

# ASFF 2021 PREVIEW: NOBODY'S FREE UNTIL EVERYBODY'S FREE



**There's a long way to go to establish true quality. *Nobody's Free Until Everybody's Free* is the final strand at ASFF 2021, exploring how cinema can connect us in a divided world.**

Segregation, racism, marginalisation and discrimination are systemic issues deep-rooted within society, built into many individuals' daily experiences. We're all complicit in building a new kind of world based on fairness and justice, where any two individuals are given equal opportunities and viewed in the same way. The sixth and final strand of ASFF 2021, *Nobody's Free Until Everybody's Free*, tackles this head on.

Drama features prominently in this strand, with four reels on offer. *When Will Be Belong?* explores the notion of outsiders, whether it's in *Tea*, about a young Polish woman living in a British seaside town, or *Lessons from Our Fathers*, dealing with issues of bullying. The second reel *Good for You* – which includes three vibrant films from Canada – takes on shifting dynamics and the way characters reject the many ways in which society has been built to keep them down.

In *Freedom*, filmmakers examine what freedom feels like and what are the steps we need to take towards it. Audiences will find a variety of voices, whether its refugees fleeing from Calais to Dover in *The Tunnel* or the story a tragic miscarriage in *To All My Darlings*. The fourth drama reel, *Rule Breakers*, embraces the beauty in difference, as filmmakers from the UK, Norway, Germany, Israel, and Belgium transcend barriers, both physically and metaphorically.

For those seeking a window onto reality, documentary reel *In the Spotlight* brings together an eclectic programme of shorts that embrace comedy, animation, and drama. Under the microscope comes an array of provocative topics, from capital punishment in *Last Meal* to the pandemic in *E14*. Documentary feature *Beijing Spring* also plays in this strand. Directed by Andy Cohen and Gaylen Ross, the focus is a group of self-taught artists (including a young Ai Weiwei) that championed freedom of expression during the Cultural Revolution.

This theme continues in fashion reel *Forms of Resistance*, a series of twelve short films that span the genres of dance, documentary, narrative and fantasy, weaving together stories about gender, beauty, isolation, and the transient nature of life. Audiences will marvel as a devilish dinner party comes together in the Canadian short *Chokehold* and find resonance in *A Circle Line Train*, a story of a young woman who looks to make her way in the city of London.



**In venue, strands will be screened across a variety of days, whilst, virtually, strands will be released daily and accrue throughout the course of the live festival week. The 2021 Aesthetica Short Film Festival runs in-person from 2-7 November and online from 2-30 November. Tickets start from £25. [asff.co.uk/tickets](https://asff.co.uk/tickets)**



## Notes for Editors:

For press information please contact **Kate Simpson, Associate Editor**, [kate@aestheticamagazine.com](mailto:kate@aestheticamagazine.com), or visit: [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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 is organised into six 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](http://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](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 [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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