



BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL 2019

2 – 13 OCTOBER

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In partnership with



MATT DAMON

CHRISTIAN BALE



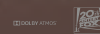
BASED ON THE TRUE STORY OF
FORD VERSUS FERRARI

LE MANS '66

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF WALK THE LINE & LOGAN



IN CINEMAS NOVEMBER 15





BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL 2019

In partnership with



HOW TO #LFF

WHAT'S THE FESTIVAL LIKE?

THE FILMS

#LFF is your chance to discover the Oscar winners of the future, the most thrilling new talent from across the globe, and beautifully restored treasures from the archives. Every film screening at the Festival is hand-picked by our team of programmers, and all features are being shown in the UK for the first – and sometimes the only – time. Films don't get fresher than this!

THE VENUES

We have 12 fabulous venues across Central London, each with an atmosphere and buzz all of its own. Head down to our social hub at BFI Southbank for free events and Festival chat, or discover our state of the art pop-up venue, Embankment Garden Cinema.

See pull-out schedule



THE FILMMAKERS

Each year hundreds of leading directors, writers and actors join us on stage to introduce their films and take part in audience Q&As. Our Screen Talks and LFF Connects events are a chance to hear from the world's top creative talent. Keep an eye on the website for announcements of all guests and events.

See p108



From 2-13 October the world's best new films come to London. With 345 films to choose from, there's a lot to explore – here's our guide to getting the most from the Festival.

WHAT SHOULD I WATCH?



GALAS

Our Galas are star studded premieres of some of the most anticipated films of the year. The Gala screenings are the first two screenings listed for Headline Gala films and the first screening of other Gala films. Headline Galas at Odeon Luxe Leicester Square offer the chance to walk the red carpet (and you can still watch the action even if you miss out on tickets). There's no dress code for Galas but feel free to don your glad rags or whatever makes you happy!

See p9

COMPETITIONS

The Festival competitions bring together the most innovative, groundbreaking new films from across the world. Our judges will be deliberating over the course of the Festival and you can catch the winning films at special surprise screenings on Saturday 12 October.

See p29

STRANDS

How would you like to feel? Whether you're after a laugh or some thrills, choose a strand and you'll find our programmers' carefully calibrated suggestions to get your emotions stirring.

See p45



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PULL-OUT SECTION SCHEDULE & TICKETS

Jump to the middle for a pull-out schedule for the whole Festival as well as all the essential information on how to book.

HOW DO I GET A TICKET? See the pull-out schedule for pricing, ticket types and booking dates.

BOOKING

Tickets go on sale on 12 Sep. Some films will sell out quickly, but don't despair – more tickets are released for many titles on 26 Sep. You can also get returned tickets on the door so it's always worth trying your luck. Becoming a BFI Member is a great way to get ahead of the queue, with priority booking before tickets go on sale.

ACCESS

We want everyone to enjoy the best new films. Accessible screenings are marked throughout the brochure and schedule and detailed information on accessing our venues on the website. If you have any questions, please get in touch with our Box Office at box.office@bfi.org.uk or **020 7960 2102**

TICKETS

Dig a little deeper with our curated Passes: get 3 tickets for £30 on hidden gems from across the programme with our Discovery Passes, and 3 tickets for £21 on Experimenta screenings. We offer a range of concession tickets and under 25's can get £5 tickets on the door, with advanced booking available on selected screenings.

INTRODUCTION



“If it’s mentionable, it’s manageable.” Those are words spoken by Fred Rogers in Marielle Heller’s extraordinary *A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood*. Like all good art, cinema helps us make sense of the world we live in. And this year, filmmakers are tackling burning issues of our time – often in surprising ways.

This has often been true of non-fiction filmmaking and there are urgent works among the 42 documentaries screening in 2019, including Feras Fayyad’s Syrian-set *The Cave*, and Sung-A Yoon’s *Overseas*, which details the exploitation of migrant workers. While in fiction, Haifaa Al Mansour’s *The Perfect Candidate* explores the power of local politics changing one mind at a time; Julius Onah’s *Luce* presents an ingenious dark drama tackling racial bias, and the emergent activists in Rubaiyat Hossain’s *Made in Bangladesh* take on deathly conditions in a Dhaka garment factory. No less vividly imaginative, other films incorporate wild irreverence and riotous energy, such as Michael Winterbottom’s *Greed*, a sharp-tongued corporate satire; Kleber Mendonça Filho and Juliano Dornelles’ anarchic, bloody socio-political Western *Bacurau*; Mirrah Foulkes’ startling feminist fable *Judy & Punch* and Taika Waititi’s brilliant anti-nationalist, anti-racist satire *Jojo Rabbit*.

Boldness is notable this year in other ways, particularly commendable in a number of risk-taking debuts with filmmakers bringing uncompromising directorial voices to their first features: Mati Diop’s *Atlantics*, Joe Talbot’s *The Last Black Man in San Francisco* and the UK’s own Rose Glass and Billie Piper with, respectively, the singular *Saint Maud* and the bitter, funny *Rare Beasts*.

Indeed, it’s been an extraordinary year for UK debuts in general: *Calm with Horses*, *County Lines*, *The Deathless Woman*, *Days of the Bagnold Summer*, *Lynn + Lucy*, *Make Up*, *Nocturnal*, *Perfect 10*, *Pink Wall*, *Real*, *The Street*, *White Riot* and *Walking with Shadows*. Our programming team has been hugely impressed by the diverse work from a new generation of filmmakers who reside in the UK. They join a thrilling international selection of work from 75 countries around the world.

On behalf of the programming team, I welcome you to the 63rd BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express. We hope you will be as shaken and stirred, provoked, astounded and electrified by the cinema here as we have been.

Tricia Tuttle

Festival Director,
BFI London Film Festival



RARE BEASTS



JOJO RABBIT



MADE IN BANGLADESH



Photo: Nancy Honey.com

The UK has always offered a welcoming platform for international artists and storytellers, and none more so than the BFI London Film Festival. It is a time when filmmakers from every corner of the world gather here, among them some of the world’s greatest names in cinema, alongside those at the very beginning of their careers. All of them share a common purpose which is to present their new work to an audience and it is often a very special moment as it is usually only the first or second time it’s been seen. These are films that will challenge your perspective and pique your curiosity for fresh ideas and viewpoints

The Festival is a truly international moment, as we open our arms to welcome filmmakers from over 70 countries. It’s a moment that puts the UK at the centre of the global film spotlight and it sends out a glorious message about our ambition to collaborate internationally.

The BFI is a charity and this Festival is only able to happen because of the extraordinary generosity of our longstanding partner American Express, alongside so many other partners, sponsors and funders, not least all the National Lottery players in the UK whose ticket buying is so vital to champion good causes including film. This is the perfect opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to them all and before you delve into the programme, I urge you to join me in loudly applauding all our supporters who are listed at the front of this brochure.

Amanda Nevill, Chief Executive, BFI



Photo: Casey Moore

We are proud to partner with the BFI London Film Festival for the tenth consecutive year, giving cinema lovers, including our Cardmembers, access to this unique and special event. American Express is a long-standing supporter of film and we are excited to champion the best and brightest talent from across the industry. We hope you enjoy this year’s programme and look forward to seeing you there.

Charlotte Duerden, UK Country Manager –
American Express UK

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OPENING NIGHT GALA

WED 2
19:00 OLLS

WED 2
19:45 EGC

THU 3
14:20 EGC

SAT 5
12:30 EMPIRE

BRITISH

THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF DAVID COPPERFIELD

Dir Armando Iannucci.
Prod Kevin Loader, Armando Iannucci.
Scr Armando Iannucci, Simon Blackwell.
With Dev Patel, Ben Whishaw, Hugh Laurie, Nikki Amuka-Bird, Peter Capaldi, Rosalind Wiseman, Tilda Swinton.
UK 2019.
120min.
UK Distribution
Lionsgate

Armando Iannucci brings *David Copperfield* fizzing to life with all-star collaborators in this exuberant, entertaining and sharply pertinent adaptation.

Adapting one of Charles Dickens' most beloved characters, Iannucci and regular co-writer Simon Blackwell create a Victorian-set epic that nonetheless feels very modern, fresh and, quite frankly, hilarious. Following Copperfield from early youth through to middle age, the story traces his social awakening, charting huge personal ups and downs as he witnesses the best and worst of humanity. Dickens' 'favourite child' amongst his works, the plot also tackles social injustice in many forms – a lack of protection for children, poor industrial conditions for the working class, and wealth inequality. So, who better to tackle this tale than Iannucci, the genius behind *The Thick of It*, *In the Loop*, *Veep* and *The Death of Stalin*. His work has peeled back the hypocrisy of the ruling and political class with such unfettered enthusiasm and biting comic acuity.

Beyond the superb script, Iannucci's choice of lead is inspired. Having revealed his ability to convey a bottomless well of emotion in *Lion* (LFF 2016), Dev Patel shows his lightning-sharp comic timing as Copperfield, as well as a wicked gift for mimicry. He's abetted by a stunning cast embarrassingly full of riches, with meaty comic roles for Tilda Swinton as Betsey Trotwood, Hugh Laurie as Mr Dick, Peter Capaldi as the impossibly sunny Mr Micawber and Ben Whishaw as the gloriously creepy Uriah Heep. Humorous, busy, bustling and bursting with colour and energy, this is a Dickens reworking unlike any you've seen on the screen. *Tricia Tuttle*

HEADLINE GALAS

Opening Night Gala in partnership with American Express



HOW TO BOOK

This year we are delighted to be opening the Festival across two venues, Odeon Luxe Leicester Square and our purpose built state-of-the-art cinema Embankment Garden Cinema. There will be an extended intro at both venues, with director Armando Iannucci and members of the cast expected to attend. Opening Night tickets to Embankment Garden Cinema are available for BFI Patrons to purchase and subject to BFI Champion and BFI Member ballot: bfi.org.uk/members. Opening Night tickets to Odeon are not available for purchase.



CLOSING NIGHT GALA

SUN 13
17:30 OLLS

SUN 13
18:15 EGC

SUN 13
18:30 MAYFAIR

THE IRISHMAN

Dir Martin Scorsese.
Prod Martin Scorsese,
Robert De Niro,
Jane Rosenthal,
Emma Tillinger Koskoff,
Irwin Winkler,
Gerald Chamales,
Gaston Pavlovich,
Randall Emmett.
Scr Steven Zaillian.
With Robert De Niro,
Al Pacino,
Joe Pesci,
Harvey Keitel,
Ray Romano,
Bobby Cannavale,
Anna Paquin.
USA 2019.
TBCmin.
UK Distribution Netflix

Martin Scorsese's ninth collaboration with Robert De Niro finds the master filmmaker returning to the genre he has helped define, with a mystery that has never been solved.

Who killed Jimmy Hoffa? A labour leader and the infamous head of the Teamsters union, whose connections with organised crime were wide ranging, his career ended with a conviction for jury tampering, attempted bribery and fraud, but he was pardoned by President Nixon in 1971. Not long after, he disappeared. Declared legally dead in 1982, various theories have circulated as to what happened to him. Few are as convincing as that told by Frank 'The Irishman' Sheeran. The account he revealed to journalist Charles Brandt and published in the 2004 book *I Heard You Paint Houses*, is the basis of this riveting, epic crime drama. Written by *Gangs of New York* collaborator Steven Zaillian (*Schindler's List*), Scorsese's *The Irishman* weaves an engrossing and intricate web of connected events, audaciously cutting back and forth across decades.

Presented through the prism of Sheeran's (De Niro) memories of his criminal past, the film uses state-of-the-art visual effects to 'de-age' the cast from their 70s through their 30s. The seamless (and astonishing) post-production allows Scorsese to bring together a favoured megawatt cast, all on exceptional form: the former *Goodfellas* pairing of De Niro and Joe Pesci (out of retirement here for Scorsese), alongside Harvey Keitel, Stephen Graham, Anna Paquin, Jesse Plemons, Bobby Cannavale and Ray Romano. Al Pacino, appearing for the first time in a Scorsese film, gives a performance as Jimmy Hoffa so good you'll want to watch scenes again straight away, not least the many two-handers with Pacino's Hoffa and De Niro's Irishman Sheeran, whose friendship forms the heart of the film. What a way to close the LFF – with a total showstopper. *Tricia Tuttle*

HOW TO BOOK

This year we are delighted to be closing the Festival across two venues, Odeon Luxe Leicester Square and our purpose built state-of-the-art cinema Embankment Garden Cinema. There will be an extended intro at both venues, with director Martin Scorsese and members of the cast expected to attend. Closing Night tickets to Embankment Garden Cinema are available for BFI Patrons to purchase and subject to BFI Champion and BFI Member ballot: bfi.org.uk/members. Closing Night tickets to Odeon are not available for purchase.

Audiences around the UK will have the exclusive chance to see Closing Night red carpet footage and interviews with the film's creators, beamed by satellite into their local cinema and followed by a special preview screening of *The Irishman*. See bfi.org.uk/lff for booking dates and participating venues.



AMERICAN EXPRESS GALA

TUE 8 19:30 OLLS **AD** TUE 8 20:30 EGC **AD** WED 9 11:30 EGC **HOH** **AD** SUN 13 14:45 EMPIRE **AD**

KNIVES OUT

Dir-Scr Rian Johnson.
Prod Rian Johnson,
 Ram Bergman.
With Daniel Craig,
 Chris Evans,
 Ana de Armas,
 Jamie Lee Curtis,
 Christopher Plummer.
 USA 2019.
 130min.
UK Distribution
 Lionsgate

Rian Johnson (*Looper*, *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*) delivers a delight for film fans with his witty, cine-literate and devilishly entertaining new crime caper.

Murder mystery novelist Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer) is a veritable one-man crime-fiction industry and his adult children – and their children – have been living off him for years. When he turns up dead, the apparent victim of a murder, it seems that no-one has a motive for killing the golden goose. At least, that's what the detectives assigned to the case think. But Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) – the debonair 'Kentucky-fried' private investigator mysteriously hired by an anonymous source – has other ideas. With a superb cast at their arch best (Jamie Lee Curtis, Toni Collette, Chris Evans, Michael Shannon, Katherine Langford, Ana de Armas and Don Johnson, to name a few), this is impeccably written and designed, full of unexpected twists and turns from start to finish.

Johnson clearly knows his mystery genre greats from fiction, television and film. Agatha Christie, *Murder, She Wrote* and *Sleuth* are some of the reference points. But while always aware of the conventions, here Rian Johnson does for the murder caper what he did with *Brick* for noir and *Looper* for science fiction. He injects them with fresh magic and shows you whole new ways of looking at a beloved genre. *Knives Out* is a classic whodunnit and as sharp as the blade that killed the patriarch at the heart of the film. *Tricia Tuttle*

HEADLINE GALAS





THE MAYOR OF LONDON'S GALA

MON 7 18:20 OLLS **AD** MON 7 20:30 EGC **AD** TUE 8 11:15 EGC **HOH** **AD** THU 10 14:30 NFT1 **AD** **BRITISH**

THE AERONAUTS

Dir Tom Harper.
Prod Todd Lieberman, David Hoberman, Tom Harper.
Scr Jack Thorne.
With Eddie Redmayne, Felicity Jones, Himesh Patel, Anne Reid, Tom Courtenay.
 UK 2019.
 101min.
UK Distribution Entertainment One

The sky is no limit for Felicity Jones and Eddie Redmayne's aerial explorers in this heart-racing and breathless adventure story about flight and scientific discovery.

Who would dare venture to the outer reaches of the atmosphere with just a balloon and some gas above them and a wicker basket beneath? Amelia Wren (Jones) and James Glaisher (Redmayne) are about to embark on mankind's highest-ever balloon voyage in the interest of studying the weather. But they have to stop bickering first. Directed by long-time Fest favourite Tom Harper (who has screened in LFF from his earliest short films to last year's Festival Gala *Wild Rose*) and written by equally talented and beloved Jack Thorne (*Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* and previous collaborations with Harper, *The Scouting Book for Boys* and *War Book*), they absolutely nail the audacity and romance of the Victorian race into the air, with special effects that make you feel you are inside the balloon. Based on a composite of adventurers and the stories of their exploits, *The Aeronauts* seeks to understand people who push themselves beyond the limits to make new discoveries and redefine the boundaries of what is possible. If you are squeamish about heights, prepare to watch this from behind your fingers! *Tricia Tuttle*



BFI PATRONS' GALA

SAT 12 17:30 EGC SAT 12 18:30 OLLS SUN 13 11:30 EGC SUN 13 17:45 EMPIRE

A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Dir Marielle Heller.
Prod Youree Henley, Peter Saraf, Marc Turtletaub, Leah Holzer.
Scr Micah Fitzerman-Blue, Noah Harpster.
With Tom Hanks, Matthew Rhys, Susan Kelechi Watson, Chris Cooper.
 USA 2019.
 107min.
UK Distribution Sony Pictures Releasing

Director Marielle Heller and star Tom Hanks offer the perfect antidote for uneasy times, in a film destined to capture even the most world-weary heart.

It's hard to overstate the impact Fred Rogers had on American culture. For three decades, he enchanted generations of children with his television show *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. Gently-paced, the show was a safe haven, where Rogers entertained but also tackled problems that his young viewers might have to face as they grew up; his motto was, 'If you can mention it, you can manage it'. An excellent Matthew Rhys, playing magazine writer Lloyd Vogel (based on journalist Tom Junod) is commissioned to write an article on the presenter. He regards Rogers as an monolith of an unfashionable past – a relic whose style and ideas are outdated. He is also deeply suspicious: 'Could anyone really be so good, so kind?' But on spending more time with Rogers, Vogel begins to question his own misanthropic outlook. As a Hollywood star admired for his integrity (he's *Toy Story's* Woody, after all) Tom Hanks is perfect as Rogers. A clever script from Micah Fitzerman-Blue and Noah Harpster (series writers on *Transparent*) and ingenious direction from Heller also ensure that you don't need to know who Rogers was for this film to work its magic. With her third feature, after the superb *The Diary of a Teenage Girl* and *Can You Ever Forgive Me?* (LFF 2018), Marielle Heller has delivered her best yet. *Tricia Tuttle*



HEADLINE GALA

WED 9 19:00 OLLS	WED 9 20:15 EGC	THU 10 11:45 EGC	SUN 13 17:30 VUE7	BRITISH
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HEADLINE GALA

FRI 4 18:00 EGC	FRI 4 18:30 OLLS	SAT 5 13:50 EGC	SUN 6 15:15 SOHO	BRITISH
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GREED

Dir-Scr Michael Winterbottom.
Prod Damian Jones, Melissa Parmenter.
With Steve Coogan, Isla Fisher, David Mitchell, Asa Butterfield, Sophie Cookson.
UK 2019. 100min.
UK Distribution Sony Pictures Releasing

Steve Coogan dazzles as the 'da Vinci of deal-making' in Michael Winterbottom's sharp-tongued satire on corporate greed.

Richard McCreadie (Steve Coogan) is the king of the high street. Following a few wobbles with fraud investigations and to prove he's still on top, he is determined to throw the ultimate celeb-filled 50th birthday bash. Cue a Mediterranean island bedecked with a fake amphitheatre for an ancient Rome-themed bacchanal. But as the guests start arriving – including mother (Shirley Henderson), ex-wife (Isla Fisher), and a daughter who's shooting a *Made in Chelsea*-style reality show – 'greedy McCreadie's' empire starts to come apart at the seams. Mixing Greek myth and *Gladiator* fandom with incisive social politics, this is both an enjoyable and very angry film, hitting its targets with Winterbottom's typically thrilling energy. Coogan is hilarious as the embodiment of hubris, with a vast ensemble cast including David Mitchell as an investigative journalist, Asim Chaudhry as a chilled-out lion tamer and Dinita Gohil as the woman making the connection between fast fashion and exploitation. What's also remarkable is how the film breaks down business fraud and international trade deals in an easy-to-digest way, amid the anarchic farce that pits humour against the 1%. *Kate Taylor*

HOPE GAP

Dir-Scr William Nicholson.
Prod Sarada McDermott, David M Thompson.
With Annette Bening, Bill Nighy, Josh O'Connor.
UK 2019. 100min.
UK Distribution Curzon

Annette Bening and Bill Nighy star as a couple on the rocks in this witty divorce drama directed by celebrated screenwriter William Nicholson (*Gladiator*, *Shadowlands*, *Les Misérables*).

When web designer Jamie (Josh O'Connor) returns to his parents' bohemian coastal home for the weekend, he's prepared for the theatrics of poetry editor Grace and history teacher Edward as they argue in the kitchen. But when Edward pulls Jamie aside to reveal that after 29 years of marriage he's had enough and his bags are packed, it's clear that an almighty storm is about to descend. It turns out that Hell hath no fury like a 60-something divorcée. Annette Bening gives a barn-storming performance as the acidic and often unreasonable Grace, firing out snappy one-liners whilst undergoing an emotional apocalypse, and Bill Nighy is superb as a quiet man who just wants to update Wikipedia in peace. Shot with a ravishing sense of design and colour, making the most of its lush English coastline, this is an emotionally astute portrait of a marriage; of regrets uncovered, decisions made too late and the precariousness of hope. *Kate Taylor*

HEADLINE GALAS



HEADLINE GALA

SAT 5 18:45 OLLS **AD** SAT 5 20:00 EGC **AD** SUN 6 14:30 OLLS **HOH** **AD** MON 7 15:10 TCR **AD**

JOJO RABBIT

Dir-Scr Taika Waititi.
Prod Carthew Neal,
Taika Waititi,
Chelsea Winstanley.
With
Roman Griffin Davis,
Thomasin McKenzie,
Taika Waititi,
Sam Rockwell,
Scarlett Johansson.
USA 2019.
108min.
UK Distribution
Fox Searchlight
Pictures

Taika Waititi delivers an exuberant and irreverent comedy about challenging dogma and hate. With films like *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, *Thor: Ragnarok* and *What We Do in the Shadows*, Taika Waititi has long been amassing fans with his wicked sense of humour and smart blend of satire and pathos. *Jojo Rabbit* might just be his best yet. Jojo (Roman Griffin Davis) is a young boy living in Germany in the final days of the Second World War. The Nazi regime is crumbling but remains stupidly vicious to the last. With his father gone – perhaps dead or even a deserter – Jojo is a game if somewhat inept member of the Hitler Youth; his closest friend an imaginary Adolf Hitler (Waititi, on hilarious form). When he discovers his mother (Scarlett Johansson) has been hiding a young Jewish girl (Thomasin McKenzie, *Leave No Trace*) in their house, Jojo must go to war with his own conscience. Tackling the ludicrousness of racism and nationalism, Waititi has also crafted a film of great emotional charge and tenderness, with Davis and McKenzie exceptional as unlikely allies. In a cast rich with comic genius – including Stephen Merchant, Sam Rockwell and Rebel Wilson – Johansson is dazzling, demonstrating the full wattage of her onscreen charisma. Riotously funny, moving and relevant, *Jojo Rabbit* is an absolute gem of a film.

Tricia Tuttle



AMERICAN AIRLINES GALA

THU 3 18:45 OLLS THU 3 20:05 EGC FRI 4 11:30 EGC SUN 6 12:45 PCC **BRITISH**

THE KING

Dir David Michôd.
Prod David Michôd,
Joel Edgerton,
Brad Pitt,
Dede Gardner,
Jeremy Kleiner,
Liz Watts.
Scr Joel Edgerton,
David Michôd.
With
Timothée Chalamet,
Joel Edgerton,
Sean Harris,
Robert Pattinson,
Lily-Rose Depp.
UK-Hungary-Australia
2019.
134min.
UK Distribution
Netflix

David Michôd explores a different kind of animal kingdom, with Timothée Chalamet starring in this stunning, visceral portrait of Henry V.

The startling transformation undertaken by Hal in Shakespeare's *Henriad* series, from the fun-loving prince into the all-powerful monarch, is one of literature's most acute character studies. Here, David Michôd (*Animal Kingdom*, *The Rover*) and co-screenwriter and star Joel Edgerton adapt those texts to explore how a reluctant monarch took the crown, and found himself embroiled in the very same wars he despised his father for. It finds Chalamet displaying his range and versatility, and he perfectly captures both the charm and recklessness of the youthful prince and the steely authoritarianism of a king in the making. Edgerton, as gifted and versatile an actor as he is a writer, makes a particularly soulful, tragic-heroic John Falstaff. Bloody, potent, rousing, this is a full-bodied adaptation of Shakespeare's text, with David Michôd again collaborating with cinematographer Adam Arkapaw, who is as much at home photographing the intimacy of a rare trusted confidence in a royal court of vipers as he is depicting the awesome scale of a bruising grand battle. Supporting cast are excellent all around, not least Lily-Rose Depp as Catherine, future Queen of England, Ben Mendelsohn as Henry IV and Robert Pattinson as a particularly spicy Dauphin, heir to the French throne. Tricia Tuttle





HEADLINE GALA

THU 10 19:15 OLLS **AD** THU 10 20:05 EGC **AD** FRI 11 14:00 OLLS **AD**

LE MANS '66

Dir James Mangold.
Prod Peter Chernin, Jenno Topping, James Mangold.
Scr Jez Butterworth, John-Henry Butterworth, Jason Keller.
With Matt Damon, Christian Bale, Jon Bernthal, Caitriona Balfe, Tracy Letts.
 USA-France 2019. 152min.
UK Distribution Twentieth Century Fox

Matt Damon and Christian Bale give an acting masterclass in James Mangold's (*Logan*, *Walk the Line*) study of a friendship that shaped 1960s motor racing.

After being forced to quit a highly decorated motor racing career for health reasons, Carroll Shelby (Damon) turned to car designing. A legend in this world, having been one of the few Americans to win the gruelling 24-hour marathon at Le Mans, Shelby was hired by Ford Motor Company, who were looking to rejuvenate an outmoded brand and build a race car capable of taking on world champions Ferrari. While Shelby had the American charm that Ford wanted associated with their brand, they weren't so sure about Shelby's favoured driver, the notoriously ill-tempered Limey rebel Ken Miles (Bale). Working from an excellent script by Jez and John-Henry Butterworth, Mangold hooks you from the first scene and never lets go. He's brilliant at burning up the tracks with dynamic, hair-raising race scenes, while engaging us with the moving exploration of a friendship that fought corporate interference to build a revolutionary car that gave Ford a racing chance at Le Mans in 1966. It's a thrill to see a fearless driver, strapped inside an elegantly designed tin can. And though this is an absolute must for car enthusiasts, you don't have to be a racing fan to care about those putting their lives and reputations at risk. An instant classic, *Le Mans '66* is a buddy movie with heaps of old school Hollywood charm.

Tricia Tuttle



THE MAY FAIR HOTEL GALA

SUN 6 18:45 OLLS SUN 6 19:30 EGC MON 7 11:15 EGC MON 7 14:00 OLLS SUN 13 12:30 TCR

MARRIAGE STORY

Dir-Scr Noah Baumbach.
Prod Noah Baumbach, David Heyman.
With Scarlett Johansson, Adam Driver, Laura Dern, Alan Alda, Ray Liotta.
 USA 2019. 137min.
UK Distribution Netflix

In a career full of remarkable highpoints (*The Squid and the Whale*, *Frances Ha*, *The Meyerowitz Stories...*), here is another dizzying high from Noah Baumbach. It's also his most personal yet.

Nicole (Scarlett Johansson) is an actor. Charlie (Adam Driver) is a director. Together, they run a New York-based theatre company. They're also married and have a son. But Nicole is a West Coaster who craves a different pace and a healthier life for their family. Charlie can't bear California for too long. Accepting a temporary separation while Nicole takes a film job in LA, the dissimilarities in their desires become a chasm. It's an economical plot, the gradual unravelling of a marriage, but the great pleasure – and agony – lies in the details. Baumbach is a master of understanding what makes people tick and of finding the bitter hilarity in even the most desolate emotional scenes, such as Charlie steadily falling apart under the unforgiving eye of a family custody worker observing him with his son. Johansson and Driver are exceptional, as are Laura Dern and Ray Liotta, playing spiky and hilariously well-observed West Coast divorce lawyers. Baumbach gives them all so many great moments to shine (and they do!) as he shoots on gorgeous 35mm with a 1.66 aspect ratio that foregrounds performance, often with startling long takes. Alongside the likes of *Shoot the Moon* and *Kramer vs Kramer*, *Marriage Story* is vintage cinema about breaking up, while trying to keep it together.

Tricia Tuttle


 THE MAY FAIR
 HOTEL



FESTIVAL GALA

FRI 11
18:00 EGC

SAT 12
11:30 EGC

EMA

Dir Pablo Larraín.
Prod Juan De Dios Larraín.
Scr Guillermo Calderón, Pablo Larraín, Alejandro Moreno.
With Mariana Di Girolamo, Gael García Bernal, Paola Giannini, Santiago Cabrera. Chile 2019. 102min. EST.
Sales The Match Factory

Chilean director Pablo Larraín's (*Jackie, No*) *Ema* features a superb Gael García Bernal and a spellbinding lead performance from newcomer Mariana Di Girolamo.

Every new Pablo Larraín film is a miracle of imagination, invention and insight into human behaviour. And *Ema* may be his most lyrical and poetic yet – a character study of a beguiling woman who is ruled by heart and impulse. In a vivid collage of scenes shot by Sergio Armstrong (*The Club, Souvenir*), with an expressive score from Nicolas Jaar, Larraín paints a picture of talented contemporary street/reggaeton dancer and teacher Ema. We learn of a recent trauma and her fiery relationship with her slightly older husband (Gael García Bernal), who is both a choreographer and her creative collaborator. Their recent adoption of a troubled child has gone badly, for which they are harshly judged. They, in turn, blame one another. Writing with Guillermo Calderón (*Neruda*) and Alejandro Moreno, Larraín's film intersperses explosive, intoxicating scenes of dance within dramatic moments that are fractured in time. Through them, we get an indelible sense of Ema. Fragments of her past are revealed to us, but she is very much presented as a creature of this moment: wounded, fierce, loving and committed to righting wrongs, often through unconventional and occasionally dubious means. Her magnetism pulls people into her orbit and it's a seductive place to be; at once tender, volatile, physical and fully alive. *Tricia Tuttle*



FAMILY GALA

SAT 5
15:00 OLLS

AD

ABOMINABLE

Dir Jill Culton, Todd Wilderman.
Prod Suzanne Buirgy, Peilin Chou.
Scr Jill Culton.
With Chloe Bennet, Tenzing Norgay Trainor, Albert Tsai, Eddie Izzard, Sarah Paulson. USA-China 2019. 98min.
UK Distribution Universal Pictures International

The latest animated tale from Dreamworks is a fun, fast-paced action adventure about a little girl and her yeti companion in a race-against-time trip from China to the Himalayas.

Teenager Yi, who lives in Shanghai, is surprised to discover that a Yeti has escaped captivity and found his way on to the roof of her apartment building. Moreover, he's far from happy. After some initial posturing between the two, it's not long before they form a bond and the furry stranger is named Everest by Yi and her friends Jin and Peng. Everest is on the run from zoologist Dr Zara (Sarah Paulson) and Burnish (Eddie Izzard), an old and very rich collector of species. So, the teens decide to help him on the dangerous and epic 2,000-mile journey to the Himalayas, where he can be reunited with his family. Along the way, they discover that Everest has a magical relationship with nature, which manifests itself in many wondrous and delightful ways. Written and directed by Jill Culton (*Open Season*), this collaboration between Dreamworks Animation Studios and Pearl Studio in China is a joyous and rewarding achievement. Boasting a compelling story and breathtaking visuals achieved by the latest animation technology, *Abominable* is as beautiful as it is funny and exciting. *Justin Johnson*

Suitable for age 6+



THRILL GALA

FRI 4
21:15 OLLS

SAT 5
11:30 OLLS



LAUGH GALA

WED 9
17:20 EGC

THU 10
14:15 EGC

SUN 13
12:20 VUE4

BACURAU

Dir-Scr
Kleber Mendonça Filho,
Juliano Dornelles.
Prod Saïd Ben Saïd,
Michel Merkt,
Emilie Lesclaux.
With Bárbara Colen,
Sônia Braga,
Udo Kier,
Thomás Aquino.
Brazil-France 2019.
130min.
EST.
UK Distribution
MUBI

This brazen Brazilian weird western snatched the Cannes Jury Prize and is coming for your mind next!

A young woman named Teresa travels home for the funeral of her grandmother, who was the matriarch of Bacurau, a village that happily embraces its misfits, mixed-heritage outsiders, whores, hippies and queers. On arrival, Teresa discovers that the dusty little town has been wiped clean off the map by the middle-class elite from the north, who are busy ingratiating themselves, selling their country and its people (quite literally, it turns out) to rich European and American interests. Following *Aquarius* (LFF 2016), Kleber Mendonça Filho shares directorial credit with long-time collaborator Juliano Dornelles in this stuffed-to-the-gills futuristic parable. Evoking Cinema Novo in its wild imagination and fiery socio-political fury, as well as Alejandro Jodorowsky, Sergio Leone and John Carpenter in its ecstatic stylings, *Bacurau* is darkly sardonic and pleurably complex. The filmmakers give just enough scene-to-scene narrative information to keep you leaning forward, wondering where this thing is taking you. If the odd bout of grisly explosive violence is not your bag, be warned. But this will thrill fans searching for wild-hearted ecstatic cinema with political punch. *Tricia Tuttle*

THE DUDE IN ME

Dir Hyo-jin Kang.
Prod Seung-hyo Lee,
Bong-jun Kim.
Scr Dae-sung Park.
With Jin-young Jung,
Sung-woong Park,
Mi-ran Ra,
Soo-min Lee,
Kwang-kyu Kim.
South Korea 2019.
122min.
EST.
Sales Finecut

A ballsy gangster accidentally possesses a timid schoolboy in this sassy body-swap comedy from South Korea.

Pan-su (Sung-woong Park) is a high-flying CEO and ruthless gangster who thinks nothing of violently muscling out the little man to get what he wants. After a strange encounter at a ramen cafe, he's involved in a street accident and finds himself in a pickle when he awakens to discover that he's magically traded bodies with... a nerdy high-school student. Crikey! As the timid teenager Dong-hyeon (Jin-young Jung, of K-pop band B1A4) gains super-confidence overnight, his inner Pan-su discovers that he has unfinished business with a classmate's mother. From *Freaky Friday* to *Your Name*, body swapping is an ongoing fascination in cinema. *The Dude in Me* approaches the genre with giddy glee, revelling in hilarious slapstick, whip-crack timing, and some finely-tuned comic performances – particularly that of heartthrob Jin-young Jung, who displays a surprising adeptness at playing a boy possessed by a crass middle-aged man. Employing dry humour to undercut macho culture, the film finds fresh twists to a classic premise, resulting in an upbeat, pop-tastic entertainment that sustains its surprisingly sweet energy and laughs to the last. *Kate Taylor*



DARE GALA

SAT 12
20:45 EGC

SUN 13
13:45 OLLS

JUDY & PUNCH

Dir-Scr Mirrah Foulkes.
Prod Michele Bennett, Nash Edgerton, Danny Gabai.
With Mia Wasikowska, Damon Herriman, Tom Budge, Benedict Hardie, Lucy Velik.
Australia 2019. 105min.
UK Distribution Picturehouse Entertainment

Writer/Director Mirrah Foulkes delivers an audaciously brilliant first feature, with Mia Wasikowska splendid in this fairy tale with a feminist twist.

Taking the strange, misogynistic 16th-century Punch and Judy puppet show as an initial point of departure, Foulkes creates an origin story of sorts, but one that re-imagines what might have happened if Judy decided not to take Punch's incessant battery quite so meekly. In the town of Seaside, husband and wife puppeteers Punch and Judy stage their shows for rowdy, mob-minded locals for whom a great day out is usually the public stoning of a fellow citizen (invariably a woman accused of witchcraft or some other spurious crime). With a highly accomplished sense of style and directorial confidence that belies her newness to the craft, Foulkes creates a vivid, darkly comic fable – part revenge story, part fantasy epic. Damon Herriman (*Justified*, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*) makes a brilliant Punch – dangerously egomaniacal, and yet somehow still pitiable. And at the heart of this film about the emergence of a reluctant heroine, Wasikowska is a wonderful Judy, who belatedly finds out just how powerful she is. *Judy & Punch* is rousing, inventive and so much fun. *Tricia Tuttle*



CULT GALA IN ASSOCIATION WITH TIME OUT

SAT 5
21:30 OLLS

AD

SUN 6
11:10 EGC

HOH

AD

FRI 11
15:30 TCR

AD

THE LIGHTHOUSE

Dir Robert Eggers.
Prod Rodrigo Teixeira, Jay Van Hoy, Robert Eggers, Lourenço Sant' Anna, Youree Henley.
Scr Robert Eggers, Max Eggers.
With Willem Dafoe, Robert Pattinson, Valeria Karaman.
USA 2019. 110min.
UK Distribution Universal Pictures International

Robert Eggers, the Sutherland Award-winning director of *The Witch*, returns to terrorise the LFF with his masterful maritime shocker.

Leaving Canada behind for the unforgiving terrains of the New England coast, Ephraim Winslow (Robert Pattinson) reluctantly arrives at the begrimed lighthouse where he will work for the next four weeks. Greeted with gruff hostility by Tom Wake (Willem Dafoe), a veteran seafarer with whom he is obliged to share these uncomfortably close quarters, the pair quickly establish a volatile dynamic, with Tom the baiting slave-driver and Ephraim his battered lackey. As the young apprentice tends to the building's more onerous and demeaning demands, Tom proudly presides over the mythical light. And with the slow passing of each punishing day, Ephraim's resentment grows. But when he learns of the mysterious fate which befell his master's former assistant, a creeping sense of fear and paranoia also begins to stir. Once seen, never forgotten, this hypnotic fusion of beauty and brutality is truly the stuff of nightmares, boasting extraordinary performances from Dafoe and Pattinson as the feuding seadogs, wrapping their scowling mouths around Robert and Max Eggers' knotty period text with unwavering gusto. Following his remarkable debut *The Witch*, Eggers continues to prove himself one of contemporary cinema's most audacious and innovative filmmakers – finding ways entirely of his own of terrifying his audiences.

Michael Blyth

TimeOut



DEBATE GALA

THU 10 17:00 EGC **AD** **FRI 11** 15:00 EGC **HOH AD** **SUN 13** 15:00 CINÉ LUMIÈRE **BRITISH**



LOVE GALA IN ASSOCIATION WITH MALTA TOURISM AUTHORITY

THU 3 17:15 EGC **FRI 4** 14:45 EGC **FRI 11** 16:10 NFT3

OFFICIAL SECRETS

Dir Gavin Hood.
Prod Ged Doherty, Elizabeth Fowler, Melissa Shiyu Zuo.
Scr Gavin Hood, Sara Bernstein, Gregory Bernstein.
With Keira Knightley, Matt Smith, Ralph Fiennes, Matthew Goode, Rhys Ifans.
UK-USA 2019.
112min.
UK Distribution
Entertainment One

Gavin Hood follows up *Eye in the Sky* with a sharp political thriller about a key moment in the history of the Iraq conflict.

As a government employee or contractor, is it ever right to leak state secrets? And when should an individual decide if this is in the national interest? These are the almost impossibly weighty questions faced by the subject of Gavin Hood's *Official Secrets*, a political drama about Katharine Gun, an ordinary government contract worker faced with an extraordinary choice. In 2003, on the eve of the UK-US invasion of Iraq, Gun intercepted communications that revealed the UK was being asked to spy on UN Security Council Members to help influence votes sanctioning the invasion of Iraq. Knowing full well her legal responsibilities as an employee, Gun weighed up her duty as one trusted with national security, but also the risks to her own family's security (her husband was a Muslim immigrant awaiting permanent residency status) and decided she must release this information for the national good. Keira Knightley gives an excellent performance as Gun – bringing both a refreshing lack of self-consciousness and an urgency to the role – alongside a strong ensemble that includes Matt Smith and Ralph Fiennes. *Tricia Tuttle*

Dir-Scr Michael Schwartz, Tyler Nilson.
Prod Albert Berger, Ron Yerxa, Christopher Lemole, Tim Zajaros, Lije Sarki, David Thies.
With Shia LaBeouf, Dakota Johnson, Zack Gottsagen.
USA 2019.
93min.
UK Distribution
Signature
Entertainment

The spirit of Mark Twain lives on in this effortlessly charming buddy movie about a young man in pursuit of his dreams.

Zak (Zack Gottsagen), a restless 22-year-old with Down's Syndrome, is frustrated by the slow pace of life at the nursing home in which he resides. Itching for some excitement, he dreams of becoming a pro wrestler, obsessively re-watching a worn-out VHS tape of his favourite Lycra-clad hero, The Salt Water Redneck. Hatching a plan to meet his idol, Zak makes a break from his geriatric prison, with his worried carer Eleanor (Dakota Johnson) in hot pursuit. Meanwhile, struggling fisherman Tyler (Shia LaBeouf) is on a mission of his own – to escape the clutches of a pair of angry crabbers after unwisely messing with their traps. As fate brings these two accidental fugitives together, so begins the start of an epic journey, and a profound friendship, that will change both of their lives forever. The first feature from writer-directors Michael Schwartz and Tyler Nilson brims with an infectious sense of adventure impossible not to be swept up in. The ever-impressive LaBeouf and Johnson shine throughout, but this is Gottsagen's film. Having previously appeared onscreen in the acclaimed documentary *Becoming Bulletproof*, his acting debut is nothing short of a revelation, guaranteed to stir the heart of even the most steadfast cynic. *Michael Blyth*





JOURNEY GALA

MON 7
17:20 EGC

TUE 8
14:20 EGC

WED 9
15:30 TCR

THE TWO POPES

Dir Fernando Meirelles.
Prod Dan Lin, Jonathan Eirich, Tracey Seaward.
Scr Anthony McCarten.
With Anthony Hopkins, Jonathan Pryce, Juan Minujin.
Italy-Argentina 2019. 126min.
UK Distribution Netflix

Anthony Hopkins and Jonathan Pryce tussle over the future of the Catholic Church in this thrillingly cinematic two-hander from Fernando Meirelles (*City of God*, *The Constant Gardener*).

Travelling from the streets of Buenos Aires to the hallowed halls of the Vatican, Jorge Bergoglio (Jonathan Pryce) has become disillusioned with the direction of the Catholic Church, even though he's a contender for the top job. So when it's Joseph Ratzinger (Anthony Hopkins) who gets the gig, becoming Pope Benedict XVI, Bergoglio is relieved. However, the institution faces a reckoning with itself. And when the two men are brought together for a few days over one summer, their clash of ideologies – forward-looking and progressive versus a stubborn adherence to tradition – makes for passionate debate. Terrific writing from Anthony McCarten (*Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Darkest Hour*) showcases the chemistry between Hopkins and Pryce, who relish the rich dialogue that crackles with humour. Director Fernando Meirelles' technical bravura depicts – with rich textures – compassion, self-doubt, shame and pride as the intimate debate between these two powerful men progresses. And whatever your stakes in religion, Pryce and Hopkins are a joy to watch together on screen. Hallelujah! *Kate Taylor*



CREATE GALA

FRI 11
21:00 EGC

SAT 12
11:30 OLLS

SUN 13
12:30 EMPIRE

DOC

WESTERN STARS

Dir Thom Zimny, Bruce Springsteen.
Prod Thom Zimny, Jon Landau, George Travis, Barbara Carr.
USA 2019. 83min.
Prod Co Western Stars Films

Bruce Springsteen performs the entirety of his latest release, *Western Stars*, in this captivating hybrid of concert documentary and memoir.

Bruce Springsteen's 19th studio album *Western Stars* was released this year to the rapturous response of fans and critics alike. Drawing on the sweetly melancholic pop sounds of artists such as Glen Campbell and Burt Bacharach, Springsteen's elegiac ode to the American West blends lush orchestration with pared-back emotional tenderness. Resolved that he would not be taking the record on tour, Springsteen, collaborating with co-director Thom Zimny, opted instead to produce a feature-length film as a means of bringing the live experience to music lovers across the world. In the atmospheric surroundings of a majestic old barn, Springsteen (joined by his wife Patti Scialfa, a small orchestra and handful of accompanying musicians) performs his latest record from start to finish, intercut with a series of beautifully-shot vignettes in which he reflects on the songs and ruminates on the loves, challenges and regrets he has faced in his own life. Always a master lyricist, Springsteen's character-driven tracks have often played out like perfectly formed short films, taking their listeners on a multitude of narrative journeys. This visually ravishing, profoundly insightful work is the perfect distillation of that rich fusion of musicianship and storytelling, achieving a level of intimacy rarely seen in live performances. *Michael Blyth*



SPECIAL PRESENTATION
IN ASSOCIATION WITH EMPIRE

MON 7 21:15 OLLS	TUE 8 12:45 OLLS	WED 9 15:00 VUE7
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BAD EDUCATION

Dir Cory Finley.
Prod Fred Berger, Eddie Vaisman, Julia Lebedev, Brian Kavanaugh-Jones, Oren Moverman, Mike Makowsky.
Scr Mike Makowsky.
With Hugh Jackman, Allison Janney, Ray Romano, Geraldine Viswanathan, Alex Wolff.
USA 2019.
104min.
Prod Co Automatik

A deliciously piquant pairing of Hugh Jackman and Allison Janney powers Cory Finley's eagerly awaited follow-up to his explosive debut *Thoroughbreds* (LFF 2017).

In the early 2000s, Frank Tassone (Hugh Jackman) was Roslyn, New York's star school superintendent, hugely charismatic and delivering stellar academic results that helped property prices skyrocket with a housing boom fuelled by parents' desperation to move into his school's catchment area. Along with his trusty, salty dog of a deputy, Pam Gluckin (Allison Janney), he could do no wrong. But then a plucky student reporter uncovered some shocking secrets about the school's finances. This taut and hugely entertaining second directorial effort from Finley comes from a script – which made the 2016 Black List – written by Roslyn native Mike Makowsky, based on the true story of an embezzlement scandal that rocked the New York school system. Collaborating with a gifted production team that includes composer Michael Abels (*Us*, *Get Out*) and shot on film by Lyle Vincent (*A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night*, *Thoroughbreds*), Finley crafts a compulsive school-set political thriller. Crisply capturing the early 2000s, the film recalls *Election* and *Half Nelson* in presenting a high school environment that isn't what it initially seems. And amongst a brilliant ensemble, Janney and Jackman fizz as the wildly entertaining double act – gobsmacking in their duplicity, charm and audacity.

Tricia Tuttle



SPECIAL PRESENTATION

SUN 6 16:45 EGC	MON 7 14:15 EGC
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BLACKBIRD

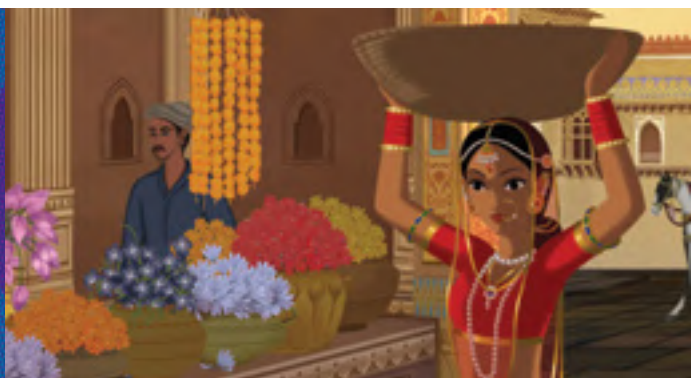
Dir Roger Michell.
Prod Sherryl Clark, David Bernardi, Rob Van Norden.
Scr Christian Torpe.
With Susan Sarandon, Kate Winslet, Mia Wasikowska, Sam Neill, Lindsay Duncan.
USA 2019.
97min.
UK Distribution Lionsgate

A superb Susan Sarandon plays a mother spending a final few days with her husband and adult children in Roger Michell's exquisite reworking of 2014 Danish drama *Silent Heart*.

Set over a weekend at a beautiful house near the seaside, it's clear from the outset that Lily (Sarandon) has made her family aware that she plans to end her own life before her terminal disease renders her incapable of doing so. Her adoring husband (Sam Neill) is committed to being there for her, making the choice as emotionally and physically painless as it can be, while her two daughters (Kate Winslet and Mia Wasikowska) are both reluctant to accept Lily's decision for their own very personal reasons. One of the UK's classiest cinematic storytellers, Michell (*Enduring Love*, *Le Week-End*, *Notting Hill*) has a crystalline gift for getting a good script to sing, always drawing soulful performances from his actors. And the quality of the cast here says everything about his regard as a director. While the debate over euthanasia is very sensitive, Christian Torpe's measured, intelligent and compassionate script is less interested in ethics than it is in understanding human behaviour. Deeply moving and satisfying as a drama, *Blackbird* is a story about the complexity of family love, but one with an urgent and relevant beating heart. Tricia Tuttle

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

EMPIRE



SPECIAL PRESENTATION

SAT 12 16:00 SOHO **BSL** SUN 13 15:10 VUE7

BOMBAY ROSE

Dir-Scr Gitanjali Rao.
Prod Rohit Khattar,
Anand Mahindra.
With Cyli Vivek Khare,
Amit Deondi,
Gargi Shitole.
India-UK-France-
Qatar 2019.
93min.
EST.
Sales
C International Sales

This animated feature is both epic and personal, and a glorious love letter to life and love in Mumbai. Gitanjali Rao's delicate and nuanced collection of stories unfolds and overlaps around two protagonists. And like so many of Mumbai's population, both are immigrants. Kamala, who is Hindu and has escaped a child marriage in Madhya Pradesh, is now a flower garland street seller, looking after her younger sister and desperate for a way out. Salim, a young Muslim who has escaped war-torn Kashmir also sells flowers, albeit lifted from the local graveyard. But he spends most of his time escaping via his daydreams into Bollywood action thrillers and fantasies of Mughal high romance. Then there's Shirley, an elderly Anglo-Indian ex-actor who dwells mostly in the past. Their stories cross when Salim steals a carmine rose left by Shirley at a graveside to give it to Kamala, whose beauty leaves him breathless. Though attracted to each other, Kamala and Salim's different faiths and the uphill struggles they face in their lives keep them separated. Rao's exquisite animation allows characters to move seamlessly between real and imagined worlds, while her skills as a storyteller imbue the film with hidden depths of emotion and empathy for her characters' plight. This is a film for the die-hard romantics out there. Cary Rajinder Sawhney



DOCUMENTARY SPECIAL PRESENTATION

MON 7 18:00 NFT1 TUE 8 17:50 VUE6 **DOC**

THE CAVE

Dir Feras Fayyad.
Prod Kirstine Barfod,
Sigrid Dyekjær.
Scr Feras Fayyad,
Alisar Hasan.
Syria 2019.
95min.
EST.
UK Distribution
Dogwoof

Oscar-nominated Feras Fayyad's (*Last Men in Aleppo*) essential film tells the harrowing story of an underground Syrian hospital and its extraordinary staff.

The forces of the Syrian government besieged the suburb of Ghouta, on the outskirts of Damascus, between 2012 and 2018. Its inhabitants were submitted to unspeakable chemical attacks and bombardments. The Cave is the name of one of the secret subterranean hospitals that provided medical care to the trapped population. Led by Dr Amani – a tirelessly resilient 30-year-old paediatrician who was forced to end her studies due to the war – the courageous and mostly female hospital staff worked relentlessly, coping with low stocks of medicine and little food to care for the brutalised victims flooding in via tunnels and hidden passages. The film charts the daily horrors as life continues inside the hospital; from the charming Dr Alaa who operates to classical music, to Samaher, the unofficial chef who learned to cook in between bombing raids and who tries valiantly to retain her sense of humour. Feras Fayyad crafts an urgent and poignant testimony of the humanity of the hospital staff, who risk their lives to maintain the health and hopes of the people they treat. But the film is also a call to action – a demand for a response to this intolerable humanitarian crisis.

Laure Bonville



SPECIAL PRESENTATION

FRI 11
21:15 OLLS

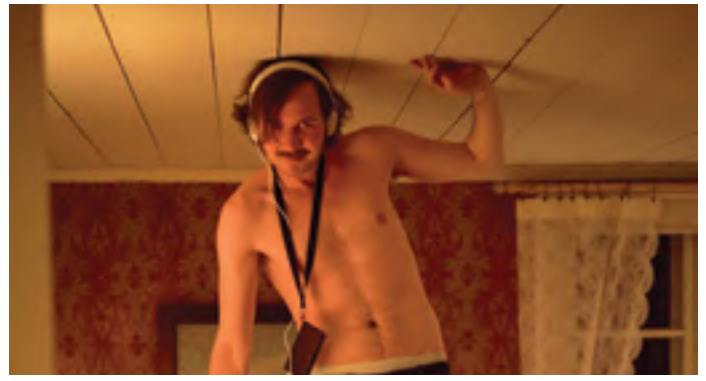
SAT 12
14:30 OLLS

FIRST LOVE

Dir Takashi Miike.
Prod Muneyuki Kii,
Jeremy Thomas,
Misako Saka.
Scr Masaru Nakamura.
With Masataka Kubota,
Nao Ōmori,
Shōta Sometani,
Becky, Jun Murakami.
Japan-UK 2019.
108min.
EST.
Sales
HanWay Films

A young boxer on the brink of death falls in love with a woman caught in the crossfire between yakuza and triad gangs in a fight over stolen drugs.

Takashi Miike has been taking things easy of late – since his 100th feature *Blade of the Immortal* (LFF 2017), the prolific Japanese director has only managed to complete three productions. His most recent film, *First Love* proves that he still had much to explore in the yakuza world, even after 2015's anarchic, bloody vampire flick-crime movie mash-up *Yakuza Apocalypse*. However, this time Miike has taken a different route, employing a love story as a counterpoint to the intrigues of the Tokyo underworld. Promising young boxer Leo (Masataka Kubota), who has a recently diagnosed brain tumour, meets Yuri (Sakurako Konishi), a young woman sold into prostitution to pay off her father's debts. Miike takes his time developing his characters, setting up a complex drug heist – involving a yakuza turncoat, a gang of Chinese triads and a corrupt local cop – with the patience and tension-building detail that Takeshi Kitano showed with his recent *Outrage* trilogy. But once everyone's in place, all hell breaks loose; having been sedated with hard drugs, the unwitting Yuri is supposed to take the fall for a double-cross, but instead takes off with Leo in a *True Romance*-style all-nighter that involves decapitations, shoot-outs and car chases. There's a shout-out to Toei Studios' exploitation heyday in the retro opening credits, but *First Love* is 21st-century Miike through and through. *Damon Wise*



SPECIAL PRESENTATION

MON 7
20:30 NFT1

WED 9
15:30 VUE5

GÖSTA

EPISODES ONE, FIVE,
SIX and EIGHT

Dir-Scr
Lukas Moodysson.
Exec Prod
Hanne Palmquist,
Steve Matthews,
Antony Root.
Prod Lars Jönsson.
With Vilhelm Blomgren,
Mattias Silvell,
Amy Deasimont,
Clara Christiansson
Drake,
Regina Lund.
Sweden 2019.
120min.
EST.
Sales ReInvent Studios
International Sales

He is the best! Lukas Moodysson's long-awaited return and first TV series is a loving satire about the nicest child psychologist in provincial Sweden.

Last seen at LFF with 2013's widely adored girl-punk charmer *We Are the Best!*, Swedish writer-director Lukas Moodysson returns with his first foray into episodic television. Described by its creator as 'a mix of comedy and Dostoevsky – as funny as possible and as serious as possible,' the focus of *Gösta* is its extremely kind title character. A 28-year-old psychologist for children and adolescents, Gösta has relocated from Stockholm to rustic Småland to begin working at a small local clinic. Played with floppy-haired sweetness by rising Swedish star Vilhelm Blomgren (*Midsommar*), he's the type of person who'll give you a ride home if he catches you trying to steal his bike. Our hero is not only aiding an asylum seeker with a visa appeal, but also has the man staying at his house. As the show unfolds, Gösta's abode becomes crammed with troubled guests, most notably his hilariously chaotic father and a teenage patient who can't face her parents. It's too much for Gösta's medical student girlfriend Melissa, who insists that he can't help everyone. Affectionately lampooning youthful idealism, *Gösta* is a contemporary cousin to Moodysson's 1970s-set commune classic *Together*, while his empathetic storytelling transfers perfectly to the small screen.

Manish Agarwal

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS



EXPERIMENTA SPECIAL PRESENTATION

THU 3
20:30 NFT1SUN 13
12:15 ICA

BRITISH

KRABI, 2562

Dir-Scr
Ben Rivers,
Anocha
Suwichakornpong.
Prod Maenum
Chagasik.
With
Siraphun Wattanajinda,
Arak Amornsupasiri,
Primrin Puarat,
Nuttawat Attasawat.
UK-Thailand 2019.
94min.
UK Distribution
Anti-Worlds

Observing locals and visitors creates a highly original portrait of the Thai tourist town of Krabi in this collaboration between award-winning directors Anocha Suwichakornpong and Ben Rivers.

Suwichakornpong (*By the Time It Gets Dark*, LFF 2016) and Rivers (*The Sky Trembles and the Earth Is Afraid and the Two Eyes Are Not Brothers*, LFF 2015) merge their unique cinematic languages across reality and folklore in South Thailand, creating a stylish meditation on the eponymous tourist town. They reunite with Suwichakornpong's celebrated Hong Kong cinematographer Ming-Kai Leung and River's research-focused experimental sonic artist Ernst Karel for the film's rich sound design. A cast of real and imagined characters unreliably narrate your journey from fertility caves on paradise beaches to a bat-filled abandoned cinema. Then there's an advertisement shoot by Oliver Laxe (*Fire Will Come*, in this year's Dare strand), a secluded former boxing champion and flashes of the stunning coastal landscape's pre-historic past. Together, the artists create an absorbing and playful portrait of a people, place and time that floats across fiction and reality, leaving haunting vignettes on the legacy of our age.

Sarah Perks



ARCHIVE SPECIAL PRESENTATION

THU 3
18:10 NFT1

BRITISH

LOVE, LIFE AND LAUGHTER

Dir George Pearson.
With Betty Balfour,
Harry Jonas,
Frank Stanmore.
UK 1923.
61min.
Prod Co
Welsh Pearson

Restored by
BFI National Archive at
L'Imagine Ritrovata,
Bologna with the
collaboration of
EYE Filmmuseum.

Restoration supported
by the Eric Anker-
Petersen Charity

Lost for nearly a century, this rediscovery is a wonderful opportunity to fall under the spell of Betty Balfour, Britain's 'Queen of Happiness'.

Balfour was Britain's biggest star of the 1920s, so the discovery of one of her key films is a major event. *Love, Life and Laughter* has been one of the BFI's most sought after films for decades. Identified by archivists at EYE Filmmuseum in the Netherlands, this Dutch-language version is incomplete, with footage missing throughout the film. Painstakingly pieced together by our restoration team with new English intertitles, it restores to us a truly vivacious performance from Balfour and adds to our knowledge of director Pearson, a key figure in British cinema of whose films a bare handful survive. Telling the story of a pair of working class youngsters with big dreams – a cheery chorus girl and a serious writer – the film toys with our expectations, blurring the boundaries of reverie and reality, tragedy and comedy. Bryony Dixon

With live musical accompaniment by Meg Morley.
Extended introduction by Bryony Dixon and Kieron Webb,
BFI National Archive. Full programme time 90min.



SPECIAL PRESENTATION

FRI 4
21:00 EGC

SAT 5
11:20 EGC

BRITISH



BFI FLARE SPECIAL PRESENTATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH SIGHT & SOUND

TUE 8
17:25 EGC

BSL

WED 9
14:30 EGC

OUR LADIES

Dir
Michael Caton-Jones.
Prod
Michael Caton-Jones,
Laura Viederman,
Brian Coffey.
Scr
Alan Sharp,
Michael Caton-Jones.
With Eve Austin,
Tallulah Greive,
Abigail Lawrie,
Sally Messham,
Rona Morison,
Marli Siu,
UK 2019.
100min.
UK Distribution
Sony Pictures
Releasing

This infectious 1990s-set comedy drama finds six Catholic teenage choirgirls cutting loose in Edinburgh, in a loving adaptation of Alan Warner's novel *The Sopranos*.

A pitch-perfect evocation of the possibilities and frustrations of being young and riotously alive in mid-90s Scotland, *Our Ladies* follows the teenage choirgirls of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour on a day trip from their port town in the Highlands to a singing competition in Edinburgh. Its focus is the rebellious gang sitting at the back of the bus, who are less interested in the contest than furthering their own version of a catholic education in the big city. Booze and boys feature heavily and hilariously, but this unvarnished coming-of-age saga also ponders (without preachiness) sexuality, pregnancy, class difference and the tumultuous path of true friendship. The six central characters are brought to life by brilliant performances from Eve Austin, Tallulah Greive, Abigail Lawrie, Sally Messham, Rona Morison and Marli Siu. Each is given her space to shine by Alan Sharp and Michael Caton-Jones's screenplay, which skilfully adapts Alan Warner's widely acclaimed novel *The Sopranos*, without compromising the source material's gloriously profane and swaggeringly musical spirit. This is the author's second book to be made into a film (following *Morvern Callar*) and a long-gestating labour of love for veteran Scottish director Caton-Jones, who optioned it 20 years ago. Manish Agarwal

Special £5 tickets for 25 & Under are bookable in advance at bfi.org.uk/lff/25-and-under

PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE PORTRAIT DE LA JEUNE FILLE EN FEU

Dir-Scr
Céline Sciamma.
Prod Véronique Cayla,
Bénédicte Couvreur.
With Noémie Merlant,
Adèle Haenel,
Valeria Golino,
Luàna Bajrami.
France 2019.
119min.
EST.
UK Distribution
Curzon

A female portrait painter falls in love with her subject in *Girlhood* director Céline Sciamma's perfect new film.

In 1760, Lady Héloïse's (Adèle Haenel) mother hires a female painter to create a portrait of her daughter for a distant suitor. But the painter, Marianne (Noémie Merlant), must do so in secret because Héloïse is fiercely opposed to being married off; she thinks instead that Marianne has been hired as a walking companion. Looking – especially so intently in order to memorise details – becomes an act of profound intimacy and seduction, and when Héloïse's mother leaves for business in town, the smouldering between the women ignites. While this is devastatingly effective as a love story against impossible social and cultural barriers, to read the film as only that is to dismiss so many nuances and layers. Céline Sciamma has crafted a film about the unique, secret codes of female-only spaces; about an historical economy which rendered women's artistic contributions invisible, but not non-existent; and about women's limited control of their own bodies. This is a gloriously restrained and precise film that pushes for new ways of employing sound and music, one that redefines the construction of the gaze – of the protagonist, the camera, and the viewer – on the female form. With every new work, from *Water Lilies* and *Tomboy* to *Girlhood*, Sciamma has developed as a filmmaker of greater power and poignancy. *Portrait of a Lady on Fire* seals her position amongst the best of her generation. It's Céline Sciamma on fire. Tricia Tuttle

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

BFI
FLARE
LGBTQ+ FILM & EVENTS

Sight & Sound



SPECIAL PRESENTATION

FRI 11
18:30 OLLS

SAT 12
14:30 EGC

BRITISH

ROCKS

Dir Sarah Gavron.
Prod Faye Ward,
Ameenah Ayub Allen.
Scr Theresa Ikoko,
Claire Wilson.
With Bukky Bakray,
Kosar Ali,
D'angelou Osei
Kissiedu,
Shaneigha-Monik
Greyson,
Ruby Stokes.
UK 2019.
90min.
UK Distribution
Altitude Film
Entertainment

This is a vibrant and hugely engaging portrait of female friendship and growing up in London from director Sarah Gavron (*Brick Lane*, *Suffragette*) and collaborators.

Olushola Joy Omotoso, 'Rocks' to her mates, is a London teenager with ordinary teenage cares; hanging with her crew and helping to look after her little brother keeps her grounded. But on returning from an ordinary day at secondary school, she discovers her mother isn't home. There's just a little cash and an apology note. Fearing that she and her brother will be separated if the authorities find out, Rocks decides not to tell anyone and instead copes with her brother alone. Based on a script from award-winning playwright Theresa Ikoko and Claire Wilson (*Little Drummer Girl*, LFF 2018), the drama was developed through extensive workshops with Gavron and the female cast, all of whom were discovered through casting sessions at schools. Hélène Louvart's (*Happy as Lazzaro*, LFF 2018) fluid, intimate cinematography helps give *Rocks* a persuasive immediacy and naturalism, with the girls vividly bringing their characters to life. What's remarkable is that far from feeling as if the film has been cast with 'non-actors', *Rocks* features magnetic performances across the board – particularly from the trio at the heart of the story. Kosar Ali and Shaneigha-Monik Greyson are great as the friends pulling Rocks in different directions, and Bukky Bakray is fearless and entrancing in the title role. Along with the whole filmmaking team, they give voice to the London girls you see every day. Lean closer because they have something to say. Tricia Tuttle

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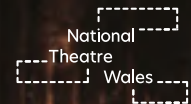
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A FEW GOOD MEN*
RED SPARROW*
THE HUNGER GAMES*
CHILDREN OF MEN*

BUDAPEST NOIR*
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DOG TOOTH*
NOW YOU SEE ME*
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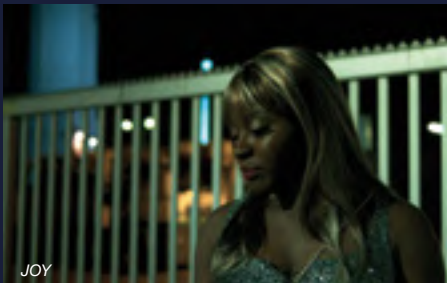
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AWARDS

The BFI London Film Festival Awards are a celebration of the most exciting, innovative new films. Creative, beautiful and often provocative, the nominated films showcase an incredible range of filmmaking talent from across the world.

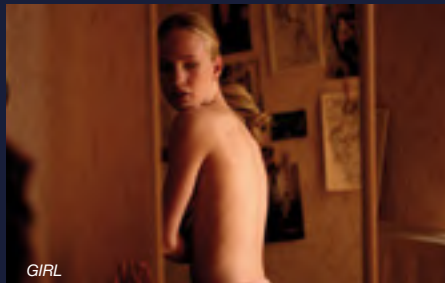
Our judging panels, drawn from across the film industry, will be deliberating throughout the Festival. You can watch the nominated films during the Festival, and discover the winners at our special screenings on Saturday 12 October.



JOY

OFFICIAL COMPETITION

The Best Film Award recognises inspiring, inventive and distinctive filmmaking. The Award was established in 2009 and first won by Jacques Audiard for *A Prophet*. Recent winners of the Award include Sudابه Mortezaei's *Joy*, Andrey Zvyagintsev's *Loveless* and Kelly Reichardt's *Certain Women*.



GIRL

FIRST FEATURE COMPETITION

The Sutherland Award recognises the most original and imaginative directorial debut. Introduced in 1958 and named in honour of BFI patron George Sutherland-Leveson-Gower, recent winners include Lukas Dhont's *Girl*, John Trengove's *The Wound* and Julia Ducournau's *Raw*.



WHAT YOU GONNA DO WHEN THE WORLD'S ON FIRE?

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

The Grierson Award recognises feature-length documentaries with integrity, originality and social or cultural significance. Launched in 1972 and named in honour of documentary filmmaker John Grierson, recent winners include Roberto Minervini's *What You Gonna Do When the World's on Fire?*, Lucy Cohen's *Kingdom of Us* and Mehrdad Oskouei's *Starless Dreams*.



LASTING MARKS

SHORT FILM COMPETITION

The Short Film Award recognises short-form works with a unique cinematic voice and a confident handling of chosen theme and content. Recent winners include Charlie Lyne's *Lasting Marks*, Patrick Bresnan's *The Rabbit Hunt* and 9 Days – *From My Window in Aleppo*, directed by Issa Touma, Thomas Vroege and Floor Van der Meulen.



AWARD WINNERS' SCREENINGS

Be the first to discover this year's award winners, and watch our juries' favourite films of the Festival. The winning films will be unveiled before a public audience at surprise screenings at Vue West End and Odeon Tottenham Court Road on Saturday 12 October.

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OFFICIAL COMPETITION

THE BEST FILM AWARD RECOGNISES INSPIRING,
INVENTIVE AND DISTINCTIVE FILMMAKING



FANNY LYE DELIVER'D

Dir-Scr Thomas Clay.
Prod Zorana Piggott,
Rob Cannan,
Philippe Bober,
Michel Merkt,
Joseph Lang.
With Maxine Peake,
Charles Dance,
Freddie Fox.
UK-Germany 2019.
112min.
Sales
Coproductio Office

Maxine Peake delivers a powerhouse performance as a woman forced to question her oppressive environment in Thomas Clay's provocative period drama.

On an isolated Shropshire farm in 1657, Fanny Lye (Maxine Peake) lives a humble existence with her puritanical husband John (Charles Dance) and young son Arthur. But the daily routines of this God-fearing family are abruptly interrupted when they discover two strangers hiding in their barn, pleading for help. Claiming to have been robbed and left for dead, the young pair initially ingratiate themselves with their reluctant new hosts, although it is not long before their progressive ways begin to cause tensions. With hostilities brewing, the town's sheriff pays a visit to the Lye estate in search of a pair of wanted outlaws, forcing the interlopers to reveal their criminal intentions. As the Lye's are held hostage in their own home, Fanny's world is turned upside down, leading her to doubt her tyrannical husband and the societal structures that dictate her life. By no means a staid historical saga, Thomas Clay's intoxicating chamber piece is a daring and rebellious morality tale, drawing on disparate genre elements to weave an unforgettable yarn about physical confinement and spiritual liberation. With arresting visual motifs and a bold use of music injecting an exhilarating urgency to the action, this is filmmaking at its most breathlessly audacious.

Michael Blyth

OFFICIAL COMPETITION

THU 10
20:40 NFT1

FRI 11
15:30 VUE5

FRI 11
15:00 VUE7

BRITISH



SUN 6
20:10 VUE7

SUN 6
20:45 VUE5

MON 7
12:30 VUE7

MON 7
13:00 VUE5

HONEY BOY

Dir Alma Har'el.
Prod Brian Kavanaugh-Jones, Daniela Taplin Lundberg, Anita Gou, Christopher Leggett, Alma Har'el.
Scr Shia LaBeouf.
With Shia LaBeouf, Lucas Hedges, Noah Jupe.
USA 2019.
95min.
UK Distribution Sony Pictures Releasing

Writer and performer Shia LaBeouf works closely with filmmaker Alma Har'el on this artful and soul-baring examination of the lingering effects of emotional abuse.

Alma Har'el has been a filmmaker to get excited about ever since feverish regard for her stunning debut *Bombay Beach* spread like a wildfire through 2011. Here, she collaborates to impressive effect for her first dramatic feature with gifted writer and actor Shia LaBeouf. Together they deliver a potent and darkly beautiful story about a child actor with an unconventional and brutalising past. Lucas Hedges plays Otis, who makes a living starring in action films. He's an alcoholic with a penchant for fiercely self-destructive behaviour. But when an accident forces him into rehab, he begins to examine his troubled past. We soon find ourselves in a sleazy motel with a young Otis (the breathtakingly good Noah Jupe), in the care of his unstable and often emotionally abusive father (an excellent LaBeouf, playing a version of his own real-life father). LaBeouf and Har'el have crafted a stunning, complex film, full of narrative and meta-narrative twists. 'Write what you know', is the screenwriting coach's maxim, but few would have the courage to write with such bruising candour, nor the talent to do so with such grace and poignancy.

Tricia Tuttle



WED 9
20:45 VUE7

WED 9
21:30 VUE5

THU 10
12:40 VUE7

THU 10
13:10 VUE5

LINGUA FRANCA

Dir-Scr Isabel Sandoval.
Prod Isabel Sandoval, Jhett Tolentino, Carlo Velayo, Darlene Malimas.
With Isabel Sandoval, Eamon Farren, Lynn Cohen.
USA 2019.
95min.
Sales Luxbox

An undocumented immigrant searches for safety and security in this poignant mix of love story and social drama.

Olivia, a Filipino transwoman living in Brooklyn, goes through each day with the agonising threat of deportation weighing on her shoulders. When not surreptitiously working as a caregiver for Olga, an elderly Russian woman in the early stages of dementia, Olivia spends her time documenting a staged relationship with the man who has agreed to marry her so she can obtain legal status in the US. Having been disappointed before, she worries that the nuptials will never materialise. One day Olivia meets Olga's grandson Alex, a despondent slaughterhouse worker battling his own inner demons and over time the pair develop a strong connection. When plans for her Green Card unsurprisingly fall through, Olivia is left feeling hopeless about her future. But perhaps Alex can offer her the security she so desperately needs? Both a beautifully performed character study and an incisive critique on race and immigration in Trump's America, writer-director Isabel Sandoval (who also takes on the role of Olivia) has crafted a deeply moving work of great intimacy and insight. Deftly exploring complex themes around identity, sexual desire and structural disempowerment, *Lingua Franca* is a timely portrait of struggle and of hope. Michael Blyth



TUE 8 20:45 VUE7	TUE 8 21:10 VUE5	WED 9 12:30 VUE7	WED 9 13:00 VUE5
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THU 10 20:40 VUE7	THU 10 21:10 VUE5	FRI 11 12:30 VUE7	FRI 11 13:00 VUE5
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LA LLORONA

Dir Jayro Bustamante.
Prod Jayro Bustamante, Gustavo Matheu, Georges Renand, Marina Peralta
Scr Jayro Bustamante, Lisandro Sánchez
With María Mercedes Coroy, Sabrina De La Hoz, Margarita Kénefic.
Guatemala-France. 2019. 97min. EST.
Sales Film Factory Entertainment

Spectres of the past come back to haunt a retired general with an unsavoury past in Guatemalan director Jayro Bustamante's taut genre-bending thriller.

Elderly general Enrique Monteverde is being tried for a genocide he oversaw three decades earlier. Convinced that a mysterious woman has entered his home, he begins firing his gun out of fear, scaring the servants who have to cope with his violent outbursts. His wife thinks that these acts are rooted in his dementia, but the weeping woman Monteverde hears is La Llorona, the spirit of a woman who has returned to seek justice for the dead. Guatemala's lengthy Civil War and the mass murder of Mayan civilians provide a powerful historical framework for Bustamante's third feature (his second, *Tremors* plays in Dare). There's more than a passing resemblance between Julio Diaz's blustering Monteverde and Guatemala's former dictator José Efraín Ríos Montt, who was tried and found guilty of genocide in 2013, only for the conviction to be overturned. But it is in the mapping of a wider culture of complicity that allows a regime of terror to flourish that the film excels. From the glacial responses of Monteverde's wife to the head housekeeper whose relationship to the general is never entirely clear, this is a film about secrets and lies, rendered through a breathtaking visual language that melds horror, fantasy and courtroom drama to disarming effect.

Maria Delgado

MOFFIE

Dir Oliver Hermanus.
Prod Eric Abraham, Jack Sidey.
Scr Oliver Hermanus, Jack Sidey.
With Kai Luke Brummer, Ryan de Villiers, Matthew Vey.
South Africa-UK 2019. 99min.
Sales Portobello Film Sales

Oliver Hermanus follows *The Endless River* (LFF 2015) with a haunting examination of the violent persecution of gay men under Apartheid. 1981, South Africa. Nicholas (Kai Luke Brummer) has long known he is different, that there is something shameful and unacceptable in him that must stay hidden, denied even. But South Africa's minority government are embroiled in conflict at the Angolan border and all white young men over 16 must serve two years of compulsory military service to defend the Apartheid regime and its culture of toxic racist machismo. The 'black danger' is the real and present threat; what is wrong with Nicholas and others like him can be rooted out, treated and cured like a cancer. But just when fear pushes Nicholas to accept unspeakable horrors in the hopes of staying invisible, a tender relationship with another recruit becomes as dangerous for them both as any enemy fire. With his fourth feature, Hermanus (*Beauty*, *Shirley Adams*) continues to delve into the casualties of his country's dark past and he delivers a film of great poise and complexity – one that gets deep inside Nicholas' head. Brummer gives an extraordinarily nuanced physical performance, emphasised by Braam du Toit's aching and tense score, which underpins his constant anxiety – the threat of discovery. *Tricia Tuttle*

OFFICIAL COMPETITION



FRI 4 20:30 VUE7	FRI 4 21:00 VUE5	SAT 5 12:30 VUE7	SAT 5 13:00 VUE5
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MONOS

Dir Alejandro Landes.
Prod Alejandro Landes, Fernando Epstein, Santiago Zapata, Cristina Landes.
Scr Alejandro Landes, Alexis dos Santos.
With Julianne Nicholson, Moisés Arias, Sofia Buenaventura, Colombia-Argentina-Netherlands-Germany-Sweden-Uruguay-USA 2019. 102min. EST.
UK Distribution Picturehouse Entertainment

Alejandro Landes delivers one of the most talked-about films of the year: a hallucinogenic, intoxicating thriller about child soldiers. High in the mountains of South America, above the billowing clouds but with gunshots heard in the distance, a motley group of child and teenage soldiers train and wait for instruction. They stave off boredom by fucking, playing and fighting. This might be some teen rave gone feral, but for the deadly seriousness underlined by the presence of an American hostage, the Doctora. *Monos* has inspired feverish buzz wherever it has screened this year and comparisons to *Apocalypse Now* and *Lord of the Flies* are not off the mark in mapping out the film's terrain. But this is also a wildly original vision from Landes and screenwriter Alexis dos Santos, referencing horrors on their own continent. The camera prowls over mud and organic decay, cutting swathes through the jungle, all to the strains of Mica Levi's visceral score. *Monos* sparks with dark adrenal electricity and it's completely, utterly thrilling. *Tricia Tuttle*



FRI 11 20:40 VUE7	FRI 11 21:10 VUE5	SAT 12 13:15 VUE7	SAT 12 13:45 VUE5	SUN 13 17:50 VUE6
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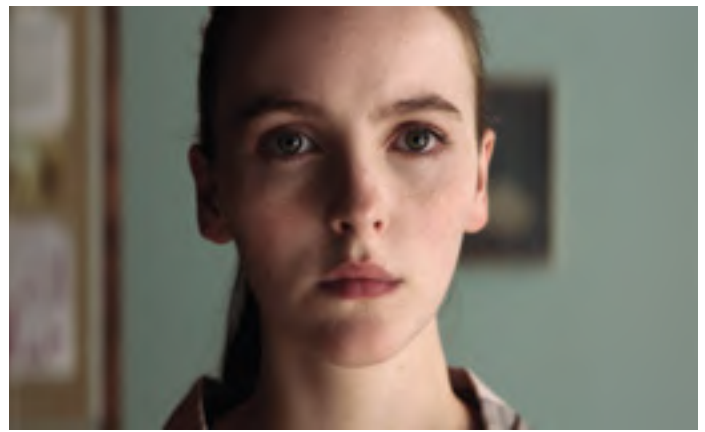
THE OTHER LAMB

Dir Małgorzata Szumowska.
Prod Stephanie Wilcox, David Lancaster, Aoife O'Sullivan, Tristan Orpen Lynch, Marie Gade Denessen.
Scr Catherine S McMullen.
With Raffey Cassidy, Michiel Huisman, Denise Gough. Ireland-Belgium-USA 2019. 92min.
Sales TrustNordisk

Małgorzata Szumowska's (Berlin Jury Prize-winner *Mug* and LFF 2015's *Body*) English-language debut is a beguiling genre-tinged examination of life in an otherworldly cult. Selah was born into The Flock, a community of women and girls ruled over by Shepherd, the only male, and a seemingly benevolent but undisputed leader of the strictly regimented and isolated woodland settlement. Selah appears the most perfect of the faithful flock, until unsettling revelations see her devotion shaken. Already so impressive in *The Killing of a Sacred Deer* and *Vox Lux*, Raffey Cassidy is spectacular as Saleh, conveying bewilderment and terror, but also fierce defiance. Alongside her, Michiel Huisman (*Game of Thrones*) makes a messianic, unnerving Shepherd, while Denise Gough represents the danger of a woman with worldly wisdom. With *The Other Lamb*, the gifted Szumowska offers an eerie ethereal vision that compellingly recalls a range of references, from David Koresh's Waco, Texas cult to Margaret Atwood's dystopian science fiction. Working here from Catherine S McMullen's excellent script, Szumowska returns to some themes present in previous work, with its disquieting examination of faith, compliance and the roles that gender and community play in enforcing cultural norms. As the film shows, a lack of devotion and conformity really can be a hazard to one's health. *Tricia Tuttle*



MON 7 20:30 VUE7	BSL	MON 7 21:00 VUE5	TUE 8 12:30 VUE7	TUE 8 13:00 VUE5
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THU 3 20:30 VUE7	THU 3 21:00 VUE5	FRI 4 12:30 VUE7	FRI 4 13:00 VUE5	SUN 6 20:45 NFT2
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THE PERFECT CANDIDATE

Dir Haifaa Al Mansour.
Prod Roman Paul, Gerhard Meixner, Haifaa Al Mansour, Brad Niemann.
Scr Haifaa Al Mansour, Brad Niemann.
With Mila Alzahrani, Dhay, Khalid Abdulrahim, Shafi Al Harthy.
Germany-Saudi Arabia 2019.
101min.
EST.
Sales
The Match Factory

Celebrated Saudi director Haifaa Al Mansour (*Wadja*, LFF 2012) returns to the Festival with an inspiring drama about a young doctor unexpectedly becoming an electoral candidate. Despite being a highly competent doctor, Maryam's road is paved with compromises and complications – including a flooded path leading to her clinic, the dangers of which are not taken seriously by local officials. When her attempt to drive to a medical conference is stymied by not having the right papers, she finds her only solution is to sign up to be an electoral candidate, allowing her easy access through road blocks. However, as the responsibility of local politics dawns on her, she ropes in her sisters, one of whom is a wedding videographer, to mount an increasingly visible campaign, challenging Saudi Arabia's strict social codes and what is expected of a young woman in the country. Meanwhile, her father follows her progress from afar – having received a permit to perform in public spaces for the first time in his career as a musician. His tender but steadfast support of his daughter, coupled with his regret at not being able to share the joy of his own tour with their late mother, is a moving – and timely – reminder that change can be a long process. But in the end, it really is worth the struggle. Elhum Shakerifar

ROSE PLAYS JULIE

Dir-Scr Christine Molloy, Joe Lawlor.
Prod David Collins, Joe Lawlor.
With Ann Skelly, Orla Brady, Aidan Gillen.
Ireland-UK 2019.
100min.
Prod Co
Samson Films

A young woman seeking her biological mother journeys into dangerous territory in this gripping drama from Irish directing duo Desperate Optimists. It's during a term studying animal euthanasia that veterinary student Rose (Ann Skelly) decides to contact Julie (Orla Brady), the birth mother who gave her up for adoption. But Julie, who is now a successful London-based actress, doesn't want to know. Undeterred, Rose will not be ignored. And curiosity leads her to discoveries that shake the fragile identity she has built for herself. Directors Christine Molloy and Joe Lawlor, also known as Desperate Optimists, have spent years making formally rigorous, atmospheric cinema (*Helen*, *Mister John*, *Further Beyond*) that often deals with the uncanny effects of impersonation and the slippery nature of truth. With *Rose Plays Julie* they have crafted a slow-burn thriller that builds a sense of dread inside an exquisite world of immaculate architecture, rendered through an icy performance style and enveloped by a claustrophobic soundtrack. Skelly and Brady are both exacting and measured in their delivery, as the film takes us through longing and revenge to arrive at the dark places of power and its abuses. This is frank, immersive and decidedly feminist filmmaking. Kate Taylor

OFFICIAL COMPETITION



SAINT MAUD

Dir-Scr Rose Glass.
 Prod Oliver Kassman.
 With Morfydd Clark,
 Jennifer Ehle.
 UK 2019.
 83min.
 Prod Co
 Escape Plan

A mysterious nurse becomes dangerously obsessed with saving the soul of her dying patient in director Rose Glass' divine debut.

Having recently found God, self-effacing young nurse Maud (Morfydd Clark) is untiring in her spiritual devotion. Landing a job as full-time private carer, she arrives at the plush home of Amanda (Jennifer Ehle), a hedonistic dancer left frail from a chronic illness. While they could not be more different – Amanda's taste for the extravagant being the antithesis of Maud's pious values – the mismatched pair are intrigued by each other, slowly building a brittle bond of co-dependency. But when a chance encounter with a former colleague throws up hints of a dark past, it becomes clear there is more to sweet Maud than meets the eye. As Amanda's self-indulgent behaviour escalates, tensions between the couple steadily grow, leaving Maud convinced that she has been sent to serve a higher purpose. Rose Glass' gothic-tinged psychological drama is a wickedly playful piece of work, by turns insidiously creepy, darkly humorous and heartbreakingly sad. The two leads crackle with palpable chemistry, with Jennifer Ehle's beautifully nuanced performance proving the perfect complement to Morfydd Clark's star-making turn as the unsaintly Maud. Consistently upending expectations, this thrilling one-of-a-kind is an almost religious experience. *Michael Blyth*

SAT 5 20:45 VUE7	SAT 5 21:15 VUE5	SUN 6 12:45 VUE7	SUN 6 13:15 VUE5	TUE 8 20:40 NFT2	BRITISH
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FRI 4
18:00 VUE7

SAT 5
20:40 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

MON 7
12:10 NFT1

ATLANTICS

ATLANTIQUE

Dir Mati Diop.
Prod Judith Lou Lévy, Eve Robin.
Scr Mati Diop, Olivier Demangel.
With Mama Sané, Amadou Mbow, Ibrahima Traoré.
France-Senegal-Belgium 2019.
107min.
EST.
UK Distribution Netflix

Director and actor Mati Diop (*35 Shots of Rum*) delivers a hypnotic, genre-shifting portrait of a girl's awakening. Ada and Souleiman are in love. But Souleiman is tired of labouring without pay on the gleaming towers of Dakar. He sets out across the sea with friends, leaving Ada to face impending marriage to another man. But as the women gather in the bar where the men used to drink, it seems that something has returned after all. Employing mystical symbolism and an evocative synth score by Fatima Al Qadiri, the film flows from social drama into supernatural waters and makes lyrical use of the figure of the djinn to process a harrowing reality. Mati Diop, known to many for her acting collaborations with Claire Denis, follows a string of fascinating short films with this bold feature debut that not only poses, but answers, the question: to whom does the future belong? *Kate Taylor*



SUN 6
20:30 SOHO

TUE 8
12:45 TCR

SAT 12
17:50 VUE4

BABYTEETH

Dir Shannon Murphy.
Prod Alex White.
Scr Rita Kalnejais.
With Eliza Scanlen, Essie Davis, Ben Mendelsohn.
Australia 2019.
118min.
Sales Celluloid Dreams

This feverish Australian drama about falling in love for the first time features a super performance by *Sharp Objects* breakout star Eliza Scanlen. What to do when your seriously ill teenage daughter falls madly in love with a young drug dealer? This is the dilemma that Henry (Ben Mendelsohn) and Anna (Essie Davis) face when their beloved Milla (Eliza Scanlen) meets the dodgy-but-charming Toby (Toby Wallace). On paper, this is a premise for a sickly-sweet YA drama, but in director Shannon Murphy's hands this debut gorgeously walks a fine line between provocative adult drama and sweet teen romance. The nature of Milla's illness is not discussed, it's the unnatural state of being young and diseased that's the central point that challenges and ultimately unites the family. Some of Australia's finest screen talent shine in a film that has both the feverishness of first love and the visceral intensity of impending grief.

Anna Bogutskaya

FIRST FEATURE COMPETITION



MON 7
20:45 MAYFAIR

TUE 8
13:00 NFT3

SUN 13
15:30 TCR

BRITISH

CALM WITH HORSES

Dir Nick Rowland.
Prod Daniel Emmerson.
Scr Joe Murtagh.
With Cosmo Jarvis, Barry Keoghan, Ned Dennehy.
UK-Ireland 2019. 95min.
UK Distribution Altitude Film Entertainment

Cosmo Jarvis (*Lady Macbeth*) gives a visceral performance as the hired muscle for a crime family in rural Ireland.

Bulky, witty and loyal, Douglas (Jarvis) has his limits with violence, but the local family business he works for has some nasty ideas about justice and he needs money to support his ex and their child. A manipulative mate and heir to the crime throne (Barry Keoghan) keeps shovelling coke up Douglas' nose. And there's a psycho in their midst, in the form of the ever-menacing, red-eyed Paudi (Ned Dennehy). As Douglas becomes embroiled in a violent pageant of retribution, the time soon comes to choose sides. NFTS graduate Nick Rowland's feature debut is a gripping thriller that builds towards an emotionally shattering finale. And Jarvis enters the contemporary canon (alongside the likes of Tom Hardy, Matthias Schoenaerts and *Calm with Horses* exec-producer Michael Fassbender) of actors playing men whose bruised, quiet exteriors belie great inner depths.

Kate Taylor



SAT 5
18:15 SOHO

BSL **SUN 6**
12:50 VUE6

SAT 12
20:45 VUE4

INSTINCT

Dir Halina Reijn.
Prod Frans van Gestel, Laurette Schillings, Arnold Heslenfeld.
Scr Esther Gerritsen, Halina Reijn.
With Carice van Houten, Marwan Kenzari.
Netherlands 2019. 98min.
EST.
Sales Films Boutique

Carice van Houten flirts with danger in this confrontational interrogation of desire and consent.

Respected clinical psychologist Nicoline is at the top of her game. Promptly after starting a new job at a penal institution, she commences sessions with Idris, an inmate found guilty of multiple violent sex crimes. While her colleagues are confident that the disarmingly alluring convict is well on the road to rehabilitation, Nicoline remains unconvinced, passionately advocating that Idris be denied release. As the simmering tensions between the pair steadily escalate, Nicoline finds herself overpoweringly drawn to her subject, and soon the boundaries between doctor and patient begin to blur. Shot with cool, probing precision, director Halina Reijn's stimulating examination of power and abuse features an impressively nuanced central performance from Carice van Houten. A film of bold intricacy that's unafraid to pose challenging questions and venture into uncomfortable territory. Michael Blyth



TUE 8
18:00 VUE5

BSL **WED 9**
12:30 TCR

SUN 13
17:45 VUE4

HOUSE OF HUMMINGBIRD

BEOL-SAE

Dir-Scr Bora Kim.
Prod Zoe Sua Cho, Bora Kim.
With Ji-hu Park, Sae-byuk Kim, Seung-yeon Lee.
South Korea-USA 2018. 138min.
EST.
Sales Contents Panda

Announcing a bright new voice in South Korean cinema, Bora Kim brings us this absorbing coming-of-age drama about a dysfunctional Seoul family circa 1994.

With regular beatings from her brother, the evasions of a feckless boyfriend and a blossoming friendship with a new teacher, teenage Eunhee certainly has a lot on her mind. And with her parents always working late or fighting, it's starting to feel like she's invisible. But as Eunhee navigates the first flushes and disappointments of adolescence, she begins to develop her own philosophy towards life. Though Eunhee's circumstances are often bleak, writer-director Bora Kim brings both humour and elegance to her autobiographical debut, capturing the tiny moments when perceptions shift in a young person's life. It's a richly textured depiction of South Korea – encompassing events and attitudes ranging from the collapse of Seongsu Bridge to society's relationship with violence – all experienced through Eunhee's wise young eyes. Kate Taylor



FRI 4
18:00 MAYFAIR

SAT 5
15:15 TCR

FRI 11
20:30 NFT2

THE LAST BLACK MAN IN SAN FRANCISCO

Dir Joe Talbot.
Prod Khaliyah Neal, Joe Talbot, Dede Gardner, Jeremy Kleiner, Christina Oh.
Scr Joe Talbot, Rob Richert, Jimmie Fails.
With Jimmie Fails, Jonathan Majors, Rob Morgan.
USA 2019. 120min.
UK Distribution Universal Pictures International

Director Joe Talbot and writer-performer Jimmie Fails create a gorgeous, inventive meditation on art, architecture, black culture and gentrification in California's Bay Area.

Jimmie (Jimmie Fails) dreams of reclaiming the beautiful late 19th century home his grandfather built in the heart of the city, before harder times and changing demographics forced his family out. He and best friend Mont (Jonathan Majors) scheme to make this happen while Jimmie annoys the sitting tenants with guerrilla gardening on the beloved Fillmore house. A skateboarder and dreamy, suit-wearing playwright, the pair are at odds with the tough guys around the neighbourhood, and spend their time working to deliver Jimmie's dream while living with Mont's grandfather (Danny Glover). Occasionally, a film comes around that thrillingly invents its own cinematic rhythms, perfectly suited to its subject. *The Last Black Man in San Francisco* is such a film and it's one to make your head sing and heart soar. Tricia Tuttle



FRI 4 21:00 SOHO **SUN 6** 15:15 VUE6 **FRI 11** 20:50 VUE4 **BRITISH**



FRI 11 18:30 VUE5 **BSL** **SAT 12** 20:40 ICA **SUN 13** 12:20 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

MAKE UP

Dir-Scr Claire Oakley.
Prod Emily Morgan.
With Molly Windsor, Joseph Quinn, Stefanie Martini.
UK 2019.
86min.
Prod Co Quiddity Films

The debut feature from acclaimed short filmmaker Claire Oakley is a riveting psycho-sexual drama in which nothing is quite what it seems.

Teenager Ruth (Molly Windsor) travels to a seaside holiday park to stay with her boyfriend Tom. It's off-season, so the resort is mostly deserted, except for a few residents and a handful of staff charged with sprucing up the place. Ruth gradually settles into her new environment, finding work and making a new friend in the form of make-up enthusiast Jade. But one afternoon, while giving Tom's caravan a spring clean, Ruth finds evidence her beau might be cheating on her. As her desire to uncover the truth turns into an obsession, she begins to realise she might be looking for something else entirely. Transforming her remote coastal setting into an intangible labyrinth of creeping intrigue, Claire Oakley inventively flirts with genre conventions to weave a singular tale of self-acceptance and sexual awakening.

Michael Blyth

RELATIVITY

MEIN ENDE. DEIN ANFANG

Dir Mariko Minoguchi.
Prod Trini Goetze, David Armat Lechner.
Scr Mariko Minoguchi.
With Saskia Rosendahl, Edin Hasanovic, Julius Feldmeier.
Germany 2019.
110min.
EST.
Sales Global Screen

In her ambitious debut, Mariko Minoguchi shifts seamlessly between déjà vu psychodrama, romantic weepie and punchy thriller, constantly playing with the notion of destiny versus chance.

It's love at first sight when Nora and Aaron first meet on a rainy day in an underground station. While she is a dreamer who believes in luck, he is convinced nothing happens by chance. Aaron's fate is soon sealed, which changes Nora's life in an instant. Her respite after this is Natan, a stranger who saves Nora's life twice as she wanders aimlessly through the night – the only way she can numb her pain. Though Nora seeks Natan's closeness, she can't figure out what it is that connects them. Saskia Rosendahl (*Lore*, LFF 2012) gives a powerful performance, while debut director Minoguchi creates a romantic narrative of ambitious proportions, effortlessly looping between the present and past, all the while making clever use of cinema as an unfurling emotional landscape. Juliane Grieb



WED 9 18:30 SOHO **BSL** **THU 10** 13:00 ICA **SAT 12** 18:45 PCC

SCALES

Dir-Scr Shahad Ameen.
Prod R Paul Miller, Stephen Strachan, Rula Nasser.
With Ashraf Barhoum, Basima Hajjar, Yagoub AlFarhan.
Saudi Arabia-United Arab Emirates-Iraq 2019.
75min.
EST.
Prod Co Image Nation Abu Dhabi

The story of a fishing village in thrall to mysterious sea creatures makes for a spellbinding feature debut from Shahad Ameen.

Likely to become known as the Saudi mermaid movie, *Scales* achieves far more than this description whilst laying claim to being the most unlikely drama you'll see this year. Shahad Ameen's directorial debut is a visually resplendent tale set in a small Gulf fishing village. Its population live in thrall to the otherworldly creatures they believe reside in the sea. So much so that to keep them pacified, the village has traditionally sacrificed its female children to the creatures. But the drama really begins when one of those girls, Hayat (which means 'life' in Arabic), rejects her fate and fights against the patriarchal hegemony. It is a measure of the film's quality that what follows both stands on its own merits as a fantastic tale, while also allowing for bountiful metaphorical interpretations on the standing of women in Arab society. Ali Jaafar



ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

LIVE CINEMA SEASON 2019/20

THE ROYAL OPERA

DON GIOVANNI

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

LIVE TUE 8 OCT 2019, 6.45PM

THE ROYAL OPERA

DON PASQUALE

GAETANO DONIZETTI

LIVE THU 24 OCT 2019, 7.30PM

THE ROYAL BALLET

CONCERTO /ENIGMA VARIATIONS /RAYMONDA ACT III

KENNETH MACMILLAN | FREDERICK ASHTON
RUDOLF NUREYEV AFTER MARIUS PETIPA

LIVE TUE 5 NOV 2019, 7.15PM

THE ROYAL BALLET

COPPÉLIA

NINETTE DE VALOIS
AFTER LEV IVANOV AND ENRICO CECCHETTI

LIVE TUE 10 DEC 2019, 7.15PM

SPECIAL SCREENING

THE NUTCRACKER

(RECORDED 2016)

PETER WRIGHT AFTER LEV IVANOV

SCREENING TUE 17 DEC 2019, 7.15PM



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DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

THE GRIERSON AWARD RECOGNISES FILMS WITH INTEGRITY, ORIGINALITY, AND SOCIAL OR CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE



FRI 4
18:00 SOHO

SAT 5
17:50 NFT2

DOC

COLD CASE HAMMARSKJÖLD

Dir-Scr Mads Brügger.
Prod Peter Engel.
With Göran Björkdahl,
Mads Brügger.
Denmark-Norway-
Sweden-Belgium 2019.
128min.
Sales
DR International Sales

This wild, stranger-than-fiction documentary depicts the most disturbing true-crime investigation you're likely to have seen in recent years. 'This could either be the world's biggest murder mystery, or the world's most idiotic conspiracy theory'. So begins Mads Brügger's investigation, in which he attempts to solve the mysterious death of Dag Hammarskjöld, who served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations. In 1961, while attempting to negotiate a ceasefire in the Congo, his plane crashed in Zambia, killing all on board. The reason for the crash is a mystery. A number of conspiracy theories exist, particularly as Hammarskjöld was outspoken in his opposition to colonialism and appeared on the black list of many powerful mining companies. But Brügger's revelations about this period go far beyond an unsolved murder and the film's chilling finale will leave you gobsmacked.

Laure Bonville



SAT 5
18:30 VUE5

SUN 6
18:00 NFT2

DOC

BRITISH

COUP 53

Dir Taghi Amirani.
Scr Walter Murch,
Taghi Amirani.
Prod Paul Zaentz.
UK-Iran-USA 2019.
118min.
Prod Co
Amirani Media

Award-winning director Taghi Amirani's decade-long investigation into the 1953 CIA/MI6-led coup that overthrew Iran's democratic Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh is a captivating tour-de-force.

August 1953 is a date Iranians remember well. 'Operation Ajax', a coup orchestrated by British and American intelligence services, marked the end of a democratically elected government, reinstated the Shah and most crucially ended Mossadegh's most significant policy: the nationalisation of Iranian oil. What began as an interrogation into the mystery that still surrounds the affair, develops into a taut thriller, exposing rigorous secrecy and underlining the ongoing ramifications of this pivotal political episode. They say the truth is wilder than fiction and this film reveals aspects of an actual incident that were determinedly buried. Working with legendary editor Walter Murch (*Apocalypse Now*, *The English Patient*), Amirani's compelling documentary ensures that this is one history lesson that you won't forget. Elhum Shakerifar

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION



THU 10
18:15 TCR

FRI 11
12:30 NFT3

3D DOC

CUNNINGHAM

Dir Alla Kovgan.
Prod Helge Albers, Illann Girard, Alla Kovgan, Elizabeth Delude-Dix, Derrick Tseng, Kelly Gilpatrick. Germany-France-USA 2019. 93min.
UK Distribution Dogwoof

This eye-popping 3D portrait of great American choreographer Merce Cunningham celebrates the centenary of his birth. Considered one of the most influential choreographers of the 20th century, Cunningham is acclaimed for pushing the boundaries of dance, influencing the visual arts, film and music over the course of his seven-decade career. This exquisitely crafted and artistically ambitious documentary explores his creative process, focusing on the period between 1942 and 1972, from struggling dancer to acclaimed choreographer, and his collaborations with composer and life partner John Cage and visual artist Robert Rauschenberg. Excerpts of Merce's shows, rehearsals, interviews and his diagraphs and drawings are deftly interwoven with mesmerising new performances from the last generation of dancers to have worked with him. Split screens, superimpositions and glorious 3D enhance this immersive and breathtaking cinematic experience, compellingly retracing the creative journey of this bold and visionary artist. *Laure Bonville*



MON 7
17:45 SOHO

WED 9
20:40 ICA

DOC

THE KINGMAKER

Dir Lauren Greenfield.
Prod Frank Evers, Lauren Greenfield. USA 2019. 100min.
UK Distribution Dogwoof

The matriarch of the Marcos dynasty hopes to see her maternal delusions validated and political power restored, while Philippine activists fight for transparency and democracy.

Having spent her years as the First Lady of the Philippines on a heady monopolistic rampage, buying up European jewellery shops and iconic New York skyscrapers, Imelda Marcos is looking for a way to regain control. Her former peers, including the widows of governmental figures, tell the story of a woman scarred by an emotional blow that transformed her into the bulletproof-brawearing megalomaniac, who now mythologises her mothering instincts. Female journalists and activists share their horrific experiences of torture under the martial law that the Marcos' initiated, as Imelda was busy displacing an entire island of people to have her own African zoo. This rare focus on the female experience in dictatorships explores the complexity of contemporary Philippine politics and the sinister future it faces. *Sophie Brown*



THU 10
20:50 EMPIRE

FRI 11
21:00 VUE6

DOC BRITISH

I AM (NOT) A MONSTER

Dir Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian.
Prod Monika Baran, Chloe McClellan, Christopher Hird, Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian.
With Noam Chomsky, Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, Magid Magid. UK 2019. 98min.
Prod Co Nelly Ben Hayoun Studios Ltd

In this thought-provoking and playful documentary, ebullient director Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian (*Disaster Playground*) takes you on a journey to find the origins of knowledge.

Starting with the thoughts of political theorist Hannah Arendt, Ben Hayoun-Stépanian (founder of the University of the Underground) travels the world to meet a variety of people and organisations including Magid Magid, Lord Mayor of Sheffield at the time, Pussy Riot activist Nadya Tolokonnikova, philosophers, alternative schools and many more. She ponders on the ownership and plurality of our thoughts, and the means by which freedom of learning and innovative education can exist in contemporary times. The result is a joyful potpourri of ideas and alternative thinking, propelled by a thrilling soundtrack of Ethiopian hip hop. Asserting that the need for change has never been more urgent, *I Am (Not) a Monster* is an ambitious yet accessible activist outcry: 'knowledge is power'. *Laure Bonville*



FRI 4
20:45 MAYFAIR

SAT 5
12:45 SOHO

DOC

MYSTIFY: MICHAEL HUTCHENCE

Dir-Scr Richard Lowenstein.
Prod Maya Gnyp, John Battsek, Sue Murray, Mark Fennessy, Richard Lowenstein, Lynne-Maree Milburn, Andrew De Groot. Australia 2018. 102min.
UK Distribution Dogwoof

Capturing his rise to super-stardom and subsequent tragic fall, *Mystify* gives remarkable insight into INXS lead singer Michael Hutchence and a truth he took to the grave.

Taste, smell, touch... Michael Hutchence had a love of all things sensual. He was a pleasure-seeking ball of insatiable curiosity, on an odyssey for new sensations. A tapestry of voices and home-movies animate Hutchence's personality, revealing a surprising story with profound pathos. Charismatic and ambitious, the lead singer of INXS was seeking a family as much as he sought success as an artist. Testimonies from the significant loves of his life, including Kylie Minogue and Helena Christensen, create an intimate portrait of the man behind the sex god status – a label that simultaneously fuelled his popularity and plagued him. Hutchence had explosive magnetism, but also many secrets. Kicking tabloid speculation into oblivion, his story emerges here with emotional and revelatory depth. *Sophie Brown*



THU 10
18:15 ICA

SAT 12
15:30 NFT2

DOC

OVERSEAS

Dir-Scr Sung-A Yoon.
Prod Isabelle Truc,
Quentin Laurent.
Belgium-France 2019.
90min.
Sales CAT&Docs

Each year, hundreds of thousands of Filipino women train to become domestic workers abroad. This quietly gripping and often startling documentary shows us how. 'Never cry in front of your employer. It shows weakness', advises a teacher following a role-playing exercise in which an employer is verbally abusive. Learning to serve at a table, cleaning or caring for a baby, as well as reacting to various staged scenarios, are part of the training for women intending to take on domestic roles abroad. Through her watchful and empathetic gaze, director Sung-A Yoon reveals the personal stories, dreams and heartaches of these trainees, while the role-playing takes on both tragi-comic and cathartic dimensions, as the women brace themselves for the potentially tough times ahead. Filmed in beautiful static shots, this astute and richly layered observational documentary exposes the economic and familial pressures pushing Filipino women to accept jobs abroad, some of which resemble modern-day slavery.

Laure Bonville



THU 3
18:15 ICA

FRI 4
18:10 NFT2

DOC

A PLEASURE, COMRADES!

PRAZER, CAMARADAS!

Dir-Scr José Filipe Costa.
Prod Filipa Reis,
João Miller Guerra.
With Eduarda Rosa,
João Azevedo,
Mick Greer.
Portugal 2019.
105min.
Prod Co
Uma Pedra no Sapato

The lingering illiteracy, patriarchal power relations and sexual taboos of post-dictatorship Portugal are laid bare in this humorous and sex-positive docudrama with a feminist soul.

1975, rural Portugal. In the wake of the Carnation Revolution, the country and its people are re-organising themselves in a collective effort that sparks the interest of foreigners and expats who share the ideals of the revolution. They volunteer at the recently formed co-ops, offering literacy, health and sex education. Drawing from the testimonies of those who lived it, *A Pleasure, Comrades!* travels in time to give centre stage to an older generation that bravely and joyfully re-enacts the social and sexual interactions and discussions of a time when women were still embarrassed to be naked in front of their husbands. Eight years after his previous feature *Red Line*, José Filipe Costa surprises with a comical and charming delight of storytelling inventiveness. Long live the proletariat, long live the sexual revolution! Ana David



SAT 5
20:50 SOHO

SUN 6
18:15 PCC

DOC

BRITISH

WHITE RIOT

Dir Rubika Shah.
Scr Ed Gibbs,
Rubika Shah.
Prod Ed Gibbs.
With Red Saunders,
Roger Huddle,
Kate Webb.
UK 2019.
80min.
Sales Visit Films

Revolution rock! Rubika Shah's vital documentary profiles punky reggae protest movement Rock Against Racism, from grassroots beginnings through to a major multicultural event.

Expanding her 2017 short, Rubika Shah's energising film charts a vital London protest movement. Rock Against Racism (RAR) was formed in 1976, prompted by 'music's biggest colonialist' Eric Clapton and his support of racist MP Enoch Powell. *White Riot* blends fresh interviews with queasy archive footage to recreate a hostile environment of anti-immigrant hysteria and National Front marches. As neo-Nazis recruited the nation's youth, RAR's multicultural punk and reggae gigs provided rallying points for resistance. As founder Red Saunders explains: 'We peeled away the Union Jack to reveal the swastika'. The campaign grew from Hoxton fanzine roots to 1978's huge antifascist carnival in Victoria Park, featuring X-Ray Spex, Steel Pulse and of course The Clash, whose rock star charisma and gale-force conviction took RAR's message to the masses. Manish Agarwal

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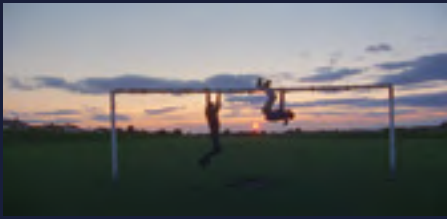
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SHORT FILM COMPETITION

THE SHORT FILM AWARD RECOGNISES SHORT-FORM WORKS WITH A UNIQUE CINEMATIC VOICE AND A CONFIDENT HANDLING OF CHOSEN THEME AND CONTENT.

SHORT FILM COMPETITION PROG 1 (LISTED IN SCREENING ORDER) Total running time 79min

SAT 12
13:00 EMPIRE



IF YOU KNEW

Dir Stroma Cairns. UK 2018. 5min
A lyrical 16mm portrait of a pair of hearing-impaired teenage twins.



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE WATER AND THE MOON

Dir Jian Luo. China 2019. 16min
During an abortion, 17-year-old Yang gives birth to a live jellyfish in her bathroom.



WHITE GIRL

Dir Nadia Latif. UK 2019. 13min
Beth is seemingly lost. As she wanders around seeking help from strangers, things take a darker turn.



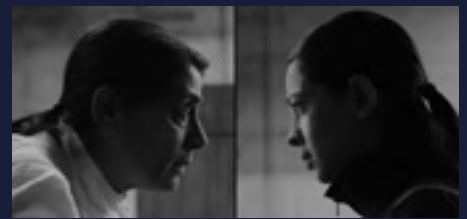
FAULT LINE GOSAL

Dir Soheil Amirsharifi. Iran 2018. 15min
Nahal is an Iranian schoolgirl who must create a new version of the truth for self-preservation.



GU04

Dir Peter Strickland. Hungary-UK 2019. 3min
Two men. One locker room. A lot of D. From the director of *In Fabric*.



IN VITRO

Dir Larissa Sansour, Soren Lind. UK-Palestine-Denmark 2019. 28min
Decades after an eco-disaster in Bethlehem two scientists discuss memory, exile and nostalgia.

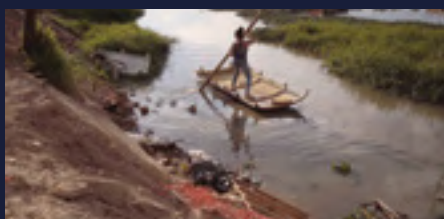
SHORT FILM COMPETITION PROG 2 (LISTED IN SCREENING ORDER) Total running time 85min

SAT 12
15:30 EMPIRE



ALGO-RHYTHM

Dir Manu Luksch. Austria-UK-Senegal 2019. 14min
A hip hop musical shot in Dakar, where Senegalese musicians debate internet privacy and democracy.



BETWEEN

ENTRE Dir Ana Carolina Marinho, Bárbara Santos. Brazil 2019. 15min
The desire between two women is both liberating and treacherous.



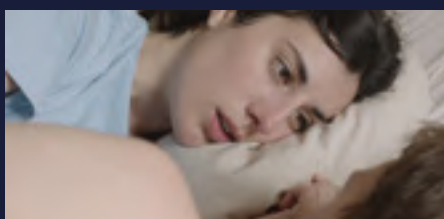
IN BETWEEN

NË MES Dir Samir Karahoda. Kosovo 2019. 14min
In Kosovo there is a custom of fathers building identical houses for their sons.



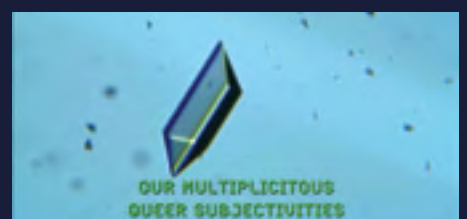
CHILD

Dir Talia Zucker. USA-Australia 2019. 11min
After the birth of her first child, a young woman struggles to find herself in the new role and connect to her new-born baby.



WATERMELON JUICE

SUC DE SÍNDRIA Dir Irene Moray. Spain 2019. 22min
Barbara and Poi are on holiday with friends in a remote house. Will they ever find intimacy?



QUEERING DI TEKNOLOJIK

Dir Timothy Smith. UK 2019. 9min
Did we manage to dismantle the white supremacist capitalist patriarchy?

THANKS TO NATIONAL LOTTERY PLAYERS, THE BFI NURTURES SOME OF THE MOST ORIGINAL NEW VOICES ON SCREEN

Congratulations to the following films in selection at LFF 2019

**COLD CASE
HAMMARSKJÖLD**

Dir. Mads Brügger

DAWN IN THE DARK

Dir. Runyararo Mapfumo

DAD JOKE

Dir. David Abramsky

ETERNAL BEAUTY

Dir. Craig Roberts

FANNY LYE DELIVER'D

Dir. Thomas Clay

KEEP BREATHING

Dir. Mark Corden

LITTLE JOE

Dir. Jessica Hausner

LOSING PACE

Dir. Naomi Soneye-Thomas

LYNN & LUCY

Dir. Fyzal Boulifa

MAKE UP

Dir. Claire Oakley

MARTHA

Dir. Christopher Haydon

MONSOON

Dir. Hong Khaou

OUR SISTER

Dir. Rosie Westhoff

ORDINARY LOVE

Dir. Lisa Barros D'Sa
& Glenn Leyburn

PERFECT 10

Dir. Eva Riley

RIALTO

Dir. Peter Mackie Burns

ROCKS

Dir. Sarah Gavron

RUN

Dir. Scott Graham

SAINT MAUD

Dir. Rose Glass

**SOMETHING IN
THE CLOSET**

Dir. Nosa Eke

WHITE GIRL

Dir. Nadia Latif



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Rocks Dir. Sarah Gavron

Malta.

More than we could ever tell.



Malta
Gozo & Comino

Malta's rich cultural heritage and scenic beauty have long been a draw for travellers.

The sandstone bastion walls, baroque architecture and alleys with rustic cobbled charm have made the Maltese Archipelago popular with the film industry too. Malta, Gozo and Comino have found themselves at the heart of many blockbuster productions such as Game of Thrones, 13 Hours, Gladiator, Assassin's Creed and World War Z. Now visitors can discover the islands' silver screen heritage on a new Film Trail, taking you to sites featured in famous productions shot on the Maltese Islands.

MaltaUK.com/film-trail/

LOVE



SWEET, PASSIONATE, TOUGH –
LOVE IS A COMPLEX AND
MANY SPLENDURED THING



MON 7
20:30 EMPIRE

TUE 8
15:30 VUE5

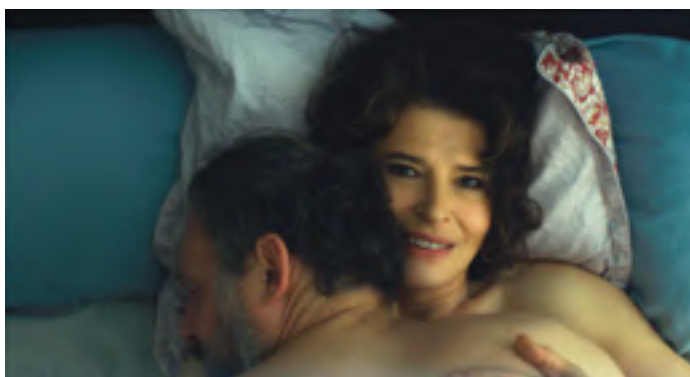
SAT 12
17:50 TCR

AND THEN WE DANCED

Dir-Scr Levan Akin.
Prod
Mathilde Dedye,
Katie Daniela,
Julien Féret.
With
Levan Gelbakhiani,
Bachi Valishvili,
Ana Javakishvili.
Sweden-Georgia-
France 2019.
106min.
EST.
Sales
Totem Films

Set to delight fans of *Call Me by Your Name* as well as lovers of traditional Georgian dance, this is one of the most buzzed-about films from Directors' Fortnight at Cannes.

'There is no sexuality in Georgian dance!' So barks the stern and macho dance teacher to flame-haired Merab, a teenage boy determined to make it as lead dancer in the touring company. But that teacher is wrong; when new guy Irakli joins the class, Merab experiences not just some tough competition, but the stirrings of something else. Levan Akin's second feature is a gripping drama that captures both the beauty and stifling social values of Tbilisi. It also features energised choreography (a momentous audition! a Robyn song!) and an extraordinarily physical performance from dancer Levan Gelbakhiani. Set within the repressive limits of an anti-LGBTQ+ society, this is a love story that marries ideas of cultural identity, sexuality and self-expression with beauty and grace. *Kate Taylor*



FRI 11
18:15 MAYFAIR

SAT 12
20:30 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

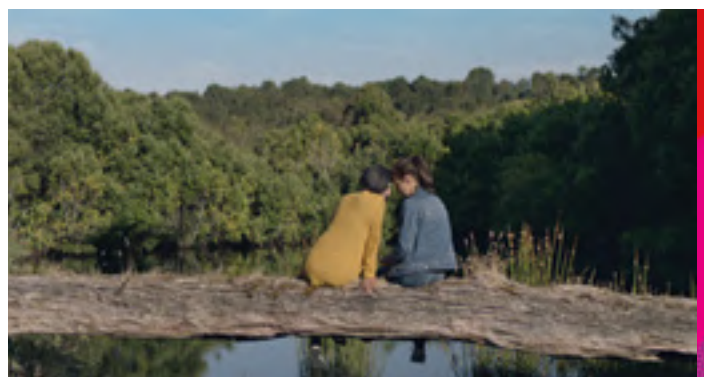
SUN 13
15:10 NFT2

LA BELLE ÉPOQUE

Dir-Scr
Nicolas Bedos.
Prod François Kraus,
Denis Pineau-
Valencienne.
With Daniel Auteuil,
Guillaume Canet,
Doria Tillier.
France 2019.
115min.
EST.
UK Distribution
Pathe UK

Daniel Auteuil's illustrator is given the chance to visit a different era to re-evaluate his life in this resplendent slice of *Westworld*-style speculative fiction.

Victor (Auteuil) is a disillusioned 60-something who feels alienated by the modern technologies that his psychoanalyst wife (Fanny Ardant) can't live without. When she throws him out, he meets Antoine (Guillaume Canet), the creator of a high-end re-enactment service that enables wealthy customers to live in the era of their choice. Victor doesn't hesitate for a second; he wants to go back to a rainy day in 1975, to a little bistro in Lyon, when he first met his greatest love – his wife. His hope is that by replaying the past he might change the present. Filmed on gorgeous sets and featuring a superb cast, director Nicolas Bedos (*Mr & Mrs Adelman*) delivers an ingenious and sophisticated drama that reflects on love, memory and nostalgia. *Laure Bonville*



MON 7
18:15 ICA

SAT 12
13:10 VUE4

DEATH WILL COME AND SHALL HAVE YOUR EYES

VENDRÁ LA MUERTE Y TENDRÁ TUS OJOS

Dir-Scr José Luis
Torres Leiva.
Prod Catalina Vergara.
With Amparo Noguera,
Julieta Figueroa.
Chile-Argentina-
Germany 2019.
88min.
EST.
Prod Co
Globo Rojo Films

From José Luis Torres Leiva, one of the true poets of independent Latin-American cinema, comes an assured and compassionate meditation on landscape and the human condition.

Ana (Amparo Noguera) and María (Julieta Figueroa) have been a couple for two decades. They are first seen with their heads together, almost as one. Ana is a senior nurse in a hospital, María a mathematics teacher. María has terminal cancer, but has refused further treatment. The couple leave their home for a cabin in the countryside, where María's storytelling – two tales that 'come alive' before the viewer – offers reflections on love, desire and the power of narrative. Rooted in two breathtaking performances of Bergmanesque intensity and imbued with a sense of mystery that is maintained to the end, this is a film of rare beauty where the emotional lives of its protagonists resonate across the broader environmental canvas of post-Pinochet Chile. *Maria Delgado*



MON 7
17:45 NFT3

TUE 8
20:50 VUE4

DOC

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MY MOTHER

Dir Beniamino Barrese.
Prod Filippo Macelloni.

With
Benedetta Barzini.
Italy 2019.
93min.
EST.
Sales
Autlook Filmsales

Iconic supermodel **Benedetta Barzini** is exasperated by the camera lens and the world as we know it, but now her son wants to film her escape from it.

Barzini, the first Italian to be a Vogue cover model, has had enough. Tired of conforming to patriarchal expectations, the 75-year-old is planning to leave everything, and everybody, behind. However, her son Beniamino, who has been filming her since he was a child, is reluctant to let her go. In lively archive TV debates, Barzini asserts that we live in a world based on male philosophy. Now her battle is against Beniamino's camera. A political activist since the 1970s, now an academic she encourages her students to question the images and representations that are fed to us. As her son continues to film, Barzini's fury increases. *The Disappearance of My Mother* is a moving and intricate portrait of a complex relationship and a bittersweet separation. *Sophie Brown*



TUE 8
20:45 EMPIRE

WED 9
15:30 NFT1

FRI 11
17:50 VUE4

END OF THE CENTURY

FIN DE SIGLO

Dir-Scr Lucio Castro.
Prod Lucio Castro,
Josh Wood.

With Juan Barberini,
Ramon Pujol,
Mia Maestro.
Argentina 2019.
84min.
EST.
Sales Stray Dogs

A chance encounter reconnects two men in this heart-breaking lament on love, lust and missed opportunities.

Whilst on holiday in Barcelona, Ocho spies a handsome local from the balcony of his Airbnb. As chance would have it, the two men later lock eyes while sunning themselves at the beach. Then, on their third fleeting encounter, Ocho musters the courage to invite Javi up to his apartment. What might have been nothing more than a brief hook-up instead turns into drinks and conversation, leading Javi to reveal that the two men have in fact met before. And so begins a story spanning two decades, during which the truths of their past and hopes of their future slowly unravel. Enigmatically unfolding in non-linear fashion, Lucio Castro's beautifully assured debut transforms a sexy meet-cute into a philosophical meditation on desire, regret and the limitless possibilities of hope. *Michael Blyth*



MON 7
18:10 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

TUE 8
15:00 VUE7

SUN 13
18:20 SOHO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FÊTE DE FAMILLE

Dir Cédric Kahn.
Prod Sylvie Pialat.
Scr Cédric Kahn,
Fanny Burdino,
Samuel Doux.

With
Catherine Deneuve,
Emmanuelle Bercot,
Vincent Macaigne.
France 2019.
101min.
EST.
Sales Elle Driver

Family relations unravel to wonderfully excruciating comic and dramatic effect in this all-star ensemble piece from versatile French writer-director and here, co-star, **Cédric Kahn**.

It's one of the perennial standbys of French cinema – stories about families airing their dirty laundry at dynastic get-togethers, often in idyllic country settings. In *Happy Birthday*, Cédric Kahn (*Wild Life*, *Red Lights*, *Roberto Succo*) offers his own spirited take on the premise. A sprawling clan is assembled to celebrate the birthday of matriarch Andréa (Catherine Deneuve). However, no one has reckoned with the shenanigans of wayward filmmaker son Romain (Vincent Macaigne), or with the sudden appearance of prodigal daughter Claire (Emmanuelle Bercot), trailing a cargo of psychological baggage that's about to be messily unpacked. Comic, caustic and touching a deep dramatic nerve, this is a magnificently controlled, exuberantly acted character piece, with director Kahn also mightily impressive as long-suffering older son Vincent. *Jonathan Romney*



TUE 8
18:30 TCR

THU 10
15:30 ICA

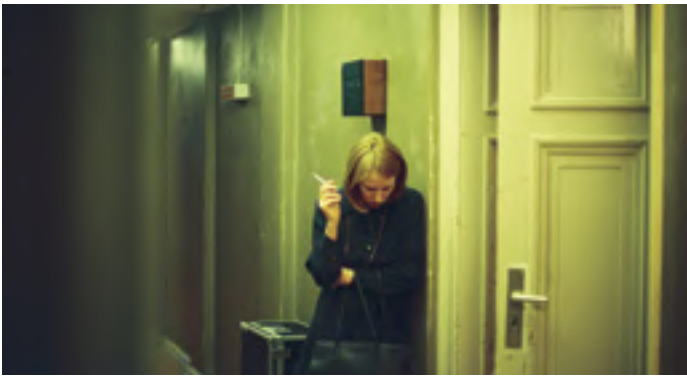
HEART

Dir-Scr
Ga-young Jeong.
Prod Su-boon Ok.
With Ga-young Jeong,
Suck-hyeong Lee,
Tae-hwan Choi.

South Korea 2019.
70min.
EST.
Sales
M-Line Distribution

Fleabag meets **Hong Sangsoo** in this funny and savage film that stars its director, Ga-young Jeong, as a woman without boundaries.

In her previous film *Hit the Night*, Jeong played an unethical filmmaker pretending to research a film so she could seduce an actor she fancied. Now, in *Heart*, she plays an asshole filmmaker who seeks out the married man she slept with, on the night of the birth of his first child, so she can ask his advice about an affair with another married man. An audacious film, with excellent scenes of people sat on sofas having increasingly drunken conversations, the script excels at deadpan staccato dialogue, as Jeong's character spars with the art teacher who's both bewildered by and attracted to her. *Heart* will induce some of the most pleasurable squirms you'll have in the cinema this year: 'Can I think of him while we do it?' *Kate Taylor*



WED 9
18:30 TCR

FRI 11
18:15 CINÉ LUMIÈRE



THU 10
20:45 MAYFAIR

FRI 11
12:45 VUE4

DOC **BRITISH**

LARA

Dir Jan-Ole Gerster.
Prod Marcos Kantis.
Scr Blaz Kutin.
With Tom Schilling, Corinna Harfouch, Volkmar Kleinert.
Germany 2019.
98min.
EST.
Sales
Beta Cinema GmbH

Corinna Harfouch delivers a magnetic performance in this intimate and multifaceted examination of regret, family relations and the power of other people's approval.

Lara's (Corinna Harfouch) 60th birthday coincides with her son Viktor's highly anticipated piano concert, during which he will perform his first composition. Throughout the day, we learn that Lara gave up her own dream of becoming a pianist long ago, choosing instead to nurture her son's musical talent with a mix of obsession and humiliation. Today, she faces his success with pride, jealousy and resentment. Retired from a soul-destroying office job, she has become a bitter and cynical woman, whose own perfectionism has gradually isolated her from people, even her son. Jan-Ole Gerster's (*Oh Boy*) intimate portrait of a complex mother-son relationship balances melancholy and humour as it contemplates how the approval of others affects us, along with the consequences of it being given or withheld. *Juliane Grieb*

LOST LIVES

Dir-Prod
Dermot Lavery, Michael Hewitt.
With Brid Brennan, Liam Neeson, Stephen Rea.
UK 2019.
93min.
Prod Co
DoubleBand Films

This poignant testament to the physical and emotional cost of war, centres on the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

Based on the book *Lost Lives*, which records every single death and its circumstances since the beginning of the modern conflict, this heartfelt documentary is a cinematic homage to the victims, from all sides. Powerfully narrated by famous Irish and Northern Irish actors, including Kenneth Branagh, Brendan Gleeson, Roma Downey, Liam Neeson, Brid Brennan and Stephen Rea, the film weaves archive footage with recordings of family and friends responding to the devastating news of the death of loved ones. A score performed by the Ulster Orchestra and striking cinematography complete this elegiac piece. The last entry in the book is Lyra McKee – an essential reminder that peace can be a fragile process. *Laure Bonville*



WED 9
18:15 ICA

FRI 11
13:00 PCC



THU 3
20:50 MAYFAIR

FRI 4
20:30 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

THU 10
18:00 EMPIRE

LOVE

MATERNAL

Dir-Scr Maura Delpero.
Prod
Alessandro Amato, Luigi Chimienti, Nicolás Avruj.
With Lidiya Liberman, Denise Carrizo, Agustina Malale.
Italy-Argentina 2019.
91min.
EST.
Sales Charades

The notions of motherhood and the maternal care of a young girl are the focus of this powerful and poignant drama, set in a women's refuge in Argentina.

Lu is a disruptive, rebellious teenage mother. She lives with her daughter Nina in a women's refuge, or 'hogar', run by a group of nuns in Buenos Aires. The arrival of Paola, a sympathetic Italian nun who takes a shine to Nina, coincides with Lu going missing. What ensues is a sensitively realised and ultimately heartbreaking portrait of life in a refuge. With its collection of diverse occupants who run the gamut from tough to vulnerable and who are invariably impoverished, as well as the predominantly elderly nuns who support them, the hogar is depicted with gritty verisimilitude. But there's also genuine empathy here, aided in no small part by the quality of the performances. Understated and all too believable, this is a striking feature debut from Maura Delpero.

Adrian Wootton

MATTHIAS & MAXIME

Dir-Scr Xavier Dolan.
Prod Nancy Grant, Xavier Dolan.
With Gabriel D'Almeida Freitas, Xavier Dolan, Pier-Luc Funk.
Canada 2019.
119min.
Sales WaZabi Films

A kiss between two childhood friends has dramatic repercussions in the eighth film from Xavier Dolan.

Matthias (Gabriel D'Almeida Freitas) and Maxime (Dolan himself) have been friends since childhood. A few months before moving to Australia, Maxime spends the weekend with his friends at a lakeside retreat. As the boisterous gang laugh, drink and bicker, their host reveals she needs a pair of performers to kiss for her student film, promptly roping in Matthias and Maxime for the job. But the brief encounter causes a dramatic rift between the pair, forcing them to question what they really want from each other. As ever, Dolan proves himself a master visual craftsman, orchestrating ravishing set pieces which give voice to the emotions his characters hold within. But what is most striking here is the profound sense of intimacy and that aching sense of vulnerability that comes with accepting who you truly are. *Michael Blyth*



TUE 8
18:30 MAYFAIR

WED 9
13:00 PCC

BRITISH

NOCTURNAL

Dir Nathalie Biancheri.
Prod Colin Michael Day, Coco Marie Schneider.
Scr Olivia Waring, Nathalie Biancheri.
With Cosmo Jarvis, Lauren Coe, Sadie Frost.
UK 2019.
86min.
Sales Urban Distribution International

A teenage girl forms a mysterious relationship with an older man in this atmospheric debut from director Nathalie Biancheri.

16-year-old schoolgirl Laurie lives alone with her single mother. Something of an outsider, the aspiring athlete struggles to connect with the other girls on her track team, distancing herself with a quietly combative demeanour. But Laurie can't deflect the attention of Pete, a handyman in his 30s performing some odd jobs at her school. After a couple of curt interactions, Laurie eventually agrees to hang out with her new admirer and almost immediately a connection is apparent. As they spend more time together, a unique bond grows, yet Pete's intentions remain ambiguous. Until one day the truth emerges. Rife with simmering emotional tension, Nathalie Biancheri's beautifully controlled character study boasts remarkably natural performances from Lauren Coe and Cosmo Jarvis, whose playful banter conceals something more serious lurking beneath the surface.

Michael Blyth



WED 9
21:00 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

FRI 11
15:45 NFT1

SAT 12
15:45 VUE7

ON A MAGICAL NIGHT

CHAMBRE 212

Dir-Scr Christophe Honoré.
Prod Philippe Martin, David Thion.
With Chiara Mastroianni, Vincent Lacoste, Camille Cottin.
France-Luxembourg-Belgium 2019.
86min.
EST.
Sales Charades

Gallic auteur Christophe Honoré returns with this exquisitely melancholic delectation about a married couple who have fallen out of love.

After yet another bitter row, Maria (Chiara Mastroianni) finds herself staying in a hotel overlooking the apartment she shares with husband Richard (Benjamin Biolay). As she debates what to do next, the ghosts of past lovers begin to fill the room, forcing Maria to confront her romantic triumphs and failures. Shot through with the director's customary eroticism and wit, this gorgeous and often funny film returns to similar territory as break out films *Dans Paris* (LFF 2006) and *Les Chansons D'Amour*. The same vivid evocation of Paris is found here, along with a healthy preoccupation with beautiful people and their love affairs. But a refreshing romantic pessimism feels new, lending this apparently small-scale drama an unsentimental and perceptive insight and wisdom.

Paul Ridd



SAT 12
17:30 MAYFAIR

SUN 13
12:30 VUE7

HOH

AD

BRITISH

ORDINARY LOVE

Dir Lisa Barros D'Sa, Glenn Leyburn.
Prod Brian J Falconer, David Holmes, Piers Tempest.
Scr Owen McCafferty.
With Liam Neeson, Lesley Manville, David Wilmot.
UK 2019.
92min.
UK Distribution Universal Pictures International

Liam Neeson and Lesley Manville star in this intimate and sensitively-handled drama about a couple dealing with breast cancer.

As the Christmas decorations go up, we quickly get a sense of Joan and Tom's bantering relationship; witty and teasing, they're a couple who can finish each other's sentences. When Joan is diagnosed with breast cancer, Tom is there to support and we follow as they navigate the mundane and frightening new world of exams, diagnoses, and waiting rooms. Lesley Manville and Liam Neeson make vivid the subtle shifts of temperature that define long-term intimacy, as two people dealing in very different ways with acute stress and the continuing echoes of an earlier tragedy. With a sober approach that avoids any slips into sentimentality, directors Lisa Barros D'Sa and Glenn Leyburn capture both the extremity and the everydayness of cancer, in this warm and deeply affecting drama. Kate Taylor



WED 9
20:50 NFT1

THU 10
15:30 VUE5

SAT 12
15:30 VUE4

BRITISH

PINK WALL

Dir-Scr Tom Cullen.
Prod Maggie Monteith, Jamie Adams, Richard Elis, Nigel Goldsack.
With Jay Duplass, Tatiana Maslany.
UK 2018.
85min.
UK Distribution Pinpoint Pictures

Six scenes, six years: from first sparks to the dying embers of a love affair, in this intense relationship study by British actor-turned-director Tom Cullen.

Jenna (Tatiana Maslany) and Leon (Jay Duplass), US expats in the UK, hook up and fall madly in love. Careers, ambitions, insecurities and other people ultimately intervene and they break up. But this story isn't told sequentially. Instead, we see six time-shuffled snapshots – moments of blissful connection or bitter recrimination – that reveal the beautiful and brutal truths behind any romance. *Weekend* (LFF 2011) star Cullen's debut feature is ambitious, extraordinarily accomplished and deeply affecting. Each scene has its own visual style, from grainy 4:3 Academy ratio intimacy to widescreen stasis, informing its dialogue and themes. Working from a semi-improvised script, Maslany and Duplass are superb in what's largely a two-hander. And though Cullen's influences include John Cassavetes and Mike Leigh, he's already on his way to creating his own personal cinema. Leigh Singer



SAT 5
21:00 VUE6

MON 7
15:45 VUE4

PREMATURE

Dir Rashaad Ernesto Green.
 Prod Joy Gaynes, Rashaad Ernesto Green, Darren Dean.
 Scr Rashaad Ernesto Green, Zora Howard.
 With Zora Howard, Joshua Boone.
 USA 2019.
 89min.
 Sales Film Constellation

Budding writer Ayanna's life is transformed over the course of one hot Harlem summer, when a handsome and mysterious stranger walks into her life.

Temperatures are rising in Harlem as Ayanna (Zora Howard) prepares to depart for a college writing programme. Then Isaiah appears on the scene. Echoing John Singleton's *Poetic Justice*, Ayanna's arresting poetry charts the rocky terrain of first love. If the couple find themselves tethered to the reality of urban life, at incisive moments they manage to soar within the love-scape of their own making. The tender narrative, co-written by Howard and director Rashaad Ernesto Green, shifts between the naiveties, passions and fierce insights of a young woman coming of age. The combination of a profound central performance and the film's assured direction elevate *Premature* beyond a classic New York love story to something fresh and truly special. Tega Okiti



SUN 6
18:15 VUE6

TUE 8
15:45 TCR

BRITISH

REAL

Dir-Prod-Scr Aki Omoshaybi.
 With Aki Omoshaybi, Pippa Bennett-Warner, Karen Bryson.
 UK 2019.
 76min.
 UK Distribution Verve Pictures

Aki Omoshaybi's earnest debut explores the love between two people who work hard to keep their romance on track while struggling to manage personal hardship.

Omoshaybi's deeply felt debut takes an honest look at young couple Jamie (Pippa Bennett-Warner) and Kyle (Omoshaybi), as they struggle to manage personal hardship at the start of their blossoming relationship. Jamie leads the charge with quiet tenacity as a mother determined to create a stable environment for her young son. In tandem, Kyle puts the need to battle his own demons on hold and is willing to beg, steal or borrow to impress his new love. The growing intimacy between the pair is captured beautifully through Omoshaybi's naturalistic lens, offering a slice of British life that, despite its challenges, manages to glow. Tega Okiti



SUN 6
17:40 NFT1

MON 7
20:20 VUE6

THE SKY IS PINK

Dir Shonali Bose.
 Prod Ronnie Screwvala, Siddharth Roy Kapur.
 Scr Shonali Bose, Nilesch Maniyar.
 With Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Farhan Akhtar, Zaira Wasim.
 India 2019.
 135min.
 EST.
 UK Distribution RSVP

This family drama with a big heart stars Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Farhan Akhtar as parents who will stop at nothing to save their sick daughter.

Director Shonali Bose (*Margarita with a Straw*, LFF 2014) returns to the Festival with this compelling and emotionally devastating true story about a young couple who, after the death of their first daughter from a rare immunity defect, conceive another child only to discover that she is similarly afflicted. The heartbroken parents give up their jobs and travel to London's Great Ormond Street, the only place that offers hope for their daughter. The generosity of people's donations fund the treatment that saves young Aisha and the family eventually moves back home. Years pass and all seems well, but the family is not out of the woods. Bollywood superstars Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Farhan Akhtar play the heroic parents, driven by despair and hope to fight for their family. Cary Rajinder Sawhney



SAT 12
12:15 SOHO

SUN 13
11:45 SOHO

LOVE

SO LONG, MY SON

DI JIU TIAN CHANG

Dir Wang Xiaoshuai.
 Prod Liu Xuan.
 Scr Wang Xiaoshuai, Ah Mei.
 With Wang Jingchun, Yong Mei, Ai Liya.
 China 2019.
 180min.
 EST.
 UK Distribution Curzon

'Sixth Generation' director Wang Xiaoshuai offers an absorbing family chronicle that unfolds modern Chinese history with the rich insightfulness of a novel.

Four decades of modern Chinese life are interwoven in this complex ensemble piece from Wang Xiaoshuai (*Beijing Bicycle*). Spanning the 1980s to the cosmopolitan present, it follows the interconnected fortunes of various characters around a couple, Liyun (Yong Mei) and Yaojun (Wang Jingchun), and their son Liu Xing. In the early 80s, Liyun, a factory worker, becomes pregnant for the second time, falling foul of the national policy of one-child families. Zigzagging between decades, the film shows how political reality affects the fates of the family and the people around them, from factory officials of the 1980s to the newly wealthy of the 21st century. A moving and deeply involving drama of personal and national destinies, this genuinely epic narrative is executed with mesmerising control. Jonathan Romney



FRI 11
18:10 SOHO

BRITISH

TRIGONOMETRY

EPISODES ONE and TWO

Dir Athina Rachel Tsangari.

Exec Prod

Tessa Ross, Juliette Howell, Duncan Macmillan, Effie Woods, Tommy Bulfin.

Prod Imogen Cooper.

Scr Duncan Macmillan, Effie Woods.

With Ariane Labed, Thalissa Teixeira, Gary Carr.

UK 2019.

60min.

Prod Co

House Productions

Well ahead of broadcast, a special opportunity to be the first to see the initial two episodes of Athina Rachel Tsangari's eagerly awaited BBC series, *Trigonometry*, written by Duncan Macmillan and Effie Woods.

Ray (Ariane Labed) is an Olympian, a synchronised swimmer who at 30 still lives at home. She's spent little time doing anything but training, and when an accident knocks her confidence, she becomes aware just how limiting her life choices look. Answering an ad for a lodger by a cash-strapped couple, Gemma and Kieran (Thalissa Teixeira and Gary Carr), she moves in. The three immediately click an instant, electric attraction. It makes all of them very excited, but also very nervous. With a sharp script from Macmillan and Woods, and an enchanting central trio of actors with wicked chemistry, Tsangari (*Attenberg*, *Chevalier*) immediately has you hooked. This delightful London-set drama explores a romantic relationship between three people... it's love without a map, and a whole lot of road blocks. Tricia Tuttle



FRI 11
20:50 SOHO

SAT 12
16:15 VUE5

TWO OF US DEUX

Dir Filippo Meneghetti.
Scr Filippo Meneghetti, Malysone Boverasmy, Florence Vignon.

Prod Pierre – Emmanuel Fleurantin, Laurent Baujard.

With Barbara Sukowa, Léa Drucker, Martine Chevallier. France 2019.

96min.
Sales Doc & Film International

The love between two older women is threatened by illness and secrecy in a moving French drama that features Barbara Sukowa at her very best.

Director Filippo Meneghetti makes a confident, intensely moving feature debut with a superbly acted drama about love and the agony of separation. Retired women Nina and Madeleine have loved each other for decades and live together – albeit in adjoining flats, because Madeleine, widowed after an unhappy marriage, has never told her adult children the truth about her life. When Madeleine falls ill, Nina finds herself alone, unable to openly dedicate her time to her partner and excluded by the distrust of Madeleine's daughter (Léa Drucker). Essentially a small-scale drama, this cannily crafted drama features a superb performance from Martine Chevallier and, without doubt, one of Barbara Sukowa's finest. Proof that cinema can be intelligent *and* have you reaching for the tissues. Jonathan Romney



WED 9
20:45 SOHO

THU 10
20:40 VUE4

BRITISH

WALKING WITH SHADOWS

Dir-Scr Aoife O'Kelly.

Prod Funmi Iyanda, Olumide F Makanjuola, Victoria Thomas, Xeenarh Mohammed.

With Ozzy Agu, Zainab Balogun, Funlola Aofiyebi Raimi. UK-Nigeria 2019.

90min.

Sales

Rushlake Media GmbH

In coming to terms with his sexuality, Adrian is forced to choose between a compromised existence and the life that he would like to lead.

Ebele Njoko (Ozzy Agu) has been running all his life. A search for acceptance and love from his family has led him to recreate himself as Adrian – respected father, husband and brother. When his mask is cruelly stripped away, Adrian's world rapidly unravels. Adapted from Jude Dibia's award-winning and critically acclaimed novel, Aoife O'Kelly's articulate and sensitive film deftly discards the sensational for a depiction of queer Nigeria presented with care and incisive observation. The film is anchored by heartfelt performances from Ozzy Agu and Zainab Balogun as Ada, Adrian's wife. Together, they explore a painful rift in a loving bond. Adrian's quiet resilience throughout underlines the necessity for one to be self-loving, despite the cost. Tega Okiti



TUE 8
20:45 MAYFAIR

WED 9
12:45 VUE4

SAT 12
20:45 NFT2

WET SEASON

Dir-Scr Anthony Chen.

Prod Anthony Chen, Tan Si En, Huang Wenhong.

With Yann Yann Yeo, Koh Jia Ler, Christopher Lee. Singapore-Taiwan 2019.

103min.

Sales

EST.
Memento Films International

Anthony Chen follows his First Feature Award-winning *Ilo Ilo* (LFF 2013) with this hugely satisfying portrait of a woman on a journey to rediscover herself.

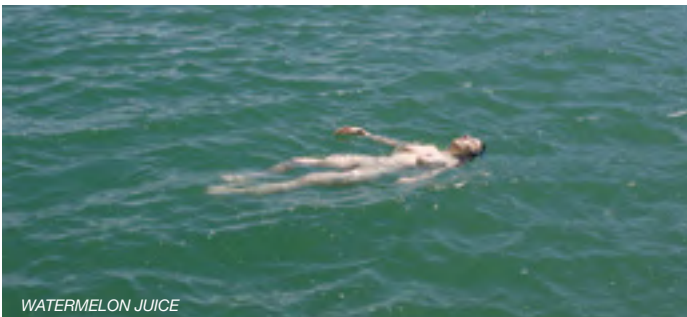
As Mandarin-language teacher Ling continues with fruitless IVF treatment while taking care of her ailing father-in-law, she finds herself slowly drawn towards a promising student who seems to have been abandoned by his parents. Outside it's monsoon season, but Ling's inner turmoil looks set to get her into a heap of trouble. Director Anthony Chen brings this simmering Singapore-set drama to boiling point, whilst using an associative and poetic editing rhythm, repeating colours and shapes to highlight the small parallels that link people, and reveal the profound in lovely and subtle ways. With uniformly sensitive performances from the returning cast of *Ilo Ilo*, Chen's *Wet Season* is the classy and well-measured teacher-student drama that will get you weeping this autumn. Kate Taylor



KEEP BREATHING



ONLINE



WATERMELON JUICE

FRI 4
20:40 TCR

SUN 6
12:20 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

...IN AN AGE OF CONSENT

The definition of consent is to give permission. Intimacy is defined by a consensual physicality evident in romantic love, sexual activity, a beautiful friendship and random intimate moments with passing strangers. That line of consent is interrogated in the films here, holding up a magnifying glass to every intimate moment from a misplaced hand to the power dynamics of a sexual situation to the re-contextualisation of a past narrative. Philip Ilson

KEEP BREATHING Dir Mark Corden. UK 2019. 19min

Trapped in a lift, a man and woman are forced to confront each other about the night they first met.

SPRING FEVER Dir Anna Snowball. UK-Netherlands 2019. 9min. EST

A refreshingly different and fun sex education class in the Netherlands. This is an anti-shame class.

DUCK DAZE Dir Alison Piper. UK 2019. 15min

Johnina seeks revenge on her childhood abuser and the community that enabled him.

REHEARSAL Dir Courtney Théron. USA 2019. 8min

A film crew pushes the boundaries of consent during a courtesy rehearsal for its female lead.

THE STROKER Dir Pilvi Takala. Finland-UK 2019. 15min

Nina touches people as part of a cutting-edge well-being programme at Second Home office space. The nuances of movement demonstrate how people negotiate acceptable behaviour in the workspace.

WATERMELON JUICE SUC DE SINDRIA Dir Irene Moray. Spain 2019. 22min. EST

Barbara and Pol are on holiday with friends in a remote house. They want to have a good time and to find a peaceful space where they can enjoy their intimacy.

ONLINE VIRTUELLE Dir Léopold Kraus. France 2019. 22min

Alice lives between reality and social media. One day, her ex-boyfriend puts one of their sex tapes online.

Total running time 110min

Content warning: This programme contains scenes of a sexual nature.



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SAT 12
 20:45 SOHO

SUN 13
 15:15 VUE4

DOC

THE AUSTRALIAN DREAM

Dir Daniel Gordon.
Prod Sarah Thompson,
 Nick Batzias,
 Virginia Whitwell,
 John Battsek.
Scr Stan Grant.
 Australia 2019.
 106min.
UK Distribution
 Dogwoof

A thought-provoking documentary about the Australian Rules football star Adam Goodes that raises crucial questions about casual racism.

Adam Goodes became an inspiring figure in Australian Rules football. Raised by his single Aboriginal mother, he found a sense of belonging and connection in sport. In 2013, at the top of his game, he was the centre of a huge racist row when a 13-year-old girl called him an 'ape' in the middle of a game and he had her ejected from the stadium. What ensued was a shocking backlash of vilification and blunt racism against the football star. Drawing upon Goodes' personal story, Australia's dark colonial past and its treatment of the Aboriginal population, director Daniel Gordon (*George Best: All by Himself*, LFF 2016) has crafted a powerful and timely examination of race, identity and belonging that resonates far beyond the football pitch. *Laure Bonville*



SAT 5
 17:40 MAYFAIR

SUN 6
 15:00 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

BY THE GRACE OF GOD GRÂCE À DIEU

Dir-Scr François Ozon.
Prod Eric Altmayer,
 Nicolas Altmayer.
With Melvil Poupaud,
 Denis Ménochet,
 Swann Arlaud.
 France 2019.
 137min.
 EST.
UK Distribution
 Curzon

In one of his (seemingly) most straightforward but finest films yet, François Ozon deals very movingly with a real-life case of multiple child abuse.

When Alexandre (Melvil Poupaud) learns that the priest who assaulted him decades ago at a scouts' camp still works with young people, he tells his family what happened and seeks out other victims so that the Church will take action. Even as others are persuaded to speak out, however, the Catholic establishment starts dragging its feet. Meticulously chronicling events with a linear narrative that boldly switches protagonists in order to explore different aspects of French society, experience and attitude, Ozon creates a powerful, quietly polemical drama that reveals both the enduring consequences of child abuse and the complacent complicity of the Church. Terrific performances – particularly from Poupaud, Ménochet and, as the ageing offender, Bernard Verley – and nuanced direction won it the Berlinale's Grand Jury Prize. *Geoff Andrew*



THU 3
 18:00 MAYFAIR

FRI 4
 17:50 VUE6

SAT 5
 20:20 ICA

DOC

CITIZEN K

Dir-Scr Alex Gibney.
Prod Alex Gibney,
 John Battsek,
 PJ Van Sandwijk,
 George Chignell,
 Erin Edeiken.
 USA-UK 2019.
 128min.
Sales
 Kew Media Group

Multiple award-winning documentarian Alex Gibney returns with a fascinating exploration of the contemporary Russian political landscape and a portrait of oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

Mikhail Khodorkovsky is charismatic and mercurial. It's not difficult to see why Alex Gibney chose him as the focus of his new film. After thriving in Russia in the 1990s and amassing incredible wealth from the oil industry, Khodorkovsky became a nuisance to Vladimir Putin, who subsequently had him jailed in Siberia for ten years. Now living in exile in the UK, he orchestrates a far-reaching anti-Putin campaign. Through this story, Gibney charts Putin's rise to power, the golden years of the oligarchs and an era of gangster capitalism, combining archive footage and interviews with various journalists and Khodorkovsky himself. Unfolding like a gripping political thriller, *Citizen K* is an urgent and topical account of a culture dominated by fake news and the rise of Russia's alleged meddling in politics beyond its borders. *Laure Bonville*



WED 2
18:00 VUE7

FRI 4
15:00 TCR

FRI 11
20:30 ICA

CLEMENCY

Dir-Scr Chinonye Chukwu.
Prod Bronwyn Cornelius, Julian Catherley, Peter Wong, Timur Bekbosunov.
With Alfre Woodard, Aldis Hodge, Richard Schiff, Wendell Pierce.
USA 2018.
113min.
Prod Co ACE Pictures Entertainment

Alfre Woodard is quietly devastating as a weary prison warden presiding over her twelfth execution, in this Sundance-winning death row drama.

Chinonye Chukwu became the first black female filmmaker to win the top prize at Sundance Film Festival with this unsentimental death row drama. *Clemency* opens with experienced prison warden Bernadine Williams (Alfre Woodard) overseeing a lethal injection that goes agonisingly wrong. Botching 'the procedure' heightens scrutiny over her next execution, of convicted cop killer Anthony Woods (Aldis Hodge) who maintains his innocence. Woodard delivers a stunning performance as methodical authority figure Bernadine, whose necessary professionalism has made her emotionally unavailable to husband Jonathan (*The Wire*'s Wendell Pierce). No amount of after-work drinking will make the nightmares stop. And she's not alone; her exhaustion is mirrored by Woods' dedicated lawyer Marty (*The West Wing*'s Richard Schiff), in this precisely calibrated portrait of capital punishment's ethical corrosion. Manish Agarwal



THU 3
18:10 VUE4

SAT 5
12:20 VUE4

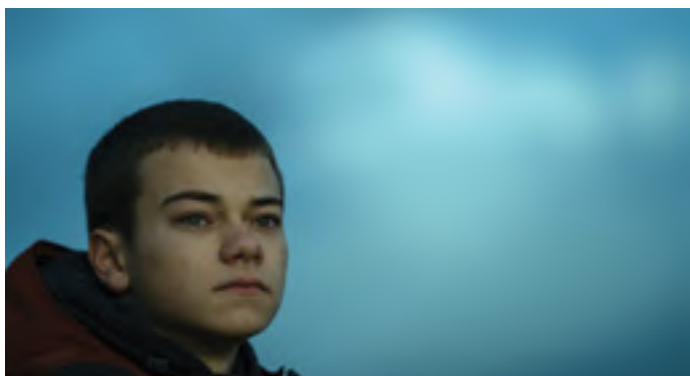
DESFRANCES

Dir-Scr Apolline Traoré.
Prod Denis Cougnaud.
With Jimmy Jean-Louis, Naomi Nemlin, Evelyne Ily, Burkina Faso 2019.
105min.
EST.
Prod Co Les Films Selmon

Civil war looms in Abidjan and relations begin to fray within a family in this tense and atmospheric thriller.

After the brutal massacre of his family in Haiti, Francis Desrances resettles in the Ivory Coast. Years later Francis, his wife Aissey and 12-year-old daughter Haila await the birth of a son, who to Francis' excitement and Haila's irritation is immediately regarded as the worthy heir to the Desrances name. As the birth looms, civil war erupts in Abidjan and amidst the melee Aissey goes missing. Haila courageously steps forward in ways that challenge her father's notion of what constitutes a rightful heir. Cementing her status as a bold voice in contemporary filmmaking, Apolline Traoré's domestic drama escalates into an intense thriller that mounts a passionate challenge to commonly-held gender roles, whilst also highlighting the human cost of civil strife.

Tega Okiti



TUE 8
18:30 VUE7

WED 9
20:45 NFT2

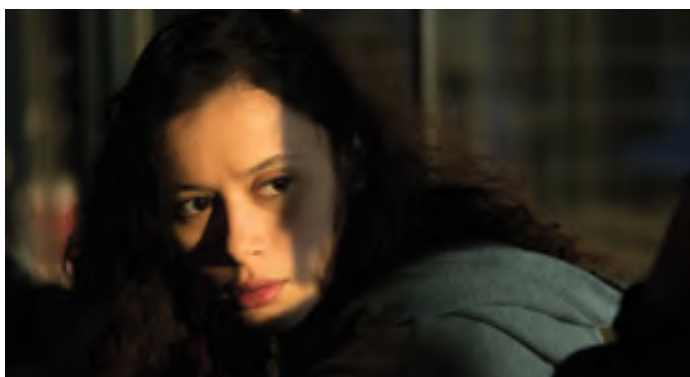
BRITISH

COUNTY LINES

Dir-Scr Henry Blake.
Prod Victoria Bavister, David Broder.
With Conrad Khan, Ashley Madekwe, Harris Dickinson.
UK 2019.
90min.
Prod Co Two Birds Entertainment

Drawing on real-life cases, this is a controlled and disquieting drama about a 14-year-old London boy being used as a mule by nationwide drug traffickers.

The term 'county lines' describes the practice of using children to traffic drugs from cities to coastal towns and rural areas, an underreported fact of modern British life. Inspired by the stories he heard while mentoring kids at an East London pupil referral unit, writer-director Henry Blake's powerful feature debut boasts a compelling central performance by Conrad Khan as 14-year-old Tyler, whose mum Toni (Ashley Madekwe) is struggling to provide for him and his sister. Excluded from school, Tyler becomes a train-bound narcotics courier for local criminal Simon, played with a calm menace by Harris Dickinson (*Beach Rats*, LFF 2017). *County Lines* depicts the ensuing cycle of debt, deceit and violent exploitation with a quiet stylistic confidence that's all the more haunting for being so rigorously unsentimental. Manish Agarwal



THU 3
20:50 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

FRI 4
12:30 TCR

SAT 5
13:00 PCC

THE GIRL WITH A BRACELET

LA FILLE AU BRACELET

Dir-Scr Stéphane Demoustier.
Prod Jean des Forêts.
With Melissa Guers, Chiara Mastroianni, Anaïs Demoustier.
France-Belgium 2019.
93min.
EST.
Sales Charades

Family relations and social expectations are compellingly picked apart in this French courtroom drama about a teenager caught in the spotlight of a murder case.

It begins as an ordinary family outing on the beach. Then things turn dark as 17-year-old Lise, from a wealthy middle-class family, comes under investigation following the death of her best friend. As her parents (Chiara Mastroianni, Roschdy Zem) deal with the trauma in different ways, Lise is required to account for a way of life that doesn't always fit the morality approved of by the justice system. This third feature by writer-director Stéphane Demoustier is a razor-sharp judicial drama with echoes of Camus, Simenon and Henri-Georges Clouzot. A superb cast includes Anaïs Demoustier, on top form as an implacable prosecuting counsel. And as Lise, newcomer Melissa Guers offers a mesmerising performance as the young woman whose very self is the mystery under investigation. Jonathan Romney



SAT 12
17:10 NFT1

AD

SUN 13
19:00 NFT1

HOH **AD**

A HIDDEN LIFE

Dir-Scr Terrence Malick.
Prod Grant Hill, Dario Bergesio, Josh Jeter, Elisabeth Bentley.
With August Diehl, Valerie Pachner, Matthias Schoenaerts.
Germany-USA 2019. 173min.
UK Distribution Fox Searchlight Pictures

Terrence Malick returns with a call for grace in this Second World War-set true story exploring the importance of *unsung resistance*.

Franz Jägerstätter and his wife Fani live in bucolic Alpine Austria with their three children, committed to a deep abiding love of God and each other. When Franz is called up to fight, he refuses to take an oath of allegiance to Hitler and as a result each has a price to pay. Men of army and church plead to Frank that his gesture will neither change things nor be remembered – that he could always ‘think one thing and say another’. *A Hidden Life* makes an urgent call to contemporary conscience, exhorting us to believe in its power, even in the face of indifference. Yes, there is lush sensory filmmaking that will give viewers an acute sensitivity to the world around them, but most resonant is Malick’s broader philosophical tribute to those who ‘rest in unvisited tombs’. Kate Taylor



SUN 6
13:00 ICA

MON 7
20:45 VUE4

DOC

HOPE FROZEN

Dir-Prod Pailin Wedel.
Scr Pailin Wedel, Nina Ijas.
With Nareerat Naovarapong, Sahatorn Naovarapong, Matrix Naovarapong.
Thailand-USA 2019. 75min.
Sales Totem Films

Pailin Wedel’s award-winning documentary is an emotional chronicle of parents doing what they believe is best for their child, no matter what the cost.

When two-year-old Einz Naovarapong was diagnosed with a terminal cancer, her parents explored every avenue to save her. Refusing to accept her death as the end, they turn to cryonics to freeze their daughter’s brain in the hope that she will one day live again. With remarkable access and intimacy, Wedel follows the parents and their surviving son on this extraordinary journey, objectively presenting their challenges and dilemmas; as practising Buddhists who are also devotees of science, how to reconcile these conflicting beliefs? Ethical, philosophical and emotional questions abound. Can the dead come back to life? And should they? This is human nature in its purest form, as the parents are fighting for their child’s survival. Christine Bardsley



SUN 6
17:30 VUE7

AD

SUN 6
18:00 VUE5

AD

MON 7
20:30 TCR

HOH **AD**

LUCE

Dir Julius Onah.
Prod John Baker, Julius Onah, Andrew Yang.
Scr J C Lee, Julius Onah.
With Naomi Watts, Octavia Spencer, Kelvin Harrison Jr.
USA 2019. 109min.
UK Distribution Universal Pictures International

This gripping psychological thriller about subjectivity and code-switching in modern America marks Julius Onah (*The Cloverfield Paradox*) as one of cinema’s most thrilling emerging voices.

Luce (Kelvin Harrison Jr) is a former refugee, a child soldier from a war-torn African country. Seemingly recovered from his childhood trauma, he now lives in his adoptive country as the son of white liberal middle-class parents (Tim Roth and Naomi Watts). His high school’s brightest hope – a fiercely intelligent debater and star athlete – Luce seems destined to achieve great things. But after he chooses Franz Fanon as an assignment to deliver a paper in the voice of a historical figure, Luce’s English teacher (Octavia Spencer) becomes suspicious that something darker may lurk beneath his highly-controlled exterior. Shot on crisp 35mm, with production design as restrained, precise and potent as the storytelling, this is deeply satisfying filmmaking: disciplined, canny, provocative and complex, like Luce himself. Tricia Tuttle



MON 7
18:00 EMPIRE

TUE 8
15:15 ICA

BRITISH

LYNN + LUCY

Dir-Scr Fyzal Boulifa.
Prod Camilla Bray.
With Roxanne Scrimshaw, Nichola Burley, Kacey Ainsworth.
UK 2019. 90min.
Sales Charades

A lifelong friendship is tested by tragedy in this atmospheric and intense first feature from acclaimed British shorts director Fyzal Boulifa.

Lynn (Roxanne Scrimshaw) and Lucy (Nichola Burley) have been friends their whole lives; inseparable at school and now living as neighbours and young mothers on an estate. But when a tragedy befalls the pair, a chain of events is set in motion that will severely test their bond, bringing out fears and resentments in the local community. This beautifully acted and haunting film, elegantly shot in 4:3 academy ratio, manages the trick of transcending its kitchen sink aesthetic and slice-of-life scenario to deliver something akin to a modern morality play. Without easy answers or resolutions, the film presents the thorniest ‘what if?’ scenario, confronting us with a taut thriller of bad choices, misunderstandings and escalating social unrest. With his skilled debut, Boulifa joins the ranks of British filmmakers Francis Lee, William Oldroyd and Daniel Kokotajlo with his skilled transcendence of conventional British film genres and tropes. Paul Ridd



MON 7
18:30 VUE5

TUE 8
16:00 NFT2

MADE IN BANGLADESH

Dir Rubaiyat Hossain.

Prod François d'Artemare, Ashique Mostafa.
Scr Rubaiyat Hossain, Philippe Barrière.
With Rikita Shimu, Novera Rahman, Parvin Paru.
Bangladesh-France-Denmark-Portugal 2019.
90min.
EST.
Sales Pyramide International

How do you learn to speak out when everyone expects you to be silent? In a Bangladeshi factory, a determined young woman discovers the possibilities of activism.

In the busy metropolis of Dhaka, Shimu (Rikita Shimu) supports her unemployed husband with a job as a seamstress in a garment factory. Shaken by the casual lack of accountability management shows after a fire kills a colleague, Shimu connects with local feminist organiser Apa, who informs her of her rights to unionise. Under the deafening din of hundreds of manually operated sewing machines, a quiet revolution begins to build. Eschewing a celebratory female empowerment narrative, Rubaiyat Hossain's writing weighs patient acts of administration equally with the alliances across social class and more dramatic acts of courage that encompass the labour of activism. The result is a nuanced and quietly rousing portrait of the pleasures, possibilities and limitations of collective liberation and feminist solidarity. *Jemma Desai*



SUN 6
17:45 MAYFAIR

MON 7
15:00 ICA

WED 9
15:15 VUE4

MR. JONES

OBYWATEL JONES

Dir Agnieszka Holland.
Prod Klaudia Smieja, Andrea Chalupa, Stanislaw Dziedzic.
Scr Andrea Chalupa.
With James Norton, Vanessa Kirby, Peter Sarsgaard.
Poland-Ukraine-UK 2019. 119min.
Sales WestEnd Films

James Norton stars as Welsh journalist Gareth Jones whose 1930s visit to Soviet Ukraine uncovered the truth of Stalin's state-sponsored famine and reputedly inspired George Orwell's *Animal Farm*.

Agnieszka Holland's latest film introduces us to the world of foreign journalists in Moscow during the 1930s. There's Walter Duranty (Peter Sarsgaard), chief correspondent for the *New York Times* and controversial apologist for Stalin's policies, and Gareth Jones (a superb James Norton), whose short career had already seen him advise Prime Minister David Lloyd George. He became one of the few journalists of his time to expose Stalin's despotic nature. As scripted by Orwell authority Andrea Chalupa, the film throws startling and horrific light on Stalin's brutal treatment of the agrarian class. Holland, whose career has flourished in both cinema and television, directs with real passion and commitment. And Jones' struggle to reveal unpalatable truths to a world unwilling to confront an inconvenient political reality has uncomfortable contemporary parallels. *Peter Hames*



WED 9
18:00 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

FRI 11
12:40 NFT1

SAT 12
17:50 NFT2

MARTIN EDEN

Dir Pietro Marcello.
Prod Pietro Marcello, Beppe Caschetto, Thomas Ordonneau, Michael Weber, Viola Fügen.
Scr Maurizio Braucci, Pietro Marcello.
With Luca Marinelli, Jessica Cressy, Vincenzo Nemolato.
Italy-France-Germany 2019.
129min.
EST.
Sales The Match Factory

An original, stylistically dazzling and ambitious Italian adaptation of Jack London's autobiographical novel about a self-taught and outspoken working-class writer who climbs the ranks of society.

Martin Eden is the kaleidoscopic, brilliantly rendered account of one man's spiritual, philosophical, artistic and political journey through life and Italian society, as he strives to discover his sense of identity. A tough sailor, Martin's chance introduction to the upper echelons of middle-class life and a meeting with a beautiful young woman inspire him, against all odds, to teach himself to become a writer. This bold adaptation of London's novel, transposed from the US to Naples, mixes drama with archive footage to create a unique fable that demonstrates the imaginative vision and creative skill of director Pietro Marcello, who follows up his impressive 2015 feature debut *Lost and Beautiful* with a work that is no less engaging. *Adrian Wootton*



FRI 4
20:45 ICA

MON 7
18:15 VUE4

NOURA'S DREAM

LE RÊVE DE NOURA

Dir-Scr Hinde Boujemaa.
Prod Imed Marzouk, Tatjana Kozar, François d'Artemare.
With Hend Sabri, Lofti Abdelli, Hakim Boumassoudi.
Tunisia-Belgium-France-Qatar 2019.
92min.
EST.
Sales Wild Bunch International

Noura and Lassad's delicate love story turns into a nightmare when Noura's husband Sofiane is unexpectedly released from prison, days before their divorce is finalised.

Noura (played by veteran Tunisian-Egyptian actress Hend Sabri) is vulnerable and the precariousness of her situation is key to Hinde Boujemaa's assured and compelling feature debut. Sofiane's release brings a volatile undercurrent of violence into the home she built for their three children. His return to petty crime has fewer legal implications than the consequences of Noura's infidelity. The tinderbox is sparked when Sofiane pieces things together and sets out to disgrace Lassad. Will Noura survive the pressure? Will the lovers survive the humiliation? Boujemaa weaves a tense and complex web. In doing so, she emphasises the fragility of a woman's position in the Tunisian legal system, as well as reflecting on questions of masculinity, power, corruption and domestic violence. *Elhum Shakerifar*



SAT 5
16:30 EGC

SUN 6
13:50 EGC



WED 9
20:50 VUE6

FRI 11
18:15 NFT2

DOC

THE REPORT

Dir Scott Z Burns.
Prod Steven Soderbergh, Jennifer Fox, Scott Z Burns, Kerry Orent, Michael Sugar, Eddy Moretti, Danny Gabai.
With Adam Driver, Annette Bening, Jon Hamm.
USA 2019.
120min.
UK Distribution Curzon

The American government takes a long hard look at itself in this politically urgent drama starring Adam Driver.

Is torture ever warranted? Has it ever thwarted a terrorist attack? Did it lead to information that found Osama bin Laden? Daniel Jones (Adam Driver) is the report-writing man in the basement, piecing together the facts about the CIA's cavalier approach to torture following 9/11. But many powerful people would rather the military's 'Enhanced Interrogation Techniques' stayed in the shadows and it becomes evident that Jones and the report's commissioner Senator Dianne Feinstein (Annette Bening) have a fight on their hands. Director Scott Z Burns (screenwriter of *Contagion*, *The Bourne Ultimatum* and the forthcoming Bond film) nods to the politically conscious thrillers of the 1970s with this lean and timely drama, showing how vital it is that a nation can look clear-eyed into its own darkest moments.

Kate Taylor

REWIND

Dir Sasha Joseph Neulinger.
Prod Thomas Winston, Cindy Meehl, Sasha Joseph Neulinger, Avela Grenier, Robert Schneeweis, Shasta Grenier Winston.
USA 2019.
86min.
Sales Submarine

Through unflinching interviews and home video footage, Sasha Joseph Neulinger's powerful and frank film investigates the history of his childhood trauma.

Neulinger's harrowing yet astonishingly composed autobiographical documentary uncovers the childhood sexual abuse he and his sister suffered at the hands of three members of their extended family. Neulinger interviews his parents, psychiatrists and the police to fill in his memory gaps and build a disturbingly precise picture, conveying both the cyclical nature of such secret horrors and the difficulty in prosecuting cases that involve children. *Rewind's* grimly absorbing investigation gains an additional texture through the vast home video archive shot by Neulinger's TV director father Henry, forever hiding his own traumas behind an omnipresent camcorder. Seemingly superficial clips become sinister clues in a film that is obviously upsetting, but also cathartic and constructive. It's a testament to the bravery and skill of its remarkable young director. Manish Agarwal



FRI 4
20:30 NFT1

SAT 5
15:15 NFT1



SAT 5
15:30 EMPIRE

SUN 6
18:00 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

DEBATE

SEBERG

Dir Benedict Andrews.
Prod Fred Berger, Kate Garwood, Brian Kavanaugh-Jones, Bradley Piiz.
Scr Anna Waterhouse, Joe Shrapnel.
With Kristen Stewart, Jack O'Connell, Anthony Mackie.
USA 2019.
c.98min.
Sales Memento Films International

Kristen Stewart shines as an idealistic yet fragile Jean Seberg in this impressive new work from *Una* (LFF 2016) director Benedict Andrews.

Returning to the US as Europe's 'It' girl after her breakout success – including Godard's *Breathless* – Seberg (Stewart) finds herself a target of J Edgar Hoover's FBI when she becomes romantically involved with Black Panther (Anthony Mackie) and flaunts her disregard for America's misogynistic and racist institutions. Silikly photographed by *Moonlight* cinematographer Rachel Morrison, with impeccable period costume and production design (from Michael Wilkinson and Jahmin Assa, respectively), this stylish drama packs a punch. Supported by strong cast that includes Jack O'Connell, Colm Meaney and Zazie Beetz, Stewart dazzles as the starlet who was all-but-destroyed by an archly conservative FBI – then a nefarious organisation with virtually unchecked power – and dismayed as she unwittingly took others down with her. Tricia Tuttle

A SON

BIK ENEICH – UN FILS

Dir -Scr Mehdi M Barsaoui.
Prod Marc Irmer, Habib Attia.
With Sami Bouajila, Najla Ben Abdallah.
France-Tunisia-Lebanon-Qatar 2019.
95min.
EST.
Sales Jour2Fête

Challenging your emotions at every turn, Mehdi M Barsaoui's debut is a riveting ride in which the euphoria of a family trip quickly turns into a nightmare.

When driving home from southern Tunisia, Fares and Meriem's car is hit by a stray bullet during an ambush by an armed group; their young son Aziz's liver is punctured. At a local hospital, the need for a transplant uncovers a secret that risks Aziz's life should a donor not be found in time. But this is only the beginning of the unexpected twists in a story so deftly crafted that it offers both a probing look at Tunisian society's anchored social and legal realities, and an unshakable need to ask yourself what you would do in the same situation. As their world falls apart, the subtleties of the couple's shifting emotions are handled masterfully, heralding Barsaoui as a bold new talent to watch. Elhum Shakerifar



FRI 4
18:10 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

SUN 6
17:45 VUE4

STAFF ONLY

EL VIATGE DE LA MARTA

Dir Neus Ballús.
Prod Edmon Roch, Pau Subirós, Cristóbal García, Lina Badenes, Javier Ugarte.
Scr Neus Ballús, Pau Subirós.
With Elena Andrada, Sergi López, Diomaye A.Ngom.
Spain-France 2019. 87min.
Sales Film Factory Entertainment

Neus Ballús' second feature (after docudrama *The Plague*) follows a Spanish teenager who is forced to consider her whiteness on a family holiday in Senegal.

Is it possible to avoid being problematic when you're a middle-class white tourist prone to sunburn and entitlement? It's what Spanish teenager Marta (a quietly intense Elena Andrada) wonders as she eye-rolls her way through a painful Christmas holiday in Senegal, staying with her estranged dad and annoying little brother in a resort full of white sunburnt pensioners. Turning her nose up at her dad's timetable of culturally-appropriative tourism, she rejects family bonding time, choosing instead to make some local alliances, first with the hotel maid Aissatou and then a romance with aspiring filmmaker Khouma. As Marta becomes aware of the wider implication of her flippant teenage rebellion, Ballús' strikingly self-reflexive film reveals pointed insights on the pursuit of cross-cultural exploration and solidarity.

Jemma Desai



TUE 8
18:20 SOHO

WED 9
18:30 VUE4

TELL ME WHO I AM

Dir Ed Perkins.
Prod Simon Chinn.
UK 2019. 85min.
UK Distribution Netflix

UK-based director Ed Perkins follows his Oscar-nominated documentary short *Black Sheep* with a potent and troubling exploration of trauma, identity and redemption.

What if every memory that haunts you could be erased? What if something truly horrific had happened to you and the person who loves you most could wipe that from your mind? Would you want them to? This is the ethical dilemma that 18-year-old Marcus Lewis faced when his identical twin Alex awakened after a motorcycle accident and Marcus was the only person Alex recognised. With no memories at all, Alex relied entirely on his brother as he tried to understand who he was. Working from an autobiography by the twins, Perkins and the Lewis brothers craft a powerfully cinematic adaptation that helps the audience explore their incredible story and remarkable 35-year post-accident journey. It's a profoundly moving examination of memory and trauma, personal responsibility and, ultimately, love.

Tricia Tuttle



FRI 11
18:15 PCC

SAT 12
12:30 TCR

DOC

BRITISH

THE STREET

Dir-Prod Zed Nelson.
UK 2019. 94min.
Prod Co WagonTrail Productions

The baker, the pie-maker and the diminished long-term community of Hoxton Street face gentrification in this compelling portrait of a rapidly changing London.

Some of the businesses on Hoxton Street have been around for over a hundred years. But recent times have witnessed an explosion of coffee shops, art spaces and property development. Sound familiar? The locals feel the exclusion of being priced out, and wonder who's to blame, while Cameron's EU referendum looms in the background. Xenophobia is tangible; and with a new working space offering colourful ball-pit baths, the disconnect between the new creatives and the local community seems irreconcilable. From 82-year-old Colleen, to the couple who met as teens working in the pie shop they now run, everyone is feeling a storm coming. Sophie Brown



SUN 6
20:45 VUE6

MON 7
13:15 NFT2

DOC

THE VALLEY

Dir Nuno Escudeiro.
Prod Andreas Pichler, Luc Martin-Gousset, Valerio B Moser.
Scr Nuno Escudeiro, Moritz Bonatti.
Italy-France 2019. 75min.
Sales Point du Jour International

On the idyllic mountainous border of France and Italy, local residents are self-organising in order to help refugees, while law enforcers adopt underhand methods to intervene.

Sometimes help comes from the most unexpected places. The valleys of the French Alps experienced enforced displacement during Second World War, so perhaps it's no surprise that many residents feel moved to help refugees whose homes have also become battlefields. In a climate of mistrust and rising prejudice, it's refreshing to witness everyday people get savvy about the laws of these lands, especially when political engagement is fickle. As one man quips, 'Increase the retirement age by six months and you'll have three million people protesting, but nothing for this'. While director Nuno Escudeiro attempts to document the way these ambiguous, shifting laws are enforced, and authorities sneak refugees out the back door instead of registering them, no irony is lost with the town's sign: 'The Pearl of France is Happy to Welcome You'. Sophie Brown



SUN 6
20:40 NFT1

MON 7
12:30 TCR

WED 9
18:10 EMPIRE



THU 3
18:00 VUE7

FRI 4
18:30 ICA

WAITING FOR THE BARBARIANS

Dir Ciro Guerra.
Prod Michael Fitzgerald, Olga Segura, Andrea Iervolino, Monika Bacardi.
Scr J M Coetzee.
With Mark Rylance, Johnny Depp, Robert Pattinson.
Italy 2019.
104min.
Sales AMBI Distribution

Ciro Guerra follows *Birds of Passage* with an allegorical epic penned by JM Coetzee, starring Mark Rylance, Johnny Depp and Robert Pattinson.

The Magistrate (Rylance) is the amiable face of colonialism, living in peace in an unnamed frontier town of 'the Empire' and pottering around with archaeological artefacts. But the lie that underpins this harmony is sharply exposed when creepy Colonel Joll (Depp) rides into town and starts interrogating the locals, seeking intel about a coming insurrection. The Magistrate, disgusted by the actions of his fellow army men, begins his own personal rebellion. Following *Birds of Passage* (LFF 2018) and *Embrace of the Serpent* (LFF 2015), director Ciro Guerra continues investigating the effects of oppression on indigenous communities – this time exploring the mentality of the oppressors themselves. Mark Rylance gives a staggering performance in J M Coetzee's adaptation of his own literary masterpiece, brought to cinematic life on a vast desert canvas. *Kate Taylor*

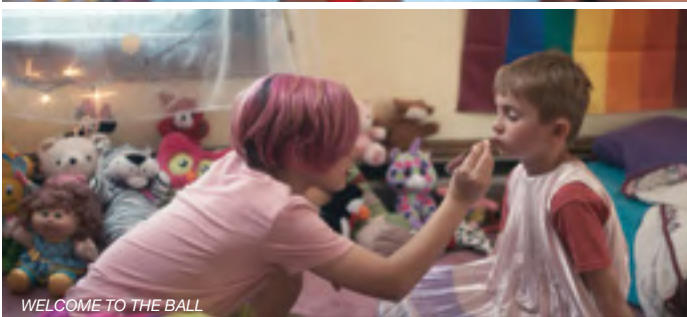
WORKFORCE

MANO DE OBRA

Dir-Scr David Zonana.
Prod Michel Franco, David Zonana, Eréndira Núñez Larios.
With Luis Alberti, Hugo Mendoza, Jonathan Sánchez.
Mexico 2019.
82min.
Sales Wild Bunch

Produced by Michel Franco, this gripping tale focuses on construction site workers who take matters into their own hands when their bosses ignore their requests.

Nothing is quite what it seems in David Zonana's extraordinary feature debut. From the dynamic opening to its detailed mapping of the complex interrelations that govern the building site where plasterer Pacheco works on the renovation of a luxury home, this complex study of human behaviour juxtaposes altruism and opportunism with unexpected consequences. Zonana manages to construct a deeply political film about exploitative labour practices that avoids any easy answers. Employing a cast of largely non-professional performers – the filmmaker spent several months collaborating with bricklayers and plasterers to develop the piece – *Workforce* benefits from a real sense of lived-in authenticity. The result increasingly echoes Buñuelian cinema – disquieting, original and hugely timely – where human nature is put under the cinematic scalpel. *Maria Delgado*



FRI 4
18:15 PCC

SAT 5
12:40 VUE6

CLOSE AND FAR

The parent-child relationship is one of the most complex, evoking a whole spectrum of emotions. This collection of shorts explores life situations that can shape these relationships permanently, difficult choices that parents can be sometimes faced with and journeys in the search for connection and understanding.
Aga Baranowska

IN BETWEEN NĚ MES **Dir** Samir Karahoda. Kosovo 2019. 14min. EST

Due to the changing economic situation in Kosovo, the tradition of parents building identical houses for their children takes on a new meaning.

BLACKWOOD **Dir** Kalu Oji. Australia 2018. 12min

A look at the challenges of living in a small Australian town, portrayed through the lens of a novelist and her teenage son.

THEY **Dir** Louisa Rechenbach. UK 2019. 12min

An intimate portrait of a couple raising their child gender neutral.

CHLORINE **Dir** Melissa Anastasi. Australia 2019. 17min

11-year-old Keira's relationship with her mother changes when Mom's new boyfriend enters their lives.

CHILD **Dir** Talia Zucker. USA-Australia 2019. 11min

After the birth of her first child, a young woman struggles to find herself in the new role and connect to her new-born baby.

APART **Dir** Diana Cam Van Nguyen. Czech Republic 2018. 10min

Adults reflect on the experience of losing a parent at a young age in this animated documentary.

DAWN IN THE DARK **Dir** Runyararo Mapfumo. UK 2019. 16min

When a young girl's father is taken to hospital, a familial bond between her and her uncle is tested.

WELCOME TO THE BALL **Dir** Adam Vincent Wright. USA 2019. 5min

Two children from different backgrounds form a loving friendship.

MAHALIA MELTS IN THE RAIN

Dir Emilie Mannering, Carmine Pierre-Dufour. Canada 2018. 11min

In preparation for a ballet photoshoot, Mahalia and her mother visit a hairdresser.

Total running time 108 min

DEBATE



THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF DAVID COPPERFIELD

Director – Armando Iannucci



CALM WITH HORSES

Director – Nick Rowland



JOANNE OF POMPEII

Directors – Harry Lighton, Marco Alessi, Matthew Jacobs Morgan



SAINT MAUD

Director – Rose Glass



GREED

Director – Michael Winterbottom



ROCKS

Director – Sarah Gavron

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LAUGH

FROM LAUGH-OUT-LOUD THROUGH
ROMANTIC COMEDY TO DRY AND
UNDERSTATED – HUMOUR IN ALL ITS FORMS



SAT 5
15:15 MAYFAIR

SUN 6
12:30 VUE4

ARAB BLUES UN DIVAN À TUNIS

Dir-Scr Manele Labidi Labbé. **Prod** Jean-Christophe Reymond.
With Golshifteh Farahani, Majd Mastoura, Aïcha Ben Miled.
France 2019.
88min.
EST.
Sales mk2 Films

In this provocative culture clash comedy, Golshifteh Farahani (*About Ely*, *Paterson*) plays a Parisian psychoanalyst attempting to set up a practice in a post-Arab Spring Tunisia.

When you visit the beauty parlour or hammam, you also talk about your problems, allowing you to leave with a sense of emotional investment as well as some physical improvement. That's the kind of practical therapy this working-class suburb of Tunisia appreciates. Hence their baffled resistance to enigmatic, Paris-raised outsider Selma when she tries to establish her psychoanalysis practice. With people still reeling from the country's turbulent 2011 revolution, some believe there's been more than enough recent self-help interventions. Writer-director Manele Labidi Labbé's debut feature is a wry, slyly effective satire of entrenched socio-political traditions. Iranian star Farahani is a subtly magnetic lead, ably backed by a colourful supporting cast of predominantly female allies and antagonists. Leigh Singer



WED 2
18:15 TCR

THU 3
20:45 NFT3

AXONE

Dir-Scr Nicholas Kharkongor.
Prod Vikram Mehra, Siddharth Anand Kumar.
With Sayani Gupta, Lin Laishram, Dolly Ahluwalia.
India 2019.
96min.
EST.
Prod Co
Yoodlee Films

This bittersweet comedy follows immigrants in Delhi who are attempting to organise a wedding party, but soon find everything going wrong.

Echoing *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, this original comedy romp finds a group of girlfriends from Assam and Meghalaya, north-eastern states in India, gathering in the back streets of Delhi to throw a secret wedding party for a soon-to-be bride. Terrorised by their rottweiler of a landlady and with their boyfriends utterly useless as help, the group's already disorganised plans soon go further awry. As the women cook the traditional axone wedding stew (a pork stew with pungent local herbs), neighbours complain about its powerful smell. However, they are determined to prepare the aromatic dish. With the challenges brought on by cultural difference and the pressures of being immigrants in a seemingly unfriendly city, is food and love enough to save the day? Cary Rajinder Sawhney



FRI 4
20:45 EMPIRE

SAT 5
12:45 MAYFAIR

TUE 8
20:30 VUE6

THE CLIMB

Dir Michael Angelo Covino.
Prod Noah Lang, Michael Angelo Covino, Kyle Marvin.
Scr Michael Angelo Covino, Kyle Marvin.
With Kyle Marvin, Michael Angelo Covino, Gayle Rankin.
USA 2019.
97min.
UK Distribution
Sony Pictures Releasing

The vertiginous ups and downs in two men's friendship spans several years and outrageous events in this award-winning US indie comedy.

Mike (Michael Angelo Covino) is a better cyclist than Kyle (Kyle Marvin). So, it figures that a steep French mountain is the best place to ruefully confess that he's slept with Kyle's fiancée, where his best friend can process this betrayal in relative solitude but can't quite match Mike's pedal power to take revenge. Co-writers Covino and Marvin expand their 2018 short into a comedy-drama marathon. Their time-skipping vignettes, frequently realised in ambitious single takes, reveal an often toxic and occasionally balm-like co-dependency. Imbuing traditional comic set-pieces – family Christmas, disastrous bachelor party, interrupted wedding – with genuine cinematic flair, *The Climb* expertly shifts gears between full-blooded slapstick and wince-inducing studies of romantic and fraternal relationships, which sometimes crash but always seem to find the friends getting back in the saddle. Leigh Singer



SAT 5 20:45 NFT1 | **SUN 6** 12:45 MAYFAIR | **MON 7** 18:15 PCC | **BRITISH**

DAYS OF THE BAGNOLD SUMMER

Dir Simon Bird.
Prod Matthew James Wilkinson.
Scr Lisa Owens.
With Monica Dolan, Earl Cave, Rob Brydon.
 UK 2019. 86min.
UK Distribution Altitude Film Entertainment

Simon Bird's directorial debut is a warm and witty graphic novel adaptation about a single librarian trying to reconnect with her introverted, metalhead teenage son.

The Inbetweeners star Simon Bird's directorial debut is a funny, charming and wince-inducingly accurate adaptation of Joff Winterhart's graphic novel, with a soundtrack by Belle & Sebastian. *Days of the Bagnold Summer* sweetly draws you into the wobbly relationship between well-intentioned single librarian Sue Bagnold and her black-clad teenage son Daniel, who'd rather listen to Metallica than his mother. Daniel was meant to spend the summer in Florida visiting his dad, but is now stuck with Mum following the trip's cancellation. The film boasts supporting turns by Rob Brydon and Alice Lowe, but belongs to its two leads. Long-suffering Sue is sympathetically portrayed by Monica Dolan (also in our LFF Journey selection *Rialto*), with Earl Cave's Daniel a suitably lank-haired, pale-skinned picture of adolescent metalhead angst. Manish Agarwal



WED 2 20:50 ICA | **THU 3** 18:15 NFT2 | **SAT 5** 13:00 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

THE FATHER

Dir Kristina Grozeva, Petar Valchanov.
Prod Kristina Grozeva, Petar Valchanov, Konstantina Stavrianou, Irini Vougioukalou.
Scr Kristina Grozeva, Petar Valchanov, Decho Taralezhkov.
With Ivan Barnev, Ivan Savov.
 Bulgaria-Greece-Italy 2019. 85min.
 EST.
Prod Co Abraxas Film

After the funeral of Vasil's wife, the belief that she has phoned from beyond the grave leads to a journey both touching and absurd.

Based on a real-life event, writer-directors Kristina Grozeva and Petar Valchanov became fascinated by how a 'completely rational person can fall for the supernatural'. After the phone call from his dead wife, Vasil (Ivan Savov) contacts a well-known psychic and attempts to locate his wife's aura by sleeping in the woods. His son Pavel – a brilliant serio-comic performance by Ivan Barnev – is forced to accompany him on his quixotic journey while attempting to bring him to his senses. The contrasts between the artist-dissident father and mild mannered son operate on several levels, providing an intimate take on the absurdities of everyday life, pointing to social and personal divisions both past and present. Peter Hames



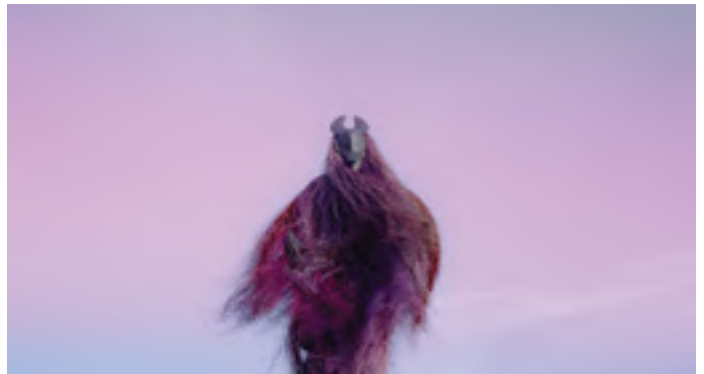
WED 9 18:15 MAYFAIR | **THU 10** 18:00 SOHO

IT MUST BE HEAVEN

Dir-Scr Elia Suleiman.
Prod Édouard Weil, Laurine Pelassy, Elia Suleiman, Thanassis Karathanos, Martin Hampel, Serge Noël.
With Elia Suleiman, Tarik Kopti, Grégoire Colin.
 France-Qatar-Germany-Canada-Turkey-Palestine 2019. 97min.
UK Distribution New Wave Films

Acclaimed Palestinian filmmaker Elia Suleiman returns with another deadpan take on life in exile with the typically assured and moving *It Must Be Heaven*.

The beard is now inflected with grey and the eyelids hang a little lower, but for Elia Suleiman, the deft comic touch and wistful regret for a home just out of reach remain strong in *It Must Be Heaven*. The Palestinian filmmaker's fourth feature film – and his first in a decade – revisits similar themes to his earlier work, once again employing himself as the near-mute central character. This time, however, Suleiman transposes much of the action to Paris and New York. The upheaval across the Arab world since 2011 has seen the Palestinian struggle for statehood lose some of the existential urgency it once had to outsiders. Suleiman's film is a delicious reminder of both the vitality of the cause, and the vibrancy of his artistry. Ali Jaafar



THU 3 20:40 VUE4 | **SAT 5** 15:30 ICA

THE LOST OKOROSHI

Dir-Prod Abba Makama.
Scr Abba Makama, Africa Ukoh.
With Seun Ajayi, Judith Audu, Tope Tedela.
 Nigeria 2019. 94min.
Prod Co Osiris Film and Entertainment

A man who wakes up to discover he has undergone a transformation takes a revelatory journey to see if ancestral tradition has a place in modern life.

Fed up with the soulless city and how its dwellers have lost touch with their ancestral traditions, Raymond Obinwa yearns for reconnection between man, spirit and traditional society. He awakens one morning to find he has transformed into a traditional Igbo masquerade Okoroshi. In his new form, Raymond/Okoroshi sets off on a quest to find a new home in the city. Along the way, he encounters brassy sex-worker Doris, street hustler Willy-Willy – who is convinced of Okoroshi's earning potential – and witnesses the idle chit-chat of conspicuous pseudo-spiritual authority the IPSSHRR (The Igbo People's Secret Society for Heritage, Restoration and Reclamation). Abba Makama's sharp satire pulls apart the threads of Nigerian society, reaching back to the nation's rich history as a way of addressing its potentially bleak future. Tega Okiti



FRI 4
18:15 TCR

SUN 6
15:30 VUE5

SUN 13
18:00 PCC

LUCKY GRANDMA

Dir Sasie Sealy.
Prod Cara Marcous, Krista Parris.
Scr Angela Cheng, Sasie Sealy.
With Tsai Chin, Corey Ha, Michael Tow.
USA 2019.
87min.
Sales XYZ Films

A crafty Coen-esque black comedy about an elderly widow who inadvertently steals from the Chinese mob and subsequently takes on the gangs to secure her fortune.

Widowed Grandma Wong doesn't seem so lucky when she gambles away her entire savings. But her fortunes appear to change when, on the bus home, the man sat beside her suddenly expires and she absconds with his bag stuffed with US dollar bills. However, the money belongs to New York's Chinese mob and she now finds herself at the centre of a gang war. Still, never underestimate an unflappable pensioner. First-time writer-director Sasie Sealy's spiky US indie explores Chinatown's Mahjong parlours and steam rooms with an authenticity American movies often lack. Veteran actress Tsai Chin (*The Joy Luck Club*) has a blast as our wily, chain-smoking, Mandarin-speaking heroine, who forms a terrific odd-couple partnership with affable giant bodyguard Big Pong (Hsiao-yuan Ha). Leigh Singer



WED 2
18:30 ICA

FRI 4
12:40 NFT3

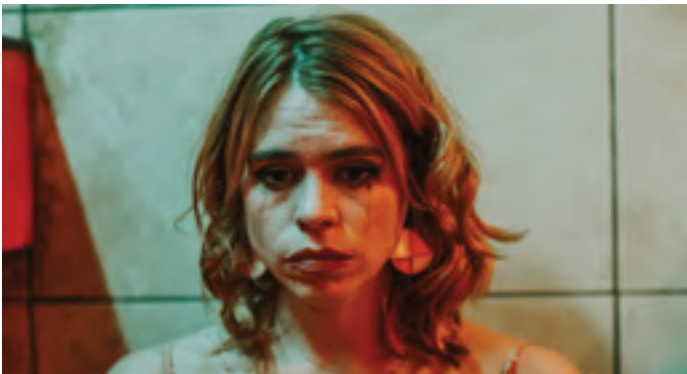
MAGGIE

Dir Yi Ok-seop.
Prod Koo Kyo-hwan.
Scr Yi Ok-seop, Koo Kyo-hwan.
With Lee Ju-young, Moon So-ri, Koo Kyo-hwan.
South Korea 2018.
88min.
EST.
Sales
M-Line Distribution

Prepare to have your pants charmed off by this quirky freeform journey through a Seoul beset by mysteriously appearing sinkholes – all narrated by a catfish.

After a sassy radiologist is snapped having sex in the X-ray room, the image swiftly circulates around the hospital. Nurse Yoon-Young is concerned that she might be one of the randy skeletons depicted. This sets in motion a bizarre series of events that see Yoon-Young bonding with her boss (Moon So-ri) and embarking with her on a mission to determine whether human beings are ever really worth believing. Debut director Yi Ok-seop's portrait of young South Koreans' contemporary concerns is nothing if not idiosyncratic. It may nod to Miranda July and Michel Gondry, but Yi has a style very much her own. For those seeking sparky cinema full of ideas, *Maggie* is an absolute tonic, packed with invention and fizz.

Kate Taylor



THU 10
18:30 MAYFAIR

FRI 11
18:20 TCR

SUN 13
15:30 PCC

BRITISH

RARE BEASTS

Dir-Scr Billie Piper.
Prod Vaughan Sivell.
With Billie Piper, Leo Bill, David Thewlis.
UK 2019.
87min.
Prod Co
Western Edge Pictures

Billie Piper stars in her own directorial debut, a no-holds-barred anti-romcom about a modern woman's struggles in work and love.

Billie Piper has long established herself as one of our more daring and unpredictable actors, so it's no surprise that her striking first feature as writer-director embodies these qualities. The minefield of contemporary careers and relationships has rarely been depicted with such frankness, intimacy and originality. Piper's single mum Mandy is chaotic, confrontational and vulnerable. But so are her estranged parents (David Thewlis, Kerry Fox) and needy new partner (Leo Bill). The fallout from these ever-colliding characters is combustible – this is Piper's scorched-earth exploration of self-worth in a time of reclaimed feminism and contentious politics. The results are both hilarious and grim, often at the same time, puncturing the oft-believed preconception that we can 'have it all'. Leigh Singer



WED 2
21:00 VUE6

FRI 4
15:20 NFT2

THE UNKNOWN SAINT LE MIRACLE DU SAINT INCONNU

Dir-Scr
Alaa Eddine Aljem.
Prod Francesca Duca, Alexa Rivero.
With Younes Bouab, Anas El Baz, Hassan Badida.
Morocco-France 2019.
100min.
EST.
Sales
The Match Factory

Alaa Eddine Aljem's darkly comic feature debut is smart, refreshing, original and an astute reflection on the human need to believe in something.

Returning to the site of a treasure he buried when escaping the police, a recently released bandit is surprised to find a new shrine – that of the 'Unknown Saint'. Now surrounded by a bustling village, the shrine is much visited and assiduously guarded by a wonderful array of locals, whom director Aljem characterises with a rich blend of subtle observation and deadpan humour: the guard dog revered to the point of being guarded himself; the new doctor and his veteran – but alcoholic – nurse and the dentist/barber who reserves his best shaving foam for exclusive clients. Meanwhile, struggling to find ways to unearth his loot, the thief – superbly played by a brooding Younes Bouab – is forced to call in a favour from 'Ahmed the Brain', his ironically named prison cellmate. Elhum Shakerifar

LAUGH



LOVE THE SINNER



HOT AND TASTY



SERIOUS TINGZ

WED 2
20:40 VUE7

FRI 4
15:30 VUE5

JOY TO THE WORLD...

! Joyful films! Triumphant films! Funny films! Philip Ison

THE MARVELOUS MISADVENTURES OF THE STONE LADY

Dir Gabriel Abrantes. France-Portugal 2019. 20min. EST

Gabriel Abrantes (*Diamantino*) directs the tale of a sculpture escaping the Louvre.

GRANDAD WAS A ROMANTIC

Dir Maryam Mohajer. UK 2019. 4min

Grandad once saw a picture of Granny and realised she was the love of his life, until...

LOVE THE SINNER

Dir Jennifer Sheridan. UK 2018. 10min

11-year-old Joanna tries to understand grief through her mother's reaction to Princess Diana's death.

PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE DADS

Dir Jim Picariello. USA 2018. 5min

Two middle-aged dads just want to spend a quiet day with their daughters at the park.

HOT AND TASTY

Dir Laura Jayne Hodkin. UK 2019. 4min

Two drunk girls accidentally walk into a crime scene in the local chicken shop.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Dir Florence Keith-Roach. UK 2019. 13min

A woman makes a powerful connection with a surprising stranger on her 30th birthday.

UNDER COVERS

Dir Michaela Olsen. USA 2018. 8min

Uncover the sweet, salacious and spooky secrets of a small town.

BIG TOAST

Dir Sacha Beeley. UK 2018. 4min

Toast is pining after his lost love, Egg, having made the mistake of copping off with a slice of salami.

DAWN OF A NEW GAY

Dir Rosie Gaunt-Mathieson. UK 2019. 5min

Comedian Jack Rooke narrates his first sexual encounters as a gay man.

SERIOUS TINGZ

Dir Abdou Cissé. UK 2018. 3min

The face of masculinity as portrayed by young men who grow up in the inner city, where the iconic 'screwface' is more than just an expression.

TIC

Dir Josef Bates. UK 2019. 15min

Dave struggles to keep his Tourette's on the down-low while on a date with Jess. Stars Will Merrick (*Skins*, *Dead Pixels*) and Emma Mackey (*Sex Education*).

SWEATER

Dir Nick Borenstein. USA 2018. 5min

After his Tinder date flakes, Corey's day couldn't possibly be any worse...

Total running time 96min

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DARE

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OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE



THU 3
18:00 SOHO

FRI 4
12:10 NFT1

BEANPOLE DYLDA

Dir Kantemir Balagov.
Prod
Alexander Rodnyansky,
Sergey Melkumov.
Scr Kantemir Balagov,
Alexander Terekhov.
With
Viktoria
Miroshnichenko,
Vasilisa PereLygina,
Andrey Bykov.
Russia 2019.
137min.
EST.
UK Distribution
MUBI

Two women who survive active service in the Second World War try to reconstruct their lives in post-war Leningrad, in Kantemir Balagov's extraordinary award-winning second feature.

Inspired by Nobel prize winner Svetlana Alexievich's *The Unwomanly Face of War* – interviews with ordinary women about their wartime experience – *Beanpole* focuses on the intense relationship between the traumatised Iya (Viktoria Miroshnichenko) and her friend Masha (Vasilisa PereLygina). The characters' desire to assert their identity and the desire to have a child is portrayed with a raw psychological intensity that's reminiscent of Ingmar Bergman. The post-siege atmosphere of Leningrad is tellingly conveyed while Sergey Ivanov's design and Ksenia Sereda's cinematography provide a powerfully expressive context. Often deeply disturbing, Balagov's film conveys a fiercely imaginative approach to the trauma and exhaustion of a society emerging from war. Peter Hames



FRI 11
20:50 NFT3

SAT 12
16:30 VUE6

BURNING CANE

Dir-Scr Phillip Youmans.
Prod Wendell Pierce, Mose Mayer, Ojo Akinlana, Karen Kaia Livers, Cassandra Youmans, Phillip Youmans.
With Wendell Pierce, Karen Kaia Livers, Dominique McClellan.
USA 2019.
78min.
Sales Cinetic

Winner of the top prize at the Tribeca Film Festival, contemporary Southern gothic *Burning Cane* heralds 19-year-old director Phillip Youmans as a serious new talent.

Helen stalks through her farm with a cleaver in one hand, cigarette in the other, running through the various treatments she's tried for her dog's mange. Her recently unemployed son Daniel pushes beer and whiskey on his own child. And the local preacher (Wendell Pierce) remains in denial about the malice forming an increasingly powerful undertow to his sermons. As alcohol and melancholy suffuse this Louisiana family and their pastor, a woozy portrait emerges – one of characters living in lows they cannot transcend. Creating a poetic film language that prizes sensory experience, Phillip Youmans never judges his characters, and it's this observational gaze, and the bleak truths he excavates, that are earning him favourable comparisons to Terrence Malick, RaMell Ross and William Faulkner. Kate Taylor



WED 9
20:45 EMPIRE

THU 10
18:10 VUE4

FRI 11
15:30 NFT2

DIVINE LOVE DIVINO AMOR

Dir Gabriel Mascaro.
Prod
Rachel Daisy Ellis.
Scr Gabriel Mascaro,
Rachel Daisy Ellis,
Lucas Paraizo,
Esdras Bezerra.
With Dia Praes,
Julio Machado.
Brazil-Uruguay-Chile-Denmark-Norway-Sweden 2019.
100min.
EST.
Sales
Memento Films International

An evangelical group fight to uphold the sanctity of marriage in this altogether different kind of science fiction story.

Brazil, 2027. Joana is a civil servant working with clients seeking a divorce. A devout believer in the institution of marriage, she does what she can to persuade quarrelling couples to give it another go, turning to the unorthodox methods of her religious group Divino Amor. But things are not plain sailing at home. Try as they may, Joana and her husband Danilo remain childless, despite their staunch efforts to conceive. Becoming increasingly reliant on her local 24-hour drive-through priest service, Joana is fast giving up hope, until one day a miracle happens. Alive with vibrant style and playful humour, Gabriel Mascaro's salvation story is a work of almost infinite pleasures. But beneath the neon-soaked veneer, lies a pressing critique on the allure of faith and the rise of conservative values in contemporary Brazil. Michael Blyth



TUE 8
18:15 PCC

WED 9
18:15 VUE7

DOGS DON'T WEAR PANTS

KOIRAT EIVÄT KÄYTÄ HOUSUJA

Dir J-P Valkeapää.
Prod Helen Vinogradov, Aleksis Bardy.
Scr J-P Valkeapää, Juhana Lumme.
With Pekka Strang, Krista Kosonen, Ester Geislerová.
Finland-Latvia 2019. 105min.
EST.
UK Distribution Anti-Worlds

A dominatrix offers an emotionally paralysed widower an unexpected chance for sexual and psychological release in this playful dark comedy.

Heart surgeon Juha has lived life at an unengaged distance since his wife tragically drowned some years ago. And although it is often debilitating, his grief also throws up some rather surprising sexual urges. A birthday trip with his daughter leads to an unexpected but thrilling encounter with Mona, a dominatrix whose modus operandi brings a whole new meaning to the notion of suffocating relationships. Might submission and pain provide a pathway out of grief? Featuring some graphic scenes, director Valkeapää teases out a twisted but sweet vein of comedy from this kinky set-up. Empathetic and resolutely sex positive, this is a fun and joyful film. And if you like your romantic comedies with a dark edge, a gag and a slap or two, then this puppy's for you. Sarah Lutton



SUN 6
20:30 MAYFAIR

MON 7
18:10 TCR

DON'T LOOK DOWN

HAUT PERCHÉS

Dir-Scr Olivier Ducastel, Jacques Martineau.
Prod Cyriac Auriol.
With Manika Auxire, Geoffrey Couët, François Nambot.
France 2019. 90min.
EST.
UK Distribution Peccadillo Pictures

Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau return with an elegant and intimate drama about love and revenge, crafted with dramatic intensity and visual dazzle.

In this seductive, mysterious drama, versatile French duo Ducastel and Martineau (*Theo and Hugo*, *Jeanne and the Perfect Guy*) have made one of their most inventive films. In a high-rise apartment, a woman and five men gather to share their experiences of a man that they have all been involved with, to their cost. In the main room, they talk, drink, dance, while one by one, each goes next door for a private moment of truth. Theatrical in the best sense, the film turns the apartment into a stage for a superb ensemble cast. Alongside echoes of Fassbinder and one-set dramas like Hitchcock's *Rope*, Manuel Marmier's photography and unconventional lighting make this a sculptural celebration of space and colour, as well as a psychological nail-biter. Jonathan Romney



TUE 8
20:45 NFT1

WED 9
21:00 TCR

BRITISH

ETERNAL BEAUTY

Dir-Scr Craig Roberts.
Prod Adrian Bate.
With Sally Hawkins, Alice Lowe, David Thewlis.
UK 2018. 95min.
Sales Bankside Films

Sally Hawkins is a schizophrenic woman coping with a hallucinatory existence in Craig Roberts' bold, sometimes hilarious and disturbing exploration of mental illness.

Jilted as a young woman on her wedding day, the outsider in a fragmented family and beset with anxieties both real and imaginary, June has a life of constant struggle. Pills offer a possible solution and her relationship with vagrant musician Mike (David Thewlis) might be another. But does the medication and even love just exacerbate June's delusional state of mind? Following his 2015 directorial debut *Just Jim*, *Submarine* star Craig Roberts' sophomore feature is a true high-wire act, depicting the unstable perceptions of a fragile persona with delirious colour and design across ever-shifting time frames. Sally Hawkins' fearless performance again confirms her as one of Britain's best, and an ace supporting cast – Alice Lowe, Billie Piper, Penelope Wilton – prove equally committed to Roberts' singular, humane vision. Leigh Singer



TUE 8
18:20 EMPIRE

WED 9
15:30 PCC

FAMILY ROMANCE, LLC

Dir-Scr Werner Herzog.
Prod Roc Morin.
With Yuichi Ishii, Mahiro Tanimoto.
USA 2019. 89min.
UK Distribution Modern Films

Werner Herzog is on typically thought-provoking form, dramatising the work of a 'rent-a-relative' service, in this Tokyo-set meditation on contemporary alienation.

Intrigued by the story of a Japanese company that, for a fee, can supply people to imitate absent family members, Werner Herzog flew to Tokyo and filmed this scripted series of moments in the life of Family Romance, LLC. In an uncanny bit of re-re-enactment, the company's founder Yuichi Ishii plays himself, as the man who performs multiple impersonations a day to fulfil people's wishes. This includes passing as the estranged father of a 12-year-old girl, suddenly resurfacing in her life and dedicating time and attention to her. Amusing and disturbing in equal measure, Herzog's film questions the bizarre nature of the social systems that we put in place to deal with our random existence and probes our blurry relationships to truth and love. Kate Taylor



MON 7
20:50 IMAX

TUE 8
15:30 PCC

FIRE WILL COME

O QUE ARDE

Dir Oliver Laxe.
Prod Andrea Vázquez, Xavi Font, Andrea Queralt, Mani Mortazavi.
Scr Oliver Laxe, Santiago Fillol.
With Amador Arias, Benedicta Sánchez, Inazio Abrao.
Spain-France-Luxembourg 2019. 85min.
EST.
UK Distribution
New Wave Films

A pyromaniac returns to his mother's farm in Oliver Laxe's visually jaw-dropping study of the Galician landscape.

Amador is newly out of jail. We know little of his crime and the taciturn man has no desire to play nice with the neighbours in the picturesque valley where he lives with his warm, charismatic mother – a relationship that is superbly doled out to us in small sips. But things look up when he meets a female vet who knows nothing of his past (and enjoys a bit of Leonard Cohen). Prizing atmosphere and ambiguity over plot, this is slow cinema that gives us astonishing image after astonishing image to drink in, allowing us to treasure a countryside viewed in shades of elemental splendour: sunlight, fog and, most dramatically, fire. Director Oliver Laxe (appearing in Experimenta Special Presentation *Krabi*, 2562) follows *Mimosas* (LFF 2016) with a raw yet ravishing sensory experience. *Kate Taylor*



WED 2
20:45 TCR

FRI 4
15:00 VUE7

GHOST TOWN ANTHOLOGY

Dir-Scr Denis Côté.
Prod Ziad Touma.
With Robert Naylor, Josée Deschênes, Jean-Michel Anctil.
Canada 2019. 97min.
EST.
Sales
Film Boutique

Denis Côté's latest uses superb camerawork, imaginative sound and pleasing narrative ambiguities to explore a community's response to a local's death.

The latest feature from acclaimed French-Canadian filmmaker Denis Côté – whose documentary *A Skin So Soft* graced the 2017 LFF – is an intriguing, insightful look at the effects of an unexpected death on a remote rural community. After a popular 21-year-old crashes his car, his brother, bored with country life, suspects it was suicide. His mother and the mayor, however, preferring to flag resilience, reject such ideas. Meanwhile, other locals start hearing strange sounds, glimpsing strange figures... Steering clear of horror tropes, Côté conjures enough deeply unsettling moments – real or imagined – to suggest the dead never wholly desert the living. Peppered with pleasing ambiguities, and shot on faintly grainy 16mm to create a mood at once utterly naturalistic and vividly hallucinatory, this exploration of how we respond to loss, grief and mortality is fresh, thought-provoking and engrossing throughout. *Geoff Andrew*



FRI 4
21:00 PCC

SAT 5
20:50 TCR

SAT 12
12:45 MAYFAIR

I LOST MY BODY

J'AI PERDU MON CORPS

Dir Jérémy Clapin.
Prod Marc du Pontavice.
Scr Jérémy Clapin, Guillaume Laurant.
With Hakim Faris, Victoire du Bois, Patrick Dasso. France 2019. 81min.
EST.
UK Distribution
Netflix

A severed hand searches for its owner in this striking animation, which grabbed the Grand Prize at the Cannes Critics' Week.

In an eerie Parisian hospital, a disembodied hand inexplicably begins to move. Scurrying out into the bustling streets of the capital, the macabre manus begins a perilous quest to be reunited with the body it was separated from. Meanwhile, in another part of the city, lonely pizza delivery boy Naoufel still grieves the tragic loss of his parents as a child. One rainy night, he fleetingly encounters a young woman named Gabrielle. Sensing a connection, Naoufel embarks on his own mission to track her down. While its morbid starting point suggests a modern-day *The Beast with Five Fingers*, Jérémy Clapin's beautifully realised curio is not out to scare. Instead, this elegiac coming-of-age tale offers a wildly ambitious, profoundly moving meditation on grief, destiny and the eternal search for belonging. *Michael Blyth*



FRI 4
18:00 NFT1

SAT 5
15:15 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

SAT 12
11:00 STUDIO

PCB

LITTLE JOE

Dir Jessica Hausner.
Prod Bruno Wagner, Bertrand Faivre, Philippe Bober, Martin Gschlacht, Jessica Hausner, Gerardine O'Flynn.
Scr Jessica Hausner, Géraldine Bajard.
With Emily Beecham, Ben Whishaw, Kerry Fox.
Austria-UK-Germany 2019. 105min.
UK Distribution
BFI Distribution

Jessica Hausner's first English-language feature is a pleasingly cool, witty and unsettling story of the pitfalls of placing too much trust in everyday science.

At a laboratory developing new plants, Alice (Emily Beecham) and Chris (Ben Whishaw) create a species with a scent designed to induce happiness; Alice names it Little Joe after her son. Then several incidents make the divorcée wonder whether contact with the flower might have subtle but very serious side effects... Everything about Hausner's movie – the inventive script, the crisp, fluid camerawork, the use of Teiji Ito's haunting music and the carefully nuanced performances – is a model of expressive precision, exhibiting an astute grasp of the psychological and social dynamics of the workplace, family, parenthood and gender relations. Crucially, Hausner maintains a satisfying ambiguity as to why characters behave as they do and what that might mean, producing a philosophically intriguing, consistently compelling cinematic enigma. *Geoff Andrew*
The screening on Sat 12 Oct is a Parent and Baby screening



TUE 8
20:50 NFT3

WED 9
20:50 VUE4

LOVE ME TENDER

Dir Klaudia Reynicke.
With Barbara Giordano, Antonio Bannò, Gilles Privat.
Switzerland 2019.
83min.
EST.
Sales Summerside International

Klaudia Reynicke's second feature is a portrait of a rebellious young woman who must push her limits to gain freedom and independence.

Seconda suffers from agoraphobia and is unable to leave her family home, where she's constantly surrounded by painful memories. Tired of battling suicidal tendencies, she resolves to take control of her life. That means leaving her house dressed in her 'armour' – a blue onesie. This new world brings Seconda fresh challenges as she navigates her way through various encounters with a range of characters on her journey. She seeks to overcome these new surroundings by abandoning social norms and discovering her own way of coping with past trauma in a surprising and often amusing fashion. Barbara Giordano gives a fearless physical performance as the unapologetic anti-heroine, embarking on a joyous exploration of one woman's desire to free herself on her own terms. Isabel Moir



THU 3
18:00 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

FRI 4
15:00 NFT3

THE MIRACLE OF THE SARGASSO SEA

TO THÁVMA TIS THÁLASSAS TON SARGASSÓN

Dir Syllas Tzoumerkas.
Prod Maria Drandaki.
Scr Youla Boudali, Syllas Tzoumerkas.
With Angeliki Papoulia, Youla Boudali, Christos Passalis.
Greece-Germany-Netherlands-Sweden 2019.
121min.
EST.
Sales New Europe Film Sales

Greek Weird Wave auteur Syllas Tzoumerkas returns with a visually dazzling, narratively dizzying and genre-defying murder mystery set in a depressed seaside town.

City cop Elisabeth (Angeliki Papoulia) is caught up in a botched Athens bust and exiled to the remote town of Mesolongi, where she is now the local police chief. After an apparent suicide shakes the town, Elisabeth is plunged into a sleazy and violent conspiracy involving a vicious club owner, his depressed sister and an assortment of bent officials and hard-living locals. Combining an extravagant visual style, including flashes of surreal and perverse religious imagery, this singular vision from Tzoumerkas (who co-wrote *Suntan*) is certainly not for the faint hearted. Violent and explicit, fiercely committed to its own oblique narrative and nightmarish imagery, Tzoumerkas' film cements his status as one of the most exciting young directors to emerge from the thriving Greek film scene. Paul Ridd



TUE 8
18:30 NFT2

WED 9
18:40 VUE6

THE MAN WHO CUTS TATTOOS

Dir-Scr Michael Omonua.
Prod Abba Makama.
With Valerie Dish, Omowunmi Dada, Duke Elvis.
Nigeria 2019.
76min.
Prod Co Cine9ja Ltd

Across two crucial periods in Nigerian history, two young women must ponder the painful sacrifices they are forced to make for love.

To mark the beginning of adulthood and prepare for marriage, a young girl in an Edo village must undergo a painful rite of passage through scarification. The agony she endures for a loving union finds her questioning the process. Sometime in the future, unencumbered by the traditions that exist in present day Lagos, Michelle questions her tumultuous relationship with boyfriend America. Having recently found out she's pregnant, with America pushing her towards an abortion and with her job on the line, Michelle also considers the sacrifices that are made for love. With a stunning depiction of provincial Nigerian life and the grit of urban existence, Michael Omonua's bold debut effortlessly bends time and human experience in ways that push the potential of Nigerian cinema. Tega Okiti



WED 9
18:00 VUE5

THU 10
14:50 NFT3

SAT 12
15:10 PCC

THE PAINTED BIRD

Dir-Prod-Scr Václav Marhoul.
With Petr Kotlár, Stellan Skarsgård.
Czech Republic-Slovakia-Ukraine 2019.
169min.
EST.
Sales Celluloid Dreams

Based on Jerzy Kosíński's 1965 novel and a long time in the making, Václav Marhoul's extraordinary *The Painted Bird* finds a lone Jewish boy on a dark odyssey towards home during wartime.

A boy (Petr Kotlár) is sent to his aunt to protect him from the Nazis; when she dies unexpectedly, he's propelled on a bleak journey across Central Europe – from one brutal encounter to the next. Shot in starkly beautiful 35mm black and white by Kolya cinematographer Vladimír Smutný, *The Painted Bird's* textures recall both the crispness of *The Bicycle Thief* and squalor of Aleksei German's *Hard to be a God*. Featuring several standout cameos (Stellan Skarsgård, Udo Kier, Harvey Keitel), Marhoul's darkly magnificent Venice Film Festival competitor is sumptuously crafted, though rarely an easy watch, with scenes some will find distressing. A terrifying and highly relevant exploration of what humanity looks like when there is only vicious survival, with little space for compassion. Tricia Tuttle



SAT 5
18:10 ICA

SUN 6
13:00 SOHO

THE SHARKS

LOS TIBURONES

Dir-Scr Lucía Garibaldi.
Prod Isabel García, Pancho Magnou Arnabal.
With Romina Bentancur, Federico Morosini, Fabián Arenillas.
Uruguay-Argentina-Spain 2019.
80min.
EST.
Sales
Visit Films

An intriguing coming-of-age tale is presented through the allegorical prism of an environmental incident.

There are unwelcome visitors in the coastal waters around the tourist town where fifteen-year-old Rosina lives with her sister and parents. When a shark is assumed to have killed a sea lion, the community sets up a WhatsApp group to protect its interests. But Rosina has other matters on her mind. There's an uneasy relationship with her sister and a burgeoning attraction to one of the workers her father employs in his gardening business. Romina Bentancur excels as the disarming teenager whose inscrutability proves increasingly unnerving. Debut director Lucía Garibaldi demonstrates a keen eye for the undercurrents that lie beneath the domestic situations that form the film's narrative backbone, crafting an intriguing feature about desire, sexuality and dangers that remain unsaid. *María Delgado*



SAT 5
17:50 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

MON 7
20:30 ICA

SYSTEM CRASHER

SYSTEMSPRENGER

Dir-Scr Nora Fingscheidt.
Prod Peter Hartwing, Jonas Weydemann, Jakob D Weydemann.
With Helena Zengel, Albrecht Schuch, Gabriela Maria Schmeide.
Germany 2018.
119min.
EST.
UK Distribution
606 Distribution

An intensive drama about a pre-pubescent girl who actually crashes Germany's child and welfare system whilst on her quest for love and security.

When neon pink flashing images flood the screen, it's a sign that nine-year-old Benni has lost all control. She screams, swears, hits out and spits. Though she can be extremely violent, the traumatised girl is also lovable, understanding, vulnerable and very smart. Tossed from one foster home to the next, she dreams of nothing more than being reunited with her overstrained mother. Nora Fingscheidt has created a deeply moving portrait of the vulnerability of childhood, asking where Benni belongs, who can help her and how she can be supported. Through the commitment of an excellent cast and with its powerful narrative of a young girl who has lost her place in society, Fingscheidt challenges conventional attitudes towards innocence, systems of support and, ultimately, the role of the welfare state. *Juliane Grieb*



SAT 5
18:00 PCC

SUN 6
20:30 TCR

SUN 13
18:00 TCR

THIS IS NOT BERLIN

ESTO NO ES BERLIN

Dir Hari Sama.
Prod Ale García, Antonio Urdapilleta, Verónica Valadez, Hari Sama.
Scr Rodrigo Ordoñez, Hari Sama, Max Zunino.
With Xabiani Ponce de León, José Antonio Toledano, Ximena Romo.
Mexico 2019.
110min.
EST.
Sales
Latido Films

A young man's life is turned upside down when he discovers the underground club scene of Mexico City.

It's 1986 and as Mexico's capital goes World Cup-crazy, 17-year-old Carlos spends his days getting into schoolyard brawls and cruising around town with his rowdy pals to the thumping sounds of Judas Priest. But heavy metal guitar riffs soon give way to post-punk synths when Carlos visits subversive new-wave nightclub Azteca and finds himself immersed in a transgressive world of music, art, politics, drugs and sexual fluidity. Finally feeling like he fits in, the blossoming teen begins to forge his own identity and open himself up to a new and exciting world of untold possibilities. A coming-of-age tale with real bite, Hari Sama's evocative homage to the anarchic spirit of adolescent rebellion exudes an infectious sense of energy, as well as a poignant pang of melancholy. *Michael Blyth*



WED 9
20:35 NFT3

FRI 11
15:00 ICA

TLAMESS

Dir-Scr Ala Eddine Slim.
Prod Ala Eddine Slim, Juliette Lepoutre, Ali Hassouna, Chawki Knis, Pierre Menahem.
With Abdullah Miniawy, Souhir Ben Amara, Khaled Ben Aissa.
Tunisia-France 2019.
120min.
EST.
Sales
Be For Films

Ala Eddine Slim's mesmerising second feature is as bold in its audio-visual wonder as it is audacious in its challenge to conventional narratives.

Pursued by the authorities for deserting the army, young Tunisian soldier 'S' eventually finds refuge in a lush, dense forest. On the other side of the sprawling woodland, 'F' lives a life of luxury but is lonely. Her husband is consumed by work and her sense of solitude is magnified with the discovery that she is pregnant. Intersecting these characters' lives, Slim cements his reputation for unpredictable narratives, rewarding both characters and audiences for entering uncharted territories. The film's striking cinematography creates a sensual world, oscillating between realism and more enchanted imagery. Nature is lusciously present, enhanced by Oiseaux-Tempête's eerie, pervasive soundscape. And though dialogue is scarce, communication abounds as a new kind of language emerges between Slim's two fascinating protagonists. *Elhum Shakerifar*

DARE



MON 7
18:00 VUE7

WED 9
18:10 NFT2

THU 10
15:30 TCR

TREMORS

TEMBLORES

Dir-Scr
Jayro Bustamante.
Prod
Edgard Tenenbaum,
Pilar Peredo,
Jayro Bustamante,
G rard Lacroix.
With
Juan Pablo Olyslager,
Mauricio Armas
Zebad a,
Diane Bathen.
Guatemala-France-
Luxembourg 2018.
107min.
Sales
Film Factory
Entertainment

Award-winning director Jayro Bustamante (whose *La Llorona* also features in the Official Competition) presents a complex and provocative portrait of queer identity in Guatemala.

When his wealthy, ultra-conservative family learn that Pablo, a married father of two, has been having an affair with another man they stage an immediate intervention. Despite the vehement protestations of his scandalised relatives, Pablo attempts to stay true to himself, making the bold decision to move in with Francisco, his lover. Losing his old home, but never quite feeling settled in his new one, Pablo exists in an isolated state of limbo until his determined family turn to the church in the hope that their wayward son can be 'cured'. Shot within darkly lit interiors that enhance the claustrophobic atmosphere of oppression, Bustamante's stiflingly tense, often devastating exploration of destructive societal and religious pressures is an indelible experience that's impossible to forget. Michael Blyth



SUN 6
20:30 PCC

MON 7
20:45 NFT2

A WHITE, WHITE DAY

HVITUR, HVITUR DAGUR

Dir-Scr
Hlynur P lmason.
Prod
Anton M ni Svansson.
With
Ingvar E Sigur sson,
 da Mekk n Hlynsd ttir.
Iceland-Denmark-
Sweden 2019.
109min.
UK Distribution
Peccadillo Pictures

Iceland's finest actor Ingvar Sigur sson gives a heart-breaking and Cannes award-winning performance as widowed cop who becomes increasingly obsessed with his wife's death.

As time passes and seasons change in a remote Icelandic town, off-duty police chief Ingimundur (Ingvar Sigur sson) doggedly works at renovating a new home and starting over, following his wife's death in a car accident. Debilitated by grief, Ingimundur still has a warm and devoted relationship with his granddaughter, but is increasingly alienated from other people. An accidental discovery about his wife sees Ingimundur's detective instincts click back into gear. But this is no standard police procedural. Director Hlynur P lmason's (*Winter Brothers*, LFF 2017) highly original and emotionally complex drama is also an exploration of the ravages of loss. Hypnotic images highlight the beauty and strangeness of Iceland's breathtaking landscape, while Sigur sson's towering performance reveals the interior devastation of a man consumed by loss. Sarah Lutton



SAT 12
17:45 ICA

SUN 13
15:30 SOHO

VITALINA VARELA

Dir Pedro Costa.
Prod
Abel Ribeiro Chaves.
Scr Pedro Costa,
Vitalina Varela.
With Vitalina Varela,
Manuel Tavares
Almeida,
Francisco Brito.
Portugal 2019.
124min.
EST.
Prod Co OPTEC

Portuguese maestro Pedro Costa returns with another poetic portrait of Lisbon's Cape Verdean community, focusing on one woman's sorrows and survivor spirit.

In Pedro Costa's 2014 drama *Horse Money*, Vitalina Varela made a memorable appearance, effectively playing herself. In this follow-up – less a sequel than a deeper pursuit of its themes and motifs – Varela steps into the foreground as a woman who, after years waiting for a plane ticket, arrives in Portugal three days after her husband's funeral. A mesmerising contemplation of race, grief and exile, the film is magnificently photographed by Leonardo Sim es, with a visual signature of velvet-dark night in crumbling backstreets, and human presences that acquire the grandeur of classical statuary. With its incantatory dialogue, this is essentially an opera without music, with Varela as a mightily imposing central figure alongside Costa's ever-present everyman hero Ventura. Jonathan Romney



SUN 6
18:20 EMPIRE

MON 7
20:40 CIN  LUMI RE

FRI 11
15:30 PCC

ZOMBI CHILD

Dir-Scr
Bertrand Bonello.
Prod Bertrand Bonello,
Judith Lou L vy,
 ve Robin.
With Louise Lab que,
Wislanda Louimat,
Katiana Milfort.
France 2019.
103min.
EST.
UK Distribution
MUBI

The latest provocation from Bertrand Bonello (*Nocturama*, LFF 2016) splices Haitian history and folklore with contemporary life at an elite girls' boarding school in Paris.

Haiti, 1962. A man is resurrected from the dead. Forced to work on a sugar cane plantation, Clairvius Narcisse is trapped in perpetual night. Fast forward to contemporary Paris. Haitian teen M lissa is the new girl at a prestigious school, where cerebral lectures on liberalism are *de rigeur*. M lissa makes her first friend in dreamer Fanny when they discover a shared passion for Stephen King. Fanny invites M lissa to join a secret 'literary sorority'. But while presentations on Rihanna keep their story firmly 21st-century, something more ancient is at play, with M lissa harbouring an incendiary family secret. Influenced by the zombie films beloved by Bonello in his youth, *Zombi Child* teases at genre elements, stirs up post-colonial debate and builds to a truly audacious conclusion. Kate Taylor



OLLA



END-O



THE LAMB

THU 10
20:45 PCC

SAT 12
15:00 MAYFAIR

PUSH THE BUTTON

A programme of films to push buttons, boundaries and the limits of imagination. From the blackly comic to the downright shocking, this is cinema on the edge.

Seán McGovern

HUMBLEBRAG Dir Sinéad O'Shea. Ireland 2019. 4min

In a homemade clip show, a couple relive the good times, the bad times and the ones they hoped would remain secret.

OLLA Dir Ariane Labeled. France-UK 2019. 28min

Having been transplanted from Ukraine via an online dating site, Olla can't be contained by French suburbia, nor can it temper her desires.

FUNFAIR Dir Kaveh Mazaheri. Iran-Canada 2019. 15min

In order to make a quick buck, Majid must make his wife fake a car accident injury – but is she already the victim?

END-O Dir Alice Seabright. UK 2019. 15min

Jaq is a typical young woman, navigating the foibles of life, love and endometriosis in this stinging black comedy.

MEMOIRS OF A GEEZA Dir Theo James Krekis. UK 2019. 3min

A top lad recalls fights, friends and painting his toenails with his dad.

BREAST FRIENDS Dir Caitlin Young. UK 2019. 6min

Some people can't escape the voices in their head, but for Jess it's the voices of her two larger-than-life talking breasts.

THE LAMB JANJE Dir Nina Viočić. Croatia 2019. 15min. EST

Three kids spend the summer days the usual way: hanging out, Snapchatting... and playing with their newly discovered pet.

GUO4 Dir Peter Strickland. Hungary-UK 2019. 3min

Two men. One locker room. A lot of D. From the director of *In Fabric* (LFF 2018).

INTERSTICE Dir Oskar Willers. Sweden 2019. 11min. EST

When Anders makes an indecent proposal to his younger boyfriend Micke, things take a very sudden dark turn.

Total running time: 100min

Content warning: This programme contains explicit content and themes, including sex, violence and drug use.

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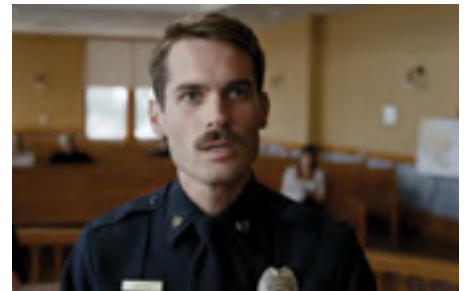
CAPERNAUM
NOW SHOWING

Award-winning, intense and unblinking drama from the Lebanese margins, where a neglected child sues his parents for the crime of giving him life.



THE FIGHT
FROM 16 SEP

Jessica Hynes directs and stars in the raw and focused story of a woman struggling to cope as life, family and the past assail.



THUNDER ROAD
FROM 20 SEP

Squirm and clench as Jim Cummings' troubled cop unravels in spectacular style, crowning this tiny budget triumph.

SUBSCRIPTION



KISS OF THE DAMNED
NOW SHOWING

A tip of the hat to erotic, satiric giallo as a writer trades in his humanity for the love of a vampire and a lot of woe.



ARCADIA
FROM 2 SEP

A trenchant look at our land, drawn from archive footage and set to a soundtrack from Adrian Utley and Will Gregory.



THE COLOUR OF POMEGRANATES
NOW SHOWING

The life of Sayat-Nova, the 'King of Song', is told with riotous colour and epic beauty by Sergei Parajanov. A landmark.

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ADRENALIN PUMPING AND KEEP YOU
ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT



FRI 11
18:10 EMPIRE

SAT 12
12:30 ICA

SUN 13
18:15 VUE5

THE CAVE

Dir-Scr Tom Waller.
Prod Tom Waller,
Allen Liu.
With Jim Worny,
Ekawat
Niratworpanya,
James Edward Holley.
Thailand-Ireland 2019.
104min.
Sales Wild Bunch

This Thai production is the first film to dramatise 2018's astonishing rescue of the Wild Boars football team from Tham Luang cave.

Bangkok-born, Thai-Irish writer-director Tom Waller has beaten several planned Hollywood projects in the race to dramatise last summer's global headline-grabbing rescue of the Wild Boars boys football team from Tham Luang cave. They were trapped with their coach for 18 days during the monsoon season. Far more than just a plucky domestic production, *The Cave* captures the complex character of the massive international rescue effort by having several of the real-life volunteer heroes from around the world play themselves. You'll be cheering on local engineering expert Pooyai Tun as he battles bureaucratic odds to deliver crucial water draining turbo pumps in the nick of time, while Irish cave diving specialist Jim Worny ensures that the film's claustrophobic underwater scenes exude a clammy docudrama authenticity. Manish Agarwal



THU 10
18:00 VUE7

THU 10
18:30 VUE5

FRI 11
12:15 EGC

EARTHQUAKE BIRD

Dir-Scr Wash Westmoreland.
Prod Ridley Scott,
Kevin J Walsh,
Michael Pruss,
Ann Ruark,
Georgina Pope.
With Alicia Vikander,
Riley Keough,
Naoki Kobayashi.
USA 2019.
108min.
UK Distribution
Netflix

In this dark thriller set in 1989 Tokyo, Alicia Vikander plays a murder suspect at the centre of a tumultuous love triangle.

Lucy (Vikander) is a buttoned-up, MUJI-clad translator who has been in Japan for five years and is desperate to blend in. Her reticent nature hides old scars. There's also the fact that people around her keep dying – accidentally or otherwise. After a street encounter with hot photographer Teiji (Naoki Kobayashi), she quickly finds herself under his spell, despite all the warning signs. And the pot is stirred further when American nurse Lily (Riley Keough) – all blowsy sexual confidence and cultural naïveté – arrives in town and Lucy experiences some frightening impulses. Wash Westmoreland (*Colette*) has crafted a moody and intriguing update on 1980s psycho-sexual thrillers, shifting the emphasis onto the psychology of the female protagonist. Alicia Vikander is astonishing in a role that explores cultural fascination, belonging and obsession.

Kate Taylor



TUE 8
18:10 NFT1

WED 9
20:45 PCC

THU 10
15:00 VUE7

GUEST OF HONOUR

Dir-Scr Atom Egoyan.
Prod Atom Egoyan,
Simone Urdl,
Jennifer Weiss.
With David Thewlis,
Laysla De Oliveira,
Luke Wilson.
Canada 2019.
105min.
Sales Playtime

David Thewlis excels in this story of family secrets, a typically complex and mischievous offering from Canadian auteur Atom Egoyan.

Atom Egoyan has long specialised in family stories of unorthodox complexity. His latest is very much in the tradition of such intricately plotted dramas as *The Adjuster* and *Exotica*. In a narrative that reveals its surprises with tantalising deftness, Laysla De Oliveira plays Veronica, who tells a priest (Luke Wilson) about her late father (David Thewlis), a punctilious food inspector dedicated to uncovering the secrets of restaurants high and low. As his story unfolds, so does his daughter's, whose career as a music teacher is waylaid by a case of malevolent jealousy. Adroitly playing with time, technology and memory, this is Egoyan's most enjoyable film in ages, with outstanding leads from Thewlis and rising star De Oliveira, plus a mischievous turn from the inimitable Arsinée Khanjian. Jonathan Romney



SAT 12
20:30 EMPIRE

SUN 13
12:30 MAYFAIR

INCITEMENT

Dir Yaron Zilberman.
Prod David Silber, Sharon Harel-Cohen, Tamar Sela, Yaron Zilberman, Ruth Cats, Moshe Ederly, Ron Leshem.
Scr Ron Leshem, Yaron Zilberman.
With Yehuda Nahari Halevi, Amitay Yaish Ben Ousilio, Anat Ravizky.
Israel 2019. 123min.
EST.
Sales
WestEnd Films

This slow-burn study of religious obsession tries to fathom what drove a young law student to assassinate Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

While his family were at home watching *Crocodile Dundee 2*, 25-year-old Yigal Amir, a bright law student, was readying himself to gun down Israeli PM Yitzhak Rabin following a rally in Tel Aviv. The factors that motivated him are the basis of Yaron Zilberman's chilling and urgent account of Amir's religious radicalisation, a story of twisted ideology that carries a universal message. It starts with the Oslo Peace Accords of 1993. Many Israelis are thrilled at the prospect of peace in the Middle East, but just as many, including Amir, are not. He joins protest groups that accuse Rabin of giving away Israeli land and, worse, of arming the Palestinians. Debating the topic with local rabbis, Amir becomes convinced that Rabin is subject to God's law and must be punished accordingly.

Damon Wise



FRI 11
20:45 EMPIRE

SAT 12
20:50 PCC

SUN 13
15:40 VUE5

BRITISH

MUSCLE

Dir-Scr
Gerard Johnson.
Prod Matthew James Wilkinson, Ed Barratt, Richard Wylie, Eric Tavitian, Fred Fiore.
With Cavan Clerkin, Craig Fairbrass.
UK 2019. 110min.
Sales
WestEnd Films

A directionless call centre salesman gets more than he bargained for when he joins a local gym.

Simon is stuck in a rut. Consistently failing to meet targets at work, and clinging onto the tail end of a failing marriage, his only happiness is a cheeky pint down the boozier. Determined to make some changes, Simon takes the plunge and joins a no-frills bodybuilding gym. No sooner is he fumbling with the weightlifting equipment than hulking man-mountain Terry approaches with the offer of being his personal trainer. As Simon's physical transformation begins, his gym buddy slowly infiltrates himself into all parts of his life, forcing Simon to question what Terry's motivations really are. Handsomely shot in crisp black and white, Gerard Johnson's testosterone-fuelled thriller is a meaty exploration (and critique) of amplified machismo, propelled by two extraordinary central performances from Cavan Clerkin and Craig Fairbrass.

Michael Blyth



THU 3
18:10 TCR

SAT 5
15:30 PCC

JALLIKATTU

Dir Lijo Jose Pellissery.
Prod Thomas Panicker.
Scr S Hareesh.
With Chemban Vinod Jose, Antony Varghese, Sabu Abdusamad.
India 2019. 91min.
EST.
Prod Co
Opus Penta

This thrilling, nightmarish ride into the depths of human bloodlust, finds a rampaging buffalo hunted by a violent mob.

Kerala's bad boy director Lijo Jose Pellissery returns with his darkest film to date. The inhabitants of a village find themselves increasingly addicted to red meat, placing both butchers and abattoirs in high demand. In a bootleg slaughterhouse, a buffalo fights its would-be executioners and escapes, wrecking a local neighbourhood as it flees. A group of men, led by butchers, set off to hunt down and kill the animal, but it constantly eludes capture. As more join the hunt, a repressed collective consciousness, fuelled by greed, lust, distrust and vengeance, erupts with wild ferocity. The boundaries between man and beast disappear, replaced by an orgy of extreme violence. This rollercoaster of a film, slickly shot, paced and acted, compellingly explores the dark heart of human nature.

Cary Rajinder Sawhney



TUE 8
20:30 TCR

WED 9
15:30 ICA

THU 10
15:15 VUE4

ONLY THE ANIMALS SEULES LES BÊTES

Dir Dominik Moll.
Prod Carole Scotta, Caroline Benjo, Barbara Letellier, Simon Arnal.
Scr Dominik Moll, Gilles Marchand.
With Denis Ménochet, Laure Calamy, Damien Bonnard.
France-Germany 2019. 116min.
EST.
Sales
The Match Factory

A hypnotic and elusive French thriller weaves together the stories of various individuals connected with the disappearance of a woman, her car found abandoned on a remote mountain roadside.

Franco-German director Dominik Moll returns to the territory of breakout hits *Harry, He's Here To Help* (LFF 2000) and *Lemming* (LFF 2005) with another darkly funny thriller that explores the seamier side of middle-class life in the French countryside. Two depressive farmers, an unfaithful wife, a lovelorn waitress and an African con artist are each related in some way to the disappearance of a glamorous housewife (Valeria Bruni Tedeschi). A stylishly-shot and elegantly structured slow-burn, revealing the secret connections between fascinating and disparate characters, the film finds Moll at the height of his storytelling powers and working with his finest cast to date, including an astonishing Denis Ménochet. This compelling mystery moves expertly toward an unexpectedly moving and surprising denouement. Paul Ridd



THU 10
20:40 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

FRI 11
12:50 NFT2

SUN 13
20:30 PCC



FRI 11
20:45 PCC

SUN 13
20:40 TCR

PIRANHAS

LA PARANZA DEI BAMBINI

Dir Claudio Giovannesi.

Prod Carlo Degli Esposti, Nicola Serra.

Scr Roberto Saviano, Claudio Giovannesi, Maurizio Braucci.

With Francesco Di Napoli, Viviana Aprea, Ar Tem. Italy 2019. 110min. EST.

Sales Elle Driver

A teenage *Scarface* meets *Romeo and Juliet*, in Claudio Giovannesi's gripping depiction of young gangsters running amok in Naples.

Nicola is a teenage kid and would-be Paranza (Piranha), groomed to be a foot soldier on the streets of Naples for Camorra mob bosses. However, Nicola is more ambitious than most, if not all, of his contemporaries. Resembling an underage *Scarface*, he quickly rises through the ranks with a combination of raw charm, assertiveness, audacity and a capacity for cold-blooded violence. Adapted from the 2016 novel by *Gomorra* author Roberto Saviano, which draws on real life events, *Piranhas* is the impressive third feature by Claudio Giovannesi (*Ali Blue Eyes*, *Fiore*). It's atmospherically captured by Daniele Cipri's crisp cinematography and features impressively convincing performances, particularly by lead actor Francesco Di Napoli.

Adrian Wootton

Savage

Dir-Scr Sam Kelly.

Prod Vicky Pope. With Jake Ryan, John Tui, Chelsie Preston Crayford. New Zealand 2019. 101min.

Sales Film Constellation

In a story spanning three decades, the sergeant in a violent New Zealand biker gang reflects on the defining moments that turned him into a feared outsider.

What turns a man into a monster? This multi-stranded drama attempts to explain how a normal young boy named Danny became a fearsome biker by the name of Damage, who wears his gang membership as a full-face tattoo. Kicking off in the late 1980s, where an increasingly jaded Damage is propping up the gang's divisive leader Moses, Sam Kelly's debut flashes back to the 1960s, when Danny is remanded in custody for thievery, then cruises through the 1970s as Danny finds his outlaw home. This journey of reflection is the spine of the film, which comes to a head when internal gang tensions boil over and Danny/Damage is embroiled in a murder plot. But is he really the killer they think he is? *Damon Wise*



SUN 6
15:00 EMPIRE

MON 7
20:00 NFT3

THU 10
15:00 NFT2



THU 3
21:00 SOHO

SAT 5
18:15 VUE6

THE TRAITOR

IL TRADITORE

Dir Marco Bellocchio.

Prod Beppe Caschetto. Scr Marco Bellocchio, Ludovica Rampoldi, Valia Santella, Francesco Piccolo.

With Pierfrancesco Favino, Maria Fernanda Candido, Nicola Calì. Italy-France-Germany-Brazil 2019. 152min. EST.

Sales The Match Factory

Italian maestro Marco Bellocchio's bravura epic gangster odyssey dramatises the extraordinary real life story of Tommaso Buscetta, the first major Camorra boss to turn state's informant.

This riveting drama recounts episodes from the extraordinary life of Sicilian Mafia boss Tommaso Buscetta. Caught up in an internecine gang war, he is forced back from exile in Brazil to become the first Camorra capo to turn informant in order to protect his family. Ordinarily, this would make for an explosive, action-packed gangster epic. But in the hands of master director Marco Bellocchio (*Fists in the Pocket*, *Vincere*), it becomes so much more. In fact, *The Traitor* is nothing less than an epic retelling of late 20th-century Italian history. Directed with extraordinary authority, verve and skill, it is one of Bellocchio's greatest films and invites comparison with Visconti's *The Leopard* and Rosi's *Salvatore Giuliano*. *Adrian Wootton*

THE WARDEN

Dir Nima Javidi.

Prod Majid Motalebi. With Navid Mohammadzadeh, Parinaz Izadyar, Mani Haghighi. Iran 2019. 90min. EST.

Sales Iranian Independents

In an ambitious follow up to his award-winning *Melbourne*, Nima Javidi's thrilling second feature is as astutely crafted as it is suave and seductive.

The demolition of a remote prison complex, towering over the arid landscape of 1960s-era southern Iran, requires the transfer of its inmate population. The operation's success guarantees a reward for the institution's strict warden (Navid Mohammadzadeh, in a refreshing departure from the dishevelled delinquents he usually plays). However, when it becomes apparent that a prisoner is missing, his absence threatens to undermine the warden's stellar reputation and any prospect of a promotion. There's also the relationship between the warden and the prison's striking social worker (Parinaz Izadyar), a budding romance that will likely play a role in the unfolding events. With its high concept premise of a frantic manhunt for an inmate in the very building that's meant to keep him imprisoned, Nima Javidi nimbly reflects on notions of freedom and the fragile nature of authority. *Elhum Shakerifar*



WED 9
20:45 MAYFAIR

THU 10
12:30 NFT3

THE WHISTLERS

LA GOMERA

Dir-Scr
Corneliu Porumboiu.
Prod Patricia Poienaru,
Marcela Ursu.

With Vlad Ivanov,
Catrinel Marlon.
Romania-France-
Germany 2019.
97min.

UK Distribution
Curzon

Under surveillance by his own force, a corrupt Romanian cop becomes involved in a plot to spring a money-laundering businessman from police custody.

Political satire meets pulp fiction in the latest from Romania's Corneliu Porumboiu. It's a playful thriller that works as both a critique of state bureaucracy and a briskly commercial film noir. Unfolding in Tarantino-esque chapters that forge their own competing timescales, *The Whistlers* tells the story of Cristi, a weatherworn cop who's become part of the Bucharest crime syndicate he's meant to be investigating. This takes him to the island of La Gomera in the Canaries, where he is schooled in the art of 'silbo' whistling – a secret language used by shepherds that sounds like birdsong and hence is perfect for keeping secrets from his eavesdropping colleagues. The result is a slick and engaging mystery, steeped in the classic hardboiled mythology of Hammett and Chandler.

Damon Wise



JUNIOR BANGERS



I AM MACKENZIE



LET'S ROLL

SAT 5
20:45 PCC

THU 10
12:20 NFT2

DRIVE IT LIKE YOU STOLE IT!

Films that live for the moment. These individuals can't hold back as they head into murky and often unexplored territory. Nellie Alston

BETWEEN **ENTRÉ** Dir Ana Carolina Marinho, Bárbara Santos. Brazil 2019. 15min

Heightened physical desire can be both liberating and treacherous, as two women observe each other from their towers.

JUNIOR BANGERS Dir Danny Lee. UK 2019. 13min

Accelerating down muddy, fast lanes and then washing down a bottle of J20 is just part of these kids' weekly routines.

KIDS Dir Michael Frei. Switzerland 2019. 9min

Falling and running, this animation will keep you on your toes and then point you in the wrong direction because the group dynamics are never set.

EYES ON THE ROAD Dir Stefanie Kolk. Netherlands 2019. 17min

Discussions on a road trip hover around a devastating act, but at what point is it okay to call someone out on their opinions?

DÜERRENWALD 8 Dir Kirsten Carina Geisser, Ines Christine Geisser. Germany 2018. 7min

Two sisters collect memories, stories and observations from three generations and reshape them.

I AM MACKENZIE Dir Artemis Anastasiadou. USA-Greece 2019. 20min

What does someone have to do to be seen? Desired even? A tomboy skater with a crush tries to experiment, but rushed acts can yield unexpected outcomes.

LET'S ROLL Dir Chris Thomas. UK 2019. 23min

Bored and sick of being cast in male shadows, Antonia hurls her way through the problem – and after a Gloucester cheese.

Total running time 104min

This programme contains scenes of a sexual nature.

CULT

FROM THE MIND-ALTERING AND UNCLASSIFIABLE TO FANTASY, SCI-FI AND HORROR



THU 10
18:15 PCC

FRI 11
20:45 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

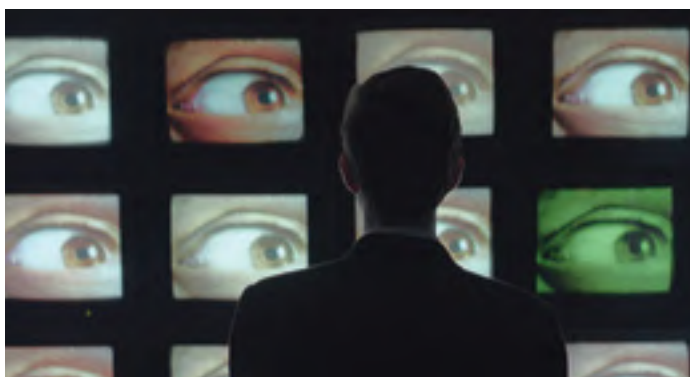
SUN 13
17:15 NFT3

ADORATION

Dir Fabrice du Welz.
Prod Vincent Tavier, Manuel Chiche, Violaine Barbaroux.
Scr Fabrice du Welz, Romain Protat, Vincent Tavier.
With Thomas Gioria, Fantine Harduin, Benoit Poelvoorde.
Belgium-France 2019. 98min.
EST.
Sales Memento Films International

The 'lovers on the run' genre is reimagined as childhood fairytale in this darkly unsettling odyssey from the acclaimed director of *Calvaire* and *Alleluia*.

12-year-old Paul lives an isolated existence with his mother, who works at a private psychiatric hospital in the woods near their house. One day, Paul encounters a young teen named Gloria, a mysterious new patient with whom he quickly becomes infatuated. As the fledgling pair forge a tentative friendship, Gloria convinces Paul to help her escape. But when they embark on a perilous journey together, his devotion is put to the test as Gloria's dangerous unpredictability gradually starts to surface. Driven by two hypnotic performances from its young stars, Fabrice du Welz's wistful, breathtakingly beautiful tale of dangerous obsession frequently recalls the dreamlike poetry of *The Night of the Hunter*, whilst still betraying that brutal edge which made his nightmarish debut *Calvaire* such a cause célèbre. Michael Blyth



THU 3
20:40 PCC

FRI 4
20:50 VUE6

THE ANTENNA

Dir-Scr Orçun Behram.
Prod Orçun Behram, Müge Özen.
With Ihsan Önal, Gül Arici.
Turkey 2019. 115min.
EST.
Sales Stray Dogs

Paranoia reigns in this arresting hybrid of body horror and social commentary, which promises to be one of the year's most subversive genre films.

Mehmet, the superintendent of a dilapidated high-rise apartment block is tasked with overseeing the installation of a government-imposed satellite dish, designed to monitor information in the building. Shortly after construction begins, the portentous death of an engineer signals the arrival of something far more suspicious than mere surveillance. As inexplicable transmissions infiltrate the homes of the residents, so does a strange black ooze that seeps through the walls. Invoking the corporeal preoccupations of early Cronenberg by way of *Tetsuo: The Iron Man* – and a dash of Lamberto Bava's *Demons 2* thrown in for good measure – Orçun Behram's dystopian sci-fi shocker is a thing of grotesque beauty, offering an audacious allegory for freedom of speech in contemporary Turkey. Big Brother is watching...

Michael Blyth



MON 7
20:30 PCC

TUE 8
18:10 VUE4

COLOR OUT OF SPACE

Dir Richard Stanley.
Prod Daniel Noah, Josh Waller, Lisa Whalen, Elijah Wood.
Scr Richard Stanley, Scarlett Amaris.
With Nicolas Cage, Joely Richardson, Madeleine Arthur.
USA 2019. 111min.
Sales XYZ

Richard Stanley, visionary director of horror classics *Hardware* and *Dust Devil*, makes a triumphant return with this dazzling adaptation of HP Lovecraft's otherworldly tale.

Determined to escape the relentless bustle of big city living, Nathan Gardner (Nicolas Cage) relocates his family to the remote New England farm where he was raised. Still coming to terms with recent personal hardships, the Gardners are looking forward to a new, happier chapter in life. But their plans are abruptly interrupted when a meteor crash lands on their property, bringing with it a mysterious alien force that infects and mutates first the land, and then the people it comes into contact with. His first narrative feature for 27 years, Richard Stanley's slick, stylish and suitably perverse interpretation of Lovecraft's notoriously 'unfilmable' cosmic philosophies is a thrilling combination of absorbing family drama and outré sci-fi madness. Good things really do come to those who wait. Michael Blyth



FRI 11
18:20 NFT1

SUN 13
13:10 VUE5

DEERSKIN

LE DAIM

Dir-Scr
Quentin Dupieux.

Prod
Mathieu Verhaeghe,
Thomas Verhaeghe.
With Jean Dujardin,
Adèle Haenel,
Albert Delpy.
France 2019.
77min.

UK Distribution
Picturehouse
Entertainment

One man's love for his designer jacket escalates to dangerous heights in what might just be the strangest serial killer film ever made.

To say that Georges has a fetish for deerskin would be an understatement. In fact, his dedication to his textile of choice is so unwavering, the recent divorcé blows his entire life savings on the vintage fringe jacket of his dreams. With nothing but his new coat for company, Georges holes up in a remote country inn (using his wedding ring as collateral) where he imagines being the only jacket-wearer in the world. When he meets an aspiring film editor named Denise (Adèle Haenel), Georges masquerades as an independent filmmaker, concocting a bizarre plan to make his outerwear fantasy a reality. Boasting a riotous performance from Jean Dujardin as the pelt-loving evangelist, the ever-unpredictable Quentin Dupieux's wickedly acerbic, deliciously deranged black comedy is a tailor-made cult classic. *Michael Blyth*



FRI 4
18:30 VUE5

MON 7
17:50 VUE6

KOKO-DI KOKO-DA

Dir-Prod-Scr
Johannes Nyholm.

With Ylva Gallon,
Leif Edlund Johansson,
Peter Belli.
Sweden-Denmark
2019.
86min.

UK Distribution
Picturehouse
Entertainment

If you go down to the woods today, you're sure of a very nasty surprise...

Three years after a shattering personal tragedy, Elin and Tobias' marriage is at breaking point. Consumed with unresolved pain and anger, the sparring pair head to the great outdoors for a camping trip in the hopes of salvaging their fractured relationship. But unbeknownst to these unhappy campers, they are not alone in the forest and soon Elin and Tobias find themselves trapped in a nightmarish cycle of torment and degradation from which there appears to be no escape. Delivering on the promise of his extraordinary Sutherland-nominated film *The Giant* (LFF 2016), director Johannes Nyholm's uncanny exploration of the devastating and disorienting forces of grief is a mystifying melange of phantasmagorical horror, pitch black comedy and searing psychodrama that, quite simply, has to be seen to be believed. *Michael Blyth*



WED 9
18:10 PCC

THU 10
12:45 TCR

DOC

THE EL DUCE TAPES

Dir-Scr
Rodney Ascher,
David Lawrence,
Ryan Sexton.

Prod
Tim Kirk.
USA 2019.
106min.
Prod Co
New City Road

Assembled from a treasure trove of archive VHS footage, the wild story of punk rock's most outrageous provocateur is not for the faint of heart.

Typically seen sporting an executioner's hood, Eldon Hoke, or El Duce as he was more commonly known, was the lead singer of Seattle DIY punk outfit The Mentors – a grossly offensive shock rock band who gained notoriety in the late 1980s/early 90s for their staggeringly unpleasant lyrics and scandalous onstage antics. At the peak of El Duce's infamy, daytime soap actor Ryan Sexton spent countless hours documenting the daily shenanigans of this self-appointed enfant terrible, leaving behind a bounty of VHS footage. Three decades later, Rodney Ascher (*Room 237*, *The Nightmare*) and David Lawrence have pieced together a fascinating portrait of an often-inscrutable man, which doesn't seek to redeem him, but to question whether his incendiary persona was an act of hateful propagation or political subversion. *Michael Blyth*



WED 2
20:30 PCC

SAT 5
15:30 VUE5

DOC

LEAP OF FAITH

Dir-Scr
Alexandre O Philippe.

Prod
Kerry Deignan Roy.
USA 2019.
104min.
Prod Co
Exhibit A Pictures

46 years ago, *The Exorcist* terrified an entire generation of cinema-goers. Now we explore what really went into the making of a horror masterpiece.

Having previously stepped into the shower for his exhaustive study of *Psycho*'s most famous scene with *78/52*, and boarded the Nostromo for the far reaches of space in *Memory: The Origins of Alien*, acclaimed documentarian Alexandre O Philippe turns his attention to another landmark of genre cinema – *The Exorcist*. Framed around an epic six-day interview with director William Friedkin, Philippe's expertly assembled analysis is not just an in-depth musing on one of the most influential and widely acclaimed horror movies of all time, but also an enlightening and intimate portrait of one man's creative process. Passionately discussing his influences, from Carl Theodor Dreyer to Caravaggio, and interrogating the obsessions he has returned to throughout his filmmaking career, Friedkin makes for a riveting subject – reflective, insightful and often disarmingly candid. *Michael Blyth*



SAT 5
18:00 NFT1

MON 7
15:30 VUE5

TUE 8
18:15 ICA

LITTLE MONSTERS

Dir Scr Abe Forsythe.
Prod Jessica Calder, Keith Calder, Steve Hutensky, Jodi Matterson, Bruna Papandrea.
With Lupita Nyong'o, Josh Gad, Alexander England.
Australia-USA-UK 2019.
94min.
UK Distribution
Altitude Film
Entertainment

Lupita Nyong'o shines in a delirious zom-com that guarantees you'll never listen to Taylor Swift in the same way again.

Dave is at a crossroads in his life. Recently dumped and with his aspirations of heavy metal stardom fading away, the eternal man-child is forced to crash on his sister's sofa. However, things look up when he meets the effervescent Miss Caroline, his 5-year-old nephew's favourite teacher. Desperate to spend time with the object of his affection, Dave signs up to chaperone a school trip to the local petting zoo. But when the neighbouring military base accidentally unleashes a hoard of zombies upon the unsuspecting farmyard, Dave, Miss Caroline and their miniature posse must join forces to keep the flesh-eating army at bay. Earning its place alongside modern undead comedy classics *Shaun of the Dead* and *Zombieland*, this raucous outing has more gags, gore and unashamed sentimentality than you can shake a severed limb at. Michael Blyth



FRI 11
20:45 NFT1

SAT 12
12:00 VUE6

SUN 13
20:50 SOHO

BRITISH

THE LODGE

Dir Veronika Franz, Severin Fiala.
Prod Simon Oakes, Aliza James, Aaron Ryder.
Scr Sergio Casci, Veronika Franz, Severin Fiala.
With Riley Keough, Jaeden Martell, Richard Armitage.
UK-USA 2019.
100min.
Sales FilmNation
Entertainment

Goodnight Mommy directors Veronika Franz and Severin Fiala take us to a remote cabin in the woods for their spine-chilling sophomore feature.

After the sudden death of their beloved mother, heartbroken siblings Aidan and Mia struggle to embrace their father's new fiancée – the reserved, somewhat mysterious Grace. Forced to spend the holidays together at their isolated family lodge, the kids begrudgingly find themselves alone with their new mother figure when their dad heads back to work for a few days. As the weather outside worsens, tensions inside the cabin show little signs of thawing. Meanwhile, dark secrets from Grace's traumatic past slowly begin to surface. Beautifully shot by cinematographer Thimios Bakatakis (*The Lobster*, *The Killing of a Sacred Deer*) and featuring a mesmerising performance from Riley Keough as a woman haunted by the ghosts of her past, Veronika Franz and Severin Fiala's claustrophobic shocker wields the power to unsettle right from its opening moments. Michael Blyth



SUN 6
20:50 EMPIRE

MON 7
15:30 PCC

TUE 8
12:50 VUE4

SYNCHRONIC

Dir Aaron Moorhead, Justin Benson.
Prod David Lawson Jr.
Scr Justin Benson.
With Anthony Mackie, Jamie Dornan, Katie Aseton.
USA 2019.
100min.
Prod Co Rustic Films

Justin Benson and Aaron Moorhead (*Spring, The Endless*) return to the LFF with their latest hallucinogenic excursion into the far reaches of the mind.

Anthony Mackie and Jamie Dornan star as a pair of paramedics traversing the nocturnal streets of New Orleans. More than just colleagues, the duo enjoy a long-standing friendship, supporting each other through the difficulties they face in their increasingly complicated personal lives. But when they encounter a series of bizarre deaths which all appear to lead back to a new designer drug called Synchronic, the two men find their bond put to the test as their worlds are unexpectedly thrown into chaos. Effortlessly blending heady metaphysics with relatable human emotion, co-directors Benson and Moorhead continue to prove themselves the masters of heartfelt genre storytelling. Wildly imaginative, thrillingly eccentric and positively dripping in potent foreboding, this is a trip well worth taking – although where you'll end up, nobody knows. Michael Blyth



TUE 8
20:40 SOHO

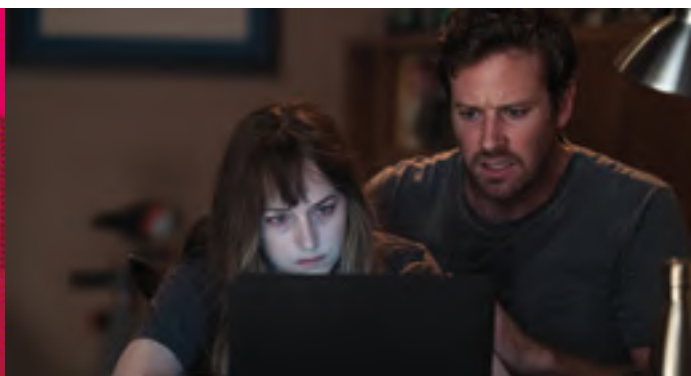
THU 10
20:50 TCR

VIVARIUM

Dir Lorcan Finnegan.
Prod Brendan McCarthy, John McDonnell.
Scr Garret Shanley.
With Imogen Poots, Jesse Eisenberg.
Ireland-Belgium-Denmark 2019.
98min.
UK Distribution
Vertigo Releasing

Imogen Poots and Jesse Eisenberg play a pair of first-time buyers who get more than they bargained for in this twisted fable about the horrors of suburban living.

Young professionals Gemma and Tom are looking to buy a home together. When their local estate agent informs them of a new housing development, the enigmatically named Yonder, they ignore their initial reservations and decide to check it out. But this cautious couple should have listened to their instincts, quickly finding themselves unable to escape the seemingly endless maze of picture-perfect streets. As the weeks pass, they are forced to accept they are trapped inside this manufactured utopia. Then, one day, a baby boy is mysteriously delivered to their doorstep. Invoking both the mind-bending weirdness of a classic *Twilight Zone* episode and the playful contemporary satire of *Black Mirror*, Lorcan Finnegan's nightmarish jaunt up the property ladder is as thrillingly provocative as it is wickedly enjoyable. Sold! Michael Blyth



FRI 4
18:15 EMPIRE

SAT 5
12:45 TCR

SUN 6
15:00 VUE7

WOUNDS

Dir-Scr Babak Anvari.
Prod Lucan Toh, Babak Anvari, Christopher Kopp.
With Armie Hammer, Dakota Johnson, Zazie Beetz.
USA 2019.
96min.
UK Distribution
Netflix

Armie Hammer and Dakota Johnson are drawn into a bizarre nightmare in Babak Anvari's fascinating and unconventional follow-up to *Under the Shadow*.

Perennial slacker Will spends his nights getting drunk with friends at the dicey dive bar he tends in New Orleans. Despite the occasional fight with his girlfriend Carrie, Will's life is mostly free of stress. But after a violent bar brawl breaks out one night, Will comes across an abandoned cell phone amongst the bloody wreckage. As he tries to return the mobile to its rightful owner, mysterious texts begin to appear, slowly enveloping both himself and Carrie into a twisted web of ritual violence and unspeakable malevolence. Adapted from Nathan Ballingrud's novella 'The Visible Filth', Babak Anvari's sweat-soaked fever dream delivers a spellbinding mix of pitch-perfect genre scares and unnerving ambiguity that slowly burrows its way under your skin and refuses to leave. Michael Blyth



WED 2
18:40 VUE5

THU 3
18:15 PCC

DOC

YOU DON'T NOMI

Dir Jeffrey McHale.
Prod Ariana Garfinkel, Jeffrey McHale.
USA 2019.
92min.
Sales XYZ Films

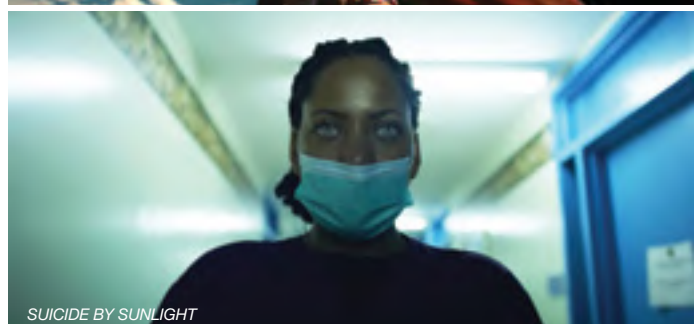
Paul Verhoeven's much-maligned masterpiece is placed under the microscope in this fascinating rumination on the one and only *Showgirls*.

When it opened in 1995, Paul Verhoeven's big-budget sleaze-fest *Showgirls* was the talk of the town – for all the wrong reasons. Reviled by critics and ignored by audiences, the only place it found any love was at the Razzies. But time is a great healer, and as the years have passed, perceptions of the film have gradually shifted. In his riveting and deftly cine-literate investigation into the evolution of a true cult classic, Jeffrey McHale assembles a chorus of critics, academics and fans to have their say on one of cinema's most baffling creations. More akin to an essay film than a conventional documentary, *You Don't Nomi* makes a fascinating case for – and against – a film that we are still trying to understand all these years later. Now, pass me that Doggy Chow!

Michael Blyth



RAIN, RAIN, RUN AWAY



SUICIDE BY SUNLIGHT



NIMIC

SUN 6
17:50 SOHO

TUE 8
15:15 VUE4

WHEN YOU THINK YOU KNOW HOW IT ENDS

From encounters in the unlikelyst of places in the city you sleep in, to the brightest of days in places you'll never visit in a supernatural world. Meet the doppelgängers, the outcasts and the weirdos. Elaine Wong

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE WATER AND THE MOON Dir Jian Luo. China 2019. 16min. EST
During an abortion, 17-year-old Yang gives birth to a live jellyfish in her bathroom.

BE STILL MY BEATING HEART Dir Ruth Paxton. UK 2019. 25min
A nightmarish, contemporary vision. Two adult sisters exist dysfunctionally, each limited by illnesses affecting both body and mind – one physically and the other psychologically. Featuring Maxine Peake (*Funny Cow*, this Festival's *Fanny Lye Deliver'd*).

RAIN, RAIN, RUN AWAY Dir Clémentine Carrié. France 2019. 15min. EST
Left to her own devices during an August heatwave, a seven-year-old wild child and her companion have an adventure filled with squirt guns, cicadas and rain dances.

ROADKILL Dir Leszek Mozga. UK 2019. 8min
In a world where deer are the dominant species, one alpha male goes for an evening car ride and has an unfortunate accident.

WHITE GIRL Dir Nadia Latif. UK 2019. 13min
Beth is seemingly lost. As she wanders around seeking help from strangers, things take a darker turn.

SUICIDE BY SUNLIGHT Dir Nikyatu. USA 2018. 17min
Valentina, a day-walking black vampire protected from the sun by her melanin, is forced to restrain her bloodlust to regain custody of her estranged daughters.

NIMIC Dir Yorgos Lanthimos. Germany-UK-USA 2019. 12min
Yorgos Lanthimos (*The Lobster*, *The Favourite*) tells the story of a professional (Matt Dillon) cellist who has an encounter with a stranger on the subway, with unexpected and far-reaching ramifications.

Total running time 106min

Content warning: This programme contains explicit content and themes, including violence and graphic images.

JOURNEY

WHETHER IT'S THE JOURNEY OR THE DESTINATION, THESE FILMS TRANSPORT YOU AND SHIFT YOUR PERSPECTIVE



SUN 6
20:20 ICA

MON 7
12:45 NFT3

37 SECONDS

Dir-Scr Hikari.
Prod Shin Yamaguchi, Hikari.
With Mei Kayama, Misuzu Kanno, Shunsuke Daito.
Japan 2019.
115min.
EST.
UK Distribution Netflix

A young woman with cerebral palsy strikes out for independence with the help of a sex worker in this sensational Japanese debut.

Yuma (first-time actress Mei Kayama, who has cerebral palsy) is a manga artist. When she's not being smothered by an overprotective mother, she's getting ripped off by an exploitative friend who claims Yuma's work as her own. Following her first attempt at creating erotic comic books, she's advised by a publisher that she go out and experience the world she wants to depict. And so Yuma embarks on a sensual adventure that takes her from love hotels to a newly-authentic experience of life. Director Hikari's debut feature is a warm-hearted and clear-eyed exploration of the sexual experience of a person with disabilities. Kayama gives a total charmer of a performance, constantly funny and sweet, as Yuma happily smashes her way through taboos and goes beyond other people's expectations of her. *Kate Taylor*



MON 7
20:15 SOHO

TUE 8
12:45 NFT2

DOC

ADOLESCENTS

Dir Sébastien Lifshitz.
Prod Muriel Meynard.
France 2019.
135min.
EST.
Sales Doc & Film International

This captivating coming-of-age documentary follows best friends Anaïs and Emma for five years of teenagehood.

Born in a small, provincial French town, Anaïs and Emma have been best friends since childhood. It's a friendship that's blind to differences in social backgrounds and character. Given incredible access, Sébastien Lifshitz (*The Invisibles*, LFF 2013) painstakingly filmed Emma and Anaïs' transformation over the years, during a period when their physical, emotional and intellectual development is dramatic. We first meet them aged 13, their lives are dominated by boys, teachers and arguing with their mums. But as we witness them near adulthood, their journey is both fascinating and surprisingly moving. At the same time, the influence of their environment and family circumstances becomes increasingly apparent. New experiences, everyday conversations and events both personal and political anchor the film, creating a uniquely textured and deeply personal portrait of two young French women. *Laure Bonville*



SUN 6
18:00 ICA

MON 7
15:30 NFT3

AGAIN ONCE AGAIN DE NUEVO OTRA VEZ

Dir-Scr Romina Paula.
Prod Diego Dubcovsky.
With Romina Paula, Mónica Rank, Ramón Cohen.
Argentina 2019.
84min.
EST.
Sales
Compañía de Cine

Argentinian actor Romina Paula meditates on motherhood, identity and relationships in this enticing combo of real life and fiction.

'Is this a break up or is this a holiday? Probably both,' ponders Paula on the phone to her best friend. Playing a version of herself, she takes a break from her boyfriend in Cordoba to stay in Buenos Aires with her actual mum and three-year-old son Ramon. Trying to figure out who she is after three years of all-consuming love for her boy, along with a demanding relationship, she hangs out with old friends, discovers the thrilling possibilities of a new love and reflects on her German heritage. Playfully pushing form, *Again Once Again* is a deliciously inventive debut feature – bluntly honest and deeply personal, but also a relatable examination of the often overwhelming experience of being a woman, a lover and a mother. *Laure Bonville*



THU 3
18:20 NFT3

SAT 5
20:30 VUE4

BURNING NIGHT

BREVE MIRAGEM DE SOL

Dir Eryk Rocha.

Prod Edgard Tenenbaum, Diego Dubcovsky, Eryk Rocha, Walter Salles.

Scr Eryk Rocha, Fabio Andrade, Julia Ariani.

With Fabricio Boliveira, Bárbara Colen, Cadu N Jay.

Brazil-France-Argentina 2019.

98min.

EST.

Sales FiGa Films

Eryk Rocha's edgy, impressionistic chronicle of the nocturnal encounters of a Rio cab driver vividly captures the strange unpredictability of a rapidly changing world.

Down on his luck and recently divorced, Paulo (Boliveira) has begun driving a cab around Rio, hoping he'll make enough to send his ex money to support their ten-year-old son. He mostly works nights, so in addition to his encounters with a colourful variety of customers, colleagues, cops and others, he must cope with loneliness, fatigue and new faces in his life. Rocha's documentary background ensures a very effective interweaving of fiction and footage shot on the streets, while the camerawork and editing have a hallucinatory quality appropriate to Paulo's nocturnal existence. A persuasive portrait both of a vibrant, volatile city which embraces a range of different experiences and moods, and of a sometimes strangely unfamiliar world stumbling towards an uncertain future.

Geoff Andrew



SAT 12
18:30 SOHO

SUN 13
15:30 MAYFAIR

DOC

CIRCUS OF BOOKS

Dir Rachel Mason.

Prod Camilla Hall, Cynthia Childs, Kathryn Robson, Rachel Mason.

USA 2019.

87min.

UK Distribution

Netflix

Imagine discovering that your parents have been running a gay adult book store for most of their lives...

When they fell on hard times in the 1970s, Karen and Barry Manson answered an ad in the local paper, asking for people to distribute Larry Flynt's new magazine *Hustler*. One thing led to another and they became the unlikely owners of Circus of Books, a gay adult book store and porn distributor in LA. The couple's daughter, director Rachel Mason, turned her camera on her family to explore this stranger-than-fiction story and the many obstacles her parents encountered, from keeping their business secret from their loved ones and facing jail for obscenity, to witnessing the AIDS epidemic and the challenges faced in the age of the Internet. Funny and compassionate, this is a tender and charming portrait of an unconventionally conventional family. Laure Bonville



THU 10
18:40 VUE6

FRI 11
12:45 ICA

DOC

THE CORDILLERA OF DREAMS

LA CORDILLERA DE LOS SUEÑOS

Dir-Scr

Patricio Guzmán, Patricio Guzmán, Renate Sachse.

Chile-France 2019.

84min.

EST.

UK Distribution

New Wave Films

Veteran documentarist Patricio Guzmán completes his trilogy about Chile's troubled past, meditating on how the Andes shaped its sense of identity.

Completing the trilogy that included the sublime *Nostalgia for the Light* and *The Pearl Button*, Guzmán's characteristically contemplative commingling of the personal and political takes as its driving metaphor the mountain range which once protected and isolated Chile from the outside world. Exiled since the 1973 coup, Guzmán returns to Santiago, city of his childhood, to ponder – with help from others – what the timeless wall of the Andes Cordillera means to Chilean culture. As ever, his methodology is measured, lyrical (Samuel Laho's crystalline landscape images are stunning), philosophically allusive and politically pertinent: the film's second half includes a tribute to cameraman Pablo Salas, who remained in Pinochet's Chile to film protest and oppression. Salas' archive represents the need for documentation and remembrance, watchwords for Guzmán since he made *The Battle of Chile* four decades ago. Geoff Andrew



WED 9
18:30 NFT1

THU 10
18:15 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

FRI 11
15:15 VUE4

AN EASY GIRL

UNE FILLE FACILE

Dir Rebecca Zlotowski.

Prod Frédéric Jouve.

Scr

Rebecca Zlotowski,

Teddy Lussi Modeste.

With Mina Farid,

Zahia Dehar,

Benoît Magimel,

Nuno Lopes.

France 2019.

90min.

Sales Wild Bunch

Rebecca Zlotowski investigates desire, the lure of the high life and the imagery of modern female sexuality in a French summer-of-sun drama with a difference.

After her 1930s-set *Planetarium*, writer-director Rebecca Zlotowski returns to the present with this coming-of-age tale set in and around a sun-baked Cannes. Newcomer Mina Farid is terrific as 16-year-old Naima, who finds herself spending a summer with older cousin Sofia, whose assertively sexual image attracts the attention of two older men – a wealthy Brazilian yacht owner (Nuno Lopes) and his friend/gofer (Benoît Magimel). Sofia is vividly played by model and lingerie designer Zahia Dehar, whose own past as a figure of tabloid scandal gives the film an acute focus in its examination of contemporary female sexuality and its attendant images. With terrific supporting performances from Clotilde Courau and 'Riley' Lakdhar Dridi, *An Easy Girl* is also an intimate, witty, visually dazzling story about desire, friendship and pleasure. Jonathan Romney



FRI 11
18:00 VUE7

SUN 13
19:45 NFT3

GIVE ME LIBERTY

Dir Kirill Mikhanovsky.
Prod Alice Austen, Val Abel, Wally S Hall, Michael Manasseri, Kirill Mikhanovsky, George Rush, Sergey Shtern.
Scr Alice Austen, Kirill Mikhanovsky.
With Chris Galust, Lauren 'Lolo' Spencer, Maksim Stoyanov.
USA 2019.
111min.
Sales Wild Bunch

Kirill Mikhanovsky's anarchic look at disability and race in working-class America shares a fresh street-level energy with *Good Time* and *Tangerine*.

American-Russian Vic drives a van transporting disabled passengers around Milwaukee. He needs this job and today he's running dangerously late. Tracy, an African-American woman with ALS, is not impressed. But there's also Vic's eccentric Russian grandfather's neighbours, who all need a lift to a funeral, plus a livewire dude called Dima, who claims to be the deceased's nephew and is coming along for the ride. From these chaotic beginnings, the film zooms through a day and a night, creating a turbulent tapestry of working-class lives that touches on issues of race, disability and poverty in America's most segregated city. The pacing may be frenetic and the comedy uproarious, but most thrilling of all is the film's invigorating sense of how communities can be forged.

Kate Taylor



SUN 6
18:00 TCR

TUE 8
15:30 NFT3

THE GOLD-LADEN SHEEP & THE SACRED MOUNTAIN

SONA DHWANDI BHED TE SUCHHA PAHAD

Dir Ridham Janve.
Prod-Scr Ridham Janve, Akshay Singh.
With Arjun Pandit, Lokendra Gurung.
India 2018.
97min.
EST.
Prod Co National Film Development Corporation Ltd.

In the remote Himalayas, a shepherd searches for a mythical mountain where a plane has crashed. But is his heart as sacred as the place he seeks?

Time takes on a different role up in the mountains. You must take a moment to become attuned to the expansive surroundings; stop to look at the wild vista lest you miss the storm approaching, or you lose your flock to a bear. Shepherd Arjun and servant Bahadur guide their herd with skillful precision, passing time in the gruff friendship that their difference in age and status allows. One night, friends pass by bringing news of a crashed fighter jet in a distant valley. As their thoughts turn to the reward for its location, their humble mountain existence turns into a scene of increasing chaos. Ridham Janve's vivid debut moves with ease between documentary observation and metaphysical fable, delivering a film as rich as the treasures that are sought within it. Jemma Desai



SAT 5
18:15 TCR

MON 7
15:20 NFT2

THE HOUSE OF US

WOORI-JIP

Dir-Scr Ga-eun Yoon.
Prod Ji-hye Kim.
With Na-yeon Kim, Sia Kim, Ye-lim Joo.
South Korea 2019.
92min.
EST.
Sales Finecut

One for fans of the family dramas of Hirokazu Kore-eda: in *The House of Us* director Ga-eun Yoon proves herself one of the world's finest filmmakers at capturing contemporary childhood onscreen.

It's the summer holidays in the city and young Hana is trying to get her warring parents to reunite. But she's distracted from her quest one day by a couple of younger girls, nine-year-old Yoomi and seven-year-old Yoojin. As she swiftly becomes an older-sister figure to the pair, the trio's recess becomes one of imagination and adventure – from playing tricks on the landlady to going on a seaside reconnaissance – that leads to the bittersweet glimmerings of maturity. In her follow-up to the much-loved *The World of Us*, Ga-eun Yoon continues to draw astonishing performances from young actors and performs the cinematic magic trick of immersing us in children's perspective while allowing us to bring adult understanding to their experience. This is rich, joyous, heart-swelling cinema. Kate Taylor



SAT 12
20:10 MAYFAIR

SUN 13
20:10 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

THE INVISIBLE LIFE OF EURÍDICE GUSMÃO

A VIDA INVISÍVEL DE EURÍDICE GUSMÃO

Dir Karim Aïnouz.
Prod Rodrigo Teixeira, Michael Weber, Viola Fügen.
Scr Murilo Hauser.
With Carol Duarte, Julia Stockler, Gregorio Duvivier.
Brazil-Germany 2019.
139min.
EST.
UK Distribution New Wave Films

A deserving winner of Cannes' Un Certain Regard prize, this sumptuous tale of two sisters cruelly separated by family and fate makes for deeply moving drama.

While Eurídice hopes to escape strait-laced 1950s Rio through piano studies in Vienna, Guida's bid for freedom is to elope to Athens with her lover. Things don't work out as planned for either sister – not that they're aware of each other's progress, since the letters they write to one another over the years go unanswered... Predicated on one especially bitter and ironic twist of fate that keeps the siblings apart, Aïnouz's wonderfully sympathetic portrait of two very different women is also a mordant study of a profoundly patriarchal society where dreams are routinely dashed and freedoms denied. Hélène Louvart's striking cinematography and a very sensitive use of music eloquently evoke the sisters' energies and emotions, while the performances are top-notch throughout.

Geoff Andrew

JOURNEY



SAT 5 18:15 EMPIRE
SUN 6 15:45 PCC
MON 7 15:00 VUE7
HOH **BRITISH**

MONSOON

Dir-Scr Hong Khaou.
Prod Tracy O’Riordan.
With Henry Golding, Parker Sawyers.
 UK 2018.
 86min.
Sales
 Protagonist Pictures

Hong Khaou follows *Litling* (BFI Flare 2014) with this gorgeous drama that evokes the disorientation of returning to an unrecognisable homeland. Londoner Kit (Henry Golding, *Crazy Rich Asians*) has come to Vietnam to scatter his mother’s ashes and to connect with the place he departed from as a child. But everything has changed and he finds little to anchor him. That is, until he meets Lewis, a black American living in Saigon whose father served in the war that still underscores many of Kit’s interactions. The opening shot, an intriguing vantage on a busy traffic intersection with no road markings or discernible rules, sets the pace and theme for this gradually enveloping film. With its emphasis on moments of grace (the act of scenting lotus tea, Kit’s tender Skype calls to family), *Monsoon* builds an atmosphere that will likely resonate with anyone who has felt that unique sense of loneliness at being somewhere they once belonged. Kate Taylor



THU 3 18:15 VUE6
SAT 5 21:00 NFT2

THE ORPHANAGE
 PARWARESHGAH

Dir-Scr Shahrbanoo Sadat.
Prod Katja Adomeit.
With Qodratollah Qadiri, Hasibullah Rasooli, Masihullah Feraji.
 Denmark-Germany-France-Luxembourg-Afghanistan 2019.
 86min.
EST.
Sales Luxbox

Caught selling black market cinema tickets, young Qodrat is sent to a Soviet orphanage where he daydreams himself into his favourite Bollywood films. Set against the volatile backdrop of 1980s Afghanistan, the bold second feature by Shahrbanoo Sadat (*Wolf and Sheep*, LFF 2016) is not only a film about hopes and dreams, but one that has vision and audacity in abundance. Inspired by the unpublished memoirs of her friend Anwar Hashimi (who appears in the film as the orphanage’s director) we observe the camaraderie, friendships and daily routines inside the institution, witnessing the country’s conflict through the eyes – and lively mind – of film fanatic Qodrat. A poignant drama that writes Afghanistan’s history into film, as well as locating the moving image in the country’s present, *The Orphanage* is a beautiful homage to the power of cinema. Elhum Shakerifar



WED 2 18:20 VUE6
FRI 4 18:20 VUE4

ÖNDÖG

Dir-Prod-Scr Wang Quan’an.
With Dulamjav Enkhtaivan, Norovsambuu Batmunkh, Gangtemuer Arild.
 Mongolia 2019.
 100min.
EST.
Sales
 Arclight Films

Wang Quan’an returns with a witty, tender and visually bewitching tale of death, desire and camels on the plains of Mongolia. When police arrive in a secluded Mongolian landscape to investigate a dead body, they call in a local herdsman (Dulamjav Enkhtaivan) to shoot a marauding wolf. A gauche young male recruit (Norovsambuu Batmunkh) is left on guard, later joined by the herdsman for a moment of intimacy, shielded from the wind by an obliging camel. This rich, tender study by Chinese filmmaker Wang Quan’an (2007 Berlin Golden Bear winner *Tuya’s Marriage*) offers wit, warmth and philosophical speculation, centred around the enigma of the öndög – a fossilised dinosaur egg. With its mesmerising landscape photography, rich base of ethnographic detail and memorably no-nonsense heroine, this idiosyncratic study is irresistible and constantly surprising – right down to its highly eccentric use of Elvis’ ‘Love Me Tender’. Jonathan Romney



THU 3 18:30 VUE5
SAT 5 13:15 ICA
BRITISH

PERFECT 10

Dir-Scr Eva Riley.
Prod Jacob Thomas, Valentina Brazzini, Bertrand Faivre.
With Frankie Box, Alfie Deegan, Sharlene Whyte.
 UK 2019.
 84min.
Sales The Bureau
Sales

An aspiring teen gymnast’s world is turned upside down with the arrival of the half-brother she never knew she had. 14-year-old Leigh (impressive newcomer Frankie Box) lives with her neglectful father on the outskirts of Brighton. She’s a talented gymnast, training hard for her first competition despite her lack of confidence, some bitchy fellow gymnasts and little money to pay for her fees. When an older half-brother appears at her house one night, Leigh’s lonely existence is altered. Mistrust gradually transforms into exciting new feelings as Leigh receives the attention she craves. But she is also exposed to the thrill and danger of moped crime. Debut director Eva Riley delivers an assured and spirited coming-of-age story that explores with heartfelt sensitivity a sibling relationship. A keen visual style and lively soundtrack complete this portrait of wilful yet sensitive teenagehood. Laure Bonville



SAT 5
20:45 EMPIRE

SUN 6
12:45 TCR

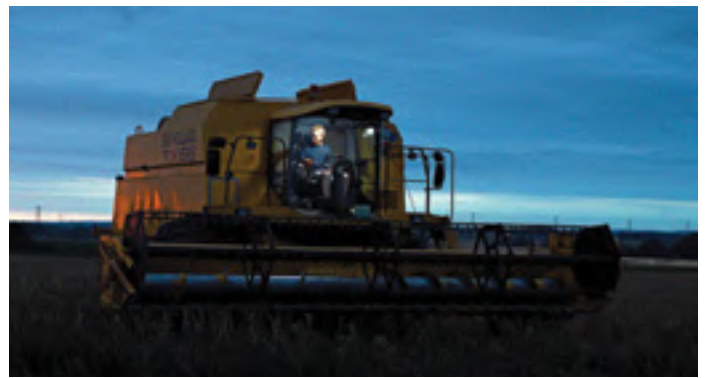
THU 10
18:20 NFT2

RIALTO

Dir Peter Mackie Burns.
Prod Alan Maher, John Wallace, Tristan Goligher, Valentina Brazzini.
Scr Mark O'Halloran.
With Tom Vaughan-Lawlor, Tom Glynn-Carney, Monica Dolan.
Ireland-UK 2019. 90min.
EST.
Sales The Bureau Sales

This second feature by *Daphne* director Peter Mackie Burns is a nuanced and deeply cinematic portrait of a middle-aged Dublin man disintegrating on all fronts. Dublin-based fortysomething Colm (Tom Vaughan-Lawlor, superb) is married with two older children and a long-term job at the docks. But his placid facade masks a psyche that's rapidly disintegrating. A recent takeover threatens his future employment, his teenage son treats him with disdain and he's grieving the death of his own, emotionally destructive father. Colm has also become infatuated with sex worker Jay (Tom Glynn-Carney), while avoiding contact with his wife Claire (Monica Dolan, as brilliant here as she is in our Laugh strand selection *Days of the Bagnold Summer*). Working from Mark O'Halloran's nuanced screenplay, Peter Mackie Burns has crafted a rich, cinematic and multi-layered portrait of a mid-life crisis, with *Rialto*'s visual incisiveness accentuated by its tense, enveloping sound design.

Manish Agarwal



WED 2
18:20 PCC

FRI 4
21:10 VUE4

DOC

RIDGE SÅSONG

Dir John Skoog.
Prod Erik Hemmendorff.
Scr John Skoog, Anna Karisinska.
With Agnieszka Podsiadlik, Artur Krajewski, Mateusz Wieclawek.
Sweden 2019. 71min.
EST.
Prod Co Plattform Produktio

An invitation to step inside the beautiful confusion of nature in Swedish artist John Skoog's innovative and luscious CPH:Dox award-winning debut.

A poetic delight, *Ridge* employs the breathtaking landscape of director Skoog's native Skåne County, in southernmost Sweden, as both stage and protagonist. In this hybrid fiction-documentary piece the aural, visual and physical senses of a place are explored through a series of imagined and re-played vignettes. Pastoral scenes and fragments of stories are juxtaposed, building a non-linear snapshot of lives lived on the periphery. Ita Zbroniec-Zajt's award-winning fluid cinematography (winner, Göteborg Film Festival's Sven Nykvist Cinematography Award) elegantly captures the rhythms and colours of life: one summer at the foot of the Söderåsen ridge, where animals, plants, machines and people function within and are shaped by the terrain. We are invited to make associative connections and, ultimately, to immerse ourselves in the glorious sensual and emotional experience of this extraordinary film. Sarah Lutton



SAT 5
18:00 VUE7

MON 7
13:00 PCC

BRITISH

RUN

Dir-Scr Scott Graham.
Prod Margaret Matheson, Ciara Barry, Rosie Crerar.
With Mark Stanley, Marli Siu, Amy Manson.
UK 2019. 78min.
Sales Film Constellation

Mark Stanley plays the petrol-head who never left town, in this Bruce Springsteen-inspired tale of thwarted dreamers.

Everything about Finnie (Mark Stanley), from the tattoo on his body to the records in his garage, screams that he was born to run. But life hasn't turned out that way. Toiling in the fish factory of this grey Scottish town, with the son he fathered young about to make him a granddad, Finnie cannot face the idea that this is all there is. So, when he gives a lift to his lad's pregnant girlfriend Kelly (Marli Siu), he is surprised to find in her a kindred spirit and to feel his lost adrenaline return. Director Scott Graham (*Shell*, LFF 2012) expertly evokes restless Scottish masculinity with guts and enough brusque sensitivity that each character remains sympathetic. And Mark Stanley thrills as the conflicted ex-boy-racer ready to take everything to the limit. Kate Taylor



THU 10
20:45 ICA

FRI 11
18:10 VUE6

SISTER SESTRA

Dir Svetla Tsotsorkova.
Prod Svetoslav Ovcharov.
Scr Svetoslav Ovcharov, Svetla Tsotsorkova.
With Monika Naydenova, Svetlana Yancheva, Elena Zamyarkova.
Bulgaria-Qatar 2019. 97min.
EST.
Sales Film Republic

A teenage girl's habitual fantasies have unforeseen consequences in Svetla Tsotsorkova's sensitive take on the apparently mundane lives of a mother and her two daughters.

Like her award-winning debut *Thirst* (LFF 2015), Tsotsorkova's latest drama is centred on a professional occupation – the making and selling of ceramic figures at a wayside shop. Rayna is a defiant teenager who says what she thinks and makes up stories to impress potential customers, but her fantasy world uncovers a hidden reality when she becomes involved with her sister's boyfriend. Focusing on the world of a single mother and her two daughters, *Sister* is, according to Tsotsorkova, 'a confession of love to those who live a seemingly unnoticeable life'. Strikingly composed and featuring superb performances by its leads, Tsotsorkova's drama has its fair share of twists and more than a few unexpected encounters as the three protagonists engage with the world around them.

Peter Hames



THU 3
20:45 VUE6

BSL

SAT 5
15:00 VUE4

A THIEF'S DAUGHTER

LA HIJA DE UN LADRÓN

Dir Belén Funes.
Prod Antonio Chavarrías, Alex Lafuente.
Scr Belén Funes, Marçal Cebrián.
With Greta Fernández, Eduard Fernández, Alex Monner.
Spain 2019.
102min.
EST.
Sales Latido Films.

An emotionally powerful drama from debut filmmaker Belén Funes, charts the trials and tribulations of a single mother with a singular sense of purpose. Meet Sara. She's 22, living in social housing and working in a range of low paid casual jobs. But she's determined to secure permanent employment in the hope of getting her younger brother Martín out of care and living with her and her young son at home. Enter her father Manuel, recently released from prison and keen to resume his place within the family. However, Sara has other plans and is insistent on keeping the volatile Manuel at a distance. Greta Fernández – playing alongside her real-life father Eduard Fernández (*Truman, A Gun in Each Hand, Biutiful*) – gives an astounding performance as Sara, who is determined to forge a family around her and refuses to take no for an answer. *María Delgado*



THU 3
20:30 TCR

SAT 5
15:20 VUE6

SUN 6
20:20 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

TABI NO OWARI SEKAI NO HAJIMARI

Dir-Scr Kiyoshi Kurosawa.
Prod Eiko Mizuno-Gray, Jason Gray, Toshikazu Nishigaya.
With Atsuko Maeda, Ryo Kase, Shota Sometani.
Japan-Uzbekistan-Qatar 2019.
120min.
EST.
Sales Free Stone Productions

Japanese auteur Kiyoshi Kurosawa explores cross-cultural miscommunication in this engagingly low-key portrait of a TV host becoming lost in Uzbekistan. The young frontwoman for a clichéd travel show, Yoko is a consummate professional. Though she's often forgotten or ignored by the small crew she's on the road with, as soon as the camera switches on she radiates 100-watt charisma and game-for-anything attitude. As the programme runs dry on ideas, she tries to forge her own connections to Uzbekistan and soon her cultural assumptions knock her off course. Kurosawa shifts gears from his recent apocalyptic riffs to something that, at first glance, seems more down-to-earth. But there is a different kind of fear at play here – that of the Other. Centred on a beautifully measured performance by Atsuko Maeda, *To the Ends of the Earth* offers a beguiling perspective on the pleasures and dangers of curiosity. *Kate Taylor*



THU 3
20:50 ICA

SAT 5
17:45 VUE4

DOC

TRANSNISTRA

Dir Anna Eborn.
Prod David Herdies, Michael Krotkiewski.
Sweden-Denmark-Belgium 2019.
95min.
EST.
Sales CAT&Docs

Anna Eborn's dreamy documentary details six teenagers coming of age over the course of one year whilst marooned in Transnistria, a Soviet-style breakaway republic sandwiched between Moldova and Ukraine. Five adolescent boys, Tolya, Sasha, Denis, Burulya and Dima, revolve around the charismatic and capricious Tanya, the lodestone of their little world. We watch as each youngster searches for identity, love and independence; their struggles and encounters with hope and disappointment play out in the largely rural landscape of their obscure homeland, first suffused in golden sunlight and then frozen in deep snow as the seasons turn. It's all beautifully shot in hand-held 16mm by Eborn's long-time cinematographer Virginie Surdej. Physically cut off from the outside world, but armed with mobile phones and Internet access, they dream of a life beyond the conservative nationalist reality of Transnistria. But how can they achieve it? And if the opportunity is there, who will dare take it? *Christine Bardsley*



SAT 12
18:00 EMPIRE

SUN 13
12:00 NFT3

BRITISH

US AMONG THE STONES

Dir D. R. Hood.
Prod Thembisa Cochrane, Georgie Paget.
With Laurence Fox, Anna Calder-Marshall, Raia Haidar.
UK-Belgium 2019.
95min.
Prod Co Likely Story

A family clan gathers beside an ageing matriarch's deathbed at her home on Dartmoor, but the conviviality soon gives way to the unearthing of long-buried secrets and resentments. Fraught brotherly ties and marriages founded on evasions – these were the themes of Dictynna Hood's first feature, *Wreckers* (LFF 2011). Here she expands on that hothouse chamberpiece to bring us a scabrous family portrait, etched with the grubby specificity of a down-at-heel Chekhov production. Toasting old glories but also biting their tongues, this brood converge and play hide-and-seek in their ramshackle birthplace, knowing all the sore spots they could trample on if cornered. Hood uses wispy collage to intuit their peculiar past and lets all their tragic pretensions off the leash. A particularly British flavour bubbles up – acrid and amused. It's down to the cast, especially an outstanding Laurence Fox, to make every glance a barbed arrow, tensed to retaliate. *Tim Robey*



APPRECIATION



ROOTS



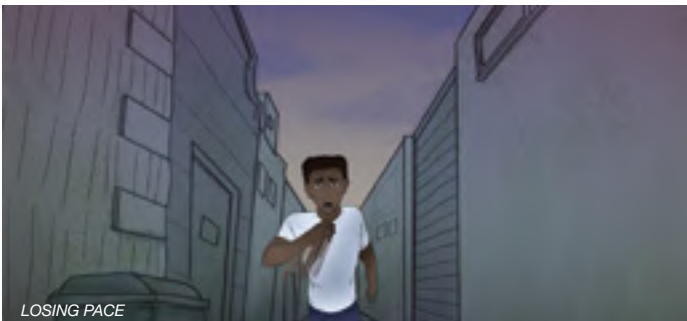
MILLER & SON

SUN 6
15:15 TCR

MON 7
12:50 VUE4



DAD JOKE



LOSING PACE



SOMETHING IN THE CLOSET

THU 10
18:00 NFT1

SAT 12
15:00 TCR

MY LIFE, WHOSE RULES?

Whether it's about remaining steadfast and true or redefining oneself in a shifting world, these short films tell of personal journeys of survival, identity and agency. Aduke King

APPRECIATION Dir Tomisin Adepeju. UK 2019. 15min

After a personal tragedy, a Pentecostal preacher is lifted by her congregation in this vivid treat for the eyes and ears.

THE TRAP Dir Lena Headey. UK 2019. 32min

When a reclusive woman falls in love, it's easy to fall with her in this tender and sensual story of shocking self-discovery. This debut film by actor Lena Headey (*Game of Thrones*, *300*) features Steven Waddington (*Last of the Mohicans*, *The Tudors*).

IF YOU KNEW Dir Stroma Cairns. UK 2018. 5min

A beautiful close-up of deaf brothers showing them making their own way in the world and not being defined by what others see as a disability.

SHE RUNS Dir Qiu Yang. China-France 2019. 19min. EST

Part of a school dance team, Yu is completely frustrated and desperate to leave, but her own agency pushes up against forces on all sides corraling her and deciding what's best.

FAULT LINE GOSAL Dir Soheil Amirsharifi. Iran 2018. 15min. EST

Nahal is an Iranian schoolgirl who must create a new version of the truth in a strict environment, despite there being unintended consequences to her self-preservation.

ROOTS Dir Hussina Raja. UK 2019. 4min

Actor Hussina Raja's (*A Moving Image*) directorial debut finds a South Asian couple in different locations and various guises as a way of questioning history, heritage and integration.

MILLER & SON Dir Asher Jelinsky. USA 2018. 21min

A mechanic is doing a good job of living two lives until an unexpected out-of-hours encounter, in this powerful study of identity.

Total running time 111min

LONDON CALLING

A selection of new shorts from some of the capital's most exciting upcoming filmmakers, funded by BFI NETWORK and delivered by Film London.

Jordan McGarry

MARTHA Dir Christopher Haydon. UK 2019. 16min

A teenager wakes to discover she's the last person on Earth.

DAD JOKE Dir David Abramsky. UK 2019. 16min

A disabled comedian performs a make-or-break gig on the night his first child is born.

STAND STILL Dir Isabella Wing-Davey. UK 2019. 16min

The darkness of postnatal depression threatens to overwhelm Susannah, but a chance encounter with Rupa might be the help she needs.

LOSING PACE Dir Naomi Soneye-Thomas. UK 2019. 8min

A young black man from a working-class background is on a trajectory towards success when an encounter with the police jeopardises everything.

OUR SISTER Dir Rosie Westhoff. UK 2019. 14min

A teenage girl with autism and her sister try to come to terms with their grief after the death of their younger sister.

SOMETHING IN THE CLOSET Dir Nosa Eke. UK 2019. 14min

A queer teenager struggles with her sexuality, as desires manifest their way from the depths of her eerie closet into reality.

Total running time 84min





OCTOBER 2019 - JANUARY 2020

TAMING
OF
SHREW

AS
YOU
LIKE IT

MEASURE
FOR
MEASURE

WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE

27 ACTORS 3 PLAYS
1 ELECTRIFYING SEASON

barbican

The RSC's London production of *The Taming of the Shrew*
is kindly supported by Cockayne – Grants for the Arts and the London Community Foundation.



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ENGLAND**

Photo by Paul Sloan © RSC

CREATE

FILMS THAT CHANNEL THE ELECTRICITY OF THE CREATIVE PROCESS, CELEBRATING ARTISTIC EXPRESSION IN ALL ITS FORMS



TUE 8
20:50 PCC

WED 9
15:45 NFT3

DOC

MAKING WAVES: THE ART OF CINEMATIC SOUND

Dir Midge Costin.
Prod Midge Costin, Bobette Buster, Karen Johnson.
Scr Bobette Buster.
USA 2019.
94min.
UK Distribution Dogwoof

Faders on stun: Hollywood sound editor Midge Costin's directorial debut is an immersive, educational and hugely enjoyable documentary exploring the power of sound in cinema.

Having honed the sonic impact of blockbusters such as *The Rock* and *Con Air*, sound editor Midge Costin has a blast with her hugely informative and entertaining directorial debut, an immersive documentary that explores and explains aural artistry in cinema. The film's ambitious chronology runs from the silent era through to last year's *Roma* (LFF 2018), spotlighting the innovations of New Hollywood legend Walter Murch and *Star Wars*' sound designer Ben Burtt. There's also an enlightening interview with Barbra Streisand, whose stereophonic 1976 vehicle *A Star is Born* made the theatrical experience fit for audiophiles. Other big names include Steven Spielberg, David Lynch, Sofia Coppola and Ryan Coogler, though Costin's emphasis is on unsung technicians, especially women, whose recording and mixing board skills shape the way we hear movies. Manish Agarwal



THU 10
20:30 SOHO

SAT 12
12:30 PCC

DOC

MILES DAVIS: BIRTH OF THE COOL

Dir Stanley Nelson.
Prod Nicole London, Stanley Nelson.
USA-UK 2019.
115min.
UK Distribution Eagle Rock Entertainment

All that jazz (and so much more): 20th century music's trumpet-playing prince of darkness receives the candid documentary his controversial genius deserves.

Veteran documentarian Stanley Nelson takes on the multifaceted creativity and myriad contradictions of Miles Davis in a mere two hours. This detailed, textured chronology offers something for all, from jazz newbies to viewers who've long been drowning in the ocean of genre-expanding music that poured from the musician's magically muted trumpet. *Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool* swings through five decades of sonic innovation: from hard bop to heavenly orchestrations, the ambient acoustics of *Kind of Blue* to the funky fusion of *Bitches Brew*. It's a treasure trove of electrifying archive and authoritative interviewees (including several collaborators and ex-lovers), which smartly deploys extracts from Miles's searing autobiography. The film also explores his impact on black cultural identity and doesn't flinch from discussing the violent, drug-fuelled ravages of a troubled and troubling icon. Manish Agarwal



FRI 4
20:45 NFT2

SAT 5
12:45 NFT2

SUN 6
14:45 VUE4

DOC

MY FRIEND FELA

Dir-Scr Joel Zito Araújo.
Prod Joel Zito Araújo, Luiza Botelho Almeida.
Brazil 2019.
94min.
Sales Wide House

An outstanding documentary that unravels with skill and precision the life of an extraordinary man whose myth and music has endured long after his death.

Fela Kuti inspired a generation of Africans and African Americans with his own unique style of music, known as Afrobeat. A combination of Afropop, jazz, highlife, juju and funk, it was infused with social and political criticism of the military dictatorship in Nigeria. With an expertly assembled mix of interviews and archive footage, director Joel Zito Araújo presents a complex portrait of an enigmatic and often troubled man. A deserving winner of the Paul Robeson Award for Best Film at FESPACO, Africa's largest film festival, in Burkina Faso, *My Friend Fela* is uncompromising in its exploration of one of the most charismatic artists of the late 20th century, whose principles and actions have sometimes proven as problematic as they have been inspirational. Keith Shiri



WED 2
21:10 VUE5

FRI 4
12:45 NFT2

DOC

RECORDER: THE MARION STOKES PROJECT

Dir Matt Wolf.
Prod Kyle Martin,
Andrew Kortschak,
Walter Kortschak.
USA 2019.
87min.
Sales CAA

The taped crusader: VHS nerds, media scholars and archive enthusiasts will appreciate this documentary about the African-American activist who recorded 30 years of TV news.

Everyone's an amateur archivist these days, but few match the pre-internet dedication of public access TV producer Marion Stokes. Philadelphia's visionary hoarder recorded 70,000 VHS tapes filled with news broadcasts, from 1979's Iranian hostage crisis to the Sandy Hook school shooting in 2012. *Recorder: The Marion Stokes Project* shows how this librarian, computer collector and *Star Trek*-loving civil rights activist quickly perceived the ways 24-hour cable television was rewiring viewers' minds. Hence her obsessive preservation project, captured to brilliant effect by celebrated documentarian Matt Wolf, who previously directed *Teenage* (LFF 2013). Enhanced by Owen Pallett's score, the film's cathode ray tube textures and armchair sensory overload will mesmerise everyone, from curious cultural historians to extreme analogue technology fetishists. Manish Agarwal



SAT 5
15:30 SOHO

SUN 6
20:30 VUE4

DOC

SHOOTING THE MAFIA

Dir Kim Longinotto.
Prod Niamh Fagan.
With Letizia Battaglia.
Ireland-USA 2019.
97min.
UK Distribution
Modern Films

Acclaimed documentary filmmaker Kim Longinotto (*Dreamcatcher*) sketches a captivating portrait of defiant Sicilian photographer Letizia Battaglia, whose extraordinary work recorded the Mafia's violent crimes.

There was little hint at Letizia Battaglia's skill as a crime-scene photographer. In her 40s, stuck in a stuffy bourgeois household and battling with depression, she took a job as a photographer for a Palermo-based newspaper. Planning to document ordinary people's lives, she soon found herself recording the reign of terror inflicted on the city's inhabitants by the Mafia. Those photographs are, by turns, visually dazzling and shocking. Narrated by Battaglia, who is now in her 80s, *Shooting the Mafia* combines archive footage from the era when Palermo was besieged by the Cosa Nostra, alongside details of the photographer's intrepid personal life. It's a poignant and inspiring account of a free-spirited woman profoundly attached to her city and ready to fight for it regardless of the danger to her own life. Laure Bonville
Screen Talk: Kim Longinotto p108



SAT 5
20:45 MAYFAIR

SUN 6
12:30 EMPIRE

DOC

BRITISH

SID & JUDY

Dir Stephen Kijak.
Prod Diane Becker,
John Battsek.
With Jon Hamm,
Jennifer Jason Leigh.
UK 2019.
97min.
UK Distribution
UPHE Content Group

Beyond the *Yellow Brick Road*, Judy Garland's post-MGM triumphs and tragedies are vividly recalled in a revelatory documentary that utilises her impresario husband Sidney Luft's memoirs.

Marking the 50th anniversary of her death, this is a heartbreaking, frequently witty and vividly atmospheric account of Judy Garland's turbulent relationship with third husband Sid Luft, who produced her 1954 comeback musical *A Star is Born*. That movie was part of a hugely stressful late-career renaissance that included countless TV specials and epic stage appearances, notably her classic 1961 Carnegie Hall concert. Ingeniously directed by LFF regular Stephen Kijak, *Sid & Judy* has *Mad Men*'s Jon Hamm narrate Luft's candid memoirs, with Jennifer Jason Leigh voicing Garland. Their voices are interwoven with rare archive material – including revealing excerpts from Judy's personal recordings – that cover the rollercoaster final years of a showbiz giant and quintessential gay icon, whose professional highs and private lows proved indivisible. Manish Agarwal



SAT 12
21:00 NFT1

SUN 13
11:30 OLLS

DOC

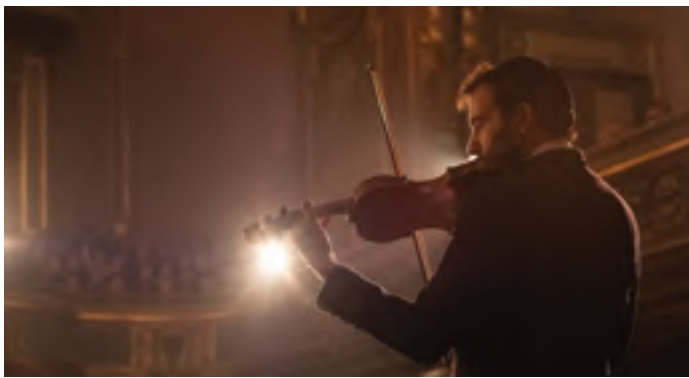
BRITISH

SOMEBODY UP THERE LIKES ME

Dir Mike Figgis.
Prod Peter Worsley,
Louis Figgis.
UK 2019.
71min.
UK Distribution
Eagle Rock
Entertainment

Mike Figgis' enthralling documentary about the turbulent life and career of Ronnie Wood, legendary rock guitarist and long-time member of The Rolling Stones.

Ronnie Wood is a genuine, 24-carat rock star guitarist. He has paid his dues, played hard, lived fast (in every sense) and somehow survived to tell the tale. And tell it he does, in Mike Figgis' revealing, biographical documentary, which charts Wood's stellar and storied career. From his childhood and entry into the 1960s music scene, through to his time with the Jeff Beck Group, achieving fame with The Faces alongside bandmate Rod Stewart and finally becoming an indispensable and permanent member of The Rolling Stones, Figgis captures it all. Featuring terrific archive footage, along with candid interviews with a very charismatic Wood and his many legendary friends, this is the perfect rock and roll treat. Adrian Wootton



SUN 6
15:00 MAYFAIR

TUE 8
20:40 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

THE SONG OF NAMES

Dir François Girard.
Prod Robert Lantos, Lyse Lafontaine, Nick Herschkorn.
Scr Jeffrey Caine.
With Clive Owen, Tim Roth, Catherine McCormack.
Canada-Hungary 2019.
111min.
Sales
HanWay Films

Starring Tim Roth and Clive Owen, François Girard's riveting period drama is a musical odyssey and historical detective story set against the backdrop of the Holocaust.

Dovidl is a Polish Jew and a violin prodigy who, during the Second World War, comes to study in London. He lives with a gentile family, initially attracting the jealousy of Martin, his host's son. But what starts out as an unusual coming-of-age story soon morphs into something much darker and deeper, when Dovidl disappears on the eve of his first major concert. Then, 40 years on, an adult Martin (Roth) embarks on a country-crossing detective hunt to establish exactly what happened to his adopted brother (Owen). A musically marvellous historic saga by Girard (*Thirty Two Short Films About Glenn Gould*, *The Red Violin*), this is also a terrific adaptation of Norman Lebrecht's acclaimed first novel, which won the Whitbread Award. Adrian Wootton



TUE 8
20:45 ICA

WED 9
15:40 NFT2

DOC

TALKING ABOUT TREES

Dir-Scr Suhaib Gasmelbari.
Prod Marie Balducci.
France-Sudan-Germany-Chad-Qatar 2019.
93min.
UK Distribution
New Wave Films

This beautifully shot feature debut, winner of the **Berlinale Best Documentary Award**, couldn't be timelier for Sudan.

The northeast African country is in a state of political and cultural instability, the result of unresolved trauma from decades of war and an increasingly hostile attitude towards culture that has resulted in the disappearance of countless cinemas. Filmmaker Suhaib Gasmelbari follows Ibrahim Shadad, Manar Al Hilo, Suleiman Mohamed Ibrahim and Altayeb Mahdi, four veteran members of the Sudanese Film Club, as they embark on a journey in which they aim to return cinemagoing culture back to the country. In the years that it has been absent, theatres have been turned into mosques and factories. But these men are passionate and determined to restore neglected classics from Sudan's cinematic past. They face religious and political resistance from all corners, but Gasmelbari presents their mission with affection, guile, dignity and humour. Keith Shiri



SAT 12
15:10 ICA

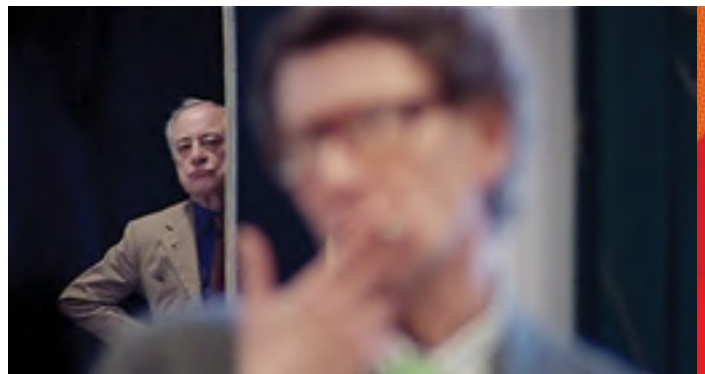
SUN 13
17:40 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

TO LIVE TO SING

Dir-Scr Johnny Ma.
Prod Vincent Wang, Jing Wang.
With Zhao Xiaoli, Gan Guidan, Yan Xihu.
China-France 2019.
105min.
EST.
Sales
Films Boutique

Gentrification hits working-class China and a Sichuan Opera troupe struggle to survive in this vivid drama with fantasy flourishes, portraying tradition's battle against time.

Zhao Li is a woman trying to hold it all together. The Sichuan Opera troupe she manages is creating beautiful work, but it plays to a dwindling audience of the loyal elderly from the theatre's down-at-heel neighbourhood. With the troupe consisting mainly of veteran performers, her hopes for a change in fortune rest on the shoulders of her talented niece Dan Dan. So, Zhao Li sets about putting on a show to grab the attention of a local bureaucrat who could reverse their eviction notice. For his second feature, Chinese-Canadian filmmaker Johnny Ma corrals a cast made up of real-life Sichuan Opera performers, painting this makeshift family in brightly coloured hues, and injecting humour and splashes of fantasy into this engaging tribute to the endurance of the artistic spirit. Kate Taylor



FRI 11
21:00 MAYFAIR

SAT 12
13:15 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

SUN 13
12:15 VUE6

DOC

YVES SAINT LAURENT: THE LAST COLLECTIONS CÉLÉBRATION

Dir Olivier Meyrou.
Prod Bénédicte Couvreur, Christophe Girard.
France 2018.
74min.
EST.
UK Distribution
MUBI

Withheld from release for nearly 20 years, this exquisitely crafted and moving documentary observes the last few years in the company of style icon Yves Saint Laurent.

In the late 1990s, director Olivier Meyrou spent several years filming behind the scenes at one of the most renowned Parisian *haute couture* houses, as Yves Saint Laurent was working on his final collection. He reveals the busy world of a fashion house, the seamstresses at work, the beautiful clothes and flamboyant catwalks. But what emerges most powerfully is the power dynamics between an ageing and reclusive Saint Laurent and an overbearing Pierre Bergé, the designer's partner in business and life. Shot in 16mm, alternating between B&W and colour, and accompanied by François-Eudes Chanfrault's boldly experimental sound design, this is a unique, beautifully textured and imaginative testament to the fashion visionary's legacy. Could this have been the inspiration for Paul Thomas Anderson's *Phantom Thread*? Laure Bonville

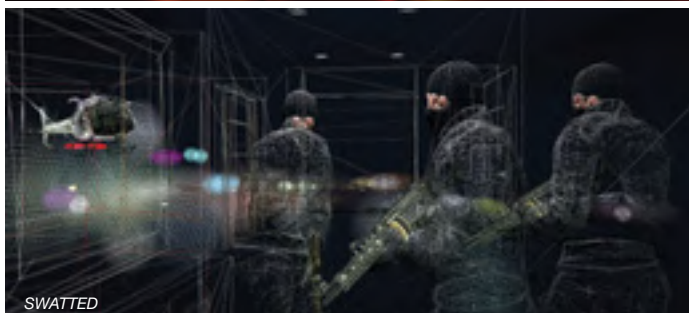
CREATE



21XOXO



ZOMBIES



SWATTED

FRI 11
20:45 TCR

SUN 13
18:10 NFT2

THE CULTURE

Online culture is now all-consuming, and constantly changing through fast-moving technology, both welcome yet terrifying in terms of what comes next. The films here illustrate those cultures brilliantly, whether on a personal level of daily life or the bigger political picture. Philip Iltson

PILE Dir Toberg. UK 2019. 3min

A vertical habitat that takes us from daily survival to the unhinged dystopia of late capitalism.

ALGO-RHYTHM Dir Manu Luksch. Austria-UK-Senegal 2019. 14min. EST

A hip hop musical, shot in Dakar, using Senegalese musicians and artists, which deconstructs comprehensive threats to human rights posed by the rise of the algorithmic management of daily life via social media and online platforms.

THE SASHA Dir Maria Molina Peiró. Netherlands 2019. 20min

In 1972, the astronaut Charles Duke landed on the Moon with Apollo XVI and was in charge of taking photos of the lunar surface. An exploration of space to cyberspace, from analogue to a virtual Moon in Google Earth today.

#21XOXO Dir Sine Özbilge, Imge Özbilge. Belgium 2019. 9min

A girl's online search for love in times of social media, speed dating, cyberlove, hipster culture and post-net attitudes. Contains flashing images.

POMPEII

Dir Harry Lighton, Marco Alessi, Matthew Jacobs Morgan. UK 2019. 9min

Tam (femme, black, 25) gets on the first tube home, plugs themselves into their phone and begin reliving their night out via social media stories.

TERTIARY SOUND Dir Solomia Dzhurovska, Luca Struijk. UK 2019. 9min

ASMR: A feeling that disappears because it's too subtle to notice, leaving a trace of a soft tingling sensation behind.

SWATTED Dir Ismaël Joffroy Chandoutis. France 2018. 21min.

Online game trolls make a sport of getting other players 'swatted' live during the game, by finding out names and addresses, and then making bogus 911 calls. The film uses these calls by offenders, YouTube videos of games and raids, and first-hand accounts.

ZOMBIES Dir Baloji. Belgium-Democratic Republic of the Congo 2019. 15min. EST

Tribal motifs and digital culture collide exploring the stupefying effects of mobile technology.

Total running time 100min



SIGHT & SOUND PRESENTS

MAURICE
PIALAT
AND THE
NEW
FRENCH
REALISM

OCTOBER – DECEMBER
BFI SOUTHBANK

Image: Loulou

EXPERI- MENTA

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FILMS BY ARTISTS THAT
REVOLUTIONISE AND RESHAPE
OUR VISION OF CINEMA



SUN 6
18:10 NFT3

SAT 12
17:00 STUDIO

THE DEATHLESS WOMAN

Dir-Scr Roz Mortimer.
With Iveta Kokyová,
Loren O'Dair,
Oliver Malik.
UK 2019.
89min.
Prod Co
Wonderdog Films

This is an elegiac account of the Nazi genocide of the Roma expressed through the supernatural myth of the 'deathless woman'.

Researching this hidden history, an artist is impelled to leave dusty documents behind and follow the story of a woman who was shot eight times but does not die. The soaring camera mimics her spirit as it haunts the beautiful landscapes that hide such ugly crimes. She is a harbinger of future persecution, but also a witness to the survival of a people that persist through their unique spirituality. Helen de Witt

• **GHOST DANCE** Dir Emilia Izquierdo. UK 2019. 5min
Emerging with flickering intensity from footage of Native American rituals, an animated dance appears which subverts past bodily expression.



SUN 6
20:50 NFT3

FRI 11
13:00 STUDIO

GEORGE: THE STORY OF GEORGE MACIUNAS AND FLUXUS

Dir-Prod-Scr
Jeffrey Perkins.
With George Maciunas,
Jonas Mekas,
Yoko Ono.
USA 2018.
120min.
Sales David Koh

Executive produced by Jonas Mekas, this portrait of artist George Maciunas traces the history of the Fluxus movement through rare footage, recreation of happenings and interviews with key figures.

An epic journey with many angles and perspectives, the film starts in Lithuania before moving to New York, where émigré Maciunas became an exceptional artist with roots in the Soviet avant-garde and Dada. The film uncovers his complex character and distinctive practice, expounding the rebellious creativity that imitated a whole international movement of artists, composers, designers and poets in the 1960s and 70s, and whose radical legacy powerfully endures. The film's playful editing evokes a key tenet of Fluxus, where process is more meaningful than end product. Archival and original interviews with major artists and commentators, including Mekas and Yoko Ono, create a scintillating portrait of underground New York; where radical art, drug experimentation, gender diversity and encroaching gentrification existed in tandem. Helen de Witt



SAT 5
20:50 NFT3

FRI 11
18:40 STUDIO

BRITISH

I DIE OF SADNESS CRYING FOR YOU

Dir-Prod-Scr
Nina Danino.
With Marifé de Triana,
Yolanda Figueroa,
Elena Danino.
UK 2019.
70min.
UK Distribution
LUX

Spanish popular *copla* songs and their mighty female singers are the focus of this evocative film.

A personal essay film on the powerful *copla* genre of Spanish music, a form of popular song that flourished in the 1930s and 40s. *Copla* communicates a specifically female sorrow and sadness from failed, often illegitimate, relationships that result in unrequited love or ostracism. Filmmaker Nina Danino reveals the strength and texture of *copla* performances, reappraising for a contemporary audience whilst revisiting her own memories of her mother singing. Sarah Perks

• **LOST TUNE** Dir Reetu Sattar. Bangladesh 2018. 14min
Compelling performance of long notes on the traditional Bangladeshi harmonium and *shehnais* – instruments on the brink of disappearance in contemporary society.



SAT 5
17:30 NFT3

SUN 13
15:00 ICA

OVERTURES

Dir Louis Henderson, Olivier Marboeuf.
Prod Louis Henderson, Olivier Marboeuf, Sarah Perks.
With The Living and The Dead Ensemble.
France-Haiti-UK 2019. 140min. EST.
Prod Co Spectre Productions

Reflecting on the legacy of Haitian revolutionary Toussaint L'Ouverture, *Overtures* follows a collective's process of translating Édouard Glissant's play *Monsieur Toussaint* from French to Creole.

Shot in Haiti and France by artists Louis Henderson (*The Sea is History*) and Diana Vidrascu (*Le Silence Des Sirènes*), this is the recording of a major international work that was directed by The Living and the Dead Ensemble, an artist collective from Haiti, France and the UK, who bring an embodied and contemporary perspective to the history of the only uprising of enslaved peoples that led to the creation of a state. Through complex conversations and performances of key texts, *Overtures* considers ideas around language and translation as well as major themes of colonialism, power, cultural memory, generational trauma, knowledge and resistance. This film will be presented as a Work in Progress. Rabz Lansiquot



FRI 4
20:40 NFT3

FRI 11
15:50 STUDIO

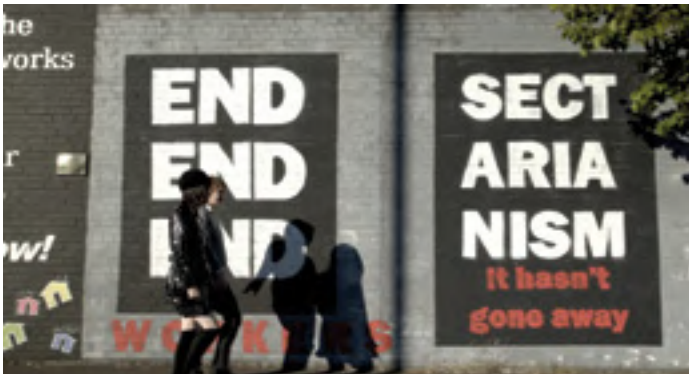
RUPTURES
KOPUŞLAR

Dir Brad Butler & Noorafshan Mirza.
Scr Birgül Oğuz, Noorafshan Mirza, Brad Butler.
With Murat Erkek, Devrim Evin, Yasmine Alice.
Turkey-UK 2019. 66min.
UK Distribution LUX

In Turkey, an MP, a former Police Commissioner, a right-wing assassin wanted by Interpol and a woman named Yenge are all involved in a car crash.

In this three-chapter, fictionalised re-imagining of real events, a post-patriarchal near future is proposed as the archetypal characters' conversations bring up issues of corruption and inequality. Throughout the film, Yenge's voice begins to interrupt the bravado of the male characters, leading to tales of women's emancipation and empowerment, barrier-breaking and activism. Rabz Lansiquot

♦ IN VITRO Dir Larissa Sansour, Soren Lind.
UK-Palestine-Denmark 2019. 28min. EST
Decades after an eco-disaster engulfs the biblical city of Bethlehem, two scientists from different generations discuss memory, exile and nostalgia in this symbolic speculative fiction.



FRI 4
18:00 NFT3

SAT 12
14:30 STUDIO

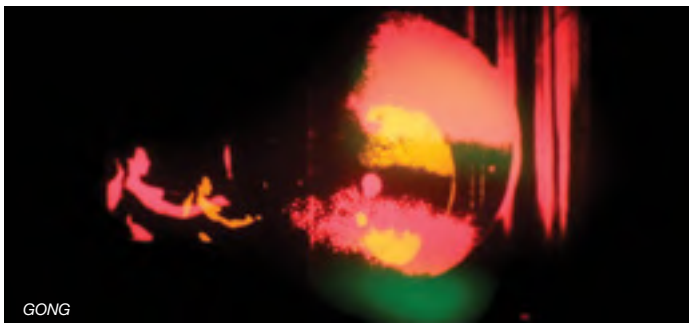
TROUBLE

Dir Mariah Garnett.
Prod Manal Laginaf.
With Robyn Reihill, Mariah Garnett.
USA-UK 2019. 83min.
Prod Co Mariah Garnett

A personal account of an estranged father set against the Northern Ireland conflict, this is a brave debut feature from Los Angeles artist Mariah Garnett.

A 1971 BBC documentary about love across the religious divide of Northern Ireland is the starting point of this heart-breaking story of a woman reuniting with her estranged father after many years. Los Angeles-based artist Mariah Garnett picks up her personal story with interviews and investigations revealing the traumatic effects of political upheavals on Belfast communities then and now. Garnett adds a queer playfulness through an incredible performance as her father, alongside multiple camera formats that interrogate constructions of identity. A remarkable debut film created partly with a local crew in Belfast, featuring trans actress Robyn Reihill as Garnett's mother. Sarah Perks





GONG

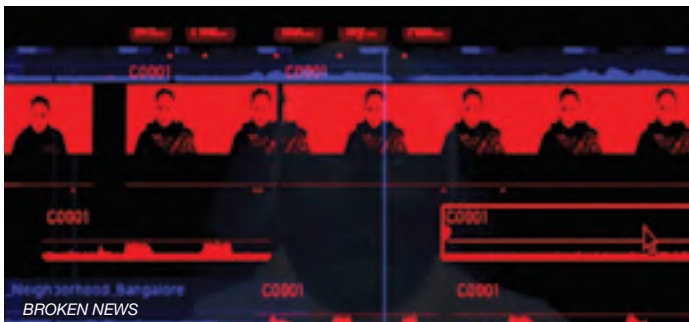


MUYBRIDGE'S DISOBEDIENT HORSES



LORE

SUN 6
12:30 NFT3



BROKEN NEWS



QUEERING
DI TEKNOLOJIK



HAND IN HAND

SAT 5
14:45 NFT3

DOUBLE VISION

Films that dispel visual certainties to present new optical perceptions.
Helen de Witt

GONG Dir David Leister. UK 2019. 5min
The greatest British film company emblematically deconstructed.

KITCHEN BEETS Dir Bea Haut. UK 2019. 1min
The domestic merging of musicality and semiotics.

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO MAKE A FILM Dir Nazli Dincel. USA-Canada 2018. 13min
Think 16mm filmmaking is serious not sexy? Think again.

MUYBRIDGE'S DISOBEDIENT HORSES Dir Anna Vasof. Austria 2018. 5min
Everyday objects and movements are employed as cinematographic mechanisms.

EASTERN STATE Dir Talena Sanders. USA 2019. 5min
Found footage of one of the oldest US mental health institutions communicates something beyond its intended purpose.

EARLY YEARS Dir Morgan Quaintance. UK 2019. 16min
Family photographs reconstruct the story of a Jamaican child living in Southend.

LORE Dir Sky Hopinka. USA 2019. 10min
Transparent images dance around a lightbox to create new apparitions.

VIDEO HOME SYSTEM Dir Sharlene Bamboat. Canada 2018. 19min
How bootleg video kept the Pakistani film industry alive under censorship in the 1980s and 90s.

MENSCH MASCHINE OR PUTTING PARTS TOGETHER Dir Adina Camhy. Austria 2019. 8min
Parents of a female artist give her a food processor instead of a synthesiser. Why?

A STATE OF GRACE Dir John Smith. UK 2019. 3min
Safety is not funny except when experienced by this artist.

A LINE WAS DRAWN Dir Mairéad McClean. UK 2019. 14min
Delineations of control structured through the creation of restrictive borders.

A LOVE Dir Anne-Marie Copestake. UK 2019. 16min
An engagement with love and loss, presence and absence that become ritualised in need for recognition.

Total running time 115min

NEW WORLD ORDER

This programme is an international cinematic adventure roving across the boundaries that define present-day society, including geopolitics, technology, neo-colonialism and how the human future is only conceivable in relation to the past. Sarah Perks

BROKEN NEWS Dir Trim Lamba. UK 2019. 9min
Trim Lamba's *Cracked Screen* new short looks at the exploitative circulation of video on the internet.

UNCONTROLLABLE UNIVERSE Dir James Richards. Germany-UK 2019. 5min
A pan and zoom essay by Turner Prize-nominated artist James Richards, animating still life, found archive material and scans of medical equipment.

QUEERING DI TEKNOLOJIK Dir Timothy Smith. UK 2019. 9min.
Did we manage to dismantle the white supremacist capitalist patriarchy and avert the impending environmental catastrophe?

COCKTAIL Dir Enoch Cheng. Hong Kong S.A.R 2019. 11min.
China's internal economic migration through the dislocated people, creating the cities of the future, from Hong Kong artist and curator Enoch Cheng.

HAND IN HAND SUNU JAPPO Dir Ming Wong. Senegal-China-Germany 2019. 15min. EST
Exploration of the Chinese-Senegalese relationship, featuring the Museum of Black Civilisations, recently built by China and conceived as a powerful symbol of decolonialisation.

MOTHER OF FIRE UM AL NAAR Dir Farah Al Qasimi. United Arab Emirates-USA 2019. 40min
Confessional TV documentary following an ancient Jinn called Mother of Fire and her ruminations on the history of the UAE, colonial meddling and contemporary Eurocentric museum display practice.

Total running time 89min



SOJOURNER



PRIMEIRO ATO



PELOURINHO, THEY DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT US

SAT 5
12:30 NFT3



KASITERIT



CLOUDBERRIES



ANTARCTIC TRACES

SUN 6
15:20 NFT3

STRATEGIES OF REFUSAL

This programme brings together works that represent the breadth and complexity of resistance across the African Diaspora, considering spirituality, music and arts alongside protest as key interventions for freedom.

Rabz Lansiquot

SOJOURNER Dir Cauleen Smith. USA 2018. 23min

Honouring the Black feminist activists of the past and present, Cauleen Smith re-imagines Noah Purifoy's Desert Museum in California as a utopian community.

FI DEM II Dir Zinzi Minott. UK 2019. 9min

An investigation of Blackness, labour, diaspora and family heritage through archive, glitch, strobe and sound. A commitment to the Windrush generation.

PRIMEIRO ATO Dir Matheus Parizi. Brazil 2019. 19min. EST

Theatre students André and Gabriel drum up support for resistance against the dismantling of culture policies in Brazil.

PATTAKI Dir Everlane Moraes. Cuba 2018. 21min.

Under the light of the moon, a community affected by water scarcity marvel at the power of the Orichà water deity Yemayá.

OH MY HOMELAND Dir Stephanie Barber. USA 2019. 4min

Great soprano Leontyne Price attempts to maintain her composure on stage as she receives adoration from her audience at her 1985 farewell opera.

PELOURINHO, THEY DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT US

Dir Akosua Adoma Owusu. Ghana 2019. 9min.

Referencing a 1927 letter from WEB Du Bois to the Brazilian Embassy, colourful footage illustrates an exploration of anti-blackness in Brazil.

BLACK BUS STOP

Dir Kevin Jerome Everson, Claudrena N. Harold. USA 2019. 9min

A performative reclamation of a site of resistance through dance for African American students.

Total running time 94min

WHAT REMAINS

A series of artists' short films that explore the effects of human and capitalist destruction of the natural world. Rabz Lansiquot

KASITERIT Dir Riar Rizaldi. Indonesia 2019. 18min

An exploration of the materiality and significance of tin, technology and the labour dynamics of Indonesia's Bangka island.

THAT WHICH IS TO COME IS JUST A PROMISE Dir Flatform. Italy-Netherlands-New Zealand 2019. 22min

A single long shot explores the possibility of Tuvalu's submergence under water, a transformation that scientists have predicted will happen in the next 30 years.

CLOUDBERRIES Dir Ruth MacLennan. UK-Russia 2019. 22min.

Everyday lives carry on in a small fishing village in the Kola Peninsula of Arctic Russia during the hottest summer on record.

ANTARCTIC TRACES Dir Michaela Grill. Austria-Canada 2019. 30min

Exploring parts of Antarctica through literary sources and the history of the whaling industry to illuminate the void left behind after human exploitation.

Total running time 92min



SAT 12
19:30 NFT3

TREASURES

UNHEIMLICH II: ASTARTI

Dir-Scr Maria Klonaris, Katerina Thomadaki.
With Maria Klonaris, Parvaneh Navai, Katerina Thomadaki.
France 1980.
165min.
Prod Co A.S.T.A.R.T.I.
Restored from Super 8 in 2K by the Direction du Patrimoine Cinématographique, CNC under the supervision of Katerina Thomadaki.

A monumental work of sublime beauty, this exquisite 2K restoration of the Super8 original is profound in its expression of the eternal feminine.

Astarti, the Greek name for Ishtar, is an archetype of a deep, nocturnal feminine that emerges from subterranean darkness. We experience an embodied cinematic experience realised through a sensuous aesthetic as we are invited to enter a strange and uncertain world of inner depths and hypnotising effects. There, we encounter three women actantes, embodied by the artists, who play mythic and magical female figures such as Medusa and Salome. They metamorphose, dance and enter trances where the body vibrates into transformation. Figures reveal themselves out of silence which is both the moment of creation and an eternal reality. The film itself actualises that which is inactual and gives form to blackness through a poetics of intimacy and an ethics of interpersonal relationships, which is founded in the artists' own double authorship. Helen de Witt

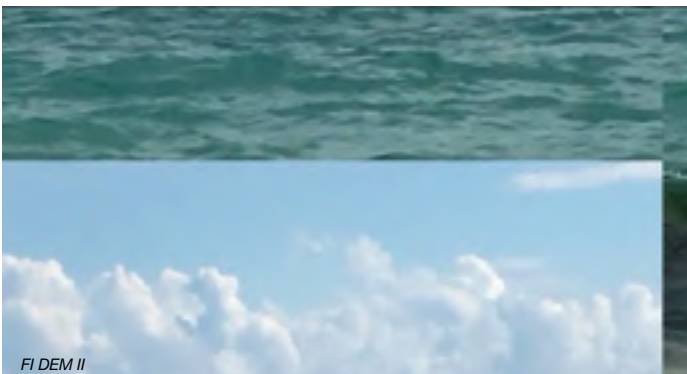


TUE 8
18:00 NFT3

EXPERIMENTA MIXTAPE LFF SPECIAL

Need a boost? Come to the Experimenta Mixtape and refresh your senses.

The Experimenta Mixtape is a joyful, provocative experiment in cinema programming and spectatorship. Nurtured, developed and refined over the last year at BFI Southbank, we now present a very special edition for the London Film Festival. Can we tell you what's in it? No! That's the whole point of the Mixtape: no films are announced in advance and programme notes are only given out at the end. So take a seat and immerse yourself in the unknown, with the promise of travel through cinema and artist film history and a rich weave of archival films making powerful connections to the contemporary. There will be no introductions or discussion and this edition will reflect on the specific context of the film festival itself. William Fowler




FRI 4
13:00 ICA

THE EXPERIMENTA DEBATE

Join a selection of practitioners working with the moving image to discuss the issues that matter to both artists and audiences.

The Experimenta Debate is a discursive event drawn from the LFF Experimenta programme that brings together thinkers and practitioners to consider contemporary issues in artists moving image. Following the success of last year's event *Representation and Praxis*, featuring Taylor Le Melle, Rabz Lansiquot, Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa, Ayo Akingbade and Morgan Quaintance, this year's Experimenta Debate will follow up on key issues of access, activism and praxis in terms of artists' practice in response to current critical theories. Full details of the event (including speakers) will be announced in the coming weeks, so please do check the website for further information. Rabz Lansiquot



A vertical decorative element on the left side of the page, consisting of a series of thin, overlapping lines in a rainbow spectrum of colors: red, orange, yellow, green, cyan, blue, and purple.

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FILMS FOR THE YOUNG...
AND YOUNG AT HEART

SAT 12
15:30 CINÉ LUMIÈRE

THE BEARS' FAMOUS INVASION LA FAMEUSE INVASION DES OURS EN SICILE

Dir Lorenzo Mattotti.
Prod Valérie Schermann, Christophe Jankovic.
Scr Thomas Bidegain, Jean-Luc Fromental, Lorenzo Mattotti.
With Leïla Bekhti, Thomas Bidegain, Jean-Claude Carrière.
France-Italy 2019. 82min.
EST.
Sales Pathé Films

Bears and humans just don't get on. In this adaptation of Dino Buzzati's classic story we find out why.

An old bear is awakened from hibernation by a showman and his assistant, who stumble into his cave to escape the snow. They tell him how, once upon a time, bear prince Tonio went missing and this loss, combined with a lack of food, led the bear king and his subjects to approach the humans for help. However, mankind mistook this for a hostile invasion. With a wizard playing both sides, nothing goes to plan. This children's classic is joyous depicted by Lorenzo Mattotti, who makes each frame look like a work of art. Beautifully executed, it presents a compelling story that works on different levels depending on the age of the viewer. Justin Johnson

Suitable for age 8+



SUN 13
13:00 NFT2

JACOB, MIMMI AND THE TALKING DOGS

Dir Edmunds Jansons.
Scr Liga Gaisa, Edmunds Jansons.
Prod Sabine Anderson.
With Eduards Olekts, Nora Džumā, Andris Keišs.
Latvia-Poland 2019. 70min.
EST.
Sales New Europe Film Sales

A sassy group of talking dogs give plenty of attitude to Jacob and his cousin Mimmi. They also help out when a local park is threatened.

When his father goes away, Jacob is sent to stay with his cousin Mimmi in a suburb of Riga. Mimmi wants to disrupt plans to build in the local park, a development that will cause the loss of trees and adversely affect the community. She recruits Jacob to assist her. On encountering a group of local dogs, Jacob is surprised when they speak to him and he decides to enlist them in battling the local construction works. But things don't quite go as planned. This lovely, unconventional Latvian animation has heaps of charm and offers an inspiring look at how we can work together, particularly to protect the environment. Justin Johnson

Suitable for age 6+
Subtitled in English. An actor will read out the subtitles via headphones for younger audiences.



SAT 5
15:10 NFT2

LUNANA: A YAK IN THE CLASSROOM

Dir-Scr Pawo Choyning Dorji.
Prod Pawo Choyning Dorji, Steven Xiang, Stephanie Lai, Honglin Jia.
With Sherab Dorji, Ugyen Norbu Lhendup, Kelden Lhamo Gurung.
Bhutan 2019. 109min.
EST.
Sales Pawo Choyning Dorji

A teacher struggling for inspiration travels to the most remote school in the world. It takes being so far away to understand the importance of his work... and to appreciate the value of yak dung!

Struggling with his chosen profession, Ugyen is disappointed to learn that in his final year of training he'll be sent to Lunana, in northern Bhutan – a staggering seven-day walk from the nearest drop off point. The high altitude and lack of amenities finds Ugyen wanting to leave almost as soon as he arrives. But the local children welcome him and try to win him over. But they don't have long – he must decide whether to stay or go before the punishing winter reaches this glacial part of the Himalayas. Filmed using cameras operating on solar-powered batteries, this is a charming drama that gives insight into a part of the world rarely seen on the screen. Justin Johnson

Suitable for age 8+
Subtitled in English. An actor will read out the subtitles via headphones for younger audiences.



SUN 6
15:45 NFT2

MY EXTRAORDINARY SUMMER WITH TESS

MIJN BIJZONDER RARE WEEK MET TESS

Dir Steven Wouterlood.
Prod Joram Willink, Piet-Harm Sterk.
Scr Laura van Dijk.
With Sonny van Utteren, Josephine Arendsen, Julian Ras.
Netherlands-Germany 2019.
82min.
EST.
Sales Picture Tree International

10-year-old Sam's summer holiday takes an unexpected turn when he crosses paths with an unusual and fascinating girl.

Sam and his family are spending their summer vacation on a Dutch island. But it's not going particularly well. Mum keeps suffering from migraines, his brother has a broken ankle and Sam, who has a morbid streak, prepares for the fact that he might outlive his family. But everything changes when he meets Tess, a strong-willed yet vulnerable girl who is prone to the unexpected. She's hiding a secret and before long things start to go wrong. This Dutch family film, based on the book by Anna Weltz, is a hugely enjoyable drama dealing with themes of self-discovery, mortality and first love. Justin Johnson

Suitable for age 8+ with one scene of strong swear words. Subtitled in English. An actor will read out the subtitles via headphones for younger audiences.



SUN 6
13:30 NFT2

THE PRINCE'S VOYAGE

LE VOYAGE DU PRINCE

Dir Jean-François Laguionie, Xavier Picard.
Prod Armelle Glorennec, Eric Jacquot.
Scr Jean-François Laguionie, Anik Le Ray.
With Enrico Di Giovanni, Thomas Sagols.
France-Luxembourg 2019.
77min.
EST.
Sales Urban Distribution International

This exceptional animated film comes from the mind of Jean-François Laguionie and follows his earlier feature A Monkey's Tale.

Tom, a simian boy, discovers a simian adult on a beach. He takes him to his home, situated in an old museum, where the older man claims to be Prince Laurent from across the ocean. But in Tom's world, overseas visitors are little more than the subject of legends. The Prince and the boy become friends and, much to the dismay of Tom's guardians, they decide to explore the unusual world, where strangers are not welcome. Laguionie and co-director Xavier Picard (*Moomins on the Riviera*, LFF 2014) have created a very special, thought-provoking adventure that will stay with you long after the credits roll. Justin Johnson

Suitable for age 8+ Subtitled in English. An actor will read out the subtitles via headphones for younger audiences.



MON 7
18:20 IMAX

SAT 12
13:00 NFT2

SUN 13
13:00 PCC

WHITE SNAKE

BÁISHÉ: YUÁNQ

Dir Amp Wong, Ji Zhao.
Prod Di Cui, Gary Wang.
Scr Da Mao.
With Zhe Zhang, Tianxiang Yang.
China-USA 2019.
98min.
EST.
Sales All Rights Entertainment

In this visually ravishing animation, a girl with magical gifts embodies the Chinese legend of the White Snake, in a land of magic, demons and plenty of snakes.

Blanca wakes up in a remote village with no memory of who she is or how she got there. Xuan, the snake-catcher who saved her, helps to search for clues that might lead to her true identity. As fragments of her memory return, Blanca discovers that she has magical gifts, and also skills as a kickass assassin. Both come in handy when it's time to save the world from warring demons. Fresh from its success in China, *White Snake* features gorgeous serpentine design, eye-popping characters – including a shape-shifting jade weapons shop owner – and landscapes rendered in exquisite detail, which will look even more sssssensational in our IMAX screening. With its jaw-dropping spectacular of a climax, animation fans will definitely find it time well spent! Justin Johnson

Suitable for ages 10+



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EXCHANGE STUDENT



KANINI & KANINO

SAT 5

12:00 NFT1

ANIMATED SHORTS FOR YOUNGER AUDIENCES

This eclectic, exciting and colourful selection of animated short films include themes of friendship and home. This year, alongside films from the UK we present new work from Disney, Dreamworks and Studio Ponoc. Justin Johnson Suitable for all ages.

BIG WOLF & LITTLE WOLF Dir Rémi Durin. France-Belgium 2018. 14min. EST
Big Wolf likes living on his own. Then Little Wolf shows up.

EXCHANGE STUDENT Dir Natalie Nourigat. USA 2019. 2min
A girl from Earth attends alien school.

NEST Dir Sonja Rohleder. Germany 2019. 4min
A bird of prey is keen to make a special friend.

GOOD HEART Dir Evgeniya Jirkova. Russia 2018. 5min
A cavewoman wants her family to be happy and healthy.

MAROONED Dir Andy Erekson. USA 2019. 8min
A robot stranded on the moon longs to return to Earth.

JUST A THOUGHT Dir Brian Menz. USA 2019. 3min
Ollie's thoughts take on a life of their own.

JERICO Dir Sarah Andrews, Aaron Hopwood. UK 2019. 1min
A robot decides to build a friend.

THE PENGUIN WHO COULDN'T SWIM Dir Tom Rourke. UK 2018. 5min
A penguin feels isolated.

HOME SWEET HOME Dir Maria Robertson. UK 2019. 1min
Will the sweets find their way home?

KANINI & KANINO Dir Hiromasa Yonebayashi. Japan 2018. 18min
Two crab brothers search for their father in this new film from Studio Ponoc.

Total running time 61min

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Image: *Brief Encounter*

TREASURES

REVIVED AND RESTORED FROM
THE WORLD'S ARCHIVES



SUN 13
16:10 NFT1

THE ELEPHANT MAN

Dir David Lynch.
Prod Jonathan Sanger.
Scr David Lynch,
Christopher De Vore,
Eric Bergren.
With Anthony Hopkins,
John Hurt,
Anne Bancroft.
USA-UK 1980.
123min.
UK Distribution
STUDIOCANAL

Exclusive 4K
restoration supervised
by David Lynch,
graded in Fotokem LA,
managed, restored
and finished by
L'Imagine Ritrovata.

John Hurt is exceptional in David Lynch's compassionate immersion into the vicious world experienced by 'freaks' in 19th century London.

'I'm not an animal. I'm a human being. I am a man!' John Hurt stars as John Merrick, a young man with severe deformities, exhibited in an East End freak show until his plight is discovered by a surgeon (Anthony Hopkins), who offers him sanctuary at the London Hospital. Fresh from the critical success of *Eraserhead*, David Lynch created a more straightforward – but no less rewarding – vision of horror, albeit this time based on a true story. The terror and grime of Victorian London is vividly captured by Freddie Francis' black-and-white cinematography, with added authenticity provided by location shooting across the city, including Butler's Wharf and Liverpool Street Station. It's also a film packed with great cameo performances, including Lynch regular, the brilliant Freddie Jones. Robin Baker



WED 2
20:30 NFT3

THU 3
20:40 NFT2

FINIS TERRAE

Dir Jean Epstein.
France 1929.
80min.
Prod Co
Société Générale
de Films

Restored in 4K in
2019 by Gaumont in
collaboration with the
Centre National du
Cinéma et de l'Image
animée at L'Imagine
Ritrovata laboratory
from the negative
held at Cinémathèque
française.

Visionary filmmaker Jean Epstein blends documentary authenticity with rich cinematic invention in this subtly homoerotic tale that echoes *Cult Gala The Lighthouse*.

On a tiny island off Brittany two young men eke out a living by harvesting seaweed to burn for prized soda. When one of them cuts his thumb and an infection sets in, it challenges the boundaries of their relationship and galvanises the neighbouring community. Jean Epstein's timeless narrative about survival *in extremis* is underpinned by avant-garde techniques and deeply resonant images, such as the recurrent lighthouse or the sight of women sheltering by rocks like giant black birds. Even without sound you can almost hear the ocean. This is a film about the possibilities of cinema and anyone thinking of picking up a camera should watch and be inspired. Robin Baker
Live musical accompaniment by Stephen Horne

• **THE FIRST FOOT** Dir Goderdzi Chokheli. Georgia 1981. 14min
Voices from the past echo through the deserted, snow-covered stone houses in a village in the Caucasus Mountains.



WED 9
18:15 NFT3

THE FINISHING SCHOOL

Dir Wanda Tuchock,
George Nichols Jr.
With Frances Dee,
Ginger Rogers,
Billie Burke.
USA 1934.
73min.
Prod Co
RKO Radio Pictures
Preserved by the
Library of Congress

Condemned by the Legion of Decency and therefore a must for any pre-Code fans, Wanda Tuchock's film is a hugely enjoyable romantic drama.

Virginia Radcliff (Frances Dee) is enrolled at the exclusive Crockett Hall finishing school by her mother. Miss Van Alstyne (Beulah Bondi), the head of the school, informs her new student of the strict rules of ladylike conduct, but Virginia's roommate Cecilia Ferris (an energetic Ginger Rogers) soon sets her straight. The giant hypocrisy is that staff do not really care what students do as long as it never becomes public and stains the reputation of the school. Wanda Tuchock is one of the few women who began her career in the silent era and maintained it during the early sound years, a time where female voices were even less represented than they are today. This new 35mm print is a testament to her importance as a filmmaker from this era. Julie Pearce



TUE 8 **THU 10**
18:00 CINÉ LUMIÈRE 15:00 STUDIO

ILLUSTRIOUS CORPSES

CADAVERI ECCELLENTI

Dir Francesco Rosi.
Scr Francesco Rosi, Tonino Guerra.
With Lino Ventura, Renato Salvatori, Max Von Sydow.
Italy-France 1976. 120min. EST.

Prod Co P.E.A. – Produzioni Europee Associate

Restored by the Cineteca di Bologna at L'Immagine Ritrovata laboratory and The Film Foundation, with funding provided by the George Lucas Family Foundation

Now restored, Francesco Rosi's conspiracy thriller about an investigation into the killing of a public prosecutor is a brilliant exercise in cinematic paranoia.

Based on a novel rather than real events, but no less worrying for that, it finds Inspector Rogas (Ventura) searching for the culprit and reaching the conclusion – as he wanders the corridors of power and the murders mount up – that there could be a labyrinthine conspiracy on a national scale. Less journalistic in tone than Rosi's earlier films, this is persuasively politicised film noir, with Pasqualino De Santis' stylish cinematography and the atmospheric use of monumental architecture invoking the shadows of Italy's past. The extraordinary cast includes such iconic figures as Alain Cuny, Max Von Sydow, Fernando Rey and Charles Vanel; none, however, is as eloquent or powerful a presence as Ventura, effortlessly expressive of Rogas's cool intelligence, professional integrity and quiet determination. Geoff Andrew



FRI 11
18:30 NFT3

THE JUNIPER TREE

Dir-Scr Nietzsche Keene.
Prod Nietzsche Keene, Patrick Moyroud.

With Björk Guðmundsdóttir, Bryndis Petra Bragadóttir, Valdimar Örn Flygenring.
USA 1990. 78min.
Sales Arbelos

Restored by the Wisconsin Center for Film & Theater Research and The Film Foundation, with funding provided by the George Lucas Family Foundation.

A teenage Björk stars in this Brothers Grimm adaptation, which finds witchcraft thriving in the wilds of medieval Iceland.

When their mother is killed for suspected witchery, sisters Katla and Margit go searching for a new home. Soon Katla entrances a shepherd widower and becomes his wife, while Margit spends her days in nature and begins to experience visions of her own. Opening with a T.S. Eliot quote, *The Juniper Tree* is suffused with a literary sensibility in the form of poetry, songs and bible readings. This Bergman-esque folk tale was the feature debut by Nietzsche Keene, a female director who made two more films before dying of cancer, aged 52, in 2004. As Margit, the young Björk is a major presence and the film shows a strong connection – in its mythic storytelling and its evocation of landscape as rough, tangible and salty – to the drama and themes of her subsequent art and music. Kate Taylor



SUN 6 **WED 9**
15:15 NFT1 13:15 NFT2

THE MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH

Dir-Prod Roger Corman.
Scr Charles Beaumont, R. Wright Campbell.
With Vincent Price, Hazel Court, Jane Asher.
USA-UK 1964. 92min.

Restored by the Academy Film Archive and The Film Foundation, with funding provided by the George Lucas Family Foundation.

Images courtesy of the Margaret Herrick Library at the Academy Film Archive

An uncanny tale from the pen of Poe, directed by Roger Corman and starring Vincent Price – a match made in Heaven. Or Hell!

Corman's seventh Poe screen adaptation is set in Medieval Italy, where the Devil-worshipping Prince Prospero (Vincent Price) holes up in his castle with his acolytes, to avoid the plague devastating the country. Here he stages decadent entertainments in his opulent ballroom (the sets, reused from *Becket*, won a British Academy Award), during which he indulges his sadistic whims, relishing humiliation and torture in the pursuit of gratification. Into this den of evil comes innocence and faith in the shape of a village girl (Jane Asher), making Prospero question the sinful path he has chosen. The lavish costumes and sets are photographed in sumptuous colour and expansive Cinemascope by Nicolas Roeg, making this one of Corman's most visually exciting Gothic offerings. Josephine Botting



SAT 12 **SUN 13**
15:10 NFT3 20:30 STUDIO

MUNA MOTO

Dir-Scr Jean-Pierre Dikongué-Pipa.
With Philippe Abia, Arlette Din Belle, David Endéné.
Cameroun 1975. 89min. EST.
Prod Co Cameroun Spectacles

Restored by Cineteca di Bologna/L'Immagine Ritrovata and The Film Foundation's World Cinema Project. Funding provided by the George Lucas Family Foundation.

This restoration is part of the African Film Heritage Project, created by The Film Foundation, FEPACI and UNESCO – in collaboration with Cineteca di Bologna.

Muna Moto is a welcome restoration of a classic social realist African masterpiece that champions the ideals of Third Cinema aesthetics.

Ngando (David Endéné) and Ndomé (Arlette Din Belle) are deeply in love. Ngando wishes to marry Ndomé. But he is poor and cannot afford a dowry, making him unable to fulfil the tradition. And according to the village tradition, she must take a husband. After a meeting, the villagers decide that Ndomé should marry Ngando's childless uncle, Mbongo (Philippe Abia), who already has three wives. In despair, Ngando decides to do something unthinkable on the day of the wedding. Shooting mainly with available light and in crisp black and white, acclaimed director Jean-Pierre Dikongué-Pipa achieves a perfect balance of poetry and richly compelling visuals. If this weren't enough, the hauntingly atmospheric score by legendary Cameroonian composer Georges Mouangué Anderson adds wonder to this already inspiring film. Keith Shiri



THU 3
15:00 NFT1

THU 10
18:30 NFT3

LOS OLVIDADOS

Dir Luis Buñuel.
Prod Oscar Dancigers, Sergio Kogan, Jaime Menasce.
Scr Luis Alcoriza, Luis Buñuel.
With Alfonso Mejía, Stella Inda, Miguel Inclán.
Mexico 1950. 81min. EST.

Prod Co Ultramar Films
Restored by the Film Foundation's World Cinema Project at L'Immagine Ritrovata in collaboration with Fundación Televisa, Televisa, Cineteca Nacional México, and Filmoteca de la UNAM. Restoration funding provided by The Material World Foundation. Copyright to Televisa S.A. de C.V.

Luis Buñuel's searingly powerful account of the brutalised lives of delinquent Mexico City street kids fuses stark realism with surrealist flourishes, and re-established his international reputation

Twenty years after his scandalous surrealist masterpieces, Buñuel again outraged with this lacerating portrait of Mexico City's street kids. Drawing from first-hand accounts, Buñuel follows swaggering hoodlum Jaibo, who escapes from juvenile detention and enlists the wide-eyed Pedro to help find the grass who put him there. Shot quickly on a shoestring, the results hark to the neorealist films of the day, but Buñuel has no time for their occasional sentimentality – the poor here are not ennobled by poverty, but predatory, robbing even the crippled and blind, and driven like anyone else by their animalistic urges. With its monochrome photography by the great Gabriel Figueroa now restored to its luminous glory, Buñuel's 'social-surrealist' landmark is a primal howl of a film – once seen, never forgotten. James Bell



WED 2
18:15 NFT3

PARIS QUI DORT

Dir-Scr René Clair.
Prod Henri Diamant-Berger.
With Henri Rollan, Madeleine Rodrigue, Albert Préjean.
France 1924. 59min.

Prod Co Les Films Diamant.
Restored in 4K in 2018 by Fondation Jérôme Seydoux- Pathé at L'Immagine Ritrovata laboratory from a tinted nitrate print preserved by BFI National Archive with funding provided by CNC – Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée

Now part of the sci-fi canon, René Clair's witty fantasy is a youthful 'what if?' whose delightful airiness will linger.

A young man, the night watchman on the iconic Eiffel Tower, wakes to find he is alone in the world. Descending from his iron eyrie, all is eerily frozen, apart from a few souls who have escaped a mad scientist's immobilising ray. The streets of Paris briefly become a Garden of Eden to play in, as the friends indulge in their new-found liberty. Like Powell and Pressburger's *A Canterbury Tale*, this is a film to be carried in the heart. This English language version, taken from the 'A' negative, was released in England in January 1925, shortly before it came out in France. Bryony Dixon

Live musical accompaniment by Costas Fotopoulos

♦ EVERY DAY

Dir Hans Richter. UK 1929. 16min. Restored in 4K by Cinémathèque suisse from a unique nitrate work print
Hans Richter, Sergei Eisenstein and others made this 'city symphony' of the daily grind in London, presented here from a pristine 35mm source recently rediscovered in Lausanne.



THU 10
20:50 NFT3

SAT 12
17:30 NFT3

QUEEN OF DIAMONDS

Dir-Prod-Scr Nina Menkes.
With Tinka Menkes, Emmeldda Beech, Kathryn Francomacaro.
USA 1991. 77min.

Sales Arbelos
Restored by the Academy Film Archive and The Film Foundation with funding provided by the George Lucas Family Foundation. An Arbelos Films Release.

One of the most subversive and originally independent films of the 1990s, Nina Menkes' critically acclaimed underground classic re-emerges in an essential new restoration.

Set in a hallucinatory Las Vegas landscape and breaking new ground in cinematic language, *Queen of Diamonds* tells the story of disaffected Firdaus (played by the director's sister Tinka Menkes), a struggling Blackjack dealer at the Par-a-Dice casino, who is faced with a missing husband and neighbouring domestic violence. Awash in lush, hypnotic images, the action takes place between glittering casino lights and a deteriorating desert oasis. Loner Firdaus' world unfolds as she drifts through a series of mundane, surreal and menacing encounters, with death and violence ever-present. Described by Menkes as 'my very personal portrait of the US: an over-enlarged, profit-motivated core surrounded by mute and arid alienation', the film is a remarkable and provocative masterpiece of American independent filmmaking, ripe for critical evaluation. Julie Pearce



SUN 13
14:00 NFT1

RIDE LONESOME

Dir-Prod Budd Boetticher.
Scr Burt Kennedy.
With Randolph Scott, Karen Steele, Pernel Roberts.
USA 1959. 73min.

UK Distribution Park Circus Limited
Restored in 4K by Sony Pictures Entertainment. Wetgate scanning, digital image restoration by Cineric, Inc., NY. Color grading, conforming, additional image restoration at Roundabout Entertainment, Santa Monica. Audio restoration by Deluxe Audio.

Budd Boetticher's magisterial western, now newly restored, stars Randolph Scott as a haunted loner seeking vengeance in a bleak, elemental world full of dangerous strangers

A highpoint in the 'Ranown' series of westerns its veteran star made with Boetticher, writer Burt Kennedy and producer Harry Joe Brown, this centres on a loner (Scott) who tracks down a killer and starts taking him to town to face justice; presumably, like some of those to whom they encounter on their perilous journey, he's after the reward. Only after they've been joined by an attractive widow, however, do the bounty hunter's real intentions finally become clear. Boetticher and Kennedy excelled at working imaginative variations on classic western themes, delivering intriguing narrative twists, psychological subtlety and moral complexity to hugely satisfying effect. The robust performances and stark Southwestern landscapes, so evocative of violent trauma and bitter betrayal, are vividly served by this new restoration. Geoff Andrew



SAT 12
12:50 NFT3

SUN 13
18:30 STUDIO

STAR-CROSSED LOVERS

KÖNIGSKINDER

Dir Frank Beyer.
Scr Edith Gorrish,
Walter Gorrish.

With
Annekathrin Bürger,
Armin Mueller-Stahl,
Ulrich Thein.
East Germany 1962.
90min.

EST.
Prod Co DEFA

Restored in 4K in 2018
by DEFA-Stiftung with
funding provided by
Die Beauftragte der
Bundesregierung für
Kultur und Medien at
L'Imagine Ritrovata
laboratory from
the original camera
negative preserved at
Bundersarchiv.

The love rivalry between a young communist (the excellent Armin Mueller-Stahl) and a Nazi SA officer underpins this deeply rewarding Second World War-set story from East Germany.

Inspired by a German folk song, the 'royal children' here are anti-fascist, working-class lovers Michael and Magdalena. When Michael is imprisoned and sent to a penal battalion on the eastern front, he re-encounters Jürgen, once his rival for Magdalena's love. Frank Beyer was one of the greatest directors working at DEFA, East Germany's state-owned studio. Together with cinematographer Günther Marczinkowsky they created a richly inventive style informed by the new Polish and Czech cinemas. Marczinkowsky's black-and-white work is extraordinary, favouring high and low angles, taking pleasure in the creative possibilities of light playing on water and capturing the confused, terrifying brutality of the battlefield. The early 1960s were a brief golden age for East German cinema and this is one of its masterpieces. Robin Baker



SUN 6
12:00 NFT1

SWEET CHARITY

Dir Bob Fosse.
Prod Robert Arthur.
Scr Neil Simon.
With Shirley MacLaine,
John McMartin,
Ricardo Montalban.
USA 1969.
148min.

Prod Co
Universal Pictures

The picture source
element for this 4K
restoration was the
35mm original negative of
the roadshow
version. NBCUniversal
StudioPost conducted
the work.

Shirley MacLaine stars as unlucky-in-love taxi dancer Charity Hope Valentine in Bob Fosse's joyous adaptation of the hit Broadway musical.

Heralding the start of BFI Musicals!, a major UK-wide celebration of the genre, this 50th anniversary screening of Bob Fosse's directorial debut is a high-energy paean to love, the 1960s and a showcase of his remarkable talent. Fosse's distinctive choreography, appetite for irony and bold editing ensure that his films are among the most vital in the musical canon, with 'Big Spender' and 'Rich Man's Frug' – the inspiration for Beyoncé's 'Get Me Bodied' video – among the stand-out numbers. MacLaine replaced Broadway star Gwen Verdon, but she lights up the screen with Charity's boundless joie de vivre. She's brilliantly matched by Chita Rivera and the underrated Paula Kelly as her co-workers at the Fandango Ballroom. When they perform the breathless 'There's Gotta Be Something Better Than This' it's hard not to think, no, there really isn't. We will also be showing the rarely seen ten-minute alternative ending after the film. Robin Baker



MON 7
18:15 NFT2

WED 9
20:30 STUDIO

DOC

SAY AMEN, SOMEBODY

Dir
George T Nierenberg.
Prod
George T Nierenberg,
Karen Nierenberg.
USA 1982.
101min.

Sales
Milestone Film & Video

Restored to 4K by
Metropolis Post
and Milestone with
support from the
National Museum
of African American
History and Culture
and the Academy Film
Archive. With restored
Dolby Stereo and
5.1 soundtracks by
Audio Mechanics

Exuberant, joyous and deeply moving, this acclaimed documentary celebrates American gospel music, spotlighting giants of the business Willie Mae Ford Smith and Thomas A Dorsey.

In this masterful and beautifully restored observational music documentary, George T Nierenberg captures show-stopping musical performances interwoven with fascinating intimate, behind-the-scenes personal moments. With unrivalled access, the film pays tribute to the lives and careers of the movement's luminaries. These include 'Mother' Willie Mae Ford Smith, gospel's diva and earth mother – a skilful singer and preacher who championed equality for women – and 'Professor' Thomas A Dorsey, a blues player who turned to the church and also became a prolific composer, songbook publisher and concert organiser. Spotlighting the work of other artists such as Sallie Martin, the Barrett Sisters and the O'Neal Twins, this extraordinarily infectious and deeply emotional concert film is a truly uplifting experience. Julie Pearce

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LFF CONNECTS

HEAR FROM ARTISTS WORKING AT THE INTERSECTION OF FILM AND OTHER CREATIVE INDUSTRIES IN THIS INSPIRING SERIES OF TALKS. PREVIOUS SPEAKERS INCLUDE CHARLIE BROOKER, DAVID HARE, CATE BLANCHETT, NITIN SAWHNEY, DAVID FINCHER AND LYNETTE WALLWORTH.



BOOTS RILEY – LFF 2018



CATE BLANCHETT – LFF 2017



NITIN SAWHNEY – LFF 2017

SURPRISE FILM

WED 9
21:30 OLLS

THU 10
15:00 OLLS

After all these years it's still the hottest ticket in town. But how do we follow up the doozy of 2018's most-welcome of surprises *Green Book* (with in-person appearances from Viggo Mortensen, Mahershala Ali and director Peter Farrelly, no less)? Well, there's only one way to find out – nab yourself a ticket. They say that fortune favours the brave, and we can guarantee that those lucky enough to secure a seat will be very fortunate indeed...



GUILLERMO DEL TORO – LFF 2017



ANNETTE BENING – LFF 2017



LEE CHANG-DONG – LFF 2018

SCREEN TALKS

JOIN LEADERS IN CONTEMPORARY CINEMA FOR THIS SERIES OF IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS. PREVIOUS SPEAKERS INCLUDE KEIRA KNIGHTLEY, ALFONSO CUARÓN, MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL, LEE CHANG-DONG, GUILLERMO DEL TORO AND ANNETTE BENING.



SUN 6
15:30 ICA

KIM LONGINOTTO

We're delighted to welcome back Kim Longinotto to the BFI London Film Festival. The director of *Divorce Iranian Style* (1998), Sundance Film Festival World Cinema Grand Jury Prize winner *Rough Aunties* (2008) and 2015's *Dreamcatcher* will talk about her storied career and her powerful new documentary *Shooting the Mafia* (p90): an eye-opening profile of Sicilian organised crime photographer Letizia Battaglia.

See p90 for details of LFF Create strand screenings of *Shooting the Mafia*.

#LFF FOR FREE

The festival fun doesn't stop when the credits roll. Come along to our social hub at BFI Southbank for a brand new programme of free film events, designed to take you behind the scenes and get the cinematic chat flowing.

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BOOK SIGNINGS
DJ NIGHTS
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Keep your eyes peeled for the full free programme reveal in September at bfi.org.uk/lff/events

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR FREE PROGRAMME

LITTLE WHITE LIES MOVIE QUIZ

WED 9 OCT

From heroic heroines, famous final lines and award-winning directors, to Hollywood's golden age, memorable movie flops and the film world's biggest franchises – come and test your film knowledge. Prizes to be won, glory to be claimed...

Little
White
Lies

PITCHBLACK PLAYBACK

SUN 13 OCT

Immersive, meditative album listening sessions in the dark. Enjoy classic album playbacks in our Studio screen, picked to complement some of our music film selections. Prepare to experience music with more detail and focus than ever before.

PITCHBLACK
PLAYBACK

BBC R3 SOUNDS OF CINEMA CONCERT

FRI 4 OCT

ALEXANDRA PALACE THEATRE

The LFF hosts a special edition of BBC Radio 3's weekly film music programme Sound of Cinema with a concert of live music performed by the BBC Concert Orchestra conducted by Ben Palmer, and presented by Matthew Sweet in the decayed Victorian splendour of Alexandra Palace Theatre. The programme reflects our Opening Night gala: The Personal History of David Copperfield, with a wide ranging selection of music exploring the world of Dickens on film.

BBC
Concert
Orchestra

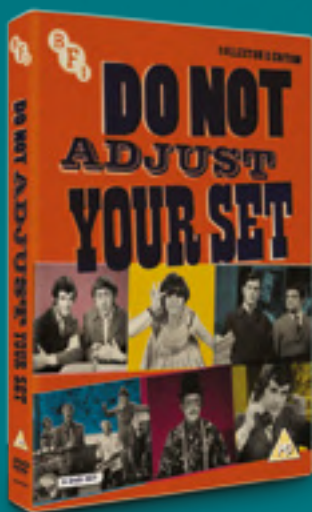


DJ NIGHTS

FRI 4, SAT 5, FRI 11, SAT 12 OCT

We are taking over Benugo Bar & Kitchen at the BFI Southbank from 21:00 til late for a series of DJ nights inspired by films in the Festival.

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