

RISING STARS & INDUSTRY GIANTS: HEADLINE SPEAKERS AT ASFF 2021



This year, the Aesthetica Short Film Festival is set to welcome some incredible headline speakers, including Sally Potter, Francis Lee and Maxine Peake, as well as the creators of *Sex Education* and *Supernova*.

On Friday 5 November, acclaimed writer-director **Sally Potter** will re-examine her body of work, from *Orlando* to *The Party* and the recent *The Roads Not Taken*. **Gerard Johnson**, director of *Tony*, *Hyena* and *Muscle*, will be joined by Jason Wood (Home) to discuss his movies, representations of masculinity and the importance of music in his cinema, Thursday 4 November, Wood will also lead a conversation with emerging filmmaker **Harry Macqueen** (Friday 5 November), whose second movie *Supernova*, with **Colin Firth** and **Stanley Tucci**, drew rave reviews.

The art of documentary filmmaking and the future of the form in the wake of COVID-19 will also be under discussion, with Jeanie Finlay joining the festival on Friday 5 November. The acclaimed documentarian's work includes *Seahorse*, *Orion* and *Games of Thrones: The Last Watch*. The BAFTA and **Oscar-winning** filmmaker **Asif Kapadia** (Sunday 7 November, 12:00), will discuss his documentary work creating portraits of **Diego Maradona**, **Amy Winehouse** and **Ayrton Senna**.

For those fascinated by performance, there is also a chance to hear the insights from rising actor **Gamba Cole** (Friday 5 November). Cole is perhaps best known to audiences for his role as Malcolm in **BBC's *Soon Gone: A Windrush Chronicle***, though he is set for a standout year in 2021, starring in **Stephen Merchant's new film *The Outlaws* opposite Christopher Walken**. **BAFTA -and BIFA-nominated actress Maxine Peake**, whose acclaimed work includes *Red Riding: The Year of Our Lord 1980*, *Funny Cow* and *Peterloo*, will also join us for a wide-ranging conversation session, discussing acting as authorship and the secrets of empowered storytelling. The session takes place Thursday 4 November.

Meanwhile, the *ASFF Close Up* series will also offer audiences the chance to explore the work of distinct and rising voices in British cinema. **Francis Lee**, the director of *God's Own Country* and *Ammonite*, will explore the way shorts impacted on his cinematic vision (Saturday 6 November). Finally, **Alice Seabright**, who has written



and directed episodes of *Sex Education*, will be on hand to discuss her journey into the industry, Saturday 6 November.

Masterclasses will take place both in-person and while run live on the dedicated industry channels, 2-7 November. All sessions will be recorded and available On Demand. For a full list of masterclasses available, [click here](#).

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.



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