



Winners Announced: Aesthetica Short Film Festival

Awards Ceremony 2015

The last night of the BAFTA Qualifying [Aesthetica Short Film Festival](#) (ASFF) saw filmmakers and filmgoers alike making their way to the beautiful and historic National Centre For Early Music to find out who has won each category.

After a jam-packed four days of films, networking, panels, masterclasses and sessions, Aesthetica Short Film Festival celebrated its 5th anniversary with a grand finale by announcing the category winners including Best of Fest and People' Choice.

It was an emotional evening, with approximately 200 guests waiting to find out the winning films from each genre.

Petros Silvestros 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 the York Youth Award, an initiative to introduce young people to independent cinema in collaboration with [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#), went to Sam Johnson for the laugh out loud comedy *Billy the Kid*.

Strands such as fashion, advertising and dance showcase the breadth of choice and filmic styles at ASFF. The Fashion Strand attracted a startling number of high quality entries and the competition was fierce with films by top brands such as Ted Baker, Selfridges and River Island.

London-based Creative Agency, White Lodge received the Best Fashion Award for *Pinch Me for Ted Baker* while advertising was won by Simon Emmerson, Andy Russell, Tim Spence and Phil Robson for *The Experimenter*. A tactile and vibrant celebration of substance, *The Experimenter* is a film which is made from the very products it advertises. It's visually stimulating and a beautifully enticing film.

The winner of Best Experimental was *Drifters*, an invitation by director Anu Valia to explore a portrait of a lonely actress. It's a haunting film that stays with the viewer long after it has ended. The Best Dance award went to Tom Rowland for his study of human motion on

film, *Primitive*. Julien Regnard took home the Animation Award for *Somewhere Down the Line*, a warm and illustrative animation depicting a single lifetime, but as seen over the course of one continuous journey.

Best Artists' Film was awarded to the award-winning artist, Shezad Dawood for *Towards the Possible Film* co-commissioned by Film and Video Umbrella and Delfina Foundation, while Dominique Rocher won the Best Music Video for the song *Daughters* by We Were Evergreen. This impressive film is taken in one edit and plays on the progressive overlapping of characters performing in one room.

A poignant, hopeful and visually memorable film *Across Still Water* by Ruth Grimberg won Best Documentary, while the heartfelt, painful and highly affecting *Stutterer* by Benjamin Cleary won Best Drama. The Best Comedy was awarded to Tommaso Pitta for *How I Didn't Become a Piano Player* for its nostalgic look at a young boy who is hopeless at everything, but he's persistent. Eventually he finds a new hobby to fail at.

Celebrating its 5th Anniversary, BAFTA Qualifying ASFF is a leader for film culture across the UK. ASFF is quickly becoming one of the strongest British film festivals, cementing its position by bringing together filmmakers, industry and audiences.

Over 20 masterclasses were held by major film organisations, including Channel 4, Association of Camera Operators, Rankin Film and speakers including director Tim Pope whose credits include *The Crows: City of Angels* and Oscar and BAFTA winner *The Last King of Scotland*.

ASFF is a festival for discovery; it's an event which encourages its attendees to try something new, step out of their comfort zones and experience new cinema.

[Meet the Film Festivals](#) event took place in the stunning surrounds of Middletons Hotel and brought together programmers from Dublin Film Festival, Edinburgh Film Festival, London Short Film Festival, Castellinaria in Switzerland, ECU in Paris and more leading to new collaborations and providing an opportunity for filmmakers to meet those behind some of the world's most acclaimed film festivals.

ASFF's very first Videotheque delighted festival-goers with an opportunity to experience the entire programme in one location. Held within the recently refurbished Explore York, this new festival resource invited ASFF pass holders to delve into the Official Selection catalogue plus special line-ups.

With special premieres and programmes from Creative England's iShorts, and guest country screenings from Cuba, Brazil and China, the festival brought together different cultures and experiences whilst promoting and celebrating the art of short filmmaking.

The fifth edition of ASFF welcomed thousands of visitors to the city including a diverse mix of industry professionals, young families, film fans, students, tourists and more, some travelling from as far afield as Brazil, USA, Canada and Australia.

For Immediate Release

Cherie Federico, Festival Director, says: "ASFF 2015 screened over 375 films, we increased our masterclass selection and through our programming we invited participants to experience the breadth of new cinema being produced. This year's selection has been the biggest yet, and has represented 49 countries. Looking back, the past five years have been incredible and I am looking forward to the next. We are truly excited to open for entries for ASFF 2016 in December, and hope to see some familiar faces alongside new filmmakers and attendees at next year's festival."

For Press Images see: <http://aestheti.cc/qusu1>

Notes to Editors:

1. ASFF 2015 ran 5 - 8 November across the city of York. Visit www.asff.co.uk and [@asffest](https://twitter.com/asffest) and www.facebook.com/aestheticamagazine
2. ASFF 2015 screened over 375 films from 49 countries worldwide, including USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, Chile, Spain, Italy, Brazil, Switzerland, France, Germany and the UK.
3. ASFF 2015 categories: advertising, animation, artists' film, comedy, dance, documentary, drama, experimental, fashion, music video and thriller as well as a Family Friendly Programme.
4. It featured the premiere of Creative England iShorts as well as screenings by guest countries: Cuba, Brazil and China.
5. Industry delegates include representatives from Channel 4, Warp, Rankin Film, Ridley Scott Associates, Oscar and BAFTA Award Winning VFX giant Framestore (*Gravity*, *Guardians of the Galaxy*), Association of Camera Operators (*Star Wars*, *James Bond*) RADA, *Little White Lies* and more. See www.asff.co.uk/tickets
6. Meet the Film Festivals attendees include: Edinburgh International Film Festival, Encounters, Glasgow Short Film Festival, London Short Film Festival, ECU, Castellinaria in Switzerland. For the full list see www.asff.co.uk/asff2015/meet-the-film-festivals
7. The festival is produced by Aesthetica Magazine. Visit www.aestheticamagazine.com
8. 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, Cellhire, Tate. See all partners www.asff.co.uk/partners

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