

# BOLTON FILM FESTIVAL

@BoltonFilmFest  
#BoltonFilmFest

Wed 2nd - Sun 6th October 2024

the light  
cinema



5 Days - 250 Short Films - 25 Industry Events

[www.boltonfilmfestival.com](http://www.boltonfilmfestival.com)



BIFA Qualifying  
Short Film Festival

BAFTA  
QUALIFYING  
FESTIVAL

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# BOLTON FILM FESTIVAL

A brief introduction to Bolton Film Festival from our patron the actress Maxine Peake...

"I'm delighted to be the patron of this event, it's been great to see the festival grow in stature since it's inception seven years ago. When I attended I was impressed by the scale and ambition of the festival, the size of its audiences and the warm welcome it offers its filmmakers. Short films are a format close to my heart, they have the ability to tell big stories in a short amount of time, it's always been a place to take risks and be bold and adventurous."



Zoe and I are delighted to welcome you to the eighth edition of Bolton International Film Festival, this year screening 300 short films including 34 World Premieres, 16 European Premieres and 65 National Premieres.

Among the films showcased are works featuring esteemed actors including Christopher Eccleston - known for his roles in "Doctor Who" and "The Leftovers." Freddie Fox - known for his roles in "White House Farm" and "The Three Musketeers." Mia McKenna-Bruce (How to have sex) and Louisa Connolly-Burnham co-star in Sister Wives.

Michael Patrick Clarkson (Writer/Co-Creator Red Rose, BBC) features in the Made Up North programme on the opening evening of the film festival with his directorial debut and World Premiere of "Upholstergeist". A comedy/horror shot at Rivington Barn, "When a furniture repairer on a restoration TV show is

tasked with fixing a chair for a strange brother and sister, the job may cost more than just her time."

Oscar winners Chris Overton and Rachel Shenton (All Creatures Great and Small) return to Bolton with The Slick Films Pitch, a live competition where five film teams will pitch their projects to a panel of industry experts for a chance to win a £10,000 prize. Witness the tension and excitement as one team secures the grand prize, setting the stage for a transformative filmmaking and mentoring journey supported by Slick Films and industry partners.

This year's festival boasts an exceptional line up of speakers, including, Sean McAllister: BAFTA-nominated and Sundance-winning documentary filmmaker, known for pushing the boundaries of documentary filmmaking. Mick Audsley: Renowned British film and television editor with over thirty film credits, including The Personal History of David Copperfield, Murder on the Orient Express, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire.

Jack Thomas-O'Brien (Producer, Sixteen Films) and Laura Carreira (Director) will share insights on overcoming the challenges of making Laura's debut feature On Falling, which premiered at the Venice Film Festival. Amy O'Hara: Film 4 Development Exec, will be in conversation with Grammy and Grierson award nominated filmmaker Dylan Southern. BBC Development Executive Simon Nelson will share advice on writing for film and television and developing compelling characters. Robin Shaw: Emmy, Anecy, and British Animation Award-winning animator, known for Mog's Christmas, which won the longform prize at the British Animation Awards. The BFI Network team join us with a showcase of films and a roundtable for filmmakers.

We look forward to sharing the programme of films and industry events with you over the next few days!

Adrian Barber (Festival Director)

# Judges



**Colin Pons**  
Producer

Colin has worked on thirty two feature films, including BAFTA winning television drama "This Little Life" and the much acclaimed feature films "Acid House", "The Darkest Light", "HUSH", "iLL Manors" and feature documentary "Zoned In", which won the New York loves film documentary award at the Tribeca film festival. His short film repertoire comprises of four x BAFTA winners.



**Dominique Unsworth (MBE)**  
Producer

A Producer for more than 22 years, Dom has worked on 50+ films nominated for awards at BAFTA accredited film festivals & has supported 100s of under-represented filmmakers. Dom's passionate about inclusion and access within the Creative Industries and supports diverse regional talent and projects. An alumni of Guiding Lights and Creative England Market Trader, she was selected for the BAFTA Elevate 2022 cohort of under-represented Producers



**Rob Speranza**  
Producer

Rob Speranza is an American film producer and line producer. Rob has worked on several feature films including "Arthur and Merlin", "Entity", "Inbred", "Small Creatures" and 16 short films with various directors and writers. Rob runs the South Yorkshire Filmmakers Network. He is also a programmer at Aesthetica Film Festival and a lecturer at various Northern universities.



**Amy O'Hara**  
Development Exec

Amy O'Hara is a Development and Production Executive at Film4. She has over nine years' experience in film marketing, distribution and development, most recently as a BFI NETWORK Talent Executive for Film Hub North.



**Anna Price**  
Editor

Treble BAFTA-nominated for Editing Factual: 2022, 2021, 2018 and Grierson and RTS award winning editor Anna Price specialises in complex narrative and human drama told with "flair, precision, wit and emotional punch". Credits include "Once upon a time in Iraq" and numerous collaborations with Louix Theroux.



**Chris Lunt**  
Writer

Chris has won commissions from the BBC, ITV, Canal +, Red Productions, Drama Republic, Look Out Point, World Productions, Leopard Drama, Lionsgate, Sky, Slim Film and TV, Wall 2 Wall and Eone. Chris was nominated for two Baftas and two RTS awards for his debut work "PREY" he was also named a BAFTA Breakthrough Brit of 2014.



**Simon Nelson**  
BBC Talent Executive

Simon is the Development Executive for BBC writers room. He leads the development of new writers and writing for BBC Drama, comedy and children's drama, covering television, radio and online content. He has also worked for the BBC and ITV.



**D J Clark**  
Multi Media Journalist

Over 25 years experience working with media organisations across the world as a video producer, photojournalist, presenter, writer, trainer and multimedia consultant. Currently a multimedia director at China Daily Asia, video adviser to the Asia News Network and a contributing video producer to The Economist and National Geographic.





**Sarah Anne Kennedy**  
Animator/Lecturer

Sarah studied animation at the Royal College of Art before creating her own animated series for Channel 4 called Cragston Villas which won various awards including the Independent TV Award for Best Newcomer, and Broadcast Best Animation. She is known more widely for her voices as Miss Rabbit in Peppa Pig and Nanny Plum on Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. Sarah is the course leader for MA Animation at the University of Central Lancashire.



**MarBelle**  
Directors Notes

MarBelle is the co-founder and editor-in-chief of the independent film curation and interview site Directors Notes. Prior to that, he worked as editor of Shooting People's Filmmakers Bulletin and as a contributing writer for Short of the Week and No Film School. Through DN he has curated numerous film programmes and served on festival juries for over a decade.



**Kim Hopkins**  
Director

Kim Hopkins spent a decade making television before co-founding Labor of Love Films Ltd, a UK based independent production company specialising in feature documentaries. Her most recent film "A bunch of amateurs" won the audience award at Sheffield Doc Fest and has been nominated for two Grierson awards. Kim's broadcast credits include: PBS, BBC1, 2, 4, World, C4, A+E, WDR, Discovery Channel, National Geographic, NRK1.



**Barrington Paul Robinson**  
Creative Producer

Barrington is a BFI Insight Producer, BFI x BAFTA CREW and Alumni of EIFF Talent Lab, Barrington is a former UKFC Breakthrough Brits and Screen International Star of Tomorrow. This year has seen him break into HETV, Where he is Co-Producing The Responder a BBC1 Drama with Dancing Ledge starring Martin Freeman and is signed up to Produce more HETV later this year.



**Arron Wood**  
Animation Producer

Aaron is the Co-Founder and Producer at London animation company, Slurpy Studios, who create a range of animated content for commercials, education and entertainment platforms. Away from Slurpy, he is a co-owner and writer at Skwigly Animation Magazine and also runs animation-festivals.com, the only website dedicated to listing and covering animation-specific film festivals around the world.



**Michael Patrick Clarkson**  
Writer/Director

Michael is the twin brother of Paul Clarkson, who he often works together with on his projects. He is known for The Haunting of Bly Manor, The Wheel of Time and the Netflix number one series Red Rose. The hit series was set in Bolton and specifically penned with his home town in mind. Michael has just directed his first short film "Upholstergeist" which premieres at BFF, and no he won't be judging it!



**Isabelle Croissant**  
Event Producer

Isabelle works at HOME, Manchester's international multi arts venue. She programmes and produces events and schemes that aim to showcase and develop creative talents and forge connections between practitioners in all creative sectors. She manages Filmed Up, HOME's regular regional short film night and was the co-director of Exposures UK Student Film Festival, which ran for 18 years at Cornerhouse.



**Justin Doherty**  
Filmmaker/Programmer

Justin co-founded the Filmstock International Film Festival, which ran for a decade, with off-shoots in Hungary and Glastonbury. He has worked as a documentary editor on projects for Al Jazeera, ITV and the BBC and over the years, his alter-ego has built a celebrated jazz club, various performance spaces and independent theatre productions. He's a regular festival juror including at Indie Memphis.



**Jon Turner**  
Animator

Jon co-founded the animation studio Kilogramme in 2005, having previously worked for five years at Cosgrove Hall. In the past he has provided content for CBBC, Cbeebies, CITV, Kaspersky Lab, the V&A, TBWA and McCann Erikson, while writing and directing his own shorts in his spare time. His animation "Tall Tales" has reached over 100,000+ viewers



**Steve Boot**  
Animator

Steve Boot is a professional stop-motion animator who has worked on many high profile and successful children's television series, including "Andy Pandy", "Bob the builder", "Little robots", "Roary the Racing car", "Raa Raa the noisy lion", "Postman Pat", "the Clangers", and "Twirly Woo's". His production company "Gadzooks Animation" produces short films and commercials.



**Rob Scott**  
VR Manchester

Rob is the chair of the VR Manchester community group. In his day job as a User Experience Architect at the BBC, he has worked on defining Augmented Reality interaction frameworks, conducted user research for head mounted mixed reality experiences, and also designed prototype app experiences to explore the benefits of AR in Educational contexts. He was previously a judge for the 2018 and 2019 editions of the VR Awards.



**Danilo Godoy**  
Casting Director

Danilo Bastos Godoy is from São Paulo, Brazil, and has been making waves in the film industry since 2012 as a director, screenwriter, and casting director. Danilo's debut short film, Forgotten Memories from the End of the World, was awarded Best Artist's Film at the Aesthetica Short Film Festival in York, UK 2014.

## CHAMPIONING WOMEN IN FILM



The F-Rating is applied to all films which are directed by women and/or written by women. If the film ALSO has significant women on screen, it receives a TRIPLE F-Rating. The rating allows audiences to "vote with your seat" and proactively choose to go and see F-Rated films.

Last year, in the top 250 films women made up just:

11% of all directors  
19% of all writers  
31% of all producers

40% of films are F-Rated at this year's edition of Bolton Film Festival

## WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER FILMS AT BOLTON?



10% of films are made by Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic filmmakers and/or cast  
7% of films are made by LGBTQ+ filmmakers and/or feature LGBTQ+ storylines  
21% of films are made by first time filmmakers (this excludes student figures)  
22% of films are made by students

All films are classified by Bolton Council Licencing Officers using BBFC guidelines. Please refer to our website for the listings including icons.





# Industry Sessions 1

Wednesday



## NETWORKING IN THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Wed : 11:00am - 12:00pm - Light Cinema 1

Everyone tells you to "get out and network," but for many, this is easier said than done. Where do you find the right events to attend? When you're alone in the room, how do you approach people? How do the internet and social media fit into the networking equation? Amanda Graham will offer practical advice and tips to help you navigate networking events, utilize social media effectively, and foster meaningful connections within the creative community.

## BEYOND THE HEDGEROWS

Wed: 12:30pm - 1:30pm - Light Cinema 1

The filmmakers on this panel, Dom Bush (Land & Sky Films), Juliet Klotrupp and Zillah Bowes have chosen to uncover stories that might otherwise remain hidden in the rural valleys of the UK. Not only documenting these hidden stories, but also choosing to live in the countryside themselves as an active part of these communities. Discover how their alternative paths in the creative industries has shaped their storytelling, their process and businesses, and expanded the cultural tapestry of rural Britain.

Our hosts are Scott & Natasha from Northern Heart Films.



## CINEMATOGRAPHY MASTERCLASS

Wed: 2:00pm - 3:00pm - Light Cinema 2

A masterclass with award-winning Director of Photography, George Haydock. After 10 years working in tv and video production, in 2021 George went full time as a DOP - and is now just 3 years into this new career. Since then, George has shot a feature film, many short films, commercials and music videos. In 2024 George won 'Best Cinematography in Short Film' at Manchester Film Festival - where he had four projects screening in the programme. In this session, George will delve into the art of cinematography, share examples of his work, and discuss the creative decisions made around lighting, camera movement and composition.

## BBC WRITERS ROOM - SIMON NELSON

Wed: 2:00pm - 3:00pm - Light Cinema 1

BBC Writers Room champions new writing talent in film, television, radio, and theatre. In this session, Development Executive Simon Nelson shares advice on writing for film and television by offering pragmatic tips and advice on structuring your plot, defining your genre and authoring compelling characters and realistic dialogue.



## FILM4 - DYLAN SOUTHERN

Wed 3:30pm - 4:30pm - Light Cinema 2

Amy O'Hara, Film 4 Development Exec, will be in conversation with Grammy and Grierson award-nominated filmmaker Dylan Southern, offering a deep dive into his career. Attendees can expect insights into his distinctive storytelling approach and collaborations with iconic artists. From his early successes to his latest projects, the session will explore Southern's significant influence on contemporary cinema, providing a rare view into the convergence of music, film, and artistic expression.



Teaching Intensive, Research Informed

## UNIVERSITY OF BOLTON SHOWCASE Wed 4:30pm - 6:00pm - KUDOS cinema

Bolton University brings a programme of short films made by a panel of graduates and current students in this showcase of new talent.

## OPENING NIGHT RED CARPET RECEPTION

Wed: 6:00pm - 8:00pm, The Green Room @ The Light Cinema

Bolton Film Festival launches its eighth edition with a special screening of energising and thought-provoking films. Curated by Festival Director Adrian Barber, our Opening Night takes a cross section of the festival programming, bringing you a unique and diverse selection of stories from the 300 films that make up the festival. Join us beforehand on the red carpet for drinks and snacks, networking and conversation.



## AFTER PARTY

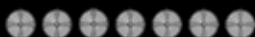
Wed: 9.30pm - 11:00pm @ The Green Room

Join us in The Green Room of The Light Cinema for some after movie drinks. Connect with other industry guests and prepare for the week ahead. Start a conversation, discuss your work and meet contacts who could transform your career.



## Industry Sessions 2

Thursday



## GREY MOTH - SCRIPT TO SCREEN

Thurs 11:00am - 12:00pm @ Light Cinema 1

Grey Moth Originals is dedicated to investing in original ideas and emerging talent. Join Archie Sinclair and Chuckie McEwan from Grey Moth for an in-depth session on taking your film from script to screen. Discover essential techniques for refining your script and preparing it for production. Learn about the key aspects of filmmaking, including budgeting, scheduling, and on-set management to ensure the successful execution of your project.

## SIXTEEN FILMS - SHORTS TO FEATURE

Wed: 12:20 pm - 1:20pm @ Light Cinema 1

Hear from Jack Thomas-O'Brien (Producer, Sixteen Films) and Laura Carreira (Director) as they share insights on overcoming the challenges of Laura's debut feature "On Falling" and achieving success in this pivotal set forward in their careers. Moderated by Loran Dunn (Producer, Delaval Films), this panel offers valuable advice and inspiration for emerging talent, providing a thorough understanding of the industry landscape. An essential industry session for those transitioning from short films to full-length features.





## FLOW CREATIVE - ANIMATING BIG IDEAS

Thurs: 12:20pm - 1:20pm Light Cinema 2

This session will offer a behind-the-scenes look at how Manchester based studio Flow Creative transforms bold concepts into captivating animated narratives. Discover their pipeline; generating and refining ideas, and balancing artistic vision with practical execution by using a team of animators with a diverse skill set ranging in styles and techniques, including - digital, mixed media, frame by frame, 2D and 3D. Whether you're an aspiring animator, a seasoned professional, or simply a fan of animated storytelling, this session offers valuable insights into the process of studio animation.



## EDITING MASTERCLASS - MICK AUDSLEY

Thurs: 1:40pm - 2:40pm Light Cinema 1

BAFTA winner Mick Audsley is an editor with over thirty film credits to his name. In this industry session he takes a look back at some of his work on films including Murder on the Orient Express, Dangerous Liaisons and Twelve Monkeys. Emerging filmmakers will gain a deep understanding of the editor's pivotal role in shaping narrative, pacing, and emotional resonance. This is a unique opportunity to learn from one of the industry's most respected editors and to discover how meticulous editing can elevate a film to new heights.

## ANIMATION MASTERCLASS - ROBIN SHAW

Thurs: 1:40pm - 2:40pm Light Cinema 2

Robin Shaw is an Emmy, Annecy, and British Animation Award-winning animator known for his hand-drawn adaptations of classic children's books. His recent film, Mog's Christmas, premiered to rave reviews on Channel 4's Christmas 2023 schedule and won the longform prize at the British Animation Awards. Shaw also directed the acclaimed The Tiger Who Came To Tea in 2019, winning an International Emmy and the Special Jury Prize at Annecy. This session will delve into Shaw's creative process, focusing on the artistry of bringing classic stories to life through animation. He will share insights into the intricacies of adapting well-known narratives for the screen, the importance of maintaining the essence of the original works, and the challenges and rewards of hand-drawn animation.



## THE ANIMATORS YEAR - CANDY GUARD

Thurs 3:00pm - 4:00pm Light Cinema 1

Recently nominated for the Audience Award at the 2024 British Animation Awards for her short film She's My Best Friend (and I Hate Her), Candy Guard is an accomplished writer, animator and illustrator known for her sharp comic observation and witty dialogue. With 13 award-winning animated shorts for Channel 4, the BBC, and MTV, as well as the cult sitcom Pond Life, Candy is renowned for her feisty female protagonists. Her work spans illustrated novels, graphic novels, and popular comic strips. In this masterclass audiences will gain insights into how Candy crafts compelling characters, blends humor with storytelling, and has navigated her successful multidisciplinary career in the creative arts. She'll also delve into the unique experience of working tirelessly on an animation all year, only to see it screened at a festival for a fleeting moment.

## BFI FILMHUB NORTH SHOWCASE

Thurs: 3:00pm - 4:15pm : Light Cinema 2

BFI NETWORK present a showcase of the freshest films on our shorts slate, followed by a Filmmaker Roundtable where you can put questions to showcase filmmakers and the Film Hub North and BFI Doc Society teams.

Born on a Sunday Silent - Eelyn Lee  
Fairview Park - Aymeric Nicolet/Ellie Hodgetts  
Merpeople of Mexborough - Chelsea O'Connor  
The Archive: Queer Nigerians - Simisolaoluwa Akande





### FILMMAKER ROUNDTABLE Thurs: 4:45pm - 5:45 pm @ HIVE Gallery

Join Film Hub North and BFI Doc Society for an informal Filmmaker Roundtable. This is an opportunity to meet the team, find out more about the funding and career development support they provide, and connect with fellow filmmakers.

Hosted by Ben Taylor (Talent Executive, Film Hub North) and Sanne Jehoul (Talent Support Programme Manager, BFI Doc Society)

Strictly limited to 20 places - sign up on the website to take part.

### SODA FILMMAKING SHOWCASE - EMERGING VOICES IN CINEMA Thurs: 4:30pm - 6:00pm, Light Cinema 3

Discover the innovative work of SODA filmmaking students in this captivating showcase. The BA (Hons) Filmmaking programme offers a practice-based approach, blending digital art with traditional film school philosophies. This unique environment nurtures students' creative freedom, allowing them to develop their distinct voices across narrative fiction, documentary, artists' moving image, and new media. Join us to experience a diverse array of short films that highlight the fresh perspectives and imaginative storytelling emerging from this dynamic course.

SODA  
SCHOOL OF DIGITAL ARTS

Manchester  
Metropolitan  
University



### NETWORKING Thurs: 6:00pm - 8:00pm, KUDOS Gallery

Join us in the KUDOS gallery for a complimentary drink and snacks, this event is a perfect blend of social interaction and professional engagement, designed to spark connections and foster partnerships within the film industry. Don't miss this chance to expand your network and enhance your creative journey. As you network and socialise, look at the posters of the films in competition this year.



### AFTER PARTY @ HEN & CHICKENS Thurs: 9.30pm - 12:00am, 143 Deansgate, BL1 1EX

After a day filled with films and industry talks, join us for a jar of ale (or two) and soak up some Northern hospitality at the traditional pub The Hen & Chickens. The pub has a beer garden, pool table, a couple of lounges and is open until midnight, making it the ideal spot to wind down, chat about the day's highlights, and make new connections.



## Industry Sessions 3

Friday



### FIRST IMPRESSIONS Friday 11:00am - 12:00pm @ Light Cinema 2

Our panel of experts, Marbelle (Directors Notes), Sadhbh Murphy (Network Ireland TV), Matt Lloyd (Glasgow Short Film Festival) and Jack Thomas-O'Brien (Sixteen Films) will critique the opening two minutes of your film. They will provide constructive feedback on aspects such as narrative hooks, visual style, character introduction, and emotional resonance. An invaluable opportunity for filmmakers and audiences to understand what resonates with industry gatekeepers and how to craft an impactful opening that can set your film apart.



## NEW VOICES - NEW NARRATIVES

**Friday 12:30pm - 1:30pm Light Cinema 2**

A distinguished panel will discuss the critical issue of diversity in the Film and TV industry, focusing on the underrepresentation of marginalized groups. By introducing new voices with alternative life experiences, the industry can break free from conventional narratives and create more exciting, relatable, and innovative content. Attendees will leave with actionable insights on how to champion diversity within their own films, crews and organizations.



# £10K

**Slick**  
FILMS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
BOLTON FILM FESTIVAL

SLICK FILMS  
FUND

## THE SLICK FILMS PITCH

**Friday 2:15pm - 3:45pm Light Cinema 1**

Experience the excitement as five film teams compete head-to-head in a live pitch to our panel of industry experts. With £10,000 on the line, each team will try to persuade the jury that their unique storytelling and vision is the one that deserves to win. Watch the tension build as one exceptional project claims the grand prize, paving the way for a transformative filmmaking journey supported by Slick Films and partners.

## SCREEN & FILM SCHOOL MANCHESTER

**Friday 4:00pm - 5:30pm @ Light Cinema 2**

This showcase shares work from students at Screen and Film School Manchester, who's cutting-edge industry-led course provides the opportunity to acquire the fundamental skills and techniques of film production that are required for a sustainable career in the film and related creative industries.



SCREEN AND  
FILM SCHOOL



Edge Hill  
University

IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
Creative Enterprise  
(ICE)

## EDGE HILL UNIVERSITY SHOWCASE

**Friday 4:00pm - 5:30pm @ Light Cinema 3**

Edge Hill University degrees develop key filmmaking skills including directing, producing and editing, as well as writing for screen, sound design, cinematography and production design. In this showcase they bring the best of their short films to BFF, with supporting Q&A's from students and graduates.

## NETWORKING

**Friday 6:00pm - 8:00pm @ KUDOS Gallery**

Join us in the KUDOS gallery for a complimentary drink and snacks, to network with industry delegates and filmmakers and to see all the posters from the films.



## YE OLDE WORLDE AFTER PARTY

**Friday - 9:40pm - 12:00pm @ Churchgate, BL1 1HL**

Join us for a pint of scrumpy and other great ales at one of the oldest pubs in the country, Ye Olde Man & Scythe on Churchgate. Watch out for the ghost!





## Industry Sessions 4

Saturday / Sunday



### SCREENWRITING PANEL

Saturday 12:50pm - 1:50pm @ Light Cinema 2

Our panel of screenwriters, Ruth Picket, Ben Hyland and Sam Baron will delve into the creative process of writing and developing comedy and drama scripts, from initial concept to final production. Learn how these talented writers develop compelling characters and balance humor with poignant storytelling. Ideal for aspiring writers and fans of great storytelling, this session promises inspiration and practical insights.



### SEAN McALLISTER - A PART OF MYSELF

Saturday 2:10pm - 3:10pm @ Light Cinema 2

In this session we will explore the complexities of documenting the human experience, examining McAllister's creative process and ethical considerations, from conflict zones to Northern England. From his early works like Working For The Enemy and The Minders to the Sundance Jury Prize-winning The Liberace Of Baghdad and Japan: A Story Of Love And Hate, Sean McAllister has continually pushed the boundaries of documentary filmmaking. His recent projects, The Reluctant Revolutionary and the Sheffield Jury Prize-winning, BAFTA nominated A Syrian Love Story, continue to inspire, surprise, and captivate audiences. Sean's style of filmmaking, once described as "less fly on the wall, more fly in the soup" makes the audience viscerally feel every emotion.



### MEET THE FESTIVAL PROGRAMMERS

Saturday 3:30pm - 4:30pm @ Light Cinema 2

Festival programmers Varun Raman (London Short Film Festival), Jamie Allen (Sheffield Doc Fest), Isabelle Croissant (Manchester Animation Festival) and Marbelle (Directors Notes) join our host to reveal insights into the programming process. What makes a film stand out to them? Why can good films often still find rejection? What do festival programmers mean by "a good fit for the programme". This session aims to answer these questions and many more. Our host is Katie Bignell from Festival Formula

### NETWORKING

6:00pm - 8:00pm @ KUDOS Gallery

It's the final night at Bolton Film Festival and the last chance to catch up with fellow creators. Join us in the KUDOS gallery for a complimentary drink and snacks, to network with industry delegates and filmmakers and to see all the posters from the films.



### DRINK US DRY AFTER PARTY

9:30pm - 12:00pm @ KUDOS Gallery

Join us at the KUDOS gallery for some kick ass tunes from our guest DJ with 2 hours of EDM. Come and help us to 'drink the place dry', maybe have a boogie, enjoy conversations with fellow filmmakers and festival goers before heading to The Swan on Bradshawgate until the early hours.

### AWARD CEREMONY

Sunday 5:00pm - 6:15pm @ The Light Cinema 1

All the films in our official selection are in competition for one of our awards, chosen by our expert jury panel from the Film & TV industry. The KUDOS awards have a history of spotlighting exciting filmmakers, spring boarding many of them into new opportunities, whether that's a simple meeting with the next producer, or a place on the next training or mentoring scheme. Join us at The Light Cinema for the LIVE award ceremony - announcing this years nominees and award winners.



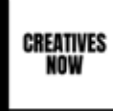




## Creatives Now

Guest Programme

**Thursday**  
10:00am - 12:00pm  
Light Cinema 3



### EXPLORING BOLTON: A YOUTH DRIVEN DOCUMENTARY SHOWCASE

Creatives Now presents five documentary shorts that explore their hometown's arts and culture scene, showcasing the potential for growth inspired by community, play, and curiosity. These films, created by young members of Creatives Now—a youth-led community arts collective dedicated to co-creation and social change—highlight the unique perspectives and talents of emerging filmmakers in Bolton. Under the mentorship of Italian filmmaker Simone Turinese, young artists have crafted compelling narratives that celebrate the richness of their cultural heritage and the transformative power of the arts. Join us for an inspiring morning that underscores the importance of youth voices in shaping our cultural landscape. Creatives Now host youth fringe film festival events and showcases in their Market Place studio to coincide with Bolton Film Festival.



### BOLTON : A CURIOUS TOWN?

Will Maher & Rishi Ghosh

Young filmmakers creatively reimagine their hometown as a vibrant space filled with play and curiosity, transforming everyday environments into opportunities for exploration. Through their lens, they seek to inspire a community to rediscover the joy of playful engagement in familiar surroundings.

### COLLECTIVE CREATIVE FUTURES

Stella Rojek & Ali Asghar

In this film, young people explore sustainable circular economies in Bolton, where skills, ideas, and resources are shared to fuel creative social enterprises. Celebrating goodwill, community cohesion, and artistic spirit, they showcase Bolton's generous grassroots networks of collaboration and innovation.



### AGENTS OF CHANGE

Jesse Short & Karla Zglimbea

This documentary presents the essential rights and agency that young people should possess in shaping their communities, particularly in driving cultural activities in their town. It highlights the potential of youth as active stakeholders, advocating for their involvement in fostering vibrant, intergenerational cultural communities.



### HOW TO START A SOCIAL MOVEMENT

Kenzie Mann

This film explores the crucial elements required to unite communities in creating social movements for positive change in their local areas. Through interviews and real-life examples, the film showcases the power of collaboration, passion, and persistence in transforming neighbourhoods.



### WHAT IS A BODY?

Charlie Simpson & Aidan Hart

This short documentary, crafted by young filmmakers, explores the creative potential within each of us, highlighting our inherent abilities for invention and transformation. The film emphasises the importance of taking action over words, demonstrating how initiative can drive meaningful connections and both personal and collective change.



## Black to Green

Echoes of Transformation

**Thursday**  
4:30pm - 5:30pm  
KUDOS Cinema

**Friday**  
11:00am - 12:00pm  
KUDOS Cinema



Experience a powerful programme that juxtaposes the industrial past with a greener future. See detailed scenes from coal mining life, including daily routines and labor conditions, and relive pivotal rallies from the Miners' Strike, featuring speeches on solidarity and economic struggle. The programme contrasts these historical moments with split-screen footage of reclaimed green spaces, illustrating the transformation from coal mining to ecological renewal.

North West Film Archive : Mining Review No 6 Twentieth Year - Date 1967, Spoil Heaps and Grassland - Date: 1970, Miners' Demonstration, Manchester [Part One], Miners' Wives Demonstration in Manchester [Part Two], Miners' Gala, Manchester [Afternoon Rally - Tony Benn and Arthur Scargill], Agecroft Colliery - the last pit in the Valley

The Miners Campaign Tapes : Only Doing their job



## Expanded Realities

**Daily**  
11:00am - 6:00pm (Except Thurs until 8pm)  
KUDOS Gallery



**THE MatriarX**  
Julia Bruton (Germany)

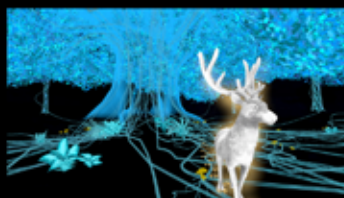


Family and love relationships function differently. How do you perceive yourself in a world that follows different structures? The MatriarX will open the experiencers' horizons by raising their curiosity and by empowering them.

**REIMAGINED VOLUME III: YOUNG THANG**  
Melissa Joyner (USA)



Inspired by "The Woman with Two Skins" of Southern Nigeria, the story follows Young Thang, a human girl living within The Community, a place where humans are forbidden; deemed dangerous and ugly. Can Young Thang find the courage to reveal her full self and save the very beings that discriminate and suppress her?



**BLOOM**  
Fabienne Giezendanner, Franck Van Leeuwen (Germany)

On a hot and dry day, to survive you have no choice but to take refuge in the nearby forest. As you approach an oak tree, the ground becomes transparent under your feet and the bark disappears to give way to the choreography of the oak's vital flows. It wants to communicate with you ...



**DRAW FOR CHANGE: WE RESIST, WE EXIST**  
Mariana Cadenas Sangronis (Belgium)



Enter the vibrant world of Maremoto, a young Mexican cartoonist who, through her drawings, empowers women and addresses the taboos of her society. In DRAW FOR CHANGE: EXISTIMOS, RESISTIMOS, an immersive and interactive VR-experience, we become part of Maremoto's ongoing search for her identity and drive through art.





### 8 BILLION SELVES

Tibor De Jong (Netherlands)

An experimental VR film created around the question of what it means to be a human now. What you see, what you experience, is something that only you can perceive in this unique way. Only you. Amidst 8 billion others.

### TELEPORT ISLAND

Jonathan Foo (UK)

Escape the ordinary by visiting Iceland virtually. Teleport is bringing the land of ice and fire into your living room. Explore the mystic blues of Jökulsárlón, marvel in the grandeur of Kirkjufell, and sink your feet into the black sands of Reynisfjara.



### GOING BACK HOME: MOTHER VR

Catalina Alarcón (Chile)



In the precariousness of prison, a group of women dream of reconnecting with their children. Together, they carefully guard a collection of objects that reconnect them with their memories, safeguarding them from danger in an interactive and virtual museum.



### OVER THE RAINBOW

Craig Quintero (Taiwan)

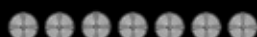
It is human nature to long for something different, something that lies "somewhere over the rainbow." At times, this aspirational dreaming leads to improvements, but more often than not, this attitude leads to a sense of discontent with our own lot, an unquenchable thirst for what is just beyond our reach - a precarious balance between desire and happiness, fantasy and familiarity.

### REVEALED - THE PIT CAMP

Andy Campbell, Judi Alston (UK)



The tradition of storytelling around a campfire takes on a new twist through this story of struggle, resilience, and camaraderie. Revealed - The Pit Camp pays homage to the sacrifices miners and their families made during the 1984/85 Miners Strike and the impact of this on the coalfield communities of Yorkshire, UK..



### CRATE DIGGING - THE STORY OF DE UNDERGROUND RECORDS

Peter Collis (UK)

De Underground Records was both a recording studio and a record shop. It operated from 1991 until 1996. It was the birthplace of Drum & Bass.



## Experimental

**Friday**  
12:30pm - 1:30pm  
Light Cinema 3

**Sunday**  
12:30pm - 1:30pm  
KUDOS Cinema



### STARGAZING. A DIALOGUE ON CREATION BETWEEN SERIAL SILENCE KILLERS

Niccolò Buttigliero (Italy)

Lying in total darkness, two young immortals discuss whether it is time to create the World once again. A cosmogonic screwball comedy.



### FIG ISLAND

Brendan Void (USA)

An alien arrives in New York and tries to fit in



### JE SUIS PLASTIC

Harry Harwood (UK)

An experimental short film about a plastic bag, a man, and the effects of toxic masculinity in a relationship.



### ONE NIGHT ON SATURN

R Seventeen (UK)

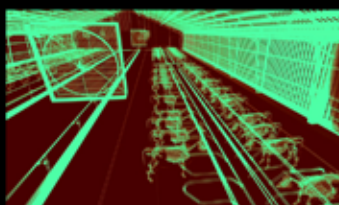
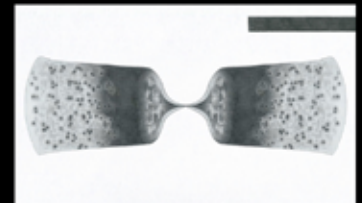
After the rave, two boys come down beside the river.



### (D)INFINITY

Taewan Kim (UK)

A Sci-Fi animation exhibiting chaos and beauty in outer space. Using only graphite and paper the film renders the artist's own interpretations of dimensional infinity.



### INGRESSO ANIMALI VIVI

Igor Grubić (Italy)

Animals from Eastern Europe for the Italian food/meat industry used to be transported to the towns along the state border in Northeast Italy. From those conveyor-belt spaces of death, only one animal managed to come in and out alive.



### IMMORTALS

Marc Durand (Canada)

An experimental documentary short film shot in 8mm that explores the introspection of an artist, Bettina Szabo. The film delves into her relationship with her sense of belonging, her body, her imagination, and nature.



### DEAR DIARY

Clementine Decremps (Germany)

Dear Diary, I can't sleep. There are so many things in my past I could have done differently. I need to exorcise myself of my former selves.







## MID-ITATION

Letao Chen



"I am pinterest-board myself into someone you cannot hurt," Letao Chen's soft voice guides us through a deceptively profound journey. "Mid-itation" is an autobiographical short film exploring the spiritual and digital as synonyms.



## Dance

Wednesday

6:30pm - 7:30pm

Light Cinema 3



## MORNING INTERLUDE

Sirius (France)

At daybreak on a country road, a young couple returns from a restless night visibly exhausted. Angry with each other the couple will, in a magnetic dance, try to reconcile.



## CORNERBOY

Kai Kurve (Germany)

A bad boy gets possessed by a fly (aka the devil/death) which confronts him with his own personality. This narration is wrapped up in a fresh genre bending experimental dance film.

## YEAH THE BOYS

Stefan Hunt (Australia)

Follow six young Aussie men as they sink beers over an afternoon and well into the night. Equal parts larrikin, brutal, and tender, this choreographic short film scored by The Avalanches is an observation of Australian masculine identity and our nation's relationship with drinking culture.



## TO BEND & NOT BREAK

Dan Canham (UK)

"A ritual of release, a journey from sorrow and hopelessness to community and congregation." Using dance as an excavation, this film flows between states of grief and joy to celebrate the role of dance as a communal healing force.



## LUCID DREAMING

Emma Evelein (Netherlands)

Follow the story of a girl in a train, that loses herself in the world of a man sitting across from her. As she gets carried away in his world, the train and its passengers become part of the experience she encounters through him.



## CONTRESENS

Tizia Benmchich-Lanardonne (France)

One woman decides to go against the Parisian routine, and she can't help it.



## POP

Jay Amin (UK)

A young Ghanaian street vendor who sells biscuits is going about his daily grind, when he sees a pink balloon floating across the dusty streets of Accra, The balloon leads the boy to stumble upon a scene that is unfamiliar to him.



## BURN FROM THE INSIDE

Mthuthuzeli November

This atypical narrative work delves into the exploration of music and its origins, examining why we have an innate desire to dance or move when we hear music, sound, or voices.



## Music & Fashion

**Wednesday**

6:30pm - 7:30pm

Light Cinema 3



## AETERNA

Cayetano González (Spain)

A haunting reminder of the importance of self-acceptance and the ephemeral nature of physical beauty, urging the audience to reflect on the true essence of what makes us beautiful.

## MR MUNRO

Bobby León (Canada)

Mr. Munro speaks in verses, describing his journey from inner darkness to inner light. ChatGPT provided the poem, which was then edited by Juliette Garcia León for human touch. This structure of writing made way for creating a storyline that feels uncanny-canny.



## KING

Vasco Alexandre (Denmark)

An experimental music film choreographed to the song 'King' by Icelandic musician Brikcs. Set at the ARKEN museum of modern art, it explores themes of identity and depression through movement.



## RIBBONS

Carlos Jimenez (UK)

An aggressive, colourful collage journey into Matty Bovan's surreal world where everything is possible.



## A MUSE ME FOR ARENA HOMME PLUS

Timur Celikdag (UK)

We observe through the intense imagination of an artist the transformation of a simple young man into an object of obsession, the making a Muse, and in so doing explore ideas of desire, possession, objectification, manipulation, coercion and control.



## SUKI JOPLIN SEX GOBLIN

Brendan Void (UK)

A young goblin has fallen into sex trafficking but eventually prevails.



## DESERT DIAMONDS - A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND

Dimitri Yuri (Qatar)

We've all heard the phrase "diamonds are a girl's best friend". It's the most widely circulated motto of the jewelry industry.... it's also complete bullshit.





### VAQUERA - WELCOME TO OUR CHAOS

Jack Sunnucks, Juan Palacio (USA)

Vaquera, a New York fashion label, has had a cult following since its inception in 2013. For their Autumn/Winter 2022 collection they are invited to open Paris Fashion Week, an honour and challenge for which designers Patric and Bryn must bring their brand of chaos and charm to the world fashion capital.

### TRAPS IN MY FEED

Lubos Vacke (Czech Republic)

The film chronicles a young woman's journey from work. The heroine is trying to avoid a phone call she doesn't feel much like making. The more she tries to escape it, the more the situation haunts her.



### SOMETHING OUTTA NOTHING

Michelangelo Carliez (Italy)

Exploring the magical world of iiWii Hub, an experienced tailor uses his powers to create new and wild clothes. Where other people see garbage, iiWii hub finds a rare opportunity: "flaw" is just a cruel way to say uniqueness.

### THE WIND IS CALLING MY NAME

Stefanie Gartmann (Germany/Faroe Islands)

Gudrun and Gudrun quality knitwear fashion film.



### GENN - THE SISTER OF

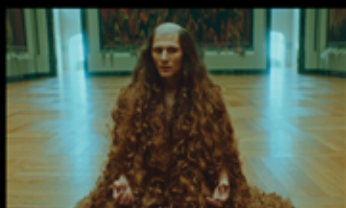
Kyrylo Volovych (UK)

Traveling through dimensions, a young lady stumbles upon a mysterious, lone castle where the notion of time seems to be frozen. Drawn by the unknown binding force, she embarks on a journey of unexpected occurrences in search of answers.

### GOAT GIRL

Holly Blakey (UK)

Contemporary dance film.



### ABSOLVE

Paul Aaron Trillo (France)

A leak in the ceiling of the Louvre pulls French music artist, Jacques, into an emotional vortex where a cosmic teardrop peels back the layers of the museum's masterpieces and breaks them down into rawest forms..



## Archive

**Thursday**  
12:30pm - 1:30pm  
KUDOS Cinema

**Friday**  
5:00pm - 6:00pm  
KUDOS Cinema

**Saturday**  
11:20pm - 12:20pm  
Light Cinema 3



### HEIMATFILM

Marion Kellman (Germany)



A compilation movie that presents the essence of the German genre of Heimatfilm. Sentimental films set in idealized country surroundings. The scheme of the films is simple: it is a love story that eventually arrives at a happy end, following a few misunderstandings and the appearance of a villain.



### THE WAGES OF JOHN PERNIA

Dimitri Yuri (Qatar)

At the dawn of the American West, two men - one a little-known Creole, the other a closeted historical icon - entered into a volatile relationship that spanned a continent.



### IS THERE ANYBODY THERE?

Chris Paul Daniels (UK)

The film explores notions of individual and collective memory, examining how it is created, by whom, and whose stories, identities or cultures may be missing.

### DEATH OF AN EXTRA

Mikhail Zheleznikov (Israel)

A brief study of the unusual history of one old film frame.



## New Arrivals 1

**Wednesday**

3:30pm - 5:00pm

Light Cinema 2



### A GOOD START

Sara Blok (UK)

After a rave, two boys assist a new mom in changing her baby at a petrol station in the early morning..



### ASHES

Andrea Lejault (France)

Jordan, a shy and sweet boy, lives in foster care. The last visit he makes to his father in the hospital does not go as planned.



### CCTV

Samira Karimi (Iran)

Two lesbian high school girls who decide to erase footage from the school's CCTV cameras end up getting locked up at school.



### A FEW WINTER NIGHTS

Jules Thin (UK)

Raphaël, a 20 year-old student in Paris, has a confrontational approach to sexuality and romantic relationships. He walks at night in Parisian parks and streets to understand his tumultuous emotions and make late night encounters.

### A STUDY OF EMPATHY

Hilke Rönnfeldt (Germany)

Dana wants to show empathy. Penelope wants to explore empathy. Penelope's artistic experiment unfolds and Dana's feelings are whirled around.





## THE FARM

Leo Villares (UK)

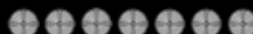
Calvin and Hanna are an English couple who come to the Farm expecting rest and relaxation, in the hopes that this will get them through a rocky patch in their relationship. When they meet Bernardo, the eccentric guru of the Farm, they learn that the 'resort' is actually an experimental psychotherapy centre.



## New Arrivals 2

Thursday

6:10pm - 7:40pm  
Light Cinema 2



### BACKBONE

Lucas Hames (USA)



Cole, a teenager with a broken back, lives with Len, his domineering alcoholic mother who cannot retire because of his condition. Cole will have to deal with the consequences of her actions at the expense of his own health.



### JUST A WEEKEND

Aella Jordan-Edge (UK)



A question of power and relationships when a mother comes to stay for the weekend, bringing with her the toxic sway of emotions and pitching a couple against each other with consequences.

### XIAOHUI AND HIS COWS

Xinying Lao (China)



Except for mountain landscapes, magical rocks, and a few other kids, the village where Xiaohui lives with his grandfather and two cows has nothing to offer. The nine-year-old sorely misses his parents who work in the city.



### HICKEY

Giovanna Molina (USA)



Three sisters come of age within a strict evangelical community in rural Oregon. After discovering a hickey on her older sister's neck, Grace (attempts to expose her sister and win her conservative father's approval.

### THE STEAK

Kiarash Dadgar Mohebi (Iran)

A birthday ceremony preparation gets upside down as something horrible takes place.



### SHOOTING WATERMELONS

Antonio Donato (Italy)

Federico is on holiday with his father and brother in a summer residence in Sardinia. Their father, Aurelio, is a severe and overtly masculine man who makes Federico feel anxious and inadequate. When a wealthy German family invites them to dinner, Federico discovers he is not so different from his father.



## New Arrivals 3

Friday

6:00pm - 7:30pm

Light Cinema 2



### WE'RE BLOOD

Andrew Sherlow (Ireland)

18-year-old Tommy is hoping to go to college. He is bright and ambitious enough to achieve his goal but his world is thrown into disarray when his big brother JJ, whom he idolises, gets arrested.



### HANGNAIL

Grace Connor (UK)

Erin's dream night becomes a relentless nightmare leading to the question of will her naivety get the better of her? Or will she wake up and see the truth behind the person in front of her?



### BEHIND STERLINGATE

Damien Fowler, Martha Elsen (UK)

Anjela Sterling, busy Mother and Education Secretary for the UK Government is going on National Television for a live debate with controversial far-right news anchor, Simon Fincher. When Anjela's scandalous affair with a young Politician is leaked to the press, she must salvage her relationship with her son and find a way to save her career.



### LUCKY DIP

Francis Kelly (UK)

Luke, an unpaid intern, hunts for the owner of a winning lottery ticket he find behind a coffee machine at work. Unfortunately, it seems to be everyone's lucky day.



### BITTERSWEET

Raiyan Chinoy (UK)

After Hadi's mother falls terminally ill, he finds himself lost in a liminal maze, haunted by grief and regret.



### BLUEPRINT

Lada Kopytova (UK)

Cass and Ezra look back on their failed relationship and the incompatibility of Cass's tendency to write about her life with Ezra's unwillingness to simply exist as a character in her scripts.



### THE LAST MAKER

Edgar Lowe (UK)

A son's observational portrait of his father, Steven Lowe, and his, critically endangered, craft of Lastmaking.



### TWO WORLDS APART

Austen Taylor Pease (UK)

21-year-old Finn longs for a better life with his lover, Maja. Things turn upside down when he's hit with consequences for escaping his violent life.





## New Arrivals 4

**Saturday**  
6:15pm - 8:00pm  
Light Cinema 2



### DELIVERY

Ben Lankester (UK)

Newly-qualified midwife Mary experiences the most physically and psychologically challenging night shift of her career as she oversees two life-and-death pregnancy cases.



### MOTHER'S DAY

Emily Burnett (UK)

A space-loving young boy has to navigate a new world when his Mum suddenly suffers a mental health crisis, and his Gran returns from the Caribbean to take care of him.



### THE T3ST

Alexandros Tsilifonis (UK)

A profoundly neurodivergent ten-year-old boy named Jason is born into a middle-class family and lives in a world of ostracism until one day his father takes him for a different kind of examination.

### PAULA SAYS HI

James C Thompson (UK)

A short documentary exploring inclusivity within the cosplay community, through the lens of Paula: a 52-year-old disabled crossdressing cosplayer. The film uses a blend of live action documentary footage and 2D digital animation as a way to express the vibrant inner world of Paula, a self-proclaimed and unapologetic part-time woman.



### HONEYCOMB

Halder Hussain (Netherlands)

While Sakina is only able to reach out to her daughter through non-personal topics like a broken doorbell, Mariyam's subtle cues about her internal struggles likewise fail to make any significant connection with Sakina. Isolated, sleepless, and hanging on to the last threads of reality Mariyam is confronted with an unlikely source of solace.



### SWAN IN THE CENTRE

Iris Chassaigne (France)

In a deserted shopping centre destined for redevelopment, junior consultant Swan conducts a survey. As she passes the empty hallways in search of clients and salespeople to interview, desire gets in her way...





## Opening Night

**Wednesday**  
Light Cinema 1  
8.00pm - 9.30pm



### **FIONAMONIUM**

Angus Gannagé (UK)

A singer comes to terms with a seismic change in her life.



### **FRATELLI CARBONAI**

Felix Bazalgette, Joshua Hughes (UK)

As Italy lurches to the far right, a Malian migrant finds a place amongst a family of charcoal burners in the remote Calabrian mountains.



### **MORNING INTERLUDE**

Sirius (France)

At daybreak on a country road, a young couple returns from a restless night visibly exhausted. Angry with each other the couple will in a magnetic dance try to reconcile.



### **ON THE 8TH DAY**

Agathe Sénéchal, Alicia Massez, Elise Debruyne, Flavie Carin, Théo Duhautois (France)

It took 7 days to create the world, it only took one to disrupt its balance.







### GUTS

Margaux Susi (USA)



Desperate for help, a woman in recovery asks an unlikely stranger on a dinner date.



### CLODAGH

Portia A. Buckley (Ireland)



A lonely priest's housekeeper encounters a young Irish girl of exceptional promise.



### THE KEY

Rakan Mayasi (France/Palestine)

An Israeli family's equilibrium gradually disintegrates as the mysterious sound of a key is heard every evening in the door of their apartment.



## UK Shorts 1

### Wednesday

4:30pm - 6:00pm  
Light Cinema 3

### Saturday

1:00pm - 2:30pm  
Light Cinema 1



### BITTER WEEDS

Reuben Hamlyn (UK)

Bitter Weeds follows mischievous 16-year-old Liam after he is sent to look after his dementia-suffering grandmother Patricia who unravels as she repeatedly mistakes him for her cheating late husband.

### OMAKASE

George Moore Chadwick (UK)

A lonely professional chef hires an actress to play his girlfriend over dinner. Things turn darker as performance, reality and memory begin to blur.



### BATHSHEBA

Myah Asha Jeffers (UK)



A widow, struggling to readjust to a life of grief, unexpectedly meets a woman whose presence is transformative.



## PAIN

Marcus Luc Kartal (UK)

Julien and Celeste are living together, barely functioning in a relationship as Julien incurs mysterious seizures which is tearing their relationship apart. An opportunity to baby sit Celeste's twin sister's new born baby and Julien is tasked with controlling his erratic behaviour caused by unknown reasons.



## TREELINE

Freddie Bonfanti (UK)

11-year-old Neil ventures into local woods to find his missing brother Vincent, only to discover a truth that challenges the community's accusations against their father.

## KIN

The Madley Brothers (UK)

Twin brothers at the fringes of society battle with the meaning of family sacrifice.



## COLLABORATION

Martin Cannon (UK)

A young couple's relationship unravels as their online adult content personas collide with the real world.



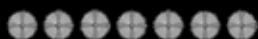
## PYLON

Barnaby Blackburn (UK)

A field. A gang. A gun. A frightened boy. His brave sister. Their determined mother. And a towering steel obelisk overseeing it all. 'Pylon' is about fractious family relationships, the horrors siblings subject each other to and the indelible marks they leave.



## UK Shorts 2



### Thursday

4:20pm -5:50pm  
Light Screen 1

### Sunday

11:00am -12:30pm  
Light Screen 2



## YOU LAND

Debora Maité (UK)



In the remote Scottish countryside, a downtrodden woman finds herself entangled in a newly-discovered influencer culture, whilst in search of respite from the humdrum of rural living and the impending weight of caregiving duties.



## WOODLICE

Leonn Ward (UK)



A true story depicting grief through symbolism in both surreal and real forms, exploring relationships with grief, religion, and motherhood.





### END OF SUMMER

Matthew Murdoch (UK)

A young couple from a small seaside town are drifting apart from one another and despite their best intentions, they can no longer ignore the inevitable.

### SOMETHING ELSE

Martha Treves (UK)

Faced with the sudden disappearance of her beloved Shadow, Judith calls upon her estranged daughter Lily to return home and help her with the search. But when Judith gets a devastating call from a local farmer, Lily is forced to face up to her mother's grief and come to terms with her own.



### BLOODED

Edward Hamilton Stubber (UK)

Two siblings live by the skin of their teeth in the outskirts of society in a stormy rural landscape. The older sibling imposes hunting on the younger one, and a divide grows.



### BENEATH A MOTHER'S FEET

Elias Suhail (UK)

A young Moroccan mother, trapped in a mundane existence, confronts her dreams and fears, leading to the agonising decision to forsake all she knows.

### HIGHGATE 214

Teva Cheema (UK)

Through a series of vignettes, we follow three teenage boys living in London during the COVID-19 pandemic, following their conversations and experiences, and how their perspectives on the present moment and their place in society are shaped by their interactions with the outside world.



## UK Shorts 3

Thursday

2:30pm - 4:00pm  
Light Cinema 3

Sunday

1:00pm - 2:30pm  
Light Cinema 1



### THE NOBODY

Razan Madhoon (UK)

UK Airport Immigration Officer Sarah begins to question her role and institution when an unidentified passenger dies on an arrival flight from Egypt.



### MUM'S THE WORD

Oz Arshad (IUK)

In rural England, on a tense call with his overprotective mum, Jake and Uncle Ross are reprimanded for going to a strip club, Jake is only sixteen.





### CRUSTS

Alfie Dale (UK)

Words and sandwiches are shared around a grave as an Irish family tries to grieve the untimely death of a loved one.



### TIPPY TOES

Louis Paxton (UK)

Sam is a nice guy. But is he too nice?



### NERVOUS ELLIE

David Yorke (UK)

Ellie, new to dating and painfully shy, struggles to control her nerves during a date with Danni, resulting in some unexpected and shocking results.



### AMIGO

Harrison Newman, James Newman (UK)

The rent-a-friend app 'Amigo' has taken London by storm. An unfriendly 'Amigo's' life comes crashing down when he finds out his life is a lie.



### NIGHTS

Laura Jayne Tunbridge (UK)



When a surprise CQC inspection prevents her from taking her scheduled break, an exhausted A&E doctor finds herself pushed to her absolute limit as she races against the clock to bring patient wait times under four hours.



### MEAT PUPPET

Eros Vlahos (UK)

On the day he promised his girlfriend he'd grow up, a man-child inadvertently traps himself inside a puppet.



## UK Shorts 4

### Friday

12:25pm - 1:50pm  
Light Cinema 1

### Saturday

4:10pm - 5:35pm  
Light Cinema 1



### FINE DINING

Werner Vivier (UK)

Fatima and Luke's date risks taking a turn for the worse, when a debate over what kinds of cuisines should be considered 'fine dining' arises.







### IN THE ROOM

Paul Barrie (UK)

Cait travels to a call-back audition for a film where she gets on brilliantly with the casting director and the writer/director. Receiving good vibes and positive feedback from her previous reading her world is spun on its axis with the news that she'll be reading with the already-cast male lead - she hasn't forgotten her last interaction with Danny.

### FISHING

Josie Charles (UK)

It's 2006. Sixteen-year-old Lola has been in her room for three days and refuses to come out. She confesses to a camcorder a tale of first love and lost virginity, before finally revealing the secret keeping her locked inside.



### THESE WALLS

Jared Garfield (UK)

After a funeral, Tara and Jake sort through their mother's possessions and have to decide if their fractured relationship is one worth fighting for.

### GIRLS HUGGING THEIR FATHERS

Atlanta oonagh Swire (UK)

A young woman is confronted by her inability to access her own anger as she makes a final attempt to acknowledge it through the act of hugging her father.



### A GLASS HOUSE

Charles Strider (UK)

After suffering a tremendous heartbreak, Robin tends to a tropical garden hidden away in the heart of the city. She only wants to be left alone, when a familiar figure interrupts her peace, dredging the past with him.



### THE FOOD TASTER

Alexander Emborg (UK)

After the death of his wife, jaded food critic Roman Adler returns to Prague in search of the perfect bite that will rejuvenate his love for food. Along his search he butts heads with a passionate chef that forces Roman to confront his past and reconsider his perspective on food.





## UK Shorts 5

**Saturday**  
11:00am - 12:30pm  
Light Cinema 2

**Sunday**  
3:00pm - 4:30pm  
Light Cinema 1



### LORD OF THE FREE RANGE

Simon Dymond (UK)

When a proud, meat-eating father learns his wife and child have turned vegan, he pushes them away, into the arms of a mysterious vegan cult who worship a chicken. Can he overcome his own stubborn nature and win them back, or is the changing tide too much to take?

### WHERE TO?

Jill Worsley (UK)

One day, 54 passengers, from 2 to 93 years old. And a dog. With each passenger, Archie's taxi becomes a stage for life's dramas. Amid the chaos, he discovers unexpected connections and learns valuable lessons about love, loss and family.



### RUN LIKE WE

Rhys Aaron Lewis (UK)

It's the 2012 London Olympics and the whole world is going crazy for Usain Bolt. Everyone apart from Alvin who hates sports and constantly disappoints his Jamaican father.

### FINGER FOOD

Jacob Dudman (UK)

Jason desperately wants to be liked by his girlfriend's parents. Things prove more difficult upon a horrifying discovery...



### SATISFACTION

Bailey Tom Bailey (UK)

Georgian England. A society lady raises her pistol to duel with her aristocratic mentor over a grave insult.



### SISTER WIVES

Louisa Connolly-Burnham (UK)

Kaidence and Galilee find themselves bound to one another, under the same roof, in the same marriage, as they develop scary, new, exciting feelings for each other. In a harsh, regressive, watchful community where being queer is considered a cardinal sin.







## UK Shorts 6

**Wednesday**  
5:30pm - 7:00pm  
Light Cinema 2

**Sunday**  
11:00am - 12:30pm  
Light Cinema 1



### KISS

Katja Roberts (UK)



Haunted by her past kisses, Annie must confront the one kiss she refuses to acknowledge.



### PIPEDREAM

Aaron Dunleavy, Brody Salmon (UK)

Born into a dreamless world of violence, Paul reimagines his life, from childhood heroin addiction and criminality to the pursuit of hope and human connection.



### PLUNGE

Ellie Land (UK)



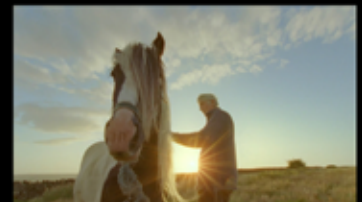
Katie Wotton's incredible journey to regain control of her life through reconnecting to nature and the sea.



### TRAVELLING HOME

Juliet Klottrup (UK)

Documentary following Joe Cannon Snr a retired farrier and traveller making this annual journey to Appleby Horse Fair in Cumbria, UK.



### OPAL OF THE WEST

Holly Summerson (UK)

The vibrant and diverse seaside town of Blackpool is explored through unfiltered interviews and intimate cinematography. Delving deep into the lives of its characters, capturing their struggles, dreams, and triumphs with unflinching honesty.



### CROSSBAR CHALLENGE

James Oliver (UK)

During a kick about, two college friends battle to hang on to their adolescence through an absurd test of strength until reality threatens to overwhelm the game.



### TOMORROW

Thomas Elliott Griffiths (UK)

Alex and Mark await their sister's return on the eve of their mother's funeral.

**SAFE**

Debbie Howard (UK)



Office cleaner Anne finishes work late one evening to be pursued and harassed by a man at the bus stop.

**UPHOLSTERGEIST**

Michael Patrick Clarkson (UK)

When a furniture repairer on a restoration tv show is tasked with fixing a chair for a strange brother and sister, the job may cost more than just her time.

**UK Shorts 7****Friday**

4:20pm - 5:50pm  
Light Cinema 1

**Sunday**

3:00pm - 4:30pm  
Light Cinema 2

**F.O.G**

Malinda Kaur (UK)



Set in Bradford, we follow Ranjit and her mum Chanda within a regular day on a regular journey to the Gurdwara. All from within the car we start to see tension build. Ranjit tries to open up but the ancestral baggage, carried by most South Asian women, holds her back.

**LOST ONES**

Andrew McVicar (UK)

Something is missing from Carl's life. He arranges a clandestine meeting with two strangers he hopes can bring answers.

**HOUSEWARMING**

Liam White (UK)

Saskia has just bought her first house, but the dream is tainted by an unexpected arrival.

**BEFORE I DO**

Gita Buttoo (UK)



On the morning of her wedding day, Mona, a British-Indian woman, questions her rushed marriage and reflects on a period of self-discovery from her past.

**RYAN CAN'T READ**

Rhys Chapman (UK)

Ryan, a lad from Liverpool is facing immense financial hardship and the overwhelming burden of keeping up with his bills. A lifeline is thrown his way when his friend Tyrone, offers him a chance at redemption.





**OPENING UP**  
Oz Arshad (UK)



Reluctant-dater Jas hadn't meant to kiss Adam but she couldn't help herself. Now she can't decide whether to take it any further.

**PIECE OF CAKE**  
Jack Hartley (UK)

An elderly baker cooks up a sinister plan. But what should have been a piece of cake, becomes a very sticky affair...



**Animation 1**



**Wednesday**  
12:30pm - 1:30pm  
Light Cinema Screen 2

**Thursday**  
1:40pm - 2:40pm  
KUDOS Cinema

**BUTTERFLY**  
Suncana Brkulj (Croatia)

A community of garden creatures all contribute to the flow of life, using water from a fountain. When a butterfly gets stuck in the fountain, they're faced with an unfamiliar situation.



**NUN OR NEVER!**  
Heta Jäälinoja (Finland)



A nun digs a man up from the ground and loses her grip on everyday life. Can secrets and harmony coexist?

**A CRAB IN THE POOL**  
Alexandra Myotte, Jean-Sébastien Hamel (Canada)



In a run-down neighborhood, Zoe and her little brother Theo are left to fend for themselves. During a scorching summer day, the two children will have to burst the abscess of their relationship so as not to lose each other.



**PACIFIC VEIN**  
Ulu Braun (Germany)



Hippies, artists and homeless people search for meaning while their messages are captured by surveillance cameras. Where is the enemy and who has the image rights? For now, we need a hefty dose of revitalizing energy drink to make our heavy thoughts seem light.

**GARDENING**  
Sarah Beeby (UK)



In the aftermath of a sexual assault, a woman retreats into the garden of her mind. Searching for answers and struggling to do 'the right thing', she realises that she must regain her voice and find new paths to healing, before she and her garden are destroyed completely.



**UNDERGROUND**  
Yiannis Christoforou (Greece)



A stop-motion film that seems to be talking about death, yet does the exact opposite.



## Animation 2

**Wednesday**  
11:00am - 12:00pm  
KUDOS Cinema

**Thursday**  
4:40pm - 5:40pm  
Light Cinema 2



### MATTA AND MATTO

Bianca Caderas, Kerstin Zemp (Switzerland)



In a dystopian world where touch is forbidden, Matta and Matto offer refuge to the lonely at Hotel Vaip. In the deceptive labyrinth of mind bending rooms at their transient hotel, deepest desires are fulfilled and surpassed, but this comes at a price.



### THE FINAL NAIL IN THE COFFIN

Conor Kehelly (Ireland)

A mother and son are stuck. A father is obsessing over a plank of wood in his living room. A businessman is looking for a lost hammer.

### GOODBYE FOREVER MAYBE?

Sammy Paul, Karoline Björk (UK)



A stranded astronaut attempts to write his own eulogy.



### 74

Charalambos Margaritis (Cyprus)

An inept figure takes on the impossible task of dealing with the memory of the 1974 Turkish army invasion in Cyprus and its aftermath.



### A TIME BEFORE

Leo Metcalf (UK)

Trapped between waking life and dreams, Olly delves into his childhood memories, navigating the fantastical dream worlds his sister created to shield them from family strife. A journey into the buried past that shapes who we are.



## Animation 3

**Wednesday**  
2:15pm - 3:15pm  
KUDOS Cinema

**Saturday**  
2:45pm - 3:45pm  
Light Cinema 1



### THE SHADOW OF DAWN

Olga Stalev (Estonia)



An incorporeal shadow takes up a dangerous adventure through a mystical forest, fancy castle and dream world to save her frivolous owner from a cursed Beast.



### MOVING PARTS

Hugo Docking (UK)

In a surreal, industrial dystopia, a travelling salesman encounters a singing behemoth. This towering, two-headed monstrosity tempts him with a terrifying (but lucrative) proposition.



### DASTARDLY & MUTLEY

Rich Webber, Andy Janes (UK)

A Past Development project for Sam Register Warner Brothers Animation



### ON THE 8TH DAY

Agathe Sénéchal, Alicia Massez, Elise Debruyne, Flavie Carin, Théo Duhautois (France)



It took 7 days to create the world, it only took one to disrupt its balance.

### SUCH MIRACLES DO HAPPEN

Barbara Rupik (Poland)

One day, all the statues in the area come to life. They leave the roadside shrines and pedestals and calmly set off straight ahead, all in the same direction. They do not even stop for a moment. People watch the phenomenon with growing anxiety.



### RECORDARI

Carolina Cruz (Chile)

Santiago, Chile, 1985. Best friends Camila and Paula, both 7 years old, are neighbours. Living amidst sweetness and bitterness, their lives, along with those of their families and their neighbourhood, are shaped by the horrors of Pinochet's military dictatorship.



### WANDER TO WANDER

Nina Gantz (Belgium)



Mary, Billybud and Fumbleton are three miniature, human actors who perform in an eighties kids TV series called "Wander to Wonder". After the creator of the series has died, they are left alone in the studio. With their slowly decaying costumes and growing hunger, they continue to make increasingly strange episodes for their fans.



## Animation 4

### Thursday

11:00am - 12:00pm  
Light Cinema 2

### Saturday

5:00pm - 6:00pm  
KUDOS Cinema



### [S]

Mario Radev (UK)

An intricate hand drawn artwork is brought to life by an operator through a large scale flip book machine. The film delves into an immersive loop of organic forms, reflecting on the entangled nature of life and art. [S] is a loop that exposes the lifespan of infinity.



### ALMOST FORGOTTEN

Dimnitri Milhajlovic, Miguel Lima (Portugal)

A woman wanders through the impermanence of her childhood memories, trying to rebuild the story of the house where her grandfather lived.



### FRACTI

Lavina Petrache (Switzerland)



Humans live their routines inside a village floating in the sky. What happens when one of them causes the world to end?

### LA PERRA

Carla Melo Gampert (France)



In Bogota, a bird-girl leaves behind the family home, her domineering mother and faithful dog to go and explore her sexuality.



### MARIUPOL. A HUNDRED NIGHTS

Sofia Melnyk (Ukraine)



The animated short film tells the story of a little girl who wakes up from explosions and tries to survive in a burning city in the first days of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. To escape, she has to go through the destroyed streets, facing the unknown and trusting destiny.

### AN ANGEL ON OXFORD STREET

Paul Shammassian (UK)

An Angel On Oxford Street is a short animated film which centres around the character Saul, and his reluctant journey into Oxford Street, London where he has an unexpected life changing encounter with a rough sleeper.



## Animation 5

### Thursday

6:20pm - 7:20pm  
Light Cinema 3

### Friday

3:30pm - 4:30pm  
KUDOS Cinema



### THE TORNADO OUTSIDE

Maria Tomazou (UK)

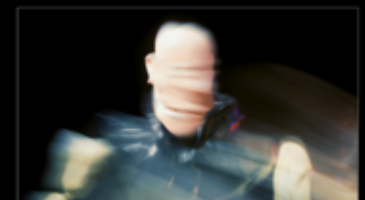


Anna lives in a perfect house, but living on the edge of a tornado can be difficult. When she ventures outside, she is forced to face the chaos that she usually hides away from.

### GOD BLESS YOU

Joseph Whitmore (UK)

A 3D animated film which serves to acknowledge how childhood experiences influence and challenge our future selves. The project focuses on depicting the commonly experienced issue of alcoholism and its impact on interfamily relationships and mental health.



### PIGEON HOLDING

Olivia Dugdale (UK)



Hand drawn animation and photographic collage exploring the relationship between people and birds, grounded in the community of pigeon keepers in Glasgow.





### IN LOVING MEMORIES

John Eaton (UK)

A young boy tries to comfort his grieving mother.

### SEAGLASS

Cheryl Blake (UK)

Struggling in the fog of grief, Fern embarks on a journey gradually rediscovering the light that can be found amongst the darkness following bereavement.



### MINUS PLUS MULTIPLY

Chu-Chieh Lee (UK)

The story explores self-searching and healing, using containers as a metaphor for safe spaces. The filmmaker successfully constructs the poetic narrative through 2D animation and stop motion, reflecting sensibility and identity fragmentation with pottery and clay.



### PHILIP THE SHEEP IN GREEN

Shengluo Zhang (USA)

Philip the sheep in green is having a bizarre meeting. In Mandarin, the pronunciation of "Sheep" is the same as "Tested Positive." Chinese people used the sheep emoji on social media to symbolize illness during the pandemic.



### FISH N CHIPS

Georgia Ellen Jane Little (UK)

Phil tries to order his dinner from Hilda's Fish N Chip shop. It isn't as easy as he thought it would be.



### 2% BABY

Róisín Sinai Kelly (Ireland)

On a stormy night a little girl takes cover in an old fridge and finds herself in a once familiar home, but the rain is seeping in and the house is changing.



### THIS WORLD IS A SODA CAN WE ARE SHAKING IT

Sera Mun (South Korea)

On a usual summer day, Hana and Doona head to a rock festival. Unable to afford tickets, they build a tower with odds and ends to catch a glimpse of the stage. Meanwhile, in the cosmos, a supernova explodes.



### CHERRY, PASSION FRUIT

Renato José Duque (Portugal)

Nature contains both the raging fire and the flowing waterfall. Inside a mysterious rainforest, lust takes shape between love and pain. Would you face your haunting desire?





### COCOON

Yiwei Chen (China)

Cocoon is a 2d animation film that tells the story about a little girl who wakes up alone in the dark and surreal night, triggering fragmented memories of neglect by her caregivers.



### FROM THE TOP

Rich Harris (UK)

Things haven't gone quite the way Robin expected them to, so she decides the time has come to get rid of her drum kit. But giving up her passion might not be as simple as she anticipates.



## Best of the Fest (1)



Thursday

8:00pm - 9:30pm  
Light Cinema 1



### FISHING

Josie Charles (UK)

It's 2006. Sixteen-year-old Lola has been in her room for three days and refuses to come out. She confesses to a camcorder a tale of first love and lost virginity, before finally revealing the secret keeping her locked inside.



### YEAH THE BOYS

Stefan Hunt (Australia)

Follow six young Aussie men as they sink beers over an afternoon and well into the night. Equal parts larrikin, brutal, and tender, this choreographic short film scored by The Avalanches is an observation of Australian masculine identity and our nation's relationship with drinking culture.





### MR BOLD

Aiman Morounfolu Mimiko (USA)

A young boy attempts to earn the respect of his older brother by desecrating a Mosque in a small Nigerian town.

### HAVE YOU SEEN THE BEAST

Austen McCowan, Will Hewitt (UK)

A cold case rumour-mentary about sightings of an alien big cat in the rural Welsh countryside told through eyewitness telephone accounts.



### BEAUTIFUL MEN

Nicolas Keppens (Belgium)

Three balding brothers travel to Istanbul to get a hair transplant. Stuck with each other in a hotel far from home, their insecurities grow faster than their hair.



### THE TEST

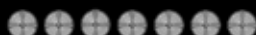
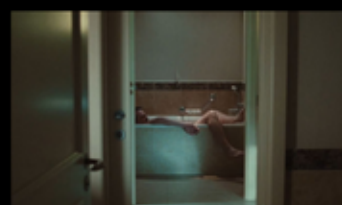
Benjamin Sutton (UK)

A man gets more than he bargained for from a routine eye test.

### A WASTE OF LIFE

Tore Frandsen (Denmark)

In this clever Hitchcockian thriller, Sebastian's life takes a chilling turn when a simple slip in his hotel bathtub renders him paralyzed and mute at the bottom, and with the water steadily encroaching, he must employ every resource to escape the perilous predicament before time runs out.



### MAKING BABIES

Éric K. Boulianne (Canada)

After many years together, a couple decides to have a baby. Throughout their relentless efforts, the partners try to maintain their love and unity. A minimalist comedy drama that takes a bittersweet look at a couple's life, with its doubts, its challenges and its resilience.





## International 1

**Wednesday**  
11:00am - 12:30pm  
Light Screen 3

**Saturday**  
6:00pm - 7:30pm  
Light Screen 1



### 2720

Basil da Cunha (Portugal)

After a violent police raid in a poor clandestine neighbourhood in Lisbon, a 7-year-old girl seeks to find her missing older brother. At the same time, a young newly released ex-convict tries to start anew, free from a life of crime. The fate of these two will cross in the worst way.

### MR BOLD

Aiman Morounfolu Mimiko (USA)

A young boy attempts to earn the respect of his older brother by desecrating a Mosque in a small Nigerian town.



### KINGS

Olivier Côté (Canada)

Elias and Laurent are the only two new counsellors at camp this summer. When their initiation goes sideways, Laurent tries to get out of it - and the entire group ridicules him. Elias is trapped: he either needs to reject his friend, or risks being rejected himself.

### A QUIET SUMMER

Sis Gurdal (France)

Ada, a 17yo teenager faces social pressures from her conservative society while she pursues her first summer romance. Things take a turn for the worst when her care-free cousin arrives in town.



### A SUMMER'S END POEM

Lam Can-zhao (China/Malaysia/Switzerland)

Shortly before the end of the summer holidays, a country boy spends his savings on his dream of a city hairstyle - with surprising results. A story about bidding farewell to childhood and the poetic end of a summer.



### A SHORT TRIP

Erenik Beqiri (France)

Klodi and Mira, a young Albanian couple, decide to marry Mira to a Frenchman for 5 years in exchange for money, in order to obtain French nationality. They will then have to choose the right husband for her, and learn to detach themselves from each other.



## International 2

**Friday**  
6:00pm 7:30pm  
Light Screen 3

**Sunday**  
11:00am - 12:30pm  
Light Screen 3



### RECURRENCE

Ali Alizadeh (Iran)

Through the lens of Iranian folklore a timeless tale unfolds, cows wander free, their spirits entwined with the earth's ancient rhythms of a distant moon. As celestial visitors draw near the cottage, fear overcomes the owner, he flees in haste leaving behind his crippled son.





### THE LAST STRAW

Andrias Høgenni (Faroe Islands)

When Ívar is stranded on an isolated faroese mountain-road, he is forced to ask his estranged brother, Mikkjal, for help. Mikkjal begrudgingly obliges, but when Ívar offers money in exchange for the help, the course is unwittingly set for a long overdue confrontation between the two brothers.

### BOI DE CONCHAS

Daniel Barosa (Brazil)

While mourning her missing sister, Rayane balances helping her fisherman father and practicing for the school's music festival - provided she doesn't become an ox first, a misfortune assailing several teenagers in the area.



### CALF

Jamie O'Rourke (Ireland)

A sinister farm accident leaves Cáit with a terrible decision to make.

### THE MYSTERIOUS ADVENTURES OF CLAUDE CONSEIL

Marie-Lola Terver, Paul Jusselin (France)

Claude Conseil lives with her husband in a house in the middle of the woods. She spends her time listening to birds. One day, mysterious phone calls break the calm of the forest.



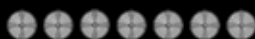
## International 3

### Thursday

12:20pm - 1:50pm  
Light Cinema 3

### Sunday

3:00pm - 4:30pm  
Light Cinema 3



### PAVANE

Pauline Gay (France)

For 30 years, Cora has woken up every morning at 4am to go work at the factory and raise her daughter, Alex, gone to Paris, much to Cora's regret, to try to become a filmmaker. As Cora is about to retire, she would very much like Alex to finally abandon this risky choice, but Alex is preparing her first film.



### GUTS

Margaux Susi (USA)

Desperate for help, a woman in recovery asks an unlikely stranger on a dinner date.



### GRILL

Jade Aksnes (Norway)

Tara is denied electricity bill support by Social Services, who tells her to simply get a free grill instead - a task that forces Tara to make uncomfortable decisions.





### HEAP

Kyle Marchen (Canada)

Caught in a lie, Isha is forced to live a double life after discovering a "utopian" society in the building next door to her dilapidated apartment.



### AN ORANGE FROM JAFFA

Mohammed Almughanni (Palestine)

Mohammed, a young Palestinian, is desperately looking for a taxi to take him through a checkpoint to meet his mother, who is waiting for him on the Israeli side. At the checkpoint, the driver, Farouk, discovers that Mohammed has already failed to cross the border. Trouble begins...



## International 4



### Wednesday

2:30pm - 4:00pm  
Light Cinema Screen 3

### Friday

2:00pm - 3:30pm  
Light Cinema 2

### Saturday

2:10pm - 3:40pm  
Light Cinema 3

### LUMEN

Stéphanie Bélanger (Canada)

It has been raining heavily for months and the sixth wave is depressing humanity. In this prevailing darkness, Claude, 70 years old, compulsively buys lamps online to break her solitude and bring light into her life, at any cost.



### MUM

Julia Patey (Germany)



An audiovisual artist's doubts about her failing marriage trigger a mysterious sound that becomes impossible to ignore.

### CRUST

Jens Kevin Georg (Germany)

In this family you can only become a true member by getting your first wound. But 12-year-old Fabi is still scarless. On grandpa's farm, he has to finally prove himself as one of them.



### SOUND & COLOUR

Emma Foley (Ireland)



Having to return home after her attempted suicide, sarcastic loner Hannah must face her dysfunctional and emotionally repressed family.



### PATHOLOGICAL

Alison Rich (USA)



A pathological liar wakes up one day to discover her lies have become true.







## International 5

**Wednesday**  
12:20pm - 1:40pm  
KUDOS Cinema

**Saturday**  
11:00am - 12:30pm  
Light Cinema 1

### WE ARE GRIOTS

Demba Konate (France)

Malik, Daouda's son, wants to marry Mariama. Daouda discovers that their families are from two different castes: he is a griot when they are noble.



### LEELA

Tanmay Chowdhary (India)

Two young women from a small village discuss the recent, mysterious vanishing of Leela. Is there any truth in the rumours about her death? Did she really take her own life? Or did she manage to escape and make it to the city?



### BYE BYE BOWSER

Jasmin Baumgartner (Austria)

Punksinger Luna rebels against the indifference of her artsy friends by writing a song about Laugo, the construction worker from across the street. The collision of the worlds of affluent neglect and everyday work leads to a dramatic downfall



### THE LAST DINNER

Mete Talay, Ömer Faruk Coşkun (Turkey)

Mahsun, a lonely widower, is disturbed by noise from a neighbor's apartment. When he investigates, he encounters a prostitute who discreetly hands him her card. He initially discards it, but the next day, something stirs in him and leads him to look for the card he'd thrown away.



### COMPLICATIONS

Ivar Aase (Norway)

An intimate cam session unexpectedly turns into a suspenseful, life-and-death situation.



### BASRI & SALMA IN A NEVER ENDING COMEDY

Khozy Rizal (Indonesia)

A husband and wife married for 5 years, own an Odong-Odong at the carnival together, spending their days entertaining and taking care of other people's children without any of their own. Between meddling relatives, self-doubt and an explosive confrontation, they uncover why they have not been blessed with a child.



## International 6

**Thursday**  
6:15pm - 7:45pm  
Light Cinema 1

**Sunday**  
1:00pm - 2:30pm  
Light Cinema 2



### ANGIE

Anthony Coveney (Canada)

Angie, a bigorexic bodybuilder at the end of her career, discovers an unusual growth in her back. While consulting the doctor's office, she is told that she will have to cut her lifestyle habits in order not to deteriorate her case. Angie takes a disturbing look at body obsession, while exploring narcissism and insatiability.



### 7 FOIS

Christine Wiederkehr (Switzerland)



When a young Elio is left in the home of his tutor waiting for him, an unexpected visitor's presence highlights some unforeseen and disturbing truths.

### BITS

Lilliya Scarlett Reid (USA)



A story of a young woman in small town Montana who catches the attention of a serial killer on the hunt. When his pursuit ends abruptly, the young woman is overcome with rejection. Pining for closure, she struggles to untangle feelings of neglect and desire.



### SUMMER'S END

Adam Conversano, Grant Conversano (USA)

A closeted queer teen avoids his alcoholic family's beach vacation by going on one night stands through a hook-up app. While on this app he discovers a post made by his father who is looking to hook up with a younger man. Elliott's confrontation with his father becomes a reckoning with himself and his own demons.

### CROSS MY HEART AND HOPE TO DIE

Sam Manacsa (Philippines)

Mila struggles because she is still working for free and seeks solace in a love interest because of his persistent phone calls. However, a promise of optimism could also result in tragedy and depressing love ballads.



## Sci-Fi & Fantasy

**Friday**  
8:00pm - 9:30pm  
Light Cinema 2



### CORN

Youssef Mahmoud Hanafi (Egypt)

The journey of fear and struggle of "Kernel K-500". Who rebels against the cruelty of apartheid and the condescending perception of his kind. Moments before his salvation, the unforeseen unfolds.



### SPACE PLUG

Marcus Anthony Thomas (UK)

In the middle of space, a baby human is raised in a blank white room with everything that they need but nothing they want.



### TRIPTYCH

Sophia Ray (UK)

A high-end art dealer is haunted by a mysterious force from her past that threatens to destroy everything she's built.







**BENJI**  
Oscar Garth (UK)

A seemingly innocent TV commercial for a family-friendly recycling bin becomes increasingly bizarre when the father decides to recycle more than just household waste.

**7HZ**  
Maria Hatzakou (Greece)

Set in a dystopian, totalitarian universe, where mass surveillance has become the norm, 7Hz tells the story of Anna, a woman training to be a long-distance runner. Anna finds herself at a remote area on the outskirts/borders of the city. A public telephone booth stands there as the last totem on earth.



**THE SIN-EATER**  
Kelly Holmes (UK)

1852, Wales: a desperate young mother carries out a forbidden ritual to save the soul of her unbaptised dead baby, but is tricked into taking on a terrifying supernatural burden.

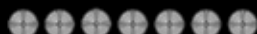


**EMBERS**  
Gerald McMorrow (UK)

A mysterious woman approaches an ancient city and offers the people a unique and extraordinary deal...



**Fright Night**



**Thursday**  
8:00pm - 9.30pm  
Light Cinema 2



**SHE TALKS IN HER SLEEP**  
Paul Taylor (UK)

Dan and Faye are a couple like any other, but when Faye begins sleep talking, her eerie, unconscious messages lead Dan to believe that something is coming for them...



**COLLECTION ONLY**  
Alun Rhys Morgan (UK)

Nye has dragged his estranged best mate Daf, to collect a free arm chair from a fearsome old house. A chain of sinister events follow, as Daf and Nye grapple with their fractured friendship, while trying to make it out alive...with the chair.



**FIND YOU HERE**  
Jo Smyth (UK)

A gnarly piece of folkloric horror about what happens when a toxic couple find themselves at an abandoned scare event built on evil land. Will they survive the night?





**BLACK HOLE BARRY**  
Alejandro Alberola (UK)

Right before Scott's boyfriend moves in with him, he decides to go on a series of hook ups to get the most out of his last week living alone, a decision he's going to regret forever.

**HAPPY MEAT**  
Matt Green (UK)

When a lab-grown vegan meat develops teeth, the company owners face an escalating set of moral dilemmas, as the situation spirals out of control



**SUCK**  
Takuya Miyahara (UK)

A group of friends gather at a lakeside. While they're all enjoying themselves, Mao stands alone, seeming distant. She witnesses Kenta, who was flying a drone over the lake, suddenly drown. Although Kenta returns, he looks exhausted and falls into a deep sleep. The rest continue partying in the cottage, not much worried about him.



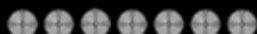
**LULLABY**  
Chi Thai (UK)

A refugee is forced to confront her guilt.



**LGBTQ+**

**Friday**  
6:20pm - 7:50pm  
Light Cinema 1



**MAN>CODE**  
Adrian Gardner (UK)



Lucas, a computer techie goes on an ordeal when he invites Theo around for what he thought would be no-strings-attached fun, but it takes an odd turn when his ex-girlfriend returns home early.

**LOVIN' HER**  
day (Canada)



A mature trans woman navigates the complexities of a fading memory, delving into the intricacies of love and the burgeoning of her evolving gender identity.



**PINATAS OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS**  
Tom Maroney (USA)



A self-described "queer, half-breed South Texan artist," Roberto Benavidez insists on calling his artistic creations piñatas - and not paper sculptures - one sign of devotion to the Mexican craft he loves. Beautiful, funny, and political, they are stunning, unlike any piñata you've ever seen, meticulous, colorful works of art.





### KOUPEPIA

Yorgo Glynatsis (UK)



Petros, a Widowed Cypriot Man, attends his son's engagement party although tolerant of his son's homosexuality he is yet to be truly accepting of him. Over Koupepia, a traditional Cypriot delicacy, he meets Eleni - a British Cypriot Transgender Woman.



### NICO

Max Olson (USA)



A surreal drama that follows a recently transitioned trans man throughout one night as he struggles to be seen as himself. When his grieving elderly neighbor, Helen, mistakes him for her recently deceased husband, Nico is offered a ready-made masculine identity to slip into and a connection begins to form.



### BOLERO

Nans Laborde-Jourdàa (France)



Fran is in his hometown to rest and visit his mother. Following the jerky rhythm of Bolero, this journey along the paths of memory and desire will lead him and the whole village to a joyfully chaotic climax.



## d/Deaf Audiences

Supported with BSL

Thursday

8:00pm - 9:30pm  
Light Cinema 3



### FIONAMONIUM

Angus Gannagé (UK)

A singer comes to terms with a seismic change in her life.



### MY CONVERSATION WITH ELLE

Nicholas Patrick Afchain (UK)

Kay, a disenchanted zilennial seeks the meaning of a recurring dream through it's retelling to best friend Elle.



### FIREFLY

Anne-Marie Scragg (UK)

A young girl who is deaf, living in a rural fishing village with her widower Dad and Grandad, sees her life turned upside down when she is left with an increasingly abusive stepmother. A story of resilience against adversity.



### UNDER THE SURFACE

Jake Mark (UK)

Spring. Summer. Autumn. Winter. One mothers year grappling with her grief.





### THE LETTER

Samuel Dore (UK)

As the Nazi's rise to power in pre WW2 Germany, a young German Deaf couple plan to marry, but find themselves at the mercy of the new order.

### REMOTE STRUTTING

Lorna Fitzsimons (UK)

An imaginative young IT professional battles self-limitations that prevent her from stepping out of her comfort zone and into the real world.



### TURN UP THE BASS

Ted Evans (UK)

A documentary telling the remarkable and little-known story of Troi Lee, aka DJ Chinaman, the unstoppable force behind the UK's deaf music and rave scene. Twenty years of archive footage is interwoven with interviews and actuality, charting Troi's evolution from underground raver to festival headliner.



## Family Friendly

Saturday

3:10pm - 4:40pm

KUDOS Cinema



### CLODAGH

Portia A.Buckley (Ireland)

A lonely priest's housekeeper encounters a young Irish girl of exceptional promise.



### THE T3ST

Alexandros Tsilifonis (UK)

A profoundly neurodivergent ten-year-old boy named Jason is born into a middle-class family and lives in a world of ostracism until one day his father takes him for a different kind of examination.

### FROM THE TOP

Rich Farris (UK)

Things haven't gone quite the way Robin expected them to, so she decides the time has come to get rid of her drum kit. But giving up her passion might not be as simple as she anticipates.



### ROOM TAKEN

TJ O'Grady-Peyton (Ireland)

One day, while charging his phone in a coffee shop, Issac who is homeless, meets Victoria, an elderly blind woman. After forgetting her bag in the cafe, Isaac returns it to her home and in desperate need of a place to stay, Isaac sneaks upstairs and begins to live there, unbeknownst to Victoria.





### DASTARDLY & MUTTLEY IN 'PRESS THE RED BUTTON'

Rich Webber, Andy Janes (UK)

A Past Development project for Sam Register Warner Brothers Animation



### TURN UP THE BASS

Ted Evans (UK)



A documentary telling the remarkable and little-known story of Troi Lee, aka DJ Chinaman, the unstoppable force behind the UK's deaf music and rave scene. Twenty years of archive footage is interwoven with interviews and actuality, charting Troi's evolution from underground raver to festival headliner.

### EMBERS

Gerald McMorrow (UK)

A mysterious woman approaches an ancient city and offers the people a unique and extraordinary deal...



## FFF-Rated

Women in Film



### Friday

2:00pm - 3:30pm

Light Cinema 3

### Sunday

1:00pm - 2:30pm

Light Cinema 3



### DOES THAT MAKE ME A WOMAN?

Bec Evans (UK)



This short film unravels the contradictions of modern womanhood - posing raw questions about what women are expected to embody, and the clash of strength and vulnerability that rises from these pressures.



### NEXT IN LINE

Seyma Dag (UK)



An observation of the benefits system centring around a refugee doctor who's seeking government financial assistance. At her job centre meeting she faces a harrowing decision -- either she works as a cleaner or gets sanctioned.

### BIG MOVES

Sarah Grant (UK)



A personal short documentary about dancing as a plus size woman through the lens of pop culture. A radical and joyful reimagining of awesome dance scenes with the bodies that traditionally get pushed to the back taking up space front and centre.



### THIS IS TMI

Subarna Dash, Vidushi Gupta (India)



Big boobs vs. small boobs? A group of ladies discusses who has it worse.

### F\*\*KED

Sara Harrak (UK)

What exactly are the rules in an open relationship? With no rulebook, it's down to the couple to draw their lines... So when Dani tells Jess she might be interested in sleeping with guys again and it doesn't go down too well, it looks like they might've hit their first hurdle.



### UNHINGED

Zoe Brennan-Whitmore (Ireland)

Following a recent sighting of her crush on a dating app, an overthinking millennial searches for reassurance that her feelings are reciprocated.



### PUSH

Elly Condron (UK)

Being 9 months pregnant is not a beautiful fucking miracle - at least not to Mags, who's exactly that. Lonely, she seeks advice from a visitor, but instead is prodded out of self-pity and pushed towards the acceptance of what is about to become her new normal.



### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FEMALE FRIEND

Ilke Paddenburg (Netherlands)

While a large painting of a naked woman is being transported from the studio to the exhibition, she seems to fall victim to a harsh and masculine outside world.



### MERCI, POPPY

Hannah Gray Organschi (USA)

A scrappy assistant reaches her breaking point when her charismatic boss blows off her request for a promotion.



## Batteries Included

**Wednesday**  
3:40pm - 5:10pm  
KUDOS Cinema

**Sunday**  
3:30pm - 5:00pm  
KUDOS Cinema



### ABSOLVE

Paul Aaron Trillo (France)

A leak in the ceiling of the Louvre pulls French music artist, Jacques, into an emotional vortex where a cosmic teardrop peels back the layers of the museum's masterpieces and breaks them down into rawest forms.



### KINDERFILM

Adrian Jonas Haim, Michael Stumog, Michael Stumpf (Austria)

Despite its overwhelming detail, the city of Los Santos in the video game GTA V is characterised by a grave absence: children. The film explores the uncanniness of the normality of a beautiful yet ultimately futureless digital world.





### A MOMENT FROZEN

Jack Wake-Walker (UK)

Frozen within the memory of a single violent moment, a woman describes the events, thoughts and feelings that led her to this place.



### SEARCHING FOR THE 5TH DIRECTION

Matthias Schüpbach (Switzerland)



The search for the self and the memories and emotions associated with it lead us through forgotten and dark places of an inner world. We move in an apparent interactivity, generated by the camera work, through spaces created from around 150 3D scans, torn between curiosity and resistance.



### 512x512

Arthur Chopin (France)

The search of René Descartes' daughter Francine leads an internet user into the depth of an AI's mental space. This intelligence generates limitless images from words given by humans, until it starts working by itself. An alternative and scraggy new world that contain the memory of the world is becoming.

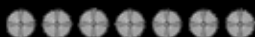


## Comedy

Saturday

4:00pm - 5:40pm

Light Cinema 3



### QUIET LIFE

Ruth Pickett (UK)



Geoffrey buries his phone and shuns technology in a one-man silent rebellion against the modern world. After a bruising public breakup, Geoffrey seeks a quiet life. When potential new human connection comes knocking, Geoffrey is torn between the world he has created and the one he left behind.

### TALKING HEADS

Dario Attanasio, Dominik Danielewicz (UK)

Things are getting hot and heavy in the bedroom for exes Jay and Ellie, but when Jay can't quite perform, he excuses himself to the bathroom where he hopes to give his penis the old pep talk.



### THE MORNING AFTER

Zak Harney (UK)



When Dani's ex-boyfriend turns up unannounced, she is forced to hide a one night stand around her flat. With the help of her eccentric housemates, a cavalcade of chaos ensues.



### I'M NOT A ROBOT

Victoria Warmerdam (Netherlands)



After several unsuccessful attempts to complete a Captcha, feminist Lara sets out to answer the disturbing question of whether she's a robot, and therefore bought by her own boyfriend.



### THE TEST

Benjamin Sutton (UK)

A man gets more than he bargained for from a routine eye test.



### WHIPPY

James Rooke (UK)

A messy turf war has erupted between warring ice cream firms in 1980s Glasgow after one rogue vendor is caught crossing county lines.



### DUPHOMF'S PASSING

Alan Richard Halls (USA)

Existential horror comes from outside and within for the drifter Jacques DuPhomf, lost in the vastness of the American West. In this super8mm tall tale.



### NOT LIKE US

Freddie Powell (UK)

Not Like Us is a snapshot of a couple's 40+ year marriage and the humorous bite that is their day to day lives.

### THE COST OF HUGGING

Louise Bhose (UK)

Erica hugs pandas for a living and is absolutely miserable. And when hidden-camera TV star Jacques Burton tries to chat her up in the bar of the Hotel Samos, there's a few other things he might be surprised to find out.



### QUOTE ME OUTSIDE

Nicholas Bentgen (USA)

This morning before he bounces, Nina's one-night-stand would like to offer some inspirational words.



### SORRY, I DIDN'T QUITE CATCH THAT

Daniel Liakh (UK)

A woman is stuck in an endless loop of lousy customer service while trying to return a coffin back to the store.



### THE DELAY

Mattia Napoli (Italy)

A clap of hands: the palms meet, but the snap comes a few seconds later. Arturo is out of sync, the delay is growing day by day. On the verge of a nervous breakdown, Arturo will have to question the pace of his life.







## Best of the Fest 2

**Friday**  
8:10pm - 9:40pm  
Light Cinema 1



**LAPEL**  
Nicholas Seaton (UK)

A sound recordist, Lydia, buries herself work to avoid responsibilities at home. When a young actor, Ellie, arrives on set for her first day of filming, Lydia watches as her performance transforms from terrible to touching. The event that precipitates that change, and the dilemma at its heart, forces Lydia to reassess her priorities.



**THAT NIGHT**  
Emma Miranda Moore (UK)

A young writer repeatedly replays the last night he spent with a friend and reflects on whether things could have turned out differently.



**EVERYTHING IS BEAUTIFUL AND NOTHING HURTS**  
Lucy, R Seventeen (UK)

Queer, post-romantic, low energy sci-fi film where two lovers try to connect in an underwater city.



**BEEN THERE**  
Corina Schwingruber Ilić (Switzerland)

Weekend trips, city breaks, a detour into nature or once around the world. Barely a few days off, you're already gone. Never before has the desire to travel been so widespread and visited places so overloaded. What do we get out of it, other than the picture proof that we have been there?





### TORTURED ARTIST

Thomas Laurance (UK)

Some artists just never get a break... until they break themselves! An aspiring creative struggles with negative self-talk and unfair comparisons with his peers. Can his only fan save him from himself? It's Art Attack gone very wrong in this crude comedy short.

### THE TORNADO OUTSIDE

Maria Tomazou (UK)

Anna lives in a perfect house, but living on the edge of a tornado can be difficult. When she ventures outside, she is forced to face the chaos that she usually hides away from.



### JUST BE AWESOME

Cringo Williamson, Ed Kear (UK)

With spiralling debts and a partner at the end of her tether, Alex, a mid 40s freelancer, desperately needs some work. A golden opportunity at an absurdly trendy agency offers a way out. But he's going to have to play their game if he wants to land the role.



### THE MASTERPIECE

Àlex Lora (Spain)

Leo and Diana, a rich couple, bring a broken TV to a recycle point. They meet Salif and his son, two scrap dealers. Diana asks them to come to their house to get more objects. Once there, Leo looks at them collecting objects with mistrust, until they see the scrap dealers have something they want.



## Doc 60 - 1

**Wednesday**  
5:00pm - 6:00pm  
Light Cinema 1

**Sunday**  
11:00am - 12:00pm  
KUDOS Cinema



### BEYOND THE BAY

Daniel Zak Green (UK)

In the heart of the Chesapeake Bay, Tangier Island's fishing community faces the prospect of seeing rising seas consume their homeland. As the hurricane season looms, the personal journeys of two influential watermen mirror an intergenerational struggle to cope with impending environmental crisis.



### THE LAST SKIERS

Veronica Ciceri (UK)



According to researchers, the amount of snowfall in the Alps has decreased by more than 53% as of 2023. These projections put the future of ski resorts located at low and medium altitudes, as well as those without artificial snow systems, in greater danger.

### RECOMPOSING EARTH

Christian Cargill (UK)

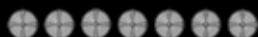
Under two feet of peaty soil in Orkney, lies the only recording of Scottish composer Erland Cooper's unheard album. In an entirely unique attempt to collaborate with the natural world, it would be an experiment on patience, art and value. Will the tape emerge silent, and does it matter if it does?







## Doc 60 - 2



**Wednesday**  
11:00am - 12:00pm  
Light Cinema 2

**Friday**  
2:00pm - 3:00pm  
KUDOS Cinema



### DÈJÀ NU

Rolf Hellat (Côte d'Ivoire)

An audiovisual poem about the appreciation of transiency, the recognition of the body, the ensoulement of nature, euphoria and loss. It is an associative work of polycultural sentiments.

### MRS. IRAN'S HUSBAND

Marjan Khosravi (Iran)

Sultan Mohammad's kingdom is on the mountain, and it includes two wives, 11 children, and his flock of sheep. Like all rulers, he strives to maintain his power and assets, but the role and duty of maintaining his prestige and power lies mainly on the shoulders of his wives. To expand his territory, he intends to marry for the third time.



### FRATELLI CARBONAI

Felix Bazalgette, Joshua Hughes (UK)

As Italy lurches to the far right, a Malian migrant finds a place amongst a family of charcoal burners in the remote Calabrian mountains.



## Doc 60 - 3

**Wednesday**  
1:00pm - 2:05pm  
Light Cinema 3

**Friday**  
11:00am - 12:05pm  
Light Cinema 2

### MASCARADE ORIGIN STORY

Mailis (Canada)

This film unfolds the chapters of Aïsha's life. From her upbringing as a young Haitian girl in Montreal-Nord to her journeys in Brazil, the film reveals her encounters with her chosen family and the discovery of her identity as a woman and musician.



### A STORM INSIDE

Clément Pérot (France)

It's a late summer afternoon in a Calais coastal suburb in the northern part of France. Kids and teenagers kill time at the foot of the towers. Kylianna is among them, feeling stifled.

### THE MEDALLION

Ruth Hunduma (UK)



Ruth was barely a teenager when her mother passed down her Medallion, etched with a golden portrait of Nefertiti. A symbol of beauty and strength, it was an emblem of her mother's inconceivable plight; captured in middle school by the Derg communist military regime and raised in a prison camp for years. This story follows her early memories of the Derg Genocide.



## Doc 60 - 4



**Thursday**  
3:00pm - 4:00pm  
KUDOS Cinema

**Saturday**  
12:40pm - 1:40pm  
Light Cinema 3



### INCIDENT

Bill Morrison (USA)

This documentary reconstructs a Chicago police shooting from 2018, reassembling the event and its immediate aftermath from a variety of viewpoints, including surveillance, security, dashboard, and body-worn cameras as a continuous, synchronized split-screen montage.



### BALLOON BOY

Arlin Golden, Brian Gersten (USA)

On October 15, 2009, America watched with rapt attention a large balloon float through the skies of Colorado on live TV

### UNDER LAND

Sebastián Duque R. (Columbia)

Clara and Amantina have been neighbors for more than fifty years. They accuse each other of witchcraft and each believes that the other is responsible for the misfortunes of death, disease and misery that their families have suffered for decades.



## Doc 60 - 5

**Thursday**  
11:00am - 12:10pm  
KUDOS Cinema

**Saturday**  
6:10pm - 7:20pm  
Light Cinema 3



### YOUR NEXT BREATH

Meg Wiggles (UK)



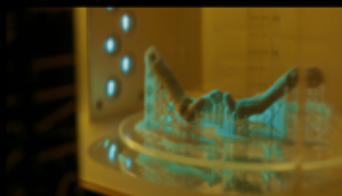
Sculptor Kenny Hunter undertakes Scotland's first Covid memorial, dedicated to frontline NHS workers, for the Royal College of Surgeons.



### KARMA KHAZI

Lee Philips (UK)

An anonymous street artist seeks inspiration for a new show in the unlikely of places.



### STEPHEN & DAVID'S TOY CUPBOARD

Blair Stewart (UK)

A world renowned bootleg figure maker reflects on the life and loss of his brother, who was the inspiration for his success today.





### THE PRELUDE

Kamil Adam Dymek (Poland)

In the winter of 2021, American pianist and composer Richard Sears embarked on a journey to a secluded corner of Latvia, drawn by the reputation of David Klavins. Sears encountered his latest creation: the towering 450i upright piano, soaring to a height of 15 feet.



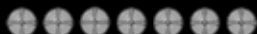
## Doc 60 - 6

### Friday

12:25pm - 1:25pm  
KUDOS Cinema

### Saturday

4:50pm - 5:50pm  
Light Cinema 2



### WE BEG TO DIFFER

Ruairi Bradley (Ireland)

In the underground world of drifting, a community finds solace in their passion, as they navigate personal struggles and challenges both on and off the road.



### MATERIAL CONDITIONS

Ben Collier (UK)

A former teenage gang member reflects on how structural inequalities shaped his reality and mindset growing up in a deprived area of South London.



### PIPEDREAM

Aaron Dunleavy, Brody Salmon (UK)



Born into a dreamless world of violence, Paul reimagines his life, from childhood heroin addiction and criminality to the pursuit of hope and human connection.



### SHOTPLAYER

Sam Shainberg (USA)

A notorious NYC pickpocket returns to the subway system, the scene of his crimes, and in a fever dream of memories is forced to dissect his relationship to the act that has ruled his life for over forty years.

### FRIENDS ON THE OUTSIDE

Annabel Moodle (UK)

Employing mixed-media techniques to tell the story of Jamie, an incarcerated man who shares her love of foraging, exploring how nature can take care of us and offer moments of connection in the spaces of the state's neglect.





## Doc 60 - 7

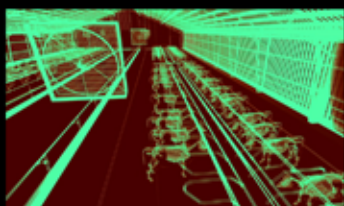


### Friday

11:00am - 12:05pm  
Light Cinema 3

### Sunday

2:00pm - 3:05pm  
KUDOS Cinema



#### INGRESSO ANIMALI VIVI

Igor Grubić (Italy)

Animals from Eastern Europe for the Italian food/meat industry used to be transported to the towns along the state border in Northeast Italy. From those conveyor-belt spaces of death, only one animal managed to come in and out alive.



#### EXIT THROUGH THE CUCKOO'S NEST

Nikola Ilić (Switzerland)

This personal short documentary tells the story of a soldier who never wanted to be one. His decision never to pull a trigger led to resistance and ultimately to military prison. Pretending to be mentally ill, he leaves the war zone and returns to Belgrade via the insane asylum. On the day NATO begins bombing the entire country.

#### FLOWERS

Sebastián Duque R. (Columbia)

Seemingly unconnected but internally dependent events are broadcasted in Ecuador via YouTube under the gaze of the documentary filmmaker, who then meets his 3-year-old son who marvels at the flowers growing in the garden. In this crossing of realities, a reflection on childhood and its innocence in a world threatened by human cruelty and climate change is interwoven.



## Community Films

### Guest Programme

### Saturday

1:20pm - 2:50pm  
KUDOS Cinema



#### EMMAUS

Leigh Anderson (UK)

Emmaus supports more than 850 people who have experienced homelessness. They provide them with support, a home for as long as they need it, and meaningful work and training in their social enterprises.

#### US

Libby Burke Wilde (UK)

A short documentary made for refugee week aims to inform what it feels like to have to leave your home, friends and family, and be placed somewhere completely alien. The idea for the film name came from Ola, a Syrian refugee living in Lancashire. This short aims to show refugees' experiences of migration without dwelling on the horrors and instead reflect on their personal journeys of discovery.



#### DANDELION : A WEED IS A FLOWER

Brid Andrews (UK)

This film comprises of a collection of twelve stories drawing on highly personal childhood experiences. Based in Bolton - the film blends original textile work from a community childhood memories project, in the form of a knitted blanket, with a cinematic exploration of each tale





## Closing Night

**Saturday**  
8:00pm - 9:30pm  
Light Cinema 1



### CUL-DE-SAC

Colin O'Toole (UK)

Cul-de-sac is a middle-aged misadventure film set in suburban Manchester during the mid-1980s. A couple finds that their lives are reaching a dead end. Stuck, they take a risk to save their relationship, but could this be a step too far?



### LONG TIME NO SEE

Kevin Biele (Germany)

Silvia returns to her office job at a pharmaceutical company after a long illness. While she is happy to see her colleagues again, she discovers that her Login no longer works - Silvia is no longer in the system.

### FRATER

Valentin Guioed (France)

In the middle of summer, while moving out, Tom finds a family picture. At only ten years old, as the fantasy world of childhood seems to vanish before his eyes, Tom falls back into repressed memories. His recollection grows into a heartrending portrait of the family he once idealized.



### THE MORNING AFTER

Zak Harney (UK)



When Dani's ex-boyfriend turns up unannounced, she is forced to hide a one night stand around her flat. With the help of her eccentric housemates, a cavalcade of chaos ensues.



### MARION

Joe Weiland, Finn Constantine (UK)

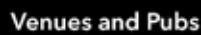
Marion, the only female bull-jumper in France, prepares for her performance in a packed arena.



### DISSOLUTION

Anthony Saxe (USA)

A woman is forced to confront her elderly husband's physical deterioration when they meet to sign their divorce papers.

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- Recommended food:**

- RESEARCH DESIGN**

4.5	Wed Industry Talks
52	Doc 60 - 2
37	International 1
31	Animation 2
30	Animation 1
52	Doc 60 - 3
40	International 5
39	International 4
31	Animation 3
17	New Arrivals 1
47	Batteries Included
22	UK Shorts 1
51	Doc 60 - 1
5	University of Bolton
28	UK Shorts 6
15	Music & Fashion
14	Dance
21	Opening Night
11	VR / 360



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# BOLTON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



Open for Early Bird submissions at FilmFreeway now

**metfilm**<sup>M</sup>  
SCHOOL

[metfilmschool.ac.uk](http://metfilmschool.ac.uk)

**YOUR  
SCREEN  
CAREER  
STARTS  
HERE**



**Edge Hill  
University** | Institute for  
Creative Enterprise  
(ICE)

**Short Film Showcase  
Friday 4 October, 4pm**

An exclusive screening of short films & extracts, from award-winning student shorts to feature films screened at Cannes and Berlin. Also introducing new co-productions from Hurricane Films & Scape Films London. Internationally acclaimed director, Carl Hunter, will be in conversation with a special guest.

[edgehill.ac.uk/research/ice](http://edgehill.ac.uk/research/ice)

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[www.boltonfilmfestival.com](http://www.boltonfilmfestival.com)

