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FILM FESTIVAL



3—18
November
2021

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#LIFF2021

Free Guide

LEEDS ARTS
EVENTS & VENUES

Leeds
CITY COUNCIL



Welcome to your LIFF 2021 Guide

We are thrilled to be back on the big screen for the 2021 Leeds International Film Festival! While two of our regular venues will be closed for redevelopment during LIFF 2021 (Leeds Town Hall and Hyde Park Picture House), we are delighted to expand our programme at Vue in The Light – in three deluxe screens with new recliner seating – and return to Everyman and Belgrave Music Hall. We are also taking LIFF 2021 to the stunning setting of Howard Assembly Room, the brand new Leeds School of Arts Cinema, and for the first time the National Science & Media Museum in Bradford.

We are presenting the LIFF 2021 programme across five sections: Official Selection for new fiction features; Cinema Versa for documentaries; Fanomenon for action, anime, horror, sci-fi films and more; Leeds Short Film Awards; and Rear View for classic films and archive discoveries. You can see all films in venues and a selection of features and shorts programmes on our streaming platform Leeds Film Player. We can't wait for you to join us in venues, online or both for LIFF 2021!

Visit leedsfilm.com

- ▾ Full LIFF programme online
- ▾ Sign up for LIFF newsletter
- ▾ See the latest updates



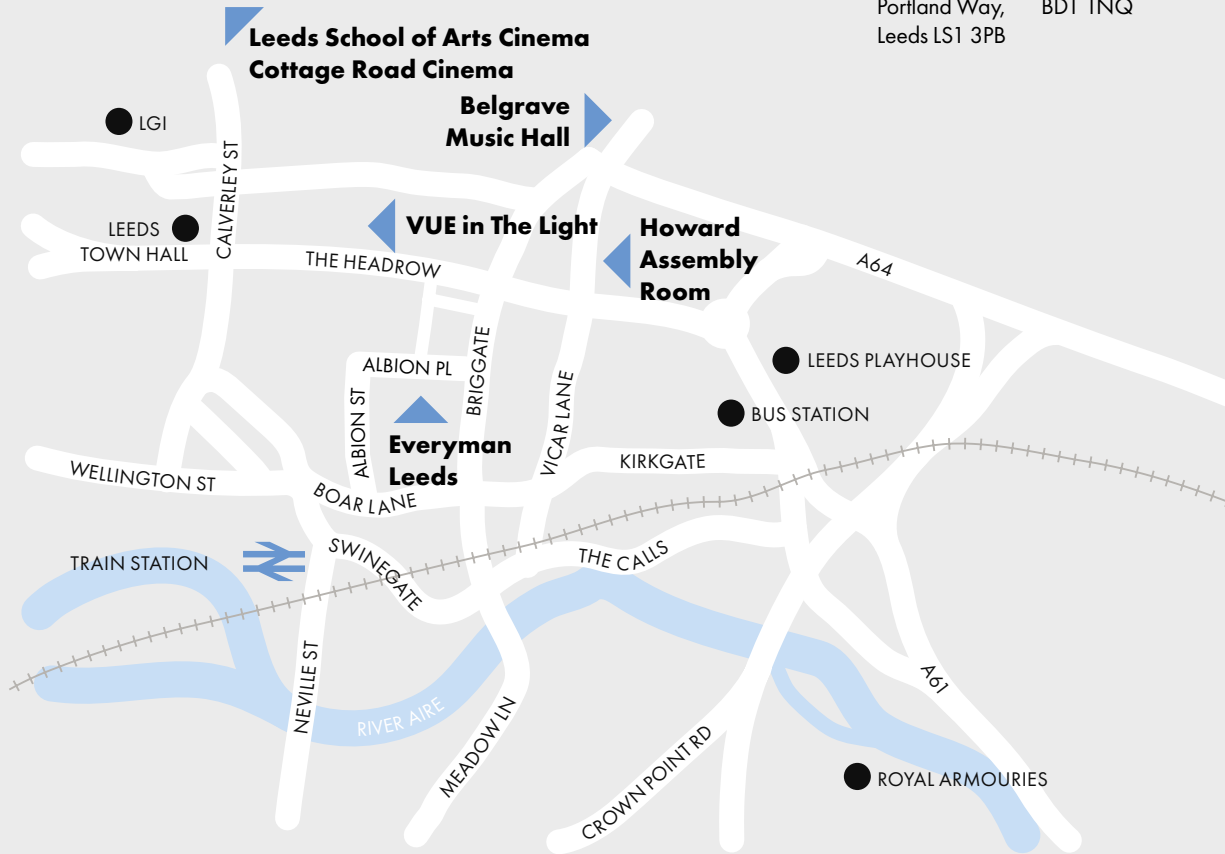
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Venues

VUE in The Light 22 The Light, The Headrow, Leeds LS1 8TL	Everyman Leeds Level 4, Trinity, Albion St, Leeds LS1 5AT	Howard Assembly Room 46 New Briggate, Leeds LS1 6NU	Belgrave Music Hall Cross Belgrave St, Leeds LS2 8JP	Cottage Road Cinema Cottage Rd, Leeds LS6 4DD	Leeds School of Arts Cinema Leeds Beckett University, City Campus, Portland Way, Leeds LS1 3PB	National Science & Media Museum Pictureville, Bradford BD1 1NQ
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Venue Access & Safety Information

We are presenting LIFF 2021 at Vue at The Light, Everyman Leeds, Howard Assembly Room, Cottage Road Cinema, and Belgrave Music Hall in Leeds, and the National Science & Media Museum in Bradford. At Vue we are using three screens all with new luxury spacious seating. For access information, please see the individual venue pages on leedsfilm.com. We offer free entry for accompanying carers and accept the CEA card at all our venues: seats can be booked by calling our ticket office (details on page 5).

The venues have been operating with safety measures in place since re-opening including recommending the use of face coverings unless exempt, providing hand sanitiser stations, regular cleaning of seating and other surfaces, and displaying NHS QR posters. Details of safety measures in place for each venue will appear on your e-ticket when you book a film and please take note of the guidance and requirements before your visit.

Our Venue and Volunteer Teams will be available at all LIFF 2021 screenings if you require any help or information.

Tickets & Passes

Venue Tickets

Feature films £9/£7.50*

Unless otherwise stated. Includes booking fees.

Short Film Programmes £7/6*

Includes booking fees.

* Concessions: students, over 60s, under 16s, registered unemployed, registered disabled, Leeds Card.

Venue Passes

LIFF EXPLORER GOLD £150

The LIFF Explorer Gold Pass gives you access to every film in venues and on Leeds Film Player. You will need to book individual tickets in venues as normal. Price includes booking fees.

LIFF EXPLORER £50

The LIFF Explorer Pass gives you 6 free tickets for films in venues then it's £5 for every ticket after that. Price includes booking fees.

LIFF LITE £40

The LIFF LITE Pass gives you 6 tickets that can be used in any combination for films in venues: for example, for two people to see 3 films or one person to see 6 films. Price includes booking fees.

LIFF BUZZ £30

The LIFF BUZZ Pass is for under-26s and includes 6 tickets for £30 then every ticket after that is £5. Proof of age will need to be shown when using the tickets. Price includes booking fees.

How to Book

Online: leedsfilm.com

Over the phone: 0113 376 0318

(Lines open: before 1 November, 10am–5pm Tuesday to Saturday; from 1–18 November, 10am–5pm Monday to Sunday).

In person: From 1–18 November, 10am–5pm at the Carriageworks Theatre. In addition, venues will be selling door tickets although advanced booking is recommended.

Cancellation policy

If a screening is cancelled, you will have three options: receive a refund less the booking fee; receive credit for the full amount for another screening of any film; select a different screening of the same film.

Leeds Film Player

A selection of films from the LIFF 2021 programme will be available to rent for short periods on our streaming platform Leeds Film Player: player.leedsfilm.com. The films available on the Player are listed in the guide schedule and have 'Online' icons in the programme sections. Any updates to film availability will be announced on leedsfilm.com and the Player.

Feature films on the Player will cost £7 to rent and short film programmes £5 unless otherwise specified. There will also be discounted packages for renting multiple films and if you have an Explorer Gold Pass you can see all films for free. You will need to set up an account on the Player to be able to rent films.

Film start times & certification

Screenings at LIFF work a little differently to the regular cinema experience. We don't show adverts or trailers and we aim to start all films at or soon after the times advertised: there is often a short introduction at the start. For certification advice, please see individual film pages on leedsfilm.com: where a film doesn't have a BBFC certificate, entry is for ages 18 or over only unless otherwise specified.

LIFF 2021 Schedule

Official Selection Cinema Versa Fanomenon Leeds Short Film Awards Rear View

	VUE in The Light: Screen 12	VUE in The Light: Screen 11	VUE in The Light: Screen 9
Wed 3	17:45 Spencer 1hr 51min 20:15 I Get Knocked Down 1hr 27min	18:00 Spencer 1hr 51min 20:30 The Town of Headcounts 1hr 51min	18:15 Spencer 1hr 51min 20:45 Magnetic Beats 1hr 38min
Thur 4 Nov	13:15 Petite Maman 1hr 12min 15:15 The Card Counter 1hr 49min 18:15 I Get Knocked Down 1hr 27min 20:30 The Card Counter 1hr 49min	13:00 Coffin Homes 1hr 47min 15:30 Hit the Road 1hr 33min 17:45 La Mif 1hr 50min 20:15 The Pink Cloud 1hr 45min	13:30 Fabian Going to the Dogs 2hr 36min 17:30 Evolution 1hr 37min 20:00 Last Survivors 1hr 38min
Fri 5 Nov	13:00 Seven Samurai 3hr 37min 18:00 Petite Maman 1hr 12min 20:00 Natural Light 1hr 43min	12:15 The Town of Headcounts 1hr 51min 15:00 King Car 1hr 37min 17:15 Hit the Road 1hr 33min 19:45 Hope 2hr 10min	12:45 Great Freedom 1hr 57min 15:30 Last Survivors 1hr 38min 17:30 Magnetic Beats 1hr 38min 20:15 Luzzu 1hr 34min
Sat 6 Nov	13:00 Knocking 1hr 28min 15:00 The Innocents 1hr 57min 18:15 A Banquet 1hr 37min 20:45 See For Me 1hr 32min	13:30 Hope 2hr 10min 16:30 Coffin Homes 1hr 47min 19:00 Drive My Car 2hr 59min	12:00 Queen of Glory 1hr 18min 14:00 Fabian Going to the Dogs 2hr 36min 17:45 Reflection 2hr 5min 20:30 Ane is Missing 1hr 40min
Sun 7 Nov	12:30 Natural Light 1hr 43min 15:30 Petite Maman 1hr 12min 17:30 Mothering Sunday 1hr 50min 20:30 Lamb 1hr 46min	12:15 La Mif 1hr 50min 15:00 The Pink Cloud 1hr 45min 17:45 King Car 1hr 37min 20:15 The Town of Headcounts 1hr 51min	12:00 The New Corporation 1hr 45min 14:30 Miguel's War 2hr 9min 17:15 Evolution 1hr 37min 20:00 Great Freedom 1hr 57min
Mon 8 Nov	13:30 Knocking 1hr 28min 15:30 A Banquet 1hr 37min 18:15 See For Me 1hr 32min 20:30 The Innocents 1hr 57min	12:15 Coffin Homes 1hr 47min 15:00 The Story of Film 2hr 20min 18:00 Hit the Road 1hr 33min 20:15 Íntegralde 1hr 44min	12:30 Great Freedom 1hr 57min 15:15 Luzzu 1hr 34min 17:45 The Exam 1hr 29min 20:00 Reflection 2hr 5min
Tue 9 Nov	12:45 Seven Samurai 3hr 37min 17:30 The Power of the Dog 2hr 5min 20:15 Kratt 1hr 47min	14:00 Mr Bachmann and His Class 3hr 37 18:15 Mr Bachmann and His Class 3hr 37	13:30 Tiong Bahru Social Club 1hr 28min 15:45 Ane is Missing 1hr 40min 19:00 The Ants and the Grasshopper 1hr 14 20:15 The New Corporation 1hr 45min
Wed 10 Nov	12:45 Knocking 1hr 28min 14:45 The Innocents 1hr 57min 18:00 Mothering Sunday 1hr 50min 20:30 Lamb 1hr 46min	13:00 The Story of Film 2hr 20min 16:00 Hope 2hr 10min 19:00 Drive My Car 2hr 59min	13:15 Reflection 2hr 5min 16:15 The Exam 1hr 29min 18:30 Queen of Glory 1hr 18min 20:30 Magnetic Beats 1hr 38min

Official Selection Cinema Versa Fanomenon Leeds Short Film Awards Rear View

Screenings and events start at or shortly after the advertised times – there are no adverts or trailers.

Official Selection Cinema Versa Fanomenon Leeds Short Film Awards Rear View

EVERYMAN: Screen 4	Other Venues	Leeds Film Player
18:00 Azor 1hr 40min 20:30 No Straight Lines 1hr 29min		The following films are available on Leeds Film Player from noon on the dates below until midnight on 18 Nov unless otherwise specified. Availability subject to change. I Get Knocked Down (until noon on 7 Nov) The Town of Headcounts
11:00 Invasion 2hr 3min 13:30 Beijing Spring 1hr 40min 15:45 Azor 1hr 40min 18:15 The Power of the Dog 2hr 5min 20:45 Luchadoras 1hr 33min	Howard Assembly Room 15:15 The Parallel Street 1hr 26min 17:45 Flee 1hr 23min 20:15 Funeral Parade of Roses 1hr 45min	Fabian Going to the Dogs No Straight Lines Last Survivors (until noon on 7 Nov)
11:00 No Straight Lines 1hr 29min 13:15 Reckonings: Doc Shorts 1hr 37min 15:45 Beijing Spring 1hr 40min 18:00 Narcissus Off Duty 1hr 24min 20:15 Dear Mr Brody 1hr 37min	Howard Assembly Room 12:45 SOA + Pripyat Piano 1hr 29min 15:15 The Witness 1hr 45min 18:00 Cow 1hr 33min 20:30 Flee 1hr 23min	Beijing Spring Luchadoras King Car (until noon on 8 Nov) Invasión The Old Dark House
12:00 Fanomenon Shorts: Sc-fi 1hr 39min 14:30 Fanomenon Shorts: Horror 1hr 37min 17:00 The Power of the Dog 2hr 5min 19:45 The Hand of God 2hr 10min	Cottage Road Cinema 13:00 Sing a Bit of Harmony 2hr 15:45 Tokyo Revengers 2hr Howard Assembly Room 19:00 Throne of Blood 1hr 50min	Knocking (until noon on 9 Nov) The Innocents (until noon on 9 Nov) A Banquet (until noon on 9 Nov) See For Me (until noon on 9 Nov) Reckonings: Doc Shorts
13:00 Dear Mr Brody 1hr 37min 15:30 Narcissus Off Duty 1hr 24min 18:00 On Our Doorstep 1hr 30min 20:30 Absolute Denial 1hr 11min	Howard Assembly Room 12:30 SOA + Pripyat Piano 1hr 29min 15:00 Cow 1hr 33min 17:30 Stanislaw Lem Shorts 1hr 15min 20:30 Pilot Pirx's Inquest 1hr 35min	Ane is Missing Queen of Glory (until noon on 10 Nov) SOA + Pripyat Piano Dear Mr Brody The Witness
12:00 Luchadoras 1hr 33min 15:00 Invasion 2hr 3min 17:45 Dear Future Children 1hr 29min 20:00 The Hand of God 2hr 10min	Cottage Road Cinema 17:00 Tokyo Story 2hr 16min	Miguel's War The New Corporation Fanomenon Shorts: Horror Fanomenon Shorts: Sci-fi
14:00 Absolute Denial 1hr 11min 15:45 On Our Doorstep 1hr 30min 18:00 Queer Short Comp 1 1hr 29min 20:30 Queer Short Comp 2 1hr 25min	Cottage Road Cinema 17:30 The Afterlight 1hr 22min	The Exam The Ants and the Grasshopper On Our Doorstep Absolute Denial

Official Selection Cinema Versa Fanomenon Leeds Short Film Awards Rear View

	VUE in The Light: Screen 12	VUE in The Light: Screen 11	VUE in The Light: Screen 9	EVERYMAN: Screen 4	Other Venues	Leeds Film Player
Thu 11 Nov	12:30 A Banquet 1hr 37min 14:45 Mothering Sunday 1hr 50min 17:30 Lamb 1hr 46min 20:15 Memoria 2hr 16min	13:00 Mr Bachmann and His Class 3hr 37 17:15 Intregalde 1hr 44min 19:45 The Story of Film 2hr 20min	13:15 The Exam 1hr 29min 15:30 The Ants and the Grasshopper 1hr 14 17:45 Tiong Bahru Social Club 1hr 28min 20:00 So Which Band is Your Boyfriend in? 1hr 37min	11:00 International Comp 1 1hr 35min 13:45 International Comp 2 1hr 44min 16:00 Dear Future Children 1hr 29min 18:15 International Comp 3 1hr 34min 20:30 Screendance Comp 1hr 34min	Howard Assembly Room 19:45 The Crowd 1hr 38min	Kratt (until noon on 13 Nov) Queer Short Competition 1 Queer Short Competition 2 International Competition 1 International Competition 2
Fri 12 Nov	12:00 Solaris 2hr 47min 15:15 Paris, 13th District 1hr 45min 17:45 Medusa 2hr 7min 20:45 Titane 1hr 48min	12:15 Junk Head 1hr 55min 15:00 Fortune Favours Lady Nikuko 1hr 37 17:30 The Great Yokai War 1hr 58min 20:15 This Game's Called Murder 1hr 45m	12:45 Clara Sola 1hr 48min 15:15 Playground 1hr 12min 17:15 Between Two Worlds 1hr 46min 19:45 Murder Bury Win 1hr 30min 22:00 Frank & Zed 1hr 30min	11:00 International Comp 4 1hr 35min 13:45 International Comp 5 1hr 33min 16:00 Unapologetic 1hr 22min 18:15 International Comp 6 1hr 40min 20:15 200 Meters 1hr 36min	Howard Assembly Room 13:00 Wool 100% 1hr 40min 15:45 Angel's Egg 1hr 11min 18:00 Summer Ghost 1hr 15min 20:30 World Animation Comp 1 1hr 32m	International Competition 3 International Competition 4 International Competition 5 International Competition 6 Screendance Competition
Sat 13 Nov	13:15 Do Not Hesitate 1hr 31min 15:30 Lingui, The Sacred Bonds 1hr 27min 17:45 Paris, 13th District 1hr 45min 20:30 Compartment Number 6 1hr 47min	12:45 Funky Forest: The First Contact 2hr 30 15:45 Valentina 1hr 35min 18:00 Symbol 1hr 33min 20:15 Cube 1hr 48min	12:00 Zahori 1hr 45min 14:45 Alien on Stage 1hr 26min 17:15 Lapwing 1hr 27min 19:45 Sweetie, You Won't Believe It 1hr 24 21:45 The Sadness 1hr 38min	11:00 British Competition 1 1hr 30min 13:45 British Competition 2 1hr 32min 16:00 1970 + Liberation Radio 1hr 23min 18:15 British Competition 3 1hr 31min 20:30 A Distant Thud in the Jungle 1hr 25min	Howard Assembly Room 13:00 The Parallel Street 1hr 26min 15:30 World Animation Comp 2 1hr 34min 18:00 Final Account 1hr 34min 20:30 World Animation Comp 3 1hr 92min	Unapologetic 1970 + Liberation Radio A Distant Thud in the Jungle World Animation Competition 1 World Animation Competition 2
Sun 14 Nov	12:15 Compartment Number 6 1hr 47min 14:45 Do Not Hesitate 1hr 31min 17:15 The Eyes of Tammy Faye 2hr 6min 20:15 The Souvenir: Part II 1hr 46min	12:30 Summer Time Machine Blues 1hr 47 15:00 The Great Yokai War 1hr 58min 17:45 Fortune Favours Lady Nikuko 1hr 37 20:00 Junk Head 1hr 55min	12:00 The Sacred Spirit 1hr 37min 14:15 Playground 1hr 12min 16:30 Clara Sola 1hr 48min 19:00 What Do We See When We Look at the Sky? 2hr 30min	11:00 Yorkshire Competition 1hr 32min 13:15 200 Meters 1hr 36min 15:30 Unapologetic 1hr 22min 17:45 Yorkshire Competition 1hr 32min 20:30 Ascension 1hr 37min	Belgrave Music Hall 12:00 In My Own Time 1hr 25min 14:15 The Nowhere Inn 1hr 31min 16:30 Leeds Music Video Comp 1hr 9min 18:15 In My Own Time 1hr 25min 20:30 The Nowhere Inn 1hr 31min	Murder Bury Win Frank & Zed Sweetie (until noon on 16 Nov) Alien on Stage World Animation Competition 3
Mon 15 Nov	13:45 Solaris 2hr 47min 17:15 Medusa 2hr 7min 20:15 Titane 1hr 48min	12:45 Symbol 1hr 33min 15:00 Cube 1hr 48min 17:45 Faya Dayi 2hr 20:30 The Justice of Bunny King 1hr 41min	13:00 Lapwing 1hr 27min 15:15 Alien on Stage 1hr 26min 17:30 La Traviata, My Brothers & I 1hr 48m 20:00 Looking for Venera 1hr 51min	13:15 The Old Dark House 1hr 12min 15:15 The Haunting 1hr 52min 18:00 A Distant Thud in the Jungle 1hr 25min 20:15 De Cierta Manera 1hr 48min	National Science & Media Museum 19:00 Xala (on 35mm) 2hr 3min	Lapwing British Competition 1 British Competition 2 British Competition 3
Tue 16 Nov	12:45 Medusa 2hr 7min 15:30 Titane 1hr 48min 18:00 Compartment Number 6 1hr 47min 20:30 Lingui, The Sacred Bonds 1hr 27min	13:00 The Shop on the Main Street 2hr 8min 15:45 This Game's Called Murder 1hr 45m 18:15 Chameleon Street 1hr 34min 20:45 Valentina 1hr 35min	12:15 Playground 1hr 12min 14:30 Zahori 1hr 45min 17:45 Between Two Worlds 1hr 46min 20:15 La Traviata, My Brothers & I 1hr 48m	11:00 Ascension 1hr 37min 13:30 200 Meters 1hr 36min 15:45 De Cierta Manera 1hr 48min 18:15 Alice Cares 1hr 19min 20:45 1970 + Liberation Radio 1hr 23min	National Science & Media Museum 18:30 The Man Who Stole the Sun 2hr 27m	Valentina The Sacred Spirit (until noon on 18 Nov) Looking for Venera Yorkshire Competition The Justice of Bunny King
Wed 17 Nov	12:15 Do Not Hesitate 1hr 31min 15:00 Paris, 13th District 1hr 45min 20:30 The Souvenir: Part II 1hr 46min	12:45 Chameleon Street 1hr 34min 15:00 Faya Dayi 2hr 17:45 The Justice of Bunny King 1hr 41min 20:45 You Resemble Me 1hr 30min	12:00 What Do We See When... 2hr 30min 15:15 Looking for Venera 1hr 51min 18:00 The Sacred Spirit 1hr 37min 20:15 Clara Sola 1hr 48min	12:00 Short Film Awards: The Winners 1hr30 14:15 Transform! 1hr 33min 16:30 Filmbankmedia Event See pg 91 18:15 Transform! 1hr 33min 20:30 Short Film Awards: The Winners 1hr30	Leeds School of Arts Cinema 19:00 The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie 1hr 42min	Transform! Short Film Awards: The Winners
Thu 18	15:15 The Souvenir: Part II 1hr 46min 17:45 Ali & Ava 1hr 35min 20:00 Ali & Ava 1hr 35min	14:45 The Shop on the Main Street 2hr 8min 17:30 You Resemble Me 1hr 30min 19:45 The Justice of Bunny King 1hr 41min	14:00 What Do We See When... 2hr 30min 17:15 The Sacred Spirit 1hr 37min 19:30 Between Two Worlds 1hr 46min			

Screenings and events start at or shortly after the advertised times – there are no adverts or trailers.

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LIFF is organised by the Leeds Film team at Leeds City Council. Based at Leeds Town Hall, Leeds Film also organises Leeds Young Film Festival, Independent Directions Film Festival, and year-round film and education programmes, and operates leedsfilm.com. All our activities are made possible by our partnerships and if you would like further information about opportunities with Leeds Film, please email leeds.film@leeds.gov.uk or call +44(0)113 378 5999

Film Hub North & BFI NETWORK

Supporting filmmakers at LIFF 2021

Join our team for screenings, talks & socials
Online, 15 - 16 November

filmhubnorth.org.uk/liff-2021



Dirt - Paul Preston, 2020



Official Selection



Zahori

The Official Selection is at the heart of the LIFF programme, an extensive representation of new filmmaking and diverse voices from around the world. Among the 42 selected features are some of the most talked about films of the year, prize-winners from Berlin, Cannes, and Venice film festivals, and 16 debuts from exciting new filmmaking talent.

LIFF 2021 opens on 3rd November with Pablo Larrain's eagerly awaited *Spencer*, starring Kristen Stewart in a mesmerising performance as Princess Diana. Many more new films from some of the world's leading filmmakers follow *Spencer*, including Jane Campion (*The Power of the Dog*), Paolo Sorrentino (*The Hand of God*), Mahamat-Saleh Haroun (*Lingui, the Sacred Bonds*), and Apichatpong Weerasethakul (*Memoria*). New British films are highlights throughout the LIFF 2021 programme and Official Selection includes Joanna Hogg's *The Souvenir: Part II* and our closing film *Ali & Ava*, Clio Barnard's acclaimed new drama filmed in Bradford.

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LEEDS ARTS
EVENTS & VENUES



200 Meters Feature Debut

In Venues

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Fri 12 Nov 20:45, Sun 14 Nov 13:15, Tue 16 Nov 13:30 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Ameen Nayfeh | Palestine, Jordan, Qatar, Italy | 2020 | 1hr 36min | Arabic, Hebrew with subtitles & English



Both gripping thriller and insightful character drama, 200 Meters makes clever use of the barriers and contradictions of life in the occupied territories in Palestine. Mustafa and his wife Salwa live 200 metres apart in villages separated by the wall. One day he gets a call every parent dreads: his son has had an accident. Rushing to cross the Israeli checkpoint, Mustafa is denied on a technicality and is forced to try and smuggle himself to the other side of the wall in an increasingly desperate odyssey along the border.

Ali & Ava LIFF 2021 Closing Film

In Venues

VUE Screen 12 | Thu 18 Nov 17:45, Thu 18 Nov 20:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Clio Barnard | UK | 2021 | 1hr 35min | English



A forbidden love story on the lived-in streets of Bradford. Ali is many things: part-time DJ, caring landlord, surrogate dad. Mostly he's a live-wire who listens and cares, ever-able to improve moods and get the most from folk. Ava, a woman left to care for her taxing home life by a long-departed spouse, comes into Ali's sparky orbit, meeting his natural compassion with her own easy fondness. An arresting, yearning romantic drama by Clio Barnard that's laced through with deep feeling for all of love's – and Bradford's – complexity.

Ane is Missing Feature Debut

In Venues Online

VUE Screen 9 | Sat 6 Nov 20:30, Tue 9 Nov 15:45 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. David Pérez Sañudo | Spain | 2020 | 1hr 40min | Basque, Spanish with subtitles



David Pérez Sañudo's genre-weaving debut feature is a gripping mystery, political drama and probing psychological study. Lide works as a security guard at a railway construction site, a project that has unleashed a wave of protests. As she returns home after a long night shift, she discovers that her teenage daughter, Ane, is nowhere to be found. Looking through Ane's things, she gradually realises that her daughter is a member of a radical activist group that has been linked to violent clashes with police. Fearing the worst, Lide starts her own investigation and will stop at nothing to find her daughter.

Azor Feature Debut

▼ In Venues

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Thu 4 Nov 18:00, Fri 5 Nov 15:45 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Andreas Fontana | Switzerland, France, Argentina | 2021 | 1hr 40min | French, Spanish with subtitles & English



Set in 1980s Argentina in the midst of a military dictatorship, this subtle and suspenseful thriller sees Swiss private banker Yvan De Wiel travel with his wife Inés to Buenos Aires, in search of his missing business partner René Keys. Meeting with various wealthy clients, De Wiel must navigate a world of luxury and corruption in order to untangle the mysterious fate of his partner Keys. With strong evocations of Conrad's Heart of Darkness, Azor is a sublimely atmospheric feature debut by director Andreas Fontana.

Clara Sola Feature Debut

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 9 | Fri 12 Nov 12:45, Sun 14 Nov 16:30, Wed 17 Nov 20:15 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Nathalie Álvarez Mesén | Costa Rica, Sweden, Belgium, Germany | 2021 | 1hr 48min | Spanish with subtitles



There is something life-giving, magical even, in Clara's hands. Disabled slightly by a crooked spine, and by a developmental delay that's willfully unaddressed, Clara is now 40 and is believed to perform miracles. Cloistered by a loving, cautious mother who entrusts all to God, Clara's saintlike status is a two-edged sword, allowing protection and inner divinity but outer suppression. Clara's stirring sexual desire may resolve in her happiness, but it's also a threat. A striking, singular, sensual debut feature by Costa Rican-Swedish filmmaker Nathalie Álvarez Mesén.

Between Two Worlds

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 9 | Fri 12 Nov 17:15, Tue 16 Nov 17:45, Thu 18 Nov 19:30 | £9/£7.50

Emmanuel Carrère | France | 2021 | 1hr 46min | French with subtitles



Marianne Winckler (Juliette Binoche) is a well-known author who goes to live in northern France to research for a new book about job insecurity. Without revealing her real identity, Marianne is hired as a cleaner, working with a group of other women, and experiences financial instability and social invisibility first-hand. But she also discovers mutual assistance and solidarity, strong bonds shared by these disregarded working women. 'Binoche's naturalistic performance marries itself beautifully to the ensemble while grounding, in reality, a character unbelievable, yet true.' (The Playlist)

Compartment no. 6

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 12 | Sat 13 Nov 20:30, Sun 14 Nov 12:15, Tue 16 Nov 18:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Juho Kuosmanen | Finland, Russia, Estonia, Germany | 2021 | 1hr 47min | Russian, Finnish with Subtitles



In the early 1990s, young Finnish archaeology student Laura boards a train from Moscow to Murmansk in Russia's far north; her goal is to look at some ancient rocks. In her cheap shared sleeper cabin she's dismayed to find a vodka-swilling, trash-talking young Russian, Ljoha, who is heading to work in the mines. They have 1200 miles and two days together, a worrisome prospect at first, but what transpires between them is warm, surprising, and achingly human. Pre-smartphone loneliness has never felt so lovely.

The Card Counter

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 12 | Thu 4 Nov 15:15, Thu 4 Nov 20:30 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Paul Schrader | UK, China, USA | 2021 | 1hr 49min | English



William Tell (Oscar Isaac) is an ex-military interrogator living under the radar as a low-stakes gambler. Tell's meticulous life is thrown into disarray when he encounters Cirk (Tye Sheridan), a young man out for revenge against a mutual enemy. With backing from mysterious financier La Linda (Tiffany Haddish), Tell takes Cirk on the casino circuit to set him on a new path. 'It's a supremely compelling tale leavened by its wry humour and a subtle commentary on the essential emptiness of American life.' (Little White Lies)

Do Not Hesitate

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 12 | Sat 13 Nov 13:15, Sun 14 Nov 14:45, Wed 17 Nov 12:15 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Shariff Korver | Netherlands, Greece | 2021 | 1hr 31min | Dutch with subtitles & English



A Dutch military convoy on a peacekeeping mission in the Middle East, becomes stranded when their vehicle breaks down in the desert. As they wait for a repair team, they mistake a goat for an adversary and shoot it dead in the bushes. The furious goat's owner, a local 14-year-old boy, appears and refuses to leave. As tensions simmer and supplies dwindle, paranoia begins to disseminate amongst the men leading to some irreversible choices. Do Not Hesitate excels as both a taut thriller and a haunting psychological study.

Drive My Car

VUE Screen 11 | Sat 6 Nov 19:00, Wed 10 Nov 19:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Ryusuke Hamaguchi | Japan | 2021 | 2hr 59min | Japanese with subtitles | Cert 15



Ryusuke Hamaguchi's sublime and richly complex drama is an adaptation of a Haruki Murakami short story probing the psychological subtleties of love and loss, identity and infidelity. Yusuke Kafuku is a middle aged stage actor and director who travels to Hiroshima to produce a new play for a theatre festival. He is grieving the recent death of his wife, who has left behind a secret. There he meets Misaki, a reticent woman assigned to become his chauffeur. As they spend time together, Kafuku confronts the mystery of his wife that quietly haunts him.

▼ In Venues

Fabian Going to the Dogs

VUE Screen 9 | Thu 4 Nov 13:30, Sat 6 Nov 14:00 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Dominik Graf | Germany | 2021 | 2hr 56min | German with subtitles



A heady evocation of the decadent and precarious Weimar era Berlin in 1931, Fabian - Going to the Dogs is a fresh new take on the period drama. Director Dominik Graf uses an arsenal of techniques from fast paced editing and handheld cameras to split screen and archive to create a dynamic style. Jakob Fabian works in advertising during the day and drifts through bars and brothels at night. He meets and falls in love with Cornelia but their newfound happiness cannot last as the world around them starts to fall apart.

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

Evolution

VUE Screen 9 | Thu 4 Nov 17:30, Sun 7 Nov 17:15 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Kornél Mundruczó | Germany, Hungary | 2021 | 1hr 37min | Hungarian, German with subtitles



Hungarian director Kornél Mundruczó and screenwriter Kata Wéber (White God and Pieces of a Woman) return with a powerful and richly cinematic drama tracing the historical trauma of the Second World War through three generations of a family. The film begins with an extraordinary, wordless sequence with dizzying cinematography, probing a surreal memory at the liberation of a concentration camp. Sequences in modern Europe depict a holocaust survivor in Budapest and a young couple involved in an anti-Semitic episode in contemporary Berlin as the film follows a trajectory of pain through to a more hopeful future.

▼ In Venues

Great Freedom

VUE Screen 9 | Fri 5 Nov 12:45, Sun 7 Nov 20:00, Mon 8 Nov 12:30 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Sebastian Meise | Austria, Germany | 2021 | 1hr 57min | German with subtitles



From 1872 to 1994, German law criminalised homosexuality via 'Paragraph 175'. It's this rule, and all of its fearful effects on people and society, that hangs over Australian director Sebastian Meise's masterful, moving prison-based drama. Over three criss-crossing time periods: Nazi-era 1945, old-guard shedding 1969 and a 1957 interlude, out gay man Hans, is imprisoned repeatedly for 'lewd acts', each time encountering Victor, a toughened criminal who's much less able than Hans to discuss their queerness. An illuminating and vital Cannes award-winner.

▼ In Venues

The Exam

VUE Screen 9 | Mon 8 Nov 17:45, Wed 10 Nov 16:15, Thu 11 Nov 13:15 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Shawkat Amin Korki | Germany, Iraq, Qatar | 2021 | 1hr 29min | Kurdish with subtitles



The Exam by the acclaimed Kurdish director Shawkat Amin Korki is a daring tale of emancipation, sisterhood and corruption. Rojin is about to sit her university entrance exam, but if she fails, her father will force her into an arranged marriage. Rojin's unhappily married older sister Shilan knows exactly what's at stake, and decides to help her pass at any cost. After eliciting the assistance of an underground business that helps students cheat, they soon find themselves entangled in a vast network of corruption that connects all parts of society.

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

The Hand of God

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Sun 7 Nov 19:45, Tue 9 Nov 20:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Paolo Sorrentino | Italy | 2021 | 2hr 10min | Italian with subtitles



The latest film from Paolo Sorrentino (The Great Beauty) is the story of a young man's heartbreak and liberation in '80s Naples. FABIETTO Schisa might be an awkward Italian teen struggling to find his place, but he finds joy in an amazing family who love life, relish mischief and take deep pleasure in meddling in one another's complicated relationships. Then comes a pair of events that alter everything. 'The Hand of God is backdropped by azure waters of the Gulf of Naples and a tapestry of extended family life that's a joy to witness.' (Time Out)

▼ In Venues

Hit the Road Feature Debut

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 11 | Thu 4 Nov 15:30, Fri 5 Nov 17:15, Mon 8 Nov 18:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Panah Panahi | Iran | 2021 | 1hr 33min | Persian with subtitles



A lively young boy, a grumpy dad, an emotive mum, a taciturn older brother, a soulful dog. A family is on a road-trip across Iran to a mysterious border destination. On the way there is much hilarity, much scolding, and much chatting about pop music and Batman. But there's also pain, of a kind that we can glimpse occasionally but which only comes fully into view in this film's beautifully transformative final stretches. As poetic, and as full of charisma, as the classics of Iranian cinema.

The Justice of Bunny King Feature Debut

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

VUE Screen 11 | Mon 15 Nov 20:30, Wed 17 Nov 17:45, Thu 18 Nov 19:45 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Gaysorn Thavat | New Zealand | 2021 | 1hr 41min | English



Bunny King is a headstrong mother of two with a sketchy past and a razor-sharp tongue. She spends her days washing car windscreens in order to save enough money to regain custody of her kids. After promising her daughter a birthday party, Bunny must fight the social services and break the rules to keep her word, but in doing so risks losing her children altogether. Accompanied by her niece Tonya, Bunny is in a race against the clock and headed towards an epic showdown with the authorities. Gaysorn Thavat's loveable feature debut is both a funny and touching social realist drama.

Hope

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 11 | Fri 5 Nov 19:45, Sat 6 Nov 13:30, Wed 10 Nov 16:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Maria Sødahl | Norway, Sweden, Denmark | 2019 | 2hr 10min | Norwegian with subtitles & English



Longtime partners and parents to a large family, Anja (Andrea Bræin Hovig) and Tomas (Stellan Skarsgård) have grown independent of each other, with creative jobs in parallel worlds. Their modern life breaks down when Anja gets a terminal cancer diagnosis and realises that she needs Tomas' full support. After years of emotional isolation, they finally begin to find each other again. Based on writer-director Maria Sødahl's own experience of being diagnosed with cancer, Hope is a poignant and intimately observed drama about the resilience of love.

La Mif

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 11 | Thu 4 Nov 17:45, Sun 7 Nov 12:15 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Fred Baillif | Switzerland | 2021 | 1hr 50min | French with subtitles



Frederic Baillif's remarkably authentic docu-style drama follows a group of teenage girls in a residential care home. Emerging from difficult backgrounds, here in the safe house, the girls find a new sense of community full of unexpected tensions and intimacies. An incident triggers a chain of reactions that reveal the imperfections of the youth protection system, as well as the demons that haunt the girls. Created in close collaboration with the young actors, La Mif tenderly questions what it might actually mean to be part of a family.

Întregalde

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 11 | Mon 8 Nov 20:15, Thu 11 Nov 17:15 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Radu Muntean | Romania | 2021 | 1hr 44min | Romanian, Romany with subtitles & English



Radu Muntean, one of the leading filmmakers in the Romanian New Wave (and director of previous LIFF favourites Tuesday After Christmas and One Floor Below) returns with the incisive and compelling road movie, Întregalde. Three friends are on their regular end-of-the-year humanitarian trip, driving along mountain dirt roads in their big SUVs. They lose their way and stop to offer a lift to an old man. But his directions prove unreliable and they end up getting stuck in a ditch all night, as their ideas of empathy and charity start to break down.

La Traviata, My Brothers and I Feature Debut

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 9 | Mon 15 Nov 17:30, Tue 16 Nov 20:15 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Yohan Manca | France | 2021 | 1hr 48min | French with subtitles



A long, sun-kissed summer in their downmarket coastal hometown lies before Nour and his older brothers. Nour is 13, old enough to work and so become more of 'a man', with each brother offering a version of what that could mean: Mo the cheeky lothario, Heidi the wily criminal, and oldest Abel the stern leader. Nour is drawn to the singing classes he hears on his summer job, and this 'feminine' calling clashes with macho culture. A warm, vivid film that conjures empathy for all types of 'bro'.

Lingui, The Sacred Bonds

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 12 | Sat 13 Nov 15:30, Tue 16 Nov 20:30 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Mahamat-Saleh Haroun | France, Chad, Germany, Belgium | 2021 | 1hr 27min | French with subtitles



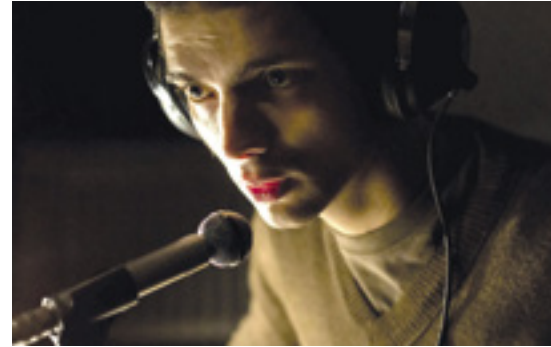
Veteran Chadian director Mahamat-Saleh Haroun returns with this powerful tale of resilience and sisterhood. Amina is a single mother living on the outskirts of Chad, where she has built a life of her own since being exiled from her family for having a child young out of wedlock. A practising Muslim, she is shocked to discover that her 15-year-old daughter is pregnant and wants an abortion. Amina is faced with an impossible situation in a country where abortion is legally and morally condemned.

Magnetic Beats Feature Debut

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 9 | Wed 3 Nov 20:45, Fri 5 Nov 17:30, Wed 10 Nov 20:30 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Vincent Cardona | France, Germany | 2021 | 1hr 38min | French, German with subtitles & English



Magnetic Beats is a lively and distinctive debut from Vincent Maël Cardona channelling post-punk energy in the world of underground radio in 1980s Brittany. A bunch of friends broadcast a free radio station from their hometown in the countryside. Led by the charismatic Jerome and his quiet tech-savvy brother Philippe, they live in the moment until Phillippe is called away for military service. He finds new broadcasting adventures in Berlin but longs to be back home with his friends. Featuring a lively, infectious period soundtrack and brilliantly inventive sound design throughout.

Looking for Venera Feature Debut

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

VUE Screen 9 | Mon 15 Nov 20:00, Wed 17 Nov 15:15 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Norika Sefa | Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo | 2021 | 1hr 51min | Albanian with subtitles



This richly observed feature debut by Norika Sefa follows the quiet teenager Venera, growing up in a small village in Kosovo. Living in a crowded, multi-generational household, Venera can rarely find space or privacy. When Venera befriends the spirited Dorina, a new and liberating world opens up to her and she begins to push against the expectations of her conservative patriarchal family. Formally innovative and beautifully shot, the film makes skillful use of closely cropped framing to convey the suffocating environment of Venera's home life, in this fresh take on the coming-of-age genre.

Memoria

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 12 | Thu 11 Nov 20:15 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Apichatpong Weerasethakul | Colombia, Thailand, France, Germany | 2021 | 2hr 16min | Spanish with subtitles



A woman working as a botanist in Bogotá feels unsettled by a sudden 'Bang!', that maddeningly, only she can ever hear. What might be the cause? What is different about her? As she searches hesitantly for clues in the city and then the countryside, Thai director Apichatpong Weerasethakul's extraordinary cosmic mystery becomes deeper and more special, incorporating natural worlds, time and memory. A wondrous and unique collaboration with lead actor Tilda Swinton, and winner of Cannes Film Festival's Jury Prize.

Luzzu Feature Debut

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 9 | Fri 5 Nov 20:15, Mon 8 Nov 15:15 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Alex Camilleri | Malta | 2021 | 1hr 34min | Maltese with subtitles



Jesmark, a Maltese fisherman discovers another leak in his wooden luzzu boat. Barely getting by, he sees his livelihood and the family tradition imperiled by diminishing harvests, a ruthless fishing industry, and a stagnating ecosystem. Desperate to provide for his wife and their sickly son, Jesmark slips into a sinister black-market operation. Luzzu is the first Maltese feature to compete in a major international festival, picking up the Special Jury Award for acting at Sundance, and heralding the arrival of writer-director-editor Alex Camilleri.

Mothering Sunday

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 12 | Sun 7 Nov 17:30, Wed 10 Nov 18:00, Thu 11 Nov 14:45 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Eva Husson | UK | 2021 | 1hr 50min | English



From the producers of Carol (LIFF 2015 closing film), adapted from Graham Swift's novel by Alice Birch (Lady Macbeth - LIFF 2016), and directed by Eva Husson (Girls of the Sun - LIFF 2018), Mothering Sunday is a story of grief, responsibility, and secret love in post-WWI England. On Mother's Day in 1924, housemaid Jane Fairchild (Odessa Young) finds herself alone and spends an afternoon of abandon with her secret lover Paul (Josh O'Connor). But events that neither can foresee will change the course of Jane's life forever.

Natural Light Feature Debut

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 12 | Fri 5 Nov 20:00, Sun 7 Nov 12:30 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Dénes Nagy | Hungary, Latvia, France, Germany | 2021 | 1hr 43min | Hungarian, Russian with subtitles



Dénes Nagy won Best Director at the 2021 Berlin Film Festival for his powerful feature debut with its breathtaking visual style. Deep into the Second World War and in the heart of Hungary, which allied with Nazi Germany, a small unit of soldiers hunt down any partisan opposition among remote villages. After the death of the unit commander, Corporal István Semetka is forced to take charge and faces new orders for stronger measures against the villagers. 'An absorbing, beautifully crafted, thought-provoking addition to the new Hungarian cinematic wave...' (Screen International)

Playground Feature Debut

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 9 | Fri 12 Nov 15:15, Sun 14 Nov 14:15, Tue 16 Nov 12:15 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Laura Wandel | Belgium | 2021 | 1hr 12min | French with subtitles



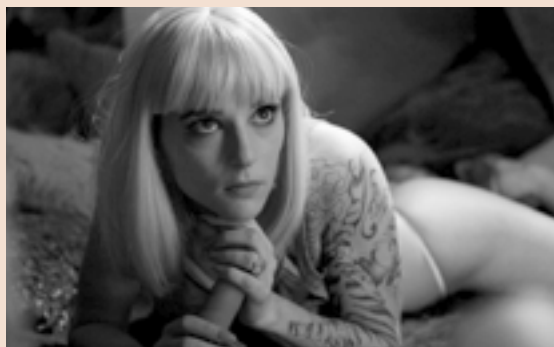
Do you remember your first moments at primary school? In Laura Wandel's striking debut film, we're with 7-year-old Nora right through her own jolting first adjustments to a particularly unsupervised playground. The film's original title, *Un monde*, is the best indicator of what to expect: camera at a low eye height, a whirling panoply of sounds, injustice seemingly in every corner. Nora's all-seeing protector Dad has left her at the gate, and in place of adult rules, there's new alliances with friends, however temporary. A wild, immersive ride and a clear parable of moral law.

Paris, 13th District

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 12 | Fri 12 Nov 15:15, Sat 13 Nov 17:45, Wed 17 Nov 15:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Jacques Audiard | France | 2021 | 1hr 45min | French with subtitles



Four young Parisians explore sex and city life. Emilie is an underachiever who's living her best sex life. To help pay the bills she takes in Camille; charming, fit, and fine with no-strings hook-ups. Meanwhile, serious-minded Nora is mistaken for a porn-cam performer by her peers. Her social life's tragique, until she lands in Camille's workplace. This contemporary, multiracial update of classically French ideas combines U.S. cartoonist Adrian Tomine's urbane takes with Céline Sciamma (*Portrait of a Lady on Fire*)'s script, and Jacques Audiard (*A Prophet*)'s robust direction.

The Power of the Dog

▼ In Venues

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Fri 5 Nov 18:15, Sun 7 Nov 17:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Jane Campion | UK, Australia, USA, Canada, New Zealand | 2021 | 2hr 5min | English



Charismatic rancher Phil Burbank (Benedict Cumberbatch) inspires fear and awe in those around him. When his brother George (Jesse Plemons) brings home a new wife Rose Gordon (Kirsten Dunst) and her son Peter (Kodi Smit-McPhee), Phil torments them until he finds himself exposed to the possibility of love. 'Jane Campion makes a thrilling return with *The Power of the Dog*, a work as boldly idiosyncratic, unpredictable and alive with psychological complexity as anything in the revered director's output.' (Hollywood Reporter)

Petite Maman

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 12 | Thu 4 Nov 13:15, Fri 5 Nov 18:00, Sun 7 Nov 15:30 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Céline Sciamma | France | 2021 | 1hr 12min | French with subtitles



French auteur Céline Sciamma (*Tomboy*, *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*) returns with this exquisite time-bending tale of childhood grief and wonder. 8-year-old Nelly has just lost her beloved grandmother, and is helping her parents clean out her mother's childhood home. One day she meets a strangely familiar girl her own age in the woods. Instantly forming a connection with this mysterious new friend, Nelly embarks on a fantastical journey of discovery which helps her come to terms with this newfound loss.

Queen of Glory Feature Debut

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

VUE Screen 9 | Sat 6 Nov 12:00, Wed 10 Nov 18:30 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Nana Mensah | USA | 2021 | 1hr 18min | English



In her feature filmmaking debut, writer-director Nana Mensah plays Ghanaian-American Sarah. Sarah is a PhD student whose planned future is thrown into disarray by the unexpected death of her mother, and the surprising news that she has inherited her beloved Christian bookstore in the Bronx. Tasked with planning the funeral, Sarah must juggle the cultural expectations of her family and the reappearance of her estranged father, whilst deciding whether to sell the bookstore. Winner of Best New Narrative Director at Tribeca, this heartfelt comedy marks an exciting new talent to watch.

Reflection

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 9 | Sat 6 Nov 17:45, Mon 8 Nov 20:00, Wed 10 Nov 13:15 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Valentyn Vasyanovych | Ukraine | 2021 | 2hr 5min | Ukrainian, Russian with subtitles



Masterfully written, directed and shot by Valentyn Vasyanovych, Reflection is an extraordinary and profound meditation on the effects of war. Ukrainian surgeon Serhiy is forced to witness unspeakable horrors whilst captured by the Russian military forces in the conflict zone in Eastern Ukraine. After his release, he returns to his comfortable middle-class apartment and tries to find a purpose in life by rebuilding his relationship with his daughter and ex-wife. Serhiy must overcome his past trauma and learn how to be a human being again.

Spencer LIFF 2021 Opening Film

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 12 | Wed 3 Nov 17:45 | VUE Screen 11 | Wed 3 Nov 18:00 | VUE Screen 9 | Wed 3 Nov 18:15 | £9/£7.50 Dir. Pablo Larrain | Germany, Chile, UK, USA | 2021 | 1hr 51min | English | Cert 12A



The marriage of Princess Diana and Prince Charles has long since grown cold. Though rumours of affairs and a divorce abound, peace is ordained for the Christmas festivities at Sandringham. There's eating and drinking, shooting and hunting. Diana knows the game. But this year, things will be a whole lot different. Featuring a mesmerising lead performance from Kristen Stewart, Spencer is a haunting re-imagining of what might have happened during those few fateful days from director Pablo Larraín (Jackie) and writer Steven Knight (Peaky Blinders), with music from Jonny Greenwood.

The Sacred Spirit Feature Debut

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

VUE Screen 9 | Sun 14 Nov 12:00, Wed 17 Nov 18:00, Thu 18 Nov 17:15 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Chema Garcia Ibarra | Spain, France, Turkey | 2021 | 1hr 37min | Spanish with subtitles



An eerie pitch black comedy from debut feature filmmaker Chema García Ibarra, whose previous short film Misterio screened at LIFF 2013. While an ongoing investigation into the mysterious disappearance of a little girl is shaking the local community, José Manuel continues his routine. He works in his modest bar, takes care of his mother and attends meetings of the ufology association, where he exchanges information about extraterrestrial activity. When their leader dies unexpectedly, José Manuel is the only person who knows the cosmic secret that could alter the future of humanity.

Valentina Feature Debut

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

VUE Screen 11 | Sat 13 Nov 15:45, Tue 16 Nov 20:45 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Cássio Pereira dos Santos | Brazil | 2020 | 1hr 35min | Portuguese with subtitles | Cert 15



This accomplished debut feature by Cássio Pereira dos Santos gives powerful expression to the struggles of a young transgender teenager in Brazil. Valentina and her mother move to a small rural town hoping to make a fresh start. When enrolling in a new school, Valentina comes up against bureaucratic barriers and must get the signature of her estranged father in order to enroll with her new name. With a strong central performance by trans actress Thiessa Woinbackk, Valentina provides vital representation to the Brazilian trans experience and is an empowering portrait of a young woman fighting for her rights.

The Souvenir: Part II

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 12 | Sun 14 Nov 20:15, Wed 17 Nov 20:30, Thu 18 Nov 15:15 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Joanna Hogg | UK | 2021 | 1hr 46min | English



In the aftermath of her tumultuous relationship with a charismatic and manipulative older man, Julie (Honor Swinton Byrne) begins to untangle her fraught love for him in making her graduation film, sorting fact from his elaborately constructed fiction. Joanna Hogg's shimmering story of first love and a young woman's formative years, The Souvenir: Part II is a portrait of the artist that transcends the halting particulars of everyday life - a singular, alchemic mix of memoir and fantasy.

What Do We See When We Look at the Sky?

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 9 | Sun 14 Nov 19:00, Wed 17 Nov 12:00, Thu 18 Nov 14:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Aleksandre Koberidze | Germany, Georgia | 2021 | 2hr 30min | Georgian with subtitles



In this seductively original urban fairytale, director Alexandre Koberidze starts with a simple love story and builds a quirkily unpredictable portrait of life in the beautiful Georgian city of Kutaisi. For Lisa and Giorgi, it's love at first sight but although they agree to meet the next day, they are struck by a curse so they can no longer recognise each other. Life goes on as usual in their hometown, street dogs stray, the football world cup begins and a film crew on its quest to find true love might be what they need.

You Resemble Me Feature Debut

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 11 | Wed 17 Nov 20:45, Thu 18 Nov 17:30 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Dina Amer | USA, France, Egypt | 2021 | 1hr 30min | Arabic with subtitles & English



Dina Amer's vibrant and heart wrenching debut is a dramatic adaptation of the life of 'France's first female suicide bomber'. Probing far deeper than the sensationalist reactions in the media, Amer innovatively blends elements of psychological thriller, social realist drama and investigative documentary to tell an energetic story of cultural and intergenerational trauma. Two sisters grow up in poverty and neglect on the outskirts of Paris. After they are torn apart, the eldest, Hasna, struggles to find her identity, leading to a choice that shocks the world.

Zahorí Feature Debut

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 9 | Sat 13 Nov 12:00, Tue 16 Nov 14:30 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Mari Alessandrini | Switzerland, Argentina, Chile, France | 2021 | 1hr 45min | Spanish with subtitles



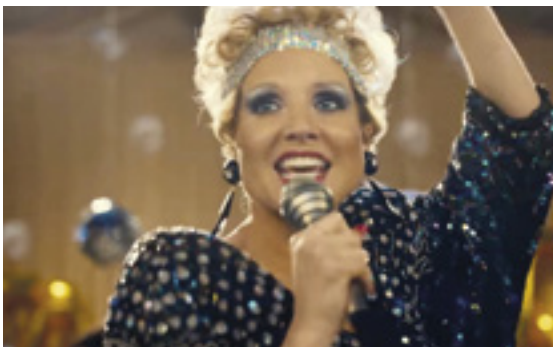
The remarkable first feature by Mari Alessandrini, Zahorí is a moving story of teenage rebellion and self-discovery set amidst the beautiful and desolate landscape of the Patagonian Steppe. The film centres around thirteen-year-old Mora, who lives on the border between Chile and Argentina with her little brother Himeko and her Swiss-Italian ecologist parents as they attempt to run a farm. An outcast at school and at odds with her parents, Mora befriends her elderly Mapuche neighbour, Nazareno, who has lost his horse Zahorí. As Mora travels into the desert in search of Zahorí she begins a personal journey of discovery.

The Eyes of Tammy Faye

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 12 | Sun 14 Nov 17:15 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Michael Showalter | Canada, USA | 2021 | 2hr 6min | English



Jessica Chastain is outstanding in this intimate look at the extraordinary rise, fall and return of televangelist Tammy Faye Bakker. In the 1970s and 80s, Tammy Faye and her husband, Jim Bakker, rose from humble beginnings to create the world's largest religious broadcasting network and theme park. Tammy Faye was legendary for her indelible eyelashes, her idiosyncratic singing, and her eagerness to embrace people from all walks of life. However, it wasn't long before financial improprieties, scheming rivals, and scandal toppled their carefully constructed empire.



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Cinema Versa



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Cinema Versa assembles a truly diverse array of incredible new documentaries as the world opens up again to face a vast range of new challenges. Candidates for non-fiction film of the year include *Flee*, an animated Danish odyssey about a migrant's journey from Afghanistan and *Mr Bachmann and His Class*, a patiently observed portrait of an inspirational German teacher. Leading British director Andrea Arnold makes her first documentary feature with empathetic and moving *Cow* and the inimitable cinephile Mark Cousins returns with *The Story of Film: A New Generation*.

Inspiring tales of activism and resistance proliferate in *The New Corporation*, *Unapologetic* and *Dear Future Children* and *The Ants and the Grasshopper* offers new perspectives on the responses to climate change. *Transform!* is a brilliant new film about disability and dance and there are a great clutch of new music docs led by *I Get Knocked Down* featuring homegrown Leeds heroes, *Chumbawumba*.

AN EXCITING NEW CHAPTER HAS BEGUN!

After years of careful planning and preparation, work on the Hyde Park Picture House's transformational redevelopment project is now underway. Combining vital conservation with the creation of new accessible facilities, **The Picture House Project** will safeguard the future of the cinema – allowing it to become a place everyone in Leeds can enjoy.

And until the cinema reopens in summer 2022, the Picture House will continue to screen some of the best films from around the world, in a range of venues across the city, as part of our **On The Road** off-site programme.



Follow the journey of the redevelopment so far at:
thepicturehouseproject.com

And discover our latest On the Road film listings at:
hydeparkpicturehouse.co.uk



1970 + Liberation Radio

▼In Venues ▼Online

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Sat 13 Nov 16:00, Tue 16 Nov 20:45 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Tomasz Wolski | Poland | 2020 | 1hr 10min + 13min (short) | Polish



1970: Poland was on the brink of a major uprising. Workers took to the streets in protest against price increases while the militia resorted to using their batons to quell the insurrection. Through the innovative use of animation and archival telephone recordings, 1970 plunges us into the heart of the rebellion yet told from the perspective of the oppressors. The film is preceded by Liberation Radio, a visual and sonic revival of revolutionary broadcasts made by American military deserters in 1968, attempting to persuade other servicemen to desert Vietnam.

A Distant Thud in the Jungle

▼In Venues ▼Online

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Sat 13 Nov 20:30, Mon 15 Nov 18:00 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Céline Rouzet | France, Belgium | 2020 | 1hr 25min | French



Papua New Guinea's feverish highlands have become the land of plenty for tourists in search of exoticism and foreign oil companies looking for new fields. In search of modernity, the Wabiria family has traded its traditional lands to ExxonMobil for royalties. But the money never comes and the family realises their landed is being stolen as they are caught between rival tribes, greedy politicians and one of the most powerful multinationals in the world. A world quietly disappears while only a few kilometres away tourists take snap shots of dances that have become meaningless.

The Ants and the Grasshopper

▼In Venues ▼Online

VUE Screen 9 | Tue 9 Nov 19:00, Thu 11 Nov 15:30 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dirs. Raj Patel, Zak Piper | Malawi | 2021 | 1hr 14min | English



Anita Chitaya has a gift; she can help bring abundant food from dead soil, she can make men fight for gender equality, and she can end child hunger in her village. Now, to save her home from extreme weather, she faces her greatest challenge: persuading Americans that climate change is real. Travelling from Malawi to California to the White House, her journey takes her across all the divisions shaping the US, from the rural-urban divide, to schisms of race, class and gender, to the thinking that allows Americans to believe they live on a different planet from everyone else.

Ascension

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Sun 14 Nov 20:30, Tue 16 Nov 11:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Jessica Kingdon | China | 2021 | 1hr 37min | Mandarin with subtitles



Ascension is a mesmerising portrait of the brave new world of consumerist China and the people working on the frontline of the ascendant new style of turbo-capitalism. Chinese-American director Jessica Kingdon maintains an unobtrusive, observational style as we witness surreal scenes on the production lines of factories making everything from artificial trees to sex dolls and bizarre business-cult training sessions to obsessively target aspirational new consumers. Despite its non-judgemental style, the film effectively highlights the contradictions and class divisions in a rapidly changing society.

▼ In Venues

Dear Future Children

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Tue 9 Nov 17:45, Thu 11 Nov 16:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Franz Böhm | Germany, Austria, UK | 2021 | 1hr 29min | English



Dear Future Children puts the spotlight on three brave and inspiring young activists, each from different backgrounds and different continents. 20-year-old director Franz Böhm tracks the new generation at the heart of a seismic political shift toward global protest in a time of growing inequality, oppressive governments and climate crisis. Rayen protests for social justice in Chile, Pepper fights for democracy in Hong Kong and Hilda battles the devastating consequences of climate change in Uganda, each dedicated to their cause despite significant personal danger and almost impossible odds.

▼ In Venues

Beijing Spring

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Fri 5 Nov 13:30, Sat 6 Nov 15:45 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dirs. Andy Cohen, Gaylen Ross | USA | 2021 | 1hr 40min | Chinese, French with subtitles & English



At Beijing's Democracy Wall in 1978, the "Stars", a group of self-taught artists (including a young Ai Weiwei) challenged propaganda by showing provocative new art that championed free expression, often exposing the inhumanity of the Cultural Revolution. Beijing Spring recounts the experiences of artists and activists who flourished in this brief period of reform, before crackdowns saw many imprisoned or exiled. Recording it all was a daring young filmmaker, Chi Xiaoning, whose astonishing, long-hidden 16mm film footage is revealed here for the first time in 40 years.

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

Dear Mr Brody

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Sat 6 Nov 20:15, Mon 8 Nov 13:00 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Keith Maitland | USA | 2020 | 1hr 37min | English



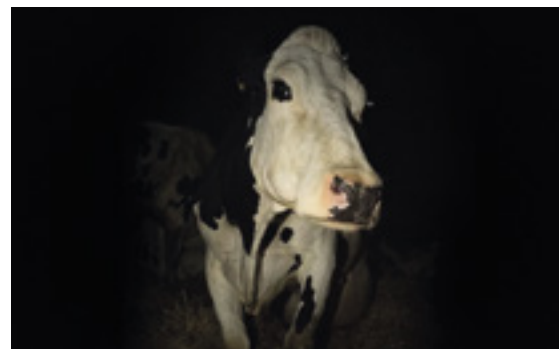
In January 1970, Michael Brody Jr., the 21-year-old heir to a margarine fortune, announced to the world that he would give away his \$25-million inheritance to anyone in need. Brody and his young wife Renee became instant celebrities: mobbed by the public, scrutinised by the press, and overwhelmed by the crush of personal letters responding to this extraordinary offer. Fifty years later, an enormous cache of these letters are discovered—revealing the incredible story of Michael Brody Jr.—and the countless struggling Americans who sought his help—to create a deeply moving meditation on desire, philanthropy, and love.

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

Cow

HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM | Sat 6 Nov 18:00, Mon 8 Nov 15:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Andrea Arnold | UK | 2021 | 1hr 33min | English



A simple, empathetic and patient approach to documentary is applied to moving effect to Luma, a dairy cow. Birthed - starkly, right before our eyes - to an animal industry and to a compliant but caring mother, Luma's entire life cycle seems prefigured at every point, yet there is drama all the time - in the push of her natural instinct against the pull of her profit-hungry environs. A long-held passion-project by director Andrea Arnold (Wuthering Heights, American Honey), whose sympathy with female bodies here again proffers a unique gaze.

▼ In Venues

Faya Dayi

VUE Screen 11 | Mon 15 Nov 17:45, Wed 17 Nov 15:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Jessica Beshir | Ethiopia, USA, Qatar | 2021 | 2hr | Amharic with English



In the hypnotic and hazily dreamlike documentary Faya Dayi, shot in gorgeous, silvery black and white tones, filmmaker Jessica Beshir plunges the viewer into a spiritual journey and an anthropological exploration of the rituals of 'khat'. Khat is a leaf chewed by Sufi Muslims for religious meditations that creates a mild euphoria in its users and has become the single most lucrative cash crop in Ethiopia today. The film follows teenaged protagonist Mohammed and his friends as they witness the seductive and destructive effects on the adults around them.

▼ In Venues

Final Account

HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM | Sat 13 Nov 18:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Luke Holland | UK, USA | 2020 | 1hr 34min | German with subtitles

▼ In Venues



In 2008, the late British filmmaker Luke Holland began interviewing the last living generation of Germans to have participated in the Third Reich, everyday citizens who carried out plans made by the architects of mass-scale genocide. More than a decade later Holland completed Final Account, a raw and urgent documentary - featuring in-depth witness statements, previously unseen archival material, and haunting current-day footage - that reflects on how otherwise ordinary people took part in one of the most extraordinary of all human crimes.

Flee

HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM | Fri 5 Nov 17:45, Sat 6 Nov 20:30 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Jonas Poher Rasmussen | Denmark, France, Sweden, Norway | 2021 | 1hr 23min | Danish, Dari, Russian, Swedish

▼ In Venues



Flee is one of the film highlights of the year, a documentary which innovatively blends animation and archive footage to tell an extraordinary and moving personal story. 'Amin Nawabi' (a pseudonym), is a 36-year-old academic and a gay man, soon to be married. He reveals a painful secret he has kept hidden for 20 years: his extraordinary journey as a child refugee from Afghanistan to Denmark. Heartfelt interviews with his friend, director Jonas Poher Rasmussen and animated storytelling combine to create the perfect medium, both protecting Amin's real identity and revealing his most intimate experiences.

I Get Knocked Down Cinema Versa Opening Film

VUE Screen 12 | Wed 3 Nov 20:15, Thu 4 Nov 18:15 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Sophie Robinson, Dunstan Bruce | UK | 2021 | 1hr 27min | English

▼ In Venues ▼ Online



Chumbawamba's hit song Tubthumping was one of the 1990s great pop culture moments, capturing the optimistic spirit of the times. In I Get Knocked Down, singer Dunstan Bruce is visited by the "Babyhead" character from the band's album cover, to reconcile with the past and see how things took such a different path to what the band had hoped. Although previously unknown to mainstream audiences, Leeds-based Chumbawamba had a fascinating history with roots in the anarchist punk and activist scenes, which the documentary captures through wonderfully entertaining archive footage.

In My Own Time: A Portrait of Karen Dalton

BELGRAVE MUSIC HALL | Sun 14 Nov 12:00, Sun 14 Nov 18:15 | £7/£6

Dirs. Richard Peete, Robert Yapkowitz | USA | 2020 | 1hr 25min | English

▼ In Venues



Karen Dalton was a one of a kind American folk singer, unjustly overlooked for many years and only now starting to recover the reputation she deserves, sadly long after her death in 1993. She first gained prominence in the Greenwich folk scene of the early 60s when Bob Dylan named her as his favourite singer. But an unconventional lifestyle and unsympathetic relationship with the music industry meant she never achieved the success she deserved. This fine documentary uses exclusive audio footage and interviews key collaborators and famous fans like Peter Stampfel and Nick Cave.

Luchadoras

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Fri 5 Nov 20:45, Tue 9 Nov 12:00 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dirs. Paola Calvo, Patrick Jasim | Germany | 2021 | 1hr 33min | Spanish with subtitles

▼ In Venues ▼ Online



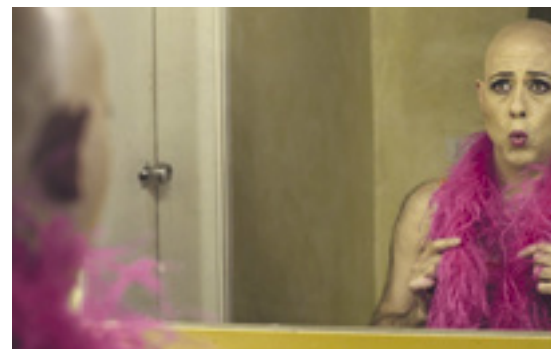
The Mexican city of Ciudad Juarez claims thousands of victims every year as drug cartels clash with government forces in the so called "War on Drugs". The city is the epicentre of a wave of crimes against women in which the culprits hardly ever get caught. This inspirational film is an intimate portrait of three courageous female wrestlers (Luchadoras) from Juarez who despite being surrounded by machismo and in constant danger both, in the ring, and also in their daily life's fight to redefine the image of what it means to be a woman in Mexico.

Miguel's War

VUE Screen 9 | Sun 7 Nov 14:30 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Eliane Raheb | Spain, Lebanon, Germany | 2021 | 2hr 9min | Arabic, Spanish with subtitles

▼ In Venues ▼ Online



Miguel is a sensitive but self-destructive Lebanese gay man, haunted by the religious and political oppressions of his youth. Traumatized by participation in Lebanon's civil war - a failed attempt to prove he can fight like a 'real man' - young Miguel exiles himself in Spain. More than 30 years later, he finally begins to confront his past, through a sometimes tense, sometimes humorous partnership with filmmaker Eliane Raheb. The result is a piece of strikingly original storytelling, excavating layers of identity, memory and fantasy, in a cathartic quest for emotional balance.

Mr Bachmann and His Class

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 11 | Tue 9 Nov 14:00 & 18:15, Thu 11 Nov 13:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Maria Speth | Germany | 2021 | 3hr 37min | German with subtitles



Maria Speth's intimate, utterly absorbing documentary is a joyful cinematic experience, exploring the bond between an inspirational teacher and his students. Herr Bachmann is a charismatic, unflappable, scruffily dressed 64-year-old, clearly held in esteem and affection by his class of young teenagers in the small German industrial town of Stadtallendorf. They all come from very mixed ethnic backgrounds with varying degrees of confidence and ability. The film patiently reveals his unconventional methods in long and fascinating classroom scenes as the dynamics of the group gradually reveal themselves.

Narcissus Off Duty

▼ In Venues

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Sat 6 Nov 18:00, Mon 8 Nov 15:30 | £9/£7.50

Dirs. Ricardo Calil, Renato Terra | Brazil | 2020 | 1hr 24min | Portuguese



World famous Brazilian singer-songwriter Caetano Veloso looks back on his experiences in 1968 when he was arrested and jailed by the military dictatorship in this quietly fascinating and intimate documentary. Shot very simply in a bare concrete room without any distractions, his words carry the film. He is a very moving storyteller, describing strange encounters with his interrogators and other prisoners with genuine insight and empathy, speaking openly about painful memories of enduring solitary confinement and its crushing effect on the human spirit.

The New Corporation: The Unfortunately Necessary Sequel

VUE Screen 9 | Sun 7 Nov 12:00, Tue 9 Nov 20:15 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dirs. Jennifer Abbott, Joel Bakan | Canada | 2020 | 1hr 45min | English

▼ In Venues ▼ Online



A startling investigation into how the corporate takeover of society is being justified by the sly rebranding of corporations as socially conscious entities. From gatherings of corporate elites in Davos, to climate change and spiralling inequality; the rise of ultra-right leaders, to Covid-19 and racial injustice, the film looks at corporations' devastating power. In the face of inequality, climate change, and the hollowing out of democracy The New Corporation is an urgent cry for social justice, democracy, and transformative solutions. A sequel and update to the hit 2003 documentary The Corporation that also works brilliantly as a standalone film.

No Straight Lines: The Rise of Queer Comics

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Thu 4 Nov 20:30, Sat 6 Nov 11:00 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Vivian Kleiman | USA | 2021 | 1hr 19min | English



No Straight Lines: The Rise of Queer Comics traces the history of queer comics in the USA through the profiles of five pioneering artists - Alison Bechdel, Howard Cruse, Jennifer Camper, Rupert Kinnard and Mary Wings. Showcasing their groundbreaking work alongside the artists' personal lives, the film explores the evolution of an LGBTQ comics scene from its beginnings in the 1970s to international recognition, and its legacy in contemporary comics today. Directed by Vivian Kleiman, a longtime collaborator of filmmaker Marlon Riggs, this engaging documentary is a touching and vital celebration of queer art.

The Nowhere Inn

▼ In Venues

BELGRAVE MUSIC HALL | Sun 14 Nov 14:15, Sun 14 Nov 20:30 | £7/£6

Dir. Bill Benz | USA | 2020 | 1hr 31min | English



When Carrie Brownstein (Portlandia) sets out to make a documentary about life on the road with singer-songwriter St Vincent, things take an endless series of unexpected turns. Annie Clark is the woman behind St Vincent, and although exotic and flamboyant onstage, her offstage persona is anything but. A struggle of objectives between Brownstein and Clark ensues and The Nowhere Inn becomes a film like no other, a visually striking feast that is in parts comedic mockumentary, concert film and surreal drama that seeks to interrogate the true essence of artistic persona.

On Our Doorstep

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Mon 8 Nov 18:00, Wed 10 Nov 15:45 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Thomas Laurance | UK | 2021 | 1hr 30min | English



In times of crisis, ordinary people instinctively step up to help each other in the absence of positive government action. On Our Doorstep tells the story of a humanitarian crisis at the Jungle camp in Calais, governments in paralysis, and untrained grassroots civilians attempting to fill the gap. Creating an intimate patchwork of the experiences of refugees and volunteers, this film offers a fresh perspective on the continuing refugee crisis and asks: what is our responsibility in a crisis like this and what are the limits of citizen action?

Reckonings: Documentary Shorts Panorama ▼In Venues ▼Online

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Sat 6 Nov 13:15 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player)

Multiple Countries | 2020 & 2021 | 2hr | Multiple languages with subtitles & English



Responding to personal, political and technological upheavals, these bold, sensory shorts stretch documentary forms in their efforts to process, repair and reimagine. Across our panorama we examine data from a fatal driverless car accident; peer into archives of space exploration and displacement from 1960s French Guiana; track the tumults of 2020 in video letters between São Paulo and LA; and witness very different creative responses to elusive family connections. Finally, we share an award-winning hybrid film praised for its lyrical sweep across the physical and emotional landscapes of post-war Iraq.

The Story of Film: A New Generation ▼In Venues

VUE Screen 11 | Mon 8 Nov 15:00, Wed 10 Nov 13:00, Thu 11 Nov 19:45 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Mark Cousins | UK | 2021 | 2hr 20min | English



Film critic and documentarian Mark Cousins returns to his long running Story of Film project with a new chapter dedicated to the cinematic innovators of the 21st Century. Drawing on a broad range of examples from around the world and across every genre, he expertly interrogates key sequences to reveal the new ideas which are extending the language of cinema. From Frozen to Cemetery of Splendour, The Act of Killing to Lover's Rock, cinema in the digital age proves to be as valued and versatile as it's ever been and a welcome return to the big screen.

So Which Band is Your Boyfriend in? ▼In Venues

VUE Screen 9 | Thu 11 Nov 20:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Suzy Harrison | UK | 2018 | 1hr 37min | English



So, Which Band is Your Boyfriend in? explores the real-life experiences of a wide range of non-male participants in the UK's DIY and underground music scenes. Through a series of interviews - examining both positive and negative experiences - the film considers what can be done to make music more accessible to everyone, regardless of gender. Presented in partnership with Nice As Pie Race Festival, a female collective promoting fun, kindness, pies and punk, proceeds will be donated to Equaliser and Female Magik at Music:Leeds. Visit leedsfilm.com and niceaspiefest.bigcartel.com for more information.

Transform! Cinema Versa Closing Film ▼In Venues ▼Online

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Wed 17 Nov 14:15, 18:15 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Tomoya Ishida | Japan | 2020 | 1hr 33min | Japanese with subtitles



Transform is a genuine expansion of the way disability is represented on film. Filmmaker Ishida Tomoya is a young disabled man and a wheelchair user who documents his own adventures with choreographer Osamu Jareo. Osamu runs a dance theatre which encourages people with different disabilities to explore their own range of movement and expression. Ishida then turns the camera on some of his classmates to discuss their experiences and the challenges facing them in society. As he puts it, 'My only handicap could be no experience in filmmaking', but he even turns that to his advantage.

SOA + Pripyat Piano ▼In Venues ▼Online

HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM | Sat 6 Nov 12:45, Mon 8 Nov 12:30 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Raquel Castro | Portugal | 2020 | 1hr 11min + 18min (short) | Portuguese, Japanese with subtitles & English



SOA is an extraordinary film about listening and sound. Director and sound artist Raquel Castro spent several years accumulating interviews with various specialists who all have a thoughtful relationship with the sonic environment: soundwalkers, sound artists and theorists, field recordists, scientists and architects. Each has a fascinating perspective and the film's aural collage makes you hear anew. Screening with the short film Pripyat Piano, exploring abandoned pianos in the Chernobyl radiation zone, the only inhabitants who can maintain its sounds even if the surrounding walls collapse.

Unapologetic ▼In Venues ▼Online

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Fri 12 Nov 16:00, Sun 14 Nov 15:30 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Ashley O'Shay | USA | 2020 | 1hr 22min | English



After two Black Chicagoans are killed, millennial organizers challenge an administration complicit in state violence against its residents. Told through the lens of Janaé and Bella, two fierce abolitionist leaders, Unapologetic is a deep look into the Movement for Black Lives, and the intersection of personal lives informing activism. The film embodies an immense desire for Black liberation, one which speaks to the power of generational and social change occurring on a local level and spearheaded by courageous Black women activists, fearlessly standing up for what they believe in.



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Fanomenon



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Fanomenon is the largest annual programme in the UK for film fans looking for the latest in action, anime, fantasy, horror, sci-fi films, and more. Fanomenon 2021 features an expanded Planet Japan selection as part of BFI Japan 2021, with 14 films including opening film *The Town of Headcounts*, closing film *The Man Who Stole the Sun* – a rarely screened '70s cult classic presented on 35mm, and the International Premiere of anime *Summer Ghost*.

Fanomenon is well known for its horror selections and our line-up this year includes Cannes Palme d'Or winner *Titane*, chilling Norwegian drama *The Innocents* in our Day of the Dead marathon, and extreme post-pandemic nightmare *The Sadness* in our two Night of the Dead double-bills. Our new Queer Fear selection – launching this year with *The Old Dark House* and *The Haunting* – aims to bring to light the narratives, filmmakers and characters that chart queer communities' lasting fascination with the horror genre.



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BIG SCREEN ENTERTAINMENT

A Banquet Fanathons: Day of the Dead

▼In Venues ▼Online

VUE Screen 12 | Sat 6 Nov 18:15, Mon 8 Nov 15:30, Thu 11 Nov 12:30 | £9/£7.50 or part of the Day of the Dead Pass £24/£20 (£7 on Player) Dir. Ruth Paxton | UK | 2021 | 1hr 37min | English



Following a strange experience at a party, teenage Betsy returns home and declares to her mother, Holly, that she no longer needs to eat, being guided by a higher power. Holly, recently widowed and still traumatised by loss, struggles to hold everything together, as Betsy is examined by doctors and experts who cannot explain why she is not losing weight. Torn between love for her daughter and her beliefs, Holly is forced to face her daughter's nihilistic epiphany. Ruth Paxton's debut feature is a claustrophobic psychological horror sharing themes with Rose Glass's chilling Saint Maud.

Absolute Denial Fanorama

▼In Venues ▼Online

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Mon 8 Nov 20:30, Wed 10 Nov 14:00 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player) Dir. Ryan Braund | UK | 2021 | 1hr 11min | English



David, an obsessive, genius programmer sacrifices everything in his personal and professional life to build a computer of unprecedented power to test his theory on AI. As the programme he's written becomes sentient and Dave becomes more tired and paranoid, a battle for superiority between man and machine begins. Drawing on the theme of Frankenstein, Ryan Braund's debut feature is a remarkably ambitious hand-crafted animation. The haunting electronic score adds a sense of urgency while Jeremy J. Smith-Sebasto as the voice of AI evokes the calm but sinister superiority of HAL from 2001.

Alien on Stage Fanorama

▼In Venues ▼Online

VUE Screen 9 | Sat 13 Nov 14:45, Mon 15 Nov 15:15 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player) Dirs. Lucy Harvey, Danielle Kummer | UK | 2020 | 1hr 26min | English



A triumph of homemade heroism, Alien On Stage is a documentary about a crew of Dorset bus drivers, whose amateur dramatics group ditch the annual pantomime for something different. They spend a year planning a lively amateur stage adaptation of the classic sci-fi horror film, Alien. With nothing more than homemade props, limited acting skills and an infectious enthusiasm they launch the show with an underwhelming local crowd only to be amazed by an invitation to come to the West End. Lucy Harvey and Danielle Kummer's cameras follow their adventures all the way.

Angel's Egg Planet Japan

HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM | Fri 12 Nov 15:45 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Mamoru Oshii | Japan | 1985 | 1hr 11min | Japanese with subtitles



One of the earliest films from Mamoru Oshii (Ghost in the Shell), Angel's Egg has an almost mythical status – a mysterious and mystical anime that audiences rarely get the opportunity to see. A version with English subtitles was created for LIFF 2009 and we are delighted to bring back Angel's Egg as part of our expanded Planet Japan celebration for 2021. Set in a vast abandoned city, Angel's Egg follows the journey of a girl guarding a giant egg and her soldier companion who tells biblical-like tales.

▼In Venues

Fanomenon Shorts: Horror Fanomenon Shorts

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Sun 7 Nov 14:30 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player)

Multiple countries | 2020 & 2021 | 1hr 37min | Multiple languages with subtitles



A mixture of light and dark tales from around the world with several entries from the UK including new films from John McPhail (Anna and the Apocalypse) and Aislinn Clarke (The Devil's Doorway) plus the foreboding The Things That Ate The Birds, shot on the Yorkshire moors. While We Stayed Home from Israel is a warning tale from lockdown while The Last Marriage from Sweden proves that life goes on, even after the zombie apocalypse. Dark Passage from the USA delivers a chilling story in just 60 seconds while Red is a blistering fast paced thrill-ride of corruption and revenge.

Coffin Homes Fanorama

VUE Screen 11 | Thu 4 Nov 13:00, Sat 6 Nov 16:30, Mon 8 Nov 12:15 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Fruit Chan | Hong Kong | 2021 | 1hr 47min | Cantonese with subtitles



Set in the perhaps unlikely world of Hong Kong's astronomically priced housing market, Coffin Homes plays fast and loose with its satire, as auteur Fruit Chan conducts a swirling chaos of genres, involving haunted apartments, a truculent but playful ghost child, hilariously extravagant splatter horror, rotten estate agents, landlords, gangs, and even an appearance by the underworld's Ghost King. With storylines as compartmentalised and disordered as the tenants' cramped cubicles, Chan still maintains his interest in social realist depictions of Hong Kong's grassroots life and anxieties over the city's future.

▼In Venues

Fanomenon Shorts: Sci-fi Fanomenon Shorts

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Sun 7 Nov 12:00 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player)

Multiple countries | 2020 & 2021 | 1hr 39min | Multiple languages with subtitles



How do you know you are you? This is the question posed in several of this year's sci-fi shorts; Algorithm, Edicus and Killing Time, while I'm Not A Robot takes a lighthearted look at that pesky Captcha question. Aria is a disturbing warning about the true nature of smart home security devices while Flip and Body of the Mined are set in dystopian futures where anarchy and violence are the norm. A couple of spaceships get into a war of words in the comedy Floaters and the moon's caretaker is getting fed up with Earth visitors messing up the place in Moonkeeper.

Day of the Dead Fanathons: Day of the Dead

VUE Screen 12 | Sat 6 Nov 13:00 | £24/£20 for Day of the Dead Pass



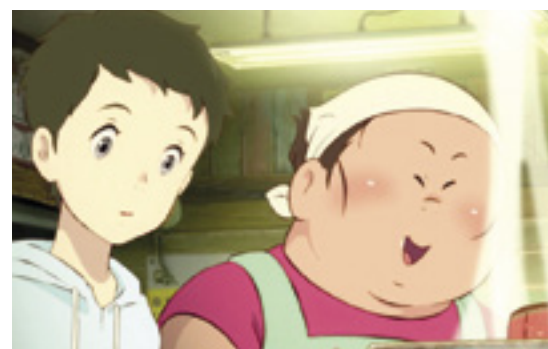
Atmospheric and creepy are the themes for Day of the Dead this year, with four claustrophobic tales of terror from across the globe. A woman with a fragile mental state is tormented by weird noises in the walls and ceiling of her apartment in Knocking, children discover their secret powers during the Norwegian summer in a monolithic housing estate in The Innocents, and a widowed mother's seemingly perfect routine crumbles when her eldest daughter stops eating in A Banquet. In contrast a blind woman must defend herself against a home invasion in the slick action thriller See For Me.

▼In Venues

Fortune Favours Lady Nikuko Planet Japan

VUE Screen 11 | Fri 12 Nov 15:00, Sun 14 Nov 17:45 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Ayumu Watanabe | Japan | 2021 | 1hr 37min | Japanese with subtitles | Cert U



Directed by Ayumu Watanabe, who created the incredible Children of the Sea (LIFF 2019), Fortune Favours Lady Nikuko is an equally wonderful new anime from Studio 4°C. Boisterous mother Nikuko and her daughter Kikuko, live on a boat in a small seaside town. Nikuko works in a restaurant and always falls for the wrong men, whilst Kikuko struggles with her burgeoning adulthood. Beautifully realised, with a nuanced handling of disability and notes of magical realism, this heartfelt film is nevertheless a warm, naturalistic story of adolescence and long-held family secrets revealed.

▼In Venues

Frank & Zed + Yeast Fanathons: Night of the Dead ▼In Venues ▼Online**VUE Screen 9 | Fri 12 Nov 22:00 | Part of Night of the Dead Pass £24/£20 (£15 on player)**

Dir. Jesse Blanchard | USA | 2020 | 1hr 30min | English



In this puppet horror comedy gorefest, Frank & Zed are two monsters who live peacefully in a derelict castle, relying on each other for survival. With the ruler of the nearby kingdom close to death, an evil magistrate is determined to seize power and tricks the local villagers to attack the lonely castle and our hapless heroes. Jesse Blanchard's funny but heartfelt labour of love (and blood & guts) about dependence, friendship and consequences was seven years in the making and shot almost entirely using practical effects. Screening with Yeast (Elliot Gonzo, UK, 2021, 12 mins).

Funky Forest: The First Contact Planet Japan ▼In Venues**VUE Screen 11 | Sat 13 Nov 12:45 | £9/£7.50** Dirs. Katsuhito Ishii, Hajime Ishimine, Shunichiro Miki

Japan | 2005 | 2hr 30min | Japanese, Mandarin with subtitles & English



Three loser brothers (including a caucasian kid, who doesn't appear to really know Japanese), are struggling to be popular. But luckily they get a chance to have a co-ed picnic with some pretty young ladies! And that's all the plot you'll need, or indeed get! Much like flipping through Japanese TV channels, this audience favourite (LIFF 2006), ranges from slapstick comedy and weird-sci-fi animation, to Cronenberg-esque squirry alien creatures and a delightful dance-battle dream sequence. It's a brilliantly outrageous collection of 21 deeply surreal episodes that'll melt logic, and likely minds.

The Great Yokai War: Guardians Planet Japan ▼In Venues**VUE Screen 11 | Fri 12 Nov 17:30, Sun 14 Nov 15:00 | £9/£7.50**

Dir. Takashi Miike | Japan | 2021 | 1hr 58min | Japanese with subtitles



Another Takashi Miike film is always a reason to celebrate! And now he returns to his 2005 foray into family-friendly fantasy-extravaganza: The Great Yokai War. Yokai is the collective name for supernatural entities, and in this standalone sequel, Miike presents a cavalcade of creatures from Japanese folklore, for some endlessly entertaining mystical movie mayhem. Brothers Dai and Kei are summoned by peace-loving spirits to stop an angry demon from destroying Tokyo. When they become separated, Kei's mission is to save his brother and restore harmony between human and spirit worlds.

The Haunting Queer Fear ▼In Venues**EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Mon 15 Nov 15:15 | £7/£6**

Dir. Robert Wise | UK | 1963 | 1hr 52min | English | Cert 12



For those only familiar with the 2018 TV series The Haunting of Hill House, this ground-breaking 1963 adaptation of the Shirley Jackson novel is a fascinating case study in how queerness was occasionally, though rarely, depicted. The Haunting is an unsettling tale about a group of people tasked with determining whether a creepy old house is, in fact, haunted. One of the investigators, Theodora (Claire Bloom in dazzling Mary Quant outfits) isn't predatory or deranged like many queer characters of the genre. Instead, she's a well-rounded, sympathetic protagonist, paving the way for Kate Siegel's recent portrayal in the popular Netflix reimagining.

The Innocents Fanathons: Day of the Dead ▼In Venues ▼Online**VUE Screen 12 | Sat 6 Nov 15:00, Mon 8 Nov 20:30, Wed 10 Nov 14:45 | £9/£7.50****or part of the Day of the Dead Pass £24/£20 (£7 on Player)**

Dir. Eskil Vogt | Norway, Sweden, Denmark, UK, France, Finland | 2021 | 1hr 57min | Norwegian with subtitles

During a bright Norwegian summer at a nondescript housing complex, a group of young children become friends while playing in the communal playground. Nine year old Ida is delighted when Ben, a lonely boy her age, demonstrates his powers of telekinesis. Another girl, Aisha, can read minds and soon the three of them are honing their supernatural skills unbeknown to their parents. As they become more powerful, their play takes a malevolent turn. Creepy, atmospheric and chilling, with superb performances from the young cast, The Innocents explores the sometimes dark world of childhood.

Junk Head Planet Japan ▼In Venues**VUE Screen 11 | Fri 12 Nov 12:15, Sun 14 Nov 20:00 | £9/£7.50**

Dir. Takahide Hori | Japan | 2021 | 1hr 55min | No language



Junk Head takes place in a future where humans have achieved immortality, but at the price of infertility and environmental ruin. One immortal, inside a mechanical suit, goes on a mission deep underground to retrieve reproductive material from the cavernous industrial depths. When his mission goes awry and he's decapitated, some helpful creatures, who view him as God, place his brain into a robot body made of junk. 12 years in gestation, Takahide Hori's eye-bogglingly detailed stop-motion sci-fi/horror passion project joins that exclusive world of truly unique, independent anime.

King Car Fanorama

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

VUE Screen 11 | Fri 5 Nov 15:00, Sun 7 Nov 17:45 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Renata Pinheiro | Brazil | 2021 | 1hr 37min | Portuguese with subtitles



Teenager Ninho is uncertain whether to join the family's taxi business, preferring instead to support Brazil's ecological preservation. When his forgotten ability to speak to cars returns, he discovers a government plan to ban old vehicles from the roads. With help from his uncle, an eccentric mechanic, they turn old wrecks into new sleek, sentient 'King Cars' that attract a group of cult-like followers, but as events spiral out of control Ninho begins to question the motives of the cars. King Car tackles broad subjects including social injustice, populism, political corruption, corporate greed and climate threat.

Knocking Fanathons: Day of the Dead

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

VUE Screen 12 | Sat 6 Nov 13:00, Mon 8 Nov 13:30, Wed 10 Nov 12:45 | £9/£7.50 or part of the Day of the Dead Pass £24/£20 (£7 on Player) Dir. Frida Kempff | Sweden | 2021 | 1hr 18min | Swedish with subtitles



Following a traumatic accident, Molly moves from a prolonged stay at a psychiatric hospital into a new apartment, to start her new life alone. Soon she begins to hear persistent knocks through the walls and ceiling which keep her awake. As the noises intensify and are accompanied by screams, Molly is convinced someone is in trouble and takes it upon herself to help, even though the neighbours deny the noises and refuse to believe her. Actress Cecilia Milocco gives a phenomenal performance as a woman teetering on the brink of sanity in this poignant feminist psychological horror.

Kratt Fanorama

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

VUE Screen 12 | Tue 9 Nov 20:15 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Rasmus Merivoo | Estonia | 2020 | 1hr 47min | Estonian with subtitles



When city tweens Mia and Kevin are left at their grandmother's farm without their smartphones, they are bored to tears, but grandma soon finds lots of chores for them to do. She also tells them about the mythical creature Kratt, that will do its master's bidding. When they find the instructions on how to make one, they don't hesitate, even if it means buying a soul from the devil. Soon the local town is in turmoil and it could be the end of the world! Like a twisted, gory and hilarious version of The Sorcerer's Apprentice and similar in tone to The Old Man Movie (LIFF 2020), Kratt is a wild and weird take on an Estonian myth.

Lamb Fanorama

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 12 | Sun 7 Nov 20:30, Wed 10 Nov 20:30, Thu 11 Nov 17:30 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Valdimar Jóhannsson | Iceland, Sweden, Poland | 2021 | 1hr 46min | Icelandic with subtitles



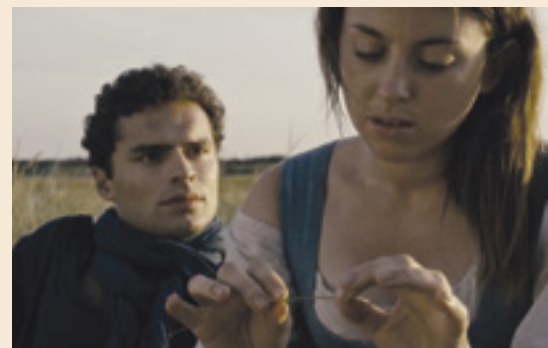
Manimal freakishness is in plain, matter-of-fact sight in Lamb, a dark Scandi tall tale evoked with stark clarity. Maria and Ingvar toil away on their mist-shrouded farm in almost total solitude, a grieving silence between them long since taken for granted. In the lamb birthing barn, a miracle arrives, and she is named Ada. Ada is adored, though perhaps only these isolated and damaged surrogate parents could accept her for what she is. And as an outsider arrives, we discover the limits of that acceptance...

Lapwing Fanorama

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

VUE Screen 9 | Sat 13 Nov 17:15, Mon 15 Nov 13:00 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Philip Stevens | UK | 2021 | 1hr 27min | English



1555, a year after Queen Mary passed the Egyptians Act, making it illegal for gypsies and travellers to live in England, an isolated group of salt farmers arrange illegal passage to Europe for an Indian Gypsy family in hiding. But a love affair between Patience, a mute English girl, and Rumi, the son of the Egyptians, threatens to destroy both communities. As tensions rise, the resentment in the camp becomes palpable until it finally erupts into violence. Shot on location on the Lincolnshire salt marshes, Lapwing has a bleak foreboding presence similar in tone to A Field in England and The Witch.

Last Survivors Fanorama

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

VUE Screen 9 | Thu 4 Nov 20:00, Fri 5 Nov 15:30 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Drew Mylrea | USA | 2021 | 1hr 38min | English



In a post-apocalyptic world Troy raises his grown son, Jake, in a remote cabin far from civilisation. When Troy is wounded, Jake is forced to travel to the outside world to find life-saving medicine. Ordered to kill anybody he encounters, Jake defies his father by engaging with a mysterious woman, Henrietta. Despite his father's orders, Jake continues this forbidden relationship, but Troy will stop at nothing to protect the perfect utopia he created. Stephen Moyer (True Blood) and Alicia Silverstone (Clueless) star in this beautifully shot thriller, filmed in the breathtaking wilderness of Montana during the pandemic.

The Man Who Stole the Sun Fanomenon Closing Film ▼In Venues

National Science & Media Museum | Tue 16 Nov 18:30 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Kazuhiko Hasegawa | Japan | 1979 | 2hr 27min | Japanese with subtitles



Cult classic *The Man Who Stole the Sun* is ranked by Japanese critics as one of the best films ever made but has rarely even been screened internationally. Director Kazuhiko Hasegawa cast 70s rock icon Kenji Sawada as a high school teacher who steals a plutonium capsule from a nuclear power plant and then succeeds in building an atomic bomb in his apartment. He extorts the government with demands for uninterrupted baseball games and a concert by the then-banned Rolling Stones. A brilliantly eccentric mix of explosive thriller and satirical black comedy. Presented on an archive 35mm print.

Night of the Dead Fanathons: Night of the Dead ▼In Venues

Part One: VUE Screen 9 | Fri 12 Nov 19:45 & Part Two: VUE Screen 9 | Sat 13 Nov 19:45
£24/£20 for Night of the Dead Pass (or £15/£12 for each double bill)



Night of the Dead 2021 returns as two late night double bills across Friday 12 & Saturday 13 November, with four bloody good horror features and accompanying shorts. Part One presents *Murder Bury Win* which sees three friends trying to dispose of a dead body using their boardgame as a guide, while undead puppets take on a horde of angry villagers in the Frankenstein-ish *Frank & Zed*. In Part Two, another three friends regret taking a fishing trip in the Kazakhstan OTT horror *Sweetie, You Won't Believe It!* while *The Sadness* from Taiwan is an extremely twisted take on a post-pandemic zombie apocalypse.

Medusa Fanorama ▼In Venues

VUE Screen 12 | Fri 12 Nov 17:45, Mon 15 Nov 17:15, Tue 16 Nov 12:45 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Anita Rocha da Silveria | Brazil | 2021 | 2hr 7min | Portuguese with subtitles



21-year-old Mariana belongs to a world where she must keep up the appearance of a perfect woman. To resist temptation, she and her girlfriends try to control everything and everyone around them, and that includes the town sinners. At night, the girl gang put on masks and hunt down and beat up all women who have deviated from the 'right' path. However, the day will come when the urge to scream will be stronger than it ever has been. 'Medusa is wild, glamorous, and marked with a dark, slick fury.' (Alliance of Women Film Journalists)

The Old Dark House Queer Fear ▼In Venues ▼Online

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Mon 15 Nov 13:15 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player)

Dir. James Whale | USA | 1932 | 1hr 12min | English | Cert PG



Openly gay director James Whale brought to life some of the most iconic Universal monsters during their peak in the 1930s, as well as this lesser seen haunted house tale adapted from a JB Priestley novel. In *The Old Dark House* five strangers take shelter in an isolated house following a violent storm. Whale imbued his movies, often about the ultimate outsiders, with a gay sensibility, and though a film that hints at themes of class, gender, sexuality and mental health might seem like a slog, this camp classic zips along.

Murder Bury Win + Good Girl Fanathons: Night of the Dead

VUE Screen 9 | Fri 12 Nov 19:45 | Part of Night of the Dead Pass £24/£20 (£15 on Player)

Dir. Michael Lovan | USA | 2020 | 1hr 30min | English

▼In Venues ▼Online

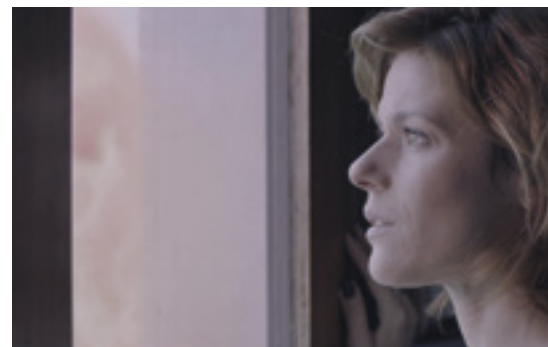


Following a failed crowd-funding attempt to launch their horror-themed board game, three friends are excited to be invited to meet with V.V. Stubbs, a famous games designer who has promised to invest in their idea. When Stubbs dies in a freak accident they realise how much it looks like murder. With a dead body on their hands, they turn to the game they created to get rid of the body but can they really 'Murder Bury Win'? Michael Lovan's debut feature is bloody good fun and a perfect addition to *Night of the Dead*. Screening with *Good Girl* (Dean Hewison, New Zealand, 2021, 4 mins).

The Pink Cloud Fanorama ▼In Venues

VUE Screen 11 | Thu 4 Nov 20:15, Sun 7 Nov 15:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Iuli Gerbase | Brazil | 2021 | 1hr 45min | Portuguese with subtitles & English



Iuli Gerbase's debut feature is an eerily prescient sci-fi parable, made entirely pre-COVID, about a global threat which forces the world's population to stay indoors. The threat in question is a mysterious and deadly pink cloud of unknown origin which is life threatening for anyone who comes into contact with it. Strangers at the outset, Giovana and Yago are on a one night stand when the lockdown begins but as years pass, Yago creates his own utopia while Giovana feels trapped deep inside. A dreamily compelling psychodrama.

The Sadness + Visitors Fanathons: Night of the Dead

▼In Venues

VUE Screen 9 | Sat 13 Nov 21:45 | Part of Night of the Dead Pass £24/£20

Dir. Rob Jabbaz | Taiwan | 2021 | 1hr 38min | Taiwanese with subtitles

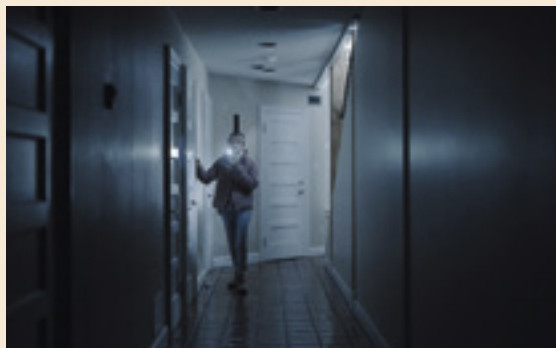


In the aftermath of a pandemic, most people have become complacent and the warning from a scientist that it could easily mutate goes ignored. That is until infected people suddenly turn into rabid monsters, acting on their darkest impulses. Amid shocking scenes of depravity and slaughter, two young lovers struggle to reunite amidst the madness that is engulfing the city. Rob Jabbaz's unrelenting debut is a scathing indictment of societal breakdown with scenes of sexual violence, necrophilia and worse. Be warned: The Sadness may be the most extreme film we've screened in Night of the Dead! Screening with Visitors (Kenichi Ugana, Japan, 2021, 16 mins).

See For Me Fanathons: Day of the Dead

▼In Venues ▼Online

VUE Screen 12 | Sat 6 Nov 20:45, Mon 8 Nov 18:15 | £9/£7.50 or part of the Day of the Dead Pass £24/£20 (£7 on Player) Dir. Randall Okita | USA | 2021 | 1hr 32min | English



Teenager Sophie, a blind ex-skier, makes a living house-sitting rich mansions while their owners are away. During one particular job, the secluded house is invaded by a group of thieves. Sophie's only defense is an app called See For Me that connects her with volunteers to see on her behalf. On this fateful night she is connected to Kelly, an army veteran, who might just be able to help Sophie survive the night and fight back against the intruders. Visually impaired, non-binary actor Skyler Davenport gives a stunning performance in this fast-paced claustrophobic thriller.

Sing a Bit of Harmony Planet Japan

▼In Venues

COTTAGE ROAD | Sun 7 Nov 13:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Yasuhiro Yoshiura | Japan | 2021 | 2hr | Japanese with subtitles



Written and directed by Yasuhiro Yoshiura, who also directed the brilliant Patema Inverted (LIFF 2013), Sing a Bit of Harmony tells the story of the beautiful and mysterious Shion, who transfers to Keibu High School, where she quickly becomes popular due to her open-hearted personality and exceptional athletic talent. Shion's goal is to bring chronic loner Satomi happiness, with her earnestness and classroom serenades. But her bewildering antics end up involving them all in some serious trouble. Prepare for the heartwarming story of a not quite market-ready AI and her classmates!

Summer Ghost + Pre-Recorded Q&A Planet Japan

▼In Venues

HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM | Fri 12 Nov 18:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Loundraw | Japan | 2021 | 45min + 30min Q&A | Japanese with subtitles



Have you heard of summer ghosts? The urban legend tells of the ghost of a young woman who appears when fireworks are lit. Tomoya, Aoi, and Ryo are high school students who are unable to find their place in the world. Each has their own reasons for meeting the ghost, and one warm summer night, when life and death intersect, where will their emotions take them? Summer Ghost is the directorial debut of Loundraw, who previously illustrated I Want to Eat Your Pancreas and Josee, The Tiger and the Fish.

Summer Time Machine Blues Planet Japan

▼In Venues

VUE Screen 11 | Sun 14 Nov 12:30 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Katsuyuki Motohiro | Japan | 2005 | 1hr 47min | Japanese with subtitles



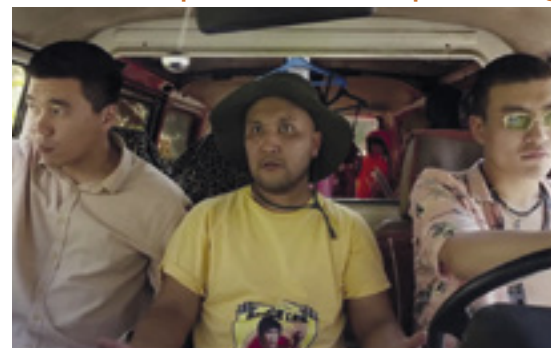
This charming, delightful, and zany time-travel comedy returns to LIFF as part of our expanded Planet Japan celebration for 2021. To members of the college Sci-Fi Club, summer means hanging around in the clubhouse with the air-con blasting. When the last air-con remote breaks, the full heat of summer hits. The next day, after encountering a mysterious student, they discover an incredible new addition to their clubhouse - a working time machine! Now they can return to before the air-con remote broke and cool down again. If only it were that simple...

Sweetie, You Won't Believe It + Lovemaking of Trolls Fanathons: Night of the Dead

▼In Venues ▼Online

VUE Screen 9 | Sat 13 Nov 19:45 | Part of Night of the Dead Pass £24/£20 (£15 on Player)

Dir. Yernar Nurgaliyev | Kazakhstan | 2020 | 1hr 24min | Russian, Kazakh with subtitles | Cert PG



Days before his wife is due to give birth, Dastan decides to shirk his responsibilities and go on a fishing trip with his two best, if not very bright, friends. Things are going well until the hapless trio witness a gangland execution and are pursued by thugs who want to silence them. As things spiral out of control this masterpiece of horror comedy delivers a series of ever more ridiculous and gory scenes while still managing to deal with the themes of masculinity, fatherhood and friendship. Screening with Lovemaking of Trolls (Felix Charin, Germany, 2020, 9 mins).

Symbol Planet Japan

VUE Screen 11 | Sat 13 Nov 18:00, Mon 15 Nov 12:45 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Hitoshi Matsumoto | Japan | 2009 | 1hr 33min | Japanese, Russian, Spanish with subtitles & English | Cert 12A



One of several rarely-screened cult Japanese films returning to LIFF this year as part of our expanded Planet Japan celebration, *Symbol* is a sublime and surreal comic fantasy from popular TV comedian and filmmaker Hitoshi Matsumoto. A man wakes up in an empty white room wearing bright yellow pyjamas with polka dots. His attempts to escape the room result in even more bizarre situations. Meanwhile in Mexico, masked wrestler Escargot Man prepares for an important match. As the trials of the two men escalate, Matsumoto amplifies the suspenseful and otherworldly atmosphere.

▼In Venues

Tiong Bahru Social Club Fanorama

VUE Screen 9 | Tue 9 Nov 13:30, Thu 11 Nov 17:45 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Tan Bee Thiam | Singapore | 2020 | 1hr 28min | Multiple languages with subtitles & English



Tiong Bahru Social Club is a colourful and quirky social satire on modern Singaporean society, set inside a whimsical trial housing project that aims to use data to create the world's happiest neighbourhood. 30-year-old Ah Bee lives a monotonous life with his mother. After being fired from his job, he enrolls at *Tiong Bahru Social Club* to learn how to improve his life with the help of artificial intelligence. But as time goes by, Ah Bee's encounters with the neighbourhood's residents reveal the absurdities of data-driven life.

▼In Venues

The Town of Headcounts Fanomenon Opening Film

VUE Screen 11 | Wed 3 Nov 20:30, Fri 5 Nov 12:15, Sun 7 Nov 20:15 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Shinji Araki | Japan | 2020 | 1hr 51min | Japanese with subtitles



Pursued by loan sharks, Aoyama is rescued by a mysterious man in yellow overalls, who offers him the opportunity of a better life in an isolated, unnamed town - a perpetual holiday resort, controlled by airport-style security, sonic defences, and a code of conduct called "The Bible". Part dystopian conspiracy thriller, part prescient societal warning, Shinji Araki's stylised debut intelligently dissects society's compulsion for instant gratification and corporately-controlled decision-making. Do we want to live in a world where every need is catered for, but that's also a prison of inauthentic morality?

▼In Venues

▼Online

Titane Fanorama

VUE Screen 12 | Fri 12 Nov 20:45, Mon 15 Nov 20:15, Tue 16 Nov 15:30 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Julia Ducournau | France, Belgium | 2021 | 1hr 48min | French with subtitles



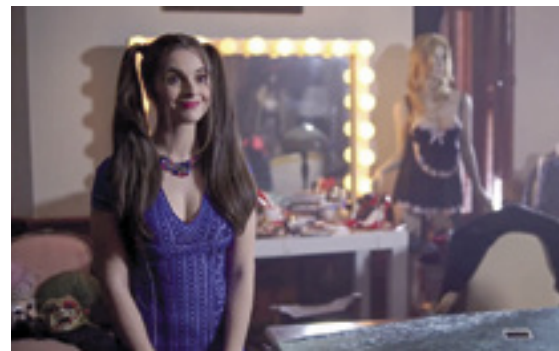
The winner of this year's Cannes Palme d'Or, *Titane* is Julia Ducournau's second jaw-dropping feature after her cannibal coming-of-age debut *Raw* (LIFF 2016). A violent car accident leaves long-lasting repercussions: a child carries a titanium plate in their skull; a car-showroom model exhibits sexual attraction to a different kind of body; later, an unexpected pregnancy escalates to a horrific massacre; and a firefighter is reunited with a brutally bruised man who claims to be his long-lost son. 'Titane is a transgressive blast of energy.' (The Film Stage)

▼In Venues

This Game's Called Murder Fanorama

VUE Screen 11 | Fri 12 Nov 20:15, Tue 16 Nov 15:45 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Adam Sherman | USA | 2021 | 1hr 45min | English



Megalomaniac Mr. Wallendorf (a grizzled Ron Perlman) is a world renowned fashion mogul whose business only sells one style of shoes. His conniving, brutal wife (Natasha Henstridge) is planning to siphon off funds for her own needs, while their daughter, Jennifer, is a social media icon, with a drink problem and a boyfriend of dubious intent. When a team of female thieves accidentally steals a truck of Wallendorf shoes, events are set in motion that will affect everybody involved. An absurdist story full of violence, betrayal, and sex set in a consumer-crazed, alienated society ruled by technology and social media.

▼In Venues

Tokyo Revengers Planet Japan

COTTAGE ROAD | Sun 7 Nov 15:45 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Tsutomu Hanabusa | Japan | 2021 | 2hr | Japanese with subtitles



Adapted from the Weekly Shonen Magazine manga of the same name, *Tokyo Revengers* is the best live-action-packed-time-travel-rival-gang-war-love-story-high-school-drama you'll see all year. The same day that 20-something loser Takemichi finds out that his high-school sweetheart and her brother have been killed, he's pushed in front of a subway train. But instead of dying, Takemichi winds up 10 years into the past. With sprawling gang fights, a twisting narrative, odd hairstyles and a heavy dose of humour, the film is a feast of fantastically frenetic storytelling.

▼In Venues

Wool 100% Planet Japan

▼ In Venues

HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM | Fri 12 Nov 13:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Mai Tominaga | Japan | 2006 | 1hr 40min | Japanese with subtitles | Cert PG



This year our expanded Planet Japan celebration includes several unreleased films from previous editions of LIFF. Like *Angel's Egg*, *Summer Time Machine Blues*, and *Symbol*, *Wool 100%* is a unique cult film that could only have come out of Japan. Filmmaker Mai Tominaga had a background in animation before making her feature debut with *Wool 100%*, a charming yarn about yearning featuring two old sisters whose home has been taken over by their collected junk. One day they discover a mysterious young woman who knits obsessively with red wool they found.

Cube Planet Japan

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 11 | Sat 13 Nov 20:15, Mon 15 Nov 15:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Yasuhiko Shimizu | Japan | 2021 | 1hr 48min | Japanese with subtitles



A group of strangers awaken in a mysterious square room, with hatches in each of the walls. Not knowing how or why they are there they begin to look for an exit, travelling through a series of identical, interconnected rooms. Soon however it becomes clear that some rooms contain lethal traps and as the group become more tired and desperate, tempers flare and their frustrations turn on each other. This remake of Vincenzo Natali's claustrophobic sci-fi has a more industrial look and feel with subtle changes to the original story that provide a modern twist about the nature of society.



Funky Forest: The First Contact

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Leeds Short Film Awards



Pardesan

The Leeds Short Film Awards celebrate the incredible short film form in all its glory. This year we present 132 short films from 42 countries in seven jam-packed competitions. The Oscar-qualifying International Short Film Competition and World Animation Competition include the most exciting new filmmaking talent from around the world, from Slovakia to Senegal. This year the BAFTA-qualifying British Short Film Competition has expanded into three abundant programmes, and the ever-popular Yorkshire Short Film Competition returns with the latest marvels from this fine county.

Leeds Queer Film Festival has lovingly curated the Leeds Queer Short Film Competition and there are also spotlights on Music Videos and Screendance. All the competitions are considered by official juries and the winning short films will be presented in one magnificent programme at the end of LIFF 2021 at Everyman and on Leeds Film Player. The details of the short films in each competition are available on leedsfilm.com and in the LIFF 2021 Catalogue, available during the film festival.



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British Competition 1: Grave Architecture

▼In Venues ▼Online

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Sat 13 Nov 11:00 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player)

6 shorts | UK & Ireland | 2020 & 2021 | 1hr 30min | English



Our first selection of BAFTA-qualifying shorts interrogate the structures we create for ourselves, and those that are created by others. Not only the physical buildings that mark our daily lives, as in the beautiful documentary *Hanging On*. But also the internal, mental rules and rituals, that either support and protect us, or control our actions, as in the raw and uncompromising film *Jamie*, or Northern Irish dark comedy *An Irish Goodbye*. Whatever the case, there remains a mysterious, unknowable architecture of creativity in which this wonderful selection of stories resides.

British Competition 2: You Are a Light

▼In Venues ▼Online

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Sat 13 Nov 13:45 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player)

6 shorts | UK | 2021 | 1hr 32min | English



Cinema is built from light. Flickering beams that project our collective lives back at us. In our second programme of illuminating shorts, we discover the glowing core of strength within each of our characters, whether it's an emotional journey of familial discovery in *Finding Dad*, or uncovering a passion for unusual mechanics in the enlightening documentary *The Man from Tormentor*. Or maybe it can be seen the shower of sparks when something truly magical happens, as in *Eden & Andrew* Kötting's invigorating and delicately chaotic *Diseased and Disorderly*.

British Competition 3: Speak, See, Remember

▼In Venues ▼Online

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Sat 13 Nov 18:15 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player)

6 shorts | UK | 2021 | 1hr 31min | English



It's time to speak up, to witness, to remember. Give testimony. And to Act. Our final set of British short films offer a space for action - protagonists recognising harm done to them and seeking resolution, like in the brilliant monologue *Tom Cat*, and Welsh drama *Salt Water Town*. Or in the clever exposure of a circularity of repression past and present, in the poetic *Children's Children*. Whether a drama, animation, comedy or documentary, these films are anything but silent, and give voice to the power of standing up. Doing something.

International Competition 1: Set the Night On Fire

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Thu 11 Nov 11:00 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player) **In Venues** **Online**

5 shorts | 4 countries | 2020 & 2021 | 1hr 35min | Multiple languages with subtitles



Revolution takes many forms: whether it begins at home or out on the streets. The first programme in our Academy-Award qualifying International Short Film Competition is a showcase of protest through the personal, the political, and the phantom! We encounter the unusual social survival skills of a young care-giver; the lengths taken by grieving parents to protest against the police; the strange tale of an Iranian teenager and her imposed orthodontic headgear; the pressures of an arranged marriage in Sudan; and the glorious tale of a delivery worker in Brazil rising up against the gig economy.

International Competition 2: The Country and the City

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Thu 11 Nov 13:45 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player) **In Venues** **Online**

6 shorts | 6 countries | 2020 & 2021 | 1hr 44min | Multiple languages with subtitles & English



Between the country and the city lies a border where past and present, tradition and modernity form an unruly frontier. These six films signify the intensity of these pressures: a revelatory encounter between a cook and an illegal Afghan immigrant; a journey to a public hospital resulting in an unholy marital collision; a young girl in Sichuan departing for the city to save her dying father; a woman taking on the entire Georgian city; and the surprising encounter between a Hasidic Jewish girl and the hip-hop beats of 1990s Brooklyn.

International Competition 3: Daydream Nation **In Venues** **Online**

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Thu 11 Nov 18:15 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player)

5 shorts | 5 countries | 2020 & 2021 | 1hr 34min | Multiple languages with subtitles

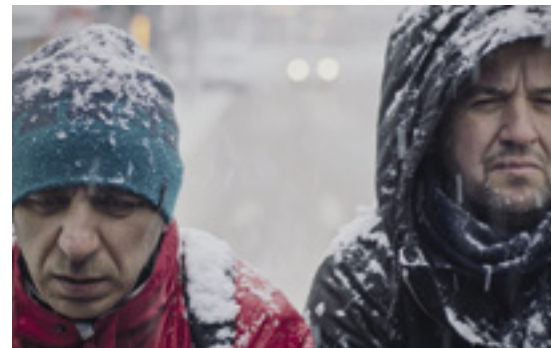


The reveries of youth turning to reality can quickly lead to rapture... or rupture. In this programme, a Hong Kong teenager embarks on a wild and unpredictable adventure in the adult world; five-year-old Lucie finds herself questioning her surroundings in a campsite where a murder may have occurred; a meeting between a Senegalaïse girl and a shepherd disrupts the rhythms of her life; the vast Mexican landscape of the disappeared provides the setting for Tania's departure from home; and a teenage motocross championship takes over a village in France.

International Competition 4: Europe Is Our Playground

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Fri 12 Nov 11:00 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player) **In Venues** **Online**

6 shorts | 5 countries | 2020 & 2021 | 1hr 35min | Multiple languages with subtitles & English



The continent of Europe provides the landscape for this programme of playful, absurd and mysterious films. We encounter the production of a videogame enabling players to fly across borders; a Swiss worker journeying to his mother's funeral with a cow; the fortunes of a ping-pong club from Kosovo; a fired Parisian employee who mysteriously remains outside the office for days on end; the emergence of a technology which allows you to kiss a hologram; and the poignant departure of a teenager from a Ukrainian boarding school.

International Competition 5: Heart of Darkness **In Venues** **Online**

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Fri 12 Nov 13:45 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player)

5 shorts | 3 countries | 2020 & 2021 | 1hr 33min | Multiple languages with subtitles & English



This programme journeys towards the heart of many different kinds of darkness. Beginning with a duck hunting trip that takes an unexpected turn of events; we venture towards an apocalypse for the working class in Brazil; we join an indigenous girl as she travels through the Tohono O'odham tribal lands into the United States; we follow a group of doomed young hustlers in Manila, and we return to Brazil as it prepares to launch its first manned spaceship into the unknown.

International Competition 6: Nights at the Circus **In Venues** **Online**

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Fri 12 Nov 18:15 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player)

5 shorts | 6 countries | 2020 & 2021 | 1hr 45min | Multiple languages with subtitles & English



Our final programme is a fiery, feral celebration of chaos, magic, and hidden desires. We follow a nurse in São Paulo who finds solace in a neo-Pentecostal church whilst the Amazon burns; a boy who likes to wear dresses in a mundane Belgium village; an Indian domestic worker navigating her way through an upper class home; the return of the walking dead in a Greek village, before we close the programme on Christmas Eve 1983 with a family in turmoil and Santa Claus nowhere to be found.

Leeds Music Video Competition

▼ In Venues

BELGRAVE MUSIC HALL | Sun 14 Nov 16:30 | £7/£6

16 shorts | 10 countries | 2020 & 2021 | 1hr 9min | Multiple languages with subtitles & English



Always eclectic and unconventional, the Leeds Music Video Competition is a kaleidoscopic survey of some of the best new music videos from around the world. With a dizzying variety of musical and visual styles packed into its 70 minute programme, it features classic storytelling, playful set pieces, entrancing hand-drawn animation, moody monochrome and everything in between. With filmmakers' commitment to the artform as strong as ever, we proudly present music videos for artists including Alexis Marshall, Mary Ocher, Twin Atlantic, Hak Baker, Tova Gertner and more.

Leeds Queer Short Film Competition 1

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Wed 10 Nov 18:00 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player)

8 shorts | 5 countries | 2020 & 2021 | 1hr 29min | Multiple languages with subtitles & English



Leeds Film Festival is once again thrilled to be curating LIFF's Queer Short Film Competition, featuring LGBTQ+ stories from around the world. Programme One explores whether two people can fall in love over laundry, what happens when a non-binary filmmaker tries to have a conversation about identity with their mother, ways a group of queers stays connected when the pandemic shuts down the world, and how someone's chosen family makes sure she is remembered accurately. You won't want to miss it.

Leeds Queer Short Film Competition 2

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Wed 10 Nov 20:30 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player)

8 shorts | 5 countries | 2020 & 2021 | 1hr 25min | Multiple languages with subtitles & English



The second Queer Short Film Programme, also curated by Leeds Queer Film Festival, takes its audience on a journey visiting transgender women in Pakistan, two good friends in a suburb on a rainy afternoon, a trucker and a cowgirl in an American western saloon, and Octavia Butler's visions of the future. Plus a story fully told by showing only the characters' feet, and one of the most delightfully queer meet cutes you're ever likely to see.

Leeds Screendance Competition + Panel

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Thu 11 Nov 20:30 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player)

9 shorts | 9 countries | 2020 & 2021 | 1hr 4min + 30min panel (approx.) | Multiple languages with subtitles



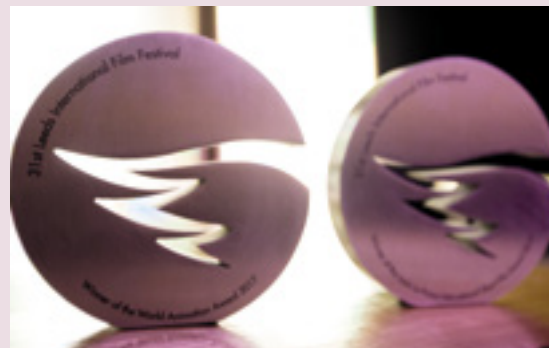
Hailing from the site where cinematography and choreography meet, this compelling collection of international dance films navigates the countless ways a moving body can tell a story. From the VHS home-movies of a Lebanese birthday party to the time-lapsed stills of a London rooftop duet; from a human herd flocking its way across a patterned landscape to the domestic tales of an Indian kitchen. Whether explicitly narrative or more abstract in form, these innovative shorts all share a particular engagement with choreography, offering a different take on this experimental film genre.

Leeds Short Film Awards 2021: The Winners

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Wed 17 Nov 12:00, 20:30 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player)

7 shorts | See leedsfilm.com for the details of the winners | 1hr 30min (approx.) | Multiple languages with subtitles



A great chance to see the award-winners from this year's competitions all together in one bumper programme of short film wonders. The size and diversity of the competitions is vast with 132 shorts selected from across the world featuring a huge variety of themes. Our official juries will decide the winners of the Animation, British, International, Music Video, Screendance, Queer and Yorkshire competitions. Full details of all winning films will be available on leedsfilm.com from 15th November.

World Animation Competition 1

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM | Fri 12 Nov 20:30 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player)

11 shorts | 10 countries | 2020 & 2021 | 1hr 32min | Multiple languages with subtitles & English



Every year the LIFF World Animation Competition presents a comprehensive selection of new short animated films from around the world. From festival awards winners, to debut student films, it's a collection of the brightest and best. Joanna Quinn's new film Affairs of the Art won Best Animation at Clermont-Ferrand this year and we are delighted to include Hide by Daniel Gray, who wowed us back in 2015 with Teeth. There's breakthrough talent too: we simply can't get enough of Júlia Lerch's hyper-real shapes and textures in her graduation film Needs.

World Animation Competition 2

▼In Venues ▼Online

HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM | Sat 13 Nov 15:30 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player)

11 shorts | 8 countries | 2020 & 2021 | 1hr 34min | Multiple languages with subtitles & English



Once more we've been round the globe (virtually of course) to bring you the finest and most diverse animated short films, for our ever popular World Animation Competition. In this second programme you will find films from Canada, Russia, Czech Republic, Spain and two bizarre new films from Belgium. One of these is the brilliant Easter Eggs, a tale of two misfit friends directed by Nicolas Keppens, which popped up at Berlinale and Fantoche this year. This plays alongside Dries Bogaert's Dissolution, an oddly sublime study of disobedience and consequences.

World Animation Competition 3

▼In Venues ▼Online

HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM | Sat 13 Nov 20:30 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player)

10 shorts | 8 countries | 2020 & 2021 | 1hr 32min | Multiple languages with subtitles & English



And finally, our third selection of films made by some of the world's most creative, clever and brilliant animators. We begin with an epic vision of society in Korean film Opera, directed by professional animator Erick Oh, we get philosophical over a plate of cakes in Prince in a Pastry Shop by Krakow Film graduate Katarzyna Agopsowicz, before encountering three rather odd couples, in Norwegian student film Pearl Diver by Margrethe Danielsen. An unmissable collection of films guaranteed to get under your skin in the way that only animation can.

Yorkshire Competition

▼In Venues ▼Online

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Sun 14 Nov 11:00, Sun 14 Nov 17:45 | £7/£6 (£5 on Player)

8 shorts | UK | 2020 & 2021 | 1hr 32min | English



A phenomenal exploration of local filmmakers from across the region. This exquisite collection of distinctive and exceptional shorts covers a lot of ground as it travels across unique styles and genres. But each film demonstrates, and actively defends, a great passion for our native county, from the enthralling reminiscence of a lifelong resident of Bradford, in Mushy Peas to Green Tea Kulfi, to the self-exploration of child birth through self-portraiture of a Leeds based filmmaker, in the mesmerising Little Grasses Crack Through Stone. As always, it's not one to miss!

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Rear View



Chameleon Street

Rear View is our look back at film history with themed selections and special screenings, featuring films very rarely screened in cinemas. Our Kafkaesque Cinema selection, in partnership with the University of Leeds, features five films that resonate with ideas in the writings of novelist Franz Kafka. The selection includes Ferdinand Khittel's *The Parallel Street* from West Germany, Hugo Santiago's *Invasión* from Argentina, and Ousmane Sembene's *Xala* from Senegal, screening on 35mm.

In partnership with the Polish Cultural Institute, we present a selection of films based on the work of sci-fi writer Stanisław Lem, in the year of the centenary of his birth. The selection features Marek Piestrak's *Pilot Pirx's Inquest*, Andrei Tarkovsky's *Solaris*, and a short film programme with legendary animators the Quay Brothers in attendance.

Rear View also includes a selection of Japanese film masterpieces from the BFI Japan 2021 touring programme, with two Akira Kurosawa films – *Seven Samurai* and *Throne of Blood*, Yasujirō Ozu's *Tokyo Story*, and Toshio Matsumoto's *Funeral Parade of Roses*.

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The Afterlight (on 35mm) Special Screenings

▼ In Venues

COTTAGE ROAD | Wed 10 Nov 17:30 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Charlie Shackleton | UK | 2021 | 1hr 22min | Multiple languages with subtitles



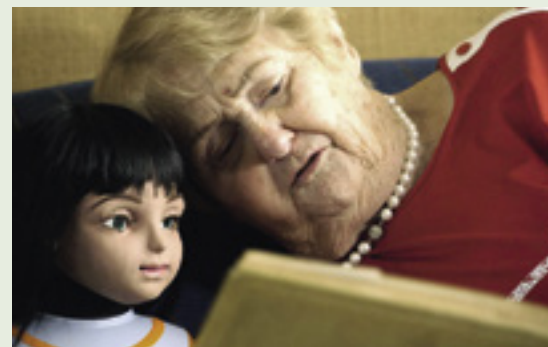
A spellbinding cinematic collage of hundreds of films from around the world brings together an ensemble cast of actors with one thing in common: each is no longer alive. Together, they contend with a fragile existence lived solely through these traces of their work. The Afterlight itself exists as a single 35mm film print, further eroding every time it screens, a poignant reminder of the ephemeral power of cinema. LIFF presents a unique chance to see this mesmerising film before it eventually disappears entirely.

Alice Cares + Posthuman Care Panel Special Screenings

▼ In Venues

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Tue 16 Nov 18:15 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Sander Burger | Netherlands | 2015 | 1hr 19min | Dutch with subtitles | Cert PG



Alice, a 60cm tall care robot with a doll-like face, is designed to provide companionship and assistance to elderly people living alone. Alice has sophisticated enough AI to hold conversations, listen and react to stories. This intimate and touching documentary follows three women in their 80s who spend time with Alice in a pilot study. Screening in collaboration with the University of Leeds and the Arts and Humanities Research Council project, Posthuman Care. A post-screening panel will explore the theme alongside a special exhibition at Thackray Medical Museum called Can Robots Care?

Chameleon Street Special Screenings

▼ In Venues

VUE Screen 11 | Tue 16 Nov 18:15, Wed 17 Nov 12:45 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Wendell B. Harris Jr. | USA | 1989 | 1hr 34min | French with subtitles, English



Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the 1990 Sundance Film Festival—yet criminally underseen for over three decades—Chameleon Street recounts the improbable but true story of Michigan con man Douglas Street, the titular “chameleon” who successfully impersonated his way up the socioeconomic ladder by posing as a magazine reporter, an Ivy League student, a respected surgeon, and a corporate lawyer. Elevated by a dexterous performance and daring direction from multi-hyphenate actor-writer-director Wendell B. Harris Jr., the film pins a lens on race, class and performance in American identity, which has lost none of its relevance.

The Crowd with Live Score from Matthew Bourne Special Screenings

HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM | Thu 11 Nov 19:45 | £14

Dir. King Vidor | USA | 1928 | 1hr 38min | English intertitles

▼In Venues



King Vidor's silent classic *The Crowd* is a landmark in realist filmmaking and a lacerating critique of the American dream. John Sims is a young man who travels to New York City in search of his fortune but ends up as a corporate drone in the cavernous empire of the Atlas Insurance Company. He falls in love with a beautiful young woman and they get married and have kids, but then tragedy strikes and everything starts to fall apart. Presented by Opera North with a live accompaniment by pianist Matthew Bourne. This event is ticketed by Opera North. Passes will not be able to be redeemed against this event. Please visit leedsfilm.com for more information.

De Cierta Manera + Pre-recorded Discussion Special Screenings

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Mon 15 Nov 20:15, Tue 16 Nov 15:45 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Sara Gomez | Cuba | 1977 | 1hr 18min + discussion approx. 30min | Spanish with subtitles

▼In Venues



Newly restored, *De Cierta Manera* by Afro-Cuban director Sara Gómez is a fascinating docu-romance-drama and critical ethnographic study of a new couple, Yolanda and Mario. The filmmaker clearly assesses the complexities of intersectional, marginalised lives in 70s Cuba, with its ongoing issues of machismo, poverty, and racial discrimination. Gómez also beautifully supplements the film with a factual narrative that contextualises the relationship, the community, and the tensions of life in a new socialist society. This screening is followed by a pre-recorded discussion with Cuban and UK-based film academics and experts.

The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie + Talk Special Screenings

LEEDS SCHOOL OF ARTS CINEMA | Wed 17 Nov 19:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Luis Buñuel | France, Italy, Spain | 1972 | 1hr 42min | French, Spanish with subtitles | Cert 15

▼In Venues



Cinema's master surrealist Luis Bunuel made this withering satire of social conventions and bourgeois values late in his career as part of his successful collaboration with French writer Jean-Claude Carrière. As six upper class sophisticates repeatedly attempt and fail to have dinner together, Bunuel delights in confounding them with increasingly absurdist conceits and bizarre interruptions, blurring reality and dreams to disorienting effect. The screening will be followed by an open audience discussion led by an expert panel from the fields of film and psychoanalysis.

Funeral Parade of Roses BFI Japan 2021

▼In Venues

HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM | Fri 5 Nov 20:15 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Toshio Matsumoto | Japan | 1969 | 1hr 45min | Japanese with subtitles & English



The radical heart of Japan beats loudly in *Funeral Parade of Roses*, which nimbly combines late-60s queer / transgender / underground Tokyo culture, Greek tragedy, documentary, parody and schlock-horror, all twisted up in a time-shifting structure and fearless stylistic shifts. The loose, looping story concerns Eddie (played by gay icon 'Peter') and his rival bar hostess Leda, who's jealous and out for revenge. It all works incredibly well, breaking boundaries left and right without pausing for thought, and opens up multiple windows onto the late-60s counterculture explosion.

Invasión Kafkaesque Cinema

▼In Venues ▼Online

EVERYMAN Screen 4 | Fri 5 Nov 11:00, Tue 9 Nov 15:00 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Hugo Santiago | Argentina | 1969 | 2hr 3min | Spanish with subtitles



Director Hugo Santiago co-wrote *Invasión* with two giants of Argentine literature, Adolfo Bioy Casares and Jorge Luis Borges. Originally thought lost due to the Argentine dictatorship of 1976–1983, a 35mm print was discovered in 2004, allowing the film to be restored and become regarded as a masterpiece of Latin American cinema. In a plot reminiscent of Homer's *The Iliad*, the city of Aquilea is taken under siege by sinister forces. While most of the population remains oblivious, a group of men make best efforts to defend the city from the inevitable. Presented as part of LIFF 2021's Kafkaesque Cinema selection.

The Parallel Street Kafkaesque Cinema

▼In Venues

HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM | Fri 5 Nov 15:15, Sat 13 Nov 13:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Ferdinand Khittl | West Germany | 1962 | 1hr 26min | German with subtitles



Ferdinand Khittl's poetic, mysterious and puzzle-like feature is a meta-documentary that binds together the themes of LIFF 2021's Kafkaesque Cinema selection: five films that resonate with ideas in the writings of novelist Franz Kafka, screened in partnership with Dr Angelos Koutsourakis on his Arts and Humanities Research Council Project, *The Kafkaesque in World Cinema*. Five men sit in a dimly lit room, where they must solve a series of obscure documents. Intercut with unique travelogue style footage, *The Parallel Street* is an early highlight of the New German Cinema and a precursor to Chris Marker's *Sans Soleil*.

Pilot Pirx's Inquest Stanisław Lem Centenary

HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM | Mon 8 Nov 20:30 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Marek Piestrak | Poland, Soviet Union | 1979 | 1hr 35min



A rarely screened adaptation of a story by the great Polish science fiction author, Stanislaw Lem, *Pilot Pirx's Inquest* follows his most famous character, the everyman of the space age turned heroic space pilot. Here he is sent on a mission to Saturn to evaluate 'nonlinears', androids which are supposedly indistinguishable from humans. He knows one of the crew members is a robot, but he doesn't know which one, leading to a dangerous game with his secret opponent. Presented in collaboration with the Polish Cultural Institute to celebrate Stanislaw Lem's centenary.

▼ In Venues

Solaris Stanisław Lem Centenary

VUE Screen 12 | Fri 12 Nov 12:00, Mon 15 Nov 13:45 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Andrei Tarkovsky | Soviet Union | 1972 | 2hr 47min | Russian, German with subtitles



Russian master Andrei Tarkovsky took one of the greatest science fiction novels of all time, Stanislaw Lem's *Solaris*, and made it his own in this visionary 1972 film. It is both richly cinematic, with mesmerising cinematography by Vadim Yusov, and a gripping and mysterious psychological thriller. Donatas Banionis plays Kris Kelvin, a psychologist sent to a space station orbiting a distant planet to investigate the bewildering behaviour of the crew there. But he soon finds out they are plagued by mysterious visitors, at once both alien and strangely familiar.

▼ In Venues

Seven Samurai BFI Japan 2021

VUE Screen 12 | Fri 5 Nov 13:00, Tue 9 Nov 12:45 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Akira Kurosawa | Japan | 1954 | 3hr 27min + 5min interval | Japanese with subtitles | Cert PG



A motley assortment of masterless Samurai bands together to defend a poor village from bandits. There are so many facets to this film's greatness, here are shichi: 1.The way each Samurai's introduced, making us root for every one. 2.Toshiro Mifune's petulant, snorting charisma. 3. The way the film moves, like a fairground ride. 4.Collectivism! 5.The surprise of a coy, sun-dappled, moving romance 6. A climactic, thrilling rain-slicked battle for the ages. 7. The high feeling, that you have seen an utter, stone-cold masterpiece... in a cinema!

▼ In Venues

Stanisław Lem Shorts + Sci-fi & Fact Panel Stanisław Lem Centenary

HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM | Mon 8 Nov 17:30 | £7/£6

Poland | 1968 | Films + panel approx. 1h 45min | Polish with subtitle



To mark the centenary of the great science fiction writer Stanislaw Lem, we present this tribute in collaboration with the Polish Cultural Institute and the University of Leeds. Legendary stop motion animators the Quay Brothers will be appearing in person to present their new short film primer, *11 Preliminary Orbits Around Planet Lem*, alongside *Maska*, a beautiful adaptation of one of his short stories made in 2010. Also screening is another rarely screened Lem adaptation, *Roly Poly* made by Polish master Andrzej Wajda in 1968. A panel discussion follows, exploring Lem's legacy.

▼ In Venues

The Shop on the Main Street Kafkaesque Cinema

VUE Screen 11 | Tue 16 Nov 13:00, Thu 18 Nov 14:45 | £9/£7.50

Dirs. Ján Kadár, Elmar Klos | Czechoslovakia | 1965 | 2hr 8min | Slovak, Yiddish, German, Latin with subtitles



Winner of the 1966 Academy Award for Best Foreign Film and presented as part of LIFF 2021's Kafkaesque Cinema selection, *The Shop on the Main Street* is a World War Two drama with both a supreme lightness of touch and highly impactful emotional heft. Tono is a Slovak carpenter appointed, as a bullying tactic by his brother-in-law, as the 'Aryan controller' of an elderly Jewish widow's button shop. Not realising the true nature of his appointment, Tono forms an affectionate bond with its proprietor Ida. Naivite and wilful denial help reinforce their insular reality, as the Nazi threat draws ever closer.

▼ In Venues

Throne of Blood BFI Japan 2021

HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM | Sun 7 Nov 19:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Akira Kurosawa | Japan | 1957 | 1hr 50min | Japanese with subtitles | Cert 12A



Fog, wind, trees and mist express the ghostly paranoia of a wily, crazed Samurai bonded to Spider's Web Castle. Director Akira Kurosawa transposed Shakespeare's *Macbeth* to Japan's Middle Ages, and with that made the fullest realisation of the play's horror, the surging energies that no theatre stage could ever contain. Gasp as the creeping forest moves before your eyes, shiver as the spectral spirit whispers of the future while weaving, thrill at Kurosawa's longtime collaborator, the mighty Toshiro Mifune - electrifying in battle action; crazy in close-up.

▼ In Venues

Tokyo Story BFI Japan 2021

COTTAGE ROAD | Tue 9 Nov 17:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Yasujiro Ozu | Japan | 1953 | 2hr 16min | Japanese with subtitles | Cert U

▼ In Venues



For the last decade of global film culture this film has often been placed at the top of the tallest tree: 'The Greatest Ever'. Tokyo Story's deepest wells of emotion spring forth in mysteriously artful ways; they surprise, with a wondrous sympathetic sadness. Simplicity is all: An elderly couple travels from southern Japan to Tokyo to see their adult children, who barely have time for them. And on the way home there is a change... Ozu's unwavering style is transcendent; this extraordinary film merits every word of fascination.

The Witness Kafkaesque Cinema

▼ In Venues ▼ Online

HOWARD ASSEMBLY ROOM | Sat 6 Nov 15:15 | £9/£7.50 (£7 on Player)

Dir. Péter Bacsó | Hungary | 1969 | 1hr 45min | Hungarian with subtitles



Known as one of the greatest satires of communism, and presented as part of LIFF 2021's Kafkaesque Cinema selection, The Witness was banned for over a decade in Hungary. Ferenc Kállai gives a brilliant comic performance as Pelikán József, an ordinary dike keeper who is caught illegally slaughtering his pig. Spared the typical punishment of hard labour, he instead begins a series of hilariously ridiculous promotions through the communist party, including as the supervisor of a swimming pool and then an orange farm. As events unfold, it seems there may be an ulterior motive for József's heightened status.

Xala (on 35mm) Kafkaesque Cinema

▼ In Venues

NATIONAL SCIENCE & MEDIA MUSEUM | Mon 15 Nov 19:00 | £9/£7.50

Dir. Ousmane Sembene | Senegal | 1975 | 2hr 3min | French, Wolof with subtitles



Senegalese master Ousmane Sembène unleashed one of his most ingenious, scathing satirical dramas with Xala in 1975. He targets the new bourgeois elite of a recently independent African state, never specifically named in the film, who behave much like their departed colonial masters. El Hadji is a businessman who is cursed with impotence (the literal meaning of the word 'xala') on his marriage night. His increasingly desperate efforts to solve this problem uncover escalating bureaucratic absurdities and abject corruption in a lacerating critique of postcolonial power. Showing on 35mm as part of the Kafkaesque Cinema programme.

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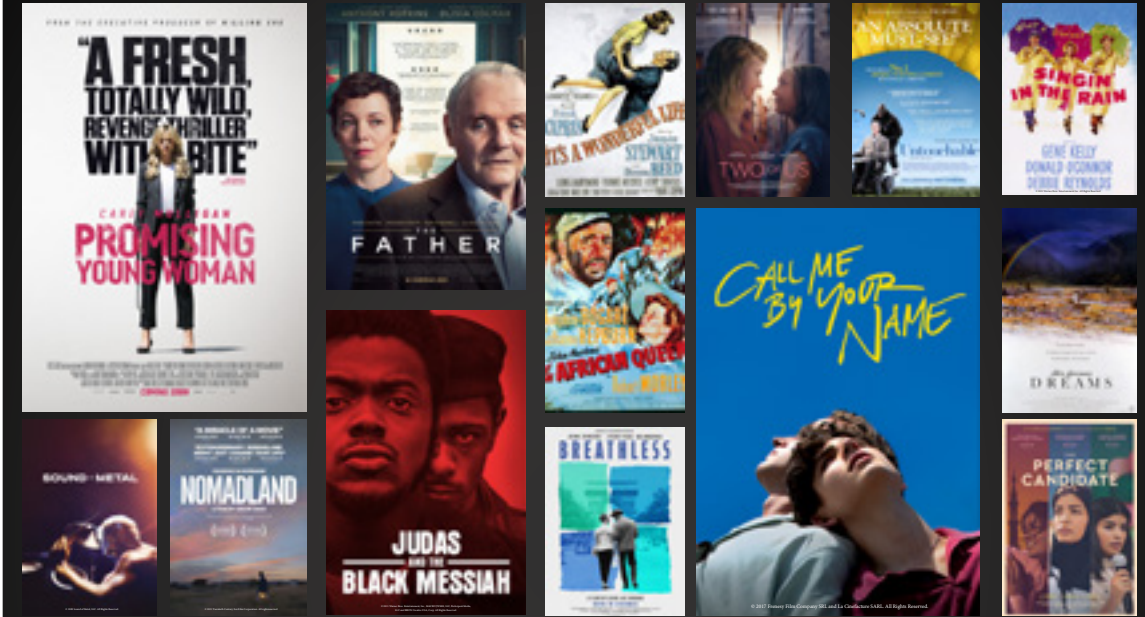
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