

For Immediate Release

ASFF | AESTHETICA
SHORT FILM
FESTIVAL

BAFTA
RECOGNISED FESTIVAL
BRITISH SHORT FILM

Official Selection and Trailer Announced for the 7th Aesthetica Short Film Festival



Image: John Sheedy & Andre Lima, *Mrs McCutcheon* (Australia, 2017) ASFF 2017 Comedy Film Category

For the seventh year, the **BAFTA-recognised Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF)** is pleased to announce its **Official Programme and Trailer for 2017**. As a festival of discovery, audiences are invited to indulge and excite their imaginations at one of the UK's premier events.

Taking place 8-12 November, this year's programme is ASFF's greatest to date bursting with an additional day of screenings and special events. Throughout the festival, **300 films and over 30 industry-led sessions will be hosted at 18 iconic venues across the city of York**, including medieval townhouse Barley Hall, the recently refurbished York Theatre Royal, the award winning National Centre for Early Music and York's own home of independent cinema, City Screen.

Visitors can experience unique storytelling first-hand from filmmakers around the world, gaining insights into cultures and subject matters previously outside the realm of their experience, as the **Official Selection cuts across 12 categories**, including advertising, animation, artists' film, comedy, dance, documentary, drama, experimental, fashion, music video and thriller.

Across five days, festival goers can expect to see several UK premieres and great performances from some of the best-loved film and TV stars, including **BAFTA winners Martin Freeman** (*Sherlock*, *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*) and **Imelda Staunton** (*Vera Drake*, *Harry Potter* franchise), **BAFTA-nominees Idris Elba** (*Luther*, *Thor: Ragnarok*) and **Toby Jones** (*Tinker Tailor Solider Spy*, *Berberian Sound Studio*), **HBO's favourite anti-hero Nikolaj Coster-Waldau** (*Game of Thrones*, *Headhunters*) and much loved comedians **Rob Brydon** (*The Trip*, *Gavin & Stacey*) and **Tasmin Greig** (*Episodes*, *Black Books*).

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This year's Official Selection also includes several innovative shorts from Yorkshire filmmakers, alongside exciting screenings from the Northern Film School at Leeds Beckett University and York St. John University. Holding talent development at its core, **ASFF is a hotbed for discovering emerging creatives** and is a key event for meeting with industry professionals. Previous ASFF alumni have gone on to collaborate with some of the world's most acclaimed talents or achieve further success with wins at the **Academy Awards, BAFTAs and Sundance Film Festival**, including West-Yorkshire born filmmaker Francis Lee, whose directorial debut *God's Own Country*, won Best Director at Sundance and the prestigious Michael Powell award at last year's Edinburgh Film Festival.

Eminent industry leaders will present Masterclasses, from influential organisations such as **BBC, Industrial Light & Magic, The Association of Camera Operators** and the **British Film Institute**. These 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, these sessions will appeal to those working in film, but also to those wishing to enhance their understanding of the processes and practices involved.

Filmmakers in attendance will have multiple opportunities to expand their professional network and promote their own work in a relaxed and informal setting. Returning this year is the ever-popular **Meet the Film Festivals Marketplace**, where attendees can also connect with representatives behind leading UK and international film festivals. Delegates include directors and programmers from **London Short Film Festival, Edinburgh International Film Festival and more.**

Audiences are invited to **celebrate the diversity and breadth of cinema at Guest Programme screenings**, showcasing remarkable narratives that accurately reflect changing attitudes, people and landscapes around the world, both in-front and behind the camera. **Supported by Iris Prize, British Urban Film Festival (BUFF) and Kraków Film Festival (KFF)**, the diverse screenings will cover a range of subject matters from groups typically under-represented on the big screen, introducing the audience to new voices and untold stories.

ASFF prides itself on being a festival for all, encouraging viewers of all ages to create their own unique experience and expand their imaginations. The return of **Family Friendly Screenings** and **Cinema Bambino** mean that all the family can enjoy their festival experience together at these carefully curated screenings.

Festival Director, Cherie Federico comments: "For the first time in seven years, ASFF will run across five days presenting us with even more opportunities to showcase the incredible talent that is constantly reinventing the art of filmmaking. The festival is well known for its aim to expand and engage audience's perceptions of independent storytelling and I'm looking forward to welcoming festival goers to the seventh edition, which is bursting with fantastic events and screenings."

Screening Passes and Event Tickets can be booked online and collected from the ASFF Hub, Visit York, 1 Museum Street, York, YO1 7DT **from 7 November.**

- **View the Official 2017 Programme:** <http://aestheti.cc/vy5qp>
- **Share the Official 2017 Festival Trailer:** <https://vimeo.com/233845798>

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- **Connect with Aesthetica Short Film Festival on:**
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Notes to Editors

1. **ASFF 2017 takes place from the 8-12 of November** in York, UK: www.asff.co.uk
2. **Screening Passes and Tickets** can be purchased online: www.asff.co.uk/tickets
3. Screening Passes will also permit access to Showcase Screenings.
4. **ASFF genres include:** advertising, animation, comedy, dance, documentary, drama, experimental, fashion, music video and thriller.
5. Each screening will last approx. 1-2 hours.
6. **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
7. **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).
8. **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
9. **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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