10TH BEESTON FILM FESTIVAL

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our 10th Beeston Film Festival (BFF) Guide. This year's festival is a special milestone for us and we're celebrating it in style! We've extended the film festival to six days, and we're excited to be showing, for the first-time, full-length feature films! There are two groups of features, first, "In Competition" films selected by our festival reviewing team, including films from Spain and Iran that are battling for B'Oscar. Secondly, we're screening an acclaimed group of feature films, curated around the theme of 'Protest and Resistance'.

Of course, short films remain the creative backbone of our film festival and we're showing more than ever: we're screening 156 shorts over six days, from 28 countries covering the globe.

A huge thanks to our wonderfully dedicated festival reviewing and selection team, all volunteers, who have collectively amassed over 725 hours of reviewing time when watching nearly 1000 submitted 'shorts'. Truly, a stupendous effort.

We also take our metaphorical hats off to our intern staff who provide such an invaluable service, ensuring that our film festival runs smoothly and making festivalgoers and filmmakers feel so warmly welcomed. This is also the third year of our flourishing partnership with Arc Cinema and we are delighted to be offering film-makers such impressive state-of-the-art facilities in which to showcase their work.

One of the great pleasures this year has been appreciating the fruits of creative partnerships forged between well-established, highly acclaimed actors and some of the most promising film-making talents. Highlights of such productive collaborations this year include: Kate Dickie working with Nick Tree in the compassionate, deeply affecting 'If Not Now, When?', Juliet Stevenson working with Amelia Sears in the deft, poignantly urgent, 'Ceres', and Charlotte Riley collaborating with Beth Park in the brilliant, blistering 'Wild Animal'.

In our inaugural feature film section, we're screening an acclaimed group of feature films, curated around the theme of 'Protest and Resistance' culminating in Ken Loach's reputedly final film, 'The Old Oak' (2023) and including the rarely screened, groundbreaking anti-Apartheid film from South Africa, 'Mapantsula' (1988). In addition, we are excited to have included international films from Spain and Iran. Another pleasingly noticeable development this year has been the growing number of outstanding short films submitted in our relatively new East Midlands submission category. We have also received a growing number of submissions from the African continent, and we will be screening excellent shorts from Egypt ('I Promise You Paradise') and South Africa ('Father's Day'), and we're excited to be introducing a new category this year called 'African Voices'. These developments very much chime with the ethos of BFF: celebrating both the local and the global.

The short film sector in the UK is as vibrant and important as ever. As the great New Zealand film director, Jane Campion, once observed, 'short films give a freedom to filmmakers', allowing them to hone their craft and develop their artistic visions, and to feel less constrained by commercial pressures which often beset the longer form of feature film-making. In doing so, within a matter of minutes, short films can transport audiences to new worlds, challenge our perceptions, and broaden our understanding: even more necessary as our world descends further into conflict and division.

Short films also win Oscars, BAFTAs, BIFAs, Césars and some are fortunate enough to win our very own B'Oscars! We hope you enjoy watching them and relish the veritable filmic feast on offer during our festival.

We have achieved so much over the past 10 years. We have become a BIFA short qualifying festival and for several years maintained a high position in FilmFreeway's TOP 100 Best Reviewed Film Festivals and who knows what the next 10 years will bring? Certainly more great international independent films.

Simon Leyden, BFF Review and Selection Team

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Protest and Resistance in Film: ‘Stronger Together’

Suffragettes (2015); Made in Dagenham (2010); Mapantsula (1988);The Old Oak (2023)

As part of our Protest and Resistance series of films showing in the festival, Simon Leyden considers different ways in which protest has been represented on screen.

If protest is essentially ‘telling truth to power’, then ever since Sergei Eisenstein’s revolutionary masterpiece of montage, ‘Battleship Potemkin’ (1925), film has proven itself to be a powerful and persuasive medium of conveying such ‘truth’.

One important consequence can be injecting fresh momentum into pressing societal issues and moral concerns. In 1966, Ken Loach, made a gritty, ground-breaking social realist drama for BBC television, ‘Cathy Come Home’, highlighting the growing plight of homelessness in Britain. In doing so, he cemented the urgent relevance of newly formed housing action group, Shelter.

Later on, widespread fears over the looming threat of nuclear war were given greater urgency by both the terrifying apocalyptic BBC television drama, ‘Threads’ (1984) and ‘When the Wind Blows’(1986), an animated film adaptation of Raymond Briggs’ graphic novel about a Soviet Union nuclear attack on Britain. Perhaps, unsurprisingly, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament’s (CND) popularity continued to surge during this period.

The years 2010-2015 saw the entrenchment of a new age of austerity in Britain and the return of mass street protests. Huge cuts to public spending and a steep rise in food banks would form the basis of Ken Loach’s anti-austerity polemic, ‘I, Daniel Blake’ (2016), his compelling look at the dignity-sapping, byzantine benefits system, and the first of his unofficial trilogy of modern-day Britain, continuing with ‘Sorry We Missed You’ (2019) and ‘The Old Oak’ (2023).

Films not only give fresh insight and propulsion to contemporaneous issues, they also serve as aesthetic representations of historical protests and acts of resistance. Though set in the past, such films may also carry with them enduring moral and political messages. To illustrate this, during the same 2010-2015 period, three acclaimed British films were made which all harked back to earlier times of industrial conflict and political protest: ‘Made in Dagenham’, ‘Pride’ and ‘Suffragette’.

‘Suffragette’ (2015) focuses on the hard-fought struggle for women’s enfranchisement during the early 20th century. A struggle marked by violent state repression, civil disobedience, and astonishing acts of self-sacrifice and collective resistance. ‘Suffragette’ addresses a central myth of the Suffragette Movement: that it was the sole domain of middle-class women. Through centering the narrative on laundry worker, Maude Watts (Carey Mulligan), who is radicalised by her experiences of oppression and horrifying abuse, the film reminds us of the invaluable contributions made by working-class women to female political enfranchisement.

‘Suffragette’ also taps into the widely held suspicion that working-class women were more harshly treated in prison than their middle-class counterparts. To demonstrate this point, in 1910, suffragette activist, Lady Constance Lytton, disguised herself as a seamstress and was treated far more cruelly in prison, including being force-fed, than when previously incarcerated as herself.

The experiences of working-class women are also foregrounded in ‘Made in Dagenham’ but here the mood is lighter, more upbeat and celebratory. It chronicles the 1968 sewing machinists strike at the Ford Dagenham plant, where female workers walked out to protest against sexual discrimination, demanding equal pay. The successful strike led to the Equal Pay Act 1970.

Representations of the effectiveness of collective workers’ resistance have a chequered history in British cinema: one only has to think of ‘I’m Alright Jack’ (1959) and its satirising of the labour movement through it stereotypical use of corrupt ‘union leaders’ and ‘indolent’, ‘self-interested’ workers. In ‘Made in Dagenham’ the women machinists team up and fight together for a just cause. Collective action leads to victory and enhanced levels of self-respect.

In a trio of earlier made British films: 'Brassed Off' (1996), 'The Full Monty' (1997) and 'Billy Elliot' (2000), broadly coinciding with the arrival of the New Labour Government, no such opportunities seemed available anymore for effective grassroots protest and the collective resistance of working class communities.

Instead, these three films belonged to an emerging post miners' strike sub-genre of British films. Less overtly political in representation and intent, they salvaged heart-warming and feel-good tales out of Britain's industrial decline. In doing so, they offered small-scale but symbolic victories to the idea that we had not all become selfish, atomised individuals. The Thatcherite dictum was wrong. 'Society' stubbornly refused to go away.

Although made much later than this trio of films, 'Pride' (2014) looks back to the Miner's Strike, 1984-85, and avoids these films' pervasive sense of pessimism around the effectiveness of grassroots' protest. 'Pride' becomes an unabashed celebration of joined-up activism; the shared belief that systems of oppression and discrimination inevitably overlap and are most fruitfully considered and confronted in relation to one another.

Scripted by Loach's long-time collaborator, Paul Laverty, 'The Old Oak' (2023) is set largely around its eponymous run-down pub, which becomes the setting for dramatising the rising tensions caused by the arrival of political refugees in a northern community, decimated by years of economic marginalisation. Loach noted in a promotional interview for the film, "Paul had read the first story of the Syrians arriving in the North East," "So it began with Paul and then we talked about it and what ideas we would explore through the collision of the two communities."

Stylistically, with its use of broad humour and its affectionate evocation of period fashion and music, 'Pride' seems much closer to 'Made in Dagenham' than to 'The Old Oak'. However, what unites 'Pride' and 'The Old Oak' is their unyielding commitment to the overarching importance of solidarity and shared resistance.

'Mapantsula' (1988) has been hailed as the "first South African film to truly represent apartheid onscreen". Banned in its homeland and made guerrilla-style while evading government authorities, the film was screened in the Un Certain Regard section at Cannes and went on to be selected as the South African entry for Best Foreign Language Film at the Oscars.

Initially, it seems to lack the sharp political and moral focus characteristic of Loach's work. Set in late apartheid South Africa, it begins as a gangster melodrama, where its black anti-hero, 'Panic', is a petty thief who straddles the racial divide by picking pockets with a quick smile and an even quicker knife.

However, when he ends up in prison, 'Panic' is forced to choose between individual gain and taking a stand against the oppressive apartheid regime. 'Mapantsula' morphs into a blistering moral critique of an unequal society built on racial division. As with Loach's late trilogy, the underlying message is that oppressed individuals and communities remain stronger together.

Tuesday 23rd 8pm

Opening Night
Screen X

Assemble at 7pm for drinks and chat

Soulmate 15 mins (United Kingdom)
Anna, a lonely computer coder, has been nurturing an illegal romance with an AI in a computer simulation for the past six months. When her company uncovers the affair, she is forced into a desperate battle to save her precious relationship.
Starring Joe Dempsie.

How to Build a Life 10 mins (United Kingdom)
Louis, a young man with Asperger's, opens up to his brother about the decade of bullying that nearly ended his life. He shares his journey from depression to hope through his canine best friend and his renewed passion for Lego in the form of stop-motion.

Big George 16 mins (United States)
When a middle-aged actor gains too much 'pandemic weight' to pull off his survival gig as a George Clooney impersonator, he finds himself trying to justify to his nine-year-old daughter— and to himself— why he's still chasing his dream.

CoD and Chips 5 mins (United Kingdom) ★ ★★★★
Widower, Steven, cooks dinner for his teenage son, Oscar, every night. And every time, he ends up eating alone due to Oscar's video game fixation. Then Oscar appears to forget his dad's birthday.

Echo 15 mins (United Kingdom) ★
A young woman, Alice, and her husband, Tom, are staying at a beach house. She explores an imagined memory with her lost child, Echo. As she begins to drown in the memory, Tom calls her back to reality. But, what will she choose?

Linda 8 mins (United Kingdom) ★
Linda gets a new job in a post office. Tarik, her co-worker, starts training her, and customers start coming in. She greets everyone with her stories, but her tall tales soon raise suspicions.
Directed by Joe Lycett.

Different Roads - Navigating Change 10 mins (United Kingdom)
For those with Parkinson's, it's a condition widely misunderstood. While Janet, diagnosed at 47, navigates personal challenges, her social world shifted as well. Witnessing its onset, Janet discusses her body's decline, awareness campaigns, refusing to be defined by misconceptions.

The Innkeeper 14 mins (Ireland) ★ ★★★★
When a spirited eight-year-old lands the part of Innkeeper in the school nativity play, she battles her perfectionist teacher who insists that she 'stick to the script' and refuses Mary and Joseph a room.

(★ Nomination in "Best in Festival" B'Oscar ★ Nominated for a B'Oscar)

Wednesday 24th April - 4pm
FEATURE - Suffragette (2015)
Protest and Resistance in Film
Screen X

It's 1912 and in London, a young working mother (played by Carey Mulligan) is galvanized into radical political activism. She joins a diverse group of women who fight for equality and the right to vote. Faced with growing police action, they play a dangerous cat-and-mouse game, risking their jobs, homes, families, and lives.

Wednesday 24th April - 6 pm
The Space Between (DRAMA)
Screen X

Sour Milk 14 mins (Estonia)
Sandra receives a call from an unknown number. It is her son, Ivar, who has not been in touch for a decade. For a moment, her house seems to be filled with life again, but can this newfound relationship survive the true reason for his return?

Maria 11 mins (Germany)
Maria, a young actor, tries to get to a casting that her agent thinks she is not ready for. Maria is determined to convince her. If she succeeds, she will finally recite a monologue that holds all of her grim secrets.

Everything Is Out To Get Me 9 mins (United Kingdom)
An abused housewife finds out that her ex-husband has happily re-married and has a newborn baby, but there's more to his newfound happiness than meets the eye.

Bully 9 mins (United Kingdom)
Steve hosts a party after several tough months. Intending to lift his spirits, his close friends gather, but the party goes off the rails when the host suspects a surprise guest is his childhood bully.

Move In, Move Out, Move On 17 mins (Hong Kong)
'Drowning' in a room cluttered with mementos of her ex-partner, Mevius comes across a storage service that caters for people suffering from breakups. Takuji, the eccentric and mysterious manager, helps her to navigate her grief. The decluttering begins.

Just for a while 21 mins (China)
Zhou lives in the same nursing home as Hui Zhen. They spend their days admiring flowers and enjoying music. Zhou is determined to show Hui Zhen the Epiphyllum Oxypetalum ('The Queen of the Night') in bloom – something she has never seen before.

Mother Daughter 10 mins (United Kingdom)
Divorcee, Janice, is dating men again but her troubled daughter, Constance, heartily disapproves. 'Did you know that my mother is in financial ruin', being one of the many barbed lines she deploys to warn off would-be suitors.
Starring Indira Varma, Hugh Skinner.

Wednesday 24th April - 8 pm
FEATURE - The Football Aficionado (2023)
IN COMPETITION
Screen X

I am Kanaka 15 mins (United Kingdom) ★
Despite a dark history and only 5% speaking the native language, a local Hawaiian hero fights to save his culture by teaching traditions, sustainability, and life skills to disadvantaged indigenous kids.

The Football Aficionado 72 mins (Iran, Islamic Republic of) ★
Zahra, a 27-year-old Iranian football enthusiast, avidly supports Persepolis, one of Tehran's biggest football teams. However, due to an unwritten law in Iran, women are prohibited from attending football games in stadiums.

Wednesday 24th April - 4 pm
FEATURE - The Show (2023)
IN COMPETITON
Screen Y

The Show 95 mins (Spain) ★
A man arrives at an apartment where a woman is waiting for him. The boundaries between fiction and reality blur as he grapples with the desire to live another life.

Wednesday 24th April - 6 pm
Inner Beauty (DRAMA)
Screen Y

Croak 12 mins (United Kingdom)
A disgraced television presenter forms a pact with a desperate stranger in a sensitive drama dealing with suicidal themes.

Negative Space 15 mins (Korea, Republic of)
29-year-old Jiwon has spent over three years looking for a job while dealing with two kinds of negative space: a gap in her Resume (CV) and a personal void in her life. On the day of a job interview, she becomes increasingly anxious.

Heart's Desire 4 mins (United Kingdom)
An office worker is alone at night with just the cleaner vacuuming around him when his computer randomly turns off. Frustrated at not being able to access his work, the computer starts up again by itself and offers him three wishes.

BETTER 15 mins (United Kingdom)
Kitty has left home. Ruth, her sister, is worried because Kitty is chronically sick and has missed medical appointments. But, as Ruth spends time away with her sister, she realises she doesn’t know Kitty—or her illness—at all…

BARDO: A ROGUE AND PEASANT SLAVE 22 mins (United Kingdom)
Bardo, a hard grafting bouncer and aspiring writer, faces accusations from his wife that he is stealing her life to fulfill his own dreams. Unable to find support for his aspirations, Bardo seeks feedback from his curiously familiar Karate classmate, Anne Marie.

And The Rain Still Falls 10 mins (United Kingdom)
John mysteriously goes missing while Jane is out walking with him. She seeks help to find him but is left frustrated. A film about love and loss, and about how we deal with the long-lasting emotional impact caused by bereavement.

Beautiful Things 13 mins (United Kingdom)
With the aid of new technology, Nostalg.IA, Daphne travels back to her past and declares her love for her best friend, Bambi, so that they can live out their final days together. Matters, though, take a dark turn when Bambi sees the opportunity to reclaim her past and seize her future.

Wednesday 24th April - 8 pm
FEATURE - Made in Dagenham (2010)
Protest and Resistance in Film
Screen Y

A dramatisation of the 1968 strike at the Ford Dagenham car plant, where female workers walked out in protest against sexual discrimination.

Thursday 25th April - 4 pm
FEATURE - Mapantsula (1988)
Protest and Resistance in Film
Screen X

'Mapantsula' tells the story of 'Panic', a petty gangster who inevitably becomes caught up in the growing anti-apartheid struggle and has to choose between individual gain and a united stand against the system.

Thursday 25th April - 6 pm
Bonds (WOMENS VOICES)
Screen X

Blue Buttercream 13 mins (United Kingdom)
During a session with her counsellor, a young woman with a chronic pain condition relives memories from her past. She observes how her life has been transformed by her disease. Key questions emerge: What are the limits of our identity? Do our physical selves bind the range of our experiences?

What We Did Yesterday 9 mins (United Kingdom) ★★
When Rhiannon returns home from a trip, she finds the flat left in a mess by her partner. When tidying she notices something out of place and soon discovers the question of infidelity is not the only shock.

Thread Tension 14 mins (United Kingdom)
In a Thatcher-era sweatshop, the seamstresses are overworked, underpaid, and prone to full-body possessions. With a mixture of social realism and the supernatural, "Thread Tension" is a film about women, workers' rights, and the power of collective action.

Best Dressed 13 mins (United Kingdom) ★
Sarah is thirteen, and she can't figure out what to wear today. That's difficult because today is important. Sarah's older sister, Allie, is also avoiding something and wants to stay in the garden with her best friend. Both sisters are at an impasse, 'frozen until they collide' and we learn what Sarah is getting ready for.

Roped 10 mins (Spain) ★
Mother and Daughter are 'roped together' in an eternal bond that heals and hurts, perpetuated when the Daughter herself becomes a Mother.

Sara 11 mins (Canada)
As Sara navigates the stress of her flight being delayed multiple times, a missed call from an unknown number sends her spiraling into distress. Taking refuge in a bar, an unlikely stranger becomes the confessional she didn't know she needed and the support to tackle her diagnosis.

Wild Animal 20 mins (United Kingdom) ★★★★★
A woman finds an abandoned baby on a remotely located bridge. Shortly, she sees a figure (the mother?) fleeing in the distance. Mysteriously, though, this figure then stalks her and the baby wherever they go.
Starring Beth Park, and Charlotte Riley.

Thursday 25th April - 8 pm
FEATURE - Sitting in the Fire (2023)
IN COMPETITION
Screen X

Unconditional 16 mins (United Kingdom) ★
A renowned canine behaviorist's life takes a dramatic turn when his dog becomes his saviour after a period of dark depression and a suicide attempt. Thus, revealing the extraordinary power of love and resilience in the face of despair.

Sitting in the Fire 79 mins (United States) ★
Documentary set in California, looking at a successful rehabilitation programme developed at San Quentin State Prison. This pioneering programme is aimed at men like Vaughn Miles, sentenced to life imprisonment for committing a murder at the age of 20.

Thursday 25th April - 4 pm
Finding the Light (VARIETY PACK)
Screen Y

Hamster 19 mins (Iran, Islamic Republic of)
Mahi and Pouva gather with friends for a high-spirited party that will change their lives forever.

Tethered 24 mins (Ireland)
Rural Ireland, 1986. Aoibh is raising her young brother after their mother's death. She starts spending time with her grandmother, an old storyteller whose fairy tales hold hidden truths. Then her grandmother recalls one story that seems to give her new life…

The Luminarians: Making the Luminary Loppet 15 mins (United States)
One frozen night every year in Minneapolis, Minnesota, a group of volunteers, the Luminarians, create an immersive outdoor experience to bring the community together.

Light of my Life 2 mins (United Kingdom)
Two candle flames flicker to life and experience life and loss upon a windowsill.

Shaking Hands With The Devil 14 mins (United Kingdom)
This short documentary follows wildlife photographer, David Plummer, as he travels through Kenya to meet those who have been marginalised, stigmatised, and persecuted for having Parkinson's Disease. Plummer himself has Parkinson's.

Free Spirits 27 mins (United Kingdom)
In this paranormal comedy, a bashful local vicar is called upon to save a haunted nudist camp from the prudish poltergeist covering their privates.
Starring Spencer Jones, and Clive Russell.

Thursday 25th April - 6 pm
Keeping it Real (DRAMA)
Screen Y

ManMade 15 mins (United Kingdom)
Funerals can be true male environments where men want to cry but refuse to while their past 'rides up to hit them'. Eddie's late father has built him up to be tough but triggered by a tumultuous and charged service at his team's football pitch, unwanted memories engulf him.

Stopwatch 16 mins (Iran)
A man advertises online, offering an American visa and living expenses to anyone who can convince him in one minute that they have a problem and cannot live in Iran. Various people come forward with their problems, but only one person…

Nearly Never 15 mins (United Kingdom)
After suffering a horrific injury in his football match, a young amateur footballer finds himself isolated in a hospital that is under mounting pressure.

Meet Me By The Sea 18 mins (United Kingdom)
A young writer feels trapped in a small coastal village where her life and career have stagnated. As a catastrophic event now looms on the horizon, she must confront her failing relationship, all while navigating her new doomed reality.
Starring Charlotte Hope.

Inappropriate 18 mins (United Kingdom)
When 'Appropriate Adult', Oscar, turns up for his volunteer shift to help guide a young offender through the process of his arrest, he has a hard time with the offender. However, Oscar comes up with a way to help the young man, even if it seems a little inappropriate.

Twenty 16 mins (United Kingdom)
Emily, a homeless ballet dancer, undertakes a potentially life-changing audition. In the audition room, Emily is graceful and poised. However, in the real world, she struggles to find somewhere to sleep, let alone focus on her artistry.

Thursday 25th April - 8 pm
Next Gen (STUDENT)
Screen Y

Portrait 12 mins (United Kingdom)
When teenager Siah decides to take a nude selfie, she feels both exhilarated and mature. But, when she receives news that her photo has been shared, Siah's sexual agency all but evaporates before her.

Birds 12 mins (United Kingdom)
When her 9-year-old daughter's dreams of becoming a gymnast are on the line, a mother behind bars struggles to keep her whereabouts a secret. Inspired by the real experiences of a former prisoner.

Back Seat 15 mins (Israel)
Lior, a girl with a learning disability, travels on a minibus taking her back home. As the bus empties, she is left alone with the driver whose behaviour begins to disturb her. How will she respond? Will she be able to get away?

Xénia 10 mins (Greece)
Xenia is trying to interact with her social circle in search of true communication. Her attempt turns out to be harder than expected, as she is up against a timeless social phenomenon.

Orpheus 15 mins (United Kingdom) ★★
Orpheus is an artist trapped in his studio with a fading memory of his lost love. Every night, he is pestered by 'The Critic', a living embodiment of his own troubled mind. One night, exhausted from his mental torture, Orpheus confronts his guilt and fights for his sanity.

Care 14 mins (United Kingdom)
Two care workers from different backgrounds face the challenges of the private British care system and rebel in a way they can afford.

Rickshaw 9 mins (United Kingdom) ★★
On his 8th birthday, Paul enjoys a pleasant day with his parents in London. He sees a decorated rickshaw on the road and requests to ride home in it. However, the fun journey will soon reveal a disturbing reality to him.

Period Drama 13 mins (United Kingdom) ★
15-year-old Jane must meet a man she is betrothed to. While her entire family is counting on the meeting with the man, not everything goes as planned when she gets her period for the first time.

Friday 26th April - 4 pm
Survival (DRAMA)
Screen X

It's Not All That Bad 20 mins (France)
A snack bar, an online date, Teddy and Alicia, both in their twenties. As the night progresses, they start to develop favourable impressions of each other. However, one of them has a secret…

Survivor 14 mins (Iran)
Some immigrants by the sea are waiting to cross to their new destination. A young couple, along with other immigrants, embark on a journey to the light of the world, but encounter problems when their baby is born.

Rest 11 mins (United States)
Iris, a recently sober alcoholic, is due in court tomorrow: rested and prepared. Unable to fall asleep, she battles the voices in her head and her own desire for a drink as the night stretches on, seemingly without end.

No Ball Games 3 mins (United Kingdom) ★
Compassion casts you out. A woman struggles to win over the crowd in this cyclical fever dream.

Now and Then 17 mins (United Kingdom)
While moving house, a middle-aged Muslim woman finds a box of old tapes filled with memories of her husband's previous relationship and becomes increasingly obsessed.

Out 10 mins (United Kingdom)
When Tasha starts getting ready for an afternoon in the pub with her friends, she's unaware of the obstacles lingering in the shadows. When these demons start to creep up on her, how long can she hold it together?

Don't Mock the Donkey 20 mins (United Kingdom) ★
A refugee washed ashore finds himself in the body of a donkey and captured by a man who tries to sell him for labour as a packhorse.

Friday 26th April - 6 pm
Cutting! (COMEDY)
Screen X

Burn It All 21 mins (Ireland)
After her father leaves her mother for her best friend, a devastated Bobbie embarks on a chaotic campaign of revenge...

Skewered 17 mins (United Kingdom) ★
Opposing sexual appetites and dietary ethics bring a stagnant relationship to a theatrical and surprising crescendo as a heartfelt revelation confronts 'the elephant in the room'.

Fortissimo 15 mins (France)
Guy, a pianist passionate about his music, sees his life turned upside down when the church where he officiates takes in a mysterious little girl. A true piano virtuoso, the child prodigy will soon steal the show. A duel of egos then begins.

Adam 20 mins (Russian Federation)
A man has been murdered. Two police officers talk with seven women with whom the deceased had recently communicated. It turns out that the victim had a connection with each of them.

Art 14 mins (United Kingdom) ★
Biddy and Rob find themselves at the end of the line, in more ways than one. The cost of living is biting. Should they sell their desirable fishing cottage? But Biddy has a plan. A desire to paint. The question is: will any of her work save them from financial ruin?

The Snip 10 mins (United Kingdom)
Tony and Lindsay have three children and are looking for a permanent solution to their family's fertility, but for Tony, the simple procedure poses a threat to his fragile masculinity.

Friday 26th April - 8 pm
Inner Growth (HORROR)
Screen X

Hallowed 10 mins (United Kingdom)
After news of a terminal diagnosis, Father Black embarks on a desperate journey to church where he hopes to bargain with God. Through a surrealist exploration of his subconscious mind and interactions with an otherworldly entity, Father Black faces his fate.

Sincopat 14 mins (Spain)
Ona, a creative executive at a tech giant, is set to unveil her groundbreaking innovation: a device enabling direct brain music streaming. After weeks of personal testing, just before launch day, the device starts malfunctioning.

It Was John 20 mins (United Kingdom)
The Harroway's mad brother, Martin, has died. Amongst his possessions is an old, illustrated children's book containing a strange warning: "Once you've seen John, he can see you. And he's coming to get you." As John reveals himself to Grant and Trinity, they realise Martin may not have been mad after all…
Starring Amber Doig-Thorne.

Cycles 14 mins (United Kingdom)
When a dinner with the new neighbours goes awry, an antisocial and severely codependent couple reignite the spark in their relationship by covering their tracks

Safe 10 mins (Spain)
Somewhere in the US, a family hears an unsettling bump in the night. The young daughter insists there is a monster outside. The father takes out a gun from a safe and opts to stay there until morning for the family's safety

The Lure 1 mins (United Kingdom) ★
Late at night, a lone fisherman discovers he is not the only one hoping to hook something.

Shut 15 mins (Netherlands) ★ ★
When Jonas visits his father after a long time, he's shocked to find him in a confused state. Has his father's mental state badly deteriorated or is something more sinister going on?

Spoor 15 mins (United Kingdom) ★
A freakish, throbbing growth torments Ash. She is stuck caring for her vitriolic, dementia-ridden mother. With every indignity, Ash's lump grows, until it erupts, spewing a mysterious substance. Will Ash figure out what it is and how to stop it?
Starring Ellora Torchia.

Friday 26th April - 4 pm
Promises (AFRICAN VOICES)
Screen Y

Climate in the Minds of Artists 10 mins (Tanzania, United Republic of)
"What does climate change mean to you?" Four Tanzanian artists from diverse fields share their intriguing perspectives and discuss what this key question means to them.

The Hearts of Bwindi 8 mins (United Kingdom)
This documentary spotlights the harmonious efforts of wildlife rangers and local communities safeguarding Uganda's biodiverse, UNESCO-recognized Bwindi National Park.

Muna 19 mins (United Kingdom)
British-Somali teen, Muna, is desperate to go on a school trip and have fun with her friends. But her parents are reluctant. Then news comes that her grandfather has died back in Somalia, and Muna must navigate a confusing mourning period for someone she never really knew.

Een Saam (Farther) 15 mins (South Africa)
Pieter is confronted with his lonely life as he mourns the loss of his wife and son. In this vivid dance between reality, imagination and memory, he must address a significant transformation in his son, which challenges his traditional beliefs.

I Promise You Paradise 25 mins (Egypt) ★
Following a violent incident that took the lives of his three friends, Eissa, a 17-year-old African migrant in Egypt, gets on his motorbike and embarks on a quest against time to save his loved ones, whatever it takes.

Father's Day 26 mins (South Africa) ★
Alakhe, a 12-year-old boy raised by his single parent mother, is selected to give a speech at a Father's Day school event. Against his mother's wishes, he sets out to look for his absent father and eventually discovers who his real father is.

Friday 26th April - 6 pm
In The Cosmos (SCI-FI & FANTASY)
Screen Y

Chimera 8 mins (United Kingdom)
A woman receives experimental therapy for trauma. Guided by a doctor, she starts exploring her past and begins to suspect that she has been a patient for a lot longer than she's been told.

Dark Cell 25 mins (France) ★★
Two convicts and two guards in a space prison face a sudden invasion by zombies. To survive, they must eject from their overcrowded cell back to Earth. With limited time and space for only two, they must decide who lives and who dies.

Bisected 8 mins (United States)
While on a road trip, a couple witnesses a series of meteorite falls. Suddenly, a strong flash separates them into two distinct dimensions.

Spiral to the Centre 29 mins (United Kingdom) ★
Rick reviews records and talks about music online. After his reaction to a strange record goes viral, a documentary filmmaker follows Rick 'down the rabbit hole' where he uncovers twelve albums, a record label that disappeared in the 70s, and a dark secret.

Dandelion 4 mins (United States) ★★★★
In a dystopian world, a coal-burning robot working on a mine one day finds something that he has never seen before - a dandelion.

A Positive Contribution 12 mins (United Kingdom)
In the near future, criminals are given a choice: go to prison or have their memories replaced with fictional ones and positively contribute to society. Charlotte, a doctor, begins to question her reality when a patient claiming to be her wife begs her to save their daughter.

Vibrations 11 mins (United Kingdom)
After a young girl miraculously survives a long-established religious act, her mother must battle local authorities for her daughter's fate. It remains uncertain whether her survival signifies a holy sign or if it exposes the ritual as a total hoax.

Friday 26th April - 8 pm
Revealing (PRIDE)
Screen Y

The Cure 13 mins (United Kingdom)
17-year-old Renal is brought to a sex worker by his uncle to prove his masculinity to his patriarchal father. "The Cure" shows how the absolute power of adults who have a conservative and rigid mentality leads to a traumatic experience for a teenager

A Different Place 14 mins (United Kingdom)
In a hotel room, forty-something Evelyn embarks on a journey of self-discovery with Cleo, a younger woman who exudes the kind of confidence Evelyn has only dreamed of. They share an unforgettable night that Evelyn cannot ignore nor fully encompass.

Disconnect 7 mins (Germany)
HE is a disappointment. As he observes himself in his living room mirror, the young man starts to hear intensifying voices from his past. He has failed everyone – especially himself. At the brink of a mental breakdown, he suddenly finds himself in nature, and meets HER.

The Witching Hour 20 mins (United Kingdom) ★★
A queer bedtime story about coming out...Victor grieves the death of his father but late at night a mysterious entity claiming to be him plagues Victor's mind with disturbing thoughts.
Starring Harriet Thorpe.

Sally Leapt Out Of A Window Last Night 20 mins (United Kingdom) ★
Ireland 1778. Two women flout convention and scandalise society to escape the fate their families plan for them. They elope. Based upon the true story of the legendary "Ladies of Llangollen."

Titsferatu 5 mins (United States)
One late night, a fine young lady named Isabella enjoys reading in her bed. As she prepares to sleep, a mysterious silhouette appears at her window.

Roses 15 mins (United Kingdom) ★★★★
Rosa unexpectedly finds herself spending an evening out alone in her small Cornish town as her daughter throws an 18th birthday party in their home. Then, she spies a woman she has met once before - and is drawn to her.

Saturday 27th April - 2 pm
Eternity (SCI-FI & FANTASY)
Screen X

Earthling 10 mins (United States)
An animated documentary about Jack Weiner, his twin Jim, and two friends who went camping in Maine in 1976 and were abducted by aliens. Ten years later, hypnosis revealed their repressed memories. Jack stands by his story of encountering aliens despite people's disbelief.

Meeting Mr Samuel 17 mins (United Kingdom)
After a life-changing incident in a pub toilet, Christian Stoner wakes to find himself in what appears to be a vast waiting room for the afterlife staffed by his former school Geography teacher, Mr. Samuels. Can he persuade Mr Samuels to help him escape back to reality?
Starring T'Nia Miller, Charlie Creed-Miles, Samuel Anderson.

original skin 12 mins (United Kingdom)
In an alternate world where having sex means swapping bodies with the other person, a young woman struggles to be herself, defying her small conservative community where swapping is taboo. A deeply intimate portrait of identity in transition.

Ellipsis 18 mins (Ireland)
In a dystopian future Ireland, Ellipsis, an Android, awakens with no memory. Confronted by a treacherous world of mega-corporations and blind hyper-violent fanatics, Ellipsis must reclaim their identity from a world intent on denying them one.

The Star and the Scribe 4 mins (United States) ★
Once upon a time, a rabbit scribe lived on the moon. When a falling star crashes in, he must decide whether to stay in his cave or go with his new friend.

Geronimo 14 mins (United Kingdom)
When Peter, an anxious arcade owner, is prescribed an app. rather than sleeping pills, he reluctantly tries it out. However, far from bringing rest, Erebus's soporific voice takes Peter into a waking nightmare from which he may never escape.
Starring Paterson Joseph.

Closing Time 17 mins (United States)
Trent surprises his estranged old college friends with an unusual reunion at their former hangout - a local bar. As they reminisce about the old days, they wonder why he has invited them now after a six-year gap.

Saturday 27th April - 4 pm
Boundaries (WOMEN'S VOICES)
Screen X

Tender Loving Care 20 mins (United Kingdom)
Kalina, a single woman in her mid-30s living in London, struggles with feelings of isolation and decides to call up various customer care lines in search of connection. She pushes at the boundaries of the people she speaks to, with varying results.

Lotus 9 mins (United Kingdom)
On a hot summer's day in London, 13-year-old Frankie watches a local bike crew from her balcony and suddenly longs to experience the freedom of riding. So, she spontaneously steals a bike from the group. The only trouble is, she doesn't know how to ride it…

The Sun is Up and I Shall Live 19 mins (Singapore)
Maple is the sole carer for her 10-year-old brother and her ailing grandmother, following her own parents' deaths. She juggles her new responsibilities with sunny optimism. However, this begins to waver on the day of her little brother's school play.

Pinch 9 mins (Australia)
Abby, an aspiring dancer, battles a silent illness that she hides from her mother as her health quietly declines.

Weightless 9 mins (United Kingdom)
On a deserted East Sussex beach, a sixty-two-year-old woman, Maureen, prepares for a swim. As she enters the water, voices in her head start to nag, and she struggles to confront her inner demons.
Starring Toyah Willcox.

My Week with Maisy 18 mins (United Kingdom)
Mrs Foster, a retired, middle-class Daily Mail reader, whose cup is 'half-empty', is starting chemotherapy. The last thing she needs is to share the treatment room with a 'know-it-all child' who wants to grow up to be a lesbian. But, through their unexpected friendship, Maisy gives Mrs Foster hope.
Starring Dame Joanna Lumley.

Ceres 15 mins (United Kingdom)
A daughter seeks refuge from her emotionally abusive partner at the home of her estranged mother. They attempt to reconnect and move forward, despite knowing their time together is limited, bound in a knot of silent agreement to the changing of the seasons.
Starring Juliet Stevenson.

Saturday 27th April - 6 pm
Blue Light (CRIME)
Screen X

Sunday Roast 15 mins (Sweden)★
Holger lives alone in his apartment. When 60 years younger Anna moves into the same stairwell, he invites her to a Sunday dinner. What first appears to be a pleasant occasion, gradually changes into something else.

Cut Short: Fighting Against Knives in the North 29 mins (United Kingdom) ★
Sarah lost her son, Kieran, to a knife crime a decade ago. 22-year-old Vilson was imprisoned for using a knife in a gang attack. They now campaign to raise awareness of knife crime while battling their own prolonged struggles.

The Cop Within 19 mins (Turkey)
Eyüp is an honest, careful, and introverted taxi driver. His most difficult journey begins when he takes passengers who are on their way to commit a murder. Knowing the aim of their journey, he is torn between the need to remain silent, to ensure his own safety, and by the possibility of saving a woman, he has never met.

Inside The Box 11 mins (Nicaragua)
A cherished doll, given to Alejandra on her 7th birthday, is suddenly taken from her. She embarks on a search for it, but a social uprising forces her to leave her homeland. Based on the true story of a political prisoner's daughter in Nicaragua.

Ourselves Alone 11 mins (United Kingdom) ★
Brother-and-sister IRA members, Aoife and Sean, hold a bank manager and his wife hostage in their home. They plan to force the bank manager to help them carry out a robbery, but when a psychopathic third IRA member, Liam, arrives, things start to go wrong. Inspired by a true story.

Under the Blue 15 mins (United Kingdom) ★
Bruised, hungry, and only halfway through her late shift, a lonely and disillusioned police officer, PC Morgan, forms an unlikely connection with an appreciative and thankful criminal.

Saturday 27th April - 8 pm
Home Team (EAST MIDLANDS FOCUS)
Screen X

Neutopia 17 mins (United Kingdom)
In 2034 London, a dejected father succumbs to the allure of a groundbreaking underground upgrade to his government-mandated AI device. This grants him access to AI-driven selective consciousness. Soon, though, he is wrestling with the consequences of the upgrade's glitches.

Sherbet 24 mins (United Kingdom)
Set entirely inside the confines of a taxicab, on what seems like just another late-night taxi fare, this particular trip is anything but, altering the course of the lives of both driver and rider forever.

Above The Noise 6 mins (United Kingdom)
Above The Noise is a documentary short that explores how athlete Maja Kuczynska, a skydiver, uses her sport to escape the chaos of the modern world.

Red Black Green 30 mins (United Kingdom)
The story of a real-life upcoming national champion of table tennis, Connor Green. This documentary details his life as he talks about what the sport means to him. He reflects on how he started playing and what it means to be the best.

The Terminator 3 mins (United Kingdom) ★
A boy takes his 2-year-old sister on a tour of the solar system.

Monitor 16 mins (United Kingdom)★
Jenna and Fi have decided to start a family, and are undertaking the fitness-to-parent trial: three months under observation with a robot 'baby'. Fi is the keener of the two, but as she is the breadwinner, Jenna becomes the primary carer for the test infant.

Patricia in the Dark 12 mins (United Kingdom) ★★
Born into a world where the word 'transgender' didn't exist, 95-year-old Patricia spent most of her life keeping quiet and longing for love and acceptance but too afraid to reveal her true self.

Saturday 27th April - 2 pm
WORKSHOP - Life as a Hollywood Stuntman
Screen Y

John B Tannen, Hollywood stuntman, will entertain us with tales of stunts with the stars!

Saturday 27th April - 3 pm
WORKSHOP - Smashing Disability Barriers in the Film Industry
Screen Y

Abbie Hills, Talent Agent and Access Coordinator, will provide the tools and tactics to burst through barriers and make an impact in the film industry.

Saturday 27th April - 4 pm
FEATURE - The Old Oak
Protest and Resistance in Film
Screen Y

A pub owner, The Old Oak, in a previously thriving mining community in North East village of Northeast England struggles to hold onto his establishment. Meanwhile, tensions rise in the town when, where people leave the land as the mines are closed. Houses are cheap and available, thus making it an ideal location for Syrian refugees are placed in empty houses within the community.

Saturday 27th April - 6 pm
Dazzling (NON-FICTION)
Screen Y

To The Dancers 25 mins (United Kingdom)
In post-Brexit Britain, 'Cobalt', a unique music venue in Newcastle, becomes a haven for the local queer scene. Amidst rising bills and gentrification threats, founders Mark, Kate, and Jacob fight to keep its enchanting atmosphere alive.

Radio Dadaab 25 mins (United Kingdom)
'Dadaab', the world's second largest refugee camp, faces a new influx of refugees. Fardowsa, a stateless journalist born and raised in the camp, becomes a voice for the voiceless through the camp's radio station, amplifying stories of climate, migration, and hope.

Dear Vladimir 7 mins (United Kingdom)
A Ukrainian refugee narrates a letter to her least favorite world leader. She shares her escape from her hometown, details about her family, and her struggles to rebuild a life in the UK.

Kalu - Growing Up Wild 15 mins (United Kingdom) ★
Kalu, a baby spider monkey growing up in the jungle of the Osa Peninsula in Costa Rica, must learn survival skills in the wild. The film shows the resilience and beauty of nature and highlights the importance of protecting it for future generations.

Diables 10 mins (United Kingdom)
Once a year in Girona, in Northern Catalonia, a ritual of fire is reborn. 'The Correfoc', literally meaning 'fire run', is an expression of Catalan cultural identity and independence. Through powerful fiery imagery, we witness this ritual and the 'devils' who participate in it.

Where the Sun Always Shines 17 mins (United Kingdom) ★
Bognor Regis may have been repeatedly crowned Britain's worst seaside town, but its residents keep smiling even as another unwelcome piece of news creeps into their consciousness: the rising ocean threatens to swallow up their small town.

Saturday 27th April - 8 pm
FEATURE - The Imposters
In Competition
Screen Y

CoD and Chips 5 mins (United Kingdom) ★★★★★
Widower, Steven, cooks dinner for his teenage son, Oscar, every night. And every time, he ends up eating alone due to Oscar's video game fixation. Then Oscar appears to forget his dad's birthday.

The Imposters 88 mins (United Kingdom) ★
Maya has just split from her long-term girlfriend and meets the enigmatic Hattie. Maya is impressed with Hattie's success and attitude towards life. They fall for each other, but soon Maya realises that Hattie is perhaps not who she says she is.

Sunday 28th April - 1 pm
Needs (WOMEN'S VOICES)
Screen X

I Don't Need Adult Conversation 12 mins (United Kingdom)
A new mother dotes on her baby by day but discovers dark feelings stirring up inside her at night. This hybrid documentary explores the shadow side of motherhood, which remains taboo in our culture.

Mountain Dust 19 mins (Mexico)
In the midst of the quarrying taking place in the mountains near her city, Jessy, a young housekeeper in the governor's office, witnesses the scope of the economic forces that are destroying her family's health.

If Not Now, When? 30 mins (United Kingdom)★
Ruth will stop at nothing to realise the possibilities of time travel. Shunned online and discredited by her peers, when she becomes the subject of a documentary, it soon transpires that a darker reality lies at the core of her obsession.
Starring Katie Dickie.

Kin 8 mins (United Kingdom)
In a scorched lawless future, a mother with a baby attempts to steal supplies from a dangerous gang of survivors. She's soon exposed and must fight her way out and escape to safety.

Romanesco 12 mins (United Kingdom) ★
Trapped in an infinite dream with no means of escape, Mary contemplates an important decision while trying, and failing, to eat a boiled egg. Gradually, the great eternal fractal of human existence is laid bare before her eyes.

Take Care 15 mins (United Kingdom) ★
Dagmara, a Polish nurse, works the day shift, while Analyn, a Filipina nurse, works the night shift. The two care workers barely interact outside of their weekly handover. Now they must come together to cope with insurmountable challenges: being understaffed, being underfunded and having their competence questioned by the son of a resident.

Sunday 28th April - 3 pm
Halleujah! (DRAMA)
Screen X

Call again if things get worse 14 mins (Denmark) ★★★
A dysfunctional relationship between two women is brought to a head one fateful night, and the decision becomes a matter of life and death. We are witnessing an absurd power struggle - because how do you win over yourself?

Huggo 18 mins (United Kingdom) ★
April, a young woman, carries a stuffed toy bunny everywhere she goes. She forms an unusual attachment to the bunny as she struggles to get her life back on track after suffering a miscarriage

Supertramp 7 mins (United Kingdom) ★
A stray puppy gets rescued by a sweet, little girl, finally finding a family he can live with. But, destiny has something else in store for the dog, who ends up on the street once again.

Hard Times 19 mins (United Kingdom) ★★
In Hackney, London, Danny grapples with fatherhood amid the cost-of-living crisis. Unexpectedly left with his daughter, Jess, at his local pub, he makes a risky decision to involve her in a dangerous job for a needed paycheck, which leads to a climax where he must face tough moral choices.

Ill Fares The Land 18 mins (United Kingdom) ★★
Mermaids. Migrants. And the Far Right. A young boy finds a mermaid washed up on the shores of his seaside home while his older brother is swept up in the rising tide of far-right nationalism.

Rejoyce! 15 mins (United Kingdom) ★★★
Widowed Winifred unearths an erotic fiction that she wrote in her youth. Vetoed by her daughter but encouraged by her granddaughter, she must decide whether to pursue her passion at the risk of her daughter's wrath, her husband's good name, and her mortal soul.

Sunday 28th April - 5 pm
The Good and The Bad (COMEDY)
Screen X

Best Of Three 7 mins (United Kingdom)
A pair of police officers play games to decide who drives the police car to visit their former boss, Stewart, at his home. What is the purpose of their visit when Stewart enjoys his peaceful retirement life?

The Car Spotter 14 mins (Sweden)
Peo loves spotting cars. It gives his everyday life a little twist. It's also a hobby that is about to ruin the most important thing he has. The Car Spotter is a film about the small choices in life that have big consequences.

The Father, The Son, and The Rav Kalmenson 15 mins (France) ★
Yoel is an Orthodox Jew. Every Saturday, he goes, with his son, to honour Shabbat in the synagogue in his neighbourhood. That day, the rabbi of the community of devotees, Rav Kalmenson challenges Yoel by announcing to him that his son "is lighting up".

Pushing Daisy 16 mins (United Kingdom)
Daisy, an intern, has revolutionary plans for a funeral parlor, much to the dismay of manager, Tom, who fears confrontation. She plans to put the 'fun' into the funeral despite her short placement. But how long before Tom finally reaches a breaking point?

I Have Heard You Calling In The Night 13 mins (United Kingdom)
At dawn, Cillian arrives at the platform, seeking a permanent departure from life, but finds no trains. Not to be beaten, he calls the information line for help, encountering a hopelessly inadequate priest oblivious to his psychodrama.

Plaggy Bag 13 mins (United Kingdom)
When working-class Zoe meets her best mate's more privileged friends, she tries to ignore 'the chip on her shoulder' and to make a good impression. But when a single-use plastic bag comes to life and hunts down the group one by one, Zoe must face her inner rage head-on.

The Pros and Cons of Killing Yourself 18 mins (Canada) ★
A suicidal paediatric oncologist, Jane, writes down the pros and cons of killing herself at home after her 48-hour shift. When her terminal teenage patient breaks down, they attempt to fit a lifetime of experiences into a single day.

Sunday 28th April - 1 pm
WORKSHOP - Transforming East Midlands Film Production
Screen Y

Emma Ellis of East Midlands Film Office talks us through the transformation work that is taking place.

Sunday 28th April - 2 pm
WORKSHOP - How To Pitch Your TV Show/Film At A Film Market
Screen Y

Louise Osbourne from the Birmingham Film & TV Market comes to share her knowledge and wisdom for developing filmmakers to hear the skills and tactics necessary to sell their films.

Sunday 28th April - 3 pm
Decisions (DRAMA)
Screen Y

Heel Drop 13 mins (United Kingdom)
Tap dancer, Bobby, grew up and flourished in London, with his single parent mother respected in her job. Now with the family no longer able to afford living in London due to a towering cost of living crisis, it's time for Bobby to navigate his farewells to friends and to home in his own inimitable way.

Solitary 22 mins (Romania)
Years after release from solitary confinement, a man still runs from his past as part of a 400-mile, self-sufficient, Arctic marathon. In an extreme state, he is ready to abandon the race when hallucinations take him back to his cell when he contemplated suicide.

Vacant 14 mins (United Kingdom)
Sarah and Martin seek a new housemate to move into their spare room. They conduct 23 interviews with a game of Scrabble on the go, each word placed being inspired by the quirky oddballs they encounter.

The Old Young Crow 12 mins (Japan)
An Iranian boy draws his life in Tokyo in his sketchbook. One day, at his hideaway, a graveyard next to his school, he befriends an old Japanese woman who tells him about her late son.

Blue 10 mins (United Kingdom)
A father-daughter relationship is tested as Dad drives Lucy to have her abortion and the two dance around what her future might hold. As they reach the clinic, Lucy looks to her Dad for answers - but it's not his decision to make.

By Any Other Name 25 mins (United Kingdom)★
Within the chilling underworld of sex trafficking, a bond between two sisters unfolds. One sister fights for survival within the exploitation, while the other wages a relentless battle against insurmountable odds to bring her sister home.

Sunday 28th April - 5 pm
Moving and Not Moving (NON-FICTION)
Screen Y

Your Next Breath 22 mins (United Kingdom)
Sculptor Kenny Hunter undertakes Scotland's first Covid memorial, dedicated to frontline NHS workers, for the Royal College of Surgeons. The film offers a poignant nod to the camaraderie and

resilience of frontline healthcare workers during the pandemic which, in our eagerness to move on, must never be forgotten.

Still Here 16 mins (Spain)
In the deserts of Baja California (México), Daria and Teresa are the last two speakers of the Ku'ahl indigenous language. They lament the imminent extinction of their language and culture. But, as long as they converse together, Ku'ahl lives.

It's Not The Critic Who Counts 24 mins (United States)
Bill Bradley, a nine-year veteran of the Arrowhead 135 Ultramarathon, makes his tenth attempt to achieve what has previously eluded him: An official finish. In his way lie sub-zero temperatures, blizzards, the threat of frostbite, and ominously, his inner doubts.

The Sanctuary Seekers of Bradford 30 mins (United Kingdom) ★
This documentary follows the lives of three very different Bradford residents as they each show practical care and kindness to refugees and asylum seekers rebuilding their lives in their city. In doing so, they maintain Bradford's enviable reputation as a city of warmly welcoming sanctuary.

Sunday 28th April - 7 pm
The B'Oscars Awards 2024
Screen Y

The 10th Beeston Film Festival reaches a climax with our traditional end-of-festival awards ceremony.

Join us for sparkling wine, dress to impress, and help us celebrate the great films shown when we present B'Oscars across a wide range of categories including the coveted Best in Festival Award.