



fisheye film festival 2023

15th to 23rd April 2023
fisheyefilmfest.uk



Welcome to fisheye film festival 2023

15 - 23 April 2023 | Single Event Passes from £4-6
Buy Passes: fisheye.eventive.org/passes/buy

Watch films online: watch.eventive.org/fisheye

fisheye film festival aims to “bring the world of films to our screens” and capture the imagination of our community, introducing novel films and new talent within the film industry to a growing fan base.

Through the international film competition, the festival promotes the work of up-and-coming filmmakers from the UK and around the world and screens a rich diversity of films.

The festival is in its seventh edition and sixth year of international competition. At the 2021 virtual festival we enjoyed meeting filmmakers and audiences from far flung places. This time we want to offer the best of both worlds; to bring people back together again to see films in person and to offer the flexibility of online screenings.

We are proud and excited to show nearly seventy shorts and features selected from our sixth competition.

Some films have mature content; the programme is aimed largely at an audience aged over 18 years.

The festival programme begins online, with screenings from 15th April including eleven mini short film showcases and five feature films. Showcases offer a variety of shorts, whether that is a mix of genre or theme.

We are happy to be hosting a live festival again at venues in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire on 22nd April. This year, in addition to our usual screenings with filmmakers attending for Q&A's, we are exhibiting a series of films entitled 'Film – an Artistic Experience' presented gallery style.

We hope you enjoy exploring the programme and look forward to seeing you at the festival!

fisheye film festival team



Summary of events

22nd April 2023

THE STUDIO @ BNU

Buckinghamshire New University,
Queen Alexandra Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2JZ

10.30: Show off Your Shorts!

4 filmmakers, 4 shorts

13.00: Challenge: Showcase 1

6 mixed genre shorts

14.15: Expressionism: Showcase 2

5 experimental dance shorts

15.30: A Broad Spectrum: Showcase 3

8 mixed genre shorts

17.00: Past, Present and Future Imperfect:

Showcase 4

6 mixed genre shorts

HOLIDAY INN

Handycross, High Wycombe, HP11 1TL

18.45:

Reception & Nominations for 'Best Film'

MEDIA GALLERY in The Room @ BNU

Buckinghamshire New University,
Queen Alexandra Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2JZ

10.30: Atmospheric Marginalia:

Experimental feature

12.00: Poetry in Motion:

5 experimental shorts

13.00: As Long as You Live, Keep Shining:

Feature documentary

14.15: Animation Variation:

6 shorts

15.00: Artefacts:

2 documentary shorts

15.30: On the Record:

2 documentary shorts

15.55: Poetry in Motion (repeat)

EMPIRE CINEMA

Crest Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1UA

20.45:

Festival Finale & Awards



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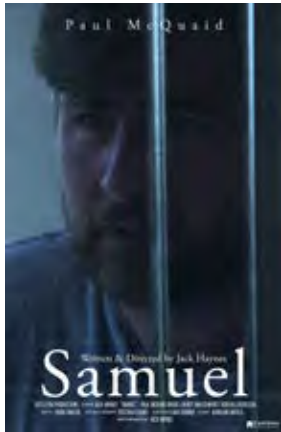
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THE STUDIO: 10.30

Show Off Your Shorts!

In this signature **fisheye** event, four filmmakers present their films and after the screening answer questions from the audience and our regular hosts, Mark Singer and Jamie Terry.



Samuel

Dir. Jack Haynes
(UK) 00:17:46

After a family tragedy, Samuel develops severe agoraphobia and OCD. We follow him as he tries to navigate his solitary life and overcome his crippling illnesses.



Grow

Dir. Liezl De Wouters D'Oplinter
(UK) 00:02:31

This dance film embodies the physical and emotional growth undergone in nature. Made by a freelance dance artist based in High Wycombe, who creates community opportunities for everyone to enjoy dance and find the freedom that comes with it.



Itching

Dir. Catherine Marriott-Brown
(UK) 00:07:41

The story of a lonely young woman who is kept awake at night by an itch on her back that she just can't reach. While mud larking on the Thames foreshore, she meets a young man and they discover a back scratcher lying in the mud...



Cold Water

Dir. Darcy Vanhinsbergh
(UK) 00:18:13

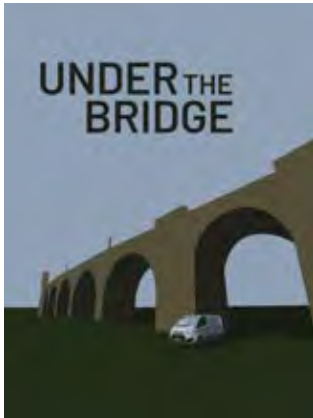
Dannie's a plumber, she hates it, she's drinking. She's sent to Rajesh's house to fix a blocked drain. Raj has had his very own dealings with drugs and alcohol of late but he is currently moving to a place of spirituality - finding his key. On the first meeting, it's not a great interaction for Raj and Dannie... Raj wants to help her, that's who he is. But his quest to help her is misguided.



THE STUDIO: 13.00

Challenge: Showcase 1

6 mixed genre shorts (00: 58:39) How do we react when faced with challenge; losing loved ones; honing a skill; change; aggression? There's no one right answer!



Under The Bridge

Dir. Matthew Bartlett
(UK) 00:03:20

A short thriller set against the nightmare of losing a child. A father sits in his van contemplating a terrifying decision. As his friends and family attempt to contact him, fearing he might hurt himself or others, what will he resolve to do?



The Perfect A

Dir. Keaton Brignall McDougall
(UK) 00:01:30

A man frustration to write a perfect letter A, draws him into a piece of paper.

The Last Goodbye

Dir. Jack Peter Mundy
(UK) 00:18:33

A bittersweet story of two sisters learning to reconcile their differences as they overcome the loss of their mother.



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THE STUDIO: 13.00

Challenge: Showcase 1

6 mixed genre shorts (00: 58:39) How do we react when faced with challenge; losing loved ones; honing a skill; change; aggression? There's no one right answer!



Chalk

Dir. Mandy Williams
(UK) 00:05:52

A short, experimental work about landscape to language through the medium of chalk, referencing chalk's association with history, nationhood, tradition and mysticism.



Head Boy

Dir. Lee Campbell
(UK) 00:02:47

A poetic film, combining humour, salacious content and teasing the imagination, this coming-of-age story explores some of the complexities of male teen homo-erotic desire, battling then overcoming bullies.



Order 27

Dir. Tom Wheeler
(UK) 00:14:57

A Russian Communications Officer and his subordinate are tasked with transmitting Order 27. In 1983, the Russian Nuclear early-warning system identified the launch of five US ICBMs. Lieutenant Colonel Stanislav Petrov decided not to retaliate. It was a false alarm. This is not that story. This is the story of the men who would have been tasked with transmitting Order 27 had Petrov decided to retaliate.

THE STUDIO: 14.15

Expressionism: Showcase 2

5 experimental dance shorts (01:10:36) Dance on the edge. It might just blow you away.



Bowland Beth

Dir. David Lefebber
(UK) 00:09:09

Bowland Beth is an artistic response to the illegal persecution of birds of prey, Hen Harriers, where they have come into conflict with the grouse shooting industry.

Inspiration comes from the searing and tender poem 'Bowland Beth' by TS Eliot. Poet David Harsent's elegy to a tagged Hen Harrier is accompanied by Rob Godman's specially composed and haunting sound score. Ballerina Zoe Arshamian and Bowland itself celebrate female artistry in the dance and choreography and bears witness to the beauty of Hen Harriers in life and flight and the cruelty of their unwarranted persecution.



A Feast that Never Comes

Dir. Maria Juranic
(USA) 00:14:58

Four characters inhabit cycles within cycles of contentment, discontent, inertia, movement, desire, and betrayal. A story emerges—told through the marriage of music and dance - a set of nesting dolls, inviting you to uncover as many layers as you wish.



THE STUDIO: 14.15

Expressionism: Showcase 2

5 experimental dance shorts (01:10:36) Dance on the edge. It might just blow you away.



I Am the Impossible

Dir. Tulsi Behl
(UK) 00:06:32

A woman reclaims an offensive song and joyfully dances through London as she frees herself of the shackles of prejudice.

Film Rosa

Dir. Silvia Bertocchi
(Italy) 00:15:00

This is a story in pink tones. It is not about love but about despair. Every image is full of pink as well as every object, dress and every atmosphere, this colour is used as a metaphor for the personal tragedy of each of us, a colour that has always been sweetened, strongly associated with girls. In this film the meaning of the colour pink is subverted.



Guest

Dir. Regina Hofmanová
(Czech Republic) 00:09:57

The humour of an unexpected visit turns surreal as the guest takes the host into her world. When a guest is enthusiastically welcomed into her hosts' immaculate home, she is inspired to reciprocate with an unexpected introduction to her own world. The result is a surreal and often absurd navigation through familiarity and estrangement, a metaphor for the fabric connecting and dividing individuals.



THE STUDIO: 15.30

A Broad Spectrum: Showcase 3

8 mixed genre shorts (01:12:50) A variety of voices express contemporary concerns and obsessions.



A Kind of Woman

Dir. Destinie Paige

(UK) 00:01:37

Courageous, confident, and purely unstoppable; the 'Luxurious Woman' finds herself at the peak of her potential. With the world at her feet, she takes extravagance to new heights. Paige's film carves a new identity and story within fashion: a plus-sized Black woman who unapologetically indulges in greed and exists in spaces of opulence.



O Ultimo Oleiro (The Last Potter)

Dir. Fabio Oliveira

(Portugal) 00:17:56

The potters of red clay made the Pedreiras parish in the district of Leiria is famous; connected with traditional Portuguese cuisine. While years ago there were a hundred potters, now there is only one. This film honours this tradition and his craft, by documenting his work and his family history.



Third Wheel

Dir. Joe Bunyan

(UK) 00:03:47

What's the first thing you think about when you wake up?



Let Her Die

Dir. Izzy Thompson

(UK) 00:11:38

A psychological drama that follows two female TV writers the night before a script deadline. As the only women on the writing team, Willow and June are tasked with writing a female character for an upcoming episode. There's only one problem: they can't agree on anything. As the night goes on and their creative conflict escalates, the line between their reality and the character they are writing blurs...



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THE STUDIO: 15.30

A Broad Spectrum: Showcase 3

8 mixed genre shorts (01:12:50) A variety of voices express contemporary concerns and obsessions.



Tell Me a Story

Dir. Jay Dixon
(UK) 00:01:00

This film is an experimental collaboration between a human and an AI, working together to document the impact of human activity on the planet and the value of what our actions are endangering. Every image in this film was individually generated using Artificial Intelligence. Contains flashing images.



Dying to Meet You

Dir. Ava Bounds
(UK) 00:14:50

A hotel lobby in Depression America is the crucible where a brilliant, ruined drunk battles his demons one last time. This true story reveals what happens on the day Bill Wilson turns down a drink and creates Alcoholics Anonymous. My hope is that this film touches the hearts and minds of those who suffer with addiction and their families who try to understand them.



Echo's Voice Box

Dir. Alex Sultoon
(UK) 00:03:35

A singer is terrified of losing her voice and thinks someone is out to steal it.



The Occurrence of Colours by Night

Dir. Sophie Lenglachner
(Germany) 00:05:07

The dystopian genderfluid fashion of textile artist Sophie Lenglachner focuses on the beauty of darkness and reflective shimmers of light. The choreography of contemporary dancer Jan Kollenbach plays with the dynamic of oscillating between shadow and brightness. The textile as a canvas leaves its state as an inanimate object to conquer a ruinous industrial landscape.



THE STUDIO: 17.00

Past, Present & Future

Imperfect: Showcase 4

6 mixed genre shorts (01:02:12) A tense situation. Does it pose an opportunity or a threat?



Three

Dir. Destinie Paige
(UK) 00:15:50

A mother's decision to relocate out of London and begin a new chapter of her life brings vulnerable conversations to light, encouraging hope and change in her family dynamic.



VHS

Dir. Solene Guichard
(UK) 00:14:25

Lea and Oliver relive their pasts and connect over the sale of a VHS player.

Forgive or Cancel

Dir. Tristan White
(UK) 00:01:30

A game show where a person's life can be turned around or condemned forever.



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THE STUDIO: 17.00

Past, Present & Future Imperfect: Showcase 4

6 mixed genre shorts (01:02:12) A tense situation. Does it pose an opportunity or a threat?



Hope

Dir. Ufuk Gokkaya
(UK) 00:09:40

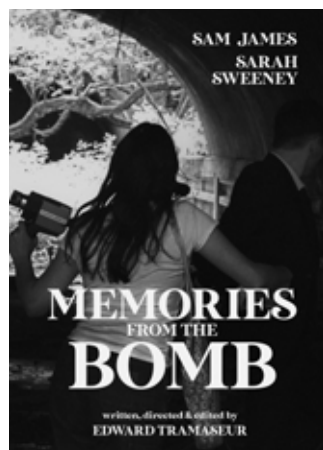
Set in a post-apocalyptic urban London a year after a deadly virus outbreak, a lonely survivor attempts to find the cure. Will he lose hope before it's too late?



Glitch

Dir. Daniel McGowan
(UK) 00:13:02

When a mysterious new router arrives, Tom thinks it's the end of his WiFi woes. But his problems are only just beginning... An inclusive short film developed with 8 learning disabled and/or autistic actors.



Memories From the Bomb

Dir. Edward Tramaseur
(UK) 00:10:05

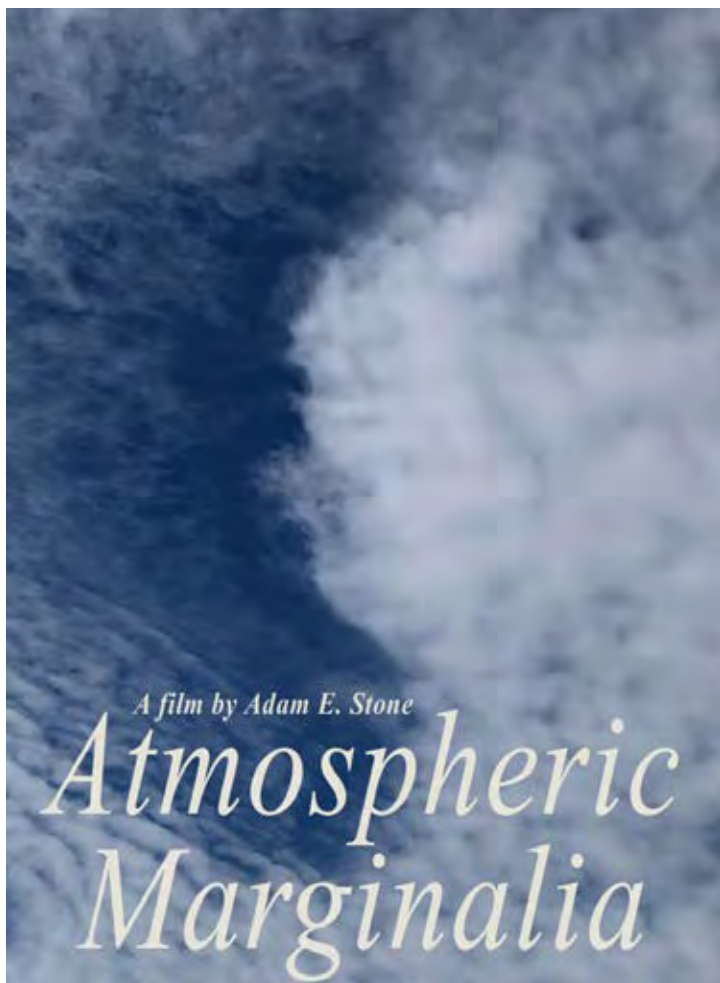
Two secondary school students enjoy their summer holidays before being rudely interrupted by nuclear war. A story told through still-images and Super8 video with themes of nostalgia laced through the story. A sad reminder that nuclear war is a very real threat and that these naive characters don't know what they have until it's gone.



MEDIA GALLERY: 10:30

Film: An Artistic Experience

These short and feature length films mainly focus on artistic expression, whether it is in the concept, subject matter, performance, or the filmmaking itself.



Atmospheric Marginalia: experimental feature

Dir. Adam E. Stone
(01:15:07)

Equal parts poetic essay film and family folklore, Atmospheric Marginalia is an enchanting probe into a pair of star-crossed lovers and misfits, the continuing bonds theory of grief, and the existence of an afterlife.



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MEDIA GALLERY: 12.00 & 15.55

Poetry in Motion

5 experimental shorts (00:36:01) Poetry in visual form, with and without words; in narrative, image, and dance.

A Solitude Quartet

Dir. An-Ni Wei, Kuo-Hao Li, Wei Chen & Dennis Alexander Schmitz

(Netherlands) 00:06:44

A Solitude Quartet is an experimental dance film where four creators work independently during the creation process without communication. The different stages of the film's production eventually create an unpredictable harmony or disharmony. With an unconventional and extreme way of making, A Solitude Quartet explores the inherent power imbalance in the film production system, questioning the hierarchy of the positions in standard collaborative work.



Downstream

Dir. Esther Weber
(Germany) 00:12:50

Everything on the surface of water is in motion. Scenes along a river that reflect that motion in our world.



Moth

Dir. Kate Weare, Jack Flame Sorokin
(USA) 00:05:28

Moth explores female desire in a darkened space of imagination using a single light source: a lantern. The film complicates ideas of sexual objectification, regret, and loss by tracing the flux of whose feelings matter most in the act of coupling. Longing permeates Nicole Vaughan-Diaz's rendition of "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood," originally written by Horace Ott as an apology to his girlfriend for his own bad behaviour, and subsequently made famous by Nina Simone.



MEDIA GALLERY: 12.00 & 15.55

Poetry in Motion

5 experimental shorts (00:36:01) Poetry in visual form, with and without words; in narrative, image, and dance.



La Gentilezza (Kindness)

Dir. Pat Boran
(Ireland) 00:05:30

Despite the illusion of separate existences, we are all intimately connected in the adventure of life. 'Kindness' is a short film without words about something which needs no explanation – the simple act of caring for creatures other than ourselves.

Patterns

Dir. Paul Duran-Lemos
(USA) 00:05:29

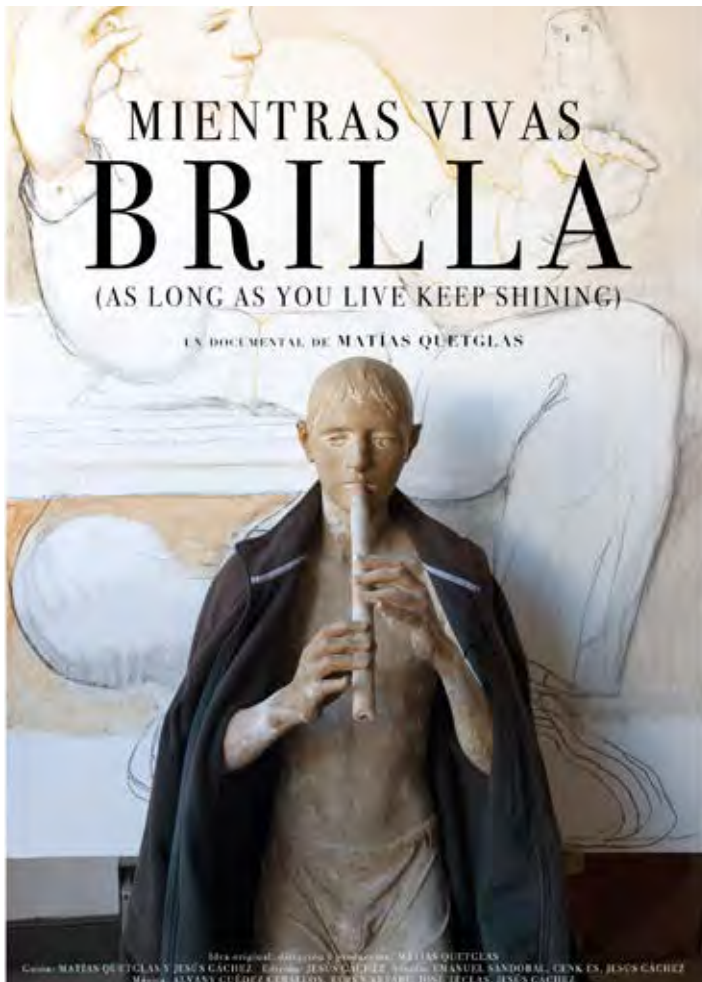
A visual poem about patterns in relationships. Paul un masks the honesty beneath his characters by blending a naturalistic visual style and sound design with waves of surrealism in the editing room. "There's a gap between the sensory and abstract and that's where you find truth."



MEDIA GALLERY: 13.00

Feature Documentary

These short and feature length films mainly focus on artistic expression, whether it is in the concept, subject matter, performance, or the filmmaking itself.



Mientras Vivas Brilla (As Long as You Live, Keep Shining): feature documentary

Dir. Matías Quetglas
(Spain) 01:02:00

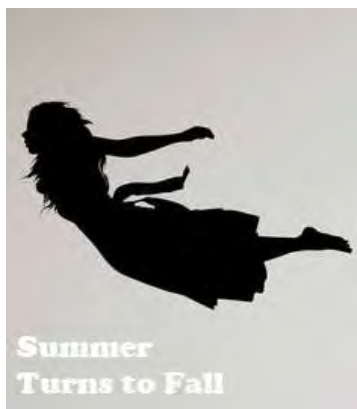
After a health event, in his 72, the painter Matías Quetglas feared his memory would be lost, so he decided to look back on his own memories. He calls his friend and collaborator Jesús Gáchez. Together they take an emotional journey through the memories of the artist.



MEDIA GALLERY: 14.15

Animation Variation

6 animated short films (00:25:07) And now for something completely different... six short films of different genres with distinctive styles of animation.



Summer Turns to Fall

Dir. David R Creighton
(Canada) 00:00:46

This micro-short, black and white animated film is dedicated to suicide awareness, and those who are left behind.



Jam It

Dir. John Dawson
(USA) 00:03:00

Inspiration for this colourful animation film might be a fairground ride, fireworks or an abstract painting. Be entertained, energized, have fun and feel you have had colour or paint splattered on you.



A Bloody Graveyard Story

Dir. Vanessa Stachel
(Germany) 00:03:22

Three teenagers have an unexpected encounter when they sneak into a cemetery at night to summon an exceptionally terrible ghost.



MEDIA GALLERY: 14.15

Animation Variation

6 animated short films (00:25:07) And now for something completely different... six short films of different genres with distinctive styles of animation.



Waiting for the Bleep

**Dir. Bethany De Forest,
Alexander Van Zanten**
(Netherlands) 00:10:00

A beautiful flower patch turns into a garbage dump. Ice caps are melting and the smog is suffocating. Unknown to science is that Earth has a clone. Both planets are undergoing the same downfall and are destined to an inevitable self-destruction. In the search for a solution to this forecast help is called on the Bleep. These extra-terrestrial beings stop the time synchronization between the two planets and start an invasion of the clone planet earth. Earth, do we want to keep waiting for the Bleep?



Warmth

Dir. Adam Bandrowski
(USA) 00:04:14

This film is about my life since starting testosterone, the joy and comfort I have felt since then. It is made entirely on fabric, which I have sewn into a quilt.



The Last Straw

Dir. Cleo Parker
(UK) 00:03:45

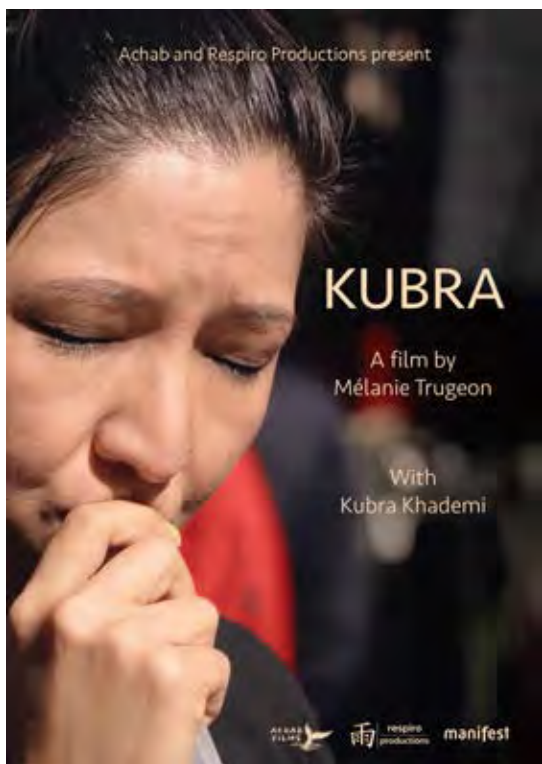
An animated tale of Cyril the Scarecrow who is terrified of birds. How will he manage to scare away Bertie the crow who just won't leave him alone?



MEDIA GALLERY: 15.00

Artefacts

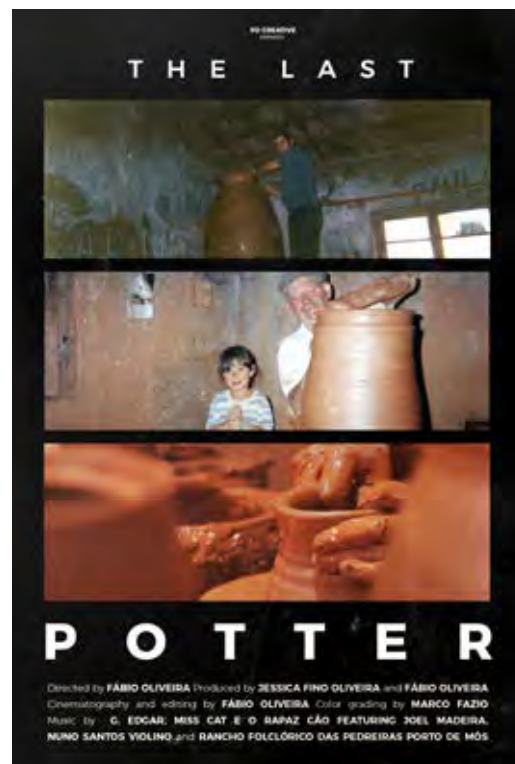
2 documentary shorts (00:29:07) The performance artist and the potter; learn about the contrasting lives of people engaged in what could be summarised as 'pure' and 'applied' artistic creativity.



Kubra

Dir. Melanie Trugeon
(France) 00:11:11

Kubra is an Afghan performing artist and a refugee based in Paris. Her body is the medium she's chosen to search for her own history. Her connection to the world and to the body is transformed by her current situation but her art remains condemned. Is fighting the only way for Kubra to be in this world?



O Ultimo Oleiro (The Last Potter)

Dir. Fabio Oliveira
(Portugal) 00:17:56

The potters of red clay made the Pedreiras parish in the district of Leiria is famous. The pottery will always be connected with traditional Portuguese cuisine. While years ago there were a hundred potters in the parish, now there is only one. This film honours this tradition and his craft, by documenting his work and his family history.



MEDIA GALLERY: 15.30

On the Record

2 documentary shorts (00:21:28) A dying relic of a former way of life? One specific to old Beijing, China; one of global concern.



Sustainability: A Broken Record

Dir. Owen Riseley
(UK) 00:17:22

Sustainability is defined as 'fulfilling the needs of current generations without compromising the needs of future generations'. How we build is how we grow and develop. It's how we establish a connection and define our history on this planet, and it's a reflection of our cultural times. We are building barriers and disconnection, wasting potential rather than feeding opportunity.

Speaking with industry-leading architects and designers and using the metaphor of a broken record, we explore trends, greenwashing, and our relationship with this planet and how we can make it a more substantial one.



The Bird Master

Dir. Lanting Gu
(China) 00:04:47

This film was shot to preserve the dying bird culture of old Beijing in China. "Record it before it was gone". The birds that we are referring to in the bird culture are not the ones in cages, but the ones that can fly in the sky.

In old Beijing, there is a group of people who treat birds as their children and spend their remaining life with their passion for playing with birds. The main character of this film, Mr. Yang, is one of them. The culture of playing with birds in old Beijing can be traced back to the Song Dynasty or even earlier...

EMPIRE CINEMA: 20.15

Festival Finale

10 mixed genre shorts (01:34:08)



Film Rosa

Dir. Silvia Bertocchi
(Italy) 00:15:00

This is a story in pink tones. It is not about love but about despair. Every image is full of pink as well as every object, dress and every atmosphere, this colour is used as a metaphor for the personal tragedy of each of us, a colour that has always been sweetened, strongly associated with girls. In this film the meaning of the colour pink is subverted.



Sabbath

Dir. Solene Guichard
(UK) 00:02:25

Two bored kids play with a pentagram in front of their nanny...



Half Samurai

Dir. Rashad Haughton
(Japan) 00:11:00

A mysterious drifter wanders into a bar owned by a vicious yakuza gang on Halloween night.



The Diver's Son

Dir. Nick Sneath
(UK) 00:03:40

A short film documenting the story of a man following in his father's footsteps. Sandy Rijgersberg shares some of the difficult events of his past and his quest to recover a lost keepsake.



EMPIRE CINEMA: 20.15

Festival Finale

10 mixed genre shorts (01:34:08)



Photo Studio on the Corner

Dir. Laura Salagnac
(UK) 00:12:23

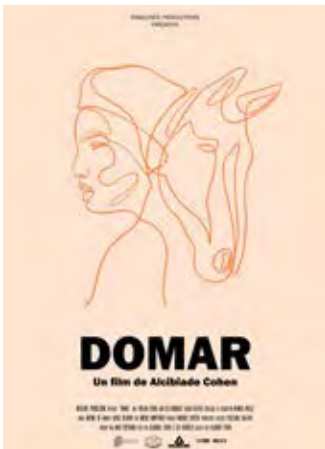
Chloe, grieving over the death of her mother, travels to London to visit her grandmother, who she has not seen for many years. With the help of an aged family photo album the pair slip into surreal visions of the past, reliving bittersweet moments of their lives.



Nique le prive! (F**k private property!)

Dir. Raphael Daniel
(France) 00:15:43

France, 2045. In the middle of a food crisis, Alexandra Delpech sees activists barge into her property, determined to steal her land and transform it into fertile oases for the common good. Armed with her shotgun, Alexandra does not intend to be stripped so easily.



Domar

Dir. Alcibade Cohen
(France) 00:14:26

Maria, a young Argentinian woman, lives in a man's world : rodeo. The day before qualifying for the famous "Jesus Maria" tournament, open for the first time to women, she must make a choice: speak or let fate decide for her...



King of Sea

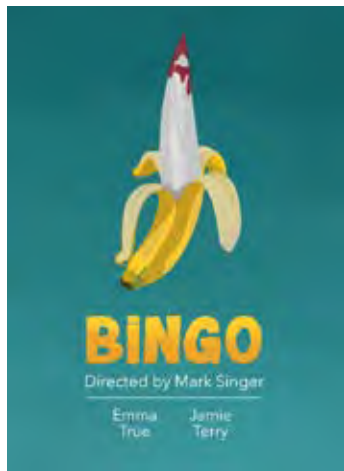
Dir. Stephane Berla
(France) 00:05:17

On the Brittany coast of the Finistère, a sailor bids farewell to his family. Soon he must go back to sea and this time he will not return... Years later, the boy who has become a sailor himself must also sail away. In the depths of the sea, a ghost from the past catches up with him...

EMPIRE CINEMA: 20.15

Festival Finale

10 mixed genre shorts (01:34:08)



Bingo

Dir. Mark Singer
(UK) 00:06:45

Two childhood friends parting ways for the very last time. But saying goodbye is never easy.



Order 27

Dir. Tom Wheeler
(UK) 00:14:57

A Russian Communications Officer and his subordinate are tasked with transmitting Order 27. In 1983, the Russian Nuclear early-warning system identified the launch of five US ICBMs. Lieutenant Colonel Stanislav Petrov decided not to retaliate. It was a false alarm. This is not that story. This is the story of the men who would have been tasked with transmitting Order 27 had Petrov decided to retaliate.



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Acknowledgements

fish eye film festival could not happen without the team of volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to plan, organise and market events, then run the festival! Huge thanks to:

**Mariko Francombe • Richard Rowntree • Jerry Joseph
Simon Kearey • Barbara Muston • Mark Singer
Fiona O'Brien • Jack Peter Mundy**

Thanks also go to Jamie Terry, Neil Marshment (photography), Lawrence Fernando (videography) and all our helpers on 22nd April.

In addition, our grateful thanks to our panel of assessors for the film competitions, who diligently watch and judge the films to decide which go through to our specialist Awards Jury whose judgements determine the winners in each category.

Thanks to our Supporters & Sponsors

Founder sponsors:

**Bucks New University • BFI Film Audience Network
Wycombe District Council • Heart of Bucks
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Amanda Dorsett

Head of Production at Resource Productions, Slough

Amita Shankar

Actor on the British-Asian stage, film festival juror, theatre and cinema events director, entrepreneur

Andrew St Maur

Film producer of short films and features, trained at the National Film and Television School

Argyris Angeli

Artist, architect and academic; co-director GesamtAtelier, an artists company

Janine Piguet

Actress, film director and producer; winner of Fisheye Best Short Film 2021 for Fortissimo; Swiss film academy member

Jo Southwell

Award Winning Film Director; TV director; BAFTA and Directors UK member

Martin Geisler

Writer and director of short films; award winner at Fisheye Film Festival 2021; music video and commercials director.

Martin W Payne

Martin is an actor, producer, director, and festival juror in the world of independent short & feature films.

Matthew Davies

Matt is a writer and producer and is co-owner of independent production company Ash Mountain Films.

Richard Rowntree

An award-winning genre filmmaker with 11 short films & 3 features under his belt, which have screened at prestigious festivals all over the world. Working with Fisheye Film Festival as International Competition Manager since 2017.

Tony McHale

Tony was originally an actor, but he is best known for his work as a TV screenwriter, director and producer, with hundreds of hours of screen credits to his name.

Molly Isaac

Creative composer, sound designer and Foley artist.

Mariko Francombe

Co-founder and current leader of Fisheye Film Festival; video producer; artist.

Awards Jury



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