

# BOLTON FILM FESTIVAL

@BoltonFilmFest  
#BoltonFilmFest

Wed 4th - Sun 8th October 2023

the light  
cinema



**5 Days - 300 Short Films - 25 Industry Events**

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



BAFTA  
QUALIFYING FESTIVAL  
BRITISH SHORT FILM



BIFA Qualifying  
Short Film 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 its 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 seventh edition of Bolton International Film Festival, this year screening over 300 short films including 43 World Premieres, 25 European Premieres and 79 UK Premieres.

This edition brings films directed well known names such as Ricky Gervais and Joe Lycett to the festival, featuring household names such as Aidan Turner, Robert Webb, Juliet Stevenson, Julie Hesmondhalgh and Joe Wilkinson. Audiences will be introduced to films by some of the world's rising stars, such as directorial debut from Ben Brewer who worked as lead visual effects artist on 'Everything Everywhere All At Once'.

There are over 20 industry events this year including sessions with BAFTA winning animator Elizabeth Hobbs and Tim Webber, Chief Creative Officer will be joining us to discuss his 30+ year career in digital visual effects with

projects including Christopher Nolan's 'The Dark Knight', James Cameron's 'Avatar', and his Academy and BAFTA Award-winning work on Alfonso Cuarón's 'Gravity'. BAFTA-winning screenwriter Danny Brocklehurst will also be joining us to share insights into his creative writing process, with credits as creator and writer of Sky's 'Brassic' alongside 'Shameless', 'Clocking Off', 'Talk to Me' and recently 'Ten Pound Poms'. We will also be placing a Spotlight on BAFTA Scotland Award winning documentary filmmaker Duncan Cowles, who has not one, not two but three short films selected for the festival.

Representatives from Doc Society, BFI Film Hub North and the BBC Writers Room will also be in attendance, as well as festival programmers from Raindance, Sheffield Doc Fest and London Short Film Festival, in the hope of offering support and guidance to those looking to forge and develop a career in the screen industries.

We'll be looking to the past with our Archive programmes, including "One foot in front of the other" a recontextualisation of archive film from the North West Archive focusing in on marching and walking, with the lens focused in on the Mass Trespass on Winter Hill in 1896.

We look to the future with a series of short film from Creatives Now, a new A.I programme made by young people from the schools of Bolton with the guidance of Javi de Prado.

Zoe and I hope you enjoy the festival !!





# 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.



**Maggie Ellis**  
Producer

Maggie Ellis is a champion of independent talent in the film industry and has helped launch the careers of some of UK's most talented filmmakers and artists. She has set up commissioning schemes, for shorts and feature films, including the Microwave production scheme. Maggie is currently Head of Film London's Artists Moving Image Network (FLAMIN) which also runs the prestigious annual Jarman Award.



**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.



**Jon Turner**  
Animator

Jon co-founded the animation studio Kilogramme in 2005, having previously worked for five years at Cosgrove Hall films. 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



**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.



**Loran Dunn**  
Producer

Loran is a 2017 Screen Daily Star of Tomorrow & BFI Vision Award Producer with a background on BBC Dramas, independent features and major music promos. With a track record of short film screenings and awards at festivals including Sundance, Palm Springs, London Film Festival, and the Best Producer Award at BAFTA accredited Underwire Film Festival. Loran's First Feature A Deal With The Universe was the centre-piece at BFI Flare London.



**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.



**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.



**Kirsty Fairclough**  
Reader in Screen Studies

Kirsty has published widely on popular culture and is the co-editor of The Music Documentary: Acid Rock to Electropop (Routledge), The Arena Concert: Music, Media and Mass Entertainment (Bloomsbury) The Legacy of Mad Men: Cultural History, Intermediality and American Television. (Palgrave) and Music/Video: Forms, Aesthetics, Media and Pop Stars on Film.



**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.





**Annabeth Robinson**  
Electronic Artist/Film-maker

An Electronic Artist and Filmmaker based in Leeds, predominantly using screen based virtual worlds and game platforms since 2005, to explore multi-user interactive artworks and education experiences. Currently the Course Leader in BA(hons) Animation at University of Salford - supporting students development in Creative Development, Industry Engagement and Practice Based Research.



**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.



**Gerard Kearns**  
Actor

Gerard has been working professionally in Film, Theatre and Television for the past fifteen years. Gerard has worked on Feature Films which include 'Looking for Eric', 'Trespass Against Us', 'The Mark Of Cain' and well known series such as 'Shameless', 'The Smoke' and 'The Last Kingdom'. Gerard has a huge enthusiasm for short film - most recently starring in 'Bunny and Clive'.

## 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 years edition of Bolton Film Festival

## WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER FILMS AT BOLTON?



25% 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  
22% of films are made by first time filmmakers (this excludes student figures)  
24% 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



## BREAKING INTO THE INDUSTRY

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



We're joined by four filmmakers who have blazed their own trail into the Film/TV industry, sharing how they got started, built their names and grew their companies. Our guests are Natasha Hawthornwaite (Northern Heart Films), a filmmaker specialising in non-fiction content for online, TV and cinema. Jack Hartley a freelance producer and location manager (Zomdic Films), he works across drama, non fiction and music videos, Lucy Campbell a UK writer/director, her award winning short films, funded by BFI, Film4, Film London, Creative England, Fox Digital have been programmed in multiple UK and international festivals. James Joel Dann (New Take Films), a documentary production company often filming across the world in hostile situations and remote locations.

## SCRIPT TO SCREEN - GREY MOTH

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

Archie Sinclair and Chuckie McEwan join us from Grey Moth to share case studies on their short films that have gone from "Script to Screen". Since 2013 Grey Moth have delivered meaningful content to clients from a diverse range of industries including the educational sector, media, esports, luxury retail, and the arts. They've made work for the BBC, Chanel, Universal Music, Asics, University of the Arts London and the Royal Horticultural Society. In 2020 they launched Grey Moth Originals, an initiative where their profits are invested directly into emerging talent, original ideas and the film community.



## A CAREER IN ANIMATION - BART YATES

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

Over the years Bart has helped develop Blink into the multi-faceted entertainment studio that they are today. In 2005 he founded Blinkink, their dedicated animation division. Personal highlights along the way include the BBC Christmas film "The Supporting Act", the embroidered BBC World Cup trailer, Harvey Nichols' Grand Prix winner "Shoplifters", John Lewis' animated Christmas classic "The Bear & The Hare", and the cult web-series "Don't Hug Me I'm Scared" which they are currently developing for TV. For the last couple of years he's produced all of the Gorillaz' music videos with their co-creator Jamie Hewlett. Today he joins us to discuss the routes into the industry for emerging animators.

## BBC WRITERS ROOM - SIMON NELSON

Wed: 1:40pm - 2:40pm - 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.



## DOP MASTERCLASS - JAMES OLDHAM

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

Recipient of the British Society of Cinematographers Emerging Cinematographer award, winner of Best Cinematography at MANIFF and Rhodes Island, James Oldham has worked with both the smallest and the biggest studios, brands and production companies in the world. Shooting beautiful work consistently, he always manages to capture the essence of a story, whether it be intimate drama, grotesque horror, action packed thriller or well loved family classic. In this session we hear how James approaches a shoot.



### THE PERFECT PITCH

**Wed : 3:00pm - 4:15pm - Light Cinema 1**

Luke Walton, director of The Pitch, shows us in this session how to get the core of your story across with genre and character, how to practise pitching in everyday life, how to avoid pitfalls and how to respond to feedback. There will also be the opportunity to pitch live and receive feedback.



### ONE FRAME AT A TIME : LIZZY HOBBS

**Wed: 3:00pm - 4:00pm - Light Cinema 2**

Elizabeth Hobbs is a London based artist working with animation. Her films are experimental in form and often centred upon real life people or events. They always explore and stretch the material possibilities of the medium, and often employ methods from her printmaking background. Her films have travelled widely on the international festival circuit, winning many awards along the way. In 2019, she received a BAFTA British Short Animation nomination for I'm OK, and in 2020, she was invited to become a member of the Short Films and Feature Animation branch of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Elizabeth joins us today to share her practice.



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 seventh 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 @ BAR 4

**Wed: 9.30pm - 11:20pm, Bar 4, The Vaults**

Join us in Bar 4 in The Vaults of The Market Place for some drinks and tunes. 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



### CREATING YOUR OWN VOICE - DUNCAN COWLES

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

Duncan Cowles is a BAFTA Scotland Award winning documentary filmmaker whose short films have been selected for some of the most renowned film festivals in the world, winning a selection of awards, and gaining significant online exposure through platforms such as Short of the Week, Vimeo Staff Picks, BFI Player and TED and others. In recent years Duncan has also been commissioned to make work for Channel 4, STV, BBC Scotland, BBC Radio 4, Adobe and more. After 10 years making shorts he's on the cusp of completing his first feature. Duncan shares his journey making films and what we feel is a creative approach so distinct from others.



### SHORTS TO FEATURES

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

Michelle Stein is co-founder of new North-West based film & TV production company The Fold. She is an NFTS graduate and a BAFTA, RTS nominated and BIFA winning producer. Her most recent feature film, sci-fi Sky Peals, made with writer/director Moin Hussain, recently premiered in Critic's Week at Venice Film Festival. She is joined by Rebecca Mark Lawson, working on titles including Dead Man's Shoes, This Is England, Cock and Bull Story. She also delivered new talent schemes for the UK Film Council including Directors Lab, Cinema Extreme, Cinema Extreme, Digital Shorts, Digital Nation and 4Mations.

### CREATING AUTHENTIC CHARACTERS ON SCREEN

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

In this session we'll hear from afshan d'souza-lodhi (Writer) and Shakyra Dowling (Casting Agent) how developing believable characters starts with lived experience, good research, great writing and solid casting. Shakyra is a fierce champion of emerging and diverse talent with past projects that have included nominations at the BAFTAs, BIFAs, Sundance & TIFF. afshan d'souza-lodhi is a writer of scripts and poetry. She has been writer-in-residence for Sky Studios, New Writing North, Royal Exchange Theatre, Warner Media and is this year's writer-in-residence for Bluebird Pictures. Her stage play "Chop Chop", was selected as part of the second annual #MuslimList, a curated list of the most promising unmade scripts from Muslim writers.



### DEVELOPING DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILMS

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

Paul Sng's is a 2022/23 BAFTA Breakthrough Artist, his work focuses on people who challenge the status quo. His credits include "Dispossession" & "Poly Styrene: I Am a Cliché" (BIFA Best Documentary, BIFA Raindance Discovery Award) and Tish (Sheffield DocFest Opening Gala film). He has directed two short drama films, Folding and Aska. 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. Kim's broadcast credits include: PBS, BBC1,2,4, World, C4, A+E, WDR, Discovery Channel, National Geographic, NRK1.

### BFI FILMHUB NORTH SHOWCASE

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

Film Hub North present some of the most recent films they've supported through the BFI NETWORK Short Film Fund. Expect exciting new work from Northern filmmaking talent.





## NETWORKING AT KUDOS

**Thurs: 6:00pm - 8:00pm, KUDOS Gallery**

Join us in the KUDOS gallery for complimentary drinks and snacks, to network with industry delegates and filmmakers and to check out all the posters from the films in competition.



## AFTER PARTY

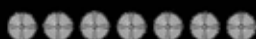
**Thurs: 9.30pm - 12:00am, HEN & CHICKENS PUB, BL1 1EX**

After a day of watching films and industry talks what better way to unwind than a pint or two with fellow filmmakers at The Hen & Chickens.



## Industry Sessions 3

**Friday**



## SALES & DISTRIBUTION

**Fri: 11.00am - 12:00pm - Light Cinema 1**

We are joined by Sathbh Murphy a Sales and Acquisitions Director from Network Ireland Television, a company with a catalogue of over 1,500 hours of quality English language programming and short films. Celebrating 29 years of connecting films & people SND Films is an international sales agent founded by Sydney Neter in 1994, selling award winning live action and animated short films, tv-movies and wonderful documentaries. Our host is Beatrice Neumann of Screen Yorkshire.



## LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

**Fri: 12:20pm - 1:20pm - Light Cinema 2**

Ian Findlay is an established Location Manager, ALM and Location Scout, he has been working in the Film and TV Industry for more than 10 years. His credits include The Batman, Devs and All Creatures Great & Small. Anthea Nelson is a production designer who has worked in film, TV, opera & commercial productions, working alongside directors such as Marek Losey, Julian Farino, Chris Morris and many more. Steering the conversation is Richard Knight, who has worked in the film industry for over 20 years, primarily as a location manager - scouting and organising location filming on projects such as the BAFTA award winning "This is England", "Four Lions", "Ghost Stories" and the feature film of the musical "Everybody's Talking About Jamie".



## FRAMESTORE - TIM WEBBER

**Fri: 1:40pm - 2:40pm Light Cinema 2**

Tim Webber has supervised some of the most technically and artistically challenging of VFX projects. These include Alfonso Cuarón's Children of Men, Christopher Nolan's The Dark Knight, Spike Jonze's Where the Wild Things Are, and work on James Cameron's incredible Avatar. He also supervised the VFX on Cuarón's space thriller, Gravity, for which he won a BAFTA and an Oscar. Having operated at the point where cutting-edge technology, beautiful imagery and first-class storytelling meet for his entire career, Flite, Tim's debut as a writer director, brings these worlds effortlessly together: a thrilling slice of near-future sci-fi, driven by technical innovation & an exciting new production methodology.





## FESTIVAL FORMULA

**Fri: 1:40pm - 2:40pm Light Cinema 1**

Festival Formula will guide you through how best to prepare for the festival circuit talking about different levels of festivals, budget, niches to pick out, submission materials, and how to navigate through festivals.



## BRANDS AND THE POWER OF STORYTELLING

**Fri: 3:00pm - 4:00pm, Light Cinema 1**

In a world where every brand is producing content, is narrative storytelling a way you can cut through to reach new audiences? Liam Osbourne (Dazed Media) partners with clients to ensure their business and brands are translated into elevated, dynamic, and impactful work. Throughout his career he has led transformative work programmes for brands such as Burberry, Balmain, Gucci, Grey Goose, and Moncler. Raja Nimi (Rankin) has almost 20 years of experience in helping brands grow commercially and drive impact culturally. She has worked with some of the world's most powerful and progressive brands across a range of sectors from The Guardian and Google to Augustinus Bader, Depop and Balmain. Our host is Marbelle of Directors Notes



University of  
**Salford**  
MANCHESTER

## UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD SHOWCASE

**Fri: 4:20pm - 5:50pm Light Cinema 3**

Situated in the heart of MediaCity, the country's biggest creative media cluster Salfords Film Production degree, develops 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

**Fri: 6:00pm - 8:00pm, KUDOS Gallery**

Join us in the gallery for some chilled out tunes and a few complimentary drinks with other filmmakers and festival goers.



## YE OLDE WORLDE AFTER PARTIE

**Fri: 9.30pm - 12:00am, Man & Scythe, Churchgate**

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 (Rebuilt 1636). Watch out for the pubs ghosts! Legend says 53 ghosts haunt the pub. But James Stanley may be the most famous spirit. In 1651, Stanley had his head chopped off outside the pub because of his involvement in the Bolton massacre. Nowadays it's just the scrumpy that will blow your head off!





## Industry Sessions 4

Saturday



### FESTIVAL PROGRAMMERS

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

Danni Moltrasi (Raindance), Isabelle Croissant (Manchester Animation Festival) and Jamie Allen (Sheffield Doc Fest) join our host Mark Brennan (Festival Formula) 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.

### SCREENWRITING - DANNY BROCKLEHURST

Sat: 1:40pm - 2:40pm - Light Cinema Screen 3

Danny is a BAFTA and International Emmy winning screenwriter who has written on some of the biggest UK dramas of recent years including "Shameless", "Clocking Off", "Talk to Me" and recently "Ten Pound Poms". He joins us to share insights into his creative writing process. Our host is Anita Pandolfo a BAFTA award winning writer herself, co-creating the award-winning police drama, The Cops (BBC), which received two BAFTAs and two RTS awards and the paramedic drama Picking Up the Pieces (ITV).



### NETWORKING @ KUDOS GALLERY

Sat: 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

9:40pm - 12:00am

Join us at the KUDOS gallery for some tunes from DJ Whitey and to drink the place dry, before heading to The Swan until the early hours.



## Industry Sessions 5

Sunday



### AWARD CEREMONY

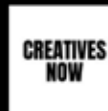
Sun: 4:40pm - 5:40pm - Light Cinema 1

Every film at Bolton Film Festival in our official selection is in competition for one of our illustrious awards, chosen by our expert jury panel from the Film & TV industry. The KUDOS awards have a history of spotlighting exciting filmmakers - springboarding many of them into a career in film. Join us at The Light Cinema for the LIVE award ceremony - announcing this years nominees and award winners.



## Creatives Now

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



### BOLTON YOUTH FILMMAKING PROJECT

Melding AI and Creativity

Bolton's young filmmakers, aged 12 to 14, mentored by Javier de Prado, embrace AI cinema. Mastering AI tools, they have crafted 1-3 minute films on modern themes, using Stable Diffusion, Midjourney, Pika-Labs, and RunwayML. The novice film-makers will discuss their creative journeys, and AI's role in them, alongside their mentor, at the schools' premiere of their films.



Javier de Prado is a Spanish VFX supervisor, filmmaker, tech explorer and composer. He is a creative interested in the intersections of art, tech and science whose work centres on speculating about the future of creative practices. Javier has been involved in the creation of movies (Quail Hollow), theatre (Hoy no me Puedo Levantar, La Realidad), music videos (Coldplay & BTS, El Kanka), virtual realities (Campfire Creepers), animations (Extraordinary Tales), museum exhibits (World Expo, Real Madrid), interactive experiences, concerts, advertisement campaigns and projection mapping. Javi also teaches and gives lectures about the creative treasures he finds in his artistic explorations.

This project is facilitated by Creatives Now and sponsored by Bolton School. Creatives Now is a youth-led arts collective for creative health and social change, facilitated by Bolton at Home and Bolton School. Creatives Now is open to young people, 12 - 23 years old, who live or go to school in Bolton. The collective have their own studio space in the town centre and is free to attend. Creatives Now is a Bolton Cultural Education Partnership enterprise.

@Creatives\_Now

### HUMAN DECLINE

Roman Doherty

Boundaries between reality and fantasy blur as nature fights back against humanity dominance. Cities once bustling with life are now under threat, and in a fantastical twist creatures, fuelled by a blend of genetic modification and technology, have united to reclaim the Earth.



### THE TELLER

Dominique Stanton-Blackburn

A poignant story of the intricate dynamics of sisterhood. Amidst a backdrop of contemporary reliance on technology, the film exposes the tender yet complex emotions shared between sisters. When an unforeseen surge of mystical vision engulfs their world, it serves as a striking reminder of their profound connection.



### FREE THE HUMANS

Isabelle Gape

A young girl's fate intertwines with benevolent extraterrestrial captors. As an impending attack threatens Earth, her unique connection with the aliens unveils a profound mission. Held hostage not out of malice but as a symbolic gesture, she becomes an ambassador and defender of humanity's worth.



### BIBLIOBIBULI

Stela Rojek

An ode to the enduring solace of the written word, evoking a poignant reflection on our ever-evolving relationship with technology and the timeless treasures within bound pages.





## CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF POISON

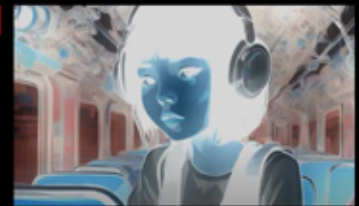
Tanmay Gokul

Transporting us to Victorian Britain, the film offers a sobering exploration of the cyclical nature of challenges, offering a timely perspective on our capacity to endure and evolve in the face of adversity.

## TRANSPORTED

Hanna Ju

A tableau of contrasts within modern Japan. Travelling from serene rural landscapes to a backdrop of hyper-technological urban hubs, the film channels the whimsy of Studio Ghibli and juxtaposes old-world charm with the relentless advance of AI-powered technologies.



## THE OTHER SIDE

Harshini Mohanraj

A tranquil woodland retreat transforms into a gateway to enchantment. As magical powers weave their spell, the forest's embrace opens a portal into beguiling fairytale realms. Nature itself becomes a canvas of wonder, inviting us to embark on an ethereal journey beyond reality.



## A HERO'S JOURNEY

Cameron Kerfoot

An odyssey that melds reality and fantasy. A young boy's destiny unfolds as he transcends reality, traversing the threshold of a video game portal. Within the digital realm, he evolves into a hero, mastering challenges that mirror life's complexities.



## THE CAR JOURNEY

Danielle Alalade

A transformative short film charting an empowering journey of Afro-Caribbean women and girls. Escaping societal confines, they seek community and solace in nature. As they journey from a rain-soaked Manchester, a portal opens to vibrant Afro-futurist vistas, symbolising their liberation.



## CARNIVOROUS VEGETABLES

Hassan Chaudhry

Biomorphic chefs take centre stage. Their terrifying creations wield a playful warning: eat your veggies before they eat you! Through a blend of culinary magic and humour, this short film dishes up a flavourful lesson on food waste and the merits of vegetable consumption.

## FLIGHT OF IMAGINATION

Fenia Nikoli

A magical escape from a girl's solitude in a rain-soaked city. When the girl's imagination takes flight, the city itself awakens, uprooting to transport her to lands of pure fantasy. Here, she befriends enchanting creatures and shifts from loneliness to a state of imaginative wonder.



## INVADERS

Ali Asghsar

Overnight, the humdrum motions of adolescence morph into extraordinary change. This short film deftly captures the profound transformation coming of age and the terrifying magnitude of independence and adult life.





## Experimental

**Wednesday**  
11:00am - 12:00pm  
Light Cinema 3

**Friday**  
4:20pm - 5:20pm  
KUDOS Cinema



### LAKE OF FIRE

Neozoon (Germany)



The fear of death can only be conquered if people believe in a powerful savior - otherwise eternal damnation in hell is waiting. The documentary film collage LAKE OF FIRE shows that the dualistic view and way of life of those believers additionally fuels the climate change-related 'hell on earth' in a dangerous way.



### HELLO BIG WEIRD

Ben Young (UK)



A playful meditation on the strange, unpredictable, and ongoing existential remix of UFO discourse: an exploration of the cognitive dissonance that can occur when a once-ridiculed subculture edges into respectability.



### PATTERN

Tom Wakeling (UK)

A dreamscape exploring what you can lose when lost to repetition. A thought that endlessly repeats, that spirals out of control until there's nothing of you left.

### steinrunnin (petrified)

Anton Kaldal Ágústsson, Chris Paul Daniels (Iceland)

A lyrical exploration of collective and cultural eruptions in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Westmann islands' volcanic outburst. Steinrunnin maps the personal to broader connotations of cultural and ecological histories.



### THE LOST CONVERSATION

Chenmo Wu (UK)



Two AI monitors are having a conversation about "urban memory" and "eternity", while their systems are refreshed every three minutes.



### SHAPES WE MAKE: WE REST

Charli Siobhan Whatley (UK)



From a trilogy of short films exploring invisible illness. The films are titled, We Rest, We Rise, We Fall - symbolic of the cycle writer/director Charli Siobhan Whatley experiences with both Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) and Depression.



### A NAP IN FLUOROSCOPY BUSES

Lei Lei (China)



A fluoroscopy bus carries the crowd from the center to the edge of the city. In the fixed and crowded carriage, some people just boarding the bus collide with each other, and some people are taking a nap at the seat.







### OUR PAIN

Shunsaku Hayashi (Japan)

Our common pain, although experienced individually and uniquely, is what connects us. It is the ambiguity and variety of our existence that allows us to imagine an infinity of variables, some of these alternatives may be malignant, and some benign.



### SAD TURTLE CLUB

Brendan Void (UK)

Experimental music video



### PARABOLIC EUPHORIA

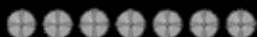
Clara Emery (USA)



Parabolic Euphoria is a visual response by Clara Emery to a sound piece by experimental noise artist Chia-Chun Xu.



## Music & Fashion



**Wednesday**  
6:10pm - 7:10pm  
Light Cinema 2

**Saturday**  
6:20pm - 7:30pm  
Light Cinema 3



### S.A.A.D - SPOOKY ACTION AT DISTANCE

Omid Aghdami (Germany)

In quantum mechanics, particles can become entangled, meaning their properties become correlated in a way that cannot be explained by classical physics. This correlation remains even when the particles are separated by large distances.

### TERRA MATER

Kantarama Gahigiri (Rwanda)

For our land and bones. At the end of the world. Technology and waste, in our lands, our systems, our bones. Wandering our spaces, she cannot help but wonder, where is the space for healing?



### IMMORTAL MIND

Roku Jingwen Long (USA)

In a future world where brain-computer interface (BCI) surgery is ubiquitous, individuals face a choice: upload their consciousness to the cloud for immortality, or preserve their physical bodies in a body archive and upload their consciousness for future resurrection.



### MAKE YOU WANNA CRY (THE GLARE)

Lewis Drew Taylor (UK)

A young woman discovers her inner power against a patriarchal society in the 1960s.



### PLASTIC VOICES

Luis Castro & Yosu Menacho (Spain)

A boy a girl, two cats and a plastic cocktail bag. Or how to love someone misscommunicating.



### FINGER BANG YOUR DAY

Jeff Hilliard, John Orphan (USA)



With the help of his friends, Blaster is determined to spread his message of hope and love to the rest of the world through his song Finger Bang Your Day.

### GAYLE FMK (with blackbear)

Chris Ullens (UK)

This bright and colourful dark comedy sees miniature Gayle and blackbear failing at being good neighbours in the most extravagant ways. Think Celebrity Deathmatch meets Groundhog Day, a playful stop motion tale of human behaviour gone wrong.



### The (b)eauly

Eveginy Tametskiy (France)

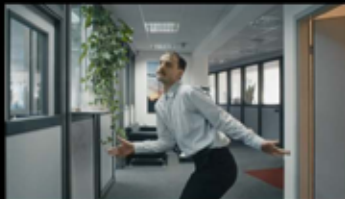
"Beauty is a form of Genius - is higher, indeed, than Genius, as it needs no explanation. Beauty is the symbol of symbols. Beauty reveals everything, because it expresses nothing. When it shows us itself, it shows us the whole fiery-coloured world." Oscar Wilde



### PRESENT TENSE

Fabrizio Narcisi (Italy)

Through a choral film that follows different characters in situations that oscillate between the real and the symbolic sphere, I want to convey the message of a celebration of the ups and downs of youth, of the present time we're living and the beauty of the nature of our identity.



### Do it (MACHEN)

Tarek Shayne Tabet (Germany)

Music Video



### SALT

Dominik Hill (Germany)

Tells the story of a group of people, who put away their fear of the elemental forces of nature and instead rediscover natural power, returning a bit to their own roots.



### AVATAR REBORN

Ced Pakusevskij (Italy)

No longer bound by one dimensional reality, we can now use multiple extensions of ourselves to represent who we are both in the physical and digital multiverse.



### ABIGAIL LAPELL - OLD FLAMES

Fugitives (Canada)

A haunting portrayal of a recovering addict learning to live with her demons.







### PRONTO - LIGHT LIGHT

Maximillian Speidal (Switzerland)

Two childhood friends are on their way to empty out the apartment of one of their mothers, who's recently passed. The route to the apartment puts the son in a nostalgic trance, reminiscing of growing up in the neighbourhood with his mother and friends.



## Dance

### Wednesday

6:10pm  
Light Cinema 3

### Saturday

5:00pm - 6:00pm  
KUDOS Cinema



### SONS OF THE CREZENT

Brendan Canty (New Zealand)

With his neighbourhood in South Auckland under threat from gentrification, a young man recalls his youth, his roots and his upbringing through spoken word memories and dance.

### ISOLATION

Andrew Margetson (UK)

Shay Latukolan performs a solo dance constrained in a white box, expressing the theme of 'isolation'.



### DANCE IN CIRCLES

Yuming Zhang (USA)

Two women dance a duet piece together, exploring their collective traumatic experiences through their movements.



### SHADES

Esosa Oviasu (USA)

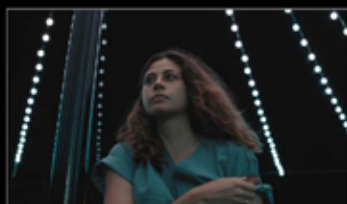
The cavern of the mind can house many voices. Symphony or cacophony. Brilliance or disorder. The line often blurs.



### THE BREAKERS

Perry Curties (UK)

Following a crew of Brazilian breakdancers around their new home town of Lisbon as they hone their skills ready for the first ever Olympic breakdance qualifiers.



### TIDAL

Chloe Van Landschoot, Niamh Wilson (Canada)



The internal life of a bedside nurse over the course of a year, a film that examines the cyclical nature of workplace trauma & the relentlessness of the profession. With the use of movement and dance, waves of deep-seated expression move through her as she tries to find home.



### RETRIEVAL LOOP

Thomas Ellis (UK)

A retrieval courtship in suspended animation.



## BOYS

Celia Willis, Kane Husbands (UK)



A dance film of playfulness and pressure of being a boy of colour, trying to be a man; the bright, bold colour of youth bursting through.



## CATCHING SPIRITS

Vanessa Beletic (USA)



When she's challenged to face her fear and dance, Destiny makes a decision that could reveal a secret she doesn't yet understand.



## F-Rated

(Women in Film)

**Thursday**  
3:30pm- 5:00pm  
Light Cinema 3



## DOES YOUR CONDOM MAKE YOU FAT?

Sophie King (UK)

In a world where men can get pregnant, we follow the morning after of 27 year old Owen, who wakes up with more than a hangover to fix.



## A BLOODY GRAVEYARD STORY

Vanessa Stachel (Germany)



Three teenagers sneak into an eerie cemetery at night to summon an exceptionally terrible ghost with an ancient ritual. But they did not expect what they encounter there.

## THESE DAMN PEONIES

Polina Biliaieva (Poland)

Rita is 24 and she has never experienced an orgasm. Till her 25th birthday she decided to get it in any cost.



## F\*\*K ME, RICHARD

Charles Polinger, Lucy Elizabeth McKendrick (Australia)

Recovering from a broken leg, Sally begins a phone relationship with Richard. But as the relationship develops, Richard starts asking Sally for money to help his sick mother, putting his motives into question. Is he scamming her?

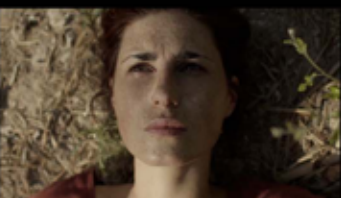


## EVERY BODY DIES SOMETIMES

Charlotte Hamblin (UK)



A dark comedy about death anxiety that follows Mara as she grapples with the belief that she has killed everybody she's gotten close to.



## DEAF

Eva Libertad, Nuria Muñoz-Ortín (Spain)



Angela is deaf and Darío is hearing. They are a couple and have six chickens, four dogs, a vegetable garden and many communication problems. Now they are also going to have a child.





### MUNA

Warda Mohamed (UK)



British-Somali teen Muna is desperate to go on the school trip - to have fun with her mates, escape the monotony of her conservative household and, of course, provide the greatest playlist of all time (!!)



## LGBTQ+



Friday

6:10pm - 7:40pm  
Light Cinema 1



### OUR MALES AND FEMALES

Ahmed Alyaseer (Jordan)



A father and mother are faced with the painful task of washing and shrouding their transgender daughter. Shrouding is an Islamic religious practice that is deemed obligatory to carry out upon death. But when no one agrees to wash her and shame falls onto the family, how far is the father willing to go to make sure his "son" is washed?



### BACKGAMMON

Jack Wake-Walker (UK)



When a phone-obsessed city girl visits her rural home village, her mother forces her to make a life-changing decision.



### THE CURE

Taisia Deeva (UK)



17-year-old Renal is brought to a sex worker by his uncle to prove his masculinity to his patriarchal father. An "educational" act driven by good intentions turns into psychological and physical abuse.



### CHICKENSHIT

Ellie Rogers (UK)



At the height of summer, two rowdy young boys spend the afternoon tearing through the countryside. But when they come across an electric fence a competitive game sparks something unexpected between them.



### GIRL ON GIRL

Laura Jayne Tunbridge (UK)



On move-in day, a lesbian couple are forced to acknowledge that the problems between them don't just exist in the bedroom.





### THE LEFT HAND

Maxime Robin (Canada)



Young Maxime's mother starts worrying about him when his 2nd grade teacher declares him "abnormal".



### REALNESS WITH A TWIST

Cass Kaur Virdee (UK)



A talented footballer is forced to battle between his secret passion for voguing and the fear of his teammate's disapproval.



### FLORES DEL OTRO PATIO

Jorge Cadena (Germany)



In the north of Colombia, a group of queer activists use extravagant performative actions to denounce the disastrous exploitation by the country's largest coal mine.



## Archive

### Wed & Thursday

11.00am - 12pm  
KUDOS Cinema

### Friday

12:20pm - 1.20pm  
Light Cinema 3

### Sunday

1:40pm - 2.40pm  
KUDOS Cinema

### A HISTORY OF THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GETTY IMAGES

Richard Misek (Norway)

Getty Images is one of the largest commercial archives in the world. Many defining images of the last century - images that form a part of our collective memory - now only exist behind Getty's paywall.



### COST OF LIVING

Graham Relton, Steven Rawle (UK)

Cost of Living is a timely short film, curated from more than half a century of archive footage, that reflects on the pandemic cycles of boom and bust that continue to affect us.



### RULE No. 5: SHADOW YOUR MAN CLOSELY

Miro Manojlović (Croatia)

A film loop collage assembled out of Buster Keaton's Sherlock Jr. train scene. One shot becomes the base for specific editing procedures through which the film narrative is reconstructed and a new plot is created.



### JILL, UNCREDITED

Anthony Ing (UK)

One of the world's most prolific background actors takes centre stage in this unique portrait of Jill Goldston, a fifty-year veteran of UK film and television. Constructed entirely from Jill's performances, the film is at once a celebration of a singular screen oeuvre, a journey through popular culture, and a haunting study of a life lived out of focus.







## Environmental

**Thursday**  
1:40pm - 3:10pm  
Light Cinema 3

**Saturday**  
3:00pm - 4:30pm  
KUDOS Cinema



### MOVING MOUNTAINS

Renko Douze (Netherlands)

On his quest to map the consequences of climate change, mountain hydrologist Walter Immerzeel and his team venture to heights where other scientists do not go. From his tent base in the Himalayas, he monitors over 200 instruments measuring variables like snowfall, temperature, air pressure, solar irradiance and windspeed.



### FOR PEOPLE IN TROUBLE

Alex Lawther (UK)

Jenny and Paul meet at a pub, quickly falling in love. Their relationship blossoms as civilisation falls to climate change, the escalation of the world being f\*\*ked begins to show the strain. Jenny becomes radicalised; Europe has moved further to the Right; martial law is in place.



### EVERYTHING WRONG AND NOWHERE TO GO

Sindga Agha (UK)



Plagued by overwhelming anxiety about climate change, a filmmaker decides to start seeing a climate psychologist in hopes that she can find some peace of mind at what she's pretty sure is the end of the world.

### TERRA CENE

Nono Ayuso, Rodrigo Inada (UK)

Through a carefully crafted narrative that weaves through time past, time present, and time future, Terra Cene urgently questions, who and what will be left to remember? If the end is built into the beginning, it is our responsibility to protect the future.



### THE CHEWING GUM MAN

Jamie Wordsworth (UK)

A quirky artist paints onto discarded pieces of chewing gum in the street in an attempt to reconnect with the ever-changing world around him.



### CYCLE PATH

Red Wade (UK)

After receiving an outrageous email from his anti-eco boss, a climate conscious cyclist hijacks an important meeting and teaches his colleagues a lesson they'll never forget.



### THE PEOPLE'S TREE

Febe De Geest (Australia)



Laws prohibiting tree-cutting in India have become stricter recently and actively enforced due to the lobbying of climate activists. As such, tree cutters increasingly lose their jobs, contributing to the precarity they face.



### FORGOTTEN FIBRE

Tristan Patrick Sherfield (UK)

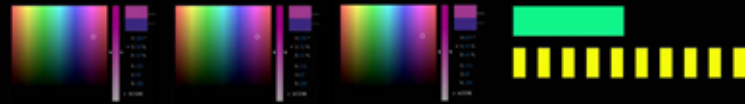
Revealing wool's forgotten potential in textiles, and the industry's urgent need for sustainable solutions.

University of the West of England



**Marmite**

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



**NOSEPICKER**

Ian Mantgani (UK)

A 'tale of the unexpected' about an 8-year-old schoolboy with a nasty habit of picking his nose.



**NO BALL GAMES**

Sam Brewster (UK)

Compassion casts you out. In this cyclical fever dream, a woman struggles to win over the crowd.

**REAL LOVE BABY**

Tim Gersen (Netherlands)

In this short film, a couple is going through the miraculous process of giving birth, but what they bring into the world is not what they expected. This slightly dark comedy uses an unexpected metaphor to comment on materialism.



**BUTTER FINGERS**

Jack Hartley (UK)

Sometimes, you have to become the teacake.



**ULTRA**

Luis Cross (UK)

After the recent collapse of society, an off-grid rebellion has spawned in the hope to decentralize state power, we follow a hopeless young man who joins to seek answers.



**DAYDREAMING SO VIVIDLY ABOUT OUR SPANISH HOLIDAYS**

Christian Avilés (Spain)

Sun starved teenagers take on a dreamy trip to the Balearic islands in the pursuit of light and warmth. They must absorb it and be a vessel in order to transport it back to their heavy clouded kingdom.



**THE MÖBIUS TRIP**

Simone Smith (UK)

A road trip pushes a dysfunctional family to the brink after their journey descends into a claustrophobic hallucinatory nightmare.



**HITO**

Stephen Lopez (Phillippines)

Between nuclear reactors and military curfews, 14-year-old Jani lives in a dystopian world oppressively devoid of empathy. Together, she and her slippery new friend Kiefer the talking catfish gear up to strike a surreal blow for freedom.





## One foot in front the other

### Recontextualising the Winter Hill mass trespass

**Thursday - Saturday**  
KUDOS Gallery  
Check our schedule (back pages)



We look back at the history of Bolton through the lens of marching and walking in response to the Winter Hill Mass Trespass of 1896. Over three successive weekends in September 1896 thousands of Boltonians marched over Winter Hill to reclaim a right of way they said had been illegally blocked by the landowner. It became Britain's biggest mass trespass but the events of 1896 remain largely forgotten. Using archival footage from the North West Film Archive and clips from the 125th anniversary walk in 2021, we aim to revitalise Bolton's long history of walking by tracing the route of the Mass Trespass from near the town centre to the peak of Winter Hill. This programme concludes with a reinterpretation of the clips to create a new piece of work "One foot in front of another" by Adrian Barber.



#### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF BOLTON (1931)

Featuring footage of primarily female workers arriving for work at a large cotton mill, children at the Oxford Grove School, the police force directing traffic and firemen at work. Male workers are seen leaving the iron and steel works and there are views of the town's busy streets and the Town Hall.



#### A MAYORAL YEAR (1931)

Ceremonies and activities attended by the Mayor & Mayoress of Bolton; including parades and processions for civic occasions, presiding at council meetings, opening the golf course, on board a ship which struck a rock, at a hospital fete, on the bowling green, at a military review, and handing over the chain of office to his successor.

#### ICE SKATING AT BELMONT (1933)

Scenes of people skating on a frozen country lake, believed to be the 'Blue Lagoon' reservoir at Belmont near Bolton.



#### A MISCELLANEOUS FILM SHOW (1942)

Bolton's stay at home holiday - scenes from Moss Bank Park including a ceremony with the Mayor, children on a roundabout and swings, and donkey rides; ornamental gardens; girls egg and spoon race; Punch and Judy show; show jumping and games on horseback; family groups; a dog show; fancy dress parade and army band.



#### COTTON COUNTS (1951)

A film made to advertise improvements to the life style of mill workers. Featuring streetscenes in Bolton; leisure activities; and the introduction of day nurseries for children. Interior shots of spinning, weaving, dyeing and printing.



#### WESTBURY AVENUE (1960 - 66)

Includes shots of a couple leaving terraced house then driving off in a car: the filmmaker and female friend act in front of the camera. Family and friends are seen at the family home for a social gathering. Continues with over-exposed shots of men walking the family dog on Winter Hill near Horwich.

#### THE PRECINCT (1969 - 73)

The film looks at the pedestrianisation and redevelopment of Bolton Town Centre. Includes the planning history, a lot of footage of pedestrians and traffic and a scale model of how the new centre will look. Also interviews with shoppers, the precinct in Winter and a Remembrance Day parade outside the Town Hall.

#### PEOPLES MARCH FOR JOBS (1992)

Scenes of the march starting off at Albert Square, Manchester; brief interviews with Terry Abbott, who organised the march, and Alan Manning, of the North West TUC. Marchers enter Salford, speeches are then seen being delivered on the steps of Bolton Town Hall. Ends with scenes of the marchers on the final stretch into Liverpool.





## WINTER HILL 125 (2021)

Francesca Platt

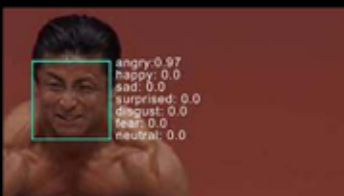
A documentary account of the Winter Hill Mass Trespass 125th Anniversary March, following the route of the original march, containing interviews with Prof. Paul Salveson and Maxine Peake and others who attended the march.



## Batteries Included

Wednesday - Sunday (Daily)

Check our schedule (back pages)



## 3 DIALOGUES ABOUT THE FUTURE

Alina Manolache (Romania)



What is it like to navigate our world as an artificially intelligent robot? What is there to learn about homo sapiens in order to become as 'human' as possible? Three pairs of robots take us through their learning process. They track, analyse and draw information by watching people in different life situations.

## PLANETS AND ROBOTS

Antanas Skucas, Julius Zubavičius (Lithuania)

Film is generated by AI for humans. Don't worry humans are creative and better than AI. You are the ones who will always have the upper hand, because you have the ability to imagine, to feel, to love. Thank you for existing.



## HARDLY WORKING

Total Refusal (Austria)

Hardly Working sheds a limelight on the very characters that normally remain in the background of video games: NPCs. They are non-player characters that populate the digital world as extras to create the appearance of normality. A laundress, a stable boy, a street sweeper and a carpenter are observed with ethnographic precision.



## THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE STAIRCASE AND THE SKY

Katerina Athanasopoulou (UK)

Ascending a staircase in the centre of Athens makes room for reflection on everyday life, as both otherworldly and mundane. On a planet lit by neon and on a beach powered by cicadas, we twirl into a void measured by walking - one step at a time.



## HEARTBEAT

Kim Spierenburg (Netherlands)



An ode to (new) life. Inspired by the sound of the violin that revives me. Heartbeat is about moving on and how making music is precious and should be cherished. As a disabled artist I have first hand knowledge of the fragility of life.



## AVATAR REBORN

Ced Pakusevskij (Italy)

No longer bound by one dimensional reality, we can now use multiple extensions of ourselves to represent who we are both in the physical and digital multiverse.



## ABYSS

Jeppe Lange (Denmark)

Abyss is a chain of 10.000 images found through Google's reverse image search. The visual development is based on the misunderstandings that happen in the AI's reading of the image material. The AI doesn't care about scale, emotions or context but are only interested in patterns, colours and correlations.





# Expanded Realities

VR/360



Wed - Sun (Daily)  
11:00am - 6:00pm  
KUDOS Gallery



## JFK MOMENTO

Chloé Rochereuil (France)



Sixty years after President Kennedy's assassination, "JFK Memento" chronicles the events of November 22, 1963, and the investigation that followed. Narrated by the last living witnesses, journalists, and investigators who lived through the events, this documentary is a historically accurate record of these 48 hours that changed the world.



## THE TELL-TALE ROOMS

Andrew Kotting (UK)

The Tell-Tale Rooms is an interactive 360 VR piece that leads us on a journey into artist Eden Kötting's fantastical world. Blending immersive animation, archive and live action it celebrates the wonders of the human condition and opens the fusty doors of perception into a world of virtual reality.



## MIDNIGHT STORY

Antonin Niclass (UK)

An old lady is waiting for the last coach in a sad station. Looking for distraction, she starts observing the lonely travellers. Suddenly the pigeons manage to create a connection between them all.

## REIMAGINED VOLUME II: MAHAL

Michaela Ternasky-Holland (USA)



Inspired by Philippine mythology, the story focuses on Apolaki, Mayari, Tala, and Hanan, the four immortal children of the recently passed creator god, Bathala. Can the siblings come together to defeat their own pain and learn how to accept the devastating loss before the world their father entrusted to them suffers from a celestial catastrophe?



## CHAMPOLLION, THE EGYPTIAN

Agnès Molia, Gordon (France)



Seven years after having pierced the mystery of the hieroglyphs, Jean-François Champollion enters the temple of Abu Simbel. This is a decisive moment: after a four-month expedition, he meets with the great Ramses II. He feels a mixture of passion, excitement and anxiety: what if his deciphering system isn't fully functional?



## FROM THE MAIN SQUARE

Pedro Harres (Germany)

An interactive VR experience that invites the viewer to witness the rise and fall of a divided society. A civilization blossoms, with all its contradictions, only to become a danger to itself.



## DIAGNOSIA

Mengtai Zhang (USA)

Portrays the director's memories of being incarcerated in a military-operated Internet addiction camp in Beijing in 2007, where internet addiction and other youth issues were treated as a severe mental disorder with sometimes violent means.





### THE ABANDONED LIBRARY

Andy Campbell, Judi Alston (UK)

In a future Northern England devastated by climate change, an environmental worker uncovers an abandoned library where books and technology have fused into the architecture and landscape to create new stories.



### WONDER OF LIFE

Wen-Chieh Chang (Taiwan)

On Niushou Mountain, he bid the night, waiting for the world to rise from its slumber. With the arrival of dawn, vibrant colors gradually took over the pale darkness of the night, like an endlessly recurring spell.

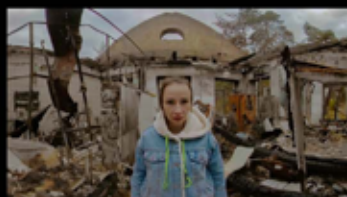


### STAY ALIVE, MY SON : CHAPTER 1 & 2

Victoria Bousis (Greece)



Place yourself in the shoes of a Cambodian genocide survivor and pained father, to experience a transformative and inspirational journey of redemption as he reconciles 45 years in search for his lost son. By making amends with the past, we free him from his mental prison and heal his heart.



### FRESH MEMORIES : THE LOOK

Ondrej Moravec, Volodymyr Kolbasa (Czech Republic)

War in Ukraine from its beginning has taken away thousands of households and lives. Kharkiv was one of the towns which was bombed. In this immersive experience in virtual reality you look into the eyes of those who lost their homes or places closely connected with them.



### BEHIND THE DISH

Chloé Rochereuil (USA)

Behind the Dish is a virtual reality docu-series that lets viewers step inside the fascinating world of gastronomy.



### KURSAAL

Davide Rapp (Italy)

A short 360-degree documentary dedicated to the CineKursaal in Rumelange, Luxembourg's oldest movie theater, which opened in 1911 and never closed since. The CineKursaal went through the Nazi occupation, survived the devastation of World War II, resisted the growing success of television in the 1970s, and renewed itself by automating the projection room in the late 1980s.



### AMAZONIA VIVA

Estêvão Ciavatta (Brazil)

Facing the destruction of the Amazon forest, indigenous leader Raquel Tupinambá takes us in a spiritual journey into the heart of the Amazon.







## Opening Night

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



### IT'S A DATE

Nadia Parfan (Ukraine)



Kyiv in 2022. A car races at breakneck speed through the city at dawn. Filmed from a subjective camera angle in a single unedited shot, this contemporary remake of Claude Lelouch's film *C'était un rendez-vous* captures the emotions in a state of emergency caused by the war



### SUDDENLY TV

Roopa Gogineni (Sudan)



A group of young Sudanese create an imaginary television station at a besieged sit-in. Interviewing protestors from around the country, they confront the violence of the regime and conjure a new Sudan.



### TERRA MATER

Kantarama Gahigiri (Rwanda)



For our land and bones. At the end of the world. Technology and waste, in our lands, our systems, our bones. Wandering our spaces, she cannot help but wonder, where is the space for healing?.



### AVATAR UNBORN

Ced Pakusevskij (Italy)

No longer bound by one dimensional reality, we can now use multiple extensions of ourselves to represent who we are both in the physical and digital multiverse.



### 3 DIALOGUES ABOUT THE FUTURE

Alina Manolache (Romania)

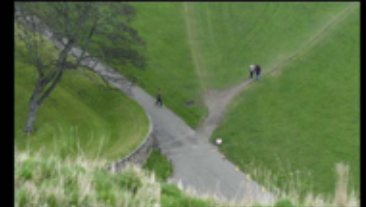


What is it like to navigate our world as an artificially intelligent robot? What is there to learn about homo sapiens in order to become as 'human' as possible? Three pairs of robots take us through their learning process.

### DESIRE LINES

Duncan Cowles (UK)

Through distant observation of people walking on desire lines, a filmmaker notices a pattern in peoples tendency to cut corners, and reflects on what this might mean for the future of our planet.



### BOOM

Charles Di Cicco, Gabriel Augerai, Laurie Pereira De Figueiredo, Romain Augier, Yannick Jacquin (France)



A couple of dumb birds try their best to protect their eggs from a volcano eruption.



### SPINNING

Sam Spruell (UK)

Robert takes his beloved 3.2 litre saloon for a spin in the neighbourhood. But his world is crumbling, and his car is merely a symptom of male vulnerability and denial.

### LINDA

Joe Lycett (UK)

Linda gets a job in a post office, but her tall tales soon raise suspicions.



### THEY GROW UP SO FAST

John Beach (USA)

When Brian meets Amy during a night out on the town, things move a little faster than he anticipated.





## International 1

**Wednesday**  
12:20pm - 1:50pm  
KUDOS cinema

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



### CROSSING THE BLUE

Victoria Aleksanyan (Armenia)



Anoush, who left Armenia to flee from her abusive husband, has to return years later, leaving behind her only reason for living.

### ANU

Pulkit Arora (New Zealand)

When a 57-year widow moves to New Zealand from India, she's forced to confront her grief by completing an ordinary ritual in the most extraordinary circumstance.



### MY MOTHER AND I

Emma Branderhorst (Netherlands)



Kees wants to roam far away from home, but her mother doesn't seem ready for the cut-off as of yet. In light of the complexity and ambivalence of their close relationship, a joint road trip develops into an emotional tour de force.

### A WOMAN IN MAKUENI

Daria Belova, Valeri Aluskina (Germany)



She is in prison, waiting. But he has a long way to travel and arrives too late. He wanders through the strange city, lost, until he meets a woman who is willing to help him with some gentle magic.



### MERCI POUR VOTRE PATIENCE

Simon van der Zande (Belgium)

From a fixed point of view, we witness a tense bus ride in Brussels, when Samuel - a Congolese immigrant - gets on to voice his discontent with Europe.



### SAME OLD

Lloyd Lee Choi (UK)

One bad night for a New York City delivery driver.



## International 2

**Thursday**  
6:10pm - 7:40pm  
Light Screen 1

**Saturday**  
4:30pm - 6:00pm  
Light Screen 2



### MUKBANGER

Hugo Becker (France)

Mukbang is a phenomenon of making and eating food and often swallowing inordinate amounts of food while filming yourself and interacting with a connected audience. Some practitioners become celebrities. This story is inspired by real events.

### MISS PATTI

Kate Hamilton (USA)

Patti, a seemingly deferential cleaning woman, cheerfully endures the passive-aggressive condescension of her hipster employers Lauren and Lily... that is, until Patti is left alone in the house and her secret profession is revealed.



### THE LIMELIGHT LIFE

Juho-Pekka Tanskanen (Finland)

A reality tv show host is sick of her job and her life. She's lost her grip on her work and gets the last chance from her producer to go with her film crew and find out what has happened to a celeb, who wet himself on a live tv dance show.

### OFF-SEASON

Francescu Artily (France)

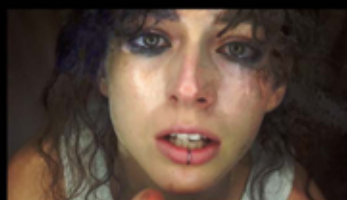
A cameraman shoots picturesque videos for a TV production company. Wrecked by his lack of desire lost in the emptiness of a daily routine, he wanders alone through landscapes in search of the best view.



### RESTE

Ginger Le Pêcheur (Canada)

On a summer morning, boredom meets the unwelcoming apartment where 6-year-old Chichou is playing by herself. In the remnants of violence, RESTE brings to light what can be the daily life of a child with candor and bitterness.



### ALIEN0089

Valeria Hofmann (Chile)

While a gamer uploads a testimonial video to denounce the harassment she suffers in a war video game, a stranger enters her home and hacks her computer, blurring the boundaries between the real and virtual worlds.



## International 3

### Friday

6:10pm - 7:40pm  
Light Cinema 3

### Sunday

12:50pm - 2:20pm  
Light Cinema 3



### I CHEATED

Ben Escobar (USA)

Shrouded by the shadows of a blue hour on a fishing dock, a father and son navigate their lasting shame and grudges in an effort to reacquire as the best friends they once were.



### THE CALF

Matthew Sunderland, Simon London (New Zealand)

Unable to control the tragic events of his life, 12-year-old Kyle has decided to run away. He and two friends set off on a bike ride into the unknown, where faced with the brutality of nature, their camaraderie crumbles.



### LITTLE WAVES

Filip Peruzovic (Croatia)

In Zagreb, a miracle victim of the collapse of a building just outside his home, Goran with his wife and daughter go to a birthday party, during which he will experience a real existential crisis.



### LAS VISITANTES

Enrique Buleo (Spain)

Three retired women travel on a bus on their way to Europe. They have just been widowed and it's time to start living. They have been listening to people talking about the wonders of tourism all their lives and are dying to experience it firsthand.

### ENDLESS SEA

Sam Shainberg (USA)

Carol, 70, begins a normal day only to find out that her heart medication has doubled in price. Afraid, but not without hope, she sets out to find a solution.



### AN AVOCADO PIT

Ary Zara (Portugal)



Larissa, a trans woman and Cláudio, a cis man, meet one night, in the streets of Lisbon. Two people, two realities, who dance their differences away till morning light. In challenge, in surprise, in awe and in recognition. An empowering story, free from violence and filled with light and hope for the better days yet to come.



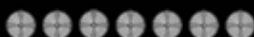
## International 4

### Thursday

3:00pm - 4:30pm  
KUDOS cinema

### Saturday

6:20pm - 7:50pm  
Light Cinema 2



### NOCTURNAL BURGER

Reema Maya (USA)



Minu, the eldest (and most neglected) daughter of a night watchman, has never eaten a burger. She wouldn't even have tried to imagine its taste if she hadn't been promised one.

### IT TURNS BLUE

Shadi Karamroudi (Iran)



Morteza hits his 3 years old daughter in one of her weekly visits. Then he asks his older sister, Pari, to help him handle the situation.



### THE TUNER OF SILENCES

Mário Patricínio (Portugal)

Mwanito's been living in a big-game park for eight years. The only people he knows are his father, his brother, an uncle, and a servant. He's been told that the rest of the world is dead, that all roads are sad, and that they wait for an apology from God.



### SÈT LAM

Vincent Fontano (France)

In an insular city's ghetto, in the midst of a trance ritual, a young girl is paralysed by fear. She is afraid her loved ones may be hurt or even disappear. It is then that her grandmother tells her the strange tale of Edwardo, the first one of his kin to have seen and fought death.



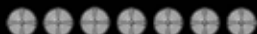
## International 5

### Friday

12:20pm - 1:50pm  
KUDOS Cinema

### Sunday

2:40pm - 4:10pm  
Light Cinema 3



### BURN IT ALL

Jack Hickey (Ireland)

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



### CICCIOLINA POCKET

Claudio Casazza (Italy)

Summer 1990, another sweltering afternoon in the sleepy Italian province. Four kids are killing time away, when a new challenge seems to arouse their sexual awakening. But, is adulthood really as appealing as it seems?



### BREAKING FAST WITH A COCA COLA

Amy Yasmine Omar (USA)



After growing up in the secular households of their Turkish immigrant parents in the Midwest, Özlem and Ada are desperate to celebrate a tradition of their own. Together, they embark on a day of fasting and feasting for Ramadan and embrace their cultural differences along the way.



### THE OTHER END OF THE STREET

Kálmán Nagy (Austria)

When 9-year-old Ábel is attacked by his classmate Bence at school, his father decides to visit Bence's parents to put an end to the constant harassment. However, the conversation does not go as hoped and confronts father and son with a moral dilemma.

### THE FUSE

Kevin Haefelin (Switzerland)

Cassius makes a living as a night time garbage man in the concrete arena of the Bronx. One night he's inevitably laid off and faces his fear of becoming homeless and a pariah.







## Doc 60 - 1

**Wednesday**  
12:20pm - 1:20pm  
Light Cinema 3

**Friday**  
3:00pm - 4:00pm  
Light Cinema 3

**Saturday**  
11:00am - 12:00pm  
Light Cinema 3



**WHERE THE SUN ALWAYS SHINES**  
Rosie Baldwin (UK)



A poetic film of nostalgia, the meaning of home, and what happens when life as you know it is in danger of slipping away, engulfed by the waves that once defined it.



**THE KEEPER**  
Alexandra Catherine Genova (UK)



A laird in Scotland, who presides over a palace and 4500-acre estate, is attempting to redress the imbalance of land ownership in Britain by handing it over to the community. This film follows his journey as he grapples with his own egalitarian ideals and the inevitable friction that comes with huge upheaval.

**DEVIL'S CHANTER**  
Karim Hema (Hungary)

It is told that a shepherd who stole the devil's dearest goat transformed it into the first bagpipe that gave forth music without anyone ever touching it. Devil's Chanter presents the process of this transformation into another kind of being: music.



**FORGOTTEN FIBRE**  
Tristan Patrick Sherfield (UK)

Revealing wool's forgotten potential in textiles, and the industry's urgent need for sustainable solutions.



## Doc 60 - 2

**Wednesday**  
3:00pm - 4:00pm  
Light Cinema 3

**Saturday**  
5:00pm - 6:00pm  
Light Cinema 3



**THE MEN AND THE CHAIRS IN FRONT OF MY WINDOW**  
Nick Aldridge (UK)

On the roof of the building behind where the interviewees sit is an abandoned chair that is only visible from my window. To me it came to represent the men who would sit and seemingly go unnoticed by the myriad of passers by.



**GRACE**  
Luke Bradford (UK)

A story about radical acceptance.



**WITHIN THE WATER**  
Eleanor Church, Katharina Koall (UK)



A pregnant woman is meant to radiate unconditional love for her unborn child but what if her feelings are more complex and dark? Post-natal depression is increasingly understood but in a society that portrays pregnancy as an uncomplicated journey of maternal joy, prenatal depression is a taboo, and frightening.



### FILHO

Tomas Ponsteen (Netherlands)

Is it a moral duty of every adoptee to search his or her biological mother? What if you don't feel the need to search and meet? In this personal documentary Tomas, who was adopted from Brazil in 1994 as a baby, delves into the matter.



### ALL THAT IS BURIED

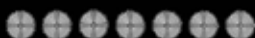
Maire Tracey, Simon Stanton-Sharma (UK)



A short documentary exploring the contrasting inspirations, ideas and motives behind the work of four South African creatives as they seek to make sense of a post-apartheid Cape Town.



## Doc 60 - 3



### Friday

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

### Saturday

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



### LEFT BEHIND

Matteo Crescenzi (UK)

Antonio Bayo Munuera, a Spanish engineer and family man, leaves his loved ones in Spain to volunteer in the YPG army- a Kurdish-led militia that fights against the genocide in Northern Syria and Iraq.



### NEIGHBOUR ABDI

Douwe Dijkstra (Netherlands)

How can you understand a violent past? Somali-born Abdi is furniture designer and support worker. He reenacts his life, marked by war and criminality, with the help of his neighbour and filmmaker Douwe.



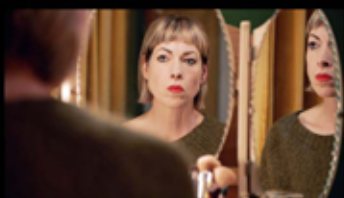
## Doc 60 - 4

### Thursday

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

### Saturday

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



### MY BLONDE GF

Rosie Morris (UK)



Helen discovers that deepfake images of her in sexually explicit and violent scenarios have been uploaded onto a porn site and goes on a journey to understand what has happened to her.



### I DON'T NEED ADULT CONVERSATION

Vika Evdokimenko (UK)



A new mother discovers dark feelings stirring up inside her at night. This docu-fictional essay film explores the light and shadow sides of motherhood from the filmmaker's very personal vantage point as a new mother and takes us on a surrealist journey into a mother's subconscious.





**I WAS BORN IN 1988**  
Yasaman Baghban (Iran)



A series of executions of Iranian political prisoners began in the summer of 1988, following the end of the eight-year war between Iran and Iraq. For nearly three decades, I have been preoccupied with the coincidence of this massacre and my birth in August 1988.



**BEAR**  
Morgane Frund (Switzerland)



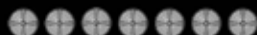
An amateur filmmaker who has filmed bears for years, contacts a film school looking for someone to edit his images into a film. A student comes forward. But when she digitises his archive, she discovers that the recordings are not only of bears. A discussion ensues about the power of a gaze and its voyeuristic violence.



**Doc 60 - 5**

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

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

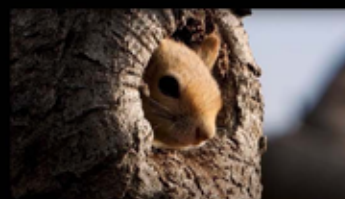


**RED EARS**  
Paul Drey (Germany)

13 years after his civil service in a hospital in Thiès, Senegal, Paul challenges his memories and traumas. With old video footage, interviews and animations he questions his role as a volunteer within the German system of development aid.

**CARPENTER**  
Xelil Sehragerd (Iran)

An old Kurdish man (Hussein Mahmood) who is a carpenter tries to make artificial legs for people who have lost their legs.



**CADÁVER**  
Benjamin Schildknecht Kodboel (UK)

A mortician has found an unusual line of business. He collects the bodies of people who have drowned trying to reach Spain, then repatriating them to their home countries. He firmly believes everyone has the right to be offered a rightful memorial, but being ill with cancer himself, Martín, must reflect on his own legacy.





## Comedy

**Saturday**  
8:10pm - 9:40pm  
Light Cinema 2

**Sunday**  
12:50pm - 2:20pm  
Light Cinema 2



### SUCKING DIESEL

Sam McGrath (UK)

After a bungled robbery, a caustic petrol station owner must decide whether to protect her idiot employee or turn him over to the most dangerous man in Ballybeg.



### HENRY THE FISHMONGER

Matt Roberts (UK)

Minutes before signing the biggest merger deal of his career Tony get's an unwanted call from his useless assassin Henry.



### WHEN DOVES TRY

Thalia de Jong (Netherlands)

A male pigeon courts a female pigeon in this awkwardly familiar dance of attraction, seduction and... disappointment.



### THE CHROMAKEY MAN

William Samaha (Belgium)

Dan always wanted to be an actor, but instead of achieving his dreams, he ends up a chromakey technician on movie sets. Covered in a bright green suit from head to toe, he is stuck in a rut until he gets offered an audition.



### DEAD HEADS

Grant Taylor (UK)

Odd couple of London gardeners, Dex and Jimmy, pay a visit to their terminally ill client James. But is he really dying? Or putting one over on them. Dexter and Jimmy disagree about this. Dex is a people loving optimist. Jimmy is a miserablest who sees the worst in people. Which is right?



### FIGHTING TALK

David Dearlove (UK)

On an East London street, two men engage in a literal war of words.



### TIN FOIL HAT

Ruari Barratt (UK)

A conspiracy theorist subjects his home to a drastic transformation. Made with a one-man crew and over 400 m2 of tin foil.



### GINNY REAPER

Niamh McKeown (UK)

Ginny, a grim reaper, embarks on her first holiday in one hundred years only to be haunted by the actual ghosts from her past.







### SMALL CHANGE

Max Fisher (UK)

A lonely crook accidentally bites off more than he can chew and makes a surprising new friend.

### SUPER, THANKS. YOU?

Simon Allen, Liam Wilson (UK)

It's a normal Monday morning, and HR manager Brian is making coffee in the office kitchen, alone in his own thoughts. Until, Katie, an enthusiastic and slightly irritating girl from the marketing team, engages Brian in small talk.



### DEAD CAT FILM

Josie Charles, Nathan Miller (UK)

A young woman becomes increasingly attached to the taxidermied corpse of her housemate's cat.



### SIGHSCAPE

Duncan Cowles (UK)

Fatigue expressed in an endless sea of content.

### DATE WITH DEATH

Harry Sherriff (UK)

Depressed and recently widowed, Liv agrees to go on a blind date, but when she turns up she's greeted by Death himself. Surely, she won't go home with him?



## Family Friendly

**Saturday**

12:50pm - 2:20pm  
Light Cinema 2



### BOOM

Charles Di Cicco, Gabriel Augerai, Laurie Pereira De Figueiredo  
Romain Augier, Yannick Jacquin (France)



A couple of dumb birds try their best to protect their eggs from a volcano eruption.



### THE INNKEEPER

Paudie Baggott (Ireland)



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

### EXHIBIT A

James Wilkinson (UK)

A mysterious intergalactic art collector has their sights on one of earth's masterpieces. But a plucky security guard ensures it will not be a simple lift.





### CANARY

Benoit Therriault, Pierre-Hugues Dallaire (Canada)

A young boy named Sonny works in an underground coal mine with the adults, taking care of the canary that detects deadly methane gas. He teaches the bird to play dead to prank the men, risking their lives for a moment in the sunlight above.

### GORO GORO

Agatha Tiara Christa, Ryotaro Sawada (USA)

Daigoro, a baby thunder god, dreams of being as powerful as his father. Through his thunderous journey, he realizes that he can achieve his dreams in his own unique way.



### DEAD CAT

Josie Charles, Nathan Miller (UK)

A young woman becomes increasingly attached to the taxidermied corpse of her housemate's cat.



### JELLY

Robin Budd (Canada)

An inspirational urban fairy tale. Should Molly, a fiercely talented artist, pursue her creative passion or work a soul-sucking factory job? She can't decide until she meets a mysterious liquid spirit who takes her on an exhilarating journey of self-discovery and helps make the choice easy.



### BUZZ

Andrew Brand, Bryn Chainey (UK)

On a prairie millions of miles from home, a grumpy space farmer is having trouble with one of her hive: a robot bee called Buzz that keeps going rogue. After failing to reprogram the mischievous bee she follows him into the belly of a volcano and discovers something that will change life on Mars forever.



### THINGS UNHEARD OF

Ramazan Kilic (Turkey)

A little Kurdish girl tries to put a smile back on her grandmother's face after the disappearance of her television, her only window into the world.



## Sci-Fi & Fantasy

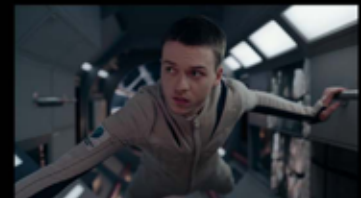
**Friday**  
8:00pm - 9:30pm  
Light Cinema 2



### ALMOST HOME

Nils Keller (Germany)

Having lived on a spaceship with his mother for two years, Jacob's dream of returning home is finally about to come true. But as they close in on Earth, they receive word of a great danger that could put the teenager in mortal peril.





**FLITE**

Tim Webber (UK)

In the semi submerged London of 2053, the reigning hoverboard world champion finds herself imprisoned in a luxury high-rise apartment by her controlling manager. The kindness of a stranger allows her to take flight in a daring and precarious escape - but all does not go as planned.

**BIRDCAGE**

Karel Konings (Belgium)

In a medical facility in 1952 a compassionate nurse tries to save the life of a child with supernatural powers before the cold-blooded doctors put him to sleep.

**RIFT**

Farhad Bakhtiarikish (Sweden)

An unhappy married man who still believes in true love finds himself in a dilemma when meets a woman in a virtual dating app called RIFT.

**VESTIGE**

Joseph Simmons (UK)

A young boy searches for answers when he discovers a strange fossil on a Yorkshire beach and thinks it could be the missing piece to the puzzle of the disappearance of his dad.

**REBORN**

Matthew Rouleau (Canada)

An old man reflects on his past, having spent his entire life within the confines of a spacecraft. He wonders when the time will come for him to find the true purpose of his life.

**Late Night Frights****Thursday**8:00pm - 9:30pm  
Light Screen 2**ODDITIES**

Tyler Savage (USA)

When a drugged-out duo attempts to rob an antique store, they realize the older woman running the shop isn't as defenseless as she seems...

**CATCHING SPIRITS**

Vanessa Beletic (USA)

When she's challenged to face her fear and dance, Destiny makes a decision that could reveal a secret she doesn't yet understand.





### WE FORGOT ABOUT THE ZOMBIES

Chris McInroy (USA)

Two dudes think they found the cure for zombie bites.

### ONLY YOURSELF TO BLAME

Noomi Yates (USA)

When Mai sends her drunk friend Sian home in a taxi, she finds herself being pursued by a shadowy assailant who is copying her every move. Unable to outrun her stalker, she confronts them to discover something deeply unsettling.



### MAGGIE

James Kennedy (UK)

A reclusive old widower lives in a state of decay. Seeing that his health is rapidly declining due to his poor living conditions, a young NHS health worker attempts to remove him from his home and into private care.



### RINGWORMS

Will Lee (USA)

After discovering her boyfriend's plan to propose on their weekend vacation, a young girl undergoes a crisis of commitment which attracts the attention of a sinister local cult.



### DON'T FORGET

Mika Watkins (UK)

A bilingual horror that tells the story of a half-Japanese woman who begins to see her mother's early-onset dementia as a monster that haunts them both.



## Deaf/BSL Supported

**Thursday**  
5:20pm - 6:50pm  
Light Cinema 3



With a blend of drama, animation and comedy we have selected some highlights from this years' festival and curated a programme for our d/Deaf audiences. All the films in this block will be captioned and a British Sign Language interpreter will also be present.



"Spinning" by Sam Spruell  
"Boom" by Charles Di Cicco  
"Deaf" by Eva Libertad, Nuria Muñoz-Ortín  
"Paso Doble" by Heida Reed  
"My Mother and I" by Emma Branderhorst  
"The Snip" by Ben Hyland  
"Nearly Never" by Peter Franklyn Banks

(Opening Night)  
(Opening Night)  
(F-Rated)  
(UK Shorts 5)  
(International 1)  
(Closing Night)  
(Closing Night)

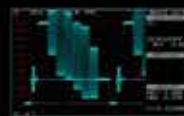






## Panorama 1

Thursday  
Light Cinema 1  
8.00pm - 9.30pm



### EVERYTHING AT ONCE

Henrik Dyb Zwart (Norway)

You've heard it before; that a moment can change your life. As if it's possible to point to single instance when things changed. For Jakob, there's just a myriad of memories, piled up on top of each other. As if everything happened all at once.



### SIGHSCAPE

Duncan Cowles (UK)

Fatigue expressed in an endless sea of content.



### JEREMY: A NIGHTMARE

Harry Sherriff (UK)

An absurd meta horror comedy about a screenwriting tutor whose life is falling apart as his contract comes to an end.

### SCALE

Joseph Pierce (France)

Driving along the motorway, Will loses his sense of scale. As his crippling drug addiction deepens, he struggles to unpick the sequence of events that led to his predicament, before he's lost forever.





### BEAR

Morgane Frund (Switzerland)



An amateur filmmaker who has filmed bears for years, contacts a film school looking for someone to edit his images into a film. A student comes forward. But when she digitises his archive, she discovers that the recordings are not only of bears. A discussion ensues about the power of a gaze and its voyeuristic violence.



### A FOLDED OCEAN

Ben Brewer (USA)

A couple gets lost in each other.



### FAIRPLAY

Zoel Aeschbacher (France)

A teenager in search of recognition, a worker ready to do anything to hit the jackpot, a senior executive at the end of his career who wants to prove to himself that he is still alive. Three characters who are losing speed on the competition highway...



## UK Shorts 1

### Wednesday

4:20pm - 6:10pm  
Light Cinema 2

### Saturday

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



### WHAT WE DID YESTERDAY

Matt René (UK)

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

### BLACKWOOL

Eubha Akilade (UK)

On her first day at a high school in rural Scotland, a London teenager is targeted for her afro hair by cocksure class bully and must harness her inner power.



### MY EYES ARE UP HERE

Nathan Morris (UK)

A disabled woman sets off on a mission to get the morning after pill. The only thing in her way is... everything.







### YELLOW

Elham Ehsas (UK)

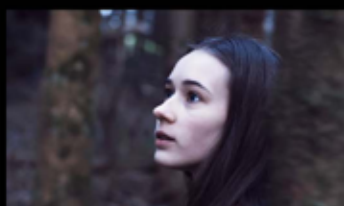
In Taliban controlled Afghanistan, Laili walks into a Chadari store in Kabul to buy her first full body veil and face a new future.



### NOW AND THEN

Harris Alvi (UK)

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



### RUBY

Katja Roberts (UK)



Enigmatic Frank is on a spiritual quest, rejecting society to live freely - an alluring prospect for a restless young girl looking for adventure.



## UK Shorts 2



### Thursday

4:20pm - 5:45pm  
Light Cinema 1

### Sunday

2:40pm - 4:10pm  
Light Cinema 1



### TREE OF MANY FACES

Johannes Magnus Aule (UK)

Anna wants nothing more than to love and to be loved, but when her feelings become unrequited her aching heart falls prey to the powers of the dark.



### TOMMIES

Brian Fairbairn, Karl Eccleston (UK)

In Regency-era London five women waiting for a carriage descend into a frenzy of vicious gossip about a notorious scandal - with devastating results.



### A DISHONOURABLE DEATH

BLOK (UK)

Set in 1837, we bear witness to a gentleman's duel on the outskirts of London, England... A case of mistaken identity, poor timekeeping, injured pride masquerading as honour, a set of incredibly old and a set of unreliable duelling pistols.



### OCRAS

Nick Alexander (UK)

During the 1847 Irish famine, a young boy is pushed to extraordinary lengths to provide for his family.



### THE HERRING GIRLS

Rekha Garton (UK)



Annag is alone, lost, fighting for her sanity. Awake and dreaming, she is drawn to the shoreline, yearning for the deep coastal waters. By day she feels the eyes of The Herring Girls on her as she pulls and tears at the fish alongside them, trying to hide her slipping grasp of reality. Do they know something she doesn't?



### THE LICENSED FOOL

Gareth Bowen (UK)

A travelling court jester, known as The Licensed Fool, begins to unravel when he learns of a sinister motive behind him being hired for an upcoming performance.



## UK Shorts 3

### Friday

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

### Sunday

12:50pm - 2:20pm  
Light Cinema 1



### A90

Olivia J. Middleton (UK)



Annette lives a discontented life working in a road-side cafe, until one day Morgan enters and the pair become immediately transfixed by one another.



### SUZIE

Jimmy Dean (UK)

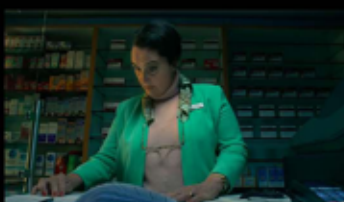
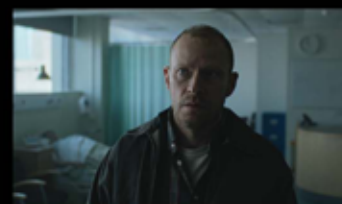
A housewife's daily routine is disrupted.



### MOTHER OF MINE

Jesse Lewis-Reece (UK)

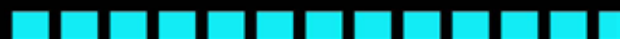
In the midst of a tragedy, David is faced with a burden he can't quite grasp.



### HEADACHE

Johnny Russell (UK)

Ill with flu, Harvey needs some pain relief. What should be a simple transaction at a pharmacy becomes a bureaucratic nightmare when the pharmacist challenges him for this age restricted product.



### THE CALL

Jordan Rossi (UK)



When Amir, a lonely closeted prospective university student, calls Switchboard, the national LGBT+ Helpline for advice, he kicks off a journey of self-discovery.





**FOR MY SON**  
Mathilde Jouaud (UK)



In our world where buying and owning is synonymous with happiness, a mother struggles to buy a video game console for her son's Christmas.



**WHITE ANT**  
Shalini Adnani (UK)

A man is summoned from Mumbai to his village to deal with a termite infestation threatening to destroy his childhood home.



**UK Shorts 4**

**Thursday**  
4:20pm - 5:50pm  
Light Cinema Screen 2

**Saturday**  
4:30pm - 6:00pm  
Light Cinema Screen 1



**SPINNING**  
Sam Spruell (UK)

Robert takes his beloved 3.2 litre saloon for a spin in the neighbourhood. But his world is crumbling, and his car is merely a symptom of male vulnerability and denial.

**IF YOU'RE HAPPY**  
Phoebe Arnstein (UK)

A woman struggles with the pressures of motherhood and uses a childish game at a local baby group to vent her fury, sparking an unexpected chain reaction.



**A DAY IN FEBRUARY**  
Klaas Diersmann (UK)

Galyna works in another country to make enough money for her family to survive and one phone call is all she has to ensure their safety.



**I AND I**  
Samona Olanipekun (UK)

A portrayal of contemporary male identity, which peels back the layers of self. A young man spends a day preparing for his 30th birthday while confronted by his alter ego.



**GEORGE**  
Gregg Chilingirian (UK)

Momentarily distracted from his existential crisis by the enigmatic Kiyoni, 30-year-old George is suddenly forced to confront his past in an attempt to process a life-altering event.





## THURSDAYS

Lorna Tucker (UK)



When a moment of connection offers eighty-seven year old Ivy the opportunity to end her solitude, she grabs at this last chance for love. But Sulma - battling with a very different type of isolation - has her own needs to protect.



## WINNER FIGHTS THE MOON

Lucas Jones (UK)

Having never met his daughter Riley outside of a prison visitation room, Arris is desperate to make up for lost time. In an effort to reconnect with his daughter, Arris promises a long overdue family day at the beach.



## UK Shorts 5



### Saturday

2:40pm - 4:10pm  
Light Cinema 2

### Sunday

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

## PRAM SNATCHER

Theo James Krekis (UK)

In a service station off the A90, a heavily pregnant criminal and her partner-in-crime struggle with the prospect of becoming new parents.



## LEGS

Celine Cotran (UK)

Joy and Harry are trying to have a baby. One night, Joy swallows a spider in her sleep. When Joy subsequently develops an insatiable appetite for flies, it dawns on her that there may be more than one way of becoming a mother.



## THE GROUP

Louise Ford (UK)

How far will a group of women go to get an unsuspecting new parent to join their WhatsApp group?



## PASO DOBLE

Heida Reed (UK)

Liam Riley used to be magnificent, a champion in the world of Latin Ballroom. Now, in his little dance studio, he is stuck managing underwhelming kids and demanding parents - loathing himself more for it each day.



## 7 Minutes

Ricky Gervais (UK)

A desolate train track seems the perfect spot to end it all, until someone else turns up with the same idea. Awkward.





### IN TOO DEEP

Chris Overton (UK)

Mourning the death of his young daughter, a grieving father goes to extreme measures to relive their fondest memories.



### US & IN BETWEEN

Katia Shannon (UK)



Two long-lost lovers in their 80s, Agnes and Eddie, reignite their flame against all odds with hilarious and touching consequences.



## UK Shorts 6

Made Up North



### Wednesday

6:00pm - 7:30pm  
Light Cinema Screen 1

### Sunday

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

### SMOKING DOLPHINS

Sean Lyons (UK)

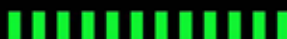
Surely you've heard of Smoking Dolphins?



### SANDSTONE AND CONCRETE

Headspace (UK)

A sepia hewed lament on the history of Bolton town centre filled with dereliction, beauty, hope and optimism from the perspective of a native Boltonian. Looking at where we have been and where we are going through the architecture, brought to life by the filmmakers and musicians at Headspace Bolton.



### STABLE

David Leon (UK)

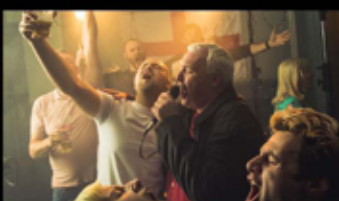
Torn between the overwhelming responsibility of guardianship to his younger siblings and his dream of pursuing the chance to become a professional racing jockey, Conor faces an impossible choice as he attempts to leave behind the life of crime he was born into.



### AKIN

Keaton B MCD (UK)

In a world where everyone has mannequins for mates, Burton has to find his missing 'wife' when he receives the wrong one.



### BURY THE DOGS

Beth Rowland (UK)



When Ant introduces childhood friend Emily to his new and much older friend Tosh, cracks start to show in their longstanding friendship.



### WARM

Alfie Barker, Masego Lynia (UK)



Restricted by the world outside, Malaika and her two children seek temporary shelter in a swimming pool where they find their own freedom in the after-hours, overcoming fear and learning to trust again.



### FOR HEIDI

Lucy Campbell (UK)



Thirteen-year-old Heidi is sent home from school for breaking the rules with a giant blue and black mohawk.



### FIST

Andrew McVicar (UK)



Gordon is determined to die as he has lived - alone. Until care worker Aaron comes knocking. And an intimate encounter alters his life as well as his death.



## UK Shorts 7

### Friday

4:20pm - 5:50pm  
Light Cinema 2

### Sunday

2:40pm - 4:10pm  
Light Cinema 2



### STARLING

Matthew Boyle (UK)

A struggling actress is hired by the Armed Forces to enter into a training exercise. As the grueling role plays demand for pain and suffering, Leah changes the power dynamics of the game, where everyone involved is tested to their limits.

### EMPTY AIRSPACE

Angus Dunsire, Elena Heatherwick (UK)



A documentary chronicling the ups and downs of planespotting in a pandemic. Set against the backdrop of a North-West England in political turmoil and an aviation industry in existential crisis, this film is an intimate portrait of Greater Manchester's planespotting scene.



### ON REST AND MOVEMENT

Riley Bramley-Dymond (UK)

An orchestral violinist abandons music after the death of her mother, a world-renowned soloist.



### EXTENSION

Guy Pearson (UK)

A day in the life of one man and his project.



## THE WITCH'S DAUGHTER

Emma Swinton (UK)



In 1612 Lancashire, the Nowell house is at the centre of the country's most anticipated witch trial. Roger Nowell - a steely Justice of the Peace - has taken in Jennet, the youngest member of an accused family in the hopes of manipulating her into giving evidence.



## BRUSHING OUT THE CURLS

Jason Wingard (UK)

English Defence League member, Tony, is ashamed of his Muslim heritage. His daughter, Tara, is following his route to extremism. Is it too late to save her?



## Animation 1

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

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

## TOMATO KITCHEN

Junyi Xiao (China)

An escaped tomato interrupted Lee's dinner with his colleagues. The dark truth of the Tomato Kitchen along with Lee's hidden past were revealed by this unexpected incident...



## SALUTE TO THE SUN

Darko Masnec (Croatia)



An astronaut in love orbits around the sun absorbing its energy. But the sun is too big, causing their connection to break, and the astronaut must continue on his own.



## THE SONG OF THE FLYING LEAVES

Armine Anda (Armenia)



A journey to a dream through an encounter between Suna, a twelve-year-old girl who uses leaves as a blanket, and an old man who possesses secret knowledge. A reflection on friendship between a father and a daughter, a teacher and a student, an adult and a child, and the path that can turn the impossible into possible...

## EEVA

Lucija Mrzljak, Morten Tšinakov (Estonia)

It's a sad day in Eva's life. The rain is pouring down at her husband's funeral. A woodpecker delivered a message code on the coffin is killed. There is a lot of crying, too much wine, and a couple of dreams that fill in the gaps.



## SCALE

Joseph Pierce (France)

Driving along the motorway, Will loses his sense of scale. As his crippling drug addiction deepens, he struggles to unpick the sequence of events that led to his predicament, before he's lost forever.



## Animation 2

**Wednesday**  
4:40pm - 5:40pm  
Light Cinema 1

**Friday**  
3:00pm - 4:00pm  
Light Cinema 2



### INTRO

Anne Isensee (Germany)



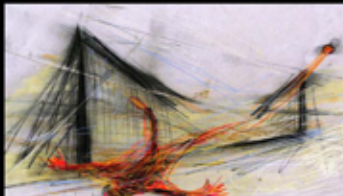
An animated audio film about the audio descriptor Simone who can't make sense of this very film in front of her.



### ANOTHER PRESENCE

Simon Ball (UK)

Another Presence recounts the unique and often curious experiences of people living with dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB), the third most common form of dementia. A multi-sensory condition that can cause dream-like symptoms, it's a condition like no other.



### 11

Vuk Jevremovic (Croatia)

Three masters of football... They can perform wonders during the match and score impossible goals... But what happens in their heads when they are about to take penalty kicks?



### FROM OUR SIDE

Simone Massi (Italy)

History flows, the darkness wets our clothes.



### LIVING WITH IT

Holly Summerson (UK)

Accepting the long-term effects of illness - and making the best of an imperfect situation - are explored through the relationship between two dysfunctional flatmates in this dark comedy animated short.



### FLY

Patty Stenger (Netherlands)



Margot's daughter decides what's best for her old mother. Until Margot herself takes back control of her life. She is going to die anyway, then rather with love and fun.



### TRACE

Asparuh Petrov (Bulgaria)

A young writer dedicates his nights to hunting entangled phrases with his pen. The moment he is confronted with the pregnancy of his wife his world collapses. Lingering fears and painful memories overwhelm him and he needs to trace the missing piece.







### RIP 9-5

Ben Alderman (USA)

A Y2K apocalypse takes place inside of computers as a result of binary code and monopoly capitalism.



### Aaaah!

Osman Cerfon (France)

Aaaah! is a cry of pain, surprise, fear, joy, songs, grumbling, laughter, anger... Aaaah! is the expression with which children, these primary and innocent beings, experience life in a community, framed by the whistles of adults.



## Animation 3



### Thursday

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

### Saturday

1:40pm - 2.40pm  
Light Cinema 1

### A KIND OF TESTAMENT

Stephen Vuillemin (France)

A young woman comes across animations on the Internet that have clearly been created from her private selfies. An unknown female with the same name confesses to identity theft. But death is quicker than the answer to the question: "Why?"



### WHERE'S ORNICAR

Oscar Maso y Guëll Rivet (France)

In a world emptied of its inhabitants, remains a person trying to live like nothing happened.

### THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE STAIRCASE AND THE SKY

Katerina Athanasopoulou (UK)



Ascending a staircase in the centre of Athens makes room for reflection on everyday life, as both otherworldly and mundane. On a planet lit by neon and on a beach powered by cicadas, we twirl into a void measured by walking - one step at a time.

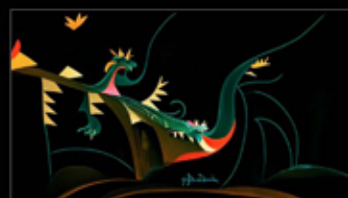


### HEARTBEAT

Kim Spierenburg (Netherlands)



An ode to (new) life. Inspired by the sound of the violin that revives me. Heartbeat is about moving on and how making music is precious and should be cherished. As a disabled artist I have first hand knowledge of the fragility of life.

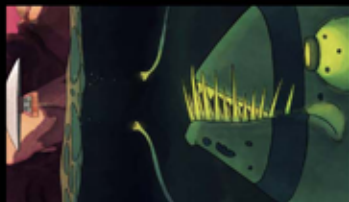


### THE FOX

Martin Garde Abildgaard (Denmark)

Every Friday night a woman is dreaming the exact same dream, where she is followed by a fox. She is desperate and must find deep courage to make it stop.





**RECORD. PLAY. STOP**  
Neeraj Bhattacharjee (India)

We follow a lone probe as it collects music amongst the infinite fields of sounds, in a quest to find its place among the stars. The probe is eons old and has probably outlived its makers. Yet, it still tries to send back songs of the aging universe around it.



**DRIJF**  
Levi Stoops (Belgium)

Jeremy and Aurora are lost at sea. In the vast openness of the ocean they are cooped up together on a small tree bark. As they fail to understand each other's desires and boundaries, the fight for their survival and the survival of their relationship becomes a bloody mess.



**Animation 4**

**Thursday**  
12:20pm - 1:20pm  
Light Cinema Screen 3

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



**THE MIRACLE**  
Nienke Deutz (Belgium)



40-year old Irma goes on a vacation to an all-inclusive resort. Soon after her arrival she realizes the place is meant for young families. Irma has to find her own place in this holiday paradise.



**EXHIBIT A**  
James Wilkinson (UK)

A mysterious intergalactic art collector has their sights on one of earth's masterpieces. But a plucky security guard ensures it will not be a simple lift.



**CURIOSA**  
Tessa Moulton-Milewska (UK)



Curiosa tells the story of overly curious Mary, who visits her boyfriend's flat for the first time, just to discover it's been stripped bare of all personal belongings. After being denied an explanation, she climbs into his head.

**BELTANE**  
Helena Houghton (UK)

A camping trip becomes a nightmare for Josh and Sarah when they kindle the ire of Unseelie Fae.



**HUMAN RESOURCES**  
Isaac Wenzek, Titouan Tillier, Trinidad Plass Caussade (France)

Andy, followed by a friend filming the scene, goes to his recycling appointment. Wanda, the secretary of the company, welcomes him. We follow Andy through the whole process, until his last seconds of life.







### TO THE BRINK

Hugo Dockling (UK)

A violent stop motion cabaret for the cynical and depraved. Guilt, alcoholic apathy and the inevitable, looming apocalypse threaten to push a young man "To the Brink".

### THE LAST BAR

Arne Hain (Germany)

When 21-year old Melvin finds himself on a misty cliff an old lady in a wheelchair appears and pulls him away from the edge into her bar, 'The Last Bar' - a quirky place of misfits. Conflicted about what he wants from his life, Melvin struggles with his inner demons that keep pushing him towards the edge.



## New Arrivals 5

Student Animation

### Wednesday

1:40pm - 2:40pm  
Light Cinema 3

### Friday

1:40pm - 2:40pm  
Light Cinema 3



### OFFERLAMM

Tova Persson (UK)

A sheep writes a letter to his sister whilst being prepared for a ritual.

### TERRARIUM

Sam Richardson (UK)

Created using stop-motion techniques in CG 3D, Terrarium is a short film of a little ecosystem where we peer into a slice of its life and death cycle.



### NOW I'M IN THE KITCHEN

Yana Pan (USA)

When I'm cooking my favorite dish that my mom used to make, my thoughts wander alongside the aroma. Through cooking, I reflect on what it means to be independent and my relationship with my mom.

### BIRTHMARK

Lina Kalcheva (UK)

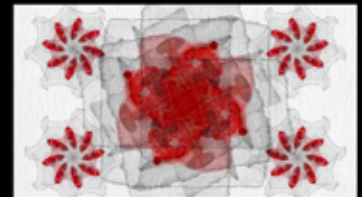
A fancy dinner party goes wrong for Quail, as he attempts to hide his embarrassing birthmark from the other guests, while compulsively mocking them for their own imperfections.



### DON'T FORGET TO TAKE THE MEDICINES ON TIME

Xiaoxuan Han (China)

Due to the severe air pollution in our area, whenever it rains in summer, my rhinitis becomes very serious, bad mood keeps popping up like mushrooms after the rain.



### HILLS FOR THE HEAD

Hyun Kim (USA)

A guy is forced to run by his therapist and faces the physical and mental hurdles of a marathon.

### UNDROWN

Anahí C. Poblete, Hazel F. Guarachi, Sofia A. Hernandez (Chile)



Aurora locks herself up in the bathroom, anguished over her life. She gets into the bathtub and is dragged into a sensory trip, in which she will have to face her fears in an attempt to heal herself.



### THERE IS NOTHING NICE DEEP WITHIN

Fiorella Spitzer (Hungary)

A girl's repressed feelings burst to the surface like devastating fire, destroying reality, forcing her to flee to a subconscious world where she has to face her demons.

### BLESS YOU

Qing Yang (China)



The man and woman fell in a barren mountain. They found a tree on the mountain that would realize their wishes. They kept making wishes to the tree, and finally gradually lost themselves.



### HIS DANCING SHOES

Domhnall Cotter (Ireland)

Elderly widower Patrick, frightened by a new world he cannot understand, hides himself away in his sitting room and fantasises about the days he spent with his wife in dance halls during their youth.

### SCAVENGERS

Melroy Smid, Rogier Sikkema (Netherlands)

Robots & nature live in harmony until an uninvited guest disturbs the balance. The film examines the impact of humans on the environment and their influence on the world.



### INSTITUTION

Cole Morris (UK)

This cinematic animated/shadow puppet film portrays a frightening world of myth, monsters and demons, telling stories of contemporary and historical colonialism, institutional racism, social injustice, social revolt and rebellion.



## Panorama 2

Friday

Light Cinema 1

8.00pm - 9.30pm



### REGULAR RABBIT

Eoin Duffy (Ireland)

With story and visuals purposefully separated, a rabbit battles a comically absurd onslaught of disinformation. He is not the nightmare being told. He is as shown, a regular ol' stupid rabbit doing his usual rabbit stuff! The narrator is full of s#!t!!



### YOUNG HOT BLOODS

Jade Ang-Jackman (UK)



An unassuming seamstress is confronted by an undercover policeman seeking to track down members of the Suffragette movement. An action-packed slice of history delivered with an uppercut to the gut.





### TALL DARK AND HANDSOME

Sam Baron (UK)

He thought he was her first Indian boyfriend. He was wrong.



### OUTLETS

Duncan Cowles (UK)

Unable to move on from the death of his granny, a filmmaker desperately searches for the right film idea that will finally allow him to let go...



### CERES

Amelia Sears (UK)



Set in modern-day suburban Norfolk, Ceres is about the subtle psychological shifts that can often only take place in female spaces, and asks the question, how does one begin to leave an abusive relationship?

### TUULIKKI

Teemu Nikki (Finland)

Tuulikki has a problem. She is in the throes of young love, and the world outside her window is vibrant and inviting. But her mother disagrees, not wanting to let Tuulikki out of her sight.



### VOICE ACTIVATED

Steve Anthopoulos (Australia)

A florist, who stutters, finds his voice when he is forced to cooperate with a voice activated car.



## New Arrivals 1

Postgraduate

Wednesday

4:20pm - 5:50pm

Light Cinema 3



### HALF GUARD

Mark O'Connor (UK)

A Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu instructor has his class disrupted by the late arrival of Israel, a student.



### BEDSHARE

Chanelle Eidenbenz (UK)



Ralph rents out the left side of his bed on AirBnB. Having brushed over these instructions this comes as somewhat of a surprise to his new guest Liam, who's personality soon forces Ralph to contend with his loneliness.



### SULAM

Noam Argov (USA)

When an immigrant teen must help her mother buy a ladder before school, tensions of belonging in a new country bubble to the surface.



### ICK

India Opzomer (Canada)



Anais knows what she wants and it's to lose her virginity on prom night. But mishap after mishap forces her to question her relationship - and even her own desires.



### RINGING ROCKS

Gus Reid (USA)



Anson has planned a trip in the hope of easing his troubled boyfriend Cliff back into everyday life following a harrowing loss and spiral into paranoia. In a paradise that starts to look more and more like hell, Anson undergoes his own eerie awakening.



### GOMORRAH

Aaron John McIntyre (UK)

Romeo and Juliet with black tar veins and star-crossed eyes. Dyksey and Theo chance upon each other, loving every second of their newfound union until it all becomes horrifyingly unfunny. Because after all, these violent delights have violent ends.

### CARRION

Yvonne Zhang (USA)



In an isolated desert motel, a young girl digs up a rotting carcass - and later that night, something long-buried is unearthed in her mother.



## New Arrivals 2

Postgraduate

Thursday

6:10pm - 7:40pm

Light Cinema 2



### A ROADSIDE BANQUET

Peiqi Peng (China)

One day in 2016 China, after the abolishment of the One Child Policy, 11-year-old Mai attends her baby brother's first birthday party and learns a crushing truth: her parents never really wanted a girl. What's worse - she starts turning into a feather duster.



### WETSUIT

Joao Salgado (UK)



In a desolate parking lot bordering the ocean, three young surfers take off one suit and put on another as they go through the rituals of growing up. In this no man's land, we have the ghost of history, of women, of intimacy and the alpha male.





### REVELATION OF JOHN

Andrej Kolencik (Slovakia)

To live one's last days in peace and fulfilment in the company of a loved one. A couple who reject the consumer world, medicine, and eternal rushing of day to day life, paying homage to peaceful old age with a touch of spirituality and intimacy.

### BONA VACANTIA

Shezah Salam (UK)

Council worker Nadia Basheer investigates the homes of Liverpool's recently deceased while battling her own severe death paranoia.



### INVISIBLE BORDER

Mark Siegfried Gerstorfer (Austria)

A deportation in Vienna in the middle of the night. Police officer Nancy and her colleague Albert have the task of evicting a family. Together with a police unit, they ambush an Albanian family without a valid residence permit. The situation escalates and the events of the night leave everyone involved traumatized.



## New Arrivals 3

Student Undergraduate

Friday

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



### BROTHERLY LOVE

Connor Maclaren (UK)

When Jamie learns his older brother Dylan is leaving for good, he'll risk it all to make him stay.



### CARE

Jagoda Tlok (UK)

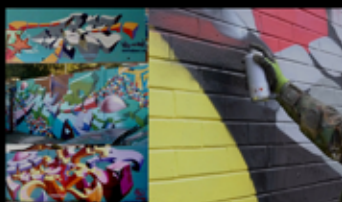
Two care workers from different backgrounds face the challenges of the private British care system and rebel in a way they can afford.



### WATCHER

Ivo Bright (UK)

Raheem's friends spend the day convincing him that there's someone watching and following them. The only hang-up is, Raheem can't see them. As he grows more convinced that his friends are winding him up, they grow more convinced that the 'Watcher' is getting closer.



### THE BUZZ NEVER DIES

Gordon Donkin (UK)

A documentary exploring the history and culture of graffiti, which investigates the fascinating tensions between legalised "street art" and illegal "graffiti".

### RESPEAKING

Rhys Hemming (UK)

A dystopian comedy about a TV subtitler who makes a fatal mistake.





### SCHAMLIPPEN

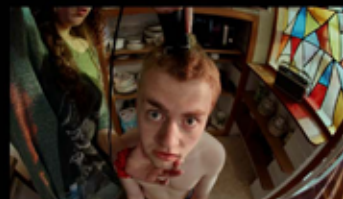
Max James Walker (UK)

In a world obsessed by forever changing beauty standards, Schamlippen offers the newest advice on how to become more beautiful. Beauty indeed is more than skin deep but remember one of the most effective beauty aids is your smile.

### THE COMET

Reuben Harvey (Ireland)

Marco and Sophie plan a get together with friends on the same night as the passing of a fabled "psychedelic comet" which disrupts the party in unimaginable ways.

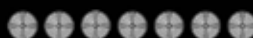


## New Arrivals 4

First Time Filmmakers

Saturday

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



### EAT IT

Katie Lambert (UK)



Break ups are hard to swallow.



### MY BRUDDA

Ntando Brown (UK)

Jamal, a hustler and a recent father, spends his days driving around London in an exquisite car selling fake watches. He wants the world to see him as a success, but as his day progresses we watch as the façade he's created quickly falls apart.

### SPAG BOL

Brick (UK)

Two crime scene cleaners have an unlikely romance while cleaning a double homicide.



### HOME

Luke Brookner (UK)

The story of a young man grappling with his past in care when he's faced with life-changing responsibility. It covers themes of childhood trauma, foster care, loneliness, social injustice and identity.

### COLOURS OF LIGHT

Anthony Beswick (UK)

Haunted by the death of his wife, Edward, a respected professor, debates an old foe regarding the supposed intelligent design of the universe. Is God part of the equation? You decide!



### PERSONAL BEST

Lara Peake (UK)



Connie Wilson dreams of qualifying for the 1979 National squad, yet stood in the way of that is her coach, Sanderson.





# Closing Night

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



## THE BREAKTHROUGH

Daniel Sinclair (USA)

Jane and Teddy are on the brink of divorce - but when their marital problems come to a sticking point, they have an unexpected breakthrough.



## REPAIR

Bertil Nilsson (UK)



Ramin, who is on the spectrum, repairs electronics in his shop, but an embarrassing encounter with Marc at the supermarket forces him to confront the one thing he can't seem to fix: himself.



## ORIGINAL SKIN

Mdhamiri á Nkemi (UK)



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

## DISTRESSING IMAGES

Sam Dawe (UK)

A content moderator for a social media site begins to suspect his young son is hiding violent tendencies when their family pet is mysteriously wounded.



## NEARLY NEVER

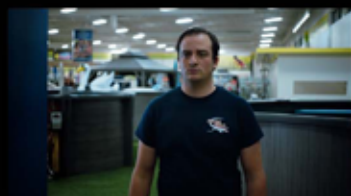
Peter Franklyn Banks (UK)

After suffering a horrific injury, a young amateur footballer suspects he may have been mistaken for another patient, whilst on the operating table of a hospital crumbling under mounting pressures.

## THE SNIP

Ben Hyland (UK)

Tony and Lindsay are looking for a permanent solution to their family's fertility, but for Tony, the simple procedure threatens Tony's masculinity.



## PRO POOL

Alec Pronovost (Canada)

Freshly graduated from his bachelor's degree in history and civilization, Charles-Olivier struggles to find a job in his field and must fall back on accepting a position as a clerk in a pool shop. Feeling down, he navigates his new profession as best he can.

- a The Light Cinema
- b KUDOS Gallery
- c The Holiday Inn
- d Library & Museum
- e Platform 5 Gallery
- f The Travelodge
- g The Hive Gallery
- 1 Hen & Chickens
- 2 Ye Old Man & Scythe
- 3 Northern Monkey
- 4 The Diversion
- 5 Bar 4
- 6 Definitely Maybe

- 7 Amico Cafe
- 8 Odessa
- 9 Taste of Greece
- 10 Sake Shushi
- 11 Jarern Thai Street Food
- 11 Joes Grill House (Portugese)

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