



# PROGRAMME





UNIVERSITY of  
WORCESTER

Institute of Arts and  
Humanities

The Institute of Arts and Humanities at The University of Worcester is a place of transformative education and interdisciplinary innovation.

With programmes spanning Filmmaking, Media & Film Studies, Screenwriting, Theatre, Acting and Performance, Fine Art, Graphic Design, History and Law, our ethos is to situate arts practices at the intersection of disciplinary boundaries.

We collaborate with national and international artists, and partner organisations across the creative sector, to ensure that our award-winning students are industry-focussed and ready to shape the future of the Creative Industries.

For more information about our courses and research, please visit:



[worcester.ac.uk/about/  
academic-schools/  
institute-of-arts-and-  
humanities/](http://worcester.ac.uk/about/academic-schools/institute-of-arts-and-humanities/)

(Photograph by Hannah Porter,  
Creative Media student)



# WELCOME MESSAGE

Stories made across all art forms are important. They are how we interpret the world, how we reflect it back to one another. Stories connect us and those tethers, in a time of disconnection, show us who we are and who we can be.

Maybe that's why we're seeing a new age of indie cinema growing, why 87% of young people turned out to the cinema this year. Why we're seeing a move back to wanting to own physical media. Why bigger studios are pivoting to make more stories on tighter budgets.

We are entering a renaissance of filmmaking. Over the last decade filmmaking has become more accessible than ever, whether that be access to equipment or software or the growing pathways and avenues for exhibiting projects. People are coming together to create, experiment, find ways to push the medium. Push stories.

To get what you see, on any screen you watch, requires immense collaboration from all types of craft. Artists, musicians, carpenters, electricians. Multiple disciplines all working in tandem. Film brings people together, not just in the making, but in the watching as well. We enjoy best when we enjoy together.

That is our aim with this programme to bring film lovers and filmmakers together to enjoy the best in independent cinema from all over the world.

Over the dates of 22nd-26th September you can experience over 250 films from 25 countries, with some being the first time they've ever been screened. There are various talks across the week to expand knowledge and make sure that knowledge isn't gate kept. Showcases championing competition winners and graduates. Q&As with some of our filmmakers, giving you a peek behind the curtain of their films. Socialising every night across the city where you can chat in independent venues about your favourite films of the day. If you're from Worcester, experience your home through a different lens and if you're visiting, join us to see the best this beautiful city has to offer.

If you've never experienced a film festival before, we implore you to try it out. You don't need to be die hard film watcher with a robust Letterboxd to enjoy it. Even if the extent of your watching is an old comfort show on Netflix at home, we promise you'll find something to enjoy.

Let's sit shoulder to shoulder in rows watching life unfold on the big screen and start conversations with people we've never met. And let's do all of this together.

**WELCOME TO WORCESTER  
FILM FESTIVAL 2026**



**The Worcester Film Festival Directors  
Hendrik Harms & Kirstie Gregory**

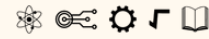


 If you're capturing your experience throughout the festival be sure to tag:  
**@worcestersfilmfestival #worcff**

Year 6 Artwork: @designs.by.parth  
Programme Design: @kirstie\_gregory\_

# 2026 PARTNERS

## LEAD PARTNERS



## VENUE PARTNERS



## EVENT COLLABORATORS



## FRIENDS OF THE FESTIVAL

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE WITH FESTIVAL PASS



**10% OFF** at Diglis House Hotel  
contact for code:  
[info@worcestercinefestival.co.uk](mailto:info@worcestercinefestival.co.uk)



**10% OFF** at JNCTN



**10% OFF** at Whitehouse hotel  
contact for code:  
[info@worcestercinefestival.co.uk](mailto:info@worcestercinefestival.co.uk)



**20% OFF**  
the food bill at Maneki Ramen  
(valid for one guest per festival pass,  
dine-in only)



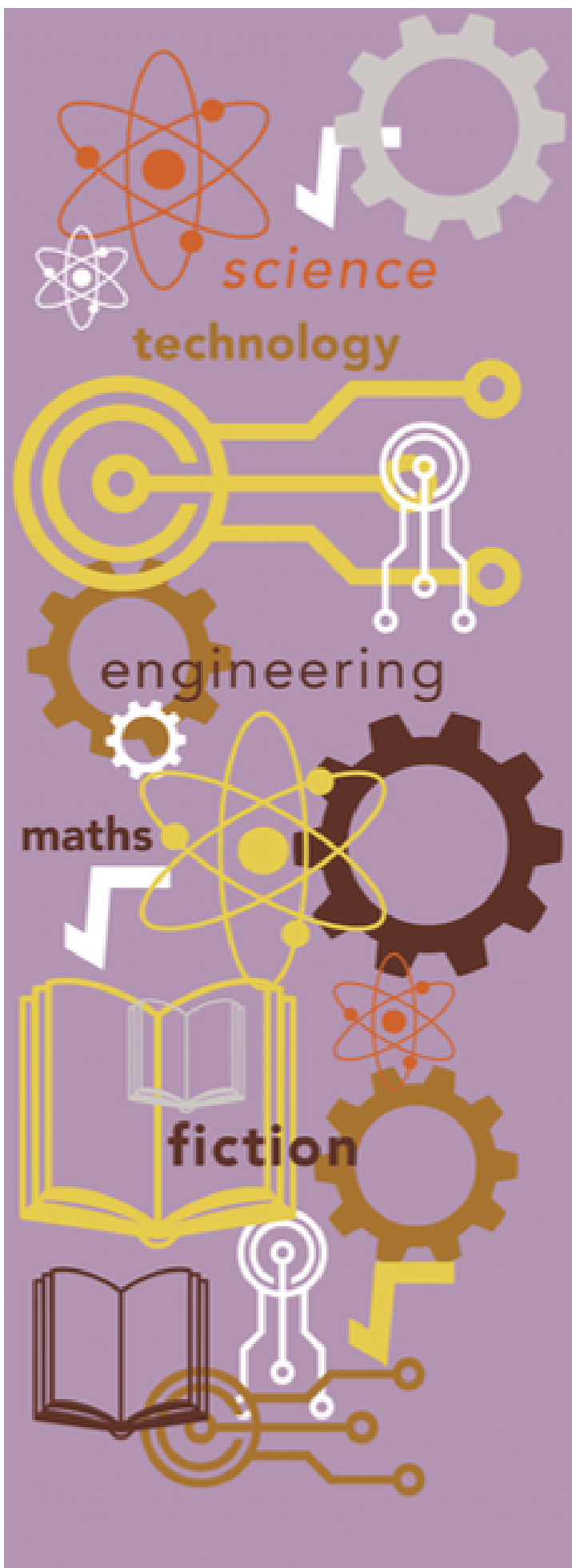
**10% OFF**  
at Tonic



**10% OFF**  
at Arch Rivals



**20% OFF**  
the food bill at Burger Shop  
(valid for one guest per festival pass,  
dine-in only)



Kindling  
a love of  
science,  
technology,  
engineering,  
and maths  
through  
the spark of  
popular  
culture.



STEMfi

Entwining STEM and Story

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@stem\_fi\_uk @

# PRE-FESTIVAL EVENTS

## 'LIGHTS, CAMERA...PAINT' ART TRAIL & EXHIBITION

AUGUST 28TH - SEPTEMBER 26TH 2026 | WORCESTER CITY CENTRE SHOP WINDOWS

Introducing our 5th annual 'Lights, Camera...Paint' Art Trail with Artists Clubhouse! This year local creatives reimagine iconic film & TV shows inspired by Worcestershire's Waterways. Find the map on the back page of the programme and explore the art trail, discovering creative takes on your screen favourites! Alongside the trail, to celebrate 5 years of movie magic art there will be a retrospective exhibition of the previous winners and a pop-up shop in GAUMONT 48a Foregate Street, Worcester WR1 1EE.

## FILM CLUB

SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> 2026 | ODEON WORCESTER

Join us for our September Film Club. The last meet up before the festival! A movie will be selected and announced on our socials. After the screening we head to the pub and chat all things film!

## THE WORCESTER FILM FESTIVAL BIG MOVIE QUIZ

SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> 2026 | 7PM - 10PM | SPIN THE BLACK CIRCLE

£2 per person | Teams of up to 6

Come and test your knowledge! Do you know why it's called the Silver Screen? Who created the iconic Halloween music? Which Scooby Doo actors are married in real life? Why "I'm walking' here" is adlibbed? Who has the record for the shortest cameo? This quiz will have you saying "Good Morning, Good Afternoon and Goodnight" to all things film a week before our packed out programme starts on 22nd September...

# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

All Officially Selected films, Q&As, Talks and Special Screenings in a day by day guide. Check out whats on at Worcester Film Festival 2026! Then take a look at our pass/ticket options at the back of the programme to find what suits you best!

Scan the QR for our online schedule and to book on!



**£10**  
UNTIL 10AM

JNCTN

BREAKFAST + COFFEE, TEA  
OR JUICE FOR JUST £10\*

AVAILABLE EVERYDAY

Joining us for our 10am screenings?  
Fuel up beforehand across the road  
from the cinema at JNCTN with their  
£10 until 10am breakfast!

Festival Pass discount not applicable  
to this offer.

## TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

### OPENING NIGHT PREVIEW SCREENING ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 18:00

OUT THERE

Simon Ryninks



When a 16-year-old astronomy enthusiast spots a UFO over her sleepy Welsh seaside town, she ropes in her sceptical best mate and an unhinged ufologist to uncover a truth she's not yet ready to face.

*Themes of Mental Illness & Substance Abuse*  
COMEDY DRAMA | UK | ENG | 1h 20m

# WEDNESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

## SHORTS BLOCK 1 ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 10:00 - 11:00

### AT THIS MOMENT, IT'S US

Theodore K. Emile Rodney, Chaa Ustaoglu



Delvonte Clarke, a quiet yet driven 19-year-old ballet dancer, strives for success not only to prove himself but to honour the sacrifices of his loving mother.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 15m**

### BABY ON BOARD

Jamie Luke Milligan



New dad Oli has a crisis of confidence when driving his new born home from the hospital.

**COMEDY | UK | ENG | 8m**

### SOUND OF MOVEMENT

Rory Rawson



When a young ballerina is told her grandma and biggest fan will lose her sight, she learns to tap dance so her Grandma can be part of the show again.

**MUSICAL, FAMILY | UK | ENG | 16m**

### DOUBLE EXPOSURE

Jiacheng Ye



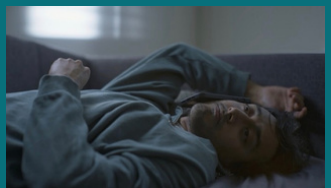
Two young women suspect their brothers are hiding a romantic relationship. As they spend more time together documenting their every move, their curiosity slowly turns into an intimate emotional bond.

**ROM, LGBTQ+ | CHN | CHINESE | ENG SUB | 21m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 2 ODEON SCREEN 2 | 10:00 - 11:00

### AAJAO (WELCOME)

Maanuv Thiara



Taj returns to his hometown to speak at a memorial for his father who died 6 months earlier. Unable to speak Punjabi, he has 48 hours to learn and embrace an aspect of his identity he has spent years burying.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG, PUNJABI | ENG SUB | 15m**

### HEAT HAZE

Margarita Milne



A teenager, desperate to gain approval from a religious group, sells her belongings at a car boot. When a stranger lures her away, what at first seems like an innocent drink ends up perverting her whole worldview.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 9m**

### WHY YOU SHOULDN'T DATE IN BRISTOL

Myles Kamwendo



One night in Bristol. Ketamine, crystals and a cast of chaos, quickly shows a loved up couple why they were doomed from the start.

**DRAMA, COMEDY | UK | ENG | 17m**

### THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING SOCK

Tomás Felício Oliveira, Anouk Witkowska Hiffler



When Scott loses his favourite sock, he goes on a mission to reunite the pair.

**COMEDY | UK | ENG | 3m**

### SUNLIGHT WATER

Zoë Bullock



When a lonely, recently single woman rescues a houseplant in need of serious TLC - and then falls in love with it - she must discover what the plant really wants, or risk losing herself forever.

**ROMCOM, HORROR | UK | ENG | 16m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 3 ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 11:15 - 12:15

### MAKE A WISH

Justyna Green



Struggling to decide whether to try for a baby with Sausage, Womb must face her fears when she encounters the Period Poo Genie.

**ANIMATION | UK | ENG | 4m**

### W: A RETURN TO OZ

Daniel Howard-Baker



Locked and loaded with film tape, a man explores an abandoned rave house, once known as The Warehouse, that was once the beating heart of the South West's clubland.

**DOCUMENTARY | UK | ENG | 35m**

**SAFE**  
Govind Chandran


When a compassionate helpline counsellor begins to grow concerned for the safety of one of her clients, she's forced to decide whether to trust her instincts or follow protocol.

**Themes of Domestic Abuse**

**DRAMA | ISLE OF MAN, UK | ENG | 20m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 4

ODEON SCREEN 2 | 11:15 - 12:30

**THANKS FOR CONSIDERING ME**  
Patrick James Verlin


Two actors trapped in a toxic spiral of love & resentment. Sophie soars to new heights with a BAFTA nomination, Maxwell struggles with jealousy whilst recovering from an accident.

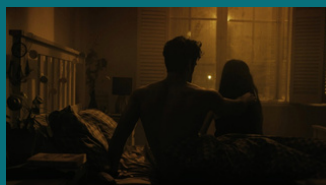
**DRAMA | AUS, UK | ENG | 20m**

**HOW TO SAVE A LIFE**  
Henry Worsley


Gus and Keith both stop people jumping from the cliffs at Beachy Head, a notorious suicide hotspot. However their methods differ drastically.

**Themes of Suicide**

**DOCUMENTARY | UK | ENG | 11m**

**NIGHT WHISPERS**  
Adrian León


A one-night stand takes a terrifying turn for Tom when his date starts talking in their sleep.

**HORROR | UK | ENG | 7m**

**SOUL TRADER**  
Geneviève Lowe


A despondent soul arrives in a strange place where he must confront his (mostly) inner demons.

**Themes of Mental Health**

**DARK COMEDY | UK | ENG | 19m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 5

ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 12:30 - 13:30

**DUCK DUCK GOOSE**  
Harry Redding


While working as children's entertainers to supplement their slow-moving acting careers, best friends Jack and Bill decide to rob a house during a 9-year-old's birthday party.

**COMEDY, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 14m**

**UNIFORMED**  
Dan Biurrum


A gay military police officer, Gustavo lives two irreconcilable realities. In a world where the uniform condemns him to hiding, he feels his true nature being crushed by fear.

**Contains Violence, Homophobia**

**DRAMA | BRA | PORTUGUESE | ENG SUB | 25m**

**AUTHORS OF THE ESTATE**  
Abdou Cissé


In Northwest London, two estates take their story into their own hands, asking what if a council house can become a publishing house in this tale of ownership, creativity, and the power of words.

**DOCUMENTARY | UK | ENG | 21m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 6

ODEON SCREEN 2 | 12:45 - 13:45

**BLACK & WHITE**  
Bim Ajadi


Haunted by his girlfriend's death & exiled from his Deaf community, Michael drifts through life in solitude among the speaking world, finding fleeting refuge inside the wrestling ring.

**Contains Drug Abuse**

**DRAMA | UK | BRIT SIGN LNG, ENG | 28m**

**LATCH**  
Kwame Owusu


When a charming woman shows up on Joy's doorstep to buy a lamp, Joy's expecting nothing out of the ordinary. But little does she know this woman is harbouring a life-changing secret.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 6m**

## CLEAN UP

Mark Patterson, George Green



Ben and Suzanne are in deep, and a very successful torture crew has been called to pull them under.

*Contains Themes of Violence & Gore*  
**MOCKUMENTARY | UK | ENG | 7m**

## TOILET BOY

Toby Norman



Kicked out of a lesson, two boys take comfort in the school toilet revealing their mutually destructive relationship.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 9m**

## POP

Oli Hudson



Two brothers drink their inheritance: a bottle of wine left to them by their father.

**DRAMA, COMEDY | UK | ENG | 10m**

# SHORTS BLOCK 7 ODEON SCREEN 2 | 14:00- 15:00

## PRAWN BHUNA

Howard Charles

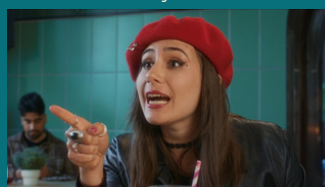


After a night out, Matt & Dave miss the last train home, a split-second decision spirals into chaos & they find themselves in the company of a stranger, unsure if they'll make it out alive.

**DARK COMEDY, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 24m**

## MEET-CUTE

Nadine O'Mahony

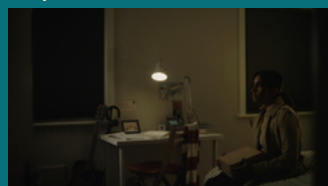


Jaded by endless dates that go nowhere with people too afraid to put their real personality out there, Mark and Mia decide to lay it all on the line, their pet peeves, red flags and their sexual hard nos!

**ROMCOM | UK | ENG | 4m**

## KEYS

Benjamin Jack Williams

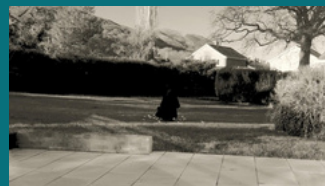


A woman returns to her ex's flat, where a quiet reunion begins to slip between holding on and letting go.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 15m**

## GHOSTS OF YESTERDAY

Jonathan Ransted



A guy wakes up to find an intruder outside. He follows the intruder outside but is shocked to find out who he really is.

**MUSIC VIDEO | UK | ENG | 4m**

## UNTOUCHED

Simon Drew



In a near-future where virtual reality offers flawless intimacy, a struggling couple secretly escape into digital fantasies, each unaware the other is doing the same.

**COMEDY, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 12m**

# SHORTS BLOCK 8 ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 14:15 - 15:15

## SAME DIFFERENCE

Declan Slattery



In the era of No Blacks, No Dogs, No Irish. Nora and Winston form a friendship born out of their shared experiences of racism and prejudice.

*Contains Racism*  
**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 14m**

## THE HIGHER PATH

Duncan Roe

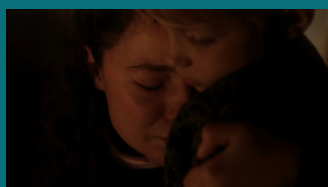


Simon is a thirty-something office worker whose life is going nowhere. But when he discovers a mysterious self-help tape, the enigmatic voice on it promises life changing benefits.

*Contains themes of Mental Health & Gore*  
**THRILLER, HORROR | UK | ENG | 30m**

## IVANKO'S CHILDHOOD

Vera Graziadel



A Ukrainian refugee boy seems lost as he wanders around English forests and villages, but he's on a big mission: to save his Motherland.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG, UKRAINIAN | ENG SUB | 14m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 9 ODEON SCREEN 2 | 15:15 - 16:15

### SPLINTERS

Leon Finnan



Stripped of everything, a failed musician returns home after seven years away, desperate to belong. But the world she left behind no longer has a place for her.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 15m**

### AN EXCESS BAGGAGE

Myriam Garcia Marienstrass



Sophie hides her unease within the intense bond she shares with her daughter, Lila. When Lila leaves for summer camp, Sophie finds herself alone for the first time.

**DRAMA | FRA | FREN | ENG SUB | 16m**

### THE BIRTH OF A MALL GOTH

Samantha Locock



May's sister Gemma has become a goth overnight, causing autistic teen May to explore the fantastical reasons for the sudden change, while also going on a journey of self-discovery.

**COMEDY | UK | ENG | 8m**

### THE BLOSSOM AND THE MOUNTAIN

Kathleen Stevenson



Sakura and Fuji one fleeting, one eternal, falling for one another through the spring. Fire rages, water washes over them, and nature takes its course. A poetic take on love, time, and letting go.

**MUSIC VIDEO, ORCHESTRAL | UK | 5m**

### THE ACRES

Alice Johannessen



Christine enters The Acres estate with a plan. There she encounters Ama, a lonely new mother. Ama reminds Christine of motherhood's early days, a simpler time before things took a turn. *Contains themes of Grief*

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 17m**

## SPECIAL SCREENING | BEST OF BIFA GENRE-BENDING SHORTS

ODEON SCREEN 7 | 15:30 - 16:30



A celebration of genre fluidity within short filmmaking, highlighting some of BIFA's past winners and nominees for the Best British Short Film Award.

### MAGID / ZAFAR (معجد / ظفير)

Luis Hindman



Tensions arise amidst the heat of a busy British Pakistani takeaway.

**BIFA Best British Short 2025**

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 18m**

### FESTIVAL OF SLAPS

Abdou Cissé



A Nigerian mother slaps her son so hard his life flashes before his eyes, in this humorous dissection of cultural stereotypes.

**BIFA Best British Short 2024**

**COMEDY, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 12m**

### NIGHT OF THE LIVING DREAD

Ida Melum



When a power-cut ruins Ruby's bedtime routine she finds herself haunted by embarrassing past versions of herself.

*Contains Nudity & themes of a Sexual Nature*  
**ANIMATION, COMEDY, HORROR | UK  
ENG | 12m**

### MEAT PUPPET

Eros Vlahos



Oz, an irresponsible man baby, nearly misses his girlfriend's Graduation because he's too busy playing with toys. Before he can make amends, a mysterious package arrives containing a mangy old hand puppet.

*Contains Gore*  
**HORROR, COMEDY | UK | ENG | 12m**

## FEATURE PRESENTATION ODEON SCREEN 2 | 16:30 - 17:45

### DONOSTIA

Daniel Cummings



On a short trip to Donostia, Spain, Anna struggles with the recent loss of her mother and the quiet unraveling of her long-term relationship. Sleepless and emotionally adrift, she begins wandering the city at night, where she meets a mysterious woman who challenges her to confront the life she's been avoiding. As reality blurs, Anna must choose between holding on to comfort or stepping into the unknown.

*Contains themes of Grief*

**DRAMA | USA, SPAIN | ENG | 1h 15m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 10 ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 16:45 - 17:45

### MUCK

Barra Convery



When Ciara, a "touched" teenager, discovers the secret of her family's merfolk hunting past, she risks confronting her Grandfather at Christmas dinner.

**FOLK HORROR | IRELAND | ENG | 17m**

### THE DOG THAT COULDN'T BARK

Henry Tomlinson



Rebecca a woman on her deathbed is visited by a new nurse, Angelica, who seems to have an ability to draw out her hidden secrets.

**Contains themes of Sexual Assault  
DRAMA | UK | ENG, ITA | 23m**

### THE QUACKENING

James Button



A grumpy Welshman reluctantly visits his grandmother, only to discover she has gone & got herself cursed! Now he needs to save her (and the world) from a demon duck...before midnight.

**Contains Gore  
COMEDY, HORROR | UK | ENG | 20m**

## FEATURE PRESENTATION ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 18:00 - 19:50

### SNAPSHOT

Joseph Archer



A pinhole camera captures the mysterious downfall of an all-ladies ghost-hunting society in 1888 Whitechapel.

**Contains Violence & Gore  
PERIOD HORROR | UK | ENG | 1h 34m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 11 ODEON SCREEN 2 | 18:00 - 19:00

### DOPPELGÄNGER

Zak Harney



When ten-year old Josie met her doppelgänger, it kicked off a decade of intense and bitter rivalry. Now adult Josie confronts her double to take back control of her identity once and for all.

**COMEDY, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 13m**

### JUST DESERTS

Karen Finch



The English characteristics of people-pleasing and politeness serve Patty quite well. Until they don't.

**COMEDY | UK | ENG | 14m**

### KIT

Lottie Amor



A teenager with dwarfism is hidden away from an unforgiving world by his superficial mother but discovers that his talent for drawing can set him free.

**DRAMA, COMING OF AGE | UK | ENG | 16m**

### SURFING

Duane Adamoli

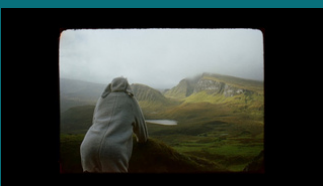


The life of a struggling musician, sofa surfing in Birmingham 1969, slowly unravels across three phone calls, as desperation pushes him toward a choice: how far will he go to keep his dream alive?

**PERIOD DRAMA | UK | ENG | 11m**

### 1 IN 5 SHEEP

James Button



An artist in sheep's clothing.

**EXPERIMENTAL, COMEDY | UK | ENG | 4m**

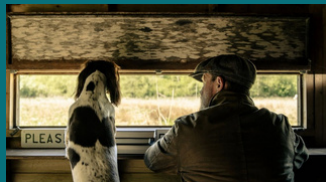
## NETWORKING/FILM SOCIAL THE WILDE POET | 20:00 - 23:00

Join us for an evening of chatting everything film. Whether you're an avid watcher or looking to connect with other filmmakers. This will be an event worth turning up for!

# THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

## SHORTS BLOCK 12 ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 10:00 - 11:00

**BIRDWATCHER**  
Regan Want



A withdrawn man's birdwatching routine is disrupted by a lost dog, unearthing memories and forging an unlikely bond that challenges his isolation.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 11m**

**THE CYCLING ADVENTURES OF LETTICE BLY**  
Nicole Sarah Fry



In 1890s Britain, women cycling shocks the nation. Lettice Bly sets forth, armed with her new bicycle, but cycling isn't as easy as she thought.

**PERIOD DRAMA | UK | ENG | 7m**

**THIS IS REAL- FEEBLE LITTLE HORSE**  
Roman Harrison Filkin



A music video for the song "This is Real" by Feeble Little Horse featuring 40+ locations around Droitwich and Worcester.

**MUSIC VIDEO | UK | ENG | 4m**

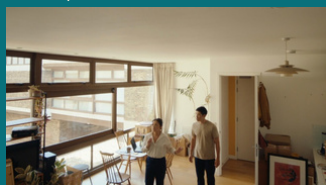
**FABRIC**  
Anabelle Marshall



Spotlighting refugee artisans who bring high fashion to life. With exclusive access to the Espero Atelier - a workshop that trains refugees in haute couture tailoring and places them in top fashion houses.

**DOCUMENTARY | UK | ENG, FRE | ENG SUB | 24m**

**DOMESTIC**  
Jake Spence Barnes



One morning, in one apartment, a couple discover who each other really are when faced by the sounds of domestic violence in the apartment above.

*Contains themes of Domestic Abuse*

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 13m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 13 ODEON SCREEN 2 | 10:00 - 11:00

**THE CARDS WE'RE DEALT**  
Isaac Thornton, Danny Taylor



In the wasteland of a post WW3 Britain, two teens discover the lengths they'll go to for survival.

**DYSTOPIAN | UK | ENG | 35m**

**I'M TOBY**  
Tom Woolley



A reclusive man's anxiety turns to terror when his unplugged phone begins to ring, just as an eerie figure appears on his doorstep.

**HORROR, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 5m**

**BAYLA**  
Adriana Mourelle



BAYLA follows a dancer through the ups and downs of her career: the successes, but also the frustrations and uncertainty.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 6m**

**GOD OF MISCHIEF**  
Christian Stevens



A cheeky 10-year-old boy sets his sights on playing Loki in the school play, when his over-the-top confidence costs him the role, he hatches a mischievous plan to prove he's the real god of mischief.

**COMEDY | UK | ENG | 13m**

## STUDENT BLOCK 1 ODEON SCREEN 5 (WA) | 10:00 - 11:00

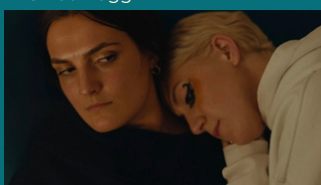
**THE ONNY'S STORY - A FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE**  
Finley Middleton



Uncovering the truth behind the development plans Severn Trent Water revealed to build a pipeline divergence from a water treatment centre in Bishops Castle, to the river Onny.

**DOCUMENTARY | UK | ENG | 6m**

**DULSE**  
Thomas Bugg



At a party in West London, outsider Morgan drifts through a crowd of young creatives, quietly observing the blurred lines between authenticity and performance.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 16m**

## MY OLD PAL SHAWN

Jasdeep Shoker



An ex-offender striving to embrace a legitimate lifestyle is fired from his job. Sinking into despair, an unexpected reunion with an old accomplice rekindles temptation.

**Contains Drug Use, Gore**  
**CRIME, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 16m**

## MATRESCENCE

Harvey Albury



Heather is a first-time mother struggling to navigate the isolating reality of new parenthood with her newborn son, George.

**Contains themes of Mental Health**  
**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 15m**

## SAY IT

Farrel Ewanena



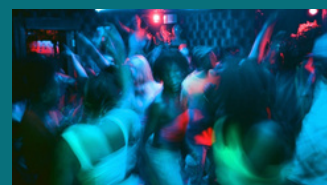
A headstrong student trapped in a school bathroom with his racist bully, must force a confession out of him before they're found, or his final chance at justice will be lost.

**Contains Racism**  
**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 10m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 14 ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 11:15- 12:30

### RELOAD

Mckenzie Alexander, Dalila McFarlane-Martin



Dee, a grassroots London DJ, struggles to balance her job, caring responsibilities and pursuing what she's most passionate about: working as a DJ.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 12m**

### WEGWERF!

Cole Edwards

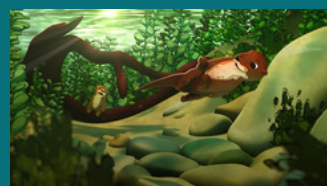


A comedy set in a hospice. A short anti-AI piece, in defence of anyone 'below the line'.

**COMEDY, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 10m**

### BYE-BYE BABY OTTER

Nathanael Shoemaker



A mama otter has to learn to let go as her baby becomes ready to swim on his own.

**ANIMATION | USA | 5m**

### ROLLER VAPES

Will Herbert



Neil's new job? Delivering vapes on rollerblades. He is broke, oblivious and meeting his daughter's boyfriend. What could go wrong?

**COMEDY | UK | ENG | 11m**

### INDIAN SUMMER

Parmjit Kaur Gill



The Western Front, 1915: An Indian soldier's bond with a French woman could mean the difference between life and death for his brother back home.

**ROMANCE, PERIOD DRAMA | UK**  
**ENG, FRE, HINDI | ENG SUB | 19m**

**Q&A**

## SHORTS BLOCK 15 ODEON SCREEN 2 | 11:15 - 12:15

### LACUNA

Sophie Black

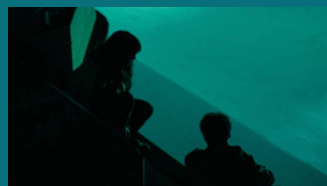


Reclusive art student Mia's fledgling romance with Danny, a charming boy from her class, is threatened by the ghosts of her past.

**Contains themes of Domestic Abuse**  
**ROMANCE, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 14m**

### THE WHOLE THING

Calvin Sang

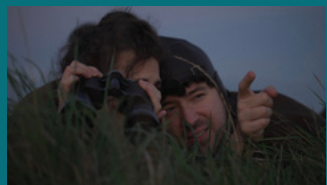


Two strangers meeting at a crematorium while picking up their loved ones' remains. They decide to spend the day together, killing time and watching the world go by.

**Contains themes of Grief**  
**DRAMA | NEW ZEALAND | ENG | 16m**

### THE GOLDEN SQUACCO HERON

Edward Smyth

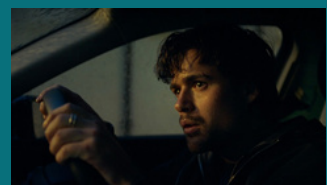


Two friends search for the fabled Golden Squacco Heron, the reward to a treasure hunt unsolved for 29 years. As their treasure proves elusive, they make up their own games, to pass the time.

**COMEDY | UK | ENG | 6m**

### FINDMY

Ed Whelan



A once-promising movie star's phone is stolen, triggering a hunt to find the thief. However, his desperate search reveals the phone wasn't what he was missing all along.

**DRAMA, THRILLER | UK | ENG | 17m**

**FACTORY RESET**  
Ludo Hoffstetter



In the depths of a forgotten factory, an automaton awakens. Driven by its programmed curiosity, it ventures into the labyrinth of scrap and steel, where each of its footsteps lingers as an echo suspended in time.

**ANIMATION, SCI-FI | FRA | 8m**

## SPECIAL SCREENING | METFILM SCHOOL BIRMINGHAM GRAD FILM SHOWCASE

ODEON SCREEN 5 (WA) | 11:45 - 13:30



5 selected short films from the 2026 Graduates of Met Film School Birmingham.

**ECLIPSIA DOMINION** In the dystopian city, Eclipsia, where obedience is law, Kain, a damaged enforcer tasked with hunting a terrorist begins to question reality after discovering that freedom, control, and identity are all engineered by the system he serves, forcing him to choose between becoming its ultimate weapon or breaking it from within.

*Contains themes of Violence*

**NOTHING GOOD** In a nation at War, Military Inspector Colonel Aleksandr wrestles with the choice he must make after uncovering and interrogating a group of border guards who secretly plot to steal rations to feed their starving neighbours

*Contains themes of Violence, Kidnapping, Abduction*

**CORPSING** Cindy & Charlie sneak out to a party without the knowledge of their parents, will they get back in time before their curfew? We're DYING to find out...

*Contains themes Violence*

**SHUTTLE TO PLUTO** Amidst the Cold War, aspiring film star Elizabeth "Betty" Baker becomes trapped in the Hollywood system, where the men around her control & dictate her success. What was her only way of saving the world from a post-war misery, her dream, has become a twisted nightmare of fame & abuse.

*Contains themes of Sexual Assault*

**A MOUTH FULL OF WIRES** A man begins receiving unsettling videos from his friend, unsure if they're AI generated or not. He asks a chatbot which confirms they're real, and his reality starts to spin out of control as he is indoctrinated by the disturbing videos.

## SHORTS BLOCK 16 ODEON SCREEN 2 | 12:30 - 13:45

**THE LONG SPRING**  
Olly Ginelli

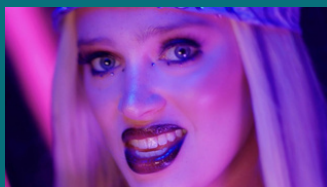


Arron takes his sister on a journey to a better life. In his optimism he may have overlooked one of the darkest possibilities on the planet.

*Contains Violence & themes of Trafficking*

**DRAMA | UK | ARABIC, BULGARIAN, ENG, FRE, RUSSIAN | ENG SUB | 15m**

**CHARITY!**  
Stephen T Lally



Closeted Irish Y2K pop princess undergoes a surreal assault on the senses as she wrestles with the cost of fame and a diabolical record label who'll stop at NOTHING to make her a star.

**COMEDY, LGBTQ+, MUSICAL | IRE | ENG | 15m**

**FINDING CALM**  
Chris Brake



Christmas is a time for family. But for first-time father Sam, it's also a time for adjustment as he tries and fails to connect with his newborn son, George.

*Themes of Mental Health & Suicide*  
**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 18m**

**MIMIC**  
Christopher Bonwell



Maggie, the last remaining Mimic in England, has her world turned upside down by a patient and the lines of her reality start to blur.

**SCI-FI, DRAMA, FANTASY | UK | ENG | 15m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 17 ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 12:45- 13:45

**CUT SHORT**  
Olz McCoy



A young professional boxer, trying to escape a life of crime, risks everything to protect his younger brother who has been pulled into the same dangerous world.

*Contains Violence*  
**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 13m**

**SWIM SISTAS**  
Catherine Joy White

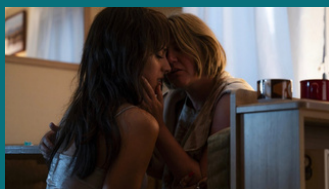


Swim Sistas is a poetic, visually stunning love letter to water, sisterhood, and the enduring strength of Black women across generations.

**DOCUMENTARY | UK | ENG | 11m**

## POPPY

Julia Schönstädt



A once-promising student and mother, whose past and present collide when she reunites with Poppy, a seductive, unpredictable figure from her past.

**Contains themes of Addiction**  
**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 16m**

## TO DISAPPEAR SUDDENLY

Seán McGrail



When a student disappears, a sceptical small-town investigator searches for an explanation, but each step draws him deeper into the unknown.

**FILM NOIR, MYSTERY | UK | ENG | 18m**

## SHOW ME THE MONEY! THE WHITEHOUSE HOTEL | 13:00 - 13:30



### HOW TO ACCESS THE UK'S FILM TAX CREDITS

The BFI Certification Unit is the first point of contact for applicants wanting to qualify their film (including shorts) or TV project as British to access the UK's creative sector tax incentives (AVEC). Head of BFI Certification Chris Halliday talks on how to qualify your film or other projects under the cultural test or as an official co-production to access the expenditure credits, including the new Enhanced AVEC for low-budget film (also known as the Independent Film Tax Credit, IFTC), which can be worth up to nearly 40% of your core expenditure. If you're making a film in the UK then you're likely eligible. Further details can be found on the BFI website. 1-2-1 slots are also available to book via the online schedule on our website.

## STUDENT BLOCK 2 ODEON SCREEN 5 (WA) | 13:45 - 14:45

### THE AMBROSE FINCH

Dunyasha Althaus



Thirty years after the death of her infant son, Agnes invites her two estranged children, to share a final meal where she reveals her decision to end her life.

**Contains themes of Suicide**  
**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 12m**

### BOTTLEFEEDER

Sophia Ryan Gatti



Two tween girls fail to stifle their unique insecurities during gym class.

**ANIMATION | USA | ENG | 5m**

### LIMBO

Bethany Barr

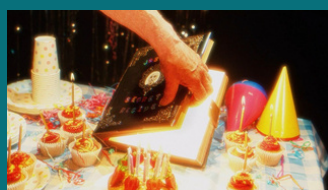


An aspiring doctor is forced to wait in a crumbling A&E with a friend whose symptoms are worsening. Peeling back the clinic's layers, he discovers the nightmarish reality of a collapsing healthcare system.

**Contains Gore**  
**PSYCHOLOGICAL DRAMA | UK | ENG | 13m**

### BEHOLD THIS DREAMER COMETH

Jonny Mowat



If God still speaks through dreams, then what the devil was that?

**COMEDY, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 15m**

### PAPER TIGER

Eden Quine-Taylor



Commander Josef Reeve struggles to suppress a rising resistance as he's forced to confront his past. Will he stay loyal to the regime-or risk everything to preserve his humanity?

**SCI-FI, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 15m**

## BRAND YOUR FILM WITH EXTRA STRONG THE WHITEHOUSE HOTEL | 14:00 - 14:45



How do you make your film stand out? Filmmaking is much more than just making the film. Building a brand around it will help it get seen and find audiences. Russell will highlight how creating a visual identity and staying consistent can build a distinctive cohesive vision that feels as memorable as the film itself. Exploring how imagery titles and copywriting can work together to capture the tone, personality and world of your film.

## SHORTS BLOCK 18 ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 14:00- 15:00

### HOMEBIRD

Charlie Newnham



Homebird returns to their family house to find nothing that they left behind. A quiet, haunting study of return, it asks how far nostalgia can carry us.

**EXPERIMENTAL | UK | ENG | 19m**

### SIGNAL

Zak Jarvis



Ray, a railway Signaller whose routine night shift turns into a race to save a life after spotting Billy - a distressed young man trespassing on the tracks.

**Contains themes of Suicide & Mental Health**  
**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 13m**

## STARBOY

AR Ugas



A rising rapper grapples with the consequences of his music's influence when he attends the birthday party of one of his young fans.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 14m**

## ROOM TEMPERATURE

Roni Niu



An inquisitive Whitehumanoid journeys from a grey limbo into the technicolour unknown.

**ANIMATION | UK | 7m**

## WEEYAGALE

Ainslie Senfuka



A magical-realist drama about a young British-Ugandan girl whose classroom show-and-tell unlocks a dreamlike journey into her heritage.

**EXPERIMENTAL | UK | ENG, GANDA  
ENG SUB | 6m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 19

ODEON SCREEN 2 | 14:15- 15:15

### O RIVER

Eloise Oui

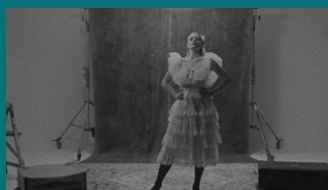


O River is a dream-like Western about the duality of life and the psyche. Ira, a runaway nun, and Bael, a highwayman, share a karmic bond.

**EXPERIMENTAL, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 19m**

### WRAPPED IN CELLULOID

Oli Greck



A celluloid loving photographer tests a rather ominous vintage camera, only to find he has awoken a dark and deadly presence.

**HORROR, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 20m**

### SAINT AGNES

Kate Driver



One night at a gallery preview, a withdrawn young woman is forced to confront her unresolved trauma when a provocative artwork exposes her best friend.

*Contains themes of Sexual Assault*  
**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 10m**

### QUIET

Lily Portman



Unable to leave her room, Gert spends her anxiety ridden days talking to a bird outside her window, until he tells her the world has ended.

**COMEDY, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 12m**

## DEMYSTIFYING FILM FINANCE WITH RED ROBIN FILMS

THE WHITEHOUSE HOTEL | 15:00 - 15:45



Isobel Drane and Kieran Lowley breakdown film finance. Exploring budgets, project management and finance sourcing, Red Robin Films will go through key logistics and raise potential pitfalls. Whether you are on your short film or feature film journey, this talk is for you!

## SHORTS BLOCK 20

ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 15:15- 16:30

### OFF TRACK

Peter Kehoe



A man accidentally joins his own search party. A tongue-in-cheek comedy about the crisis of white men's identity and the evils of modern technology.

**DARK COMEDY | UK | ENG | 15m**

### CHOKEHOLD

Christopher Bevan



In a desperate attempt to escape his troubled home life, a young teenage boy runs away to seek out his estranged father, a once-famed professional wrestler.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 15m**

**BRIDGE - MY LITTLE FRIENDS-**  
Kazuyuki Ishihara



Mugi, is sad about losing her beloved dog, Jin the cat loves Mugi & after hearing the story of the "Rainbow Bridge" from his owner, decides to take Mugi to meet Shiro at the Rainbow Bridge.

**ANIMATION | JAPAN | JA | ENG SUB | 10m**

**THE INTIMACY COORDINATOR**  
Louisa Connolly-Burnham



Kate is an intimacy coordinator. She is also a sex addict.

**Contains Gore & Sex**

**DRAMA, THRILLER | UK | ENG | 21m**

## FEATURE DOC PRESENTATION

ODEON SCREEN 5 (WA) | 15:15 - 17:05

**OUR PLANET, THE PEOPLE, MY BLOOD**  
Daniel Everitt-Lock



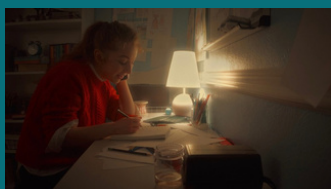
Through intimate first-hand testimony from across the globe, Alan Owen uncovers the devastating legacy of more than 2,000 nuclear weapons tests, launching a legal battle that could expose decades of government injustice.

**DOCUMENTARY | UK, CA | ENG | 1h 22m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 21

ODEON SCREEN 2 | 15:30- 16:30

**STORYBOARD: THE MUSICAL**  
Jordan Gibbs



After hearing about a local film competition, Everly Easton, fresh out of high school, takes a leap of faith and makes her first animated short film with the help of her friends.

**DRAMA, MUSICAL | UK | ENG | 19m**

**FRIDAY IS MUSHROOM SOUP**  
Arnold T Rice



In an impossibly allocated 15 minutes, burnt-out carer Kate rushes to meet the needs of her favourite cranky client. But when he drops some unexpected news, their unlikely friendship is tested.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 16m**

**VOICE SHIFT**  
Roberto Duque



What begins as a group of transgender women aligning their voices to reflect their gender identity unfolds into an exploration of how voice shapes identity, survival and social perception.

**DOCUMENTARY | UK | ENG | 25m**

## IN CONVERSATION WITH MARTIN SIMMS, HEAD OF PRODUCTION CENTRAL

EXPLORING THE EVOLVING CREATIVE PRODUCTION LANDSCAPE OF THE WEST MIDLANDS

THE WHITEHOUSE HOTEL | 16:00 - 16:45



Production Central WM is the region's dedicated production services agency, backed by the West Midlands Combined Authority and partnered with Create Central. It supports domestic and international broadcasters, producers, and home-grown filmmakers to deliver creative projects across the West Midlands region. From established location settings such as Digbeth Loc Studios and The Bond to backdrops like the Black Country Living Museum, Coventry Cathedral and Birmingham's Victoria Square, working with Production Central WM offers producers unparalleled access to the West Midlands' rich variety of locations, cutting-edge facilities and creative workforce. Martin will discuss with Host Marcus Johnson how Production Central will contribute to the evolving creative production landscape of the West Midlands. Whether you're from the region or are interested

in what is on offer here, this talk will take you through the benefits for productions coming to the area, how this will grow the sector and insights in to what the future holds.

## SHORTS BLOCK 22

ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 16:45 - 17:45

**(MUM)**  
Jake Mavity



A homeless woman takes a feisty runaway under her wing and tries to reunite her with her family, whilst evading a drug dealer hellbent on revenge.

**DRAMA, THRILLER | UK | ENG | 15m**

**SPICY BOB**  
Adam Yates

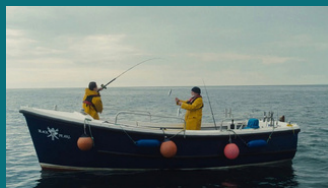


Filmmakers follow an eccentric mathematician in the aftermath of his monumental discoveries.

**PSUEDO DOC | USA | ENG | 22m**

## CIRCLE HOOK

Maddy Corner



Set against a declining fishing village in Cornwall, Samuel & grandson Vinnie wrestle with grief, connection & survival. One day their bond is tested at sea, leading to an unexpected discovery.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 9m**

## OUR NEIGHBOUR'S ASS

Max Goldberg



Set in Leeds, a widow, left with the responsibility of caring for her late husband's donkey, comes up against her neighbour's frustrations as the donkey becomes a local nuisance.

**COMEDY, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 13m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 23

ODEON SCREEN 2 | 16:45 - 17:45

### K-9INE!

Elliott Power

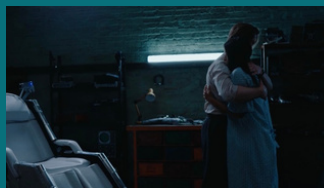


Roy, a recently retired Police dog handler. His routine takes an unexpected turn when he invites Tea Leaf, a shoplifting door-to-door salesman into his home.

**COMEDY, THRILLER | UK | ENG | 11m**

### THE MEMORY REMAINS

Bartek Podkowa



A grieving scientist uses a machine to rebuild his partner's mind from his memory. But as she awakens, every fragmented recollection pulls her further from his version of their life, & closer to the truth.

**SCI-FI, THRILLER | UK | ENG | 22m**

### THE WHITE YAK

Wancheng Tie

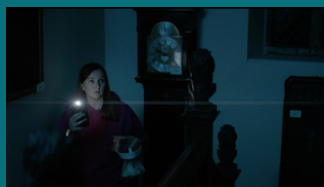


Deep into the heart of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, a silent struggle over memory, identity, and belonging quietly unfolds between a father and son.

**DRAMA | CHINA | TIBETAN | ENG SUB | 13m**

### DANIEL'S ROOM

Jack Richardson



On the eve of its auction, Emily returns to her abandoned childhood home, where she comes for a final reckoning with her estranged step-brother, Daniel,

**Contains themes of Sexual Assault  
HORROR | UK | ENG | 14m**

## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ROYAL TELEVISION SOCIETY

THE WHITEHOUSE HOTEL | 17:00 - 17:20



Jayne Rae talks all things Royal Television Society Midlands.

## STUDENT BLOCK 3

ODEON SCREEN 5 (WA) | 17:15 - 18:15

### A ROSE FOR IRIS

Abolfazl Talooni



Having fled war-ravaged Iran, a father & daughter arrive on the beaches of England, believing they are safe.

**Contains Racism & Violence  
DRAMA | UK | ENG, PERSIAN |  
ENG SUB | 12m**

### ON THE BACKBURNER

Krisztián Kajtár



Yusuf, a kitchen porter, bonds with Abiola, an older cynical colleague. Together they inspire a winning dish, but their undocumented status costs them their jobs, yet they face the future together.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 11m**

### JOIN THE CLUB

Ryan JJ Lubbock



Five years post Uni and feeling unsuccessful in life, James visits his old Uni mates and realises through unconventional means, that maybe life's not so bad.

**COMEDY, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 19m**

### NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK

Seth Hope Barnard Chodzko



After the suicide of a childhood friend, Connor and Liam are reunited by the difficult task of choosing their friends burial clothes.

**Contains Grief & themes of Suicide  
DRAMA | UK | ENG | 14m**

## DODGEBALL

Jesse Van Norman



When a tiny robot decides to play a friendly game of dodgeball with a heavily-armed military robot, things don't quite go as planned.

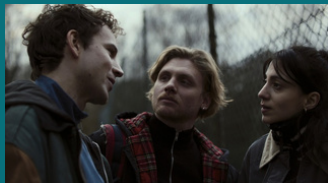
ANIMATION | USA | ENG | 4m

## FEATURE PRESENTATION

ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 18:00 - 19:30

### BUBBLES

Sebastian Husak



When Fiete spends a weekend with his girlfriend Amiri at his family's seaside cottage, he runs into his former best buddy Luca, whom he hasn't seen for 10 years. Amiri soon realizes that Fiete is torn between his past and present life.

*Contains Nudity*

DRAMA | GERMANY | GERMAN | ENG SUB | 1h 26m

## FEATURE PRESENTATION

ODEON SCREEN 2 | 18:00 - 20:00

### WELCOME TO PARADISE

Richard Summers-Calvert



A troubled woman, lost and confused, finds herself in the middle of a strange, magical carnival with no memory of anything or anyone. She quickly becomes mesmerised by its addictive charm, losing herself in the grandeur of this spectacular, entertaining 'paradise'. However, now she has been blinded by the lights, what will it take for her to open her eyes to the reality she once knew? And more importantly, does she even want to?

*Contains Sex, Nudity, Drug Abuse, Suicide*

FANTASY, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 1h 50m

## STUDENT BLOCK 4

ODEON SCREEN 5 (WA) | 18:30 - 19:30

### PEA SIZED DROP

Felipe Ferreira



A young waiter with severe acne is constantly subjected to disgusted looks. In a desperate need to remove it, he purchases a cleanser that promises just that.

*Contains Gore*

HORROR | MEXICO | ENG | 6m

### LIKE OTHER PEOPLE

Luisa Nöllke, Leo Dzhyshyashvili



When a condom breaks, Nina and Danil wander the night in search of a pharmacy and a decision.

DRAMA | DE | GER, ENG | ENG SUB | 17m

### BODY OF WATER

Sam Mandich, Willow Bidwell



A woman who is struggling with past sexual trauma, attempts to take a bath

*Contains Nudity & themes of Sexual Assault*

EXPERIMENTAL | UK | ENG | 3m

### SOUNDCHECK

Olivia Phillips



When a record label rep appears during a band's soundcheck, their talented guitarist must decide between the safety of a band that holds her back, and the uncertain freedom of standing alone.

DRAMA | UK | ENG | 7m

### BEYOND ME

Isaac Sheriff Brain



A film that explores the power of childhood adventures through the lens of Super 8 film reels to inspire life in the moment, cherishing the times that shape our lives.

DOCUMENTARY | UK | ENG | 11m

### THE KISMET TEST

J.J. Vaughan



In a twisted corporate experiment, two strangers are locked in a room together for 23 days. At the end, they must vote on who they think is an android.

SCI-FI, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 18m

## NETWORKING/FILM SOCIAL + FILM-THEMED OPEN MIC NIGHT

SPIN THE BLACK CIRCLE | 19:30 - 23:00

An evening of Music From The Movies! Film Lovers and Filmmakers, meet, chat and connect alongside our beloved Film Themed Open Mic Night, hosted by the fantastic Heather Louise! @heatherlouisesinger

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Scala, Worcester's new arts centre, will bring people together to enjoy a more creative future for the city.



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# FRIDAY

25th SEPTEMBER

## SHORTS BLOCK 24 ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 10:00 - 11:00

### DINNER FOR LONERS

Keshav Shree



Scared about his friends moving on without him, a newly single man recruits his dysfunctional Indian family to throw a reunion dinner in a desperate attempt to reconnect.

**COMEDY | UK | ENG, HINDI | ENG SUB | 19m**

### THE SECRET ASSISTANTS

Katey Lee Carson



Sophie, an ambitious novice, walks a razor's edge as her interview with titan of industry Henry Mann descends into a squalid power play.

**Contains themes of Abuse**  
**DRAMA, THRILLER | UK, FR, DE | ENG | 20m**

### INDIGNITAS

Darcia Martin



A father grapples with an irreversible decision to secure his children's future through a program that offers a grim choice for financial stability.

**Contains Suicide**  
**DRAMA, SCI-FI | UK | ENG | 18m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 25 ODEON SCREEN 2 | 10:00 - 11:00

### HOMECOMING AND GOING

Kristie Ko



Two old friends, one arriving from Hong Kong and the other returning there, struggle to justify their decisions as a London flat is handed over between them.

**DRAMA | HKG, UK | ENG, CANTONESE**  
**ENG SUB | 19m**

### SALT MARSH

Tom Bell



With a haunting, original score by Lee Ranaldo, "Salt Marsh" explores art, climate, and solitude through the reflections of Maine artist Mitchell Rasor.

**DOCUMENTARY | ENG | 15m**

### CAN'T A GIRL?

Isabel Ion

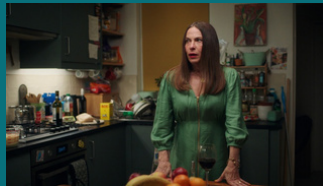


Amy, a hopeless romantic, turns to a VHS dating service after years of waiting for true love. What begins with a series of awkward dates quickly unravels into a surreal nightmare.

**ROM-COM, SURREAL | UK | ENG | 11m**

### TOAD IN THE HOLE

Ben Norris



Stuck in a stagnant moment of her marriage, Kay orchestrates an evening away from family responsibilities to pursue a surprising liaison.

**ROM-COM, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 10m**

## STUDENT BLOCK 5 ODEON SCREEN 5 (WA) | 10:00 - 11:00

### THE GOLDMAN

Dan Bayliss



A gold-painted street performers carefully constructed routine shatters when his friend is brutally attacked. Forced to step out from behind his silent persona he sets on a path of revenge.

**DRAMA, THRILLER | UK | ENG | 17m**

### MR. NINETY-NINE

Daniel Clarke

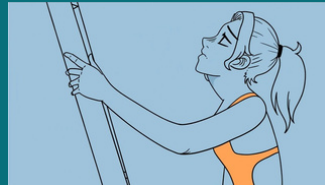


A young man's desire to be traditionally masculine is tested through a series of anxiety inducing alternative exercises with an abrasive and controversial self-help Guru.

**DRAMA | NZ | ENG | 9m**

### DIVE

Alice Borg Kwaaitaal



A young competitive diver faces her biggest competition yet. Battling fear, self-doubt and the pressure to succeed.

**ANIMATION | NORWAY | 2m**

### THE SHORE OF PROMISES

Joy Shi



Alva is a wistful child struggling to keep her home together. After a mysterious encounter, she embarks on a mystical journey to find solace for her mother.

**ADVENTURE, FANTASY | UK | ENG | 13m**

**JUANA**  
Han Luo



In a household where marriage functions as a transaction. Expected to submit, Sophila turns toward Juana, a girl suddenly appeared.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 18m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 26

ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 11:15 - 12:15

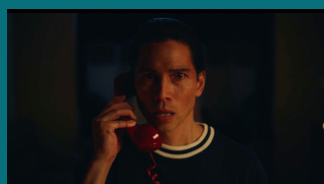
**WILD BEAR**  
James Hastings



A recluse man, embodying the characteristics of a wild bear, fears loneliness in the wilderness. When love comes his way, the threat of deforestation destroys his hope for survival.

**DRAMA, EXPERIMENTAL | UK | ENG | 15m**

**RING RING**  
Adrian León



A grieving son buys an old phone from an antique shop in order to talk to his dead mother.

*Contains themes of Grief*  
**HORROR, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 15m**

**ASTRONAUTA**  
Giorgio Giampà



Audely a lumberjack in the Guatemalan jungle. Carol his daughter dreams of entering that same jungle. Audely thinks about it, then goes to the moon.

**DRAMA | FRA, GUATEMALA, ITA, MEX | ESP  
ENG SUB | 16m**

**IMMATERIAL**  
Alexandra Healy



Isolated on a council estate in South London, a queer woman seeks relief from her spiralling drug addiction and PTSD in the only way she knows how.

*Contains themes Sexual Assault & Drug Abuse*  
**DRAMA, LGBTQ+ | UK | ENG | 14m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 27

ODEON SCREEN 2 | 11:15 - 12:30

**BETWEEN THE PIERS**  
Kate Cheeseman



One woman's reluctant search of the beach to find her grieving mother's wedding ring uncovers something far more valuable.

*Contains themes of Grief*  
**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 15m**

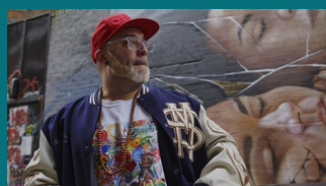
**THE DEVIL IS IN ME**  
Tia Salisbury



Late 18th-century England. A nightmarish teenager and a rookie Reverend lock horns over Sunday school attendance.

**COMEDY | UK | ENG | 12m**

**AUTISM: THE GIFT IN THE CURSE**  
Jonathan Clarke, Robin Andrews



Following award-winning neurodivergent artist and activist Dez (Loveartpix). This raw yet hopeful documentary charts his journey through diagnosis, creativity, and burnout.

**DOCUMENTARY | UK | ENG | 17m**

**SQUEAKY BUM**  
Alicia Forde



On the day of the Euro's semi-final, a cocky teenage lad, must confront grief and the shadow of his dad when a school puppet show hits too close to home.

*Contains themes of Domestic Violence & Grief*  
**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 15m**

## STUDENT BLOCK 6

ODEON SCREEN 5 (WA), 11:15 - 12:15

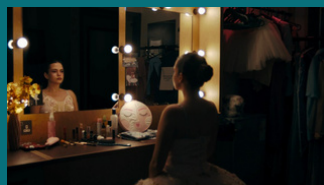
**DO YOU COPY**  
Rory Lynn Pelzel



Two mercenaries find themselves trapped in an abandoned biotech facility. With only their faulty comms to communicate, they'll need to rely on each other's intel to escape alive.

**SCI-FI | UK | ENG | 9m**

**THE MOUSE**  
Eden Genish



On the verge of being cut from a prestigious ballet company, a ballerina becomes consumed by the need for instructor's approval-pushing herself beyond sanity in the pursuit of greatness.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER | ENG | 15m**

**BOWL**  
John Kelbie



Arthur has recently been diagnosed with arthritis. When he finds out Norma is playing in the lawn bowls charity match, facing many challenges, he seeks the chance to prove himself.

**COMEDY, LGBTQ+ | UK | ENG | 10m**

**LIPGLOSS, BABE?**  
Liz Lowndes



Bella & Maisie navigate a lively club, taking breaks in the sanctuary of the women's bathroom. They soon discover it might not be as safe as they thought

***Contains themes of Sexual Assault***  
**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 7m**

**ONEIROS**  
Junbo Qiu



Lost on an alien planet, a lone astronaut searching for his mother encounters a world that seems to be searching for him in return.

**SCI-FI | UK | ENG | 20m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 28 ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 12:30 - 13:45

**A TAIL**  
Rosie Gaunt-Mathieson



On the day of an important job interview, Gemma wakes up with a mermaid's tail. With the help of her sister she flops out and attempts to sell herself in a man's world.

**COMEDY, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 12m**

**THE IMPENDING WHITE LIGHT**  
Ben Wicks



Two dead bodies find themselves caught between worlds, forming an unlikely bond, revealing a deeply human answer to one of life's oldest questions: what really happens when we die?

***Contains themes of Grief***  
**COMEDY, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 16m**

**NEW GROUND**  
Louisa Rechenbach



At the heart of this film is a pioneering community where 26 women over 50 are rewriting the script on ageing. Offering rare access to the UK's first co-housing project of its kind,

**DOCUMENTARY | UK | ENG | 14m**

**WE DREAM IN COLOUR**  
Kane Wilson



In a sleepless city addicted to artificial dreams, Lola enters a lucid simulation and forms a dangerous bond with an artificial companion designed to fulfil her every need.

**DYSTOPIAN, SCI-FI | UK | ENG | 18m**

## DOCUMENTARY FEATURE PRESENTATION ODEON SCREEN 5 (WA) | 12:30 - 13:45

**STAR OF THE SEA - THE FOOTBALL, THE TROUBLES AND THE AFTERMATH**  
James Wynne



In 1969, Star of the Sea from North Belfast were the best youth football team in Ireland. The team is made up of Protestant and Catholic players from the mixed local community of Rathcoole. By 1972, the team has been torn apart by The Troubles.

***Contains themes of Religious Discrimination, Extreme Violence, Death & Grief***  
**DOCUMENTARY | IRELAND | IRISH, ENG | ENG SUB | 1h 16m**

## FEATURE PRESENTATION ODEON SCREEN 2 | 13:00 - 14:45

**THE HOOK**  
Thomas David Beatty



A family band. 3 burnt out brothers, an undervalued sister, a cornucopia of addictions, oversized ego's, murderous resentments, delusions of grandeur, washed out morals and rapidly fading success culminates in a whirlwind dark comedy. The Hook is a portrait of chasing success in the music industry, exposing the toll of addiction and the mental battles that come with the price of ambition.

***Contains Drug Abuse***  
**COMEDY, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 1h 38m**

## SPECIAL SCREENING | WFF 2025 PITCH WINNING FILM & Q&A

ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 14:00 - 14:30

Recipients of the prize funding from The Worcestershire Film Office after winning The Worcester Film Festival 2025 pitch event, present their short film 'Nobody's Perfect'. A celebration of filmmaking in Worcestershire.

### NOBODY'S PERFECT

Adam Palmer



The Black Country, 1995 - two sisters confront each other about sorting their late father's estate, whilst on a cigarette break as children's party entertainers.

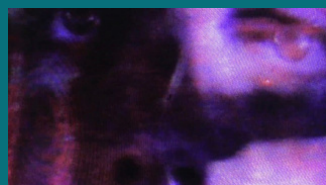
**DRAMA | UK | ENG | APPROX 15m**

## FEATURE PRESENTATION

ODEON SCREEN 5 (WA) | 14:15 - 15:15

### SILVER/WEIJ

dat shredboi



A visual album. Reality becomes nightmarish and surreal for three seemingly unconnected characters, after seeing a strange film.

**EXPERIMENTAL, HORROR | UK | ENG | 1h 3m**

## SPECIAL SCREENING | STEMFI48 SHOWCASE

ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 15:00 - 16:15



Our first 48 hour film challenge in collaboration with STEMfi. In June, filmmakers across the country were delivered a STEM-themed brief under the title 'Out of Range' with only 48 hours to write, shoot, edit and deliver the film. The showcase will screen 5 shortlisted films from the competition that are being judged by Stargate Atlantis actor David Hewlett. Following the screenings, the winner of the competition will be announced and STEMfi with guest David Blue (Stargate Universe) will give a talk that will focus on a whistle-stop tour of the EM spectrum.

STEM-fi's goals are to highlight STEM themes in science fiction, to broaden knowledge of STEM fields, and to inspire young people into STEM careers.

## SHORTS BLOCK 29

ODEON SCREEN 2 | 15:15 - 16:15

### THE TROPHY KING

Tighe Boudreaux Kellner

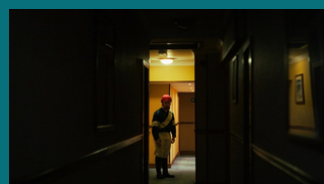


A trophy salesman's inept robbery falls apart when his partners in crime rob him in the process.

**DARK COMEDY, CRIME | USA | ENG | 19m**

### SKY JOCKEY

Daniel Thomson



A gambling-addict priest loses a bet and owes a large sum of money to a ruthless bookie. In order to pay his debt, he must murder a mysterious jockey.

**Contains Violence & Gore  
THRILLER | UK | ENG | 15m**

### DECORUM

Quentin Beroud



A perfect first date turns sour when Miles brings Angie back to his flat and she realises it's totally blank. But is zero decoration just laziness... or something darker?

**HORROR, COMEDY | UK | ENG | 9m**

### HOW WE HAMSTERS DIE

Mio Gribskov, Phoebe Burdick



A comedic 2D animated short film that tells the absurdly tragic stories of hamsters from the after-life.

**ANIMATION | USA | ENG | 6m**

## BLUEBOTTLE THEORY

John J. Sanders, Luke Roberts



Ever wanted to take the shot? Drew does. Every bloody day. Bluebottle Theory is a darkly comic noir-style nine-minute thriller with a twist.

COMEDY, ACTION | UK | ENG | 9m

## STUDENT BLOCK 7

ODEON SCREEN 5 (WA) | 15:30 - 16:45

### BIRTHDAY BOY

Rosa Brooke

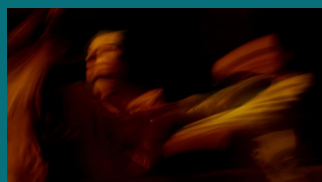


Rae struggles to survive a disastrous Birthday with their dysfunctional family.

COMEDY, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 14m

### STUPORIA

Joshua Jádi



A deeply personal LGBTQIA+-themed story about a dancer who is forced to stop dancing after surviving a violent attack in a park.

**Contains themes of Violence, Mental Health & Sexual Content**

DRAMA | AUT | FRE, GER | ENG SUB | 16m

### PICTURE PARALYSED

Lucas Keay



Emptiness, dreams, unbearable nostalgia. This is the reality of Natalie, a lonely woman unable to let go of her past as a promising singer.

MUSIC VIDEO | UK | ENG | 7m

### GRAVY TRAIN

Benny Slater



In late 2000s London, a banknotes journey through various transactions reveals the hidden secrets and stories of everyday lives.

**Contains Violence, Suicide, Kidnapping**  
THRILLER | UK | ENG | 22m

## PITCH YOUR PROJECT

JNCTN | 16:00 - 17:30

3 Judges, 3 Minutes, 1 Idea and a chance to win a budget for your project of £1,500!

The Worcestershire Film Office is proud to sponsor Worcester Film Festival's live Pitch Event with a prize of £1,500 for the winning pitch. The funds can be used as the whole budget or put towards an existing one. Filming must take place in Worcestershire and be open to becoming a case study to showcase the county as a film-friendly destination. The completed film has to be max 15 minutes in length including credits and be delivered before Worcester Film Festival 2027, so it can have its premiere screening there.

Further T&Cs apply. Pitching spaces are limited, so book your place through Worcester Film Festival's website.

Not pitching? Come along and get inspired by filmmakers and their stories!

### Panel

Juwairiyyah Wali - Flatpack Programme Officer

Luke Morgan - Writer, Director and Producer at Morgan Brothers

Chloe Brown - Producer and Production Manager

## SHORTS BLOCK 30

ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 16:30 - 17:30

### BLOODSUCKERS

Rosie Brear

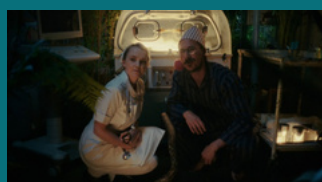


Bliss, lonely, and convinced she's a vampire slayer, comes to the conclusion that perhaps the demons she's been hunting have been under her roof the whole time...

**Contains Gore**  
COMEDY, HORROR | UK | ENG | 10m

### SEED

Martin Lohse

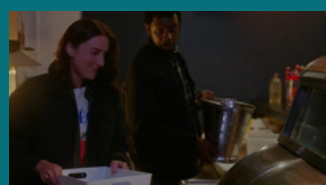


A man is inducted into a surreal collective to prepare him for fatherhood, but his newfound sense of identity is tested when tragedy strikes.

**Contains themes of Grief and Miscarriage**  
DRAMA, FANTASY | UK | ENG | 13m

### SORRY WE'RE CLOSED

Jonathan Hawes



A young couple break into a fish and chip shop after having an argument about the lack of spontaneity in their relationship

COMEDY, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 9m

### DOWN THE LENGTH

Milo Edwards



Lost in a hole of complex grief, a once promising young painter attempts to meet a looming gallery deadline by recording his increasingly disturbing dreams.

**Contains themes of Grief**  
PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR | UK | ENG | 28m

## SHORTS BLOCK 31 ODEON SCREEN 2 | 16:30 - 17:30

**THE LAND DEMANDS BLOOD: HAMMER HORROR AND THE LEGACY OF CORNISH GOTHIC**  
Ryan Mackfall



This documentary examines Hammer Film's use of Cornwall as a setting and location for its films, exploring the "new weird Britain" of contemporary Cornish folk horror.

**DOCUMENTARY | UK | ENG | 38m**

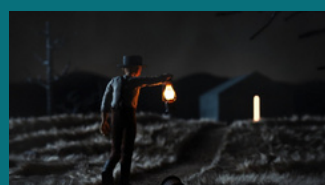
**ALBERT**  
Joshua G. R. Fletcher



The Island of Guernsey, 1690. As echoes of the island's witch trials linger, a recluse farmer must quickly hide his connection to the forces of nature before it's too late.

**PERIOD, DRAMA, HORROR | UK | ENG | 17m**

**HELL**  
Parker Croft

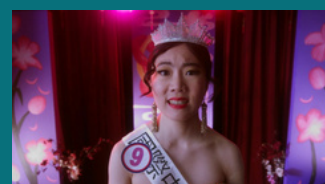


Hell, follows the patriarch of a dying farm on the outskirts of Ash Harbor as he is methodically ground down by the machinery of despair.

*Contains themes of Suicide*  
**ANIMATION | USA | ENG | 5m**

## STUDENT BLOCK 8 ODEON SCREEN 5 (WA) | 17:15 - 18:15

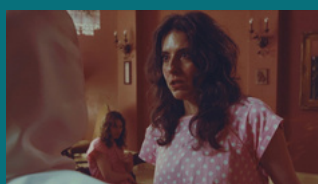
**MISS CANTON**  
Robyn Chi-Man Norwood



At Lunar New Year dinner, Jenny is engulfed by disassociation with the language & culture of her Chinese heritage. She grapples with guilt & pressure to belong.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG, CANTONESE | ENG SUB 13m**

**THE HOUSE OF PUSSY**  
Fiona Lynette McNeal



Laura is checked into a rehab facility that re-educates women suffering from love addictions, molding them into the perfect woman for their male partners.

*Contains Sexual themes*  
**COMEDY | USA | ENG | 14m**

**ON SONDER HILL**  
Jacob Perkins



In a 70s landscape of theatre, a charming dream-chaser says hello to the love of his life for the first time. 50 years later, a simple hill is preventing him from saying goodbye.

**MUSICAL, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 15m**

**EXPOSURE**  
Roni Shai



Alma is forced to confront the dangers of exposure - both in front of the camera and beyond it.

*Contains Nudity*  
**DRAMA | ISRAEL | HEBREW | ENG SUB | 18m**

## FEATURE PRESENTATION ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 17:45 - 20:15



**ONE OF US**  
Stefan van de Graaff



Members of a family begin dying one by one at a funeral, while Youngest searches for the stranger in their midst.

**HORROR, DRAMA | USA | ENG | 1h 37m**

**Q&A WITH CAST AND CREW IN CONJUNCTION WITH RTS MIDLANDS**



Douglas Henshall



Charlotte Hope



Callum Woodhouse



David Horovitch



Becca Henderson

## SHORTS BLOCK 32 ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 17:45 - 20:15

**STATIC**  
Chris Duffy



A disgraced detective finds himself fixated on an old television found at the scene of a crime.

**ANIMATION | UK | ENG | 7m**

**LEARNERS**  
Paul Testar



When cantankerous widower David agrees to teach his son's unemployed girlfriend Ellen to drive, things get off to a terrible start.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 20m**

## STROLLING DOWN BRIGHTON PIER

Kenny McCracken

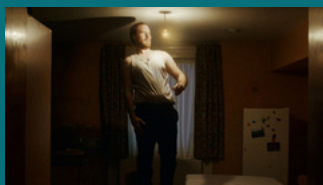


A young Edwardian gentleman, working as a photographer, falls madly in love with a captivating woman as she takes her daily stroll down Brighton Pier.

**MUSIC VIDEO | UK | ENG | 5m**

## BULB

Guy Taylor

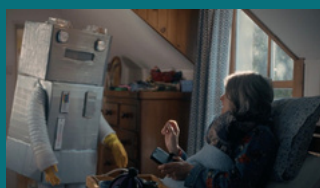


An abstract comedy about a family that only owns one lightbulb.

**COMEDY | UK | ENG | 12m**

## ICARE 9000

Robert Duncan



A vulnerable old lady is looked after by the ICare 9000, a high tech robot carer, but not everything is as it appears.

**COMEDY, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 13m**

## ALL CHANGE

Lena Molander



In a simple conversation on the train, two gay men expose the regrets they have over their friendship, which – years ago – nearly became something more.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 3m**

# STUDENT BLOCK 9

ODEON SCREEN 5 (WA) | 18:30 - 19:30

## BENEVOLENCE

Alfie Green



A mother's unconditional love.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 12m**

## BOY

Ben Rusnak, Ruth Rusnak



A young queer man's encounter with an older stranger exposes the cost of living in the closet.

**DRAMA, LGBTQ+ | UK | ENG | 13m**

## BODY COUNT

James L Perkins



*Contains Gore*  
**HORROR, THRILLER | UK | ENG, FRE  
ENG SUB | 9m**

## FORGET ME NOT

Christopher Lee Slater



As a wife prepares for her anniversary dinner, she is confronted by a stranger who begins to unravel the world around her.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 14m**

## CRABS IN THE LOWLAND

Andreas Papadopoulos



A road trip to the countryside takes a dark turn when a careless moment sets in motion the line between dream and reality to collapse.

**HORROR, COMEDY | GRC | MODGK  
ENG SUB | 15m**

# SHORTS BLOCK 33

ODEON SCREEN 2 | 19:00 - 20:00

## GLASS

James Barlow



It's Rebecca's birthday. She carries out her routine with bleak regularity, but she's hiding something. Rebecca compulsively eats glass.

*Contains Gore & themes of Mental Health*  
**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 12m**

## BAG LADIES

Harry Syed



An aspiring vintage fashion influencer ruffles a sophisticated fashionista for a peek at her iconic handbag.

**COMEDY | UK | ENG | 12m**

**CANDLES**  
Kwame Lestrade



Desperate to move on and start her new life, restaurant-owner Benita seeks help from an unexpected source in an intimate portrait of love.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 13m**

**RUN CLUB**  
Lauren Lyle



Scott is on the run, we think towards the ex-girlfriend he previously cheated on, but really he is running from the hardest thing he's ever experienced.

*Contains themes of Grief*  
**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 8m**

**BIG BREAK**  
Calypso Cragg



Actress Catherine prepares for a career-defining Zoom audition for a major period drama.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 10m**

## NETWORKING/FILM SOCIAL

**COPPER BEECH | 20:00 - 23:00**

Join us for an evening of chatting everything film. Whether you're an avid watcher or looking to connect with other filmmakers, This will be an event worth turning up for!

## AFTER DARK BLOCK 1 ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 20:45 - 21:45

**FOR SALE**  
Barney Pell Scholes, Thomas Harnett O'Meara



Lucy and David are trying to get a foot on the first slippery rung of the London housing ladder. Lucy is six-months pregnant, making the whole situation even more stressful.

**HORROR | UK | ENG | 5m**

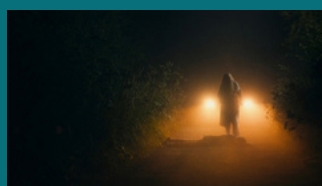
**LEVIATHAN**  
James Mansell



Fate has brought together an unlikely alliance who must put aside their differences and unite to end the Whitechapel murders.

*Contains Gore*  
**PERIOD HORROR | UK | ENG | 18m**

**THE FATHER JOE SHOW**  
Michael Bicarregui, Joshua Sarphie



A middle-aged woman in rural England spends more and more time glued to the seductive sermons of her favourite televangelist.

**HORROR | UK | ENG | 15m**

**HOMONYM**  
Lily Howkins



Accused of murder, teenager Sam protests her innocence; claiming a malevolent presence in her family home is responsible.

**HORROR | UK | ENG | 17m**

## AFTER DARK BLOCK 2 ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 22:00 - 23:00

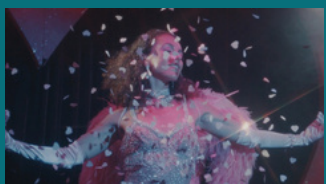
**THE AXE FORGETS**  
John Christopher



In 1888, the heir to the Jameson Whiskey dynasty, returns to Ireland from the Congo. Things start to unravel as he attempts a return to normality.

*Contains Racism & Violence towards Children*  
**HORROR | IRE | ENG | 19m**

**THE BELLADONNA**  
Javid Rezai



Haunted by visions of her late mother, a burlesque dancer's paranoia deepens when she becomes convinced a fellow performer is plotting to steal her crown.

**HORROR, THRILLER | UK | ENG | 15m**

**GILDA**  
Matty Ride-Smith



A struggling actor as she tries to survive running an afterschool club while being tormented by an occult presence.

**HORROR, THRILLER | UK | ENG | 10m**

**DOLL**  
Daniel Lipton



When Natalie heads back to Roman's place to carry on their date, the lurking presence of a strange looking doll unnerves her.

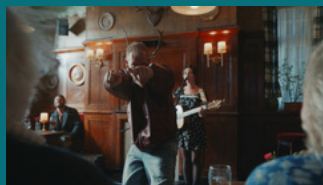
**HORROR, COMEDY | UK | ENG | 15m**

# SATURDAY

26th September

## SHORTS BLOCK 34 ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 10:00 - 11:00

**THE PLOUGH ON SUNDAY**  
Beej Harris



A nervous young musician debuts at a countryside pub, only to have her big moment derailed by an edgy presence on roller-skates.

**COMEDY, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 11m**

**ALL DAY BREAKFAST**  
Rachel Ko



In the stillness of a 90s night, a free-spirited and articulate 10-year-old girl plays alone until an unexpected call pulls her back to a reality she's desperate to escape.

**DRAMA | AUS | ENG | 9m**

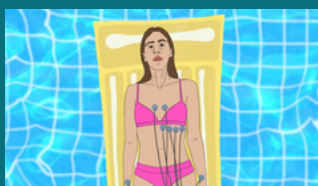
**GOOD BEHAVIOUR**  
Dan Sloan



A surreal psychological drama about a tormented prisoner who undergoes an alternative talking therapy to reframe the memories of his crime.

*Contains themes of Violence*  
**PSYCHOLOGICAL DRAMA | UK | ENG | 16m**

**I WISH I WAS THERE**  
Flora Martyr



A woman on holiday, receives a series of phone calls from the hospital. Deciding to ignore them and enjoy her vacation, her imagination gets the better of her.

**ANIMATION | UK | ENG, SPANISH | 9m**

**WE'RE ALL BLACK DOWN HERE**  
James William Mellors



In racially divided 1950s Britain an Afro Caribbean miner struggles to find acceptance above ground.

*Contains Racism*  
**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 15m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 35 ODEON SCREEN 2 | 10:00 - 10:45

**THIS CONVERSATION HAS BEEN REMOVED**  
Andrew Nolan



When Peter and Jill engage in an online flame war, they learn just how wrong "making it personal" can go.

**COMEDY, DRAMA | IRE | ENG | 7m**

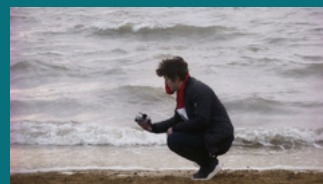
**THE OFFICE FROM MY CHILDHOOD DREAMS**  
Melis Şamdancı, İrem Özturan



Set on the Princess Islands of Istanbul, Ayo, the "Chief Softness Officer" of a dreamy, all-female lingerie collective hidden behind a magical white door. A visual poem of fabric and sisterhood.

**EXPERIMENTAL | TUR | TR | ENG SUB | 3m**

**GOOD CHOICE, JOSEPH**  
James Farrell



Joseph's indecision has brought his life to a standstill, until he finds a mysterious tape player that can tell the future. It seems like the answer to all of his problems.

**COMEDY, THRILLER | UK | ENG | 6m**

**TAMARA FLORES - CHINGONA**  
Rupert Höller



A bold visual anthem about carving your own path and owning every step forward. Bursting with color, rhythm and dance.

**MUSIC VIDEO | AUSTRIA | SPA | ENG SUB | 3m**

**A FRESH START**  
Peter Eyre



At a significant moment in their lives, a family arrive at a University to drop off the new student.

**Q&A**  
**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 12m**

## FEATURE PRESENTATION ODEON SCREEN 2 | 11:00 - 13:00

**AOSHO! VOICES IN BLOOM**  
Kyoji Yamaguchi



Shippei Iida, moves with his mother to the remote island of Origoshima. He transfers to the island's only high school, Origoshima (nicknamed "Oriko"). Shortly after his transfer, it's announced that Oriko will be merged with a regular mainland school. Naturally shy and with few friends, Shippei is touched by the warmth of the islanders and his fellow students. Wanting to create a final memory at the school, he proposes that all the students perform a choral song together. But this very choir becomes the spark that drives a wedge between his friends' hearts...

**DRAMA, COMING OF AGE | JAPAN | JAPANESE | ENG SUB | 1h 57m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 36 ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 11:15 - 12:30

**THE LIARS OF BLACK MOUNTAIN ROAD**  
Parker Croft



When a couple run over a stranger's dog, they compete for the moral high ground at any cost.

**DRAMA | USA | ENG | 12m**

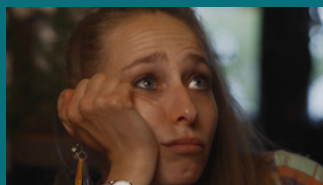
**EMRAA MIN WARD**  
Al Ameen Abdul Azeez



Fatima, a rose farmer in the picturesque yet formidable Jabal Akhdar mountains of Oman, becomes the first woman to embrace the profession,

**DOCUMENTARY | UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
ARABIC | ENG SUB | 14m**

**THATCH**  
Jordan Reeves



The existential crisis of 20 something year old barmaid, Amy, is seriously getting in the way of Adam and his next pint. Chaos ensues, naturally.

**EXPERIMENTAL, COMEDY | UK | ENG | 7m**

**LET IT FLOW**  
Galina Chakarova



On a romantic holiday, Kat wakes up to her worst nightmare - her period. Amidst the creeping dread and escalating tension, the couple's bond is tested.

***Contains Blood*  
DRAMA, HORROR | UK | ENG | 12m**

**EVERY TIME I SEE A YELLOW CAR**  
Matt Chandler



A violent act shatters the lives of two brothers, Olly attempts to articulate a fractured & repressed truth, older brother Liam spirals between guilt and revenge.

***Contains themes of Sexual Assault*  
THRILLER, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 14m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 37 ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 12:45 - 13:45

**JACKIE IS LOST**  
Maximillian King



Jackie is forced out of retirement as she struggles with the cost of living, and she begins work at a storage unit facility. On her first day, Jackie loses her way and is tormented by a shadow.

**HORROR | UK | ENG | 10m**

**PAPER ROUND**  
Sanjay Pandey, Ant Wright



A 40 year old loser takes on a paper round in order to repay his debts. Working alongside a sassy kid, Richie learns that maybe asking for help is all you can do. Shame about the male pride.

**COMEDY, DRAMA | UK | ENG | 23m**

**AGAINST YOUR NATURE**  
Alessandro Magnabosco



After a pandemic that has decimated humanity, governments order "immune" couples - including queer ones - to reproduce.

**DRAMA, LGBTQ+ | UK | ENG, GRK  
ENG SUB | 14m**

**#FOLLOWME**  
Matt Green, Linn-Irene Ingemundsen



Edgar is captivated by the charm and radiance of Ava. The problem is that she's an eco-influencer and he has never met her.

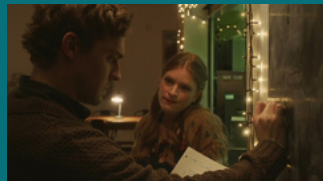
**COMEDY | NORWAY | NORWEGIAN  
ENG SUB | 11m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 38

ODEON SCREEN 2 | 13:15 - 14:30

SAT  
26

### WORMHOLES Vanessa Bailey



When an introverted cosmology student is reluctantly drawn into conversation by a vivacious late-night cleaner he discovers a universe far bigger than quantum mechanics.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 13m**

### I'M LOOKING TO SPEAK WITH NANA Liz Cartwright



A young woman attempts to communicate with her dead Nana through a psychic medium. However, Nana is a busy lady and has better things to do.

**COMEDY | UK | ENG | 4m**

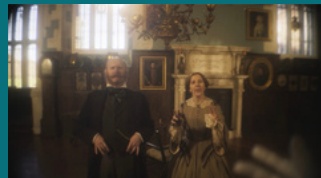
### THE JACKET Holly Louise Psaliou



After donating his dad's possessions to charity, a young boy believes he has made a mistake when it comes to his dad's favourite jacket.

*Contains themes of Grief*  
**ANIMATION | UK | ENG | 5m**

### THE PAINTING & THE STATUE Freddie Fox



Two lonely strangers meet across a crowded room. It just takes one held look, one breathless moment, to bring them completely alive...literally.

**PERIOD ROMANCE | UK | ENG | 20m**

### I AM THE PRIZE Sai Karan Talwar



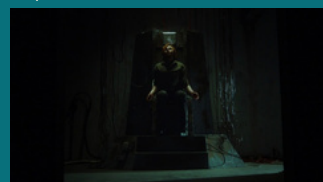
A polarizing self-help figure with a carefully constructed identity begins to unravel during the height of a lecture tour.

*Contains Sex and Nudity*  
**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 18m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 39

ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 14:00 - 15:00

### MACHINE OF QUIET KILLING Raphael Allason



Two brothers continuously subject themselves to 'The Machine', a mechanism they believe will let them see their deceased father again.

**SCI-FI, THRILLER | UK | ENG | 9m**

### WAVELENGTH Holly Warburton



Two people tune into each other across the noise of the world. When the signal fades, what remains?

**ANIMATION | UK | ENG | 4m**

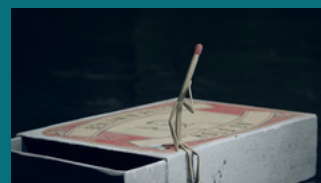
### SHE AND SHE Shi ZENG



After three years caring for her comatose husband, Li Ruolan's life shifts when her divorced mother-in-law returns and exposes her buried secret.

**DRAMA | CHINA | CHINESE | 30m**

### HOLD ON Duncan Catterall



A lonely matchstick going on a journey to find love and community in a big scary world.

**MUSIC VIDEO | UK | ENG | 4m**

### RULE, BRITANNIA Max Fisher



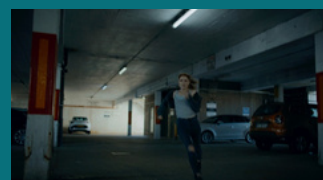
A pair of Brits try to stop Refugee Boats at sea. But their naval fantasy falls apart as they are forced to beg for rescue from those they set out to stop.

*Contains Racism & Violence*  
**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 13m**

## SHORTS BLOCK 40

ODEON SCREEN 2 | 14:45 - 15:45

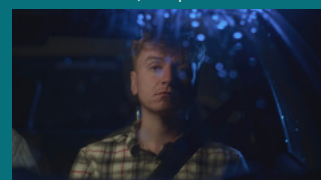
### ALL THE COLOURS Leo DeHaan



When a teenage girl groomed by a local drug gang is ordered to murder a rival she goes on the run, finding safety with her estranged ex-con father.

*Contains Violence*  
**DRAMA, THRILLER | UK | ENG | 21m**

### PETROL HEAD Patrick Swain, Jasper Frost



Trapped in his isolated hometown, Jake, struggling with anxiety and agoraphobia, must make a choice between the safety of a life he used to know, or the danger of a high stakes rally club.

**DRAMA | UK | ENG | 15m**

**BEFORE YOU GO**  
Matt Kennard



A cocky but troubled young man visits a dying loved one on life support, but when faced with the grim reality of the situation, he's forced to face his own mortality.

**Contains themes of Mental Health**  
DRAMA | UK | ENG | 8m

**INSULATE**  
Mark Geoffrey Parham



A routine home visit takes an unexpected turn when an energy assessor enters the home of an elderly man who seems reluctant to let him leave.

**Contains themes of Grief**  
DRAMA | UK | ENG | 12m

**SHORTS BLOCK 41**

ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA) | 15:15 - 16:15

**GARAGE**  
Dympna Jardine



A depressed young man's suicide plan is abruptly disrupted by his sister, forcing a raw confrontation neither of them is prepared for.

**Contains themes of Suicide & Mental Health**  
DRAMA | UK | ENG | 8m

**STINGING NETTLES**  
Jerusha West



In the midst of a city woodland, 16-year-old Iris explores her attraction to an older man. Their passion turns into a dangerous power play.

**Contains themes of Child Abuse, Sexual Assault, Sexual Act**  
DRAMA | UK | ENG | 12m

**THE HUMBUG**  
Cole Paviour



Two elderly women in a care home grapple with magical mint humbugs, setting off an absurd journey through pleasure and peril.

COMEDY, HORROR | UK | ENG | 9m

**THE CATCHER**  
Luka Galle



Robin, a lonely young man, works for the government as a catcher of invisible birds. One day he defies his orders and makes one dangerous choice.

THRILLER, SCI-FI | BELGIUM | DUTCH  
ENG SUB | 30m

**SHORTS BLOCK 42**

ODEON SCREEN 2, 16:00 - 17:00

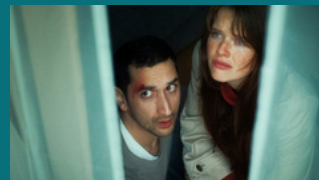
**THE OLD MAN & THE THIEF**  
Jonathan Cross



A lonely retiree returns home to find that he's been burgled, only to then realise that the culprit never left.

DRAMA | UK | ENG | 10m

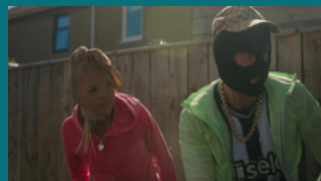
**THE FOX AND THE GRAPES**  
Assad Zaman



Unable to recall the night before, Ash is confronted with his apartment completely upturned and a stranger trapped on his enclosed roof terrace.

**Contains themes of Mental Health**  
DRAMA | UK | ENG | 17m

**GAN CANNY**  
Lou Burns, Aaron Burns



Siblings Tyler and Paige don't agree with the way their estranged mam has arranged their Nana's funeral, and impulsively take matters into their own hands.

DRAMA, COMEDY | UK | ENG | 17m

**GARBAGE BOY**  
Mario Roberto



A routine late-night retrieval job takes a dark turn, forcing a young novice to confront the true nature of his work, and just how far he'll go to get the job done.

DARK COMEDY | UK | ENG | 14m

**UK PREMIERE AND EXCLUSIVE FEATURE PRESENTATION**

ODEON SCREEN 7 (WA), 16:30 - 18:00

**LEGEND OF THE WHITE DRAGON**  
Aaron Schoenke



Erik Reed, a former hero forced into hiding after a devastating battle destroys part of his city and exposes his identity. Once celebrated as the White Dragon, Erik is now blamed for the destruction and cut off from the life and family he left behind. As corruption spreads through Virtuo City, Erik is drawn back into saving a world he is no longer trusted to protect. He must now confront his past and decide whether the White Dragon still belongs in a city that has already judged him, while facing an enemy who wields the same mysterious energy that once defined him.

ACTION, SCI-FI, FANTASY | USA | ENG | 1h 37m

# AWARDS CEREMONY

THE SWAN THEATRE | 18:00/19:30 - 22:30

Black Tie/Dress to Impress. Join us for a night of glitz and glamour as we celebrate the fantastic programme of independent film that we have experienced over the festival and acknowledge the outstanding projects in category and craft.



## FULL AWARDS EVENING £45

An entire evening of Worcester Film Festival celebrations! Join us at 6pm, for welcome drinks, food from the lovely Eat Greek and a chance to mingle before the doors open to the main auditorium for you to take your seat, as the 2026 Awards Ceremony commences at 8pm.

## CEREMONY ONLY £15

Join us from 7.30pm to celebrate the nominees and winners of the 2026 Worcester Film Festival. The bar will be open if you would like to order a drink before taking a seat in the main auditorium, as the ceremony commences at 8pm.



Want to carry on celebrating with us? After Party - The Wilde Poet, 22:30 - late (5 min walk)

**BOOK VIA OUR WEBSITE**

## THE AWARDS

25 bespoke, handmade trophies, created by Paul Gregory and charity Community Shed, will be handed out to successful filmmakers who have had their work assessed by our excellent panel of judges.

### Film Categories:

Best British Feature Film  
Best International Feature Film  
Best British Short Film  
Best International Short Film  
Best Midlands Film  
Best Student Film  
Best Emerging Filmmaker  
Best Documentary Film  
Best Animated Film  
Best Comedy Film  
Best After Dark Film  
Best Music Video

### Craft Categories:

Best Screenplay  
Best Performance  
Best Supporting Performance  
Best Director  
Best Cinematographer  
Best Costume Designer  
Best Editor  
Best Special Effects  
Best Hair & Make-Up  
Best Production Designer  
Best Sound Design  
Best Composer  
The Audience Award

## THE AUDIENCE AWARD

This is your chance to have your say on the films of the festival. Once you come out of a showing you will receive an email to rate the films in the block you've just watched. By the time the Award Ceremony starts, festival staff will have collated all the votes and the film with the highest score by the audience will be given The Audience Award. We value what our audiences think and believe they should get a say alongside our industry jury about which projects should be recognised. Please make sure your tickets are scanned by a member of the festival team before attending a screening, otherwise you will not be able to vote! We can't wait to hear what you think.



Worcester Film Festival is proudly part of the Letterboxd HQ programme. Search for us on the app or online and check out the available films in our 2026 list. Review them, save them, share them!

MetFilm School is one of the leading institutions for film, television, and digital media education in Europe, with campuses in Birmingham, Berlin, Leeds, London and Manchester.

We provide highly practical courses where students learn by creating content, supported by a combination of masterclasses, workshops, and self-directed projects.

➤ **Taught by Industry Experts**

All our tutors are active industry practitioners, offering real-world insights and experience.

➤ **Opportunities to Create**

200+ student productions are created each year, giving student lots of hands-on experience.

➤ **Practical Learning**

Students engage in hands-on filmmaking, developing a diverse portfolio that includes work in fiction, documentary, episodic, and commercial productions.

➤ **Alumni Success**

Our graduates have gone on to secure key roles at major studios like Netflix, BBC, and Disney, with many building successful careers across the global film and television industries.

➤ **Industry Focused**

We place employability at the heart of our education, with access to a dedicated careers team and industry connections that prepare you for successful careers in the creative industries.



**RED HOPPER FILMS**

**Congratulations to Worcester Film Festival on its 6th edition.**

*Best wishes from the West of Ireland.*



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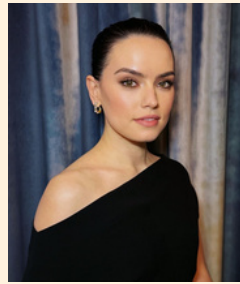


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# JURY PANEL 2026

Introducing our fantastic panel of jury members from a wide range of industry and film loving backgrounds. The 2026 Worcester Film Festival Officially Selected films are in great hands!

**DAISY RIDLEY**



Daisy Ridley continues to take risks in her work, gravitating towards unique roles for strong women that overcome challenges. In addition to acting, she has expanded her influence in filmmaking, stepping into the role of producer on several of her recent projects.

**JESSICA HENWICK**



BAFTA-nominated actress, writer and director. As a director she was nominated for a BAFTA for her short film 'Bus Girl'. In acting, she is known for roles in 'Glass Onion', 'Game of Thrones', 'The Royal Hotel', and 'How to Make a Killing'. As a writer, she has written for HBO Max, Amazon and Peacock.

**MAREK PUGH**



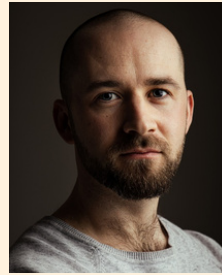
Award-winning Director of Publicity and Festivals for the UK and Ireland distributor Signature Entertainment. Working on significant and acclaimed movie releases for most major studios over the last 26 years. BAFTA voting member since 2004, has directed significant music videos since 2009 and is writing and developing genre features.

**STEVE MAHER**



Creative Director and co-founder of both Drama Production Company Three River Fiction and Documentary Production Company Impossible Factual, Steve has worked in the television industry as Art Director, Producer, Writer, Director and Exec Producer for over three decades.

**LUKE MORGAN**



Irish writer, director and producer. One half of the filmmaking duo Morgan Brothers, recipient of the Gran Prix Irish Short Award at Cork International Film Festival and the Light in Motion Award for Best Irish Short at Foyle Film Festival in 2023, both Oscar-Qualifying Awards. He is also an award-winning poet.

**DALJINDER JOHAL**



Creative producer across screen & theatre with 6 BFI NETWORK shorts, Daljinder Johal's films have screened at Tribeca, London Film Festival and been broadcast on Channel 4. Her work platforms global majority and LGBT+ stories, often from the working-class and disabled communities.

**JAKE MORGAN**



Award-winning Irish producer and composer whose work blends creativity, collaboration, and craft. Passionate about collaboration and developing distinctive, internationally resonant scores and stories. His work demonstrates a talent for managing complex international shoots while maintaining a strong creative vision.

**AMY UPTON**



Director and Producer of Upwall Films, an East Midlands based Production Company, proudly creating opportunities for local and under-represented voices.

**PARTH TRIVEDI**



Illustrator, photographer (Designs By Parth) & film enthusiast with an impressive movie collection and commitment to the art of cinema. Winner of 'Lights, Camera...Paint' 2023.

**ABBIE WILSON**



Award Winning Actress & Producer - one half of Son Of Gillelan Productions (Whistling Dixie, Nothing's Impossible).

**LYN WASHBROOK**



Script Producer and Production Script Editor with over 20 years' experience in BBC television drama, championing writers and bringing compelling stories to the screen.

### NICK BLAIR



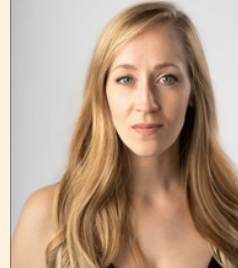
Producer & Director with a background as a musician touring for several years before focusing on filmmaking. With an eye for dynamic storytelling and SFX, Nick has made short and feature films, recently involving UK/Sri Lankan Co-pro Hearts in Colombo and an indie crime thriller featuring cast from Ted Lasso. He is currently finalising a slate of exciting projects for 2027.

### JIM MORGAN



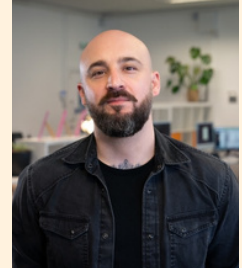
Head of Development at Bluebox. With his academic background in animation and admiration for the pioneers of the craft, he's positioned to provide insights that delve into the intricate layers of animated storytelling.

### ANNE SOPHY SCHLEICHER



Actor, fight director, and producer with 15+ years industry experience ranging from small indie to big budget productions like Heads of State, The Witcher and Neuromancer. She founded Catstance Combat, which specialises in fight direction for stage and screen as well as 1-2-1 training, with unique courses in development.

### SIMON LUCAS



Award-winning Director of Photography with over 17 years of experience in television and video production. Passionate about visual storytelling, actively championing emerging creative talent in Worcestershire and across the UK.

### SAM BARRISCALE



Actor with over 35 years of experience. Beginning his career on "The Archers" (John Archer) moving on to long running characters in Casualty, Doctors, Family Affairs and Coronation St. Owner of Spin The Black Circle, record store, bar, cafe, micro cinema and events space. A hub for Worcester's vibrant arts scene.

### GILLIAN DAVIES



Multi award winning filmmaker and business owner based in the West Midlands. Co-founder of video production agency Conteur. Championing exceptional standards in film making.

### JACOB HOLMES



BFI accredited film journalist, commonly writing reviews and articles for local website Midlands Movies. And a professional technician working for creative arts schools in Birmingham. One of the most exciting up and coming local voices.

### ELLIOT WALLIS



East Midlands based Cinematographer and partner of Upwall Films. Geographically passionate, Elliot's current mission is to scope further Film & TV projects in the Midlands and provide paid opportunities for people interested in a career in the industry.

### ASH TURNER



Assistant Director with credits spanning 10 years in film and television, notably Boiling Point, Alex Rider and Bookish.

### BARBARA MASULLO



Freelance Production Executive and Line Producer in television documentaries and is also a visiting lecturer at the University of Worcester.

### CHLOE BROWN



Producer and Production Manager from Worcester, best known for Man Like Mobeen and Timestalker, with a varied slate across film, radio and television.

### JACOB MCCLEAN



Award Winning Director & Producer - one half of Son of Gilleen Productions (Whistling Dixie, Nothing's Impossible) & recent work on BBC's Father Brown.

# FESTIVAL PASSES

|                                                | FESTIVAL PASS                                                                       | WEDNESDAY<br>FILM PASS                                                            | THURSDAY<br>FILM PASS                                                              | FRIDAY<br>FILM PASS                                                                 | SATURDAY<br>FILM PASS                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PHYSICAL PASS                                  |    |                                                                                   |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |
| DISCOUNTS AT FRIENDS<br>OF THE FESTIVAL VENUES |    |                                                                                   |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |
| WEDNESDAY OFFICIALLY<br>SELECTED FILMS & Q&AS  |    |  |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |
| THURSDAY OFFICIALLY<br>SELECTED FILMS & Q&AS   |    |                                                                                   |  |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |
| FRIDAY OFFICIALLY<br>SELECTED FILMS & Q&AS     |    |                                                                                   |                                                                                    |  |                                                                                     |
| SATURDAY OFFICIALLY<br>SELECTED FILMS & Q&AS   |    |                                                                                   |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |  |
| PREVIEW SCREENINGS &<br>SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS  |    |  |  |  |  |
| TALKS &<br>WORKSHOPS                           |   | TICKETED SEPARATELY                                                               | TICKETED SEPARATELY                                                                | TICKETED SEPARATELY                                                                 | TICKETED SEPARATELY                                                                 |
| NETWORKING/FILM<br>SOCIALS                     |  | TICKETED SEPARATELY                                                               | TICKETED SEPARATELY                                                                | TICKETED SEPARATELY                                                                 | TICKETED SEPARATELY                                                                 |
| AWARDS CEREMONY                                | TICKETED SEPARATELY                                                                 | TICKETED SEPARATELY                                                               | TICKETED SEPARATELY                                                                | TICKETED SEPARATELY                                                                 | TICKETED SEPARATELY                                                                 |



## FESTIVAL PASS | £60

### Physical Pass

#### Includes:

- Officially Selected independent films (Weds, Thurs, Fri, Sat)
- Preview Screenings and Special Presentations
- Opening and Closing night films
- All filmmaker Q&As
- Every event, talk, workshop and networking
- Discounts from our Friends of the Festival partners

#### Excludes:

- Awards Ceremony

## DAY FILM PASS | £20

### Digital pass

Includes all Officially Selected film screenings, Preview/ Special Presentations on **either** Weds, Thurs, Fri or Sat

Talks, Workshops, Networking ticketed separately.

## INDIVIDUAL TICKETS | £4 - £10 | FREE

### Digital Ticket

Single short film block tickets, feature film tickets, talks, workshops & Networking tickets can be purchased individually.

## AWARDS CEREMONY | £45 | £15

### Digital Ticket

See Schedule for details

Booking is required for everything. Once you have purchased your pass all applicable events will be redeemable through the festival schedule.

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OLIVER WALTON

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HEART OF  
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# WORCESTER FILM FESTIVAL MAP

**LIGHTS, CAMERA...PAINT ART TRAIL 2026**  
29th AUGUST - 27th SEPTEMBER

- 1 Gaumont
- 2 Slap Magazine
- 3, 4 The Artery - Artist Studios
- 5 The Artery Studios
- 6, 7, 8 Midlands Air Ambulance
- 9 Suits Plus
- 10 High Score Arcades
- 11 ReMade, Crowngate
- 12 Boston Tea Party
- 13 Script Haven
- 14 Ganesha
- 15 The Perfume Shop
- 16 Madison Rose Jewellery
- 17 Tripel B
- 18 Fourleaf Piercing
- 19, 20 Spin The Black Circle
- 21 Shambles Fine Art
- 22 House of Haby
- 23, 24 Wilde Studio
- 25 Cafe Nero
- 26 The Dice Box



For artist information visit  
[www.artistsclubhouse.com](http://www.artistsclubhouse.com)



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