

The BAFTA-Recognised Aesthetica Short Film Festival Opens Today in York



Image: Andrew Margetson, *Lil Buck with Icons of Modern Art* (UK, 2016) ASFF 2017 Dance Film Category

The 2017 edition of Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF) is underway, with international filmmakers arriving in York, ready to discover one of the UK's most exciting site-specific events. **The festival is the largest to date**; the 2017 programme bursts with a dynamic line-up of screenings, masterclasses, networking opportunities and panel discussions from industry leaders such as **i-D**, **BBC** and the **British Film Institute**.

Taking place 8-12 November, the seventh edition includes 300 films screened across 18 unique venues throughout the city, boasting a stunning selection of innovative and creative works from 41 countries. Visitors have the chance to explore a diverse blend of films from those who are pushing the boundaries of the short form.

As an important outlet for moving image and digital culture, ASFF gives audiences a chance to get a first look at several UK premieres from the next generation of talented filmmakers. They can expect to see great performances from some of the best-loved film and TV stars of today including BAFTA winners **Martin Freeman** (*Sherlock*) and **Imelda Staunton** (*Harry Potter franchise*), BAFTA-nominee **Idris Elba** (*Luther*) and everybody's favourite anti-hero **Nikolaj Coster-Waldau** (*Game of Thrones*).

Each film in the Official Selection is eligible to take home a number of awards, including Best in Category and the prestigious Best of Fest award, presented at the Awards Ceremony on Sunday 12 at the National Centre for Early Music. Selected by a jury of industry experts, **previous winners have gone on to achieve further success** including **wins at the Oscars** (Stutterer, Benjamin Cleary, in 2016) and **BAFTAs** (The Bigger Picture, Daisy Jacobs, in 2015). Several films this year have already been shortlisted for the 2018 Academy Awards.

Due for Release: 8/11/2017

ASFF continues to build upon its diverse programming with a collection of exclusive screenings supported by **Iris Prize Festival, British Urban Film Festival and Kraków Film Festival**. The inclusion of these guest programmes more accurately reflects changing attitudes and landscapes around the world, addressing diversity in relations to race, gender, age and sexual orientation, through on-screen representation. Designed to forge relationships with other cultures and communities, the screenings offer a voice and platform to filmmakers from all walks of life.

Festival Director, Cherie Federico says: "ASFF offers something for everyone with such an array of films this year, audiences can truly immerse themselves in the world of independent cinema and discover something new and exciting. Tickets have already sold out for our Opening Night event, where audiences will see the breadth of films on offer and network with fresh talent who are already starting to change the face of the film industry. There's so much happening this year, I can't wait to get started."

For the third year running, ASFF also presents its acclaimed Meet the Film Festivals event. **As the only festival in the UK to offer a complete one-stop shop for filmmakers**, this innovative networking event allows filmmakers direct access to the directors and programmers behind leading UK and international film festivals. Representatives and creatives from **London Short Film Festival, British Urban Film Festival, the European Independent Film Festival** and more provide insight into what they are looking for during this illuminating evening.

Eminent industry leaders **Industrial Light & Magic, Andi Osho, The Association of Camera Operators** and more, are bringing their expertise to ASFF with a series of Masterclasses. The talks present a **rare opportunity for attendees to gain unique insights**, hear top advise and learn about best practices from those shaping the film and television industry today. From directing to production design, animation to funding, the sessions will appeal to those working in film and those wishing to enhance their understanding of the processes and practices involved.

Screening Passes and **Event Tickets** can be purchased online or at the Festival Hub, which is open from 9:00-17:00, each day.

Notes to Editors

1. **ASFF 2017 takes place from the 8-12 of November** in York, UK: www.asff.co.uk
2. **Tickets can be booked online:** www.asff.co.uk/tickets
3. **Masterclasses can be booked online:** www.asff.co.uk/tickets/#masterclasses
4. **ASFF Hub:** Visit York, 1 Museum Street, York, YO1 7DT
5. **Download Press Images:** <http://aestheti.cc/meu3a>
6. **View the Official 2017 Programme:** <http://aestheti.cc/vy5qp>
7. **Share the Official 2017 Festival Trailer:** <http://aestheti.cc.g8nfj>
8. **ASFF genres include:** advertising, animation, comedy, dance, documentary, drama, experimental, fashion, music video and thriller.
9. **All films are in competition for the following awards:** Best of Category, People's Choice, Festival Winner, Northern Film School Award for Best Screenplay
www.asff.co.uk/awards

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10. **The ASFF 2017 Jury include;** Adam Gee (Little Dot Studios), Andrew Fryer (Leeds Beckett University), Christine Morrow (Northern Ireland Screen), Gisli Snaer (London Film School), Isabelle Croissant (HOME), Lydia Beilby (Edinburgh International Film Festival), Matimba Kabalika (BFI NET.WORK), Philip Ison (London Short Film Festival), Philip Sindall (Association of Camera Operators), Robbie Gibbon (Editor), Sarah Ahern (ADIFF) and Stephen Whelan (Pulse Films).
11. **ASFF sponsors and partners include;** Aesthetica, Barley Hall, Belfrey Hall, Bootham School York, British Film Institute, City of York Council, City Screen Picturehouse, Creative England, Creative Scotland, Explore York, Falmouth University, Ffilm Cymru Wales, Firefly, Friargate Theatre, Grand Central Rail, Hereford College of Arts, Hilton York, Holiday Inn, King's Manor, Leeds Beckett University, London College of Fashion, London Film School, Make It York, Marriott York, Middlesex University London, NAHEMI, The National Centre for Early Music, Northern Film School, Northern Ireland Screen, Park Inn York, Plymouth College of Art, RADA, Random Acts, Riding Lights Theatre Company, Safestay, Scottish Film Talent Network, The Smalls, Thirteen Thirty One, University of Lincoln, Visit York, York Conferences, York Explore, York Means Business, York Museums Trust, York Theatre Royal, York St John University, York Theatre Royal. See all supporters: www.asff.co.uk/partners
12. **Aesthetica**, one of the leading arts and culture publications produces ASFF. Showcasing some of the most important artists from around the world at work today, the bi-monthly publication includes in-depth coverage of new artists and exhibitions, photography, film and performance. www.aestheticamagazine.com

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