

MAXINE PEAK AT ASFF 2020: A DIVERSE AND EXPANSIVE CAREER

ASFF is delighted to announce that British actress Maxine Peake will be joining the festival's industry masterclass programme to discuss her unique career in television and film.



(Left to Right) 1. Still from *The Theory of Everything*, dir. James Marsh. 2. Still from *Black Mirror - Metalhead* dir. David Slade. 3. Maxine Peake (c).

Maxine Peake began acting in her teenage years, joining the Octagon Youth Theatre in Bolton before enjoying a spell at the youth theatre of the Royal Exchange in Manchester. She later studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, where she was awarded the Patricia Rothermere Scholarship. Her efforts to find sponsorship to study at the renowned drama school were even the subject of a 1996 documentary by *The South Bank Show*.

Her early forays into television included a recurring role as Twinkle in the popular sitcom *Dinnerladies*. She later starred in Channel 4's award-winning *Shameless*, from celebrated writer Paul Abbott. During this time, she also gained critical acclaim for her role as Moors murderer Myra Hindley in *See No Evil: The Moors Murders*, co-starring with Sean Harris.

Peake has twice been nominated for a BAFTA for Best Actress, initially for her role in *Hancock & Joan* (2008), in which she played Joan Le Mesurier opposite Ken Stott as iconic comedian Tony Hancock. She followed that with a second nomination for Peter Moffat's series *The Village* (2013).

On film, Peake featured in the stellar British ensemble for *Red Riding: The Year of Our Lord 1980*, one of three films adapted from the books by David Peace. She reunited with her *Red Riding* director, James Marsh, on his Stephen Hawking drama ***The Theory of Everything*, which was nominated for five Oscars**. In 2017, she took the lead in *Funny Cow* to huge acclaim, playing a stand-up comedian. A year later, she collaborated with Mike Leigh in *Peterloo*, his drama about the Peterloo Massacre. Peake has also ventured behind the camera, directing two shorts: *Shattered* (2017) and *Time Away* (2018), and the BBC4 documentary *The Last Testament of Lilian Bilocca*, telling the true story of the eponymous activist, the leader of the so-called 'headscarf revolutionaries' who campaigned for improved safety in the fishing industry.

Peake was most recently seen in the hugely-acclaimed BBC production of Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads* – as Miss Fozzard, the role originally played by Patricia Routledge – and on the big screen in Thomas Clay's much-admired period tale *Fanny Lye Deliver'd*. She has also narrated *Transmissions: The Definitive Story*, an eight-episode podcast about the history of seminal Manchester bands Joy Division and New Order, which launches on October 29.



For ASFF's essential masterclass (4 November, 14:00), Peake will be accompanied by award-winning producer Mia Bays (*Scott Walker: 30 Century Man, Six Shooter*), as she reveals the inspirations and choices that have led to her remarkable body-of-work. Tickets to ASFF start from £25 and cover an entire household. To book your ticket, visit asff.co.uk/tickets.



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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