



ASFF 10TH ANNIVERSARY: 2020 HEADLINE SPEAKERS



(Left to Right) 1. Still from *Disclosure*, dir. Sam Feder. Courtesy of Netflix. 2. Still from *American Honey*, dir. Andrea Arnold. 3. Russell Tovey in *Years and Years*.

The Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF) has expanded its renowned Industry Masterclass programme to include some of the most inspirational and diverse directors, producers, actors and screenwriters working today. Spanning a range of genres and crafts, this strand of speakers offers exclusive, coveted advice across all fields of filmmaking.

ASFF is thrilled this year to spotlight some of the most prestigious and unique female voices in British and international filmmaking. First up, BAFTA, Oscar and Cannes prize-winning director Andrea Arnold will be dissecting her enduring, groundbreaking oeuvre, from *Fish Tank* to *American Honey*, with *Birds Eye View* founder Mia Bays (Friday 6 November, 19:00). Fresh from making one of the most impressive British films of the last decade, *Rocks* filmmaker Sarah Gavron shares wisdom on her collaborative approach to making the film (Wednesday 4 November, 19:00).

Meanwhile, actress, performer and director Josephine Decker will be speaking to audiences about her rise to indie filmmaking prestige, from early films like *Butter on the Latch* to *Madeline's Madeline*, and her recent biopic of Shirley Jackson starring Elisabeth Moss (Thursday 5 November, 19:30). Those seeking a better insight into Sam Feder's work in activism and filmmaking can also enjoy a special session with the *Disclosure* director, with the discussion focusing on the practice and the importance of informed representation (Thursday 5 November, 17:00).

For those working in front of the camera, budding actors can enjoy coveted insights from Russell Tovey (Tuesday 3 November, 18:30), who will be tuning in to talk about his craft that has been finessed during his work on notable British television series *Years & Years*, *The Good Liar* and *Being Human*. Tovey has been a leading face in the British film and television for over 15 years, and will be sharing the intricacies of some of his most notable roles, whilst speaking about his acclaimed podcast *Talk Art*.

Animators have a host of industry talks to enjoy, from *Isle of Dogs* and *Corpse Bride* animator Anthony Farquhar-Smith (Thursday 5 November, 16:00) to stop-motion maestro Tim Allen (Saturday 7 November, 17:00). Non-fiction filmmakers can hear first-hand experience from *Seahorse* filmmaker Jeanie Finlay (Saturday 7 November, 18:00) and Channel 4's factual Commissioning Editor Will Rowson (Tuesday 3 November, 17:30).

For those approaching filmmaking for the first time, ASFF presents tailored masterclasses for each stage of your process, from concept level (*Realising a Vision: The Production of Cinema*, Wednesday 4 November, 17:30) to getting it greenlit (*Inspirational Cinema: A Commissioner's Guide*, Wednesday 4 November, 12:00) to leaving your mark on a viewer (*Groundbreaking Content: Engaging Your Audience*, Tuesday 3 November, 17:00).

Masterclasses will run live on the dedicated industry channels, 3-8 November. All sessions will be recorded and available On Demand. For a full list of masterclasses available, [click here](#).



Notes for Editors:



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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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