

# BEESTON FILM FESTIVAL

# 2021 REVIEW

Monday 22nd March  
to Sunday 28th March

## THE COVID FESTIVAL PART 2.

The team worked hard to prepare our biggest festival once again online, putting all of the amazing films submitted to the festival onto one program. It was an amazing effort to make sure all 19 sessions aired as planned. Filmmaker support during on the on-going pandemic we awesome

## PROGRAMME

### A BETTER PLACE

#### CATEGORY WINNER:

*Better than Neil Armstrong*

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Manchester Pride Parade  
Food Chain  
Only In Toledo  
Melita  
Bulldog  
With...Out  
6, 20 And 7  
A Piglet's Tale



Better Than Neil Armstrong

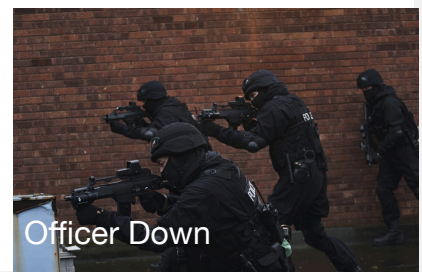
### CRIME

#### CATEGORY WINNER:

*Officer Down*

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HOLD  
Pelican Milkshake  
Under  
Believe  
One Actor Short - 1  
G A B R I E L



Officer Down

## WOMEN'S VOICES

### CATEGORY WINNER:

*Portrait*

Bitten  
Maude  
I Am Chuma  
Moderately Satisfied  
The Rape Clause  
Brazen - Mae Jemison  
The Little Beach  
Get Back ASAP  
Sweatbox  
Dry Leaves  
Luther , Micheal And Her



## PRIDE



### CATEGORY WINNER:

*The Manchester Pride Parade*

Mourning Rites  
Dear Aunt Noa  
SILENCE  
Mermaid  
My Friend Artemis

# DRAMA

## CATEGORY WINNER:

*Anna*

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Sandier  
No Place  
Limbo  
Let's Talk About George  
Shoal  
Squall  
Lora Wears Black  
Home By 8:30  
Dogwatch  
L'ORO DI FAMIGLIA  
Frayed Lines  
Birthday

Losing Grace  
FAME  
AM HIMMEL  
AVA  
The Snow Maze  
Coming To Light  
The Blinded Ride  
BRONAGH  
The Explosion Of A Swimming Ring  
Dinosaur  
IL VESTITO  
Persistence  
The App Of My Eyes  
Mr. Sam  
What Kind Of Day Has It Been?



Lora Wears Black



FAME



ANNA

## COMEDY

### CATEGORY WINNER:

*THE PLUNGE*

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Manasanmaha  
At Home With... Nick Mullins  
Where The Mountains Grow  
Dirt  
My Dinner With Werner  
Sanjay Saves The World  
1-800-D-Direct  
The Schnoz  
Outside The Box  
Love, Post-Lockdown  
Lazy Money  
The Third Part  
EXTRA  
Bohemia



THE PLUNGE



Manasanmaha

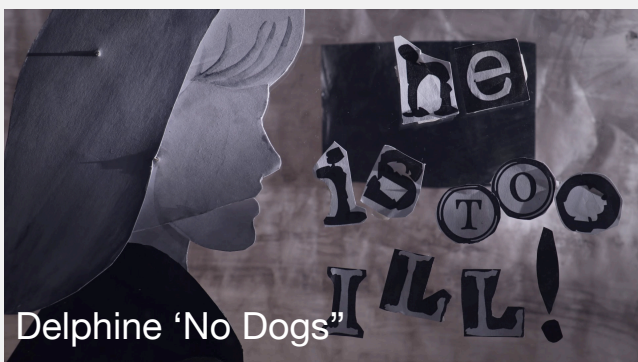
## ANIMATION

### CATEGORY WINNER:

*Delphine 'No Dogs'*

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The End  
The Peak  
Aaly  
Drawn To Light  
Ivet And Michuno  
RenaiDance  
The Mandrake  
Babble Bubble  
ECHO  
Out With The Old  
The Peach Scarf  
Picnic In The Park  
The Amazing Adventures Of Awesome  
Skinny & Fluffy  
De Berdo  
The Boy And The Mountain  
Journey  
Dejeuner sur l'herbe  
Phoenix Arizona - INEGO  
Pedal To The Metal  
The King & The Master Builder  
The Shut-in  
Barbell Snatch



Delphine 'No Dogs'



Aaly



Loculus

## HORROR

### CATEGORY WINNER:

*Loculus*

Bullets Of Baptism

Guest

The Killer Cursed Water

Eurydice

Make A Wish

Father Time

SCRIPT

Not Clickbait!!! (Gone Wrong)



Guest

## SCIENCE FICTION

### CATEGORY WINNER:

*Lifelike*

Proxy

51 States

Samaritan

Those Beautiful Moments

Fearfully Made

Children Of Chronos

Se7en Green Bottles

Lepidopterist



Lifelike



Fearfully Made



Samaritan



A Small Cut

## NON-FICTION

### CATEGORY WINNER:

*Guinjata Bay*

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PANI DOCTORS

The Death Of Mr.Tamini's Foot

When Better Letters Met Barbra

Enright

Shangdrok

I Do Not Want To Smoke

In The Shadows

Before I Die

## STUDENT

### CATEGORY WINNER:

*A Small Cut*

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Moshe And Amira

Punishment

The Bittersweet Banquet

The Curiosity Of Edward Pratt

Day In The Life Of A Boy

Between Earth And The Moon

Persistence Of The Past

His Reminder

# BEST IN FESTIVAL

## A Small Cut Directed by Marleen Valien

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Beeston Film Festival is delighted to award this year's 'Best in Festival B'Oscar to Marleen Valien for 'A Small Cut', Convincing his young ruler to get a circumcision .

He meets the temperamental ducal couple for an uncomfortable cup of tea, desperate to circumvent a genitalia-induced national crisis.



"stylish, witty period chamber piece by confident direction & a beautiful score."

- Simon Leyden, BFF Review Team

"Wonderful, witty & Powerful !"

- John Currie, BFF Founder

"Very good short, great performances nicely contained"

- BFF Jury Team

# SPECIALIST CATEGORIES

## DIRECTION

### **B'OSCAR WINNER:**

Michael Cherau  
For Sandier

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Harry McGill  
For Manchester Pride Parade: The  
Movie

Helena Oborska  
For Bitten

Katalin Ambrus  
For Pani Doctors

Raphael Medeiros  
For Food Chain



## SCRIPT

### **B'OSCAR WINNER:**

Rona Žulj For Lora Wears  
Black

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Harry McGill  
For Manchester Pride Parade: The  
Movie

Katalin Ambrus  
For Pani Doctors

Raphael Medeiros  
For Food Chain



Rona Žulj



## SOUND TRACK & SOUND DESIGN

### **B'OSCAR WINNER:**

Giuseppe Alessio Nuzzo  
*for FAME*

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Wiebe Bonnema  
For The End

Perry White  
For Home by 8:30

Eliot Gelberg-Wilson  
For Moshe & Amira

Drew Spenny  
For His Reminder

Michael Chereau  
For Sandier



Giuseppe Alessio Nuzzo



FAME

## PERFORMANCE

### **B'OSCAR WINNER:**

Kathryn Pogson  
*for Maude*

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Helena Oborska  
For Bitten

Vanja Vascarac  
For Lora Wears Black

Mori Thomson  
For Dinosaur

Magdalena Chmielewska  
For Am Himmel



Kathryn Pogson

## CINEMATOGRAPHY

### B'OSCAR WINNER:

Helena Oborska  
*for Bitten*

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Perry White  
*Home by 8:30*

Wiebe Bonnema  
*The End*

Cass Virdee  
*51 States*



Helena Oborska

## SOME OF OUR AUDIENCE FAVOURITE:



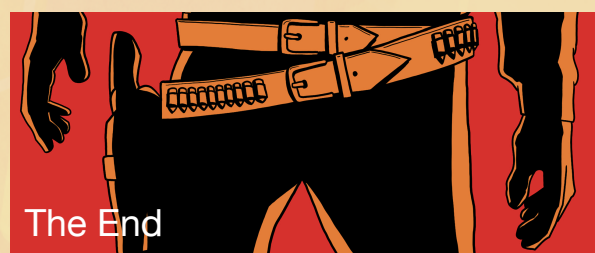
1-800-D-Direct



Loculus



PROXY



The End

# JURY

**FRANK HARRIMAN**

*Writer & Director At  
Arrondissement Films*

**Adam Anwi**

*Writer & Director Of Bunny*

**Thomas Grascour**

*Award Wining Director & Actor*

**Melissa Skirboll**

*Award Winning Director , Writer  
Actor & Producer*

**Tommy Draper**

*Writer*

**Gino Van Hecke**

*Director at Zeno Pictures*

**Billie vee**

*Actress & Screen Writer*

**Francesca Levi**

*Filmmaker & Festival Director*

**Thomas Grascoeur**

*Award-Winning Director & Sctor*

**Victoria Gravenstede**

*Story Writer*

**Anna Wallace**

*Writer*

**Deepika Suseelan**

*Jourlist*

**Sharon Coleclough**

*PhD in Cinematic perforce*

**Marina Anna Eich**

*Writer & Actress*

## BFF 2021 Festival Blogs

This year festival's intern Sara Jakubcova, wrote the most amazing blogs for Beeston! She wrote about different categories such as Women's Voices and Pride.

During the week of the festival itself she also wrote about each day of the festival and a final piece post festival. They are a delight to read, they are available to read on our website!

### Beeston Film Festival:

For the 7th time, Beeston Film Festival returns again this year, even in the era of lockdowns and gathering restrictions. Held completely online, the festival doesn't neglect its mission of bringing the world to Nottingham through a great selection of short films from nations all around the globe. While you can't physically come and see the selection in venues and explore the wonderful Beeston area, the films are still here to make you forget about reality for an hour or two and to have a great evening watching them.

The festival has a diverse jury of filmmakers and industry experts from not just the UK but from countries like France, Germany and India as well. Each year, they sit down and comb through a vast number of submissions to choose the best films for Beeston Film Festival's audience to be screened and nominated in eleven genre categories, five technical ones and a conclusive 'Best in Festival' category. They're also responsible for awarding the filmmakers with our very own 'B'Oscars' at the end of the festival.

Like all previous years, viewers can expect a week (22nd-28th March) full of incredible screening sessions from which every can choose their pick suited to their tastes. From dramas and horrors, to comedies and animates shorts, Beeston offers a colourful variety of international short films that will let you travel the globe even when you can scarcely leave your county.

On Monday, you can enjoy two screening slots - the first dedicated to opening the festival with some of the best shorts we have, the second showcasing student films.

Tuesday brings another two sessions. The first is the first part of the drama selection. The second is an exciting category presented in an earlier article - Women's Voices, which includes incredible stories about women from diverging cultures and places.

If you want a little taste of everything the festival has to offer, Wednesday's 'Variety Pack' can offer you multiple genres of films and a very diverse range of stories. After that, the 'Science Fiction' session will take you out of the world.

On Thursday, you can see the rest of the drama selection in the first screening session. Later, our exciting category 'A Better Place' will be showcasing stories that chronicle the human drive to uplift our world, to have hope and to focus on the good things, on positive change we are more than capable of.

Friday offers another 'Variety Pack' of short films as well as the screening of our horror selection, perfect for a Friday night where you can be spooked in the comfort of your own darkened living room.

Saturday kicks off the weekend with a fuller schedule. With five screening slots, you can enjoy the first part of our animation selection and similarly, the first half of our comedy shorts. Later, our crime category comes on before another great category - 'Pride'. It has been introduced in a separate blog post and it's a wonderful opportunity to take the time to listen to queer stories. The day wraps up with the third and final part of the drama selection.

On Sunday, the day starts with the second half of our animated shorts, around midday which is a perfect opportunity for children to enjoy some, to them, unconventional filmmaking. Our nonfiction selection comes on next and after it another 'Variety Pack'. Beeston Film Festival wraps up with a final screening of the second half of our comedy selection in the evening.

## BFF 2021 Festival Blogs - Pride

Beeston Film Festival falls between the LGBTQ+ History Month in February and Pride Month in June. With its 'Pride' category, our film festival takes part in the important work of uplifting queer voices and giving them a platform to present stories of love, struggle, or to simply give queer filmmakers a voice.

Ever since we were all children, the stories of love were always heteronormative – the princess is saved by the prince, the female heroine lands the handsome male lead and so on. As our society progresses and more freedom is accustomed to sexual expression, the film industry is crucial in normalizing same sex love. We have seen some positive steps, such as Barry Jenkins' *Moonlight* winning Best Picture at the Oscars in 2017, Céline Sciamma's *Portrait of a Lady on Fire* becoming an instant classic recently or Cate Blanchett delivering an acclaimed performance in *Carol*.

At Beeston Film Festival, we have a selection of six films of different genres, ranging from documentary to horror that show the audience different perspectives. From subtlety to poignant commentary, everyone can find their pick and experience a look at a queer story in under thirty minutes.

*Manchester Pride Parade: The Movie* is also in our 'Best in Festival' selection. Replacing the usual Pride Parade due to the pandemic, the first half of the film offers a masterfully crafted look at the legal and cultural history of LGBTQ+ from the past century in Britain. Showing the arduous fight towards equality helps everyone understand, especially those outside of the queer community, just how hard people had to fight to simply not be arrested for loving a person of the same sex. The second half of the film features people from right now, representing the community and celebrating it at least in this symbolic way.

*My Friend Artemis* is a Norwegian documentary about the transition of a 22-year-old trans woman named Artemis. Directed by her friend Mads Sterri Nilsen, who also appears in the film, it tells the story of how challenging it is for Artemis to get to the healthcare she needs to be able to be fully herself. Despite the bureaucratic struggle, the documentary is uplifting and tells a heartwarming story of how Artemis works towards being her true self.

With more emotional stories like *Dear Aunt Noa* or a campy horror flick like *Mourning Rites* or a lockdown story with exceptional use of music like *SILENCE*, or a tragic look at how queerness is perceived in Iran with *Mermaid*, Beeston Film Festival's 'Pride' category provides a multifaceted selection of short films that will capture your mind and you'll leave the screening unable to forget about these stories.

*Written by Sara Jakubcova*



Dear Aunt Noa

## BFF 2021 Festival Blogs - Women's Voices

Every year on March 8th, all around the globe, we celebrate International Women's Day. One special day of appreciation for women, who have been often neglected by history and society despite being responsible for bringing every single human being onto this world. Where did this day start and what does it mean for us today?

In 1909 in New York, the Socialist Party organised the very first Women's Day, citing a need for a special day to highlight women and women only. As women's suffrage spread across the world, so did Women's Day. The tradition persisted and in 1917, it became a national holiday in Russia and its popularity spread from there. Given how long and extensive the history of modern humans is, it is quite baffling we have had this day for just a little over a hundred years. Some would say it's outrageous we even need this day to remind the world that women matter, that we can't be pushed into a corner as we used to be, and still are in some parts of the world.

In the film industry, the inequality between men and women is striking. There is an abhorrent 5:1 ratio of men and women working behind the scenes - the directors, writers, producers, cinematographers, and the rest of the many professions needed in film. Female directors and writers are always at risk of having their work be labelled simply as a "women's film", reducing and demeaning it to its own separate genre. To illustrate this chasm of inequality, just this past week, Chloé Zhao became only the second woman in history to win Best Director at the Golden Globes, after Barbra Straisand won the award in 1984 for the first time.

These are just a few reasons why we need to do better and uplift women who are trying to tell stories about women, or about anything they want. Drowned out by the loud chatter of five times more men than women, female voices are at a risk of getting lost completely. That is why categories such as 'Women's Voices' at our Beeston Film Festival matter.

Twelve short films, twelve different stories about women that we should pay attention to.

Tackling themes from unequal laws, abuse, cultural difference to more simple ones such as love, infatuation and childhood. Anyone can find their pick, whether to watch something that will help them educate themselves and empathize with hurt that isn't known to many, or to see a simple heartwarming story, masterfully crafted by a female filmmaker.

The Rape Clause introduces the audience to a scarcely known UK law concerning tax benefits for children after your first two. How would you feel having to fill out a form, having to recount the story of your rape to a social worker just so you could keep you and your children afloat financially? This film illustrates that emotional pandemonium of being faced by trauma again just to fill out a form.

The Little Beach takes you to Argentina, an idyllic beach and the story of a little girl, following her goal as the life on the beach continues. She moves along unperturbed by the surroundings on her journey following a beach vendor. You can almost smell the sunscreen and feel the heat of the sun and the salicidity of the sea.

Get Back ASAP is an Iranian film depicting the teenage coming-of-age of two girls, trapped in a culture that doesn't permit something as mundane to us as returning after midnight from a party. With great pacing and tension, three women and one man are the players in a story telling more with less that will make you think about the stark differences in female experiences around the world.

'Women's Voices' is a category that describes Beeston Film Festival well - it's diverse, it shines a light on impactful and enjoyable stories and brings some great art to the audience almost on a silver platter. Female experiences are varied, complex and often dismissed as frivolous or needlessly emotional. Let these twelve stories convince you of just how outdated and sexist so many claims about films focusing on women are.

*Written by Sara Jakubcova*

## BFF 2021 Festival Blogs - Monday 22.03.2021

The day has come and today (Monday 22nd), Beeston Film Festival finally kicks off! Unfortunately, we can't all meet in lovely venues in Beeston and sit in the dark together as we watch the incredible short film selection. Despite the pandemic, the films are not disappearing and we are bringing them right to you to your homes.

The festival kicks off with an opening screening offering a variety of films. If you're not looking for a specific genre, this is the ideal choice.

But the second screen is a very exciting one. 'Student Night' showcases our selection of student-made films. Ranging over genres and themes, it's offering the best from short student films internationally. The very best of our selection includes:

Punishment, a film hailing from Iran, tells an interesting story. Set in a claustrophobic cluttered room, it tells the story of a soldier, trying to find love through one small window and with no words.

Moshe and Amira is a British film, a trope that is familiar but with a fresh twist. Moshe and Amira are a Jewish-Muslim couple. What could go wrong when it's time for Moshe to meet Amira's family?

The Bittersweet Banquet, another British submission, is a horror/thriller. In just seven minutes, the film presents a fascinating critique of the upper class. Through a more psychedelic lense, the experience is utterly captivating.

A Small Cut is a small German masterpiece. An amusing story about a serious issue with a side of tension and humour, all wrapped up in splendid cinematography and stunning mise-en-scene. With the German manor house and Baroque costumes, it evokes the feeling of Sophia Coppola's Marie Antoinette.

The first day of the festival has lots to offer and it's the perfect start for a week full of incredible short films.

*Written by Sara Jakubcova*



Moshe & Amira

## BFF 2021 Festival Blogs - Tuesday 23.03.2021

Monday blues are gone and with a new day, Beeston Film Festival has new screenings as well. Continuing with the binary of two daily screenings, Tuesday has something new to offer once again. The festival moves closer to its finale with the first of three drama screenings and the screening of films in a very exciting category - Women's Voices. For the latter category, we have a full article about why female filmmakers need to be uplifted and more visible in the industry, including an introduction of some of the films.

Tuesday's drama screening offers two of our best picks.

*Sandier* is a lightly absurdist French short with exquisite use of music and editing. It captures you and draws you into the story with every further second. The fast-pace of editing and score which even the best in the industry wouldn't be ashamed of give this film a quality that would be foolish to miss witnessing.

*No Place*, a Brazilian short, is a stunningly made story that serves as a representation of so crucial issues in the country. However, any viewer can relate to these life-altering problems - unemployment, sense of identity, familiarity. In around 22 minutes, this film tells a story larger than life.

As previously mentioned, Women's Voices as a category has been introduced and presented in another article. However, we do have some highlights for you which you shouldn't miss if you're interested in female stories that are not told often.

*Bitten* is a Polish masterpiece that makes you long for summer. Seemingly a simple story of two friends enjoying a hippie-looking retreat delves deeper as new characters, which may or may not be familiar, are introduced. Brilliant cinematography with great acting underlined with a smart score is simply a win.

*Maude* is recognizably British short that is heartwarming, amusing and hopeful. Smart filmmaking and a brilliant performance from the leading lady make this film a must-see for anyone who loves originality wrapped in familiarity that subverts your expectations at every step.

*Portrait*, another British piece, utilizes the style of documentary-making to tell a poignant story about the abuse of young female models in the industry. Heart-stopping, gripping and emotional, it turns the story we've all heard into something we can see as well. After watching this, you don't have to imagine and fill in the gaps, the convincing performances and well-written script will burn themselves into your memory.

Tuesday has even more to offer at Beeston Film Festival in both screenings. Stories from all around the globe each told in their own unique way, some certainly not to be missed.

*Written by Sara Jakubcova*



## BFF 2021 Festival Blogs - Wednesday 24.03.2021

You've made it to the middle of the work week and Wednesday has much to offer at Beeston Film Festival. After two days with incredible screening selection, the standard and quality only seem to go up with today's offerings.

Again with two screening sessions, Beeston kicks the day off with another variety screening. Following is our great science fiction selection that will quite literally take you out of this world if just for a little while.

"The Little Beach" is one of the best picks from our variety screening. An Argentinian piece with a serene atmosphere yet an underlying story that is gripping and deep. Following the day of a little girl on a beach, you can find yourself wishing you were sitting on the sand with sun hitting your suncream-slick skin. Gorgeous cinematography and an ease to watch make this film the perfect choice for gloomy March weather.

"Lifelike" leads the sci-fi category. A British piece that makes a love story intertwined in technology. Imagine you felt yourself drawn to a stranger you've talked to only through the phone while calling customer service. Could you give yourself a 'Her' moment? This story explores the anxious isolation and human connection that in the era of lockdowns doesn't look so strange anymore.

"PROXY" is an American film that feels like it's straight off the cooker of one of the major Hollywood studios. This clever sci-fi thriller deals with grief and internal turmoil, as it follows Victoria, a woman trained to be a stand-in for people's lost loved ones. What toll does it have on her in a society not that different from ours?

"Samaritan" is an acclaimed British piece. A sci-fi drama tailored perfectly for the prominent issues of our day. Dealing with environmentalism and racism, the film follows an immigrant doctor whose path is crossed when he encounters a known racist politician, unconscious and left for dead. It's a film that will have many of us asking from the beginning: will humanity and compassion prevail?

There's a lot more included in both screenings, diverse stories from all corners of the world. From easy stories like The Little Beach to some of our picks that will have you thinking about life, you'll surely find something that will make it worthwhile.



Samaritan

## BFF 2021 Festival Blogs - Thursday 25.03.2021

The midpoint of Beeston Film Festival is here. Three days behind us, and after today three more days ahead of us. Despite not being able to meet up in person and see our friends, share that special moment with strangers while all looking at the screen in a cinema, the core of the festival hasn't changed. Being fully online doesn't prevent us all from enjoying some great films and still experiencing the magic of a film festival.

Thursday brings you two great categories. Weekdays offer two screenings and for this day it's the second part of our drama selection, followed by one of our most interesting and complex categories – A Better Place.

"Lola wears black" is a definite highlight in the drama category. A Croatian film that presents a much deeper story in a seemingly simple storyline. Following the mundane life of an elderly lady, the film subtly hints at generational differences between people and the impact different political regimes had on the very making of people and their emotional regimes. With beautiful cinematography set against the backdrop of brutalist architecture and the physical remnants of an age gone, it's not one to miss.

A Better Place is a category of hope, of dreams, of stories that show the best and sometimes the worst of humanity. But persevering in the face of hardship and struggle is what makes the human experience real. This category is meant to give you hope and perhaps a push to try and make the world a better place yourself.

"Better than Neil Armstrong" is an Iranian short film vying for your heart. Seemingly just a story of some kids role-playing as astronauts and trying to land on the Moon, the true extent of it delves much deeper. Its sweetness turns bitter with the runtime but it's expertly done and scarcely forgettable. Tissues recommended if you're prone to crying when encountering joyful stories with a heartbreaking twist.

"Only in Toledo" is a super short piece hailing from the US. Based on an internet meme that popularized the phrase, the film doesn't even need three whole minutes to discredit the outdated notion of the American dream. It's a story of human perseverance, of resilience and also systematic racism in America. Concise, clear, straight to the point.

"Manchester Pride Parade: The Movie" is better introduced in our longer article about the Pride category, but it had to be mentioned here as well. One of the best we have in the festival as a whole, half of the film is dedicated to showing the often untold history of the legal and social battle that allowed queer people to exist in Britain as freely as they can now. But the other half shows hope, because we know that despite laws, hate crimes against the LGBTQ+ community are still a thing so it's necessary to keep striving towards genuine equality and normalizing same-sex love and diverse gender identity.

With much to offer, Thursday is another great day for Beeston Film Festival that you wouldn't want to miss.

*Written by Sara Jakubcova*



## BFF 2021 Festival Blogs - Friday 26.03.2021

The work week has drawn to a close and the weekend is finally ahead of us. Before that, Beeston Film Festival has a great selection of screenings for your Friday Night. Saturday and Sunday are packed with amazing films with over four screenings each day but Friday prepares you for them with our customary two screening sessions. For today, you can indulge in another variety screening, followed by our horror selection which is perfect for a Friday night. Even without the big bucket of popcorn and classic cinema snacks, you can draw the curtains in your living room and have a bit of a fright with some epic horror shorts.

"Sweatbox", screened as part of our Friday variety selection, is a British short included in the Women's Voices category as well. Three women, all with different backstories in problems, are contained in tiny holding cells, or sweatboxes. This claustrophobic film is meant to advocate and educate about the horrid treatment and unfair imprisonment of women in Britain and highlight an issue that is virtually invisible in the public consciousness.

"The killer in cursed water" is a French take on the classic slasher. A couple comes to spend some time at a secluded cabin in the woods, what could possibly go wrong? A lot of things it turns out. Stunning cinematography and suspense that will surely give you goosebumps are a winning combo for this film.

"Bulletes of Baptism" is an experimental Iranian piece that will make your skin crawl. Disjointed and unsettling, the film follows an obese man who keeps killings himself and coming back, again and again. A purgatory by one's own hand, by the end of the film you will feel like your own skin is coming off your bones.

"Guest", a British creature horror short introduces a creepy "guest" to the audience that is quite nightmare-inducing. It haunts a young woman and she does everything in her power to rid herself of its presence. Something like a Slenderman and ten more horror movie monsters mashed together, the "guest" will leave you fearing who just might knock on your door next.

If you've been missing a good scare in the cinema, our Friday horror screening is the next best thing after the real deal. And if you haven't, we still have an incredible variety selection for anyone wanting to spend their Friday night with a bit of cinema.

*Written by Sara Jakubcova*



## BFF 2021 Festival Blogs - Saturday 27.03.2021

The weekend has come at last and Beeston Film Festival has more to offer than ever. Five screening sessions, one day. From animation to crime, the wide variety of genres and moods in our selection for today surely offers something to everyone. Our early animation screening is perfect for kids to tag along and have their traditional weekend cartoons embellished by some great animated short films. Followed by the screening of the first half of our comedy picks, it gives a great opportunity to turn the screenings into a bit of a family day as no one can say no to some good comedy.

Next up, our crime selection is a breath of fresh air from your regular crime dramas which might be on TV on a Saturday. The Pride category comes up next, with a diverse collection of shorts, ranging in genre from horror to documentary. The penultimate day of Beeston Film Festival ends with the last of our drama selection, and perhaps we were saving the best for last.

"The End", the highlight from animation, is a stunning visualisation of a cowboy at the end of his good ol' cowboy duties. This Dutch animated short is its own serene and captivating world of beautiful, rich colours and a simple story that hardly feels foreign to anyone. With a peaceful score standing behind the eye-catching visuals, The End feels like a warm blanket after a hard, long day.

"Manasanamaha" is an Indian comedy that feels fresh and modern, never really dull. Telling the story of a young man trying to make sense of love and recollecting his older relationships, the film has much more to offer than just a simple laugh. The course of love is akin to that of nature and with a bit of humour, this film offers way more artistically than one would think.

"HOLD", a British crime drama/thriller, is dark and grim yet very human. Character-driven, it has a flawed main character who is tormented over a secret possibly being exposed. Stylistically familiar yet unique in context, it will keep you on the edge of a seat and won't bore you with vapid and shallow genre-typical violence.

The Pride category has a lot to offer. From documentaries like 'My Friend Artemis' to one of our best shorts altogether 'Manchester Pride Parade: The Movie', the category is varied and tells different stories from across the world. Better described in a full article about the category as a whole, make sure to give it a read before Saturday's screening.

"ANNA" is a British drama set in Eastern Ukraine, following recent conflicts with Russia. Awarded with a BIFA, nominated for a Palme d'Or and shortlisted for a BAFTA, this film is not to be missed. Following Anna, a single mother who's getting older and aching for a change, she decides to take a chance and spice up her life with a bit of partying. All is not what it seems to be and this film touches upon a deep problem of men preying on vulnerable women in not ideal situations.

With our five great screening choices, your Saturday can throw lockdown boredom in the bin and you can turn your living room into a tiny cinema. If just for an afternoon, your longing for cinema can be quenched without even having to leave your house.

*Written by Sara Jakubcova*

## BFF 2021 Festival Blogs - Sunday 28.03.2021

It is Sunday and today is the day when Beeston Film Festival draws to a close. While it is quite bittersweet as this is the last day of screenings, it is that much sweeter to the brilliant filmmakers whose films you've had the privilege to see since we will find out the winners of our very own B'Oscars. There is no need to despair because we have four more screening sessions for today and hopefully, we will be back next year and we will actually get to see each other in Beeston.

As yesterday, we kick off the day quite early with the rest of our animation selection. Next up, we have our non-fiction category followed by a diverse variety screening full of great films of all genres. And we close out the festival with our comedy finale to go out on a high note and with a laugh.

"Delphine "No Dogs"" is a British animated short telling the story of Delphine, a Jamaican woman who came to London seeking a better life during a time when non-British people were not welcome there. "No Blacks, No Dogs, No Irish" was a saying that was generally accepted and this fascinating short with splendid paper cut animation illustrated a period of history that is dark and painful. With unique visuals and a story of great friendship between two outsiders, a black woman and an Irish woman, the story of Delphine will surely capture your heart.

"When Better Letters Met Barbara Enright", an Australian film representing the non-fiction category, gives the audience a rare look onto one of the people behind the hundreds upon hundreds of signs, cards and other written art we see all the time. Barbara Enright writes, and she writes beautifully and her writings become an illustration. If you've ever wondered how a birthday card or a sign could possibly be made and who's behind them, this is the documentary for you.

"Dinosaur" is a British drama from our variety selection. It follows an elderly man, who after the loss of his wife and his career, loses a sense of purpose in life. The film tackles grief, loss in various contexts, your sense of identity being stripped from you after significant changes in your life. Delivering some of the best performances in this year's festival, Dinosaur is a drama that looks at a period of human life that isn't frequently represented on the screen, at least not in such a hopeful way.

"1-800-D-Direct" headlines our comedy selection as well as our very last screening for this year. A British short set in 1960's Manhattan, the colourful film with great female characters and amazing comedy is a little twist on '9 to 5'-esque inspired cinema. Well thought out pacing and masterful editing give this film the perfect foundation for comedic success. It's the perfect film to kick off our very last screening and the category as a whole will have you parting with Beeston Film Festival for a year with laughter instead of tears.

Nineteen screening sessions, seventeen B'Oscars to be given out, seven days. As Beeston Film Festival 2021 slowly comes to its end, we hope you're leaving the experience behind with great memories and that some of those films stayed with you forever, or at least for a while. Here's to hopefully meeting up in person in Beeston next year!

*Written by Sara Jakubcova*

## BFF 2021 Festival Blogs - Post festival

Another year, another Beeston Film Festival behind us. It's the second time we had to hold the festival completely online due to the pandemic but the quality of films and our spirit didn't drop one bit. We had seventeen amazing categories, ranging from genres such as horror to technical ones where we awarded not only acting but the people behind the camera too with B'Oscars for cinematography, sound, etc. Over the course of a week, you were able to attend nineteen incredible screening sessions, all from the comfort of your own home, and enjoy the very best of short films that were submitted to our festival by a vast number of talented filmmakers.

Doing everything online is a very different experience to meeting up in person, sitting in a cinema, a screening room, having popcorn and snacks, maybe grabbing a pint with your friends after the festival. The community and the atmosphere of the Beeston area are crucial for the festival and this year, one again, we had to go without it. Despite all of these challenges, we were able to put on an incredible festival which was enjoyed by many, many people, even though we didn't screen their ticket at the door. In the time of lockdowns and restrictions, Beeston Film Festival brought the cinema straight into the people's homes, instead of them venturing out to Beeston.

The spirit of collaboration is the making of the very foundation of Beeston Film Festival. We connect the community, through the people and local business. We bring more people out into Beeston. And after all, we are an international film festival, committed to showing stories from all across the globe, presenting these little slices of different cultures and conventions. You don't hear just English at Beeston, you hear French, Hindi, Persian, Polish, Italian, Spanish, and just about any other language you can think of. You hear different accents, traditional music, the sounds of cities you've never seen before with your own eyes.

On that note, a crucial part of the festival are interns from Nottingham's universities. I'm one of them as well. Our experience is similar to the visitors of the festival as in preparation for it, we weren't meeting up in person and building friendships like we had hoped to do so when thinking about our placements before its time came. It was about Zoom calls, emails, and a lot of WhatsApp. Despite that, being a part of Beeston Film Festival is an incredible thing which none of us will ever forget and we'll be grateful to have been welcomed into the team so easily and with open arms.

The festival wouldn't be here however, without our amazing festival director John Currie. He's the glue holding it all together and here's what he had to say about running Beeston: "To run an independent film festival you have to be a bit bonkers! Yet, year on year the event itself provides the inspiration to do it all over again! Innovations, from the Preview Programme to the new Pride category to opening our first Merch shop, demonstrate how we constantly learn, take risks, evolve and create a more diverse, exciting event to celebrate film and celebrate filmmakers."

And that's a wrap on another great year! Hopefully, next year we'll be able to don our best cinema-going outfits and venture into Beeston for an old fashion film festival screening.

*Written by Sara Jakubcova*

# BFF Online Merch Store

This year due to the festival being online, the festival created an online store, Beeston has so many beautifully design merch such as hand made jewellery, t shirts and tote bags.

The Merch store is on available on Beeston's website! Here is some of Beeston's beautiful designed



Beeston's new jewellery design



B'Oscars Jewellery



B'Oscars Reward Necklace



Beeston's New T-shirts



Beeston Pen



B'Oscar Hair Slide & Lapel Pin



Beeston's New Design Tote Bag

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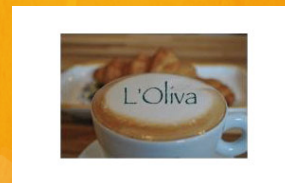
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