

WELCOME...

You are all so very welcome to this year's extra special edition of London Breeze Film Festival. Not only have we turned ten, but we have curated the largest and punchiest festival of our decade. Selecting 160 films from the 700+ submitted, we are determined to give as many emerging filmmakers from the UK and around the Globe as we can the opportunity to share their work with our audience, be it in cinema or on our bespoke digital festival platform, Breeze Online. With this year's themes: Resistance, Resilience, Remember, Reimagine and Community - inspired by the films submitted- the programme speaks to the global concerns of the day with creativity, forthrightness, humour and an unblinking lens. Join us in cinema and online for a rollercoaster cinematic ride.

THE BREEZE TEAM



The tenth edition marks a real milestone for the London Breeze team who have worked tirelessly to get us to the position we are in. The strength of this year's film selection and industry programme mark a real turning point for us - we are proud to be showcasing some of the most exciting new voices in cinema that put us firmly on course to becoming BAFTA qualifying in the near future. Our new ambassadors reflect the diversity, ambition and creativity that drive the festival, amplifying underrepresented voices and shaping the next chapter of our growth. We welcome them with open arms, as we do you as we invite you to celebrate our anniversary festival with us in October.

SAM CULLIS
Executive Festival Director



Our largely volunteer team has worked incredibly hard over the past ten years to create a festival that champions emerging filmmakers, diverse voices and creative storytelling. London Breeze punches way above its weight in a crowded marketplace, proving to be a festival that genuinely cares about filmmakers, community and sustainability. This is reflected in the films and industry events we curate. The themes that have emerged from a record number of films submitted this year speak to our times and the importance of film in reflecting the world in which we live in all its complex, challenging and inspiring beauty. The empathy, heart and humanity of these films fills us with hope for

MADELEINE CASEY Festival Coordinator and Programmer

Meet the **Jury**



Olivia Smart UK Short Documentary

Olivia is a filmmaker whose short film *Black Stroke* won an Honourable Mention award for Best UK Short Documentary at LBFF '24. She won Netflix's Documentary Talent Fund to make the short. Her other credits include *Katie Price: Trauma and Me; Murder Case: The Digital Detectives* and *Surgeons: At the Edge of Life.*



Ramita Navai International Short Documentary

Ramita is a double Emmywinning British-Iranian investigative journalist, documentarian and author. She has reported from over 40 countries and made over 30 documentaries, often in hostile environments. Her most recent doc. Gaza: Doctors Under Attack, directed by Karim Shah, exposes Israel's targeting of hospitals and medical personnel in Gaza.



Archie Pearch UK Short Fiction

Archie is the producer of soon-to-release feature film *Urchin*, which won the Un Certain Regard Award for Best Actor and The FIPRESCI Critics Prize at Cannes. Following several years as assistant to producer David Heyman, Archie recently cofounded Devisio Pictures with long-term collaborator, actor Harris Dickinson, who wrote and directed *Urchin*.



Babak Anvari International Short Fiction

Babak is a London-based BAFTA-winning filmmaker and co-founder of Two & Two Pictures. His first feature film. Under the Shadow, was the UK selection for the Foreign Language Academy Award and won the BAFTA for Outstanding Debut in 2017. His latest film Hallow Road, starring Rosamund Pike and Matthew Rhys, premiered at SXSW '25 to critical acclaim.



Neil Boyle Animation

Neil is a director and animator with credits including Love, Death + Robots, Doctor Who, Tom and Jerry, and The Simpsons. Most recently Neil and Kirk Hendry codirected Kensuke's Kingdom, starring Cillian Murphy and Sally Hawkins, which won 3 **British Animation Awards** and was nominated for a BAFTA. It also screened in the Family programme at I BFF '24.

<mark>Meet</mark> the **Jury**



Susan Simnett IMPACT Award

Susan is a British Producer driven by a passion for high quality filmmaking. Her company, Over The Fence Films, produces bold, character driven stories that challenge convention and ignite conversation. She co-produced last year's inaugural winner of the IMPACT award, *The Generators*, directed by Georgie Cowan-Turner.



Curtis Gallant
Feature Documentary

Curtis helped to establish The Whickers in 2015 and has worked with them to support documentary filmmakers ever since. Correcting Jeremy Paxman on University Challenge led him to a career in broadcasting. He has worked on various **BBC** programmes including HARDtalk, where he produced hardhitting interviews with world leaders and cultural icons.



Maeve Murphy Feature Fiction

Maeve's debut feature Silent Grace was the UK entry for Cannes and named one of The Irish Times' 'Fifty Greatest Irish Films Ever Made.' Her follow-up, Beyond the Fire, won Best Film at the London Independent Film Festival. Her short, St. Pancras Sunrise, won an Honourable Mention at LBFF '24, and this year Maeve returns as both an Ambassador and Jury member.



OUR FESTIVAL LOCATIONS



Riverside Studios 101 Queen Caroline St London W6 9BN



The Garden Cinema 39-41 Parker Street London WC2B 5PQ



The Irish Cultural Centre 5 Black's Rd London W6 9DT



The Cinema in the Arches Battersea Power Station 22 Arches Ln Nine Elms London SW11 8AB



The Cinema at Selfridges 40 Duke St London W1U 1AT

OUR SPONSORS

YAYTOJI

Little White Lies









OUR PARTNERS













LONDON • BERLIN • MUNIC

Royal College of Art
Postgraduate Art & Design

RIVERSIDESTUDIOS



















22/10 WEDNESDAY

12.00-14.00	Shorts: Community Screening	The Cinema in the Arches
13.00-13.30	My SMASH Media Pitching Presentation - Open to all Industry	The Garden Cinema
13.30-15.30	My SMASH Media Pitching workshop - YBFF finalists only Industry	The Garden Cinema
13.30-15.15	Shorts: Resistance Screening	The Garden Cinema
15.35-17.35	Shorts: Resilience Screening	The Garden Cinema
14.00-20.00	Spatial Storytelling - RCA/LBFF XR/VR/AR content Immersive Experience	Riverside Gallery + cinema foyer
17.40-19.40	The Banjo Boys dir. Johan Nayar World Premiere + Q&A + Shell Yeah Opening Gala Screening	Riverside Studios
20.00-22.00	Shoot the People Preview + Q&A with dir. Andy Mundy-Castle & subject Misan Harriman Opening Gala Screening	Riverside Studios

23/10 THURSDAY

13.30-15.00	Festival Formula-led 'Meet the Festivals' Marketplace Industry	The Garden Cinema
15.00-15.40	Festival Formula Industry Drinks Networking Networking	The Garden Cinema
15.40-17.40	Quiet on Set: The Class Division in the Film Industry? dir. Mark Forbes + Panel + The Secret Assistants Screening/Industry	The Garden Cinema
18.00-20.00	The Summer Book dir. Charlie McDowell Preview + Q&A + The Stork Showcase Screening	The Garden Cinema
20.00-22.00	Mother City dirs. Miki Redelinghuys & Pearlie Joubert Preview + Q&A Screening	Riverside Studios

24/10 FRIDAY

AM - TBC	Breakfast Screening: Granada Nights dir. Abid Khan + Panel 'From First to Second: Navigating Your Sophomore Feature.' Industry	The Cinema at Selfridges
12pm	Shorts: Animation Screening	The Cinema in the Arches
13.00-14.10	CenterFrame Script Club live podcast recording Led by Luke Foster with special guest Alice Lowe Industry	The Garden Cinema Screen 3
14.30-16.30	Shorts: Remember Screening	The Garden Cinema
16.30-18.00	My SMASH Media YBFF Live Pitching Event with finalists and judging panel Industry	The Garden Cinema
18.00-18.30	Industry Meet Up (informal) - Ticket holders only Networking	The Garden Cinema Atrium Bar
20.00-22.00	PHASE dir. Jessica Vogt London Premiere + Q&A + The Weight Screening	Riverside Studios

25/10 SATURDAY

11.00-12.30	OINK dir. Mascha Halberstad + First Flight: The Sky's The Limit Family Screening	The Garden Cinema
13.00-14.45	Shorts: Reimagine Screening	The Garden Cinema
15.05-17.00	Shorts: IMPACT + Panel Discussion Screening	The Garden Cinema
13.30-16.00	The Song Cycle dir. Nick Kelly UK Premiere + Q&A + Live Music Screening	ICC Hammersmith
16.00-18.00	The Banjo Boys dir. Johan Nayar + Shell Yeah Encore screening	The Garden Cinema
17.30-20.00	The Long Quiet dir. Lucy D'Cruz Preview + Q&A Screening	The Garden Cinema
20.00-22.00	ANXIOUS dir. Nida Chowdhry UK Premiere + Q&A + I Hate Helen Screening	Riverside Studios Screen 1

26/10 SUNDAY

11.00-13.00	Family feature animation: OINK dir. Mascha Halberstad + Hopefully Hope + craft activity Family Screening + Workshop	The Garden Cinema
13.30-15.00	Shorts: Children & Youth Showcase + Workshop Youth & Family Screenings	The Garden Cinema
15.20-16.50	Shorts: AIWFF Showcase- Rebellion Screening	The Garden Cinema
18.00-21.00	Closing Gala Film: Love Offside dir. Dale S Lewis UK Premiere + Q&A + Award Ceremony Closing Gala/Awards	Riverside Studios
21.00-22.30	Closing night party (Love Offside ticket-holders only) Networking	Riverside Studios

GALA OPENING NIGHT



The Banjo Boys

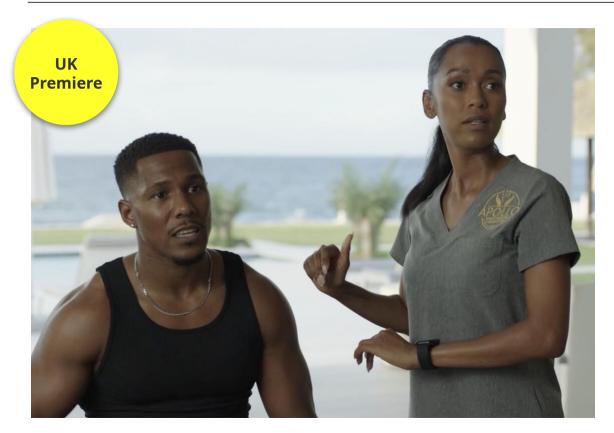
World Premiere + Q&A with dir. Johan Nayar

22nd October 5.40pm Riverside Studios

We are thrilled to be opening with the **World Premiere of The Banjo Boys**, the debut of
British Asian director Johan Nayar. This
documentary tells the journey of a Malawian
music duo, Yobu Maligwa and Yosefe Kalekeni,
aka **The Madalitso Band**, from busking on the
streets of Lilongwe to performing on world
stages. Nayar's film captures the troubadour
spirit of the band and their musician manager,
Neil Nayar, in this moving and personal
documentary that reveals the highs and lows
of music touring.

Short film *Shell Yeah* dir. Sam Graff (USA, 4m) will kick off the screening.

GALA CLOSING FILM + Awards Ceremony



LOVE OFFSIDE

UK Premiere + Q&A + LBFF10 Awards

26th October 6pm, Riverside Studios

Closing the London Breeze festival programme will be the first completed feature film to emerge from the female-led **The LAB Studios** in Jamaica, directed by Dale S. Lewis (*Incision*) and written by Daneil Campbell and Jeanette B Milio. Co star **Sundra Oakley** (*Washington Black*) and **Daneil** will join us for the Q&A.

A determined physical therapist (Judi Johnson) uses unconventional methods to heal a rugby star (Mike Merrill) putting her professional reputation on the line while unexpected feelings complicate her risky mission.

LBFF10 Awards will follow the screening.

FEATURE FILM SCREENINGS



Shoot the People

Preview + Q&A with dir. Andy Mundy-Castle + Subject Misan Harriman 22nd October 8pm **Riverside Studios**



Mother City

Preview + Q&A with dir. Pearlie Joubert 23rd October 8pm Riverside Studios



Quiet on Set: The Class Division in the Film **Industry?**

- + Panel inc. dir. Mark Forbes
- + The Secret Assistants 23rd October 3.30pm



Breakfast Screening: Granada Nights

+ Panel inc. dir. Abid Khan 24th October 10.30am The Cinema at Selfridges



The Summer Book

Preview + Q&A with dir. Charlie McDowell + The Stork

23rd October 6pm The Garden Cinema



Phase

- + Q&A with dir. Jessica Voqt
- + The Weight 24th October 8pm Riverside Studios

FEATURE FILM SCREENINGS



The Song Cycle
+ Q&A with dir. Nick Kelly
Live Music
25th October 1.30pm
Irish Cultural Centre



The Long Quiet
+ Q&A with dir. Lucy D'Cruz
25th October 5.30pm
The Garden Cinema



ANXIOUS + Q&A with dir. Nida Chowdhry + I Hate Helen 25th October 8pm Riverside Studios



FAMILY SCREENINGS



OINK! Dir. Mascha Halberstad

11am Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th October +First Flight: The Sky's the Limit short animation on <u>Saturday</u> +Hopefully Hope short animation +30m Post-Screening Craft Activity on <u>Sunday</u>

The Garden Cinema

9-year-old Babs must save her little pig named Oink from her grandfather's secret plan to take part in a sausage competition.

FREE IMMERSIVE EXHIBITION



Spatial Storytelling

Previews – VR/XR/AR Royal College of Art Graduation Films

Wednesday 22nd October / 2pm-8pm

Riverside Studios Gallery & Cinema Foyer

Returning for a second year, an immersive one-day exhibition by RCA graduates who push the boundaries of narrative space. You are invited to don VR headsets and interact with unique media artworks.

INDUSTRY PROGRAMME



22nd October

My SMASH Media Pitching Presentation - Open to All – 1pm The Garden Cinema

My SMASH Media Pitching Workshop- YBFF Finalists Only – 1.30pm The Garden Cinema

23rd October

<u>Meet the Festivals Marketplace Led By Festival Formula</u>- 1.30pm The Garden Cinema Festival Formula Industry Drinks Networking- 3pm The Garden Cinema (Ticket holders)

<u>Quiet on Set: The Class Division in the Film Industry? Dir. Mark Forbes + Panel</u>- 3.30pm The Garden Cinema



24th October

<u>Breakfast Screening: Granada Nights dir. Abid Khan + Panel 'From First to Second: Navigating Your Sophomore Feature'</u>- 10am for coffee + croissant. 10.30am screening The Cinema in Selfridges

<u>CenterFrame Live Script Club + Special Guest Alice Lowe</u>- 1pm The Garden Cinema

My SMASH Media Young Black Filmmakers Fund Live Pitching Event- 4.30pm The Garden Cinema

SPECIAL EVENT DAYS



IMPACT Day
IMPACT Shorts Programme
+ Panel

Saturday 25th Oct / 3.05-5pm

The Garden Cinema

This shorts programme will impact you in ways that will surprise, delight and possibly scare you. Prepare to feel the impact and stay to discuss with the panel the themes they raise.



Youth and Family Day Children and Youth Showcase

Sunday 26th Oct / 1.30-3pm

The Garden Cinema

Our annual showcase of films made by our youngest filmmakers aged 5 to 19 across all genres.

Breeze Online Viewing Pass

Enjoy our fantastic online-only selection of short and feature films from the comfort of your home!

Ideal for anyone who can't make it to London Breeze in person but still wants to dive into the world of independent film. Our platform works on phones, tablets, laptops and smart TVs. With Breeze Online you will not only have access to our online films- including award winning Fiction, Documentary, and Animated shorts and features- but you will also be able to watch recordings of Q&As with some of the filmmakers featured in the festival, plus other exclusive online-only content.

Access Breeze Online from midnight on the 21st of October until midnight the 2nd of November and you will be able to:

- access additional information about the creators
- watch films as many times as you wish
- rate each film out of 5 stars
- save films you want to watch (or rewatch) to your personal watchlist.



SHORTS PROGRAMMES

Shorts 1: Resistance

Resistance comes in many forms as seen in this programme of eight short films about resisting those who would, for example, erase your cultural identity (*Beyond the Rush*); control or dismiss women's rights over their bodies (*Endolife/Egg Timer*); coerce you into committing a capital offence (*Mum's the Word*) or stop you from reaching the top in the traditionally male world of motor racing (*Set Pace*).

Shorts 2: Resilience

We all need resilience in these times to withstand the many challenges we are confronted with. Here are a few tales of brave souls who have to dig deep when life throws up a challenge.

Shorts 3: Remember

A curated selection of stunning short narrative and documentary films that have remembering people, places and events– be they good or bad, for better or worse– at their core.

Shorts 4: Reimagine

Have you ever imagined a world where life could be just a little- or a lotbetter or worse? The filmmakers of this programme of short films have done just that. Prepare to be simultaneously amazed and afraid.

Shorts 5: IMPACT

This shorts programme will impact you in ways that will surprise, delight and occasionally scare you. Prepare to feel the impact and stay for a panel discussion about the themes they raise

Shorts 6: **Community**

These stories are about people finding connections in an often disconnected society, searching for their place in the world, to be understood and accepted- to belong. From a man erasing his true identity believing that it will help him to assimilate into his girlfriend's circle (Whiteface), to a boy seeking guidance and assurance from his uncle (Bury Your Nephew), to a tenacious team of trans footballers who become each other's light in the dark of rising transphobia (We'll Go Down in History).

SHORTS PROGRAMMES

Shorts 7: Animation

These wildly inventive and innovative animations, ranging in medium from stop-motion to 3D to classical hand-drawn, are not only a feast for the senses, but also tackle important issues. *Ovary-Acting* and *Dragfox* both use humour and music to present us with themes of bodily autonomy and identity. Black Queer identity is tenderly explored in *Two Black Boys in Paradise*, and *Dark Orange* is a powerful protest against men's abuse of women in Iran.

Shorts 8: Children & Youth Showcase

Our annual showcase of children and youth films by our youngest emerging filmmakers aged 5 to 19.

Shorts 9: **Aswan International Women's Film Festival Showcase**

Six films from around the world that are directed by women and/or centre women in their storytelling. Stories about women rebelling- against societal expectations and limitations placed upon them, and against self-inflicted barriers, including a hand-drawn animation (*Void Spaces*), a documentary about a Yemeni woman who truly embodies her name: Fariha, meaning 'Joy' in Arabic (*Fariha*), and a comedy about a woman whose husband sends her away in an effort to subdue her, but her newfound freedom has the opposite effect (*Warmest Regards, E*).

BREEZE ONLINE PROGRAMME

Available with the Online Pass

Shorts:

<u> </u>		
Resilience	Resistance	Remembe
BLACKSTAR- Until the Er	<u>Thrive</u>	معجد / ظفير) MAGID/ZAFAR
Where the Light Gets in	<u>The Lace</u>	W: A Return to Oz
Power of the Current	The Swing	The Last Dance
<u>Industry Standard</u>	<u>Spider-Zan</u>	<u>Remember Me</u>
Fighting Demons	<u>Fairview Park</u>	Breathe Truth
<u>Dear Simone</u>	Esme Boggart	Yam and Egg
<u>Duck Press</u>	A Strong Woman	<u>Holding Or</u>
<u>Badger</u>	Mirror Signal Manoeuvr	<u>e</u> <u>Quicksand</u>
<u>Dulse</u>	A Few More Minutes, Plea	<u>The Ange</u>
<u>Shell</u>	Community	Still, Life
9	Welcome to the Orchard of Er	<u>ngland</u> <u>Alma</u>
<u>ALT Jay</u> <u>v</u>	<u> What is Blindness? The World</u>	<u>Unseen</u>
<u>Demons</u>	Spoken Movement Family Ho	<u>onour</u>
<u>Florence</u>	The Hardest Working Ma	Animation Not Dead
Surprise!	Friday is Mushroom Sou	n
The Pie Den	Building a Champion	A Time Before Of All the Things
<u>Fudge Sundae</u>	Night of Silence	
Re-Story Your Life	<u>Spectrum</u>	<u>Teddy on the Edge</u> 'We' Are Not Different
Happier, Happier, Happi	<u>ier</u> <u>Collage</u>	
Dante's Inferno: The Aso	<u>cension</u> <u>Breaks</u>	Night of the Living Fish

Features:

Cold Siah

Fiction	Documentar
Somewhere in England	Terry's GI Da
<u>The Banana Garden</u>	The Dying Tra
Happy As Larry	
Disremember	

Shorts 1: Resistance

Wed 22 Oct / 1.30-3.15pm / The Garden Cinema



Beyond the Rush Dir. NIYADRE UK / Documentary / 16m

Beyond The Rush explores the rise and decline of Luton's Caribbean culture and the fight to reclaim identity amid fading traditions and lost spaces.



Egg Timer Dir. Rosie May Bird Smith UK / Fiction / 13m

On her 30th birthday, Megan is confronted with opinions from both her family and her own ovarian eggs and must decide who to listen to.



Endolife Dir. Lisanne Van Ingen UK / Documentary / 13m

Endolife is a short, hybrid documentary that combines the experiences of over 120 people with endometriosis into a single, scripted narrative.



Eternal Kinship Dir. Arbin Rai Nepal / Fiction / 11m

After his sister suddenly runs away with her lover to a neighbouring village, 10year-old Suresh must deal with the prospect of life without her.



Forces Mineures
Dir. Jessamine-Bliss Bell
France / Fiction / 10m

Two star-crossed lovers go on a second date. When the quiet reality of who they really are sets in, things go south.



Mum's the Word Dir. Oz Arshad UK / Fiction / 11m

Jake's mum disapproves of his uncle Ross' influence on him, and when he joins Ross on a work experience errand, he understands why.



Post Dir. Jo Lane UK / Fiction / 9m

A prison officer is traumatised by an interaction with a troubled inmate. He buries his emotions to return to work, but this pushes him to the edge once again.



Set Pace Dir. Daisy Ifama UK / Documentary / 13m

The legendary Carol Glenn sets out to launch her own race team.

Wed 22 Oct / 3.35-5.35pm / The Garden Cinema



An Imperfect Cadence Dir. Nathan Haines UK / Fiction / 16m

A gifted harpist battles her domineering mother and worsening hand condition while striving to win a seat in a world-renowned orchestra.



Baby Blues Dir. Sophie Lynch, Alannah McQuaid Ireland / Documentary / 8m

Motherhood is not always what you expect: an exploration of one woman's experience with post-natal depression.



Choice Dir. Marko Crnogorski North Macedonia / Fiction / 16m

A young mother and her toddler face a devastating reality when a new law bans her scheduled abortion.



Don't Be Late, Myra Dir. Afia Serena Nathaniel Pakistan / Fiction / 15m

A missed school bus leaves ten-year-old Myra stranded in Lahore, where men on the street start to stalk her.



Dress Smart
Dir. Trevor Kaneswaran
Ireland / Fiction / 8m

When the big day arrives, an anxious son fights for his family's stability, but his fate is out of his hands.



Excess Baggage
Dir. Myriam Garcia Marienstras
France / Fiction / 16m

Sophie, clinging to her daughter Lila, spirals into anxiety when Lila leaves for vacation, exposing her loneliness and inner demons.



One in Two Dir. David Izekor UK / Documentary / 13m

Struck by cancer at 18, David's story of survival and support shines through powerful connections and digital storytelling.

Shorts 3: Remember

Fri 24 Oct / 2.50-4.30pm / The Garden Cinema



The Actor
Dir. Louis Ellison
UK / Documentary / 4m

The Actor is a reflective film about my father Christopher Ellison's acting career and coming to terms with the traumatic stroke that ended it.



Carrot Cake
Dir. Olive Pascha
UK / Fiction / 19m

A birdwatcher grapples with early-onset dementia as her daughter returns, and befriending a troubled young girl helps her to make sense of her shifting world.



Continuations Dir. Satoru Okabe Japan / Documentary / 16m

A poetic documentary portraying Japan's traditional cypress bark roofing, passing its craftsmanship and Japanese spirit to future generations.



Defenders of the Tyrrhenian Sea Dir. Jack Shanks UK / Fiction / 12m

In the wake of a co-star's death, an actress finds a way to say goodbye- and bring a scene to life.



Gesualdo Dir. Nicholas Hulbert UK / Fiction / 13m

A mediocre Renaissance composer cheats his way to revenge and acclaim by bargaining with a chorus of supernatural entities.



Summer Souvenir Dir. Louka Hoogendijk Netherlands / Fiction / 18m

Katja is enjoying a surf holiday with her friends until an unexpected situation during paragliding casts a dark shadow over her summer.



Tusky Dir. Steven Boyle UK / Fiction / 15m

A retired rhubarb farmer fights for control of his sanity.

Shorts 4: Reimagine

Sat 25 Oct / 1-2.45pm / The Garden Cinema



Black Vultures Over Britain Dir. Tyler Richards, Haris Salihovic UK / Fiction / 14m

A Historian finds a lost masterpiece written by a genocidal dictator, plunging him into paranoia and obsession as he contemplates releasing it to the world..



Bury Your Gays
Dir. Charlotte Serena Cooper
UK / Fiction / 20m

Doomed to die in every role, actor Grace confronts the "Bury Your Gays" trope in a desperate fight for survival.



For Better
Dir. Kitty Percy
UK / Fiction / 15m

Jeanine tries to fix her loneliness by standing by the road, in a wedding dress, with a sign saying 'MARRY ME', but finds a better solution in an unexpected place...



The Narrator
Dir. Mohammad Paidar
Iran / Fiction / 20m

A narrator falls for the protagonist of the story he is assigned to and must decide whether to break the rules of storytelling and save her father's life.



Nervous Ellie Dir. David Yorke UK / Fiction / 7m

Ellie, new to dating and painfully shy, struggles to control her nerves during a date with Danni, resulting in some unexpected and shocking results.



So Here We Are Dir. Warren Mendy UK / Fiction / 8m

A man is deciding on his career path, with his best friend advising him. We see through him the hustle and thoughts of those within the creative industries.



Sucker Dir. Fae Al-Kalamchi UK / Fiction / 12m

Juni lures people into her home with the promise of a good time without them realising they're her next meal. What happens when she encounters one of her own?

Shorts 5: IMPACT + Panel

Sat 25 Oct / 3.05-5pm / The Garden Cinema



1 Million Deaths Dir. George Chrysanthakopoulos Greece / Fiction / 16m

In a dystopian future, millions died fighting global warming. Three youths battle through this new world, each facing their own challenges.



The Art of Imperfection Dir. Vladislav Motorichev UK / Documentary / 6m

Artist Joe Boyd embraces imperfection and discovers that art's true power lies not in permanence or completion but in the delicate dance of creation and release.



The Farm on Our Street
Dir. Hackney City Farm Volunteers
UK / Documentary / 13m

A community-led short documentary film celebrating 40 years of Hackney City Farm in East London.



Funeral of the Earth Dir. Jaewon Park UK / Animation / 4m

Particles of dust gather at the funeral of Earth to bid farewell and to usher in a new era.



Plastic Surgery Dir. Guy Trevellyan UK / Fiction / 12m

A doctor on her last day before maternity leave is thrown into chaos when a hidden threat emerges.



There Will Come Soft Rains Dir. Elham Ehsas UK / Fiction / 15m

Haunted by rising sea levels, a daughter digs up her father's grave to move his body to higher ground.



This is Rubbish Dir. Claudia Kurucz UK / Fiction / 15m

Grappling with the uncertainty of young adulthood and the inescapable weight of a planet in crisis, two friends reunite at their local funfair.



Will We Disappear in the Cover of the Sky? Dir. Aarti Bhalekar, Anushka Khemka UK / Animation / 5m

An immersive flight into the sensory world of a starling

Shorts 6: Community

Wed 22 Oct / 12-2pm / The Cinema in the Arches



Ask Me Anything Dir. Wyneke van Nieuwenhuyzen Netherlands / Documentary / 15m

A Sudanese refugee invites native Dutch residents to ask him anything, opening up an exploratory dialogue between two parties when confronted with 'the other'.



Bury Your Nephew Dir. Yoni Ben-Haim UK / Fiction / 20m

An uncle struggling to find common ground with his nephew eventually bonds with him over a morbid curiosity.



Familiar Stranger Dir. Ace Mahbaz UK / Fiction / 15m

An intimate, dialogue-light drama about identity, belonging, and the unexpected ways two people can find connection across discomfort and time.



A Sisyphean Task Dir. Gus Flind-Henry, George Malcher UK / Fiction / 17m

A bright yet unflinching glimpse into the British school system, set within the walls of 23-year-old Lucy's classroom in her first year of teaching.



We'll Go Down in History Dir. Cameron Richards, Charlie Tidmas UK / Documentary / 25m

TRUK United, a grassroots, proudly trans football club, experience highs and lows as they create a safe haven for their community amidst rising transphobia.



Whiteface Dir. Julian Alexander USA / Fiction / 15m

A Black man in whiteface is with his white girlfriend at her parent's barbecue and all is well until his friends arrive undercover to 'rescue' him.

Shorts 7: Animation

Fri 24 Oct / 12-2pm / The Cinema in the Arches



Dark Orange Dir. Zahra Azadpour Iran / 8m

A young couple seem to have a peaceful life, but their relationship has deep problems.



Dragfox Dir. Lisa Ott UK / 8m

Sam's search for identity is interrupted by a mysterious fox, who takes him on a magical journey to the attic to teach him a (fun) lesson in self-acceptance.



DOUBLE OR NOTHING Dir. Tokay Sirin Switzerland / 10m

Real estate shark Akio Kashiwagi is an illegal gambler. An American is onto him and realises the only way to retrieve stolen money: challenge Akio to a game.



Ovary-Acting
Dir. Ida Melum
Norway. Sweden, UK / 13m

A harried thirty-something woman is forced to decide whether she wants to be a mother after unexpectedly birthing her uterus at her sister's baby shower.



Pomegranate Dir. Livvy Seabrook-Wilkins UK / 3m

A mother comes to terms with her Postnatal Depression



Rabbit Trip Dir. Vanessa Uchechukwu Ndikanwu UK / 2m

A girl ventures into a forest and falls asleep in a 'fairy-ring', undergoing a psychedelic trip, travelling through 6 animators' styles.



The Synthetic Age Dir. Dimitris Armenakis Greece / 8m

In a city where people consume cartoons, a dog reconciles with its old friends, and together, they try to escape from humans.



Two Black Boys in Paradise Dir. Baz Sells UK / 9m

Edan and Dula go on a journey of selfacceptance. Their love for each other and refusal to hide it lands them in a paradise free of shame and judgement.

Shorts 7: Animation

Fri 24 Oct / 12-2pm / The Cinema in the Arches



Wavelength Dir. Holly Warburton UK / 4m

Some connections fade. Others echo forever. Two people tune into each other across the noise of the world. When the signal breaks, what remains?



Wildkind Dir. John McDaid UK / 7m

A poem painted to awaken the senses, a fluid journey of hope and healing across our shared watercolour Motherland.



You Are Not Part of the Cake Dir. Ting-Jui Chen UK / 5m

A girl kills her girlfriend's homophobic father and makes him into a cake to celebrate the rebirth of her girlfriend.



走 (zǒu) Dir. Hannah Wu UK / 4m

An experimental animated short that explores language, getting lost and how we make sense of and from the world.



Shorts **Supporting Features**



First Flight: The Sky's the Limit Dir. Molly Rose Hill UK / Animation / 4m With OINK Saturday screening

A determined blue bird, unlike his siblings, hilariously crashes through bold flying attempts, discovering heart and magic in finding his wings.



Hopefully Hope
Dir. Shuheng Yin
UK / Animation / 3m
With OINK Sunday screening

An outcast yellow elephant loses everything he holds dear on a harrowing journey to see the world for what it truly is.



I Hate Helen Dir. Katie Lambert UK / Fiction / 7m With Anxious

FIRST LOVE IS HARD. Emma isn't going without a fight. She hates Helen, and she hates the way she is feeling.



The Secret Assistants
Dir. Katey Lee Carson
UK / Fiction / 20m
With Oujet on Set

A novice director must choose between ambition and integrity when her interview with a titan of the industry descends into a squalid power-play.



Shell Yeah Dir. Sam Graff USA / Documentary / 5m With The Banjo Boys

A "shell-ebration" of music: A musician, his shells, and the surprising sounds they create.



The Stork
Dir. Stephen Gallacher
UK / Fiction / 8m
With The Summer Book

After an unsuccessful attempt at a very important delivery, a courier and the recipient's parents must replace the order's content – Norwegian semen.



The Weight
Dir. Vanessa Rose
UK / Fiction / 5m
With Phase

A mother dances through her morning ritual, preparing breakfast for her family. As time passes, the dance gets harder and harder to perform.

Showcase: Children & Youth Sun 26 Oct / 1.30-3pm / The Garden Cinema



An Italian Memory Dir. Noah Berridge UK / Fiction / 4m

While on a walk, a man with dementia finds something that triggers a memory from long ago.



Doors Dir. lamie Larsson UK / Fiction / 10m

After calling for a mysterious repair man. Mr Leers notices that his door has been modified far past his liking...



Grab 'n' Go Dir. Ethan C, Georgia W, Jack S, Jamie C, Jamie G, Lily M, Lola P UK / Fiction / 5m

In a near-distant future, a couple of low level gangsters target a big score. Just one thing stands in their way...



Keepsake Dir. Pauline Quirke Academy pupils UK / Fiction / 2m

Isobel is struggling to come to terms with her mother's death. However, she finds comfort in her mum's scarf, which seems to bring her good luck.



Lament Dir. Ava Oliver UK / Fiction / 5m

A young girl finds a letter from her late grandmother and she begins a journey to fulfil a special task whilst recounting old memories.



Nana's Necklace Dir. Pauline Quirke Academy pupils UK / Fiction / 4m

A bored student wishes her school day could be better and discovers that her Nana's Necklace can make her dreams come true!



The Real Deal Dir. James Willett UK / Fiction / 4m

Based on the short story by Andy Weir, The Real Deal is about a man in love and his supportive friend, set in a smoky bar in 1950s America.



Run! Dir. Amelia Eve Zubrzycki UK / Fiction / 9m

A 17-year-old boy lost in a mystical forest meets strange, alluring beings and must choose between the world he once knew and the one he's come to understand.

Showcase: Children & Youth Sun 26 Oct / 1.30-3pm / The Garden Cinema



Scrutiny of Friendship Dir. Ralph Hutchins UK / Fiction / 10m

Two best friends go on a country walk in the peak of summer. Beneath the serenity lies a simmering tension- one of them has a secret that will change everything.



The Shadow Dir. Freddie Sav UK / Fiction / 4m

A boy is haunted by a mysterious shadow and sinister whispers, as he struggles with guilt over a crime he committed that resulted in the deaths of young children.



Trapped Dir. Archie Bunbury UK / Fiction / 5m

Jonathan Moon is a patient being looked after by a doctor in a mental asylum, but all is not what it seems.



Turning Pages Dir. Sparks Film School UK / Documentary / 13m

Created by young filmmakers, Turning Pages is a heartfelt documentary advocating for the power of reading in an increasingly digital age.



The Witch Dir. Pauline Quirke Academy pupils UK / Fiction / 3m

A mother's love knows no bounds! A medieval mother will do anything to save her son even if it has dire consequences for her own life.



Behind Young Eyes Dir. Abbie Simpson UK / Animation / 4m

While tension builds downstairs, a young girl's teddy bear comes to life - offering escape as darkness seeps in.

Showcase: Aswan International Women's Film Festival Sun 26 Oct / 3.20-4.50pm / The Garden Cinema



Fariha Dir. Badr Yousef Yemen, Qatar / Documentary / 27m

When Fariha, a 70-year-old singer from Yemen, meets young filmmaker Badr, the two embark on a journey to relaunch Fariha's long-lost singing career.



Favours Dir. Agnes Skonare Sweden / Fiction / 11m

In a bustling train station, Sonia (25) struggles to get help to take care of a baby she claims has been abandoned.



Love Bites Dir. Mahmoud Zain Egypt / Fiction / 12m

Havam dies, and her brothers discover love bites on her body just before the washing, hindering its completion for fear of scandal.



On the Edge Dir. Sahar El Echi Tunisia / Fiction / 18m

Mounira sells fricassees in a used car market, and must figure out how to survive the harsh daily life in this hostile, resolutely masculine environment..



Void Spaces Dir. Marta Koch Poland / Animation / 14m

A woman's therapy session opens memories from five different moments in her life. Traumatic experiences return in expressive and suggestive images.



Warmest Regards, E Dir. Shireen Dalbey, Tina Nowarre Canada / Fiction / 7m

A melancholic woman is sent to the seaside by her dissatisfied husband to regulate and mend her disagreeable state. Isolated, her true colours begin to surface.

Meet our newest Ambassadors



Louisa Connolly-Burnham Filmmaker, Actor, Musician

Louisa is known for her bold. female-led storytelling as a filmmaker, and for her compelling screen presence as an actor. Her short film Sister Wives won Best UK Short Fiction at LBFF '24, and has since won over 50 awards at film festivals worldwide. Louisa founded Thimble Films, is a member of Directors UK, WFTV and Cinesisters, and was awarded a scholarship to the Female Film Club by the BFI. An advocate for underrepresented voices, she also founded Kulty, a safe and inclusive space for women, non-binary, and gender-queer filmmakers.



Alex Kayode-Kay Filmmaker, Producer, Actor

Alex is a filmmaker, producer and actor armed with a passion for creativity. His short film The Ballad of Olive Morris was nominated for Best British Short Film at the 2023 BAFTAs and won Best Short Film at the Windrush Caribbean Film Festival, Alex's work has screened and won awards at festivals worldwide. Currently he is developing feature film projects and is the founder of the Young Black Filmmakers Fund launching with London Breeze 2025 in partnership with My SMASH Media and sponsored by TikTok.



Maeve Murphy Filmmaker, Author

Maeve is a celebrated filmmaker whose debut feature Silent Grace was the UK entry for Cannes and named one of The Irish Times' "Fifty Greatest Irish Films Ever Made." Her follow-up, Beyond the Fire, won Best Film at the London Independent Film Festival. Her shorts, including the Venice winner Sushi and the multi-award-winning St Pancras Sunrise, continue to gain international acclaim. St Pancras Sunrise won 'Honourable Mention' at LBFF '24, and this year Maeve returns as both an Ambassador and Jury member.



Sundra Oakley Actor, Author, Producer

Sundra (Washington Black, Love Offside, Bob Marley: One Love) is shaping the industry, with a screenplay and documentary in development, and her seminar 'Inside Hollywood: The Business of Being an Actor' guiding Jamaican actors through the industry. Her picture book, 'Why Do I Get All the Kisses?' has been translated into 22 languages. Behind the scenes, she's a yogi, martial artist, multilinguist and dancer who finds joy in Peter Tosh, old-school hip-hop, and plotting her next passport stamp.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Executive Team: Sam Cullis, Madeleine Casey, Maythem Ridha, Tamsin Irving, Mostafa Nagy, Sue Loughlin, Miranda Simmons, Mariam Majid, Abid Khan, Bori Kiss

Marketing Team: Alberto Massaro, Kara Lowes, Julia Parent, and Christian Moore

Operations & Programming: Emily Bolton

Young Black Filmmakers Fund founder Alex Kayode-Kay

PR: Geri Perry

Sponsorship Lead: Vijay Sud

Designers: Adam Cockerton, Alex Barrett, Tereza Jichova, and Christine Hulcker

Each of our Panelists & Special Guests

Jury members and Ambassadors

Andy Gulland (Photography) & Mark Forbes (Videography)

Shortlisting heads Dee Clark & Naomi Westerman + all of our shortlisters

Our Work Experience interns and festival volunteers, whose work makes the festival possible.





FEATURE FILMS

IMMERSIVE

STORYSELLING

INDUSTRY

SHORTS

AMBASSADORS

22nd - 26th October 2025

IURY

LOCATIONS

INTRO

PROGRAMME

CALENDAR