

PITCHING SESSIONS AT THE 2021 AESTHETICA FILM FESTIVAL



Developing a new short or feature project? Looking for advice on developing your big idea? Our Pitching Sessions are your chance to get in front of key decision-makers from the UK's leading film companies.

This year, the Aesthetica Short Film Festival continues to place talent development centre stage. Meet one-to-one with the Development Executives from the likes of Film4, Goldfinch First Flights, BBC Film, *Guardian Docs*, Film Wales and Doc Society. Successful applicants are invited to a 15-minute, 1-on-1, Pitching Session with a representative from one of the guest organisations, which include:

BBC Film (Narrative)

BBC Film is at the forefront of independent filmmaking in the UK, developing and co-producing feature-length productions. Committed to developing new talent, it collaborates with some of the foremost writers and directors, with new releases including Ken Loach's *Sorry We Missed You* and Joanna Hogg's *The Souvenir*. BBC Films was awarded the BAFTA for Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema.

Guardian Documentaries (Documentary Shorts)

Guardian Documentaries is a home for independent talent, commissioning and supporting creatives to tell the untold stories of real people. Projects include Ed Perkins' Oscar-nominated *Black Sheep* and Roxy Rezvani's *Little Pyongyang*. The commission looks for filmmakers with innovative ideas for access-driven stories, shedding light on underrepresented and unheard communities.

Goldfinch First Flights (Narrative Shorts)

First Flights is an incubator for first-time feature film directors and producers, supporting each individual to create financially successful features and launch their international profiles. The First Flights team is adept at



spotting emerging creative talent, working with individuals to produce their first feature. Goldfinch has worked with Gary Oldman, Anjelica Houston, Bill Nighy and Sam Riley.

The Talent Decade (VR & 360 Projects)

The Talent Decade is a joint pitching opportunity devised between Sheffield Hallam University and Aesthetica Short Film Festival and is launching for the first time at this year's 2021 festival! This initiative will involve young people (16-25) who are eligible to apply for a grant of £500 towards a VR project. The prize money will be awarded to the winning individual or team.

Film 4 (Narrative)

Film4 is Channel 4 Television's feature film division, developing and co-financing projects from the most distinctive talents in the UK and rest of the world. Academy Award-winners include Martin McDonagh's *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*, Steve McQueen's *12 Years a Slave* and Danny Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire*, with recent releases including Andrea Arnold's *American Honey*.

Scottish Documentary Institute (Doc Features)

Scottish Documentary Institute specialises in documentary training, production and distribution, supporting filmmakers through a diverse programme of high quality training programmes. It has produced over 100 films, screening in 60 countries, garnering recognition as being at the cutting edge of the documentary sector. Bridging art and industry, it is committed to film driven by the emotional experience.

BBC (Scripted Television Drama)

Jess Loveland is Head of New Writing at the BBC, working across the BBC Writersroom and Drama Commissioning teams. Jess oversees all new writing talent development initiatives and ensures there is a strong pipeline of new writers and stories emerging onto the BBC Drama development slate. She can advise on scripted television drama projects that offer vibrant new stories.

Studiocanal (Narrative Feature Proposals)

STUDIOCANAL is Europe's leader in production, distribution and international sales of feature films and TV series. STUDIOCANAL has fully financed box office hits *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, *Paddington 1 and 2*, and *Shaun the Sheep Movie*. Upcoming films include Will Sharpe's *The Electrical Life of Louis Wain*, starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Claire Foy, and *A Boy called Christmas*.

Doc Society (Documentary Features)

The BFI Doc Society Fund works to support and develop storytellers from all parts of the UK, backing feature and short creative documentaries with bold cultural and social ambitions. Founded in 2005, it is committed to enabling great documentary films and connecting them to audiences globally. Hannah Bush Bailey works across the funds feature slate and Made of Truth Short Scheme.

Ffilm Cymru Wales (Narrative)

Ffilm Cymru Wales is the development agency for Welsh film, dedicated to advancing and sustaining a strong film industry for Wales. It does this by providing funding and training to emerging and established Welsh filmmakers, offering exciting cinematic experiences to audiences across Wales, engaging people of all ages and abilities in creative learning and developing new skills and careers.

You must purchase an ASFF 2021 festival pass in order to apply for pitching sessions. You can submit one pitching application per pass. To find out more about passes, visit: asff.co.uk/tickets



Notes for Editors:

For press information please contact **Kate Simpson, Associate Editor**, kate@aestheticamagazine.com, or visit: 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 11th edition with an extended six-day festival, that runs in-person, online and hybrid, in York from 2-7 November, and virtually 2-30 November.
 - **The Film Programme:** This year's festival features over 300 works across short and feature film, virtual reality and immersive experiences. ASFF presents an extensive programme, with works participating from around the world. This year's Official selection will be organised as part of six curated strands, titled *How it Was*, *How it is*, *How it Will be*; *Humanity on the Edge*; *When Life Gives You Lemons, Make Lemonade*; *Pleased to Meet You*; *Mirror, Mirror*; and *Nobody's Free Until Everybody's Free*.
 - **Guest Programmes:** This year's Guest Programmes span vast distances, with focuses including South Africa, Indonesia, Iraq, Afghanistan and China, from T A P E's centring of female filmmakers of Islamic heritage, to We Are Parable's celebrations of Black filmmaking. Docs Ireland demonstrates how a divided past continues to shape Northern Irish culture, whilst Directors Notes offers a provocative take on identity politics, and ASFF screens a three-part programme commemorating 9/11.
 - **New Wave:** ASFF is the only festival in the UK that offers a dedicated strand celebrating graduate filmmakers. This is your chance to see work by fresh talent and to meet the visionaries who will shape the future of film.
 - **Live Industry Events:** Every year, we welcome industry leaders from a range of disciplines to speak about their craft. This year, we welcome acclaimed editors, directors and actors such as **Sally Potter**, **Nicolas Chaudeurge**, **Maxine Peake**, **Gamba Cole** and **Francis Lee** as well as leading practitioners across more than 50 masterclasses.
 - **Industry Marketplace:** Returning to ASFF for the third year, the Industry Marketplace finds a new home in both a live and virtual space, welcoming more than 40 exhibitors from leading exhibitors, including production services, film festivals, screen agencies and renowned universities. A unique platform in the UK, the Industry Marketplace offers a vital platform for practitioners to make connections and uncover opportunities. asff.co.uk/industry-marketplace.
 - **Tickets, Events & Passes:** In-Person, Hybrid and Virtual Passes are available. Prices start from £25 and cover an entire household if attending virtually. 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 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.
 - **Connect with ASFF on social:** [Twitter @asffest](https://twitter.com/asffest) | [Facebook @aestheticashortfilmfest](https://facebook.com/aestheticashortfilmfest) | [Instagram @asffestival](https://instagram.com/asffestival)
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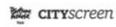


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