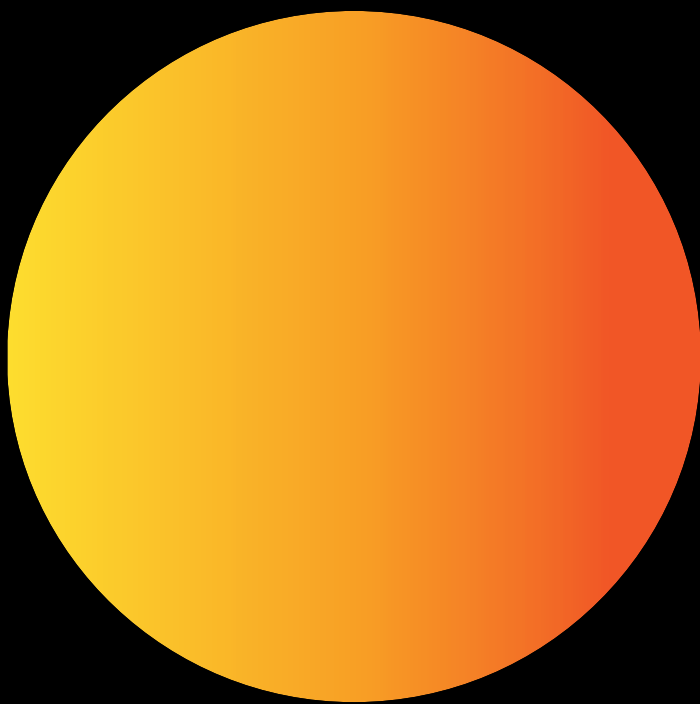




CELEBRATING
25 YEARS
OF THE
**BELFAST
FILM
FESTIVAL**

30 OCT - 8 NOV





yellowmoon







An exhibition of the BFF Programme Covers will take place in Queens Film Theatre from 2nd October to 8th November 2025. Heartfelt thanks to designers Stephen Hackett, Keith Connolly, Kubrix Design.

PROGRAMME FUNDERS



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This year the majority of our events are Pay What You Can (PWYC) price range PWYC £7.00 - £12.00 You choose an affordable price for you!

For information on companion tickets please contact boxoffice@belfastfilmfestival.org



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northernirelandscreen.co.uk

WELCOME TO BELFAST FILM FESTIVAL 2025

Over twenty-five years ago, we founded this festival with a radical but simple belief: that Belfast needed a film festival, a space where film would not only entertain - but also challenge, inspire, and reflect the complexities of our world. We wanted to nurture and celebrate local filmmakers, to welcome international voices, and to gather audiences around powerful stories.

Since then, the Belfast Film Festival has spawned a sister festival - Docs Ireland, and together we have grown into one of the island's leading cultural platforms. The festivals have become an important meeting ground for creative talent, a catalyst for conversation, and a stage for vital voices too often unheard. Our curators have taken risks, spotlighted innovation, and engaged unflinchingly with political and social realities that shape our lives.

Through initiatives like our Memory Truth and Transition programming the festival has forged crucial space for imagining, critique, and connection. These 25 years of change have brought us through a phase of post-conflict recovery, the emergence of a globally recognised screen industry in a

city transformed, with world-class studios, new communities, and a broader cultural outlook. This year we are beyond thrilled to welcome Hollywood icon Lucy Liu on her first visit to Belfast, and look forward to hosting Ben Wheatley and Barry Ward, amongst a host of special guests. This milestone edition marks both a celebration and a turning point, a time to appreciate our collective achievements and look to 2035 with purpose and excitement.

The journey over these years would not have been possible without the vision and commitment of all our wonderful staff, board, volunteers and curators, alongside core funders NI Screen, Belfast City Council, Film HubNI, the BFI, and partners like QFT, Hastings Hotels and Birra Moretti to name but a few - to each and everyone of you, the filmmakers who bring their work, and the audiences who return each year - we extend a heartfelt go raibh mile maith agat - thank you so much.

Michele Devlin
CEO

This festival I'm excited to share some incredible films I've been thinking about since seeing them earlier this year. There are two themes I've noticed running through them. The first is absolutely politics and the state of the world: climate crisis anxiety, horror at the genocide in Palestine and the reality of life for immigrants around the world. The other one is... dogs. Well, it might not be a theme but it's definitely a feature of several films this year. *It Was Just An Accident* starts off meaningfully with a dog. Lynne Ramsay's *Die, My Love* features a troubled dog. *Sirāt* memorably has

two stand-out dog performances from Pipi and Lupita and in truth they were beaten to the Palme Dog at this year's Cannes Film Festival (yes, there is an award for dog performance) by none other than Panda who stars in *The Love That Remains*. It was some good dog acting but in my opinion they were robbed. Decide for yourself at BFF25!

Rose Baker
Programmer



OPENING GALA

DIE, MY LOVE

DIR. LYNNE RAMSAY

UK, CANADA, USA | ENGLISH | 118 MINS | 2025

The much-anticipated new film from Scottish auteur Lynne Ramsay sees her team up collaboratively with stars Jennifer Lawrence and Robert Pattinson. A film co-written by Ramsay alongside Enda Walsh and Alice Birch, and based on the novel by Ariana Harwicz, it centres around Grace (Lawrence), as she and her husband Jackson (Pattinson) move from New York to his family home in rural Montana.

After becoming a new parent, Grace starts to experience post-partum depression that descends into psychosis as she spends her days alone with

her newborn in a rambling country house. Stunning cinematography is from two time Oscar nominee (Atonement, Anna Karenina) Armagh's Seamus McGarvey. *Die, My Love* shows how robust Ramsay is as a filmmaker, using saturated colour and powerhouse performances in this passionate and sensual exploration of a woman's declining mental health.

THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER | 7.00PM
CINEWORLD | £10/£8



SAIPAN

DIRS. LISA BARROS D'SA & GLENN LEYBURN
IRELAND, UK | ENGLISH | 103 MINS | 2024

Belfast Film Festival is delighted to present this much-anticipated film from Belfast directorial duo, Glenn Leyburn and Lisa Barros D'Sa. After the success of their previous films *Good Vibrations* (2012) and *Ordinary Love* (2019), Leyburn and d'Sa have returned with a comedy-drama about the fall-out between Mick McCarthy and Roy Keane during the lead-up to the 2002 Japan World Cup.

Steve Coogan and Éanna Hardwicke give larger-than-life performances as the two famous and almost diametrically opposed personalities of Irish football. When the team arrives for pre-tournament

training in Saipan, a small island in the western Pacific ocean, they find themselves without basic amenities like a football pitch and, well, footballs.

As tensions mount between manager and team captain, the already fragile relationship descends into surreal chaos. Leyburn and Barros D'Sa use their signature lo-fi style to capture the spirit of the age, and add much to the mythology of one of the most intriguing periods of football and sports media history.

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER | 7.00PM
CINEWORLD | £12/£10



AONTAS

DIR. DAMIAN MCCANN
IRELAND | IRISH | 91 MINS | 2025

Acclaimed local filmmakers Damian McCann and Sarah Gordon return with an Irish language thriller told in a punchy, Nolan-esque reverse narrative. Featuring terrific performances from huge figures of Irish cinema, Carrie Crowley, notably seen in the smash hit Irish breakout from 2022, *An Cailín Ciúin* (*The Quiet Girl*), and Brid Brennan who teams up again with McCann after their collaboration in his previous film, *Doinnean*.

Aontas (in English: Union) is a fun and clever film from an innovative and cineliterate filmmaking partnership. With a talent for humour and building on cinematic convention, they bring us an Irish noir heist at a small town credit union that's a lot more than it seems...

The Belfast Film Festival is pleased to present this film as a Gala Screening with many of the cast and crew in attendance.

This screening is also part of Oireachtas na Samhna, a five day festival that has something to interest attendees of all ages featuring competitions, festival clubs, formal and informal music and singing sessions, exhibitions, seminars and a host of fringe events.

Féile ildánach, ollmhór, is ea Oireachtas na Samhna a fhreastalaíonn ar na Gaeil. Is iad na taibhealaíona teagabhunaithe croílár na féile agus tá iliomad imeachtaí eile ina measc seisiúin cheoil & amhránaíochta, taispeántais, seimineáir, drámaí, clubanna na féile agus go leor eile.

Full line-up & tickets at www.antoireachtas.ie



FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER | 7.00PM
CINEWORLD | £12/£10



SPECIAL GUEST LUCY LIU

The Belfast Film Festival is thrilled to welcome Lucy Liu to its 25th edition of the festival, where she will receive the Réalta Award for an Exceptional and Compassionate Performance in *Rosemead*. Liu will also be present to introduce the Irish premiere of the film.

Critically acclaimed actress and filmmaker Lucy Liu is internationally recognised for roles in films that have grossed over \$3.7 billion worldwide, including *Kill Bill*, *Charlie's Angels*, *Chicago*, *Set It Up*, *Presence* and *Red One*. She produced and stars in the indie feature *Rosemead* which will be released in the US this December. The feature film made its world premiere at the Tribeca Festival, won Best Narrative Feature at the Bentonville Film Festival, and won the Prix du Public UBS audience award at the Locarno Film Festival where Liu also accepted its prestigious Career Achievement Award.

Liu earned Emmy nominations for *Ally McBeal* and *The Pirate Queen* (VR), and has produced and championed impactful documentaries including *Freedom's Fury* and *Redlight*.

A celebrated visual artist and longtime UNICEF Ambassador, Liu became only the second Asian American woman in nearly 60 years to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The Réalta Award, Irish for 'star', was created with the desire to honour ground-breaking actors and filmmakers who use their medium for the greater good.

After this event, Liu will introduce a screening of *Rosemead* at 5:30pm (see p.31).

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER | 4.00PM
CINEMAWORLD | £14/£12

NEW CINEMA





SIRĀT

DIR. OLIVER LAXE

FRANCE, SPAIN | SPANISH, FRENCH, ENGLISH, ARABIC |
115 MINS | 2025

Saying almost anything in advance about visionary director Oliver Laxe's fourth film seems too much like a spoiler. It should be enough just to say, "It's amazing; go and see it." Nevertheless, a lot has indeed been said since it went down a storm with critics on its initial screening at the Cannes Film Festival, and where it won the Jury Prize, earlier this year.

Given the Islamic name for the narrow bridge between heaven and hell, this film is like walking a tightrope stretched out along the breathtaking

Moroccan landscape - accompanied by some banging beats. It's very much at home on the big screen, with the photography and soundscape being exactly why. It's a film that illustrates a particular kind of human vulnerability, but is also big, loud and at times totally insane.

You might laugh, you might cry, who knows? But if you see this film, completely gripped to a kind of unblinking incredulity, you won't be thinking about figuring out the profound metaphorical meaning until long after the credits roll.

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER | 8.30PM
QFT | PWYC



A PRIVATE LIFE [VIE PRIVÉE]

DIR. REBECCA ZLOTOWSKI

FRANCE | FRENCH, ENGLISH | 103 MINS | 2025

Fans of Jodie Foster will already be aware of her language skills - she attended a French school in Los Angeles and spoke the language from a young age. But few will have seen her perform in French, and here she and a fantastically watchable supporting cast of Daniel Auteuil and Matheiu Amalric play middle-class, middle-aged Parisians with murder on their minds, as a mystery unfolds after a suspicious death.

Foster is typically adroit as renowned psychiatrist, Lillian Steiner, an American in Paris, who begins her own investigation into the death of her patient. As the chic and serious professional begins to pull

at threads of intrigue, the film becomes an enjoyable genre-blending psycho-drama reminiscent of 1990s classics.

Festival regulars will recognise Park Ji-min, who starred in the award-winning, *Return to Seoul*, as Steiner's daughter-in-law.

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER | 5.45PM
QFT | PWYC



DRACULA

DIR. RADU JUDE

ROMANIA, AUSTRIA, LUXEMBOURG, BRAZIL | ROMANIAN, GERMAN, ENGLISH | 170 MINS | 2025

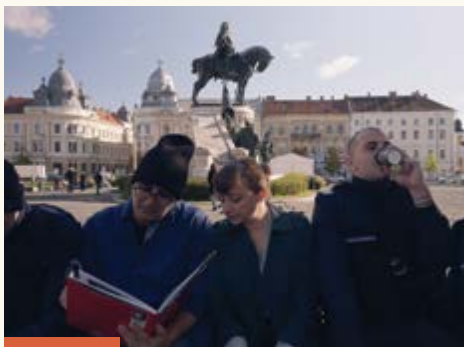
One of the most flogged (un)dead horses in cinema history is wheeled out again by maverick auteur Radu Jude for this sprawling deconstruction of the Dracula myth.

Taking as its start point the figure of Vlad the Impaler, the mythic ruler of Romania who inspired much of the Dracula legend, the film becomes a fragmented mosaic examining the different roles the eponymous vampire has played throughout history. We watch a bawdy dinner show version where exploited actors are chased through the streets with stakes. We watch a love story unfold with a tragic ending. We watch Vlad the Impaler come back to life and see how his legend has become nothing more than tourist fodder. We watch a hack director try to use AI to make his new Dracula film...

This densely packed opus is brazenly absurd yet deeply political; Jude's shotgun approach to analysing cinema and history is refreshing and exhilarating. He mines a distinctive aesthetic from the clash of textures that defines our modern life. He incorporates silent cinema with iPhone footage, and kitschy AI generated images that speak to how ugly our culture is becoming. It is a complete contrast to his other film in the programme, as Jude says himself, "If 'Kontinental '25' is my answer to Roberto Rossellini... let's say that 'Dracula' is my love letter to Ed Wood."

In the year of yet another *Nosferatu* remake and the blockbuster *Sinners*, Jude's *Dracula* is must-see viewing.

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER | 2.30PM
QFT | PWYC



KONTINENTAL '25

DIR. RADU JUDE

ROMANIA, SWITZERLAND, LUXEMBOURG, BRAZIL, UK | ROMANIAN, HUNGARIAN, GERMAN, LATIN, ENGLISH | 109 MINS | 2025

Excitingly one of two Radu Jude films in this year's programme, *Kontinental '25* was filmed as a small side project but went on to win the Silver Bear for Best Screenplay at the Berlin Film Festival earlier this year.

Shot entirely in Cluj on an iPhone, the film follows the story of bailiff, Orsolya, who seeks philosophical solace in different places after a tragedy occurs during an eviction.

A comment on socio-political-economics in Romania, with references to cinema history, including its title (and probably many more stealthily packed-in Romanian cultural allusions that go over outsiders' heads), Jude's trademark dry wit and subtle symbolism make this film devastating and hilarious in equal measure. One of the most exciting auteurs working in the world today, this film shows just how good Radu Jude can be.

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER | 3.15PM
QFT | PWYC



IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT

DIR. JAFAR PANAHİ

IRAN, FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG | FARSI, ENGLISH |

105 MINS | 2025

The festival is delighted to present the 2025 Palme d'Or winning work from celebrated Iranian auteur Jafar Panahi.

Panahi puts together a seemingly benign construct of a family driving home when they accidentally hit a stray dog. But the event is laden with meaning that unfolds as the family pull into a garage for help. A domino effect takes place, with character after character being introduced in an attempt to identify the driver of the car, suspected of being a former government interrogator who terrorised the garage worker in the past.

In typical style, the film infuses the humor of everyday human interaction, the vulnerability of children, quotidian characters and comic-surreal moments alongside the backdrop of brutal political oppression. Knowing that Panahi himself has been imprisoned for the 'crime' of filmmaking makes this even more astute, as these regular people come to grips with state violence and a chance for revenge.

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER | 3.15PM
QFT | PWYC



NOUVELLE VAGUE

DIR. RICHARD LINKLATER

FRANCE | FRENCH | 106 MINS | 2025

Jean Luc Godard has often been misquoted as saying "the best way to criticise a film is to make one."

Nouvelle Vague considers this transition from restless film writer to restless film director. We follow Godard as he is spurred on by the success of Truffaut, as he convinces Jean Seberg this is the right film for her, and how he battles against his producer to do things his way. Linklater chronicles the production from day-to-day, highlighting Godard's spontaneous approach and the somewhat ramshackle techniques behind one of the most influential films of all time.

Filled to the brim with cameos from the pages of Cahiers du Cinema (Bazin, Truffaut, Demy, Varda to name but a few), this is an extremely charming love letter to film history. Godard is not painted as some inexplicable unreachable genius, but a coy and playful figure. Linklater underlines just how fun it must have been to create a work as liberated from convention as *Breathless*.

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER | 12.45PM
QFT | PWYC



IF I HAD LEGS I'D KICK YOU

DIR. MARY BRONSTEIN

USA | ENGLISH | 113 MINS | 2025

Starring the hugely talented Rose Byrne as you've never seen her before, plus Conan O'Brien, Christian Slater and A\$AP Rocky, *If I Had Legs I'd Kick You* is a film that will head straight for your central nervous system and plug itself in.

Shot in intense close-up, the film follows stressed-out mother Linda as she juggles the responsibility of a sick child, an apartment with a huge hole in the ceiling, judgement from pretty much every person she encounters (including her own therapist/boss) and a husband who is almost entirely absent. Impossible to take your eyes from yet at points a watch-through-fingers film, this is a daring portrayal of the darker side of motherhood.

From the mumblecore-defining director of *Yeast*, Mary Bronstein, in a swift side-step of that genre, the film brilliantly captures spiraling anxiety in a seemingly never-ending cycle of if-you-don't-laugh-you'll-cry nightmare scenarios. Not for the faint hearted, but fortune favours the brave.

TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER | 6.00PM
QFT | PWYC



TWO PROSECUTORS

DIR. SERGEI LOZNITSA

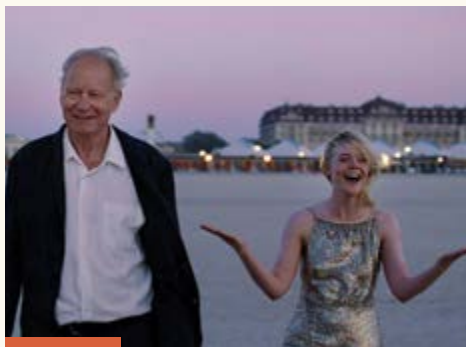
FRANCE, GERMANY, NETHERLANDS, LATVIA, ROMANIA, LITHUANIA, UKRAINE | RUSSIAN, UKRAINIAN | 118 MINS | 2025

Awarded the François Chalais Prize, an award given to a film dedicated to the value of journalism, *Two Prosecutors* is a gripping portrayal of 1930s Stalinist Russia based on a suppressed story by gulag survivor, Georgy Demidov.

A young idealistic prosecutor investigates a high-security prisoner's story after receiving a startling letter. Starkly filmed and with a building claustrophobia and disorientation in scenes of cells, bureaucratic offices, official corridors and government antechambers, the film allows an increasing anxiety to pervade. A nightmarish portrayal of the malice of governmental machinery, the film is one of the most critically celebrated of the year.

Also an award-winning documentarian, Loznitsa's previous feature was the critically acclaimed black comedy *Donbass* (2018), an episodic film based on real accounts of the realities of life in occupied eastern Ukraine.

FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER | 5.45PM
QFT | PWYC



SENTIMENTAL VALUE

DIR. JOACHIM TRIER

NORWAY, GERMANY, DENMARK, FRANCE, SWEDEN, UK, TURKEY | NORWEGIAN, ENGLISH | 133 MINS | 2025

Joachim Trier returns to his beloved Oslo and another collaboration with the breakout star of his previous award-winning film, *The Worst Person In The World*.

This time Renate Reinsve plays Nora, whose estranged father, Gustav, comes back into her and her sister's life shortly after their mother's death. With Nora now an actress, her filmmaker father asks her to play the lead role of his mother in the new autobiographical film he's convinced will revive his career. With a nuanced performance from Stellan Skarsgård as Gustav, and Elle Fanning as a bemused Hollywood star who finds herself in the middle of a fictional, and real, unfolding family drama.

Touching, funny and cleverly contained within the walls of a well-worn family home, the film received a 19-minute standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival in May where it won the Grand Prix. It will be the Norwegian entry for Best International Film at the 2026 Academy Awards.

THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER | 9.00PM
QFT | PWYC



THE SECRET AGENT

DIR. KLEBER MENDONÇA FILHO

BRAZIL, FRANCE, GERMANY, NETHERLANDS |

PORTUGUESE | 158 MINS | 2025

Wagner Moura (*Narcos*, *Civil War*) exudes handsome leading-man vibes in this tense and moving 20th century political thriller from acclaimed director, Kleber Mendonça Filho.

In a role that won him the Best Actor award at the Cannes Film Festival this year, Moura plays a university researcher who comes under scrutiny from the Brazilian dictatorial regime that governed the country from the 1960s to the 1980s. Set in 1977, the film is a colour-saturated, evocative portrayal of the period and throws into relief how normal people are affected by the vice-grip of authoritarianism. With

fantastic supporting performances from an ensemble cast, and unnerving elements such as the vain and corrupt police who wield way too much influence, the film expertly weaves between the personal and the political. With more than a nod to cinema of the 1970s, this is a beautiful and bittersweet film with a historical story that seems firmly rooted in the present.

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER | 8.40PM
QFT | PWYC



THE LOVE THAT REMAINS

DIR. HLYNUR PÁLMASSON

ICELAND, DENMARK, SWEDEN, FRANCE | ICELANDIC, ENGLISH, SWEDISH, FRENCH, DANISH | 108 MINS | 2025

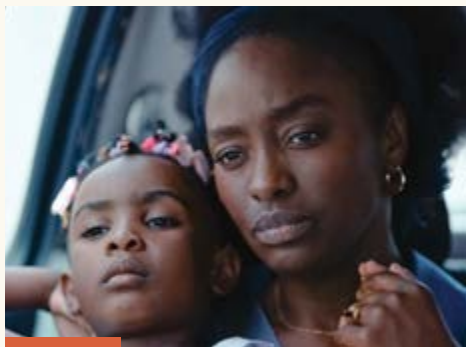
The wonderful Hlynur Pálmasson returns after his critically acclaimed thriller-mystery, *A White White Day* and the sweepingly epic period piece, *Godland*.

In a slight departure from his previous style, *The Love That Remains* uses humour and surreal moments to tell the delicate story of a family going through a separation. Artist Anna makes large-scale metal sculptural works that she leaves to rust in the Icelandic landscape, while her husband Maggi spends most of his time working on a trawler out at sea. The symbolism is apt, as the two have the synergy of those who have lived together for a long time, but like land and sea are close together but completely apart.

The film quietly moves alongside their lives, showing their professional and personal frustrations with care and compassion as they navigate co-parenting. The absurdity of emotion is shown in some cleverly drawn moments of magical realism that highlight the underlying desires and fears of the two characters as they drift into a new phase of life.

Special mention for Panda, the family dog, whose performance won this year's Palme Dog (yes, that is a real award) at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER | 8.40PM
QFT | PWYC



PROMISED SKY

DIR. ERIGE SEHIRI

TUNISIA, FRANCE, QATAR | FRENCH, ARABIC | 92 MINS | 2025

The third feature from French Tunisian director Erige Sehiri is a colourful and neorealist exploration of the intersecting lives of three Black African women in Tunis as they shelter a lost child.

Each of them having migrated to Tunisia from the Ivory Coast, the film follows pastor Marie, young mother Naney, previously taken in by the church, and student Jolie, the only of the three living in Tunis with 'papers', as they create a found family and begin to build a home for Kenza.

A film that underscores the reality of anti-migrant sentiment around the world, plus the personal dangers faced by those on route, it also allows a window into the complex and precarious world of the undocumented in their new countries. As well as this, the film displays the depth of female relationships, support and collective caring, and shows that motherhood can take many forms.

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER | 4.00PM
QFT | PWYC



IN TIME: DÓNAL LUNNY

DIR. NUALA O'CONNOR

IRELAND | ENGLISH, IRISH | 95 MINS | 2025

Dónal Lunny is one of Ireland's most outstanding folk musicians and producers.

This is the first film account of his life, revealing a peerless contribution to Irish culture and music. A huge figure in Irish music, and known for guitar, bouzouki, keyboards and bodhrán, he is a founding member of Planxty, The Bothy Band and Moving Hearts. Throughout his career, Lunny helped revive and transform Irish traditional and folk music.

Director Nuala O'Connor presents a stylish documentary film that captures the wealth of Lunny's talent and influence. She will be present at the screening and take part in a short Q&A after the film.

TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER | 7.00PM
OMNIPLEX KENNEDY CENTRE | £8/£10



TOMORROW'S TOO LATE

DIR. TERRY LOANE

UK | ENGLISH | 60 MINS | 2025

Blending the music documentary with a touching portrayal of trans experience, director Terry Loane returns with the inspirational story of pop star Dylan Holloway.

Shot primarily in personal video diary style by Dylan himself, the film blends family archive and interviews to capture the bravery and challenges of undergoing gender transition. Movingly, the film is centered around Dylan's changing singing voice and captures this as both a literal and metaphorical symbol of risk-taking, change and ultimately self-expression and discovery.

Singer-songwriter, Dylan Holloway will be in attendance at the screening and take part in a Q&A following the film.

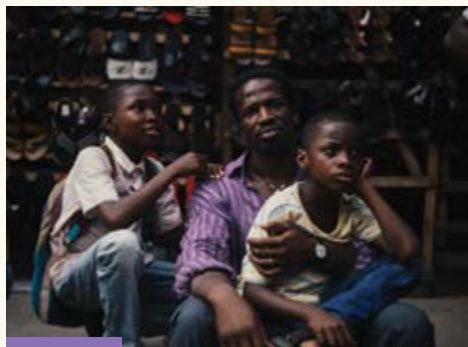
WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER | 7.00PM
THE BLACK BOX | PWYC



ESTABLISHING SHOTS

A PROGRAMME OF INTERNATIONAL FIRST AND
SECOND FEATURES FROM EMERGING DIRECTORS





MY FATHER'S SHADOW

DIR. AKINOLA DAVIES

UK, NIGERIA, IRELAND | ENGLISH, YORUBA | 94 MINS | 2025

Defly told from a child's perspective, *My Father's Shadow* is a remarkable debut from British-Nigerian filmmaker, Akinola Davies.

Semi-autobiographical and co-written with his brother, Wale, the film follows two brothers as they leave their rural village and spend a rare day with their father in Lagos alongside the backdrop of the 1993 election. As the day goes on emotions build as political tensions rise and their father asks questions of his employer, while the boys see the fabric of vibrant city life in wide-eyed wonder.

Beautifully captured from the adoring and fascinated upward gaze of boys who deeply admire their father - played expertly by *Gangs of London* and *Slow Horses* star, Sope Dirisu - the film is a heartfelt and authentic snapshot of a certain time and place in both Nigerian politics and personal family history.

WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER | 8.45PM
QFT | PWYC



LUCKY LU

DIR. LLOYD LEE CHOI

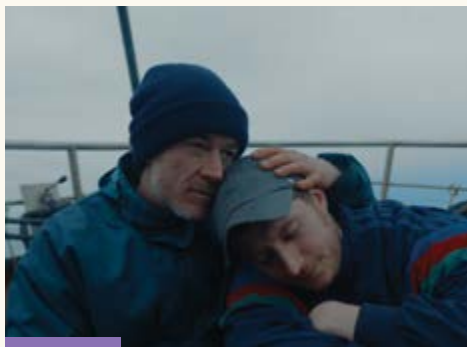
CANADA, USA | ENGLISH, CHINESE | 103 MINS | 2024

In this contemporary re-imagining of *Bicycle Thieves*, Lu is a delivery driver in New York City.

He has lived there alone for three years, saving to find an apartment for his wife and daughter to join him. On the day they are due to arrive, his e-bike is stolen and his building superintendent kicks him out. Lu must race to secure the life of the American Dream he's imagined for his family.

Lucky Lu begins as an angst-inducing pressure cooker of a film, following our protagonist as he races from job to job, navigating the grey labyrinth of traffic and dingey takeaways with the everpresent 'ding' of his delivery app guiding his every move. When his bike is taken, the precarious building blocks of his life begin to fall, exposing the Sisyphean nature of the migrant experience in an uncaring and uncompromising society. When his daughter arrives, and we see Lu's corner of New York through her eyes, the pulse dips and we see and feel the true toll that Lu's running and hustling has had. Anchored by a volatile yet sensitive performance from Chang Chen, this is an essential film for our moment.

MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER | 9.00PM
QFT | PWYC



ON THE SEA

DIR. HELEN WALSH

UK | ENGLISH | 111 MINS | 2025

Set along the weathered coastline of North Wales, Jack works as a hand raker on the mussel beds alongside his younger brother and nephews. Married to his supportive wife Maggie but concerned that his son is hinting at not joining the family business, Jack's quiet, unremarkable life is disrupted when casual labourer, Daniel, arrives in the village. As the two men get to know each other, tensions build between family responsibility, prejudiced attitudes and the strong desire to live an authentic life.

With stunning central performances from Barry Ward and Lorne MacFadyen, this is a sensual and tonally astute second feature from British novelist, screenwriter and director, Helen Walsh.

Actor Barry Ward, whose previous work includes *Jimmy's Hall*, *That They May Face The Rising Sun* and *Bad Sisters*, will attend the event and take part in a post-screening Q&A.

SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER | 6.00PM
QFT | PWYC



BLUE HERON

DIR. SOPHY ROMVARI

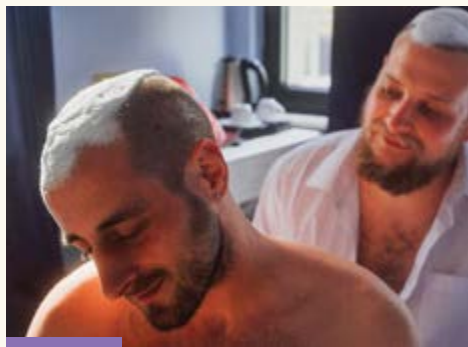
CANADA, HUNGARY | ENGLISH, HUNGARIAN | 90 MINS | 2025

A young Hungarian family moves to Vancouver. Through the eyes of eight-year-old Sasha, we witness the unnatural rhythms of adjusting to a new environment.

Set in the late 1990s, we watch as Sasha adapts to this new world of sundappled beach days and intimidating pool parties with the neighborhood girls. The excitement soon turns sour however, as the eldest sibling soon begins acting erratically. His declining behavior becomes cause for concern as he becomes a hazard to himself and his family. Years later, Sasha tries to reckon with her family history and understand both her brother and her parents. A sensitive rumination on the fragility of memory and the lasting effects of grief.

Director of numerous acclaimed shorts, Sophy Romvari has developed a keen eye for detail, underscoring the poetic and lyrical with a touch of uncertainty. Her debut feature is at once rich, warm and inviting, as well as challenging and heartbreaking. *Blue Heron* is filled with an immense emotional texture that blurs the line between fiction, non-fiction and subjective memory.

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER | 6.15PM
QFT | PWYC



BEFORE/AFTER

DIR. MANOËL DUPONT

BELGIUM | FRENCH, ENGLISH, TURKISH | 79 MINS | 2025

With seemingly everyone talking about transplant tourism these days, this touching comedy about two men bonding over baldness has come along at just the right time.

After a chance meeting, Jérémy and Baptiste decide to go to Turkey to get hair transplants together. Almost total strangers, the two embark on a highly personal shared experience in a foreign country. Negotiating medical appointments in English (almost no one speaks their language, French), and at times with heightened emotions leading to awkward situations, they come to terms with these new versions of themselves.

Funny, heartfelt and honest, the film stars two friends of the director who are not actors, but two people who really wanted to get hair transplants. The procedures in the film are real, and most of the other performers are non-actors who the team met along the way. The result is a truthful, documentary-like film that captures Turkey at a pivotal moment during the 2023 elections.

SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER | 4.00PM
QFT | PWYC



FIOR DI LATTE

DIR. CHARLOTTE ERCOLI

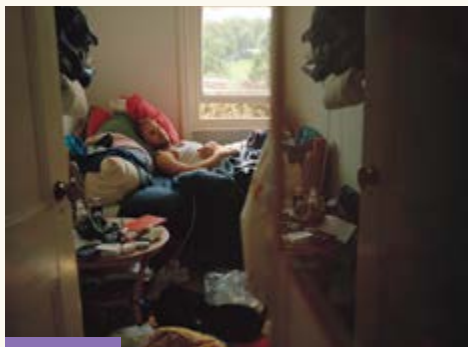
USA, ITALY | ENGLISH | 85 MINS | 2025

They say smell is intricately tied with memory, just a sniff can transport you to the past via the canyons of the mind.

For struggling playwright Mark, the memories of his most treasured holiday, a brief trip to Italy, are the source of his inspiration and his frustration. In an attempt to find new ideas for a script which will star the love of his life (his reluctant flatmate who resents him), he returns to the scent of a perfume from that vacation. Tragedy strikes when he loses the last trace of the fragrance, and he is forced to resort to desperate measures to find that smell, find the inspiration he needs and fulfill his ultimate dreams.

This offbeat comedy gem is the feature debut of Charlotte Ercoli, featuring an all-star cast of Tim Heidecker, Kevin Kline, Julia Fox and Fisher Stevens to name but a few. Like our protagonist's flights of fancy, the film's dreamlike structure gives way to flashbacks, idle reveries and musical numbers on a whim. Heidecker's central performance of a stunted manchild obsessed with pop-cultural detritus speaks to our culture's current obsession with the past - trapped in a nostalgic world that no longer exists and lashing out at anything new or original. Thankfully, this highly original film will combat those fears.

TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER | 9.00PM
QFT | PWYC



THE SON AND THE SEA

DIR. STROMA CAIRNS

UK | ENGLISH, BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE | 102 MINS | 2025

Young Londoner Jonah is a victim of our modern age - overstimulated, overexcited and overwhelmed.

In serious need of a break, he travels with his best friend Lee to the north-east coast of Scotland. On this rugged unforgiving coastline, they almost immediately run into trouble in the first pub they set foot in. After making friends with Charlie, a deaf man living in the shadow of his troublesome brother, the trio soon begin to relax and adapt to a more peaceful style of life.

This feature debut is a tender and sensitive portrait of young masculinity in a time when aggression and resilience is favoured above all. Through their unexpected circumstances and ensuing friendship, our three protagonists learn how to be vulnerable. The beautiful Scottish landscapes are a wide open vista for them to express themselves and scream into the wind. Ultimately, *The Son and the Sea* is a film which slows down with the characters. When we reach the end of the journey, we too may find a transcendent sense of understanding.

Director Stroma Cairns will be in attendance for a post-screening Q&A.

MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER | 7.00PM
ODEON | PWYC



ROSEMEAD

DIR. ERIC LIN

USA | ENGLISH, CHINESE | 97 MINS | 2025

Lucy Liu will be present to introduce this award-winning film from debut director, Eric Lin.

Irene came to the U.S. chasing the American dream. And she got it: she found love and married Charles. They had a beautiful boy named Joe and opened a successful printing business in Los Angeles' San Gabriel Valley. But since Charles died, she struggles to hold on to the life they've made even as Joe struggles with schizophrenia. Like many Chinese people, Irene believes that a son's troubles are a mother's sole responsibility, and that mental illness is something to be ashamed of. Her isolation becomes both her shield and her prison.

Inspired by an award-winning Los Angeles Times article by Frank Shyong, *Rosemead* depicts a sprawling community and culture rarely ever seen in film: the Chinese diaspora in L.A.'s San Gabriel Valley. Featuring a transformative, tour-de-force performance by Lucy Liu, this timely story reckons with a myriad of urgent social issues, but ultimately, it is a heart-wrenching story about love: a son's love for his parents, a mother's love for her son, and the lengths she would go to protect him, even from himself.

Photo Credit: Lyle Vincent

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER | 5.30PM
CINEMAWORLD | £12/£10



A taste worth
pulling up a chair for.



ENJOY LIFE'S
SIMPLE PLEASURES



CHRISTMAS PRIVATE HIRE PACKAGE

Searching for the perfect venue for corporate or private event this Christmas? The Avenue Cinema can provide a truly memorable event experience for your guests.

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Festive food package served to seat.

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THE AVENUE



Martin Sheen, 1999



Deepa Mehta, 2003



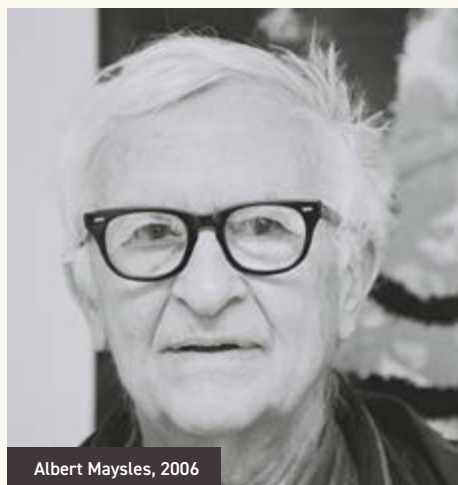
Andrea Corr, Charlotte Bradley, 2003



WIZ, Stephen Hackett, 2005



Juanita Wilson, festival founders Michele Devlin & Laurence McKeown, with Les Blair, Grainne Campbell, James Flynn, 2006



Albert Maysles, 2006



Julie Christie, 2007



Terry George, 2008



Crispin Glover, 2009



Martin McCann, 2011



Peter Mullan, 2011



Brendan Fraser, 2012



Good Vibrations Premiere 2012: Richard Dormer, Glenn Leyburn, Terry Hooley, Lisa Barros D'Sa



Michael Moore, 2016



Terence Davies, 2016



Mindhorn Premiere 2017: Julian Barratt, Sean Foley, Simon Farnaby



Brian Henry Martin & John Cusack, 2017



Ken Loach, Louise O'Meara, 2018



The Dig Premiere 2018: Ryan Tohill, Brian J. Falconer, Andy Tohill, Mark Cousins, Moe Dunford, Stuart Drennan



Robert Carlyle, 2019



Aamir Khan, 2019



A Bump Along The Way Premiere 2019:
Louise Gallagher, Lola Petticrew, Bronagh Gallagher, Shelly Love



Belfast Premiere 2021: Lewis McAskie, Caitríona Balfe, Jude Hill, Kenneth Branagh, Jamie Dornan, Ciaran Hinds



Brid Brennan, Stephen Rea, 2021



Ballywalter Premiere 2022:
Stacey Gregg, Patrick Kielty, Prasanna Puwanarajah



Mark Cousins, Andrea Arnold, Lisa Barros D'Sa, 2022



John Sayles and Maggie Renzi, 2023



Lalor Roddy, 2024



Fréwaka Premiere 2024: Bríd Ní Neachtain, Aislinn Clarke, Aleksandra Bystrzhitskaya, Clare Monnelly



Anne Devlin Anniversary Screening 2024: Thaddeus O'Sullivan, Pat Murphy, Bríd Brennan, Margo Harkin

20

NORTHERN IRELAND SCREEN
Irish Language Broadcast Fund
An Ciste Craoltóireachta Gaeilge



20 Bliain ag Fás



**LONG
SHORT
WEEKEND**
COMPETITION
SHORTS



COMPETITION SHORTS JURY

MIKE S. RYAN



Mike S. Ryan started out in film production as a location manager before moving on to produce many acclaimed films for the likes of Kelly Reichardt, Todd Solondz and Bela Tarr.

His two most recent films, *The Cry of Granuaile* and *The Ballad of Suzanne Cesaire*, have both screened at BFF in recent years, with the latter winning Best International Film in 2024.

HANNAH MAMALIS



Hannah is a writer, performer and director based in Dublin.

Her debut short *Baby Steps* won Best First Short Drama at Galway Film Fleadh 2023 and the audience award at DIFF 2024. Last year Hannah developed, starred in and co-wrote the RTE Player's first original sitcom *Good Boy*. She is currently writing her first feature film *Stranded* with support from Screen Ireland's Perspectives scheme.

DAWN RICHARDSON



Dawn Richardson is an experimental filmmaker and artist based in Belfast.

Working with analogue and immersive technologies, she explores documentary as a space for collaboration, improvisation, and resistance. Her work has travelled from Belfast to Beirut to Phnom Penh through the co-creation platform Hosta Projects.

In addition to the BFF Shorts Competition, and decided by a jury of 18-26 year-old LUMI programmers from the QFT, the LUMI award will be given to the film which engages young audiences and is innovative in its approach to filmmaking.

LUMI

COMPETITION SHORTS

PROGRAMME ONE



SWIMMER

DIR. HELEN WARNER | 19 MINS

After a bomb hits her city street at the height of WWII, young Iris finds herself evacuated to the countryside. Shellshocked and alienated by her lush green surroundings, she stumbles upon a secret ritual occurring under cover of night and unwittingly triggers a tragic series of events. A creepingly unnerving piece which plays tricks on the mind, what is that you see lurking in the shadows? Or at the bottom of that murky black lake?



THE GENERATORS

DIR. GEORGIE COWAN-TURNER | 13 MINS

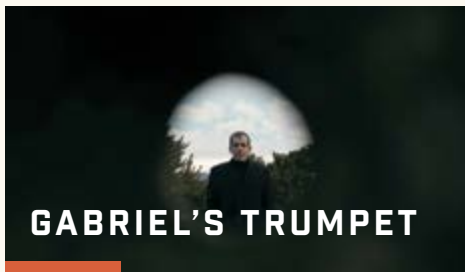
This dystopian tale imagines a world in the throes of an energy crisis. Oscar and his husband Alex find themselves at the mercy of a bureaucratic medical system where energy credits are the new currency. In lieu of credits, Oscar submits to 'generating'. Beautifully rendered in black and white 16mm, *The Generators* paints a portrait of love persevering that is both touching and harrowing in equal measure.



FOR THE CURE

DIR. CONOR MCCORMICK | 7 MINS

On the day of his father's funeral, a young man loses the ability to speak. Needing a quick fix, his mother takes him to an unexpected place for an unexpected solution. This dark and unsettling comedy digs deep into the Irish psyche and roots around, finding humour in grief, trauma and mysterious country healers blessed with 'the cure.'



GABRIEL'S TRUMPET

DIR. THOMAS BENNETT | 20 MINS

An elliptical jigsaw puzzle of a film, *Gabriel's Trumpet* follows a string of young people across Belfast as they come to terms with a shocking disappearance, a wave of riots, and a standing stone that seems to haunt the very tape the film is shot on. Captured in bewitching digital textures and featuring an ensemble of brilliant performers, this is an affecting film which evokes the Belfast of today and that inescapable end-of-times feeling.

SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER | PROG 1 | 10.00AM
QFT | PWYC

* Due to the nature and content of these programmes,
no one under 18 may be permitted.

COMPETITION SHORTS

PROGRAMME TWO



DIR. LUÍS HINDMAN | 19 MINS

Magid arrives for work on a busy Friday night in his family takeaway. Music blasts, colleagues shout, the heat rises. Before too long, childhood friend Zafar appears looking for answers. Tensions reach boiling point and suddenly Magid can't hide the truth anymore. What starts as a pulse-raising drama becomes a tender exploration of a life-long relationship, handsomely shot on crisp 16mm photography under flickering neon lights.



DIR. CALEB J. ROBERTS | 15 MINS

In the middle of a brutal heatwave, transgender man Owen takes a pregnancy test. Left reeling, he returns to the flat of his occasional lover Seán to talk about their relationship, and if he sees a future together. This intense and emotionally-charged two-hander features stunning performances from Pete MacHale & Diarmuid Noyes, capturing the bittersweet rush of a summer fling on the rocks.



DIR. ZOË NOLAN | 19 MINS

Feeling overwhelmed and trapped by life, a young woman reaches out for help. Her colleague's husband comes to her house and tries to teach her how to reconnect with herself. Nolan evokes the inner self through a rich visual language and layered sound design, creating a deeply-felt kaleidoscopic portrait. Initially an exploration of anxiety and overstimulation, *Internal Bleeding* transforms into a soft and gentle exercise in meditation and slowing down.

SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER | PROG 2 | 11.30AM
QFT | PWYC

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COMPETITION SHORTS

PROGRAMME THREE



DIR. TOLU OGUNWARE | 15 MINS

This skin-crawling horror begins with a disorientated runner arriving at an isolated diner. When a charismatic stranger invites him to have lunch with him, their innocent conversation soon takes a darker twist. Unfolding like an eerie folk-tale up high in the mountains, *Irish Son* considers the insidious evil of racism in Ireland and the horrors that lie behind the friendliest of faces.



DIR. BENJAMIN PORTER | 8 MINS

A cinematic insight into a nervous, restless mind, this short follows a man who walks past a large McDonald's meal on the ground. Overcome by indecisiveness, he must figure out how to put it in a bin without turning the whole world against him. This anxiety-ridden comedy is hilarious and stunningly shot, making the internal external through anamorphic widescreen mania.



DIRS. EDEL MCCORMICK, ERIN O'RAWE | 18 MINS

Meghan is a linoprint artist who channels her deepest darkest feelings into her work. Yet no one seems to appreciate them at the local art fair. Watching as people rankle at her self-expression then buy work that seems shallow in comparison, she descends into a self-destructive spiral that pushes the boundaries of her own artwork. A darkly comic satire which cuts as deep into the local art scene as it does into flesh and blood.



DIRS. ELLIE WILDMAN, CONOR TONER | 13 MINS

A lonely widower has settled for his lonely routine, stuck in his lonely ways. Until one day an infomercial lights up his life and he buys a 'Grow Your Own Girlfriend' kit. All he has to do is add water; what could go wrong? This wonderfully bizarre comedy is as funny as it is moving, gleefully tongue in cheek and packed to the gills with visual invention.

SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER | PROG 3 | 1.00PM
QFT | PWYC

*** Due to the nature and content of these programmes, no one under 18 may be permitted.**

COMPETITION SHORTS

PROGRAMME FOUR



PLAYING PETER

DIR. MICHAEL BARWISE | 13 MINS

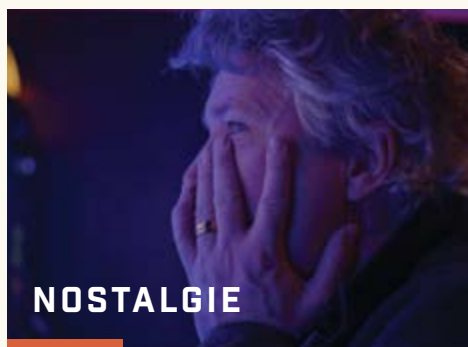
When Peter agrees to take part in a clandestine plot of industrial sabotage, he is forced to confront himself and the roles he plays in different relationships. Mixing kitchen-sink drama with elements of political thriller, *Playing Peter* is a twisting tale of selfhood and manipulation; a fragmented portrait of an identity in flux.



THREE KEENINGS

DIR. OLIVER MCGOLDRICK | 10 MINS

In this darkly comic insight into the ancient death rituals of rural Ireland, Ian is a professional mourner hired for his keening skills. We follow him over the course of a day as he flits from funeral to funeral, ignoring a constant stream of texts and phone calls. It soon becomes clear that it's not so easy to separate his personal life from his professional life.



NOSTALGIE

DIR. KATHRYN FERGUSON | 19 MINS

Drew Lord Haig was a one-hit wonder in the 80s. Despite leaving it all behind, he receives a mysterious request to perform at a members club in Belfast who have a special reverence for one of his minor B-sides. Funny, compelling and gut-punching; *Nostalgie* distills the absurd normality of living in a post-conflict Northern Ireland. Based on the short story by Wendy Erskine.

SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER | PROG 4 | 2.30PM
QFT | PWYC

* Due to the nature and content of these programmes,
no one under 18 may be permitted.

LONG SHORT WEEKEND NEW IRISH SHORTS



NEW IRISH SHORTS PROGRAMME ONE

MILE 24

DIR. COLIN PEPPARD | 12 mins

A son dreams of treading the boards. His father dreams of him running marathons instead. Between the chasm of these two aspirations is this bitter-sweet and tender story of two generations trying to understand each other, brought to life by two brilliant central performances.

HOT YOUNG GEEK SEEKS BLOOD-SUCKING FREAK

DIR. HEATH VIRGOE | 12 mins

When Max accidentally becomes the target of a terminally-online vampire, he and his friend Ricky must ditch their Halloween plans and barricade themselves in their flat. Bursting with quick wit, visual invention and refreshing sincerity, this is a horror comedy uniquely tailored to our internet-poisoned times.

PARTING

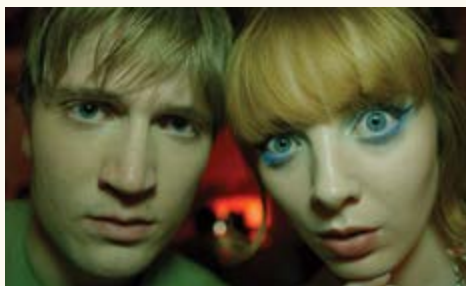
DIR. OLIVIA MCCLAUGHLIN | 11 mins

An Irish family prepares for their youngest daughter to leave for Australia. Instead of acknowledging the weight of it, they lose themselves in the packing, the ironing and the trip to the airport. Inspired by the recent wave of young Irish people moving down under, this heart-rending drama considers those left behind.

PUNT

DIR. NICKY LARKIN | 20 mins

After the death of her husband, a heartbroken woman tries to end her life but finds her plans scuppered by a pay-as-you-go meter. On a quest for a coin with the local drunk, she partakes in a bet that leaves her life, and Ireland's qualification during the 1994 World Cup, hanging on the line. A darkly comic fable about love, loss and getting lathered.



SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER | PROG 1 | 10.30AM
BLACK BOX | PWYC

* Due to the nature and content of these programmes, no one under 18 may be permitted.

NEW IRISH SHORTS PROGRAMME TWO

MAELSTROM

DIR. ISABELLA KOBAN | 5 mins

A spirit of the sea emerges from the tides. It is drawn towards a house haunted by the past. It slips from room to room, absorbing the echoes of history contained within. This dripping mood piece strikes a chilling ambience, reflecting on the slippery nature of memory.

FATHER!

DIRS. ABE SMYTH, SOPHIA ADLI | 19 mins

When a doppelganger of her late, abusive father appears in the form of an American priest; Saoirse embarks on a pursuit of cathartic vengeance. Surreal and funny, this is a gleefully camp horror which revels in the grim particulars of revenge.

METEORIC

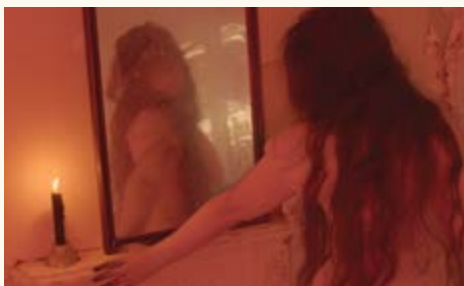
DIR. PAUL Ó MUIRIS | 7 mins

An artist is struck by a meteor, with his entire being splattered upon canvas. The resulting piece captures the hearts and minds of the globe, sparking feverish corporeal mayhem. Thus begins a series of twisted attempts to recapture the magic in this blend of art-world satire and cartoonish body horror.

DEVIANT

DIR. CIARAN MCILHATTON | 20 mins

In this high-school horror of the mind, two girls held behind for detention get caught up in a paranoid fever-dream spurred by vape pens and true crime podcasts - is their teacher a murderous psychopath? Or just a run-of-the-mill creep? Sharply written and soundtracked with a pulsing 80s tinged score.



SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER | PROG 2 | 12.30PM
BLACK BOX | PWYC

* Due to the nature and content of these programmes, no one under 18 may be permitted.

NEW IRISH SHORTS PROGRAMME THREE

BEHOLD!

DIR. CONALL MCCAULEY | 3 mins

This hand-painted animation is a consideration of faith in its many forms. Intricately designed as it moves from one breathtaking tableau to the next, guided by a rousing score, Behold! is a trance-like experience which speaks to the soul.

THE BREATH OF BONES

DIRS. MATTHEW HARDY, JOSHUA DUTIN | 15 mins

A cursed painting is the catalyst for a series of revelations for young actress Sylvie, as she is forced to reckon with both her family's past, as well as her country's history of brutality. Recalling the work of Kiyoshi Kurosawa as we delve further into the mystery, this is an unsettling piece which ruminates on the legacy of trauma.

ALOYSIUS

DIR. SYDNEY A.M. | 15 mins

An absurd dinner party with our hosts Aloysius and Sebastian forces two strangers into extreme circumstances as they navigate their bizarre environment and their own identities. Aloysius considers the narrow roles we are forced to play in modern life, and the suffocating banality of it all.

BIG YETI

DIR. RORY KERR | 3 mins

Lovelorn and sorrow-stricken, a man retreats into himself and slowly morphs into something unrecognizable. A rich yet bittersweet animation considering grief and the all-enveloping molds it can take.

SISSY PUSS

DIR. LARA DELMAGE | 10 mins

Kat works from home and stays in doors. Though isolated, she finds comfort in her regimented routine. From the window she spots Cat, a free spirit with strange rituals of her own. Together, they work to free Kat from her self-imposed cage and move towards an unrestricted expression of self. Utterly alluring and completely captivating, this film gets under the skin and claws at what's inside.



SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER | PROG 3 | 2.30PM
BLACK BOX | PWYC

* Due to the nature and content of these programmes, no one under 18 may be permitted.

NEW IRISH SHORTS PROGRAMME FOUR

ALTERED STATES/STÁIT ALTER

DIR. BEN MALCOLMSON | 6 mins

In this dream-like exploration of Ireland's borderlands, we trace the boundaries of the six counties and observe the remnants of a not-so-distant past. This multimedia piece mixes documentary footage with layered soundscapes and distorted projections to create an affecting mosaic of a fractious landscape.

JEGGIES

DIR. LOUISE PARKER | 13 mins

There is a sense of dread and anger in the family home. 10 year old Claire and her younger brother Kyle try to escape for the day, but find their walkabout impacted by dread and anger wherever they go. A moving drama about families and arguments and what gets passed down.

IN THE SAME SPACE

DIR. TIMOTEJ BAČA | 15 mins

A young woman finds herself at a crossroads in life; facing career anxieties, a deteriorating relationship and a friend about to move halfway across the globe. Cinematic yet grounded in the Belfast of today, this intimate and naturalistic drama is made by the trio of talented performers at the heart of it.

A TOURIST STORY

DIR. WILL MCCONNELL | 15 mins

In the aftermath of a divorce, Wen Jiao tries to find herself on a solo trip to Belfast. She writes to her sister about what she sees and how she imagines a new life for herself. Strikingly composed and lovingly told, this is a touching meditation on life, love and experiencing the bounty of the Northern Ireland tourists board.

OIL & WATER

DIR. CHARLOTTE ROSE AINSWORTH | 16 mins

A young woman from West Belfast falls in love with art, and then with her English art teacher in pre-ceasefire Northern Ireland. Mary must figure out if she should follow her heart, or give in to the sectarian divides that exist in people's heads. This charming period piece, inspired by a true story, is heartwarming and inspiring; a testament to the power of love and art.



SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER | PROG 4 | 4.30PM
BLACK BOX | PWYC

* Due to the nature and content of these programmes, no one under 18 may be permitted.



LONG STORY SHORT – NEW VOICES FROM ACROSS THE UK

100 MINS

Long Story Short is a bold new talent initiative from BBC Writers designed to give emerging writers, directors and producers the opportunity to take risks, experiment, and make their mark on screen. Spanning all four nations, the programme pairs fresh voices with local production companies to develop authored and ambitious short films.

This screening brings together seven stories from across the UK; each film is a calling card for its creative team and an inspiring snapshot of the future of UK storytelling.

Long Story Short is a creative collaboration between BBC Writers; BBC Drama Commissioning; BBC Three; BBC iPlayer; BBC Scotland; BBC Northern Ireland; BBC Wales and our screen agency partners Creative Wales; North East Screen; Northern Ireland Screen; and Screen Scotland.

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER | 1.00PM
BLACK BOX | PWYC

BBC
WRITERS

AWARDS RECEPTION

We invite all filmmakers to our closing event of the weekend: our awards reception where we will announce the winner for Best Short and the recipient of the LUMI Award. This will be your chance to have a couple of drinks, talk about the great work you've seen and hatch some schemes to make the next film! This informal event will be held in The John Hewitt on Donegall Street.

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER | 6.00PM
THE JOHN HEWITT | FREE

ALTERED STATES

A SELECTION OF NEW CINEMA THAT
IS WEIRD, EERIE, AND LIVES ON
THE FRINGES OF GOOD TASTE.





BULK

DIR. BEN WHEATLEY

UK | ENGLISH | 95 MINS | 2025

When surveying the blockbuster landscape of the multiplexes today, everyone seems obsessed with multiverses. Rather than being invested in the scientific and philosophical ramifications of such ideas, studios and moviegoers are more interested in maximising profits for intellectual properties.

Ben Wheatley's *Bulk* spits in the face of such cynical ventures and presents a gloriously madcap plunge into the unknown. Our protagonist Corey Harlan, a cool cat in the mould of Bogart or Belmondo, is thrust into a complex web of mystery surrounding elusive scientist Anton Chambers. His experiments with string theory have gone too far, exploding and breaking down the dimensions of reality. All Harlan

has to do is find Chambers and stop the end of existence as we know it.

Bulk is a gleefully freewheeling genre flick, recalling *Alphaville* and *Quatermass* as much as it does *Thunderbirds*. Wheatley revels in its handmade style, playfully utilising back-projection, model car chases and cardboard guns. This is a lo-fi odyssey to behold, and not to be missed on the big screen.

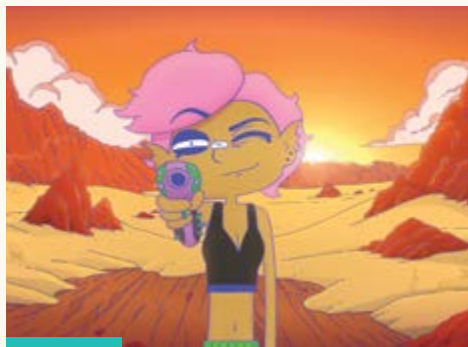
Ben Wheatley will take part in a Q&A after the film to explain himself.



**BEN
WHEATLEY**

Headshot Photo Credit -
Kerry Brown

**THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER | 6.00PM
QFT | PWYC**



LESBIAN SPACE PRINCESS

DIRS. LEELA VARGHESE & EMMA HOUGH HOBBS
AUSTRALIA | ENGLISH | 87 MINS | 2025

A punchy animated comedy from Australian writer-directors, Leela Varghese and Emma Hough Hobbs, this space adventure won the 2025 Teddy Award, the Berlin Film Festival's long-standing queer cinema award.

The story follows Saira, once voted most boring gay in royal space, as she reels from a break-up with the charismatic Kiki, only to discover she's been kidnapped by the Straight White Maliens. An intergalactic quest ensues, as Saira strives not just to get her back but also to get her back.

With a quick-witted script and fantastic ensemble cast of voice-artists, the film plays with audience expectation and features some original folksy, wistful guitar songs composed by Varghese. It's a welcome bubble of queer joy that doesn't take itself too seriously and offers a warm and funny antidote to life's troubles.

THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER | 6.45PM
THE AVENUE | £16



DEAD LOVER

DIR. GRACE GLOWICKI
CANADA | ENGLISH | 86 MINS | 2025

John Waters and Frankenstein's monster walk into a bar. They pal around and decide to make a film. They might come up with something similar to *Dead Lover*.

Lonesome and forlorn, a gravedigger who stinks of corpses reluctantly tends to her daily duties. After a chance encounter at a funeral, she meets the man of her dreams, a foppish dandy, and falls head over heels. However just as life begins to smell of roses, her new-found beau tragically drowns, leaving behind only a finger lopped off in the accident. Fuelled by the power of love, our romantic hero becomes a mad scientist in her attempts to cheat death and resurrect her lover.

This sexually-charged fable beautifully revels in its lustful desires and grotesque impulses, brought to life in German Expressionist style with a richly textured 16mm aesthetic and featuring a wonderful score from U.S. Girls. Performed by a dedicated troupe of just four actors, this is a wonderfully absurd comedy/horror/romance with sincere DIY charm. *Dead Lover* is unashamedly grotesque, earnest and horny; its smell will linger with you for days.

FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER | 6.20PM
QFT | PWYC



FUCKTOYS

DIR. ANNAPURNA SRIRAM
USA | ENGLISH | 107 MINS | 2025

Sex worker AP is cursed. All the psychics agree. The only way out of it? A slaughtered lamb and one thousand dollars.

Thus begins a twisted odyssey through the streets of Trashtown, a surreal microcosm of America encompassing non-binary cowboys, absurd mansion parties and Tom of Finland cops. Travelling on her moped from client to scheme to opportunity, her high-intensity hustling is a highly camp yet white-knuckle thrill ride through the underbelly of modern USA. She might be about to enact a sacrificial ritual but she might as well have some fun along the way.

Starring writer, producer and director Annapurna Sriram in her feature debut, alongside an outstanding ensemble cast, Fucktoys is an arresting piece of work. As well as being smart, funny and heartbreaking, the film doesn't neglect the danger of being a sex worker, with the precarity of AP's profession never too far out of frame. The film is a beauty to behold, composed of striking anamorphic vistas shot on 16mm and drenched in the neon colours of the underground, this will probably be the most beautiful film reveling in trash and bad taste you'll see all year.

TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER | 6.45PM
THE AVENUE | £16

TV EYE





A BUNCH OF QUESTIONS WITH NO ANSWERS

DIRS. ROBERT M. OCHSHORN & ALEX REYNOLDS
USA | ENGLISH | 23 HRS 10 MINS | 2025

This film is a record of the questions posed by journalists to the US State Department during press briefings between October 3 2023 and the end of the Biden administration about the ongoing genocide in Palestine. As the endless demands for clarification and accountability were repeatedly met with convoluted evasions, the artists chose to edit them out.

This 23 hour film will be screened over four days in the Belfast Film Festival's Beanbag Cinema.

Drop in. No booking required. £FREE

Saturday 1 November, 10am to 4pm

Tuesday 4 November, 10am to 4pm

Wednesday 5 November, 10am to 4pm

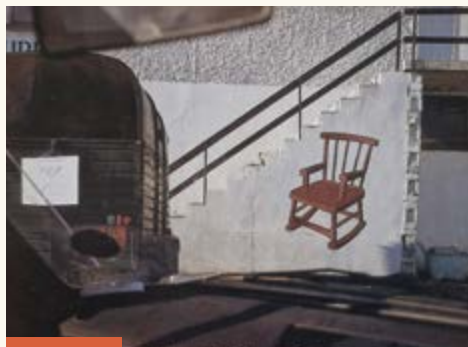
Thursday 6 November, 4pm to 9pm

The film is subtitled.

PANEL EVENT

On Saturday 8 November a panel of journalists and filmmakers will discuss their response to the film and its wider meaning in the context of journalism on the subject of Palestine and the shocking number of press killed there since 2023. The Detail's Luke Butterly will lead the discussion.

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER | 2.30PM
BLACK BOX GREEN ROOM | PWYC



TROUBLE THE CALM & Q&A

DIR. DAVID FOX
53 MINS | 1989

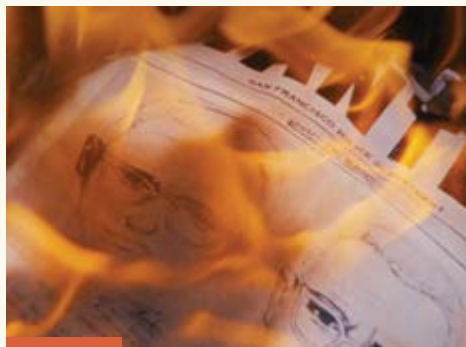
Commissioned by Channel 4 and broadcast in 1989 as part of 'The Eleventh Hour', *Trouble the Calm* is a documentary that explores Ireland's political complications.

It observes the annual Irish Management Institute (IMI) conference with Michael Smurfit, Tony O'Reilly, and Charles Haughey, and records the wives of political prisoners as they campaign outside it. They ask (then Taoiseach) Haughey, 'what is going to happen us?' once their husbands are extradited from Portlaoise to prisons in the north. Their ostracization is juxtaposed with shots of the primary school history class of the formidable Ms Mary Jo O'Connor from Kerry. Cut between audio and news excerpts, director David Fox contemplates the distance of southern Ireland's economic self-interest from the foundational principals of its past.

David Fox is artist and filmmaker from Dublin, based in Kerry. He was a founder member of Faction Films in London and has made many documentaries for television including for RTE, Arte, BBC & Channel 4.

Isobel Harbison is an Irish art historian and Senior Lecturer at Goldsmiths, London, currently working on 'Recording History,' an oral history project with artist filmmakers active in the north of Ireland from 1968, with IMMA, the Ulster Museum and PRONI.

SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER | 2.00PM
BLACK BOX | PWYC



ZODIAC KILLER PROJECT

DIR. CHARLIE SHACKLETON
US, UK | ENGLISH | 91 MINS | 2025

Charlie Shackleton returns to Belfast with another innovative and thought-provoking documentary exploration. With humor and self-examination, he presents a film about a film that never happened, his proposed streamer service doc on the infamous Zodiac Killer.

What results is a comment on the popular true crime genre that has seemingly exploded on Netflix, Amazon and Disney+. It is a simultaneous takedown of the often hackneyed conventions of the genre, while attempting to explain what might have been if the film had indeed been greenlit. Funny and bittersweet with a healthy dose of resentment, it's a rare chance to learn more about the one that got away.

Charlie Shackleton will be with us and take part in a Q&A after the film.

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER | 6.30PM
BLACK BOX | PWYC



BATTLE OF THE BOYCE

Belfast Film Festival is once again teaming up with heavy-hitters Northern Ireland Screen's Digital Film Archive and BBC Northern Ireland to bring you an audio-visual 12 rounds about one of our best-known, and least-remembered, television icons.

Actor, writer, radio personality and Inst school teacher James Boyce was, at one point, one of the most-watched faces on Northern Irish television. Into the 1960s, with his love of literature, poetry and his flair for language - describing moussaka as a "transcendental shepherd's pie" - he could be seen frequently on both channels - and there were only two! These days, the two channels have a lot more competition from other terrestrial stations, satellite services and screening platforms, but they were once the biggest rivals around. With this in mind, we present footage of their charismatic star from both

archives, making this... the clash of the titan. How will giant of the small screen Boyce compete with himself? Who will win?

Following our previous archival explorations such as *The Weird & The Eerie*, *WERK!* and last year's *Ulster Mirror*, this will be a one-off screening using valuable archive footage and music to celebrate a unique personality.

Footage courtesy of BBC Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland Screen's Digital Film Archive (courtesy of the UTV Partnership project).

Explore thousands of BBC archive clips from Northern Ireland and across the UK at bbcrewind.co.uk Discover Ulster Television, home movies, **community films and more at** www.digitalfilmarchive.net



FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER | 8.00PM
BLACK BOX | PWYC

NORTHERN IRELAND SCREEN'S DIGITAL FILM ARCHIVE

25 YEARS OF LIVING MEMORY



Launched in November 2000 as a BFI Millennium Project, Northern Ireland Screen's Digital Film Archive (DFA) began with fewer than 500 items. Today it has grown to over 12,000 films and clips, spanning more than a century of life on this island – from newsreels and TV drama to animation, amateur film, sport, industry, rural traditions and the gloriously every day.

But the DFA is far more than a collection to browse. It's a living resource, continually reimagined through screenings, workshops and collaborations that put archive film in conversation with the present. Young people remix vintage horror reels, artists reshape forgotten footage into new forms, and through thousands of public events and projects, communities across Northern Ireland have used the DFA to spark dialogue and creativity.

This year, as the DFA celebrates its 25th anniversary, we invite you to join the celebrations and discover how the past can still surprise, inspire and connect us today.

www.digitalfilmarchive.net





ULSTER SAYS NO – THE YEAR OF DISORDER

DIR. EVAN MARSHALL, EDITOR PAUL MCCLINTOCK
88 MINS

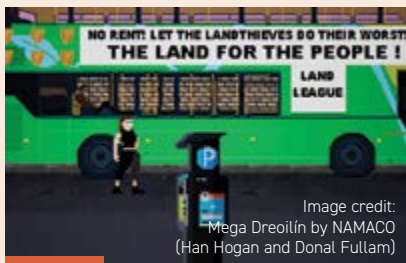
In November 1985, the British and Irish governments signed an agreement for closer cooperation on the issue of Northern Ireland and the setting up of formal inter-governmental bodies. The Agreement was rejected both by Sinn Féin and the main Unionist parties. However, it was the opposition from Unionism which pitched Northern Ireland into a year of turmoil.

In a huge rally at the Belfast City Hall, Ian Paisley made his famous "Never! Never! Never!" speech and the die was cast for a period of unrest and disorder which threatened to pitch the country into open civil war. Created entirely from archive footage, Ulster Says No follows the tumultuous events as seen through the contemporary lens of the Ulster Television news teams.

From the iconic poster campaign, to the ill-fated "invasion" of Clontibret in the Republic of Ireland, the situation quickly deteriorated. Finally, red berets were donned and a new organisation called Ulster Resistance openly threatened armed opposition to the government. This is the story of how Northern Ireland almost tipped into the abyss.

Northern Ireland Screen for the UTV Archive Partnership

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER | 4.00PM
BLACK BOX | £4



THE REGENERATION GAME

PRESENTED BY PS2 AND NORTHERN IRELAND
SCREEN'S DIGITAL FILM ARCHIVE.

This group exhibition mobilises art and archive as tools for collective resistance, to interrogate housing as one of the defining and persistent socio-political inequalities of our time.

Play NAMACO's 16-bit video game Mega Dreoilín, to learn about the bureaucratic land dominance imposed on Ireland by successive waves of colonisers, landlords and global multinationals, as well as the strategies required for collective resistance against these sinister powers. Encounter GOT DAMP, an installation that explores damp as 'a crisis of nature in the home', including a 30-minute film made partially with a thermal camera, documenting the lived experience of households who live with damp in their homes and the materiality of damp itself. Artist-in-residence Marta Dyczkowska invites you to contribute to the radical mapping of Belfast to see if collective nostalgia can be a catalyst for change.

Mega Dreoilín DIR. NAMACO
(Han Hogan and Donal Fullam)
GOT DAMP DIR. Avril Corroon
Artist-in-residence Marta Dyczkowska

Dates: 2 October - 8 November 2025

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 12-5pm
Late Night Art, Thursday 6 November, 6pm-9pm

Venue: PS2 | Paragon Studios Project Space
Free Admission



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TRIBUTE SHOWS

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TINA



The
Jerseytones

BIG LOVE

FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE



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SPECIAL EVENTS





THURSDAY NIGHT QUIZ W/ BEST BOY MAGAZINE & NORMAL CINEMA CLUB

Can you tell us what won best picture this year?
Can you tell us what really should have won
best picture this year? Can you tell us what the
best picture of Timothee Chalamet from his *A
Complete Unknown* press tour was?

The twisted minds behind Best Boy Magazine and
Normal Cinema Club have apologized to the powers
that be and are back with another perplexing and
pulse-raising quiz. Expect questions on le cinema
de 2025, le cinema de general knowledge and le
cinema de stuff we find interesting.

Teams are capped at a maximum of 5.

See [@bestboymag](#) and [@normalcinemaclub](#) on
Instagram for more info.

THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER | 9.00PM
BLACK BOX | PWYC



WANDA PRESENTS:

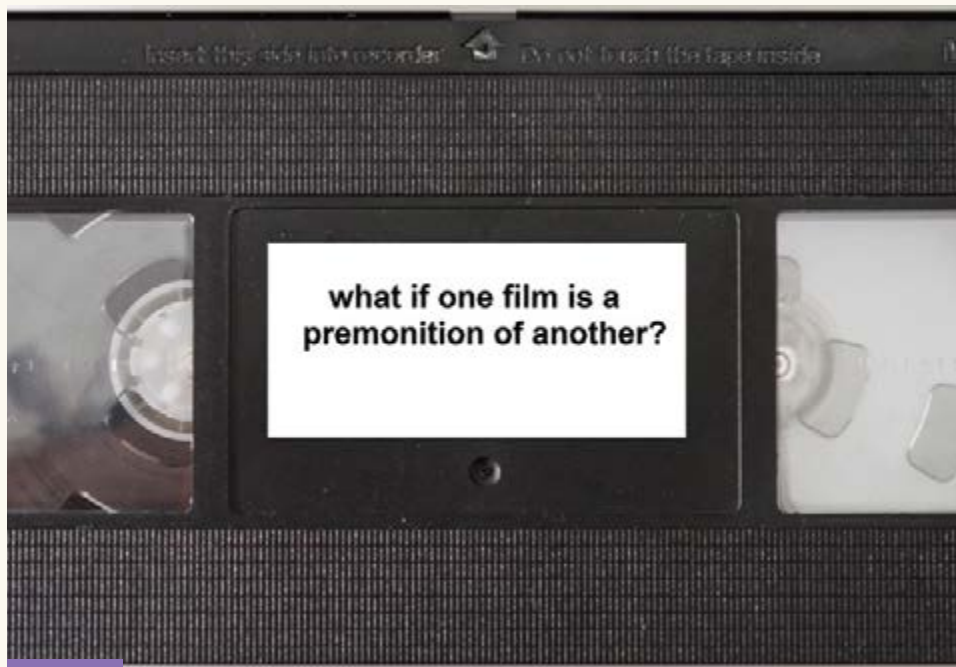
Film festival, Wanda: Feminism & Moving Image,
returns for a one-off event celebrating the
inspiration behind the festival, the work of Wanda
writer, director and star, Barbara Loden.

This time, the Wanda team is collaborating with
writer, film programmer and academic, Elena
Gorfinkel, whose extensive curations on the subject
include this year's *Wanda & Beyond* at BFI Southbank
and *The World of Barbara Loden* at Anthology Film
Archives in NYC.

Each programme explores Loden's work around
Wanda, the 1970 now-classic, yet at one point largely
forgotten feminist drama for which she is best known.

This event will include a screening and discussion of
Barbara Loden's work and her legacy as a continuing
inspirational force in cinema.

SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER | 12.00PM
BLACK BOX | PWYC



UNDISCLOSED MARK COUSINS PROJECT

DIR. MARK COUSINS

???? | ??????, ?? | ?? ??? | ???

Belfast Film Festival is excited to screen a secret project from festival favourite, Mark Cousins. Clearly, not much can be revealed about the film at this point, and to keep everything fully under wraps, attendees will be required to sign Non-Disclosure Agreements on arrival at the venue.

The director of *The Story of Film: An Odyssey*, *A Sudden Glimpse to Deeper Things*, *I Am Belfast*, and many more is known for both epic-length explorations and dreamlike shorts, so will it be 15 hours, or 15 minutes?

What is certain is that in true cineliterate Mark Cousins style, the film will use the cinema of the past as a springboard to something fresh and visually innovative, and will pose questions that will linger on long after the lights come up.

SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER | 8.00PM
BLACK BOX | PWYC



EQUINOX

A LIVE archive film and music performance, from musician RÓIS and filmmaker Stuart Sloan.

The equinox marks the end of summer and the beginning of Autumn and is the day when the sun illuminates the northern and southern hemispheres of the earth equally. In Ireland it is a date steeped in rituals, traditions and folklore spanning thousands of years; from the alignment of Neolithic structures to the sun, the pagan festival of Mabon, to harvest practices and traditions.

Using archive film sourced from Northern Ireland Screen's Digital Film Archive and BBC Rewind, the film moves chronologically through both the eons of time, and a single harvest day in Ireland - weaving together astrological visuals, standing stones, the abundance of nature and harvests past.

These visuals are mixed live, to accompany an extraordinary score composed and performed by RÓIS, an Irish composer, multi-instrumentalist and performer whose songs explore diverse modes of expression; forging an idiosyncratic blend of folk and Sean-nós, electronics, jazz harmony and extended vocal techniques. The soundtrack uses traditional songs and instruments along-side experimental sounds, as well as incorporating clips from the Ulster Folk Museum sound archives.

This event was originally commissioned for the Ulster Folk Museum and supported with funds from BFI/Film Audience Network.

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER | 8.00PM
BLACK BOX | PWYC

~~~~~  
**ULSTER FOLK  
MUSEUM**





## OUR FREEDOM: THEN AND NOW

The Strand is proud to be taking part in 'Our Freedom: Then and Now', a programme of community-led artistic projects taking place in 60 arts centres and libraries across the UK, that is marking 80 years since the end of World War Two.

We will be hosting a special immersive event in the fascinating former Strand Spinning Mill. This unique space, which offers spectacular views across the city, and which survived the Belfast Blitz despite extensive damage in its locality, is a perfect site to reflect on change and constancy in east Belfast and to probe how concepts of 'freedom' have changed over the last 80 years.

The event features a photographic exhibition alongside the premieres of two short films. 'Freedom' - written, directed and performed by young people under the mentorship of Michael MacBroom - and a film by Will McConnell which weaves together oral history with footage and photographs, both archival and contemporary, to reflect on the impact of WW2 on east Belfast and explore concepts of 'freedom'.

The films will premiere on Friday 7 November at 6.30pm and will be rolling continuously thereafter.

Drop in, no booking required. Refreshments served.

**Friday 7 November | 6pm-8pm**  
**Saturday 8 November | 11am-2pm**  
 Portview Trade Centre | Free

**STRAND**  
ARTS CENTRE



## NORTHERN IRELAND NOW: COLLECTING BELFAST ON SCREEN

Northern Ireland Now, the innovative contemporary collecting project from Northern Ireland Screen and Nerve Centre, has returned and is supporting communities in Belfast to bring forward their unique film content.

Join us for a celebratory screening of some of the first Belfast-based partners who have been engaging in film heritage and archives on the exciting second phase of the project.


From reflecting on youth clubs in Ardoyne to celebrating DJ culture with disabled-led club nights, these films showcase our diversity and make the Digital Film Archive more representative of contemporary society.

There will be the opportunity after the screening to meet one another, discuss ideas and share some refreshments. All are welcome.

Northern Ireland Now is increasing access to archival material with the support of the BFI.

**FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER | 3.00PM**  
**BLACK BOX | PWYC**

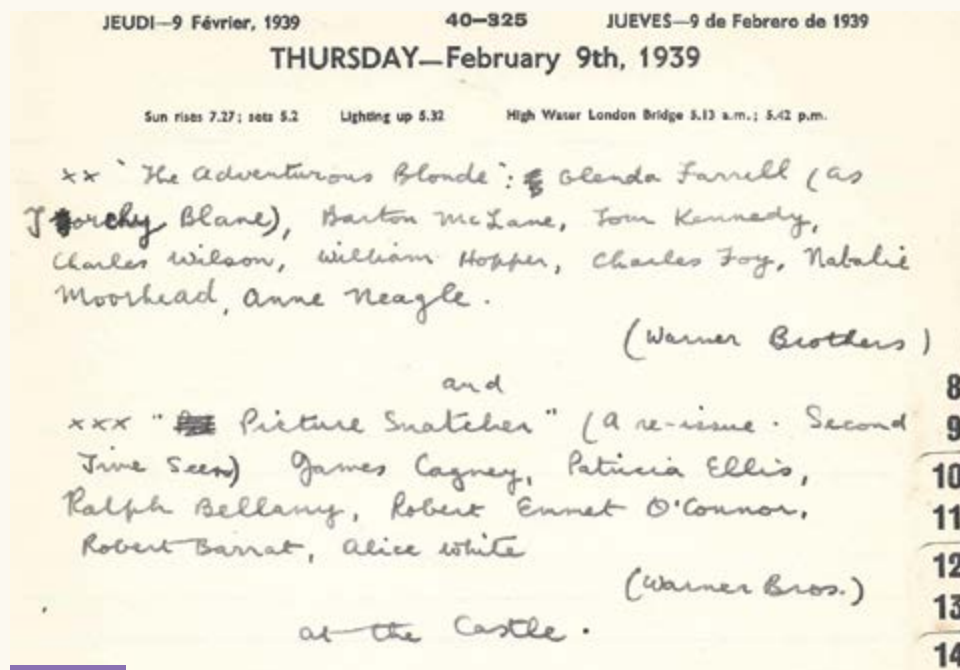
 **NORTHERN IRELAND SCREEN**  
 Digital Film Archive

 **nervecentre**

 **THE NATIONAL LOTTERY**



**Belfast**  
City Council



## THE 1939 DIARY OF A BELFAST CINEMA-GOER

Recording the films you watch has a history which stretches back long before the creation of Letterboxd. In this talk, cinema historian Sam Manning uses the 1939 diary of a Belfast resident to explore what its contents can tell us about cinema-going habits in 1930s Northern Ireland.

The diary provides a unique insight into the customs, preferences and opinions of a single cinema-goer at a time when a trip to the flicks was the most popular leisure activity. The diarist used their own rating system to log the 325 films they saw in 1939, with highly-rated films including Three Comrades and Too Hot to Handle.

The talk also uses images and an interactive map to explore the diarist's favourite venues, including picture palaces such as the Majestic and the Ritz. The diarist sadly did not record their name or address, but did leave clues to help reveal their identity. Come along to hear more about Belfast's cinema history and, if you can, help uncover the mystery diarist.

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER | 1.00PM  
BLACK BOX GREEN ROOM | PWYC



# SPARKS 25

WITH SUPPORT FROM BFI, AWARDING NATIONAL  
LOTTERY FUNDING, BELFAST FILM FESTIVAL, ARE DELIGHTED  
TO LAUNCH SPARKS 25.

AS PART OF OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMME,  
OUR NEW SPARKS PROGRAMMING TEAM WILL CURATE A SERIES  
OF EVENTS AND SCREENINGS ACROSS 2025-2026. THESE WILL FOCUS  
ON ENGAGING BELFAST'S GLOBAL MAJORITY AND EASTERN EUROPEAN  
COMMUNITIES, DISADVANTAGED AND WORKING-CLASS GROUPS AND  
RESIDENTS IN UNDERSERVED AREAS ACROSS GREATER BELFAST.

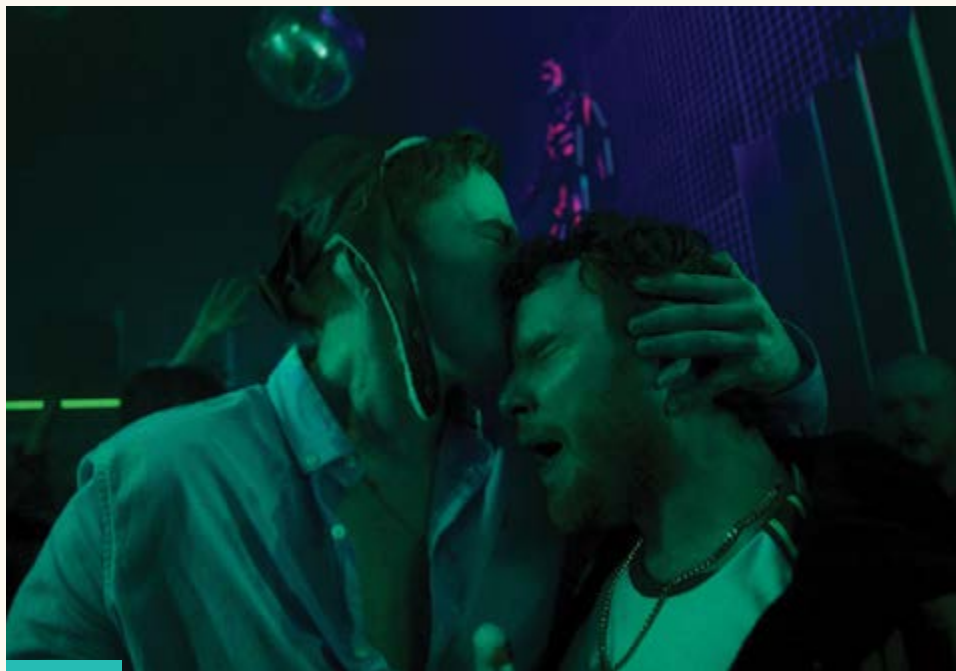
FURTHER DETAILS COMING SOON AT  
[WWW.BELFASTFILMFESTIVAL.ORG](http://WWW.BELFASTFILMFESTIVAL.ORG)



# NI INDEPENDENTS







## HOUSEJACKERS

DIR. RIAN LENNON  
96 MINS

From the twisted minds behind the sitcom of the year, *Funboys*, comes this darkly funny psychological drama about family and identity.

Raymond is stuck. He's stuck stacking shelves. He's stuck living with middle-class students who don't understand him. He's stuck in his own head, unable to make his mind up. After a chance encounter with his former foster brother Jerdy on a night out, Raymond rediscovers a part of himself he'd long forgotten. Loose-cannon Jerdy soon moves in with Raymond, to the chagrin of his housemates. When things soon get out of hand, Raymond tries to cut ties with Jerdy, but he's not going without a fight.

How much do we owe to the person we used to be? This is at the heart of *Housejackers* and the tricky relationship between Raymond and Jerdy, as they try to navigate a once close brotherhood that has drifted apart. They are brought to life by Finnian Garbutt and John Travers in two magnetic performances that are just as raw and vulnerable as they are funny. The film pokes fun at the surreal chaos of student housing and the absurd banality of being in your mid-20s. Lennon's feature debut is a distinctly Northern Irish comedy, it's bold and hilarious but sensitive and moving. A film of rising stars in front of and behind the camera.

WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER | 8.00PM  
ODEON | PWYC



## LOVE IN BELFAST

DIR. GARRY DUFFY

91 MINS

*Love in Belfast* is a romantic comedy following Ben and Julia as they navigate the ups and downs of finding love in modern Belfast.

Ben and Julia are best friends: they work together, live together and do just about everything else together. On a work night out, Julia goes home with Louie and soon finds out she is pregnant. Things get more complicated when she discovers Louie is the new VP at her workplace, and he wants nothing to do with the child. At the same time, Ben embarks on a new relationship with Josh, whilst also trying to reconcile with his conservative father George, who still struggles to accept his son's sexuality.

This is a film about love, loss, families and chosen families. It's a love letter to the people that make Belfast special.

**TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER | 8.30PM**  
ODEON | PWYC



## UNDERScore

DIR. HUGH MCGRORY

85 MINS

The world is ending. But not in the way you might expect.

*Underscore* is a meditative two-hander following grandfather Aodhán and granddaughter Laoise as they face the end of the world. Instead of hellfire and brimstone, it seems that their environment is collapsing on a micro-level. The very fabric of reality is mutating into something new.

Seasoned favourite Ian McElhinney and rising star Jessica Reynolds feature as the bewildered relatives on the frontier of a strange new world. Utilising the latest advancements in technology to create bold new images, *Underscore* is an immersive experience which questions our place in the world, and how that might change sooner rather than later.

**WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER | 6.00PM**  
ODEON | PWYC

# NI INDEPENDENTS MID-LENGTH PROGRAMME



## PETYR

DIR. OLCAN MCSPARRON - 55 MINS

A group of small-time criminals commit a bungled heist, robbing millions of pounds and one priceless piece of art. Making their way to a safe house, betrayal, intrigue and violence follow. Little do our criminals know, one member of the house is not who they seem.

## THE PURSUIT OF FORGIVENESS

DIR. THOMAS MCQUILLAN - 33 MINS

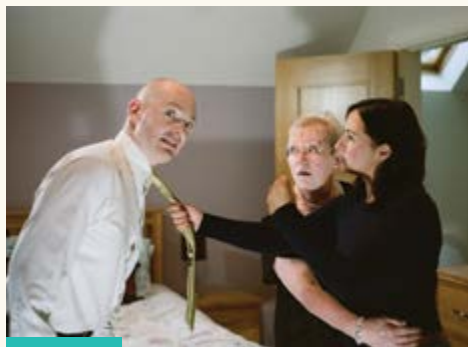
Liam, a struggling addict, who is battling with his past mistakes tries to attempt to reconnect with his estranged daughter, Claire. As he fights to prove he has changed, Claire must decide whether she can let go of the hurt he caused and allow him back into her life.

## GALAR

DIR. NIALL DUFFY - 25 MINS

In rural Ireland, a determined father fights to save his crumbling home and protect his family amidst a neglected housing crisis. Based on true events from an ongoing crisis.

**TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER | 4.00PM**  
ODEON | PWYC



## OFFICE POLITICS

DIR. NEILL VIRTUE  
105 MINS

**TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER | 6.30PM**  
ODEON | PWYC

**The lives and loves of three office workers collide in this bawdy sex comedy hailing from the North Coast.**

Lawrence thinks he knows it all, and certainly knows better than everyone around him. He gets no respect at his job and he gets no respect at home, where his wife is expecting their first child. His co-worker David is looking for something, anything really, to spice up his love life, even if it means going to extreme lengths. Their American colleague George is a true mystery, boasting an enigmatic past and a chilling predilection for death and destruction. Will his chaotic lifestyle affect his chances with the woman of his dreams?

A comedy of misunderstandings, mischief and mayhem, *Office Politics* is an outrageous time at the movies.

# BFF CLASSICS

TO CELEBRATE THE FESTIVAL'S 25TH  
ANNIVERSARY, WE PRESENT A  
SELECTION OF OUR PAST  
OPENING FILMS!





## HUNGER

DIR. STEVE MCQUEEN

IRELAND/UK | ENGLISH | 96 MINS | 2008

Turner Prize winning artist Steve McQueen made his feature directorial debut with this film which won the Camera d'Or in Cannes before making its UK & Ireland premiere in Belfast with a special festival screening in 2008.

In 1981, Irish Republican Army member Bobby Sands leads a hunger strike in protest of the British Government's refusal to recognise him and his fellow inmates as political prisoners. The harsh brutality of the prison environment is conveyed through hypnotic yet understated visuals and humanist vignettes. Sands' descent and the slow transformation of his body is portrayed with equal parts beauty and horror. Michael Fassbender stars in a career-defining performance, notoriously showcased in an unbroken 17-minute shot in conversation with Liam Cunningham's priest.

*Hunger* is one of the best films 'about' the Troubles, and one of the best films to have screened at the Belfast Film Festival since its inception.

**SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER | 3.00PM**  
BEANBAG CINEMA | PWYC



## I AM BELFAST

DIR. MARK COUSINS

UK | ENGLISH | 84 MINS | 2015

Globetrotting filmmaker and critic Mark Cousins returned to his hometown with this cinematic reflection on Belfast and the movies. The 15th edition of the festival opened with the world premiere of this unique meditation of our city.

Helena Bereen stars as Belfast, the spirit of the city in the vessel of a 10,000 year old woman. She becomes our free spirited walking tour guide. At first she shows us fun things - the way people talk and fragments of the city's visual landscape. We move on to the dream life of the city, mapping the voices of women and the liminal spaces, but then her story deepens. She looks back and she sees the tragedy and the horror of what went before. She remembers everything... *I am Belfast* presents a stunning new lens through which to view our city, while challenging the well worn cinematic cliches that have gone before.

Featuring music from the legendary David Holmes, and cinematography from the legendary Christopher Doyle, this is an unconventional but deeply moving portrait of a city sometimes trapped in the memories and imaginations of the past.

**FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER | 6.00PM**  
BEANBAG CINEMA | PWYC





## GOOD VIBRATIONS

**DIRS. LISA BARROS D'SA & GLENN LEYBURN**  
NI | ENGLISH | 102 MINS | 2012

**"Good Vibrations is not just a record shop.  
It's not just a label. It's a way of life."**

This rollicking tale of Terri Hooley and the rise of punk music during the Troubles instantly became a classic of Northern Irish cinema. The film made its world premiere in 2012 when it opened the Belfast Film Festival, before going on to screen (and win awards) around the world.

Terri Hooley is a radical, rebel and music-lover in 1970s Belfast when the bloody conflict known as the Troubles shuts down his city. As all his friends take sides and take up arms, Terri opens a record

shop on the most bombed half-mile in Europe and calls it Good Vibrations. Through it he discovered a compelling voice of resistance in the city's nascent underground punk scene. Galvanising the young musicians into action, he becomes the unlikely leader of a motley band of kids and punks who join him in his mission to create a new community, an alternative Ulster, to bring his city back to life.

The perfect chance to revisit an old favourite before seeing the latest flick from directors Lisa Barros D'Sa and Glenn Leyburn, *Saipan*.

**WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER | 6.45PM**  
THE AVENUE | £16

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# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE



# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER

|        |              |                       |                    |         |
|--------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------|
| 7:00pm | Opening Gala | Die, My Love          | Cineworld Screen 5 | Page 13 |
| 8:40pm | New Cinema   | The Love That Remains | QFT                | Page 25 |

## FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER

|        |                |            |                    |         |
|--------|----------------|------------|--------------------|---------|
| 6:20pm | Altered States | Dead Lover | QFT 2              | Page 54 |
| 7:00pm | Gala Screening | AONTAS     | Cineworld Screen 1 | Page 15 |

## SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER

|         |                    |                                      |                |         |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| 10:00am | TV Eye             | A Bunch of Questions With No Answers | Beanbag Cinema | Page 57 |
| 10:00am | Long Short Weekend | Competition Shorts Programme 1       | QFT            | Page 42 |
| 11.30am | Long Short Weekend | Competition Shorts Programme 2       | QFT            | Page 43 |
| 12:00pm | Special Events     | WANDA presents                       | Black Box      | Page 65 |
| 1:00pm  | Long Short Weekend | Competition Shorts Programme 3       | QFT            | Page 44 |
| 2:00pm  | TV Eye             | Trouble the Calm                     | Black Box      | Page 58 |
| 2:30pm  | Long Short Weekend | Competition Shorts Programme 4       | QFT            | Page 45 |
| 4:00pm  | Establishing Shots | Before/After                         | QFT            | Page 30 |
| 6:00pm  | New Cinema         | On the Sea & Q&A                     | Beanbag Cinema | Page 29 |
| 8:00pm  | Special Events     | Undisclosed Mark Cousins Project     | Black Box      | Page 66 |

## SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER

|         |                    |                                         |                      |         |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| 10:30am | Long Short Weekend | New Irish Shorts 1                      | Black Box            | Page 47 |
| 12:30pm | Long Short Weekend | New Irish Shorts 2                      | Black Box            | Page 48 |
| 1:00pm  | Special Events     | The 1939 Diary of a Belfast Cinema-Goer | Black Box Green Room | Page 69 |
| 2:30pm  | Long Short Weekend | New Irish Shorts 3                      | Black Box            | Page 49 |
| 2:30pm  | New Cinema         | Dracula                                 | QFT                  | Page 20 |
| 3:15pm  | New Cinema         | It Was Just An Accident                 | QFT                  | Page 21 |
| 4:00pm  | Special Event      | Lucy Liu in conversation                | Cineworld            | Page 16 |
| 4:30pm  | Long Short Weekend | New Irish Shorts 4                      | Black Box            | Page 50 |
| 5:30pm  | Gala Screening     | Rosemead                                | Cineworld            | Page 31 |
| 5:45pm  | New Cinema         | A Private Life (Vie Privée)             | QFT                  | Page 19 |
| 6:00pm  | Long Short Weekend | Shorts Awards Party                     | John Hewitt          | Page 51 |
| 6:30pm  | TV Eye             | Zodiac Killer Project                   | Black Box            | Page 58 |
| 8:40pm  | New Cinema         | The Secret Agent                        | QFT                  | Page 24 |

# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

## MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER

|        |                    |                     |       |         |
|--------|--------------------|---------------------|-------|---------|
| 7:00pm | Establishing Shots | The Son and the Sea | Odeon | Page 31 |
| 9:00pm | Establishing Shots | Lucky Lu            | QFT   | Page 28 |

## TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER

|         |                       |                                       |                         |         |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| 10:00am | TV Eye                | A Bunch of Questions with No Answers  | Beanbag Cinema          | Page 57 |
| 4:00pm  | NI Independents       | NI Independents: Mid-Length Programme | Odeon                   | Page 74 |
| 6:00pm  | New Cinema            | If I Had Legs I'd Kick You            | QFT                     | Page 22 |
| 6:30pm  | NI Independents       | Office Politics                       | Odeon                   | Page 74 |
| 6:45pm  | Altered States        | Fucktoys                              | The Avenue              | Page 55 |
| 7:00pm  | New Cinema - BFF Docs | In Time: DÓNAL LUNNY                  | Omniplex Kennedy Centre | Page 26 |
| 8:30pm  | NI Independents       | Love in Belfast                       | Odeon                   | Page 73 |
| 9:00pm  | Establishing Shots    | Fior di Latte                         | QFT                     | Page 30 |

## WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER

|         |                       |                                      |                |         |
|---------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| 10:00am | TV Eye                | A Bunch of Questions with No Answers | Beanbag Cinema | Page 57 |
| 6:00pm  | NI Independents       | Underscore                           | Odeon          | Page 73 |
| 6:45pm  | BFF Classics          | Good Vibrations                      | The Avenue     | Page 77 |
| 7:00pm  | New Cinema - BFF Docs | Tomorrow's Too Late & Q&A            | Black Box      | Page 26 |
| 8:00pm  | NI Independents       | Housejackers                         | Odeon          | Page 72 |
| 8:45pm  | Establishing Shots    | My Father's Shadow                   | QFT            | Page 28 |

## THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER

|        |                 |                                      |                |         |
|--------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| 4:00pm | TV Eye          | A Bunch of Questions with No Answers | Beanbag Cinema | Page 57 |
| 6:00pm | NI Independents | BULK & Q&A                           | QFT            | Page 53 |
| 6:45pm | New Cinema      | Lesbian Space Princess               | The Avenue     | Page 54 |
| 9:00pm | NI Independents | Thursday Night Quiz                  | Black Box      | Page 65 |
| 9:00pm | Altered States  | Sentimental Value                    | QFT            | Page 23 |



# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER

|        |                |                                                    |                |         |
|--------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| 3:00pm | Special Events | Northern Ireland Now: Collecting Belfast On Screen | Black Box      | Page 68 |
| 5:45pm | New Cinema     | Two Prosecutors                                    | QFT            | Page 23 |
| 6:00pm | BFF Classics   | I am Belfast                                       | Beanbag Cinema | Page 76 |
| 8:00pm | Special Events | Battle of the Boyce                                | Black Box      | Page 59 |

## SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER

|         |                    |                                            |                      |         |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| 12:45pm | New Cinema         | Nouvelle Vague                             | QFT                  | Page 22 |
| 1:00pm  | Long Short Weekend | Long Story Short - BBC Comedy Shorts       | Black Box            | Page 51 |
| 2:30pm  | TV Eye             | A Bunch of Questions with No Answers Panel | Black Box Green Room | Page 57 |
| 3:15pm  | New Cinema         | Kontinental '25                            | QFT                  | Page 20 |
| 4:00pm  | TV Eye             | Ulster Says No                             | Black Box            | Page 61 |
| 4:00pm  | New Cinema         | Promised Sky                               | QFT                  | Page 25 |
| 6:15pm  | Establishing Shots | Blue Heron                                 | QFT                  | Page 29 |
| 7:00pm  | Closing Gala       | Saipan                                     | Cineworld            | Page 14 |
| 8:00pm  | Special Events     | EQUINOX: Live performance from Róis        | Black Box            | Page 67 |
| 8:30pm  | New Cinema         | Sirât                                      | QFT                  | Page 18 |

# VENUE INFORMATION

## THE AVENUE



Castle Court Shopping Centre,  
Royal Ave, Belfast BT1 1DD

**w.** [theavenuecinema.com](http://theavenuecinema.com)

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## BEANBAG CINEMA



5 Exchange Place, Belfast BT1 2NA

**t.** 028 9032 5913

**w.** [belfastfilmfestival.org](http://belfastfilmfestival.org)

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## BLACK BOX



18-22 Hill Street,  
Belfast, BT1 2LA

**t.** 028 9024 4400

**w.** [blackboxbelfast.com](http://blackboxbelfast.com)

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## CINEWORLD



SSE Arena Belfast, The Odyssey Arena,  
2 Queens Quay, Belfast BT3 9QQ

**t.** 0330 333 4444

**w.** [cineworld.co.uk](http://cineworld.co.uk)

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## JOHN HEWITT



51 Donegall Street,  
Belfast BT1 2FH

**w.** [boundarybrewing.coop](http://boundarybrewing.coop)

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## ODEON BELFAST



1 Victoria Square, Belfast BT1 4QG

**t.** 0333 014 4501

**w.** [odeon.co.uk/cinemas/belfast/](http://odeon.co.uk/cinemas/belfast/)

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## OMNIPLEX, KENNEDY CENTRE



564-568 Falls Road,  
The Kennedy Centre, Belfast BT11 9AB

**t.** 028 9033 8000

**w.** [omnplex.ie](http://omnplex.ie)

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## QUEENS FILM THEATRE



Queen's University,  
20 University Square, Belfast BT7 1PA

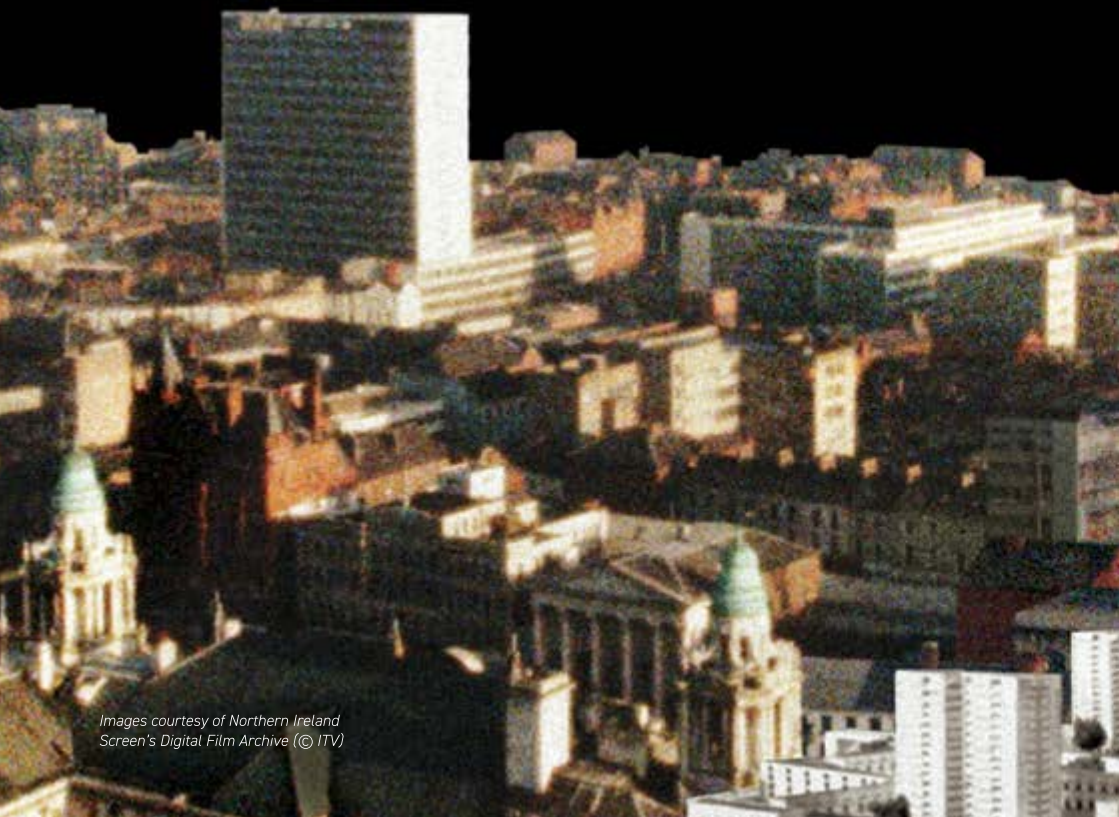
**t.** 028 9097 1097

**w.** [queensfilmtheatre.com](http://queensfilmtheatre.com)

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**BELFASTFILMFESTIVAL.ORG**



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