

INSPIRED BY IDEAS: AESTHETICA SHORT FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS



Celebrating innovation in cinema, BAFTA-Recognised Aesthetica Short Film Festival returns, with over 300 films and 80 events across 5 days.

Audiences are invited to explore new cinema as the Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF) marks its 8th edition. With the largest and most diverse programme to date, the festival takes place across York, 7 – 11 November.

As part of a culturally rich programme, prominent industry leaders from influential organisations are in attendance, such as **Aardman Studios**, **Film4** and **British Vogue**, as well as actor and screenwriter **Alice Lowe** (*Hot Fuzz*, *Sightseers*, *Prevenge*) and BAFTA-winning Editor **Mick Audsley** (*Murder on the Orient Express*, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*). Producing a range of creative and informative industry masterclasses, this year's speakers cover topics such as: The Role of the Camera Operator, The World of Animation, Creating an Inclusive Industry, and Finding Success at Festivals.

New for 2018, ASFF also expands its selection to longer-form stories, screening **Narrative and Documentary Feature films**. Inspired by alumni who have gone on to achieve further success, such as BAFTA-nominee Francis Lee (*God's Own Country*), the festival provides an opportunity to see the next generation of talent.

Firmly establishing ASFF's position at the forefront of the festival circuit, attendees are also invited to experience the ever-increasing possibilities of filmmaking, with the **launch of a VR Lab** in partnership with **London College of Communication**. Running alongside the lab, **daily VR Discussions** explore the challenges of VR filmmaking in the 21st century, considering practical techniques and the potential of new technologies.

Additionally, filmmakers have multiple opportunities to expand their professional network and promote their work. For the first time, ASFF is offering the chance to **pitch projects** to some of the UK's biggest funding, production and distribution organisations, including; **Curzon Artificial Eye**, **Studiocanal**, **Dogwoof** and more.

Celebrating diversity and individual perspectives, **Iris Prize Festival** returns to ASFF with a selection of LGBTQ+ inspired shorts, alongside **British Urban Film Festival** championing underrepresented voices of the BAME filmmaking community. ASFF also welcomes **Scottish Documentary Institute** with a poignant collection of stories told by female filmmakers living in exile as a result of Syria's devastating conflict. **Showcase Screenings** return with dynamic shorts from some of the UK's leading universities paving the way for the future of film, including **London Film School**, **Plymouth College of Art** and **Manchester Metropolitan University**.

Named as a festival of national significance by the **British Film Institute** earlier this year, ASFF is a cultural hub for the creative industry, hosting industry leaders and emerging filmmakers alike across 5 days of networking, screenings and curated events.

ASFF runs 7 – 11 November. The Official Selection will be announced in September alongside the 2018 Programme. Screening Passes can be purchased from the ASFF website: www.asff.co.uk/tickets

-ENDS-

For immediate release

Notes for Editors:

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- Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF) runs 7 - 11 November across York, UK.
- Screening passes and event tickets can be collected from the ASFF Hub at York Theatre Royal, St Leonard's Place, York, YO1 7HD. Passes will permit access to Showcase Screenings, and events. Masterclass tickets are sold separately. Tickets can be purchased online: www.asff.co.uk/tickets
- The ASFF 2018 Jury includes practitioners from the film industry whose expertise span directing, editing, producing, journalism and film criticism. Jury members are: Aleks Dimitrijevic (The Small Film Festival), Alice Ramsey (Creative England), Emmanuel Anyiam-Osigwe (British Urban Film Festival), Gideon Koppel (Filmmaker), Iain Gardner (Edinburgh International Film Festival), Jackie Okwera (Duck Soup Films), Jaime Estrada-Torres (Editor), Julian Foddy (Industrial Light & Magic), Lauren Houlton (Jerwood Visual Arts), Mike Stubbs (FACT), Niccolò Montanari (Co-Founder of the Berlin Fashion Film), Rebecca Mark-Lawson (Tyke Films), Sheyma Buali (BBC Arabic Festival), and Simran Hans (*The Observer*).
- The ASFF Northern Film School Best Screenplay Jury members are: Annabelle Pangborn (Northern Film School), Dan Weldon (Northern Film School) and Cherie Federico (Aesthetica Magazine).
- The festival is produced by [Aesthetica Magazine](#), one of the leading publications for Visual Art, Design and Photography. The bi-monthly publication highlights the most important artists at work today, both established and emerging, through detailed features and stunning imagery.
- Festival Sponsors and partners include: Aesthetica, York St John University, BFI, Make It York, 1331 Bar, Brandy Brown's Cinema, City of York Council, Leeds Beckett University, Northern Film School, London College of Communication, Grand Central, Creative Scotland, Sheffield Doc/Fest, Ffilm Cymru Wales, Marston's Brewery, London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London, Plymouth College of Art, Middlesex University London, NAHEMI, Northern Ireland Screen, Scottish Film Talent Network, University of Lincoln, London Film School, Falmouth University, Northumbria University, Manchester Metropolitan University, National Centre for Early Music, Friargate Theatre, Barley Hall, Bootham School, Holiday Inn, Safestay, Hilton York, Middletons Hotel, St Mary's Guesthouse, Explore York, York Museums Trust, City Screen Picturehouse, Everyman Cinema, The Smalls, York Theatre Royal, York Conferences, firefly, York Means Business. See all supporters [here](#).
- Connect with the Aesthetica Short Film Festival on social media:
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- Press images can be downloaded here. <http://www.bit.ly/2Ar5pvl>