

DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES: GUEST PROGRAMMES AT ASFF



Images: 1. LOVE SPELL, Lauren Vevers. UK, 2020, 10:00. 2.TO THE GIRL THAT LOOKS LIKE ME, Ewurakua Dawson-Amoah. USA, 2019, 05:00. 3.TO BE WITH YOU. Elliott Feliciano, USA, 2019, 19:35.

Cinema is an empathy machine – a space where we engage, connect and see the world through the eyes of others. ASFF invites curators from across around the world to meet our audiences through film.

This year’s Guest Programmes are as wild, weird and wonderful as life itself. Spanning vast distances, with focuses including South Africa, Indonesia, Iraq, Afghanistan and China, this strand also includes myriad reflections on our own country. Complex perspectives on intersectional British identity are everywhere, **from T A P E’s** nuanced centring of female filmmakers of Islamic heritage, to **We Are Parable’s** celebrations of Black filmmaking.

Many of these programmes respond directly to recent history. **Docs Ireland** demonstrates how a divided past continues to shape Northern Irish culture, whilst **Directors Notes** offers a provocative take on identity politics. Meanwhile, our three-part programme exploring the legacy of 9/11 feels painfully timely, considering the recent events in Afghanistan. How do we remember traumatic events? And what happens when those memories fade?

Meanwhile, **Mother Tongue: Decolonising Cinema**, **Bounce Cinema** presents a selection of shorts celebrating the breadth of world cinema today. Discover bold stories from around the globe that explore identity, humanity and the pressures of living in the world in 2021. **Oska Bright, the world’s biggest learning disability film festival**, addresses the fact that disabled people make up only five per cent of the off-screen workforce in film and TV.

Since the first Aesthetica Film Festival in 2011, we have had the privilege of screening thousands of shorts from all over the world. This includes the likes of **BIFA-winning Rose Glass** (director of the 2019 sensation *Saint Maud*), **Scottish BAFTA award-winner Duncan Cowles** (*The Lady with the Lamp*, *Soft Toffee*, *Radio Silence*) and **Prano Bailey-Bond**, whose debut feature film, *Censor*, screened at Sundance



Film Festival. This year, we celebrate these filmmakers through a special strand titled ***Stars of the Future***.

To view a full list of this year's Guest Programmes at ASFF, [visit asff.co.uk](https://www.asff.co.uk).



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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