

# FILM CURATION AT ASFF: HOW IT WAS, HOW IT IS, HOW IT WILL BE



This year's Official Selection Film Programme is organised into six strands, curated by theme and topic. We preview Strand 1: *How it Was, How it Is, How it Will Be*.

There are some moments in time that define who we are and what we will do next. There are so many things that connect us as human beings, right here and now on planet Earth. Collective experiences are so precious, and they bind us together. Sometimes, it's the small things in life that matter the most: learning to ride a bike, your first kiss, first relationship and, similarly, first heartbreak. *How it Was, How it Is, How it Will Be* encompasses 11 film programmes.

Those with a taste for comedy will be well served with *Own Worst Enemy*, a collection of films featuring people who are exactly that, ranging from the pompous to the impatient. Arriving from the UK, Ireland, USA, and Spain, these six shorts include *A Few Miles South*, directed by Ben Pearce and starring acclaimed actor Toby Jones on a wintry expedition. The documentary reel *Roadblocks* is a highly affecting series of six films that look at hopes, dreams, uncertainty, memories and mental health. Also in this strand are two feature-length documentaries. Queen Li's *Bipolar (2021)* looks at a young woman journeying across China, whilst Charles Todd and Devin Amar's *Buddy Guy (2021)* focuses on the titular musician, who went from sharecropper to one of the most influential guitarists of all time.

Drama can be found in *Truth Is All We Got*, comprising six films that explore the subtle, and indeed not so subtle, breakdowns in trust. *New Realities*, meanwhile, looks at change and people fighting to create it, from communities standing up for what's right to generations paving the way for those to come. Amongst the films is Aniel Karia's award-winning *The Long Goodbye*, starring Riz Ahmed. Thrill-seekers can also find their kicks in *Monsters Within*, a selection of films to suit true horror aficionados and those looking for something truly unique.

Dance reel *Where Am I Going?* drops audiences in new environments, asking 'Do we want to inhabit change or escape them?' The medium of animation will also prove the perfect place for *The Mind Is A Complex Place*, taking audiences on an emotional rollercoaster, from *Heart of Gold*, where a mother spies an opportunity to



escape her poverty-stricken life by selling her organs to a wealthy neighbour, to *Her Song* which sees a young girl learn the history of her grandmother.

**In venue, strands are screened across a variety of days, whilst virtually, they will be released daily, 2-7 November.**

**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](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 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 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](https://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](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 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).
  - **Connect with ASFF on social:** [Twitter @asffest](https://twitter.com/asffest) | [Facebook @aestheticashortfilmfest](https://facebook.com/aestheticashortfilmfest) | [Instagram @asffestival](https://instagram.com/asffestival)
-

Aesthetica

Est. 1841 | YORK  
ST JOHN  
UNIVERSITY



ual • london college  
of communication



ual • london college  
of fashion



HIVACK

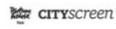


Sheffield  
Hallam  
University



SPARK\*  
Y O R K

York Museums Trust



RIDING  
T H E  
A T  
T E  
R  
E  
L I  
G H T S

