

**Call for Entries: 8<sup>th</sup> BAFTA-Recognised Aesthetica Short Film Festival 2018**



Image: Chris Hailes, *Philip Knight*, (UK, 2017) NAHEMI Showcase Screening & Panel Discussion

The **BAFTA-Recognised Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF)** has announced it is open for entries for its eighth edition. A dynamic addition to the international film festival circuit and one of the UK's leading premier events, ASFF is a platform for innovation and originality, offering new perspectives in the medium of film.

**As an important outlet for moving image and digital culture**, ASFF invites both emerging and established filmmakers to showcase their work that tell both universal and personal stories. Welcoming short films up to 30 minutes, categories are varied and include: advertising, animation, artists' film, comedy, dance, documentary, drama, experimental, fashion, music video and thriller.

Opening the mind to longer-form stories, for the first time, the 2018 festival is **accepting narrative and documentary feature film submissions**, over 60 minutes. Narrative films can exist within the realms of extended stories – comedy, drama, and thriller, for example – and for Documentary, this includes features that hold a mirror up to society. Bringing forth unique visions of our world, cultures, lives and loves, the inclusion of features is an exciting opportunity for filmmakers to stretch their imaginations to the limit.

**Cherie Federico, Festival Director, says:** “The decision to include the feature film strand was inspired by previous ASFF alumni, who had their beginnings right here in York. Previous ASFF filmmakers have **gone on to achieve further success**, including wins at the Academy Awards (*Stutterer*, Benjamin Cleary, 2016), and BAFTAs (*The Bigger Picture*, Daisy Jacobs, 2015). It's a unique opportunity to show audiences what happened next, where they are today and showcase the incredible work they continue to produce.”

Firmly establishing ASFF's position at the forefront of the festival circuit, next year's event will also explore game changing forms of storytelling, **opening submissions up to virtual reality (VR) projects**. The fully immersive experiences, simulate reality

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first-hand, transporting audiences into replicated environments they can interact and connect with.

**All films in the Official Selection are in competition to receive a number of awards**, including; Festival Winner, People's Choice, Northern Film School Award for Best Screenplay, York Youth Award, and Best in Category. Additional prizes include; eligibility to enter the EE British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA); multiple screenings at ASFF 2018; inclusion in the ASFF Film Tour, and editorial coverage in Aesthetica Magazine and on Aesthetica's online channels.

Recently named as a **festival of national significance by the British Film Institute (BFI)**, ASFF is a major hub for the industry, attracting today's film world practitioners keen to talent spot and meet filmmakers who are creating original and compelling work. Festival programmers have previously selected ASFF films to screen at other international festivals, leading to several high-profile collaborations. Masterclasses taking place throughout ASFF aim to bring together leaders from across the film sector, offering filmmakers the opportunity to hear directly from those shaping the industry, **enabling them to expand their professional network** and explore talent development opportunities.

**ASFF 2018 will take place 7-11 November**, across the city of York. Last year's festival programme included over 300 films from 40 countries worldwide, featuring several UK premieres, and attracting over 24,000 admissions.

**Entries are open until 31 May 2018.** For more information or submission guidelines visit: [www.asff.co.uk](http://www.asff.co.uk)

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For quotes, images and interviews please contact Hannah Skidmore, Marketing Coordinator on 0044 (0) 1904 629 137 or email [hannah@aestheticamagazine.com](mailto:hannah@aestheticamagazine.com)

### Notes to Editors

1. Submissions are open until 31 May 2018: [www.asff.co.uk/submit](http://www.asff.co.uk/submit)
2. Entry guidelines can be found here: [www.asff.co.uk/submit/guidelines](http://www.asff.co.uk/submit/guidelines)
3. The Aesthetica Short Film Festival 2018 will take place 7-11 November 2018.
4. ASFF genres include: advertising, animation, comedy, dance, documentary, drama, experimental, fashion, music video and thriller. (Running 30 minutes).
5. ASFF will also be accepting the following submissions in 2018:
  - a. Virtual Reality (VR) projects
  - b. Narrative & Documentary Features (running 60 minutes or more)
6. Press images can be downloaded here: <http://aestheti.cc/meu3a>
7. ASFF 2017 screened over 300 films from 41 countries worldwide, including USA, Canada, Australia, Croatia, Iceland, Spain, Italy, Qatar, Brazil, Switzerland, France, Germany and the UK.
8. See the ASFF 2017 winners: <http://aestheti.cc/qow4r>
9. Watch the Official ASFF 2017 trailer: <http://aestheti.cc.q8nfi>

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10. The Aesthetica Short Film Festival is organised by Aesthetica, one of the leading arts and culture publications. Showcasing some of the most important artists from around the world at work today, the bi-monthly publication (worldwide readership of 322,000) includes in-depth coverage of new artists and exhibitions, photography, film and performance.

[www.aestheticamagazine.com](http://www.aestheticamagazine.com)