

DISCOVER NEW CINEMA: AESTHETICA'S AWARD-WINNING FILM TOUR



1: Still from *Black Sheep*, Dir. Ed Perkins. 2: Still from *Backstory*, Dir. Joschka Laukeninks. 3: Still from *Wave*, Dir. Benjamin Cleary & TJ Peyton.

The **BAFTA-Qualifying Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF)** has partnered with **BFI Network** and **Film Hub North** to present the **Aesthetica Award-Winning Film Tour**. It is an initiative that encourages positive engagement with independent film, new talent and innovative visual storytelling.

As Cherie Federico, Festival Director, notes: “Great film encourages us to think differently. It enriches our lives and invites us to see the world in a new way. Film is transformative; it has the power to take us to new places, meet new people, experience new cultures and customs.”

The Award-Winning Film Tour explores contemporary social issues, inspiring life stories and beautifully heart-warming narratives across animation, drama, documentary and dance. **The selection includes eight short films. It comprises Oscar-nominated and BAFTA-nominated works:**

- *Black Sheep* – a heart-breaking documentary exposing the face of modern-day racism in the UK. Following the murder of Damiola Taylor in 2000, Cornelius Walker and his family left London in search of a better life, only to be confronted by vicious and often violent attacks. This film was deserving of a triple win at ASFF 2018 as well as being nominated for an Oscar. It was commissioned by *The Guardian*.
- *Wale* – Winner of Best Thriller at the ASFF 2018, as well as receiving Oscar and BAFTA Nominations. When a former young offender looking for a new life starts up his own enterprise as a mechanic, he is given a chance by a stranger with sinister intentions. Barnaby Blackburn bluntly tackles the subject of modern-day racism, discrimination and scapegoating.
- *Wave* – Winner of ASFF’s Best of Fest Award and Best Drama. *Wave* is a humorous yet heartfelt exploration of communication, human connection and loneliness. Directed by Oscar Winner Benjamin Cleary and TJ O’Grady Peyton, the film follows Gaspar Rubicon, who wakes from a coma speaking a fully formed but unrecognisable language leaving him isolated by his inability to communicate.

ASFF believes that cinema should be accessible for all. As such, the Film Tour is available to community groups, film clubs, cinemas and independent exhibitors. **Full programme details:** www.asff.co.uk/aesthetica-film-tour

Notes for Editors:

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- **Press images** can be downloaded here: <http://aestheti.cc/tm-3q>
- **Image credits:** *Double Portrait*, Dir. Ian Bruce; *Black Sheep*, Dir. Ed Perkins; *Backstory*, Dir. Joschka Laukeninks; *Camlo*, Dir. David Moody; *Wale*, Dir. Barnaby Blackburn; *Venus*, Dir. Faye Carr-Wilson; *Wave*, Dir. Benjamin Cleary & TJ Peyton.
- **Presented in partnership with BFI Network and Film Hub North.** View the programme of films here: www.asff.co.uk/aesthetica-film-tour
- **Booking the Film Tour:** The Film Tour is a unique opportunity to showcase a selection of our favourite films from the festival. As part of the tour, audiences can watch new independent cinema from some of the world's most promising filmmakers and one of the UK's leading short film festivals. Bookers and their audiences also receive a 25% discount off festival tickets to join us at the 2019 edition of ASFF (6-10 November). www.asff.co.uk
- **The Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF)** is a BAFTA-Qualifying event which takes place annually in York, UK, at the beginning of November. It is a celebration of independent film from around the world, and an outlet for support and championing filmmaking. ASFF is a hotbed for talent discovery and a key annual event for both emerging and established filmmakers to meet alongside industry professionals. The festival is one of the UK's most exciting site-specific events, showcasing over 400 international films, hosting industry masterclasses, networking events, pitching sessions and panel discussions. www.asff.co.uk
- **The BFI Network** exists to support, develop and champion new filmmakers looking to kick-start their career. Made possible through National Lottery funding, they collaborate with film organisations and leading cultural venues across the UK to provide short film and early development funding, industry-backed professional development and networking support to producers, writers and directors of all ages. www.network.bfi.org.uk/about-us
- **Film Hub North** is a network of organisations committed to fostering a vibrant film culture in the North of England. Distributing National Lottery funds on behalf of the BFI Film Audience Network and BFI Network, they provide funding and training that helps exhibitors expand their reach, develops local filmmaking talent, and ensures that audiences in the North have access to a rich variety of cinema. www.filmhubnorth.org.uk
- The Aesthetica Short Film Festival is produced by *Aesthetica Magazine*, 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.

AESTHETICA
SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

