

## WOMEN IN FILM: PIONEERING TALENT AT ASFF 2020

ASFF marks its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition with an increased focus on female filmmakers. We welcome a number of female directors, producers and commissioning editors to share their insights.



(Left to Right) 1. Still from *Suffragette*, dir. Sarah Gavron. 2. Still from *American Honey* dir. Andrea Arnold. 3. Still from *Clemency*, dir. Chinonye Chukwu. All directors speakers at ASFF 2020.

The Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF) marks its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition this year with an increased focus on female filmmakers. The ASFF is delighted to welcome a number of female directors, producers, commissioning editors and more who will be joining the masterclass strand of the festival to share their insights into the industry.

Showcasing a diverse array of talent from both Britain and abroad, among the guests will be **Maryam Mohajer** (3 November, 10:30), the Iranian-born animator and filmmaker who won the BAFTA for best animated short in 2020 for her film *Grandad Was a Romantic*.) **Gail Egan** (4 November, 17: 30), the producer behind some of British cinema's most acclaimed films, including *The Constant Gardener* and *Vera Drake*, will be on hand to discuss her work from green-lighting projects to realising a director's vision on screen. **Dionne Farrell** (4 November, 12: 00) is a development executive at BBC Films, the production company behind *Billy Elliot*, *We Need to Talk About Kevin*, *Philomena* and *Stan and Ollie*. During her masterclass, she will offer up invaluable advice about the practicalities of pitching projects in the industry.

ASFF will also be joined by a number of acclaimed female directors, hosted by **Bird's Eye View Director Mia Bays**. Among them, the hugely exciting **Chinonye Chukwu** (6 November, 17:30), whose second film *Clemency* won the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival in 2019. **Andrea Arnold** (Friday 6 November, 19:00), the director of *Red Road*, *Fish Tank*, *Wuthering Heights* and *American Honey*, will also take a look back at her remarkable career in film. **Philippa Lowthorpe** (8 November, 13:30) will also join Bays to talk about her impressive credits, from *The Crown* to the recent film *Misbehaviour*.

Hosted by Primetimes, **BAFTA-winning filmmaker Sarah Gavron** (Wednesday 4 November, 19:00) will be on hand to share her insights into her films *Brick Lane*, *Suffragette* and the recent *Rocks*, as well as discussing the need for greater representation and diversity both in front of and behind the camera. Away from fiction filmmaking, ASFF will turn its attention to the documentary form, with award-winning director **Jeanie Finlay** (7 November, 18:00), whose work includes the Emmy-nominated *Game of Thrones: The Last Watch* and *Seahorse*.

The world of fashion filmmaking will also be examined through **Ruth Hogben** (7 November, 15:00), who has



worked with such leading brands as Fendi, Dior and Louis Vuitton and global mega-stars like Lady Gaga. She will present a masterclass on the principles of fashion film as a form of expression. And for those fascinated by the craft of the cutting room, **BAFTA-winning editor Kristina Hetherington** (6 November, 11:30), whose work includes *Birdsong* and *Red Joan*, will also offer a must-see masterclass with practical advice about technique in narrative storytelling.

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://aestheticamagazine.com).



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