

THIS YEAR'S STRANDS: CURATING CINEMA FROM HOME



(Left to Right) 1. *Common Questions* / Dir. Jessica Boston. Part of the Official Selection 2020. 2. *The Desert* / Dir. Daghtski. Part of the Official Selection 2020. 3. *Hard to Know* / Dir. Alice Holstead. Part of the Official Selection 2020.

ASFF will launch six innovative, inspiring and inclusive strands as part of its extensive 10th anniversary online programme, which takes place 3-8 November. These expertly curated strands – comprising short and feature-length films – will be released to virtual passholders from 8am daily, and will be available via the festival's online viewing library until 30 November.

The six strands this year focus on individual themes, chosen to raise important questions about the world we live in today:

- *Just Another Day on Earth* (Released 3 November)
- *Humans and their Environment* (Released 4 November)
- *Connections: People, Places and Identity* (Released 5 November)
- *Breaking Down Barriers* (Released 6 November)
- *Reclaiming Space: Universal and Personal* (Released 7 November)
- *Keep on the Sunny Side of Life* (Released 8 November)

Just Another Day on Earth

Perhaps now more than ever, we are aware of the way in which humans interact with each other. This strand, through showcasing films from all genres, considers the ways in which humans create a home for themselves, forge relationships and expand each other's visions.

Humans and their Environment

How do we maintain a sense of home and belonging in a changing world? This is the question posed through a series of short films and one feature-length film, with audiences presented with stories that present new perspectives, reflecting back on the 21st century.

Connections: People, Places and Identity

This strand interrogates the intricacies of human bonds, be them good, bad and everything in-between. Through a mix animation, comedy, and non-fictional storytelling, themes of love, death, separation and memory are brought together,

Breaking Down Barriers

At a time where global divides are etched deeply into our daily existence, it's important to challenge preconceptions of normality and the boundaries set up to keep up apart. These short films are an extension of this mission.

Reclaiming Space: Universal and Personal Narratives

This strand boasts short and feature films with the power to unify, understand and permanently alter perceptions that have built on years of misrepresentation. These are thought-provoking films that urge audiences to connect and understand the human condition.

Keep on the Sunny Side of Life



Animation, drama, comedy, and documentary films that provide a much-needed tonic at a time where the world seems so vastly out of our control. These are sure to uplift, energise and inspire across a range of short forms and genres.

Notes for Editors:



For press information please contact **Kate Simpson, Assistant Editor**, kate@aestheticamagazine.com
Images are available to download here: asff.co.uk/press.

- **About the Festival:** The Aesthetica Short Film Festival is one of the UK's leading film events founded in 2010. It is a unique gathering point for filmmakers, industry delegates and audiences. This year, ASFF marks its 10th Anniversary Edition with an extended six-day festival, running virtually from 3-8 November, in association with Film Chief. All content, including all films and events, are available On Demand until 30 November.
- **The Film Programme:** This year's festival features over 300 works in the Official Selection across 12 short film genres. ASFF presents an extensive and diverse programme, with works participating from around the world. This year's Official selection will be released as part of six daily curated strands from 3-8 November, titled *Just Another Day on Earth*; *Humans and their Environment*; *Connections: People, Places and Identity*; *Breaking Down Barriers*; *Reclaiming Space: Universal and Personal Narratives*; and *Keep on the Sunny Side of Life*.
- **Guest Programmes and Showcase Screenings:** This year's extensive Guest Programmes include specially curated screenings from 13 organisations. Key topics and themes include *Defining Gay Cinema*, *Tales from Isolation*, *Documenting Modern Britain*, *Indigenous Cinema*, *I Still Can't Breathe* and *The Future of AI*. Showcase Screenings offer films from 9 of the UK's leading institutions including London College of Communication, London College of Fashion, Arts University Bournemouth, Regent's University London, University of York, York St John University, University of Lincoln, Falmouth School of Film and Television and Ravensbourne University.
- **Live Industry Events:** ASFF boasts one of the biggest and most exciting industry programmes in the UK, with over 100 masterclasses, spotlights, panel discussions, networking opportunities and pitching sessions. Key speakers include Andrea Arnold (*American Honey*), Sarah Gavron (*Suffragette*), Sam Feder (*Disclosure*) and Paul Franklin (*Inception*), as well as delegates from BBC, Film 4, Industrial Light & Magic, Dazed, Compulsory, Nowness, Framestore, Birds Eye View, Storyville, Short of the Week, Potboiler Productions and more.
- **Industry Marketplace:** A virtual meeting place with over 40 exhibitors including distributors, film festivals, universities and more. Access is open to all pass-holders. asff.co.uk/industry-marketplace.
- **Tickets, Events & Passes:** Unlimited Screening Passes, Week Passes, 24-Hour Passes and Film Only Passes are available. Prices start from £25 and cover an entire household. To book your ticket, visit asff.co.uk/tickets.
- **Press Credentials:** ASFF offers journalists an unparalleled opportunity to immerse in a cinematic playground for the duration of the festival, taking advantage of our both live and on demand events. To register for accreditation visit: asff.co.uk/press or email kate@aestheticamagazine.com.
- **The Aesthetica Short Film Festival is produced by Aesthetica Magazine**, one of the UK's leading publications for contemporary art and culture. aestheticamagazine.com.
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