

**The BAFTA Qualifying Aesthetica Short Film Festival
Is Looking for New Filmmaking Talent from Across the World**



Screening of *Stutterer* by Benjamin Cleary, ASFF 2015 Opening Night. Photo: Jim Poyner

Call for entries: 1 December 2015 – 31 May 2016

Entries are open for the 6th edition of the [BAFTA Qualifying Aesthetica Short Film Festival](#), one of the UK's leading short film festivals and most exciting cinematic events. Films 30 minutes' long and under are accepted within all genres: advertising, animation, artists' film, comedy, dance, documentary, drama, experimental, fashion, music video and thriller.

ASFF is a festival that celebrates innovation and excellence in filmmaking and presents many opportunities for industry engagement. It provides a chance for both established and emerging filmmakers to get their work seen by vast audiences, plus some of the world's most acclaimed talents, and connect with festival programmers from the UK and around the world.

2015 was the festival's 5th anniversary, and in that time it has screened over 1,500 films from over 65 countries. The festival received 20,000 admissions across the four-day event, and held over 35 masterclasses and industry sessions with representatives from organisations

such as Channel 4, Rankin Film, Association of Camera Operators and many more, creating a place for discussion and debate while filmmakers shared best practice and gained essential advice.

In 2015 over 300 films were included in the Official Selection, with the majority of filmmakers attending ASFF to connect with peers and industry, expanding their contacts list and gaining further inspiration from the outstanding collection of films in the programme.

For the first time, ASFF hosted a Videotheque in partnership with Explore York where festival-goers could delve into the Official Selection and watch any film. This created a platform for programmers and industry figures to discover new talent. With the majority of films also shown three times during the festival across different venues, ASFF provides multiple ways for films to reach a wider audience.

Prizes for ASFF 2016 include multiple screenings at the festival, eligibility to enter the BAFTA awards, screenings at a number of other festivals and venues as part of the ASFF Film Tour. There are also awards for Best of Fest, People's Choice and Best of Category, plus cash prizes to be won, editorial in Aesthetica Magazine (180,000 readership worldwide) and exposure through ASFF's online channels.

Cherie Federico, Festival Director says: "ASFF 2015 was a great success; the city was brought to life with cinema and it was fantastic to see so many people who are passionate about film and those who work in the industry connect, share best practice and discover new talent. The festival is a great opportunity for filmmakers at all stages in their career to reach a wider audience and showcase their films to a lively and engaged audience. We are really excited about programming ASFF 2016, and look forward to seeing new innovative works."

The winners from 2015 include Petros Silvestros who was awarded Best Thriller and overall Festival Winner, chosen for the incredibly gripping *A Confession*. The fantastic *Acoustic Kitty* by Jennifer Sheridan won the hearts of the ASFF public and took home the People's Choice Award and Best Drama went to Benjamin Cleary for his heartfelt film *Stutterer*. [See all ASFF 2015 winners](#).

- View the ASFF Programme: <http://aestheti.cc/m24ks>
- Share the ASFF Trailer: <http://aestheti.cc/trailer2015>
- Download ASFF Press Images: <http://aestheti.cc/q7ghy>
- Connect with ASFF: [@asffest](#) and [facebook.com/aestheticamagazine](https://www.facebook.com/aestheticamagazine)

Notes to Editors:

1. ASFF 2016 call for entries is open until 31 May 2016 www.asff.co.uk/submit
2. Categories for entry: advertising, animation, artists' film, comedy, dance, documentary, drama, experimental, fashion, music video and thriller. Running time up to 30 minutes
3. ASFF 2016 runs 3-6 November @ASFFest #ASFF2016
4. ASFF 2015 screened over 300 films from 49 countries worldwide, including the USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, China, Brazil, Spain, Italy, Cuba, Switzerland, Germany, UK

5. Special events included Meet the Filmmakers, Meet the Film Festivals, Creative England's iShorts premiere screening and guest country screenings: Cuba, China and Brazil

6. Fashion and advertising industry events were held in partnership with Creative Skillset and included masterclasses with Stephen Whelan from White Lodge and Rankin Film

7. Edinburgh International Film Festival, Encounters, Glasgow Short Film Festival, London Short Film Festival, Raindance, Castellinaria in Switzerland. For the full list see www.asff.co.uk/asff2015/meet-the-film-festivals

8. The festival is produced by Aesthetica Magazine. Visit www.aestheticamagazine.com

9. Partners and supporters include: York St John University, BFI, City of York Council, York Science Park, University of Arts London, Grand Central, Creative England, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Creative Skillset, The Guild of Television Cameramen, Brandy Brown's Cinema, York Museums Trust, Visit York, York Conferences, Riding Lights, Mosaic Events, Firefly, According to McGee, New Visuality, Make it York, York Means Business, Richer Sounds, Transdev, Shooting People, The Advertising Bike Company, Cellhire, BFFF, Tate, Hepworth Wakefield, Popchips, Taylors of Harrogate. See all partners www.asff.co.uk/partners

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