

OPENING WEEK: ASFF RETURNS FOR EIGHTH EDITION



300 Films. 15 Venues. 5 Days.

The eighth edition of the BAFTA-Qualifying Aesthetica Film Festival (ASFF) returns for a spectacular five-day programme, running 7-11 November across 15 venues in York. Presenting films from 45 countries, the festival champions a diversity of voices, introducing audiences to the best new cinema.

Dynamic screenings from 12 short film genres – including Comedy, Documentary and Family Friendly, are accompanied by Guest Programmes from all over the world, including a commemoration of the WWI from Imperial War Museum’s archives, as well as a showcase of female Syrian filmmakers with the Scottish Documentary Institute and BAFTA-winning animations from Chris Shepherd.

The festival pushes the boundaries of new technologies, offering audiences the chance to experience Virtual Reality and 360 filmmaking. The Screen School VR Lab, in partnership with London College of Communication, includes a series of immersive experiences, whilst *THE MOMENT* – a brain-controlled film is situated outside Yorkshire Museum – an installation with 18 billion possible stories.

For the first time, ASFF also welcomes feature films into the competition. Spanning global politics and life-affirming stories, the projects hail from filmmakers whose credits include the BBC, Sky Arts, Tate Modern, *The New York Times*, Cannes Film Festival and Edinburgh International Festival.

Alongside film screenings, a carefully curated programme of 30 masterclasses transform the city into a hive of activity and cultural engagement. Speakers from leading organisations are in attendance at York St John University, Yorkshire Museum and York Theatre Royal to discuss the inner-working of contemporary cinema, including Film 4, BBC, *i-D*, *Vice*, *British Vogue* and Aardman Animation. Also in attendance are award-winning filmmakers and producers including Alice Lowe (*Sightseers*), Matt Greenhalgh (*Control*) and Mark Cousins (*The Eyes of Orson Wells*), who discuss their expansive careers.

Considering the next generation of talent, the festival also hosts showcase screenings with leading film schools, with panel topics including *The A-Z of Making A Standout Short* and *Which Story Do I Tell*. Meanwhile, filmmakers whose credits include Cannes, Sundance and Channel 4 Random Acts pitch projects to financiers from StudioCanal, Curzon, Dogwoof across the five days – celebrating the evolution of film from concept to production.

Notes for Editors:

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- Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF) runs 7 - 11 November across York, UK. www.asff.co.uk
- Screening passes and event tickets can be collected from the ASFF Hub at York Theatre Royal, St Leonard's Place, York, YO1 7HD. Passes will permit access to Showcase Screenings, and events. Masterclass tickets are sold separately. Tickets can be purchased online: www.asff.co.uk/tickets
- The ASFF 2018 Jury includes practitioners from the film industry whose expertise span directing, editing, producing, journalism and film criticism. Jury members are: Aleks Dimitrijevic (The Small Film Festival), Alice Ramsey (Creative England), Emmanuel Anyiam-Osigwe (British Urban Film Festival), Gideon Koppel (Filmmaker), Iain Gardner (Edinburgh International Film Festival), Jackie Okwera (Duck Soup Films), Jaime Estrada-Torres (Editor), Julian Foddy (Industrial Light & Magic), Lauren Houlton (Jerwood Visual Arts), Mike Stubbs (FACT), Niccolò Montanari (Co-Founder of the Berlin Fashion Film), Rebecca Mark-Lawson (Tyke Films), Sheyma Buali (BBC Arabic Festival), and Simran Hans (*The Observer*).
- The ASFF Northern Film School Best Screenplay Jury members are: Annabelle Pangborn (Northern Film School), Dan Weldon (Northern Film School) and Cherie Federico (Aesthetica Magazine).
- The festival is produced by [Aesthetica Magazine](http://www.aestheticamagazine.com), one of the leading publications for Visual Art, Design and Photography. The bi-monthly publication highlights the most important artists at work today, both established and emerging, through detailed features and stunning imagery.
- Connect with the Aesthetica Short Film Festival on social media:
Twitter [@asffest](https://twitter.com/asffest) | Facebook [@aestheticashortfilmfest](https://www.facebook.com/aestheticashortfilmfest) | Instagram [@asffestival](https://www.instagram.com/asffestival)
- Press images can be downloaded here. <http://www.bit.ly/2Ar5pvl>

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