

# BEESTON FILM FESTIVAL

2024  
10th Year  
Review

Monday 22nd April to  
Sunday 28th April

## 10th Year Anniversary

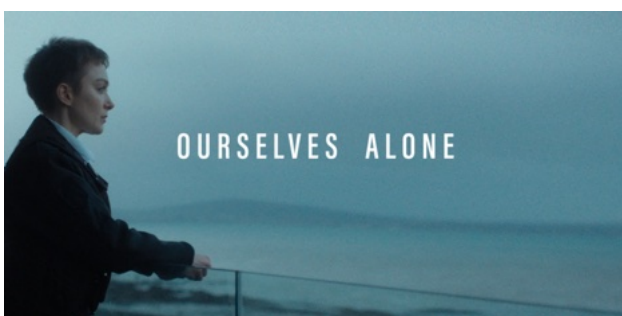
We're thrilled to celebrate a decade of showcasing inspiring films and talented filmmakers from around the globe. The festival always showcasing a rich tapestry of stories, cultures and perspectives. Join us in honoring the arts of film and the vibrant community that supports it!

## CATEGORY SELECTIONS & WINNERS

### Crime

#### Winner: *Under the Blue*

*Cut Short: Fighting Against Knives  
in the North  
Ourselves Alone  
Sunday Roast*



## Drama

### Winner: *Ill Fares the Land*

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*Just for a while*  
*Hard Times*  
*Beautiful Things*  
*Rejoice!*  
*Mother Daughter*  
*Twenty*  
*Meet Me By The Sea*  
*Stopwatch*  
*Solitary*  
*Heart's Desire*  
*OUT*  
*Muna*  
*The Cop Within*  
*Romanesco*  
*BARDO: A ROGUE AND  
PEASANT SLAVE*  
*HAMSTER*  
*ManMade*  
*Under the Blue*  
*Don't Mock the Donkey*  
*BETTER*  
*Maria*  
*Een Saam (Farther)*  
*Inappropriate*  
*HEEL DROP*  
*Sour Milk*  
*NO BALL GAMES*

*A Different Place*  
*And The Rain Still Falls*  
*Blue*  
*Survivor*  
*Now and Then*  
*Huggo*  
*Call again if things get worse*  
*Rest*  
*Bully*  
*CoD and Chips*  
*Move In, Move Out, Move on*  
*IT'S NOT ALL THAT BAD*  
*Nearly Never*  
*By Any Other Name*  
*Croak*  
*The Old Young Crow*  
*Everything Is Out To Get Me*  
*Negative Space*



### HUGGO





## Comedy

### *Winner:* *THE PROS AND CONS* *OF KILLING YOURSELF*

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VACANT

*Big George*

*The Snip*

*Meeting Mr Samuel*

*Plaggy Bag*

BURN IT ALL

*The Car Spotter*

Adam

*Free Spirits*

Linda

Art

*Pushing Daisy*

*I HAVE HEARD YOU CALLING*

*IN THE NIGHT*

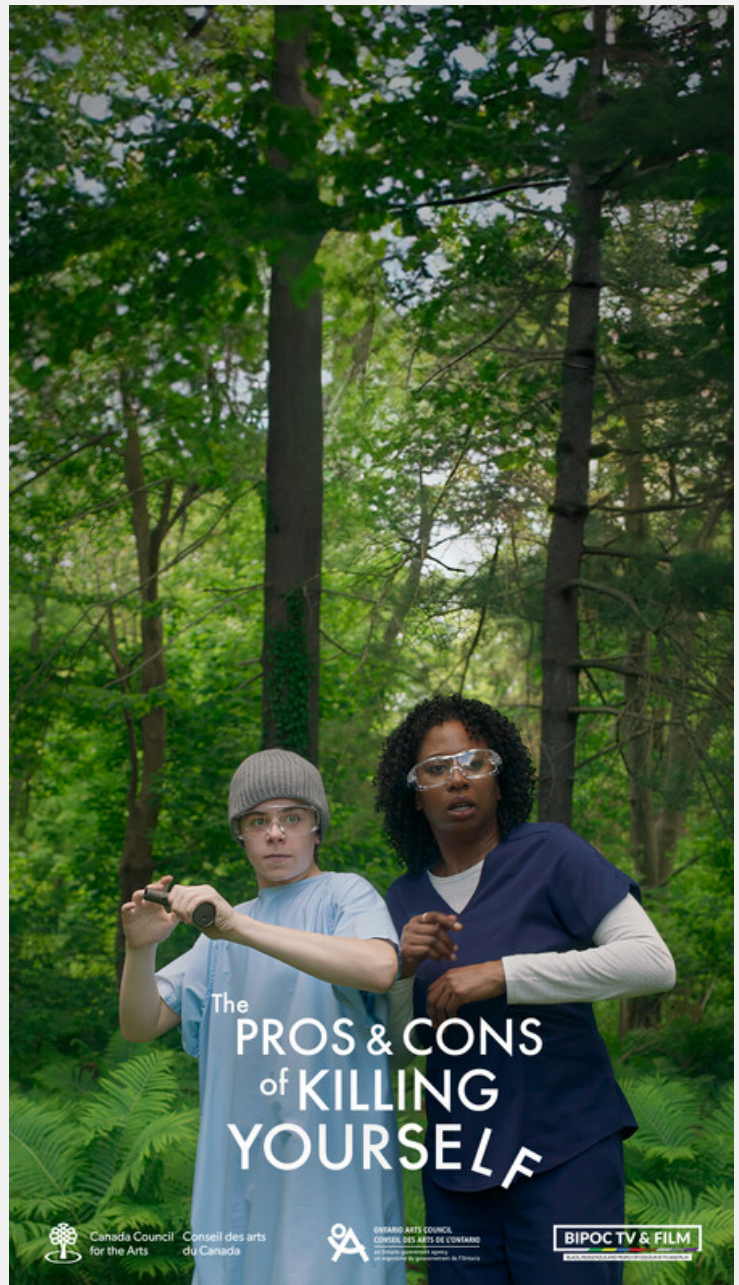
*Fortissimo*

*Skewered*

*The Father, The Son and The*

*Ravkalmenson*

*Best of Three*



## Horror

### *Winner:* *The Witching Hour*

*CYCLES*

*Spoor*

*Titsferatu*

*Hallowed*

*Syncopate*

*It Was John*

*The Lure*

*Safe*

*Shut*



## Animation

### *Winner: Dandelion*

*Supertramp*

*Earthling*

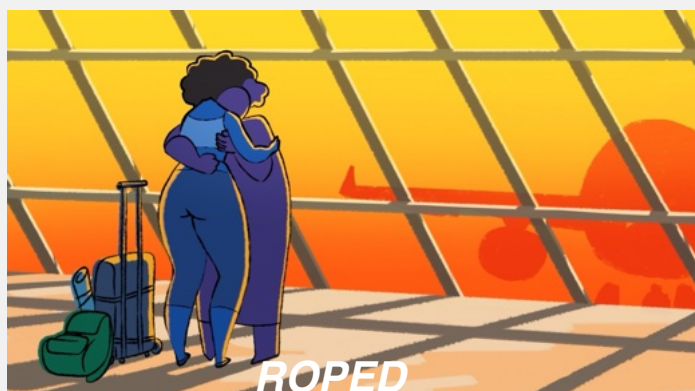
*Roped*

*Inside The Box*

*Light of my Life*

*The Star and the Scribe*

*Orpheus*







## Non-Fiction

### *Winner: Unconditional*

*Your Next Breath*

*The Hearts of Bwindi*

*To The Dancers*

*Still Here*

*Radio Dadaab*

*Shaking Hands With The Devil*

*It's Not The Critic Who Counts*

*Where the Sun Always Shines*

*Dear Vladimir*

*The Lunimarians: Making the Luminary Loppet*

*Climate in the Minds of Artists*

*How to Build a Life*

*KALU-Growing Up Wild*

*Diablos*

*I am Kanaka*

*The Sanctuary Seekers of Bradford*



## Student

### *Winner: CoD and Chips*

*Portrait*

*Period Drama*

*Care*

*Rickshaw*

*Birds*

*Back Seat*

*Xénia*



# Women's Voices

## Winner: *Wild Animal*

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*Different Roads-Navigating Change*  
*Beautiful Things*  
*Lotus*  
*Tender Loving Care*  
**THREAD TENSION**  
*Blue Buttercream*  
*Ceres*  
*Best Dressed*  
*If Not Now, When?*  
*Sara*  
*Romanesco*  
**KIN**  
*Echo*  
**WEIGHTLESS**  
*Take Care*  
*Sally Leapt Out Of A Window Last Night*  
*I Don't Need Adult Conversation*  
*The Sun is Up an I Shall Live*  
*Pinch*  
*My Week with Maisy*  
*The Innkeeper*  
*What We Did Yesterday*  
*Mountain Dust*

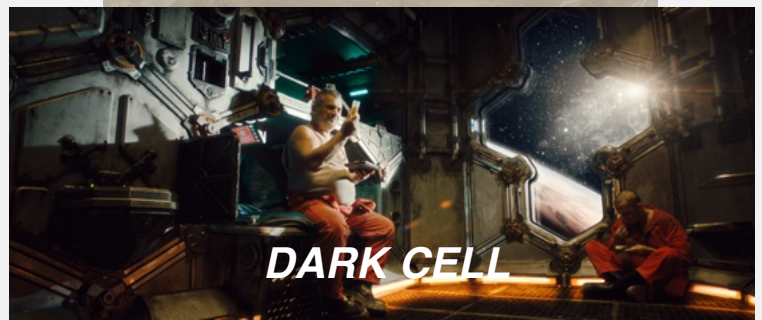




## Science Fiction & Fantasy

### Winner: *Ill Fares The Land*

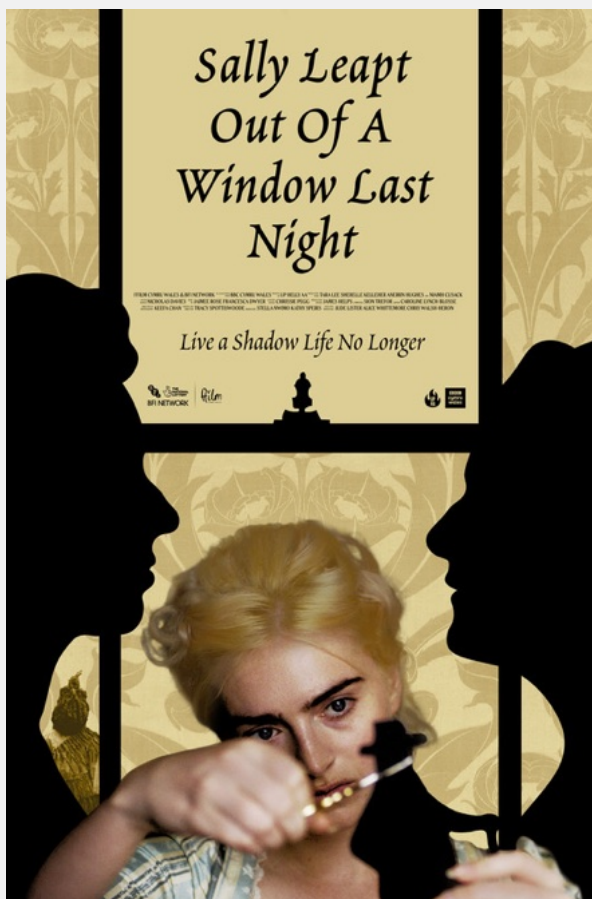
Chimera  
TETHERED  
Bisected  
Ellipsis  
Soulmate  
Meeting Mr Samuel  
Echo  
Original skin  
Spiral to the Center  
Geronimo  
A Positive Contribution  
Closing Time  
Vibrations  
DARK CELL



## Pride

### Winner: *Sally Leapt Out Of A Window Last Night*

Titsferatu  
Roses  
The Cure  
The Witching Hour  
DISCONNECT



## East Midland Focus

### Winner: *Monitor*

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*Neutopia*

*Above The Noise*

*The Terminator*

*Red Black Green*

*Sherbet*

*Patricia in the Dark*

*CoD and Chips*



## Feature Length Films

*Imposters*

*The Football Aficionado*

*LA FUNCIÓN*

*Migrants*



## African Voices

### Winner: *FATHER'S DAY*

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*I Promise You Paradise*





## BEST IN FESTIVAL

### *Roses* Director Coral Knights

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*Coral is an emerging filmmaker from London. She hopes to make sensitive films that give weight to seemingly small, yet significant moments in people's lives. Alongside writing and directing Coral works as a casting. Roses is her first professional short film, and she feels very lucky and grateful to the people who made it with her.*



*“A beautifully observed drama, built around an outstanding central performance of great subtlety and poignancy. 'Roses' shows how effective the short film format can be at distilling small but highly telling moments in our lives. Outstanding direction.”*

*Simon Leyden,  
BFF Review Team*



## Specialist Categories

### Direction

***B'OSCAR Winner:***

*Wild Animal*  
*By Beth Park*

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*Call again if things get worse*  
*The Innkeeper*  
*CoD and Chips*



*Beth Park*

### Script

***B'OSCAR Winner:***

*Rejoice!*  
*By David Ledger*

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*Rickshaw*  
*Roses*  
*The Innkeeper*



*David Ledger*



## Sound Track & Sound Design

### ***B'OSCAR Winner:***

*By Any Other Name*

*By Daniel Neville*

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*Dandelion*

*What We Did Yesterday*

*Wild Animal*



*Isabella Speight & Molly Murphy  
Producers of Wild Animal*

## Performance

### ***B'OSCAR Winner:***

*If Not Now, When?*

*By Nick Tree*

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*The Innkeeper*

*Roses*

*Wild Animal*



*Nick Tree  
Director of If Not Now, When?*

## Cinematography

***B'OSCAR Winner:***  
***DARK CELL***  
*By Jean-Michel Tari*

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*No Ball Games*  
*Orpheus*  
*Dandelion*



## Features

***B'OSCAR Winner:***  
***Migrants***  
*By Masoud Ahmadi*

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*The Show*  
*The Imposter*  
*The Football Aficionado*



## Some of our B'Oscar Winners





Very rarely do we see African voices prominently displayed in cinema, so to have an entire feature filled with short films with African voices as the central focus was exciting. This variety pack contained both documentaries and short films, and platformed the voices and stories of people and communities from Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, Egypt, and Somalia; stories of climate change, conservation, family, grief, strive, and above all, connection.

Each of these short films fit snugly into the overall festival theme: 'Protest and Resistance', and not always in the way one would expect. To me, these films emphasized the subtle ways in which resistance is manifested; individually, collectively, and naturally.

### **Climate in the Minds of Artists**

Four Tanzanian artists specialising in different artistic mediums ponder the question: "What does climate change mean to you?"; offering their unique insights and perspectives on the issue and the ways in which they take inspiration from it and other aspects of nature for their work. While most of the dialogue was in English, one interviewee was constantly switching between English and her native language (I want to say Swahili, but it could be any of the many African languages that exist) – as a languages student this brought me a lot of joy. I enjoyed the split screen editing that showed multiple clips of African nature, the interviewees, and their artistic processes side by side. The overall message of the film was surprisingly positive; life will continue, it may not be life as we know it, but it will adapt and continue. A charming presentation and appreciation of African art and nature.

### **The Hearts of Bwindi**

This documentary was a beautiful appreciation of the natural world and a spotlight on those who fight to protect Uganda's biodiversity in Bwindi National Park. Focusing on the ways wildlife rangers and local communities strive to live harmoniously with the forest, this left me feeling stunned by the beauty of the forest and by the cinematography and filmmaking choices. I particularly enjoyed the way the filmmakers periodically used the camera to draw focus to individuals against the stunning natural backdrop of the forest: with the slight movement from the backdrop in these shots, I felt like I was watching a compilation of live photos which focussed on and celebrated each person as a key element in the fight against natural destruction. As the documentary ended, the cinema filled with the glorious natural sounds of Bwindi National Park, leaving me feeling hopeful and at peace.

### **Muna**

A portrait of multicultural immigrant families in Britain. What particularly struck me with this BBC short film was the isolation of the main character: British-Somali teenager Muna. No one seemingly has her back: her parents have specific rules and expectations of her, her brother is seemingly favoured, and her friends (who we only see through digital overlay of their group chat messages over the camerawork) don't understand her. The presentation of a specific cultural and religious family dynamic was, to me, incredibly insightful and eye-opening. I highly recommend watching if you want more insight into multicultural Britain.

### **Een Saam (Farther)**

A heartbreaking depiction of a father's struggle after the loss of his wife and subsequent estrangement of his son. The excellent cinematography, flawless acting, and beautiful storytelling: this short film effortlessly blurred the lines between reality and memory and filled the cinema with such a profound sadness that I couldn't help but internalise it. Yeah, I cried...a lot. The film depicts the different kinds of loss and grief in a sensitive and almost cathartic way. It's a difficult and emotional watch, but that's what made it stand out to me and why I sincerely recommend you watch it too.

### **I Promise you Paradise**

An Egyptian short film depicting the fear of African migrants desperate to escape to a new life. Unfortunately, a technical issue with the subtitles meant I was unable to understand the dialogue in this film. Granted, much of the film was without dialogue, only music, but where there were conversations, I found myself relying on visual cues and the physicality of the actors to piece together the story. However, I found that this actually enhanced my viewing experience and made the film more impactful. Straight out the gate I sensed that something monumental had happened, I just had no idea what, and that tension remained palpable throughout the film. As the story reached its climax and the final pieces fell into place, the music fell away, leaving behind a silence emphasising the reality of the dangers desperate migrants face for a chance at a better life. Impactful and profound.



### Father's Day

In this South African film, Alake is being raised by a single mother but, after being called upon to give a speech for Father's Day, tries to find his father. The film is beautifully made; the camera work and soundtrack captured the complicated nature of broken families and single parenthood through the eyes of a child sensitively and in a way that conveyed the emotional toll these situations take on both parent and child. Unfortunately, the subtitles weren't working, so I couldn't understand the parts of the film in Zulu. Thankfully, the final speech in this film was in English, so not only could I understand what was being said, but I could also react to and appreciate the emotional impact of story. An insight into how perceptive children are and a wonderful commentary on the importance of mothers.



### CULTURE

## Promises (African Voices): A Variety Pack Review from Beeston Film Festival

A review of Promises (African Voices), a Beeston Film Festival short film variety pack spotlighting a selection of excellent African cinema: Climate in the Minds of Artists, Hearts of Bwindi, Muna, Een Saam (Farther), I Promise you Paradise, & Father's Day.



### CULTURE

## The Beeston Film Festival: Highlighting the Truths of Womanhood in Film

A synopsis of my favourite short films from the Women's Voices sections at The Beeston Film Festival



From Non-fiction, to Drama, Comedy, and Horror, the Beeston Film Festival truly has it all. But the category that truly stood out to me was Women's Voices. There were three separate sections within it: 'Bonds', 'Boundaries' and 'Needs', each celebrating a wide array of female talent.

What I found so moving about each of these films was the truth within their stories. Seeing my peers' and my own real experiences of womanhood validated on screen was so affecting. The cinematic portrayals of female relationships were so poignant, each in their own ways. Whether it was sisterhood, female friendships or mother-daughter bonds; the emotional connections portrayed were so incredibly precious. I left the cinema each time feeling grateful to be a woman. Let me take you through my favourite films of these sections.

### 1) Best Dressed (UK)

*Best Dressed* pleasantly surprised me. Starring *Normal People*'s Eliot Salt, it began with two sisters, who are separately yet simultaneously stuck in the sort of limbo you find yourself in right before an event you don't really want to attend. The event in question, we find out later, is their mother's wake. Allie, the older sibling, finds herself outside with her best friend, stalling, despite the pouring rain. Meanwhile, Sarah, her younger sister, is tearing up her room searching for the right outfit for the occasion. The pair finally collide on the stairs, once Allie cannot procrastinate any longer, and Sarah has exhausted every option in her wardrobe. This is the point in which it becomes clear that the two have been preparing for a wake, as Allie greets Sarah with a 'what the f\*\*\*?' upon finding the thirteen-year-old dressed in a floral halter top and white mini skirt. *Best Dressed* won me over here – the sisterly interaction was hysterically accurate. The dialogue in the film is consistently light-hearted, perfectly juxtaposing the setting of the film to convey how surreal these tragic situations can be.

### 2) Roped (Spain)

I never imagined that an animated film could stir such powerful emotions within me. *Roped* is simultaneously devastating and heartening. It visualizes the beauty of the relationship between a mother and daughter through the most vibrant and gorgeous animations. 'Roped' together by an eternal bond, they are inseparable. Even when the daughter moves out, the mother stays by her side, represented by an omnipresent, helpful pair of hands. The film portrays the cyclical structure of the mother-daughter relationship: when the daughter becomes a parent, she finally understands the galaxy worth of love her own mother has for her. Perhaps I have just been away from home for too long, but this film made me absolutely sob.

### 3) My Week with Maisy (UK)

*My Week with Maisy* is a precious film. When the uptight Mrs. Foster (Joanna Lumley) finds herself in a chemo-therapy treatment room with the ball of joy that is Maisy (Ellie-Mai Siame), at first she is cold and rather callous. It doesn't take long, however, until Maisy has chipped away at Mrs. Foster's hard exterior and opened up her heart. The interactions between the pair are often surprising: my favourite moment being Maisy's declaration of her lesbianism to the very much conservative Mrs. Foster. The film is built on juxtapositions, reflected even in the pink and blue colour scheme, which adds to the vibrancy of the film. What may at first appear to be a slightly cliché story of young and old, *My Week with Maisy* is well-executed and a truly heart-warming watch.

### 4) Ceres (UK)

Ceres is the Roman goddess of agriculture, fertility, and motherly relationships. The myth of Ceres, who attempts to save her daughter Proserpina from Hades parallels the story told in this film, that's where the title came from. Set in Norfolk, the mother (Juliet Stevenson) lives off the land, her life of solitude disrupted by the return of her daughter (Hannah Morrish). The mother yearns to save her daughter from the suffocation of her abusive relationship. The pair's strained relationship is communicated very subtly through expression and gesture throughout the film. What I love about this film is how much it manages to say without words: conveying multitudes through just the movement of hands. *Ceres* approaches the incredibly difficult subject of domestic abuse with acute tenderness and subtlety.

### 5) The Sun is up and I Shall Live (Singapore)

*The Sun is up and I Shall Live* follows a chaotic day in the life of an eldest daughter who bears the impossible weight of responsibility left behind by her deceased parents. Juggling both her lively younger brother, and an often-confused grandma, Maple is the sole carer for her family. Regardless, she keeps up a brave face, even when her grandma's mental decline lands her in some serious bother. Despite Maple's hardships, the film is full of colour and genuinely wholesome. Eldest daughters keep the world moving, and it is touching to see that recognised on screen.

Celebrating women's voices in film is so important. The Beeston Film Festival spotlights so many underrepresented voices, giving them the space to share their wonderful and unique stories. The festival taught me so much, truly widening my world view.



## Jury

*Frank Harriman*  
Writer & Director at  
Arrondissement Films

*Adam Anwi*  
Writer & Director of  
Bunny

*Tommy Draper* Writer

*Gino Van Hecke*  
Director at Zeno Pictures

*Francesca Levi*  
Filmmaker & Festival  
Director

*Thomas Grascour*  
Award Winning Director  
& Actor

*Melissa Skirboll*  
Award Winning Director ,  
Writer Actor & Producer

*Billie Vee*  
Actress & Screen Writer

*Marina Anna Eich*  
Writer & Actress

*Lauren Pizzicaroli*  
Writer

*Anna Wallace*  
Writer

*Sharon Coleclough*  
PhD in Cinematic  
Performance

*Emmanuel Anyiam-Osigwe*  
Founder of the British Urban  
Film Festival

*Tom Nettleship*  
Award Winning Composer

*Neda Khanifar*  
Award Winning Filmmaker

*Abbie Hills*  
Writer & Producer

*Arvin Belarmino*  
Award-Winning Filmmaker

*Jermaine Liburd*  
Actor





## SELECTION TEAM

Chris Smedley

Leonie Findlay

Simone Wiles

Hassan Izzo

Simon Cross

Ciaran Shea

Wakana Morozumi

Trish Griffiths

Bridghe Forde

Emily Muir

Sam Kurd

Simon Pryce

Abigail Rowse

Grace Cooper

Christie Sietos

Laura Dunn

Tyler Beardsley

Nina Feve

Simon Leyden

Dan Lawrence

Karen Stainer

## PARTNERS

*The ARC cinema*

*The Film Festival Doctor*

*Festival Formula*

*Skylight Media*

*Nottingham Trent University*

*Breeze Magazine*

*Broxtowe Borough Council*

*Johns of Nottingham*

*Phoenix Procurement Services*

*BakerBaird Communications*

*BFI&Bistro 66*



## INTERN TEAM

Alice Madden

Marketing

Callum Wright

Marketing

Tingyu Zuo

Marketing

Yang Shi

Marketing

Yunfei Jia.

Marketing

Eleanor John

Front of House/Marketing

Marion Adeniyi

Front of House

Sam Marsh

Front of House

Arupa Zarin Iqbal

Front of House

Varsha Murali

Front of House

Kaushik

Borna Freblo

Front of House

Jacob Reuben

Q&A Coordinator

Mide Williams

Projection

Mikey Smith

Broadcast

“This festival would not have been the success it was without these wonderful interns”  
John Currie, Festival Director.