

ASFF 2021: WINNERS ANNOUNCED



The winners of the 11th Aesthetica Short Film Festival were announced 7 November 2021, with a jury of leading industry experts – from BBC, Scottish Doc Institute, *British Vogue* and more.

ASFF 2021 has announced its winners, handing out awards to some remarkable and thoroughly deserving new voices in cinema. This year, four titles took multiple prizes. **British filmmaker Alfie Barker's *Hangin' On***, a stirring docu-drama about neighbourhood and community, was awarded Best of Festival, as well as Best Documentary. Community was a theme also central in ***Bank Job* by Daniel Edelstyn and Hilary Powell**. The Best Documentary Feature explored predatory economic systems.

Wang Yuyan's mesmerising experimental short *One Thousand And One Attempts To Be An Ocean*, a reflection of the experience of being unable to see the world with the luxury of depth perception, was awarded both Best Editing for its sensational collage of aquatic images and the prestigious Hijack Visionary Filmmaker Award. Meanwhile, **Maria Martinez Bayona's *Such Small Hands***, a disquieting tale set in a girls' orphanage based on the novella by Andrés Barba, took home Best Thriller and Best Cinematography for the chilling, atmospheric work of **Director of Photography Krzysztof Trojnar**. **Taiwanese director Ta Pu Chen** came to the Official Selection with the full-length drama ***The Cleaner***, a beguiling story of group who make their livings by hosing down death scenes – but also helping the families and friends of the deceased overcome riffs and arguments. A unique familial drama that addressed life's biggest issues, it won Best Screenplay and Best Narrative Feature.

The liberating nature of physical expression featured strongly in **Joshua Ben-Tovim and Roseanna Anderson's *BLAST***, which won Best Dance. **Leah Vlemmiki's *Tesafy*** was awarded Best Music Video, and also used dance, narrative and documentary to tell the story of Witch Prophet's late grandfather, who raised five daughters as a single father in Ethiopia. Two other winners explored the trials and tribulations of blue-collar work. Winner of **Best Drama, *See You Garbage!***, by Romain Dumont, followed three garbage collectors as they receive a surprising dinner invitation. Similarly, **Frédéric Schuld's *The Chimney Swift***, which claimed Best Animation, sees a British chimney sweeper describe his everyday routines.

Issues of discrimination come to the fore in **Michelle Williams Gamaker's *The Bang Straws***, winner of Best Experimental, as it touched on the politics of studio films in the 20th century. **Awarded Best 360 Film, Joséphine Derobe's *Meet Mortaza*** follows an asylum seeker as he flees Afghanistan because he was sentenced to death by the religious authorities, a narrative that feels utterly relevant in light of recent events in the country. **Elisha Smith-Leverock's *Rejoice Resist*** took the Best Fashion prize for its celebration of Black pleasure as the ultimate form of resistance. **Fiona Jane Burgess' commercial *North Face X Gucci presented by Highsnobiety*** won Best Advertising,



turning the lens on a new generation of birdwatching enthusiasts. Furthermore, **Aleksander Johan Andreassen's *Centarium*** – winner of the Best Artists' Film – watched mannequins come to life. **David Dearlove's black-and-white *Taj Mahal presents...A Short Film*** claimed Best Comedy. Starring esteemed actor Phil Davis, it was a masterly four-minute swipe at the very genre of short films.



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 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.
- **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](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.
- **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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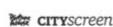


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