

FEATURE FILMS & VIRTUAL REALITY: NEW SCREENING EXPERIENCES AT ASFF 2018



The Aesthetica Short Film Festival returns with the most innovative programme to date, reflecting upon new technologies and the next generation of cinematic talent.

ASFF approaches new horizons with its eighth edition. Alongside the annual screening and masterclass programme, with **over 100 events**, the festival showcases **Narrative and Documentary Feature Films** for the first time, pushing the boundaries of cinematic form and celebrating diverse modes of storytelling.

Inclusion of feature-length films followed from the success of ASFF's alumni, including **Francis Lee**, who screened in 2015 as part of the Documentary strand with *The Last Smallholder*. Lee's 2017 feature debut, *God's Own Country*, received international acclaim receiving the Harvey Award at the **Berlin International Film Festival** for LGBT-related films, as well as Best British feature at the **Edinburgh International Film Festival**. Audiences can expect just under **20 Award-Winning Feature Films** to screen across the five-day festival, including pieces from **Arte, The Guardian**, and **Mark Cousins, Director of Stockholm, My Love and The Eyes of Orson Welles**.

Working in partnership with **London College of Communication's Screen School Programme**, ASFF also brings **VR and Immersive experiences to the festival for the first time**. The Screen School goes beyond traditional academic models, designed to bring film and television together with the disciplines of games, animation, sound arts and design and live events. The Lab explores new dimensions and immersive experiences created by some of the world's most innovative filmmakers.

Running alongside our new VR Lab, **ASFF invites you to learn how industry professionals and practitioners are working with new technologies**. These daily discussions consider practical techniques as well as the potential of VR: its role in the future of cinema and its purpose beyond the realm of filmmaking.

Topics for 2018 include:

- VR Broadcasting: The Changing Face of Journalism
- AI and VR: Unprecedented Models
- VR Filmmaking: How to Create a 360° Film
- Financial Models: The Future of VR.
- The Ethics of Illusion: VR in the Everyday

Cherie Federico, Director of ASFF, notes: "The festival is well-known for its aim to expand and engage audience's perceptions of independent storytelling, as well as supporting both emerging and established practitioners to further their careers. This year, I'm delighted that we will be exploring new dimensions and immersive experiences created by some of the world's most innovative filmmakers, whilst also providing new opportunities and unprecedented platforms for the next generation of talent. Not only this, audiences are invited to experience the breadth of independent cinema as a vital and contemplative medium within digital culture."

Notes for Editors:

- **The eighth edition of the Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF) runs 5 days across 18 venues, 7-11 November across York.** ASFF is a major UK and international film festival and an important outlet for moving image and digital culture, creating a platform to champion short film internationally. For a full list of venues and events, [click here](#).
- **ASFF is a BAFTA-Recognised Film Festival.**
- **The Official Selection comprises over 300 films across the short form, VR, Narrative and Documentary Features.** The short form genres include: Advertising, Animation, Comedy, Dance, Documentary, Drama, Fashion, Experimental, Family Friendly, Music Video and Thriller films are within the short form categories. VR, Documentary and Narrative Features are screened separately.
- **Tickets are available via the ASFF Website for One-Day, Two-Day or Unlimited Passes.** [Click here](#).
- **There are over 100 additional events available, running alongside the Official Selection screening programme.** Masterclasses and events tickets are sold separately to festival passes. Find out [more here](#).
- **Pitching Sessions are offered on an application basis.** Successful applicants will be invited to a 15-minute pitching session with a representative from one of the guest organisations. [Find out more here](#).
- **The Screen School VR Lab runs for the full 5 days of the festival.** Each day will alternate between 360 Film (Wednesday, Friday, Sunday) and Immersive or Interactive Experiences (Thursday, Saturday.) Daily VR discussions accompany the Lab.
- **Press images can be downloaded [here](#).**
- **For press accreditation, click [here](#).**
- **The Aesthetica Short Film Festival is hosted by Aesthetica Magazine: www.aestheticamagazine.com**
- **For more information, please contact Hannah Skidmore: hannah@aestheticamagazine.com.**

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