

FILM CURATION AT ASFF: HUMANITY ON THE EDGE



This year's Official Selection Film Programme is organised into six conceptual strands, curated by overarching themes, issues and topics. We preview Strand 2: *Humanity on the Edge*.

To say it has been a challenging time is an understatement. There are not enough words in the English language to truly articulate everything that is happening around us. From seismic issues like the climate crisis and Covid to human rights and women's safety. There have been a range of multi-faceted and complex crises, which will not stop or magically disappear. It's an idea that has become redundant. ***Humanity On The Edge*** encompasses nine film programmes in a variety of genres, each exploring the idea that there is no more 'normal'.

Moments of Loss uses the medium of animation to look at the personal relationships that we all have and inevitably lose, as these thought-provoking shorts consider what loss truly means. Past trauma, nostalgia and amnesia also form the backbone for ***Reflections***, a collection of documentary shorts facing such modern issues as displacement, terrorism, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Comedy comes to the fore in ***A Surreal Trip***, which invites audiences to explore the surreal, strange, and downright odd, using laughter to find comic relief in off-kilter worlds and situations. Laughs will also be found in ***We Determine***, which moves from awkward strangers meeting in the park to characters taking control of their lives.

Other highlights include ***Losing Me Losing You*** and ***Real Eyes*** in the drama programme, with films that force us to let go of our biases and prejudices, featuring characters that stand up to systemic racism and uncomfortable environments. From films like ***Triangle*** to ***The Journey***, these narratives are deeply affecting and consider what it means to belong. Meanwhile, youngsters in peril becomes the focus of ***The Kids Are Alright?***, a series of shorts set in the thriller genre. Hailing from France, Canada and the UK, these innovative films include ***TNT***, set during the Paris riots of 2005, and the eerie ***Once Familiar***, which sees a young girl confronted with her mirror



image. Also presented is **Martin Garde Abildgaard's** feature-length film *A Beautiful Curse*, which explores getting to know someone from the inside out. The film stars Mark Strepan as Samuel, a photographer who sneaks his way onto a mysterious island to find everyone in a deep slumber.

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, 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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