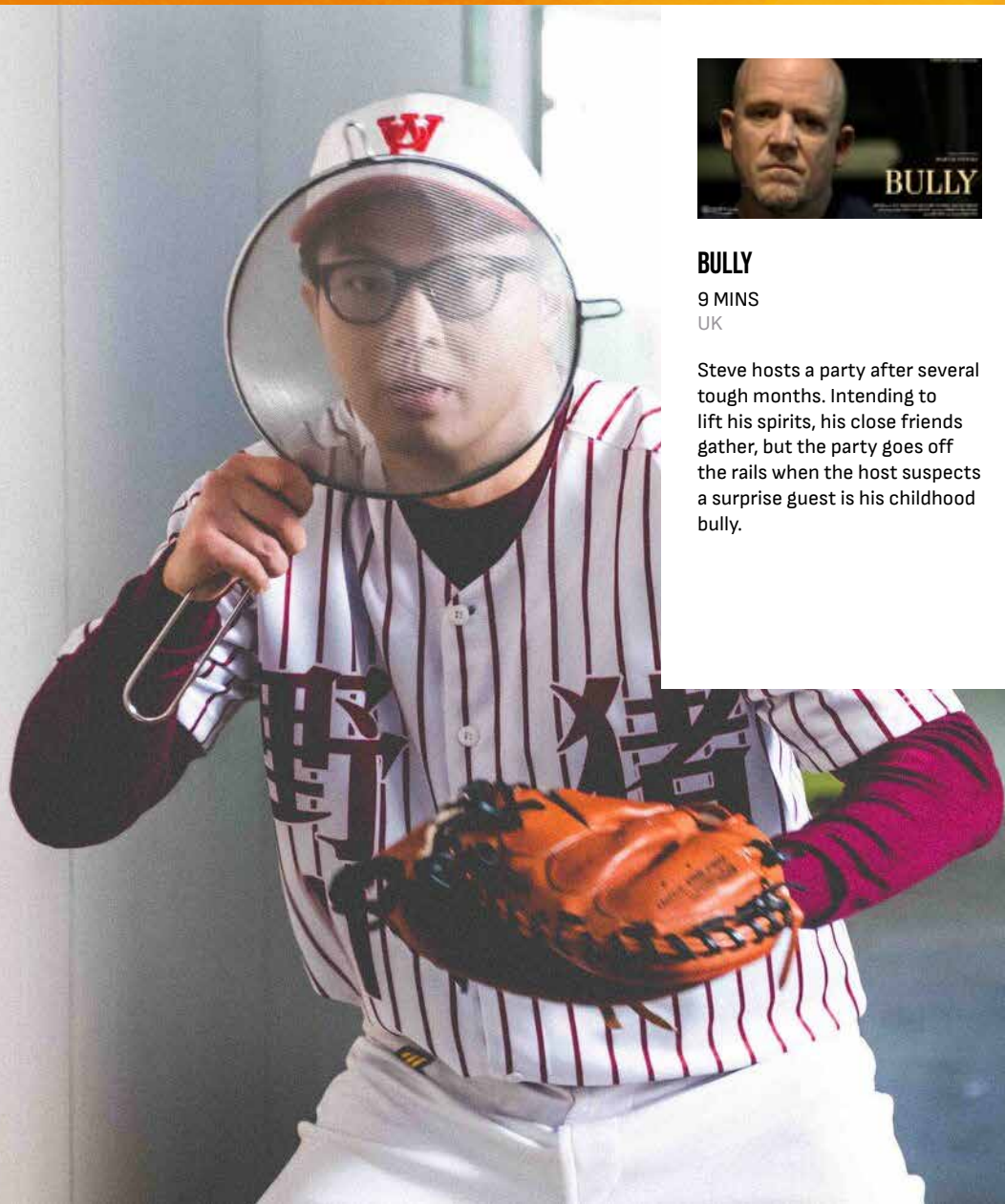
## MOTHER DAUGHTER

10 MINS  
UK

Divorcee, Janice, is dating men again but her troubled daughter, Constance, heartily disapproves. 'Did you know that my mother is in financial ruin', being one of the many barbed lines she deploys to warn off would-be suitors. Starring Indira Varma, Hugh Skinner.

SCREEN 7 / WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 18:00

# THE SPACE BETWEEN DRAMA



## **BULLY**

9 MINS

UK

Steve hosts a party after several tough months. Intending to lift his spirits, his close friends gather, but the party goes off the rails when the host suspects a surprise guest is his childhood bully.

SCREEN 7 / WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 20:00

# THE FOOTBALL AFICIONADO

FEATURE IN COMPETITION



FEATURE

IN  
COMPETITION



## THE FOOTBALL AFICIONADO

72 MINS  
IRAN



Zahra, a 27-year-old Iranian football enthusiast, avidly supports Persepolis, one of Tehran's biggest football teams. However, due to an unwritten law in Iran, women are prohibited from attending football games in stadiums.



## I AM KANAKA

15 MINS  
UK



Despite a dark history and only 5% speaking the native language, a local Hawaiian hero fights to save his culture by teaching traditions, sustainability, and life skills to disadvantaged indigenous kids.

SCREEN 8 / WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 16:00

# THE SHOW

FEATURE IN COMPETITION



FEATURE

IN  
COMPETITION



## THE SHOW

95 MINS  SPAIN

A man arrives at an apartment where a woman is waiting for him. The boundaries between fiction and reality blur as he grapples with the desire to live another life.



SCREEN 8 / WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 18:00

# INNER BEAUTY DRAMA



## BETTER

15 MINS

UK

Kitty has left home. Ruth, her sister, is worried because Kitty is chronically sick and has missed medical appointments. But, as Ruth spends time away with her sister, she realises she doesn't know Kitty—or her illness—at all...

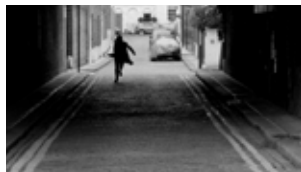


## BARDO: A ROGUE AND PEASANT SLAVE

8 MINS

UK

Bardo, a hard grafting bouncer and aspiring writer, faces accusations from his wife that he is stealing her life to fulfill his own dreams. Unable to find support for his aspirations, Bardo seeks feedback from his curiously familiar Karate classmate, Anne Marie.



## AND THE RAIN STILL FALLS

10 MINS

UK

John mysteriously goes missing while Jane is out walking with him. She seeks help to find him but is left frustrated. A film about love and loss, and about how we deal with the long-lasting emotional impact caused by bereavement.



## CROAK

12 MINS

UK

A disgraced television presenter forms a pact with a desperate stranger in a sensitive drama dealing with suicidal themes.



## NEGATIVE SPACE

15 MINS

KOREA

29-year-old Jiwon has spent over three years looking for a job while dealing with two kinds of negative space: a gap in her Resume (CV) and a personal void in her life. On the day of a job interview, she becomes increasingly anxious.



## HEART'S DESIRE

4 MINS

UK

An office worker is alone at night with just the cleaner vacuuming around him when his computer randomly turns off. Frustrated at not being able to access his work, the computer starts up again by itself and offers him three wishes.

SCREEN 8 / WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 18:00

# INNER BEAUTY DRAMA



## BEAUTIFUL THINGS

12 MINS

UK

With the aid of new technology, Nostalq.IA, Daphne travels back to her past and declares her love for her best friend, Bambi, so that they can live out their final days together. Matters, though, take a dark turn when Bambi sees the opportunity to reclaim her past and seize her future.



SCREEN 8 / WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 20:00

# MADE IN DAGENHAM

PROTEST & RESISTANCE IN FILM

FEATURE



## MADE IN DAGENHAM

A dramatisation of the 1968 strike at the Ford Dagenham car plant, where female workers walked out in protest against sexual discrimination.

SCREEN 7 / THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 16:00

# MAPANTSULA

PROTEST & RESISTANCE IN FILM



FEATURE



## MAPANTSULA

'Mapantsula' tells the story of 'Panic', a petty gangster who inevitably becomes caught up in the growing anti-apartheid struggle and has to choose between individual gain and a united stand against the system.

# BONDS WOMEN'S VOICES



## BLUE BUTTERCREAM

13 MINS

UK

During a session with her counsellor, a young woman with a chronic pain condition relives memories from her past. She observes how her life has been transformed by her disease. Key questions emerge: What are the limits of our identity? Do our physical selves bind the range of our experiences?



## SARA

11 MINS

CANADA

As Sara navigates the stress of her flight being delayed multiple times, a missed call from an unknown number sends her spiraling into distress. Taking refuge in a bar, an unlikely stranger becomes the confessional she didn't know she needed and the support to tackle her diagnosis.



## WHAT WE DID YESTERDAY

9 MINS

UK



When Rhiannon returns home from a trip, she finds the flat left in a mess by her partner. When tidying she notices something out of place and soon discovers the question of infidelity is not the only shock.



## WILD ANIMAL

20 MINS

UK



A woman finds an abandoned baby on a remotely located bridge. Shortly, she sees a figure (the mother?) fleeing in the distance. Mysteriously, though, this figure then stalks her and the baby wherever they go. Starring Charlotte Riley.



## ROPED

10 MINS

SPAIN



Mother and Daughter are 'roped together' in an eternal bond that heals and hurts, perpetuated when the Daughter herself becomes a Mother.



## THREAD TENSION

14 MINS

UK

In a Thatcher-era sweatshop, the seamstresses are overworked, underpaid, and prone to full-body possessions. With a mixture of social realism and the supernatural, "Thread Tension" is a film about women, workers' rights, and the power of collective action.

SCREEN 7 / THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 18:00

# BONDS WOMEN'S VOICES

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## BEST DRESSED

13 MINS

UK



Sarah is thirteen, and she can't figure out what to wear today. That's difficult because today is important. Sarah's older sister, Allie, is also avoiding something and wants to stay in the garden with her best friend. Both sisters are at an impasse, 'frozen until they collide' and we learn what Sarah is getting ready for.



SCREEN 7 / THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 20:00

# MIGRANTS

FEATURE IN COMPETITION

FEATURE



## MIGRANTS

85 MINS  
IRAN

Migrants is an experimental film with no dialogue. The film follows fifteen different people yet does not tell their stories. We have fifteen

stories, but not told. Everything that we see in the film is simultaneously in it, and it is not. We encounter a bird that both is and is not. A train that passes and does not. A car that drives by and does not. This is what migration is. You leave your place of birth but you are, as if, still there. You go somewhere else, you feel yourself physically somewhere else but have left behind your real self.



## UNCONDITIONAL

16 MINS  
UK



A renowned canine behaviorist's life takes a dramatic turn when his dog becomes his saviour after a period of dark depression and a suicide attempt. Thus, revealing the extraordinary power of love and resilience in the face of despair.

SCREEN 8 / THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 16:00

# FINDING THE LIGHT VARIETY PACK



## HAMSTER

19 MINS

IRAN

Mahi and Pouva gather with friends for a high-spirited party that will change their lives forever.



## TETHERED

24 MINS

IRELAND

Rural Ireland, 1986. Aoibh is raising her young brother after their mother's death. She starts spending time with her grandmother, an old storyteller whose fairy tales hold hidden truths. Then her grandmother recalls one story that seems to give her new life...



## THE LUMINARIANS: MAKING THE LUMINARY LOPPET

15 MINS

USA

One frozen night every year in Minneapolis, Minnesota, a group of volunteers, the Luminarians, create an immersive outdoor experience to bring the community together.



## LIGHT OF MY LIFE

2 MINS

UK

Two candle flames flicker to life and experience life and loss upon a windowsill.



## SHAKING HANDS WITH THE DEVIL

14 MINS

UK

This short documentary follows wildlife photographer, David Plummer, as he travels through Kenya to meet those who have been marginalised, stigmatised, and persecuted for having Parkinson's Disease. Plummer himself has Parkinson's.



## FREE SPIRITS

27 MINS

UK

In this paranormal comedy, a bashful local vicar is called upon to save a haunted nudist camp from the prudish poltergeist covering their privates. Starring Spencer Jones, and Clive Russell.



SCREEN 8 / THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 18:00

# KEEPING IT REAL DRAMA



## MANMADE

15 MINS

UK

Funerals can be true male environments where men want to cry but refuse to while their past 'rides up to hit them'. Eddie's late father has built him up to be tough but triggered by a tumultuous and charged service at his team's football pitch, unwanted memories engulf him.



## STOPWATCH

16 MINS

IRAN



A man advertises online, offering an American visa and living expenses to anyone who can convince him in one minute that they have a problem and cannot live in Iran. Various people come forward with their problems, but only one person...



## NEARLY NEVER

15 MINS

UK



After suffering a horrific injury in his football match, a young amateur footballer finds himself isolated in a hospital that is under mounting pressure.



## MEET ME BY THE SEA

18 MINS

UK

A young writer feels trapped in a small coastal village where her life and career have stagnated. As a catastrophic event now looms on the horizon, she must confront her failing relationship, all while navigating her new doomed reality. Starring Charlotte Hope.



## INAPPROPRIATE

18 MINS

UK

When 'Appropriate Adult', Oscar, turns up for his volunteer shift to help guide a young offender through the process of his arrest, he has a hard time with the offender. However, Oscar comes up with a way to help the young man, even if it seems a little inappropriate.



## TWENTY

16 MINS

UK

Emily, a homeless ballet dancer, undertakes a potentially life-changing audition. In the audition room, Emily is graceful and poised. However, in the real world, she struggles to find somewhere to sleep, let alone focus on her artistry.

SCREEN 8 / THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 20:00

# NEXT GEN STUDENT



## PORTRAIT

12 MINS  
UK

When teenager Siah decides to take a nude selfie, she feels both exhilarated and mature. But, when she receives news that her photo has been shared, Siah's sexual agency all but evaporates before her.



## BIRDS

12 MINS  
UK

When her 9-year-old daughter's dreams of becoming a gymnast are on the line, a mother behind bars struggles to keep her whereabouts a secret. Inspired by the real experiences of a former prisoner.



## BACK SEAT

15 MINS  
ISRAEL

Lior, a girl with a learning disability, travels on a minibus taking her back home. As the bus empties, she is left alone with the driver whose behaviour begins to disturb her. How will she respond? Will she be able to get away?



## XÉNIA

10 MINS  
GREECE

Xenia is trying to interact with her social circle in search of true communication. Her attempt turns out to be harder than expected, as she is up against a timeless social phenomenon.



## ORPHEUS

15 MINS  
UK



Orpheus is an artist trapped in his studio with a fading memory of his lost love. Every night, he is pestered by 'The Critic', a living embodiment of his own troubled mind. One night, exhausted from his mental torture, Orpheus confronts his guilt and fights for his sanity.



## CARE

14 MINS  
UK

Two care workers from different backgrounds face the challenges of the private British care system and rebel in a way they can afford.



## RICKSHAW

9 MINS

UK



On his 8th birthday, Paul enjoys a pleasant day with his parents in London. He sees a decorated rickshaw on the road and requests to ride home in it. However, the fun journey will soon reveal a disturbing reality to him.



## PERIOD DRAMA

13 MINS

UK



15-year-old Jane must meet a man she is betrothed to. While her entire family is counting on the meeting with the man, not everything goes as planned when she gets her period for the first time.



SCREEN 7 / FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 16:00

# SURVIVAL DRAMA

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## IT'S NOT ALL THAT BAD

20 MINS

FRANCE

A snack bar, an online date, Teddy and Alicia, both in their twenties. As the night progresses, they start to develop favourable impressions of each other. However, one of them has a secret...



## NOW AND THEN

17 MINS

UK

While moving house, a middle-aged Muslim woman finds a box of old tapes filled with memories of her husband's previous relationship and becomes increasingly obsessed.



## **SURVIVOR**

14 MINS

IRAN

Some immigrants by the sea are waiting to cross to their new destination. A young couple, along with other immigrants, embark on a journey to the light of the world, but encounter problems when their baby is born.



## **REST**

11 MINS

USA

Iris, a recently sober alcoholic, is due in court tomorrow: rested and prepared. Unable to fall asleep, she battles the voices in her head and her own desire for a drink as the night stretches on, seemingly without end.



## **NO BALL GAMES**

3 MINS

UK



Compassion casts you out. A woman struggles to win over the crowd in this cyclical fever dream.



## **OUT**

10 MINS

UK

When Tasha starts getting ready for an afternoon in the pub with her friends, she's unaware of the obstacles lingering in the shadows. When these demons start to creep up on her, how long can she hold it together?



## **DON'T MOCK THE DONKEY**

20 MINS

UK



A refugee washed ashore finds himself in the body of a donkey and captured by a man who tries to sell him for labour as a packhorse.

SCREEN 7 / FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 18:00

# CUTTING! COMEDY



## BURN IT ALL

21 MINS  
IRELAND

After her father leaves her mother for her best friend, a devastated Bobbie embarks on a chaotic campaign of revenge...



## SKEWERED

17 MINS  
UK

Opposing sexual appetites and dietary ethics bring a stagnant relationship to a theatrical and surprising crescendo as a heartfelt revelation confronts 'the elephant in the room'.



## FORTISSIMO

15 MINS  
FRANCE

Guy, a pianist passionate about his music, sees his life turned upside down when the church where he officiates takes in a mysterious little girl. A true piano virtuoso, the child prodigy will soon steal the show. A duel of egos then begins.



## ADAM

20 MINS  
RUSSIA

A man has been murdered. Two police officers talk with seven women with whom the deceased had recently communicated. It turns out that the victim had a connection with each of them.



## ART

14 MINS  
UK

Biddy and Rob find themselves at the end of the line, in more ways than one. The cost of living is biting. Should they sell their desirable fishing cottage? But Biddy has a plan. A desire to paint. The question is: will any of her work save them from financial ruin?



## THE SNIP

10 MINS  
UK

Tony and Lindsay have three children and are looking for a permanent solution to their family's fertility, but for Tony, the simple procedure poses a threat to his fragile masculinity.



SCREEN 7 / FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 20:00

# INNER GROWTH **HORROR**

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## **HALLOWED**

10 MINS

UK

After news of a terminal diagnosis, Father Black embarks on a desperate journey to church where he hopes to bargain with God. Through a surrealist exploration of his subconscious mind and interactions with an otherworldly entity, Father Black faces his fate.



## **SAFE**

10 MINS

SPAIN

Somewhere in the US, a family hears an unsettling bump in the night. The young daughter insists there is a monster outside. The father takes out a gun from a safe and opts to stay there until morning for the family's safety





## SINCOPAT

14 MINS  
SPAIN

Ona, a creative executive at a tech giant, is set to unveil her groundbreaking innovation: a device enabling direct brain music streaming. After weeks of personal testing, just before launch day, the device starts malfunctioning.



## IT WAS JOHN

20 MINS  
UK

The Harroway's mad brother, Martin, has died. Amongst his possessions is an old, illustrated children's book containing a strange warning: "Once you've seen John, he can see you. And he's coming to get you." As John reveals himself to Grant and Trinity, they realise Martin may not have been mad after all... Starring Amber Doig-Thorne.



## CYCLES

4 MINS  
UK

When a dinner with the new neighbours goes awry, an antisocial and severely codependent couple reignite the spark in their relationship by covering their tracks



## THE LURE

1 MINS  
UK



Late at night, a lone fisherman discovers he is not the only one hoping to hook something.



## SHUT

15 MINS  
NETHERLANDS



When Jonas visits his father after a long time, he's shocked to find him in a confused state. Has his father's mental state badly deteriorated or is something more sinister going on?



## SPOOR

15 MINS  
UK



A freakish, throbbing growth torments Ash. She is stuck caring for her vitriolic, dementia-ridden mother. With every indignity, Ash's lump grows, until it erupts, spewing a mysterious substance. Will Ash figure out what it is and how to stop it?  
Starring Ellora Torchia.

SCREEN 8 / FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 16:00

# PROMISES AFRICAN VOICES



## CLIMATE IN THE MINDS OF ARTISTS

10 MINS  
TANZANIA

“What does climate change mean to you?” Four Tanzanian artists from diverse fields share their intriguing perspectives and discuss what this key question means to them.



## THE HEARTS OF BWINDI

8 MINS  
UK

This documentary spotlights the harmonious efforts of wildlife rangers and local communities safeguarding Uganda's biodiverse, UNESCO-recognized Bwindi National Park.



## MUNA

9 MINS  
UK

British-Somali teen, Muna, is desperate to go on a school trip and have fun with her friends. But her parents are reluctant. Then news comes that her grandfather has died back in Somalia, and Muna must navigate a confusing mourning period for someone she never really knew.



## EEN SAAM (FARTHER)

15 MINS  
SOUTH AFRICA

Pieter is confronted with his lonely life as he mourns the loss of his wife and son. In this vivid dance between reality, imagination and memory, he must address a significant transformation in his son, which challenges his traditional beliefs.



## I PROMISE YOU PARADISE

25 MINS  
EGYPT

Following a violent incident that took the lives of his three friends, Eissa, a 17-year-old African migrant in Egypt, gets on his motorbike and embarks on a quest against time to save his loved ones, whatever it takes.



## FATHER'S DAY

26 MINS  
SOUTH AFRICA

Alakhe, a 12-year-old boy raised by his single parent mother, is selected to give a speech at a Father's Day school event. Against his mother's wishes, he sets out to look for his absent father and eventually discovers who his real father is.





SCREEN 8 / FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 18:00

# IN THE COSMOS

SCI-FI & FANTASY

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## CHIMERA

8 MINS

UK

A woman receives experimental therapy for trauma. Guided by a doctor, she starts exploring her past and begins to suspect that she has been a patient for a lot longer than she's been told.



## DARK CELL

25 MINS

FRANCE

Two convicts and two guards in a space prison face a sudden invasion by zombies. To survive, they must eject from their overcrowded cell back to Earth. With limited time and space for only two, they must decide who lives and who dies.



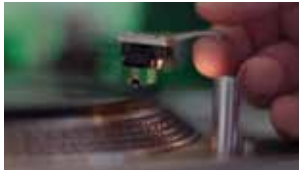
## BISECTED

8 MINS

USA

While on a road trip, a couple witnesses a series of meteorite falls. Suddenly, a strong flash separates them into two distinct dimensions.





## SPIRAL TO THE CENTRE

29 MINS

UK



Rick reviews records and talks about music online. After his reaction to a strange record goes viral, a documentary filmmaker follows Rick 'down the rabbit hole' where he uncovers twelve albums, a record label that disappeared in the 70s, and a dark secret.



## DANDELION

4 MINS

USA



In a dystopian world, a coal-burning robot working on a mine one day finds something that he has never seen before - a dandelion.



## A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

12 MINS

UK

In the near future, criminals are given a choice: go to prison or have their memories replaced with fictional ones and positively contribute to society. Charlotte, a doctor, begins to question her reality when a patient claiming to be her wife begs her to save their daughter.



## VIBRATIONS

11 MINS

UK

After a young girl miraculously survives a long-established religious act, her mother must battle local authorities for her daughter's fate. It remains uncertain whether her survival signifies a holy sign or if it exposes the ritual as a total hoax.

SCREEN 8 / FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 20:00

# REVEALING PRIDE

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## THE CURE

13 MINS

UK

17-year-old Renal is brought to a sex worker by his uncle to prove his masculinity to his patriarchal father. "The Cure" shows how the absolute power of adults who have a conservative and rigid mentality leads to a traumatic experience for a teenager



## A DIFFERENT PLACE

14 MINS

UK

In a hotel room, forty-something Evelyn embarks on a journey of self-discovery with Cleo, a younger woman who exudes the kind of confidence Evelyn has only dreamed of. They share an unforgettable night that Evelyn cannot ignore nor fully encompass.



## DISCONNECT

7 MINS

GERMANY

HE is a disappointment. As he observes himself in his living room mirror, the young man starts to hear intensifying voices from his past. He has failed everyone – especially himself. At the brink of a mental breakdown, he suddenly finds himself in nature, and meets HER.



## THE WITCHING HOUR

20 MINS

UK



A queer bedtime story about coming out...Victor grieves the death of his father but late at night a mysterious entity claiming to be him plagues Victor's mind with disturbing thoughts.

Starring Harriet Thorpe.





### SALLY LEAPT OUT OF A WINDOW LAST NIGHT

20 MINS  
UK



Ireland 1778. Two women flout convention and scandalise society to escape the fate their families plan for them. They elope. Based upon the true story of the legendary "Ladies of Llangollen."



### TITSFERATU

5 MINS  
USA

One late night, a fine young lady named Isabella enjoys reading in her bed. As she prepares to sleep, a mysterious silhouette appears at her window.



### ROSES

15 MINS  
UK



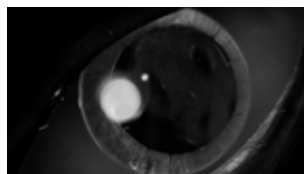
Rosa unexpectedly finds herself spending an evening out alone in her small Cornish town as her daughter throws an 18th birthday party in their home. Then, she spies a woman she has met once before - and is drawn to her.



SCREEN 7 / SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 14:00

# ETERNITY

SCI-FI & FANTASY



## EARTHLING

10 MINS  
USA

An animated documentary about Jack Weiner, his twin Jim, and two friends who went camping in Maine in 1976 and were abducted by aliens. Ten years later, hypnosis revealed their repressed memories. Jack stands by his story of encountering aliens despite people's disbelief.



## MEETING MR SAMUEL

17 MINS  
UK

After a life-changing incident in a pub toilet, Christian Stoner wakes to find himself in what appears to be a vast waiting room for the afterlife staffed by his former school Geography teacher, Mr. Samuels. Can he persuade Mr Samuels to help him escape back to reality? Starring T'Nia Miller, Charlie Creed-Miles, Samuel Anderson.



## ORIGINAL SKIN

12 MINS  
UK

In an alternate world where having sex means swapping bodies with the other person, a young woman struggles to be herself, defying her small conservative community where swapping is taboo. A deeply intimate portrait of identity in transition.





## GERONIMO

14 MINS

UK

When Peter, an anxious arcade owner, is prescribed an app. rather than sleeping pills, he reluctantly tries it out. However, far from bringing rest, Erebus's soporific voice takes Peter into a waking nightmare from which he may never escape.

Starring Paterson Joseph.



## ELLIPSIS

18 MINS

IRELAND

In a dystopian future Ireland, Ellipsis, an Android, awakens with no memory. Confronted by a treacherous world of mega-corporations and blind hyper-violent fanatics, Ellipsis must reclaim their identity from a world intent on denying them one.



## THE STAR AND THE SCRIBE

4 MINS

USA



Once upon a time, a rabbit scribe lived on the moon. When a falling star crashes in, he must decide whether to stay in his cave or go with his new friend.



## CLOSING TIME

17 MINS

USA

Trent surprises his estranged old college friends with an unusual reunion at their former hangout - a local bar. As they reminisce about the old days, they wonder why he has invited them now after a six-year gap.

SCREEN 7 / SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 16:00

# BOUNDARIES WOMEN'S VOICES



## TENDER LOVING CARE

20 MINS

UK

Kalina, a single woman in her mid-30s living in London, struggles with feelings of isolation and decides to call up various customer care lines in search of connection. She pushes at the boundaries of the people she speaks to, with varying results.



## LOTUS

9 MINS

UK

On a hot summer's day in London, 13-year-old Frankie watches a local bike crew from her balcony and suddenly longs to experience the freedom of riding. So, she spontaneously steals a bike from the group. The only trouble is, she doesn't know how to ride it...



## THE SUN IS UP AND I SHALL LIVE

19 MINS

SINGAPORE

Maple is the sole carer for her 10-year-old brother and her ailing grandmother, following her own parents' deaths. She juggles her new responsibilities with sunny optimism. However, this begins to waver on the day of her little brother's school play.



## PINCH

9 MINS

AUSTRALIA

Abby, an aspiring dancer, battles a silent illness that she hides from her mother as her health quietly declines.



## WEIGHTLESS

9 MINS  
UK

On a deserted East Sussex beach, a sixty-two-year-old woman, Maureen, prepares for a swim. As she enters the water, voices in her head start to nag, and she struggles to confront her inner demons.  
Starring Toyah Willcox.



## MY WEEK WITH MAISY

18 MINS  
UK

When uptight retiree Mrs Foster begins chemotherapy she's thrown together in the treatment room with Maisy, a whirlwind inquisitive child aspiring to be a lesbian. As treatment progresses the pair's fortuitous bond offers healing and newfound hope in unexpected places.



## CERES

15 MINS  
UK

A daughter seeks refuge from her emotionally abusive partner at the home of her estranged mother. They attempt to reconnect and move forward, despite knowing their time together is limited, bound in a knot of silent agreement to the changing of the seasons.  
Starring Juliet Stevenson.

SCREEN 7 / SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 18:00

# BLUE LIGHT CRIME



## SUNDAY ROAST

15 MINS  
SWEDEN



Holger lives alone in his apartment. When 60 years younger Anna moves into the same stairwell, he invites her to a Sunday dinner. What first appears to be a pleasant occasion, gradually changes into something else.



## CUT SHORT: FIGHTING AGAINST KNIVES IN THE NORTH

29 MINS  
UK



Sarah lost her son, Kieran, to a knife crime a decade ago. 22-year-old Wilson was imprisoned for using a knife in a gang attack. They now campaign to raise awareness of knife crime while battling their own prolonged struggles.



## THE COP WITHIN

19 MINS  
TURKEY

Eyüp is an honest, careful, and introverted taxi driver. His most difficult journey begins when he takes passengers who are on their way to commit a murder. Knowing the aim of their journey, he is torn between the need to remain silent, to ensure his own safety, and by the possibility of saving a woman, he has never met.



## INSIDE THE BOX

11 MINS  
NICARAGUA

A cherished doll, given to Alejandra on her 7th birthday, is suddenly taken from her. She embarks on a search for it, but a social uprising forces her to leave her homeland. Based on the true story of a political prisoner's daughter in Nicaragua.



## OURSELVES ALONE

11 MINS  
UK



Brother-and-sister IRA members, Aoife and Sean, hold a bank manager and his wife hostage in their home. They plan to force the bank manager to help them carry out a robbery, but when a psychopathic third IRA member, Liam, arrives, things start to go wrong. Inspired by a true story.



## UNDER THE BLUE

15 MINS  
UK



Bruised, hungry, and only halfway through her late shift, a lonely and disillusioned police officer, PC Morgan, forms an unlikely connection with an appreciative and thankful criminal.



SCREEN 7 / SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 20:00

# HOME TEAM EAST MIDLANDS FOCUS



## NEUTOPIA

17 MINS

UK

In 2034 London, a dejected father succumbs to the allure of a groundbreaking underground upgrade to his government-mandated AI device. This grants him access to AI-driven selective consciousness. Soon, though, he is wrestling with the consequences of the upgrade's glitches.



## SHERBET

24 MINS

UK

Set entirely inside the confines of a taxicab, on what seems like just another late-night taxi fare, this particular trip is anything but, altering the course of the lives of both driver and rider forever.



## ABOVE THE NOISE

6 MINS

UK

Above The Noise is a documentary short that explores how athlete Maja Kuczynska, a skydiver, uses her sport to escape the chaos of the modern world.



## RED BLACK GREEN

30 MINS

UK

The story of a real-life upcoming national champion of table tennis, Connor Green. This documentary details his life as he talks about what the sport means to him. He reflects on how he started playing and what it means to be the best.





## THE TERMINATOR

3 MINS

UK

A boy takes his 2-year-old sister on a tour of the solar system.



## MONITOR

16 MINS

UK

Jenna and Fi have decided to start a family, and are undertaking the fitness-to-parent trial: three months under observation with a robot 'baby'. Fi is the keener of the two, but as she is the breadwinner, Jenna becomes the primary carer for the test infant.



## PATRICIA IN THE DARK

12 MINS

UK

Born into a world where the word 'transgender' didn't exist, 95-year-old Patricia spent most of her life keeping quiet and longing for love and acceptance but too afraid to reveal her true self.



SCREEN 8 / SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 13:00

# WORKSHOPS

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## LIFE AS A HOLLYWOOD STUNTMAN

John B Tannen, Hollywood stuntman, will entertain us with tales of stunts with the stars!



## SMASHING DISABILITY BARRIERS IN THE FILM INDUSTRY

Abbie Hills, Talent Agent and Access Coordinator, will provide the tools and tactics to burst through barriers and make an impact in the film industry.



SCREEN 8 / SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 15:00

# THE OLD OAK

PROTEST & RESISTANCE IN FILM



FEATURE



## THE OLD OAK

A pub owner, The Old Oak, in a previously thriving mining community in North East village of Northeast England struggles to hold onto his establishment. Meanwhile, tensions rise in the town when, where people leave the land as the mines are closed. Houses are cheap and available, thus making it an ideal location for Syrian refugees are placed in empty houses within the community.

SCREEN 8 / SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 18:00

# DAZZLING NON-FICTION



## KALU - GROWING UP WILD

15 MINS

UK



Kalu, a baby spider monkey growing up in the jungle of the Osa Peninsula in Costa Rica, must learn survival skills in the wild. The film shows the resilience and beauty of nature and highlights the importance of protecting it for future generations.



## DIABLES

10 MINS

UK

Once a year in Girona, in Northern Catalonia, a ritual of fire is reborn. 'The Correfoc', literally meaning 'fire run', is an expression of Catalan cultural identity and independence. Through powerful fiery imagery, we witness this ritual and the 'devils' who participate in it.



## WHERE THE SUN ALWAYS SHINES

17 MINS

UK



Bognor Regis may have been repeatedly crowned Britain's worst seaside town, but its residents keep smiling even as another unwelcome piece of news creeps into their consciousness: the rising ocean threatens to swallow up their small town.



## TO THE DANCERS

25 MINS

UK

In post-Brexit Britain, 'Cobalt', a unique music venue in Newcastle, becomes a haven for the local queer scene. Amidst rising bills and gentrification threats, founders Mark, Kate, and Jacob fight to keep its enchanting atmosphere alive.



## RADIO DADAAB

25 MINS

UK

'Dadaab', the world's second largest refugee camp, faces a new influx of refugees. Fardowsa, a stateless journalist born and raised in the camp, becomes a voice for the voiceless through the camp's radio station, amplifying stories of climate, migration, and hope.



## DEAR VLADIMIR

7 MINS

UK

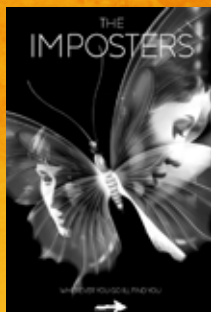
A Ukrainian refugee narrates a letter to her least favorite world leader. She shares her escape from her hometown, details about her family, and her struggles to rebuild a life in the UK.

SCREEN 8 / SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 20:00

# THE IMPOSTERS

FEATURE

IN  
COMPETITION



## THE IMPOSTERS

88 MINS  UK

Maya has just split from her long-term girlfriend and meets the enigmatic Hattie. Maya is impressed with Hattie's success and attitude towards life. They fall for each other, but soon Maya realises that Hattie is perhaps not who she says she is.



## CoD AND CHIPS

5 MINS  UK

Widower, Steven, cooks dinner for his teenage son, Oscar, every night. And every time, he ends up eating alone due to Oscar's video game fixation. Then Oscar appears to forget his dad's birthday.

SCREEN 7 / SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 13:00

# NEEDS WOMEN'S VOICES



## I DON'T NEED ADULT CONVERSATION

25 MINS  
UK

A new mother dotes on her baby by day but discovers dark feelings stirring up inside her at night. This hybrid documentary explores the shadow side of motherhood, which remains taboo in our culture.



## MOUNTAIN DUST

19 MINS  
MEXICO

In the midst of the quarrying taking place in the mountains near her city, Jessie, a young housekeeper in the governor's office, witnesses the scope of the economic forces that are destroying her family's health.



## IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

30 MINS  
UK



Ruth will stop at nothing to realise the possibilities of time travel. Shunned online and discredited by her peers, when she becomes the subject of a documentary, it soon transpires that a darker reality lies at the core of her obsession. Starring Katie Dickie.



## KIN

8 MINS  
UK

In a scorched lawless future, a mother with a baby attempts to steal supplies from a dangerous gang of survivors. She's soon exposed and must fight her way out and escape to safety.



## ROMANESCO

12 MINS  
UK



Trapped in an infinite dream with no means of escape, Mary contemplates an important decision while trying, and failing, to eat a boiled egg. Gradually, the great eternal fractal of human existence is laid bare before her eyes.



## TAKE CARE

15 MINS  
UK



Dagmara, a Polish nurse, works the day shift, while Anayln, a Filipina nurse, works the night shift. The two care workers barely interact outside of their weekly handover. Now they must come together to cope with insurmountable challenges: being understaffed, being underfunded and having their competence questioned by the son of a resident.

SCREEN 7 / SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 15:00

# HALLELUJAH! DRAMA



## CALL AGAIN IF THINGS GET WORSE

14 MINS  
DENMARK



A dysfunctional relationship between two women is brought to a head one fateful night, and the decision becomes a matter of life and death. We are witnessing an absurd power struggle – because how do you win over yourself?



## HARD TIMES

19 MINS  
UK



In Hackney, London, Danny grapples with fatherhood amid the cost-of-living crisis. Unexpectedly left with his daughter, Jess, at his local pub, he makes a risky decision to involve her in a dangerous job for a needed paycheck, which leads to a climax where he must face tough moral choices.



## HUGGO

18 MINS  
UK

April, a young woman, carries a stuffed toy bunny everywhere she goes. She forms an unusual attachment to the bunny as she struggles to get her life back on track after suffering a miscarriage



## ILL FARES THE LAND

18 MINS  
UK

Mermaids. Migrants. And the Far Right. A young boy finds a mermaid washed up on the shores of his seaside home while his older brother is swept up in the rising tide of far-right nationalism.



## SUPERTRAMP

7 MINS  
UK

A stray puppy gets rescued by a sweet, little girl, finally finding a family he can live with. But, destiny has something else in store for the dog, who ends up on the street once again.



## REJOICE!

15 MINS  
UK

Widowed Winifred unearths an erotic fiction that she wrote in her youth. Vetoed by her daughter but encouraged by her granddaughter, she must decide whether to pursue her passion at the risk of her daughter's wrath, her husband's good name, and her mortal soul.

SCREEN 7 / SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 17:00

# THE GOOD & THE BAD COMEDY



## BEST OF THREE

20 MINS

UK

A pair of police officers play games to decide who drives the police car to visit their former boss, Stewart, at his home. What is the purpose of their visit when Stewart enjoys his peaceful retirement life?



## THE CAR SPOTTER

9 MINS

SWEDEN

Peo loves spotting cars. It gives his everyday life a little twist. It's also a hobby that is about to ruin the most important thing he has. The Car Spotter is a film about the small choices in life that have big consequences.



## THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE RAV KALMENSON

19 MINS

FRANCE

Yoel is an Orthodox Jew. Every Saturday, he goes, with his son, to honour Shabbat in the synagogue in his neighbourhood. That day, the rabbi of the community of devotees, Rav Kalmenson challenges Yoel by announcing to him that his son "is lighting up".



## PUSHING DAISY

9 MINS

UK

Daisy, an intern, has revolutionary plans for a funeral parlor, much to the dismay of manager, Tom, who fears confrontation. She plans to put the 'fun' into the funeral despite her short placement. But how long before Tom finally reaches a breaking point?



## I HAVE HEARD YOU CALLING IN THE NIGHT

9 MINS  
UK

At dawn, Cillian arrives at the platform, seeking a permanent departure from life, but finds no trains. Not to be beaten, he calls the information line for help, encountering a hopelessly inadequate priest oblivious to his psychodrama.



## PLAGGY BAG

18 MINS  
UK

When working-class Zoe meets her best mate's more privileged friends, she tries to ignore 'the chip on her shoulder' and to make a good impression. But when a single-use plastic bag comes to life and hunts down the group one by one, Zoe must face her inner rage head-on.



## THE PROS AND CONS OF KILLING YOURSELF

15 MINS  
CANADA

A suicidal paediatric oncologist, Jane, writes down the pros and cons of killing herself at home after her 48-hour shift. When her terminal teenage patient breaks down, they attempt to fit a lifetime of experiences into a single day.

SCREEN 8 / SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 13:00

# WORKSHOPS

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## EAST MIDLANDS FILM OFFICE

### **TRANSFORMING EAST MIDLANDS FILM PRODUCTION**

Emma Ellis of East Midlands Film Office talks us through the transformation work that is taking place.



### **HOW TO PITCH YOUR TV SHOW/FILM AT A FILM MARKET**

Louise Osbourne from the Birmingham Film & TV Market comes to share her knowledge and wisdom for developing filmmakers to hear the skills and tactics necessary to sell their films.



SCREEN 8 / SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 15:00

# DECISIONS DRAMA



## HEEL DROP

13 MINS

UK

Tap dancer, Bobby, grew up and flourished in London, with his single parent mother respected in her job. Now with the family no longer able to afford living in London due to a towering cost of living crisis, it's time for Bobby to navigate his farewells to friends and to home in his own inimitable way.



## SOLITARY

22 MINS

ROMANIA

Years after release from solitary confinement, a man still runs from his past as part of a 400-mile, self-sufficient, Arctic marathon. In an extreme state, he is ready to abandon the race when hallucinations take him back to his cell when he contemplated suicide.



## VACANT

14 MINS

UK

Sarah and Martin seek a new housemate to move into their spare room. They conduct 23 interviews with a game of Scrabble on the go, each word placed being inspired by the quirky oddballs they encounter.



## THE OLD YOUNG CROW

12 MINS

JAPAN

An Iranian boy draws his life in Tokyo in his sketchbook. One day, at his hideaway, a graveyard next to his school, he befriends an old Japanese woman who tells him about her late son.



## BLUE

10 MINS

UK

A father-daughter relationship is tested as Dad drives Lucy to have her abortion and the two dance around what her future might hold. As they reach the clinic, Lucy looks to her Dad for answers - but it's not his decision to make.



## BY ANY OTHER NAME

25 MINS

UK



Within the chilling underworld of sex trafficking, a bond between two sisters unfolds. One sister fights for survival within the exploitation, while the other wages a relentless battle against insurmountable odds to bring her sister home.

# MOVING & NOT MOVING NON-FICTION



## YOUR NEXT BREATH

22 MINS

UK

Sculptor Kenny Hunter undertakes Scotland's first Covid memorial, dedicated to frontline NHS workers, for the Royal College of Surgeons. The film offers a poignant nod to the camaraderie and resilience of frontline healthcare workers during the pandemic which, in our eagerness to move on, must never be forgotten.



## STILL HERE

16 MINS

SPAIN

In the deserts of Baja California (México), Daria and Teresa are the last two speakers of the Ku'ahl indigenous language. They lament the imminent extinction of their language and culture. But, as long as they converse together, Ku'ahl lives.



## IT'S NOT THE CRITIC WHO COUNTS

24 MINS

USA

Bill Bradley, a nine-year veteran of the Arrowhead 135 Ultramarathon, makes his tenth attempt to achieve what has previously eluded him: An official finish. In his way lie sub-zero temperatures, blizzards, the threat of frostbite, and ominously, his inner doubts.



## THE SANCTUARY SEEKERS OF BRADFORD

30 MINS

UK



This documentary follows the lives of three very different Bradford residents as they each show practical care and kindness to refugees and asylum seekers rebuilding their lives in their city. In doing so, they maintain Bradford's enviable reputation as a city of warmly welcoming sanctuary.





SCREEN 7 / SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL / 20:00

# THE B'OSCARS AWARDS 2024



*Our Beeston Oscar, known as the B'Oscar, is designed by talented local artist, Bec Joy.*

The 10th Beeston Film Festival reaches a climax with our traditional end-of-festival awards ceremony.

Join us 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.









