
ASFF Provides a Window onto Contemporary World Cinema

For the fourth year of the BAFTA Accredited Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF), audiences will have the opportunity to engage with films rarely seen in the UK from guest countries Iraq, Japan and Lebanon in a celebration of independent world cinema.

ASFF is renowned for recognising the creativity and innovation of emerging filmmakers from around the world, and supports and champions independent film through its guest country screening programme. These collections seek to explore international creative practice with an impact upon culture, while telling unique stories and ideas through the medium of film.

Celebrating Iraqi filmmaking talent, ASFF has teamed up with [Human Film](#) to present a selection of short films created by Iraqi filmmakers and produced by Human Film. Capturing human experience in war-torn countries, the works are touching, personal accounts of life and growing up. Supporting films with a social conscience, Human Film champions individual creativity and helps rebuild, develop and create a sustainable future for Iraq's film industry.

The Japanese programme, courtesy of [Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia](#) and sponsored by the [Japan Foundation](#) and [The Great British Sasakawa Foundation](#), presents a selection of outstanding short films from Japanese filmmakers, spanning genres in experimental, animation and drama. These films draw upon the rich history and culture, past and present, of Japan and will be contextualised in a panel discussion alongside the initial screening on Friday 7 November. Joining the panel discussion will be Aki Isoyama, Programmer of Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, accompanied by filmmakers from Japan whose work is at the heart of this special screening.

In recognition of Lebanese film culture, [Cabriolet Film Festival](#) presents short films in drama and documentary for ASFF audiences, featuring captivating stories set against the backdrop of Lebanese landscapes. Experience real accounts of Civil War from those directly affected through the documentary strand, and become immersed in compelling dramas about relationships, life experiences and unrevealed truths in the short fiction films. This screening provides a platform for exchange and dialogue across nations and will be introduced by Cabriolet's Founder and Organiser Brahim Samaha.

ASFF also marks the First World War Centenary, as the Yorkshire Film Archive presents *Filmed and Not Forgotten* an presentation of films made just before, during, and after World War I, in communities across the region. Capturing moments in time, these films connect us with the past 100 years on and, in further support, 50% of individual ticket sales will go to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Cherie Federico, Festival Director, comments on the world cinema presented at ASFF: "This year's official selections from our guest countries demonstrate creative brilliance from Japan, Iraq and Lebanon. These screenings are contextualised with panel discussions, making them an invaluable resource from experiencing and appreciating international film culture."

Also, audiences can enjoy guest foreign language programmes from Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival and Kurzfilmtage Winterthur in French and German with English subtitles. A great introduction to independent cinema, the guest country and special screenings are enchanting collections of human experience from across the world in the past and present. Tickets to these events are included in the Festival Pass.

- View and share the **ASFF 2014 Programme**: <http://tinyurl.com/nrrf8sq>
- Watch and share the **ASFF 2014 Trailer**: <http://vimeo.com/107942123>
- **Festival tickets and passes** are available from www.asff.co.uk/tickets
- Join the conversation [@asffest](https://twitter.com/asffest) and www.facebook.com/aestheticamagazine

Notes to Editors:

1. ASFF 2014 runs 6 - 9 November across the city of York
2. Festival website www.asff.co.uk and tickets www.asff.co.uk/tickets
3. BAFTA website www.bafta.org and [CLICK HERE](#) for information on BAFTA short film categories
4. Special events include Yorkshire Film Archive: Remembrance Sunday, Creative England iShorts, guest countries: Iraq, Japan and Lebanon, and official selections from short film festivals: Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur and Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival
5. The Yorkshire Film Archive is a registered charity (no. 1093468) which finds, preserves and provides public access to moving image made in or about the Yorkshire region. YFA also manages the collections held by the North East Film Archive (NEFA), as part of its charitable remit. Visit www.yorkshirefilmarchive.com.
6. Partners and sponsors for the guest country screenings include [Human Film](#), [Japan Foundation](#), [The Great British Sasakawa Foundation](#), [Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia](#), [Cabriolet Film Festival](#). For dates, times and locations visit www.asff.co.uk/tickets
7. Industry events include masterclasses, daily networking sessions, Meet the Film Festivals and Meet the Filmmakers
8. Festivals in attendance: Sheffield Doc/Fest, Berwick Film and Media Arts Festival, , British Urban Festival, Oberhausen Film Festival, London Short Film Festival, Bradford Animation Festival, FlatPack Film Festival, Encounters, Animated Exeter, Beginning Film Festival, Cabriolet Film Festival, Castellinaria, ÉCU – The European Independent Film Festival, Edinburgh International Film Festival, European Animated Film Festival Balkanima, Garden State Film Festival, The Pennine Film Festival Raindance Film Festival, Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, Clermont Ferrand Short Film Festival, Internationale Kurtzfilmtage Winterthur.
9. The festival is produced by Aesthetica Magazine. Visit www.aestheticamagazine.com
10. ASFF's main sponsor is York St John University. Other sponsors include BFI, City of York Council, Arts Council England, The Guild of Television Cameramen, The Great British Sasakawa Foundation, Japan Foundation, Embassy of Switzerland in the United Kingdom, Creative England, Thirteen Thirty One, Brandy Brown's Little Cinema, York Means Business, University of the Arts London, London College of Fashion, Film Hub North, Reel Cinema, Middletons Hotel, The National Centre for Early Music, National Trust, Grand Central, One&Other, York Theatre Royal, City Screen Picturehouse York and Visit York. To see the full list visit www.asff.co.uk/partners

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Screenshot from *Handprint*, 2013.
Directed by Mary Nighy (White Lodge), UK.
Fashion Finalist in ASFF 2014.



Screenshot from *Léthé*, 2014.
Directed by Harald Hutter (Scotland Screen Academy), France/Scotland.
Experimental Finalist in ASFF 2014.



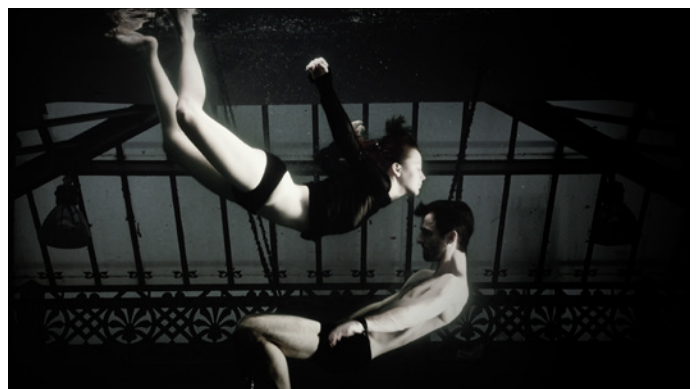
Screenshot from *Birdman*, 2013.
Directed by Sam Clarke & Matt Farrant (Independent), UK.
Documentary Finalist in ASFF 2014.



Screenshot from *Faint*, 2014.
Directed by Natalie Plaskura (Independent), Germany.
Artists' Film Finalist in ASFF 2014.



Screenshot from *Glace Crevasse et Dérive*, 2013
Directed by Albert Girard / Chantal Caron (Fleuve Espace Danse), Canada.
Artists' Film Finalist in ASFF 2014.



Screenshot from *y2o*, 2013.
Directed by Dominique T Skoltz (Skoltz Inc), Canada.
Experimental (Dance) Finalist in ASFF 2014.



Screenshot from *Jim James: State of the Art (A.E.I.O.U.)*, 2013.
Directed by Staci DeGagne & Alexander Fletcher (Clean White Lines Productions), USA.
Music Finalist in ASFF 2014.



Screenshot from *Viviente*, 2013.
Directed by Ivalo Frank (Independent), Germany.
Experimental Dance Finalist in ASFF 2014.