

## DAME JUDI DENCH TO SPEAK AT ASFF 2020

ASFF is thrilled to announce that British actress Dame Judi Dench will be joining the festival's renowned masterclass strand to discuss her esteemed career on stage and screen.



(Left to Right) 1. Still from *Skyfall*, dir. Sam Mendes. 2. Dame Judi Dench (c) PA. 3. Still from *Philomena*, dir. Stephen Frears.

In a year that will see some stellar talents from both behind and in front the camera speak, **Dame Judi's must-see masterclass (8 November, 16:00)** is a fitting way to bring this truly special 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the ASFF to a close.

With a body-of-work that stretches back to 1957, when she left drama college to play Ophelia in a production of *Hamlet* at the Old Vic, Dame Judi's wealth of experience has seen her work with some of the world's most acclaimed directors. Among her many collaborators stand **Clint Eastwood (*J. Edgar*)**, **Tim Burton (*Mrs. Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*)** and **Joe Wright (*Pride & Prejudice*)**.

On stage, Dame Judi has won a Tony on Broadway in 1999 for her role in *Amy's View* and a record eight Olivier awards, most recently for *A Winter's Tale*. In the cinema, she has been equally feted, receiving seven Oscar nominations, beginning with her role as Queen Victoria in *Mrs. Brown*. In 1999, her turn as an imperious **Queen Elizabeth I in *Shakespeare In Love* saw her win the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress.**

After coming to the British public's attention in the 1980s in the television sitcom *A Fine Romance*, co-starring with her late husband Michael Williams, Dame Judi gradually moved into film, notably in the Merchant-Ivory production of *A Room With A View* (1985). Four years later, she featured in Kenneth Branagh's film version of *Henry V*, cementing an indelible relationship with the actor-director that has seen them collaborate on everything from *Hamlet* to this year's *Artemis Fowl*.

Internationally, **Dame Judi became known to millions for playing James Bond's superior M. First playing the role opposite Pierce Brosnan in 1995's *GoldenEye***, it was a part she would go on to play seven times, concluding with the character's dramatic demise in 2012's *Skyfall*. Away from Bond, she has worked multiple times with Stephen Frears, Richard Eyre and John Madden, each yielding her **two Oscar nominations apiece.**

Still regularly performing in front of the camera, **Dame Judi will next be seen in World War II thriller *Six Minutes To Midnight***, co-written by and co-starring Eddie Izzard, and *Blithe Spirit*, a new adaptation of the Noël Coward play with Dan Stevens and Isla Fisher. She also recently wrapped on pan-European comedy *Off*



*the Rails*, with Kelly Preston, and is currently filming *Belfast*, a highly personal tale and directed by Kenneth Branagh.

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To book your ticket, visit [asff.co.uk/tickets](https://asff.co.uk/tickets).



## Notes for Editors:

For press information please contact **Kate Simpson, Assistant Editor**, [kate@aestheticamagazine.com](mailto:kate@aestheticamagazine.com)

Images are available to download here: [asff.co.uk/press](https://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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](https://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](https://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](https://asff.co.uk/press) or email [kate@aestheticamagazine.com](mailto: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](https://aestheticamagazine.com).
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