BFI FLARE
LONDON LGBTQ+
FILM FESTIVAL

21–31 MARCH 2019
The Pureland Foundation
founded by Bruno Wang, supports charitable endeavours
to promote social, spiritual and emotional wellness.
It also aims to enrich lives through art and music.

The Pureland Series
hosts an innovative programme of regular talks and events,
inviting inspirational speakers and like-minded people to share
their vision of a world grounded in compassion, empowerment,
creativity and spirituality.
The Pureland Foundation, founded by Bruno Wang, supports charitable endeavours to promote social, spiritual and emotional wellness. It also aims to enrich lives through art and music.

purelandfoundation.com   purelandseries.com

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Proud to be the Main Supporter of BFI Flare: London LGBTQ+ Film Festival

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This year we’re celebrating our 45th birthday. Help us continue supporting the LGBT+ communities across the UK.

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TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS AND FUNDERS
FOR MAKING IT ALL POSSIBLE

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WELCOME

FROM THE BFI

BFI Flare: London LGBTQ+ Film Festival offers a vibrant and precious space for debate, compassion, community and empowerment. In a world where many people fear and loathe difference, audiences and filmmakers at BFI Flare defiantly assert that love is a human right. We celebrate sexual and gender diversity – all this, while watching great films from around the globe.

This year’s BFI Flare cover art from creative agency Studio Moross goes to the heart of that celebration of diversity within the LGBTQ+ community. We wanted it to stimulate dialogue, but also be clean and stylish; to be sexy and promote body-positivity – asserting people’s right to love their bodies and be loved, whether or not they conform to gender norms. And we wanted it to celebrate queer culture now and into the future. We’re so excited to share the results.

In addition to the great films and events at BFI Southbank, keep your eyes peeled for BFI Flare Live, an exciting series of interactive live events to be streamed on the BFI’s Facebook channel during the Fest and throughout 2019.

And finally, before we send you off into the beautiful blue yonder of queer cinema, we express our gratitude to our wonderful partners who help make this Fest a very special space. Particular thanks go to Main Supporter Pureland Foundation, who share our belief that great power comes from coming together to celebrate creativity, compassion and diversity.

Tricia Tuttle, BFI Festivals, Artistic Director
Amanda Nevill, BFI Chief Executive

FROM THE BFI FLARE PROGRAMMERS

Every year we endeavour to curate a Festival that speaks to anyone and everyone who occupies a space under the LGBTQ+ umbrella. As we embark on our tireless search for the best in contemporary queer cinema, we are constantly surprised and encouraged by the work we discover. This is a fruitful time for queer representation on screen, something which will become clear as you browse through these pages, encountering stories with the potential to inspire joy and sadness, courage and action.

Still, as we seek out work for the Festival, we inevitably find that while some groups are served in abundance, others remain, shall we say, cinematically undernourished. One of the many exciting aspects of this year’s BFI Flare is seeing some of those under-represented communities find their voices on the big screen. Intersex identities are explored in documentaries such as No Box for Me. An Intersex Story and A Normal Girl, as well as the ground-breaking short Ponyboi, the first intersex narrative film made by an intersex artist. The seldom discussed subject of asexuality is addressed in the charming short Infinite While It Lasts, hopefully a sign of more asexual stories to come. Meanwhile, films like JT LeRoy, Two in the Bush: A Love Story and Splinters (to name a few) place bisexuality very much at their centre. For too long bisexuals have been given the celluloid cold-shoulder, but this year it looks like the tables might be turning. And if you ask us, that’s just brilliant. With a capital B.

Jay Bernard, Michael Blyth, Zorian Clayton, Brian Robinson, Emma Smart, Festival Programmers

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Postcards from London
Since receiving a licence to hold civil ceremonies in 2011, No.11 Cavendish Square has quickly established itself as one of London’s most sought after wedding venues.

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VITA & VIRGINIA


Gemma Arterton and Elizabeth Debicki vividly bring to life the passionate affair that inspired one of the 20th century’s greatest literary works in Chanya Button’s exquisite sophomore feature.

It’s 1922, socialite and novelist Vita Sackville-West (a vibrant Gemma Arterton) has set her sights on befriending the writer Virginia Woolf (a pitch perfect Elizabeth Debicki), hoping she can learn how to develop her own writing style and be taken seriously by the literary establishment. But from the moment Vita lays eyes on the sensual movements of a dancing Virginia at one of the Bloomsbury Group’s legendary parties, it’s clear there is more to Vita’s intent than simple friendship. An ardent and blatant seduction begins. Vita makes impulsive gestures to the taciturn and resistant Virginia, her impassioned words finally breaking through Woolf’s defences, which find the acclaimed author giving in to previously unknown desires.

But their love, even in this bohemian, polyamorous world, is far from simple. With familial pressures mounting on all sides for both to abandon their affair, it is Virginia who makes the biggest declaration, translating her feelings for Vita into her most celebrated novel, Orlando, ensuring their iconic relationship would be remembered for all time. Chanya Button (Burn, Burn, Burn) co-wrote the script with Eileen Atkins (who adapts her own stage play, based on the lovers’ letters) and has crafted a beautiful romance featuring two powerful performances, with scenes that crackle with tension and the longing that develops within an all-consuming love affair. ES
JT LEROY

Truth really is wilder than fiction in this captivating retelling of one of the literary world’s most infamous hoaxes.

Having opened the Festival back in 2015 with his striking debut I Am Michael, we are thrilled to welcome back director Justin Kelly to close this year’s Flare with yet another bracingly inventive queer biopic. When she created the notorious pseudonym JT LeRoy, Brooklyn-born writer Laura Albert (Laura Dern) gave herself free reign to explore a callous world of poverty and sex work of which she herself had no first-hand knowledge. Believing best-selling novels such as Sarah and The Heart Is Deceitful Above All Things to be the fictionalised accounts of a prodigious teenage boy’s traumatic upbringing, readers and critics were soon falling over themselves to commend the talent and bravery of the enigmatic new novelist. But as LeRoy’s novels grow in popularity, so does a public appetite to meet the man himself, leading Albert to convince sister-in-law Savannah Knoop (Kristen Stewart) to make an appearance as her celebrated nom-de-plume. In his thrilling exploration of media scrutiny, gender fluidity and personal authenticity, Kelly has crafted a work as wry and provocative as its unlikely subject matter deserves. And for a film all about the nature of performance, it is only fitting that both Stewart and Dern deliver career-best turns as the duo who deceived a generation.

Join us for the post film reception in BFI Bar & Kitchen. Tickets £10 include canapes & drinks 20:30-22:30 (followed by BFI Flare Closing Night Party 22:30-02:00, BFI Foyer. Drinks at bar prices)

JONATHAN AGASSI SAVED MY LIFE

The private life of a renowned gay porn legend is laid bare in this intimate and insightful documentary.

When a fresh-faced Jonathan Agassi hit the international gay porn scene in the late 2000s, he blew everyone else out of the water. Nothing short of a sensation, Agassi experienced a meteoric rise to fame, quickly becoming one of the most popular and prolific adult superstars in the business. Dividing his time between Berlin and Tel Aviv, Agassi supports his film career with live porn shows and escort work, making claims to have the best job in the world. But Agassi the performer and Agassi the person are two very different entities, and his euphoric professional highs are frequently countered by crushing personal lows. Bolstered by the unconditional support of his mother Anna, Agassi questions the nature of his fame and interrogates his self-destructive tendencies as he searches for a sense of happiness that continues to elude him. In his latest documentary, acclaimed filmmaker Tomer Heymann (Who’s Gonna Love Me Now? BFI Flare 2016) paints a fascinating portrait of a young man wrestling with loneliness, addiction and childhood traumas, and offers a probing, but never damning, insight into an industry that seems to promise so much.
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Ideals not just deals

Integrity is the law of tomorrow

As lawyers we have a role that extends beyond representing our clients’ legal interests. Just over 50 years ago, homosexuality was decriminalised in no small part due to the efforts of our founder Lord Mishcon and the work of the Wolfenden Committee. Today, we are proud to foster a culture which thrives on diversity and inclusion, respect for the individual and the expression of talent.

Mishcon de Reya
It’s business. But it’s personal.
FILMS ABOUT LOVE, ROMANCE AND FRIENDSHIP

THE BLOND ONE
UN RUBIO
Dir-Scr Marco Berger. Prod Lucas Papa, Marco Berger, Gaston Re. With Gaston Re, Alfonso Baron, Malena Irusta. Argentina 2018. 104min. Sales Wildstar Sales

A tentative friendship blossoms into a beautiful bromance in this erotically-charged yet disarmingly sweet-natured offering from BFI Flare favourite Marco Berger. When the reserved Gabo moves in with self-assured ladies’ man Juan, the two are initially hesitant in getting to know each other. But as the bond between them slowly grows, so do the lingering glances and fleeting touches. As time passes, it becomes clear they are powerless to stop the inevitable. But is their connection purely physical, or are Gabo and Juan at risk of falling in deeper than they could ever have imagined? Basking in the virile splendour of his handsome male performers, Marco Berger’s playfully voyeuristic study of fluctuating homosocial desire cranks the sexual tension up to breaking point. Yet beneath The Blond One’s obvious carnal pleasures beats an unapologetically romantic heart, resulting in a film which yields the power to excite and enchant in equal measure. MB

CARMEN & LOLA
CARMEN Y LOLA

Forbidden love in a close-knit Roma community is explored in this authentic and touching feature debut from Arantxa Echevarría. Tomboyish Lola aspires to more in life than the narrow world her father has proscribed for her. Whilst helping out on her parents’ market stall, she meets the more outgoing Carmen and an instant attraction between them leads to friendship then love, despite Carmen being engaged to Lola’s cousin Rafa. In the patriarchal Roma society, theirs is a love that still cannot speak its name and Carmen and Lola must risk everything in order to be together. With nimble storytelling that immerses you into this often hidden world and exciting strong performances from both leads — whose chemistry crackles onscreen — Echevarría has crafted a coming-of-age story that is not to be missed. ES

CONSEQUENCES
POSLEDICE

A teenage tearaway is forced to face up to his actions and confront his burgeoning sexuality, in this provocative Slovenian coming-of-age tale. 17-year-old delinquent Andrej has a serious chip on his shoulder. When his antisocial behaviour lands him in a youth correctional facility, he quickly falls in with a bad crowd, led by volatile and unpredictable Željko. As the two inmates form a tentative friendship, Andrej senses a strong physical attraction blossoming. But are Željko’s feelings real, or is he just using Andrej as a pawn in a far more dangerous game? Driven by a commanding performance from rising star Matej Zižljič, who imbues the conflicted Andrej with a palpable sense of silent longing, Darko Štante’s bravely homoerotic drama resists the familiar traits we might expect from a queer teen narrative, in favour of something more distinctive and seductive. MB

HEARTS
**HEARTS**

**FROM ZERO TO I LOVE YOU**

Dir-Scr Doug Spearman. Prod Alan Koenigsberg, Rendell Bryce, Michael Busza, Eric Daly, Laird McClure, Meade Thayer, Steven Shoreline Entertainment

Peter is on a relationship quest but he’s ended up with a married man again, in this heart-warming drama set in Philadelphia. This delightful relationship comedy begins when Peter bumps into handsome businessman Jack in a gay bar. After a bumpy start, they begin a passionate relationship, in spite of Jack being married. Peter always seems to end up with married men, a situation which brings its own special set of tensions. Gossip, deception, heartbreak and coincidence play their part and eventually Peter is forced to confront the fact that he needs something to change if he’s going to maintain any self-respect. His emotional journey isn’t over as he faces up to the challenges of finding – and keeping – love in the big city that is Philadelphia, in this emotionally engaging drama from director Doug Spearman and actor Darryl Stephens, stars of the popular TV show Abah’s Arc.

**THE HEIRESSES**


Introverted Chela discovers it’s never too late in life to begin something new in this exquisite exploration of the older lesbian experience. The oft-told story of a woman breaking out of her quiet existence and discovering herself is given a unique twist in The Heiresses, a thoughtful and intimate film that resonates long after you’ve left the cinema. We follow timid and scared Chela as she begins to discover her own agency and strength when she’s separated from her partner of 30 years, the outgoing and domineering Chiquita, who has been sent to jail for fraud. At first unable to cope without her, Chela soon finds new purpose, providing a taxi service to local elderly ladies who have no qualms sharing their opinions of how to live life to the fullest. But it’s the feelings that arise when she meets the much younger Angy that finally spurs Chela to change.

**MEN OF HARD SKIN**


A 17-year-old girl’s sexual and political awakening causes fissures in the close relationship she has with her deeply religious father. Benny lives with her widowed father Yehoshua in a small Jewish settlement, near the Old City in Jerusalem. As her father’s religious zeal becomes more extreme, Benny finds herself drifting away from the binds religion impose on her when he meets new girl Yael. A fierce yearning for the more mature, worldly Yael fuels Benny’s rebellion against her father’s teachings and soon the two young women are embarking on an affair that threatens the very foundation of Benny’s life. The agony and ecstasy of first love is vividly brought to life in Tsivia Barkai’s feature debut, offering a fresh perspective to the coming out film and heralding an exciting new cinematic voice.

**PAPI CHULO**


From John Butler, director of Festival favourite Handsome Devil, comes the year’s most delightfully unexpected buddy movie. Struggling to come to terms with the end of his relationship with older Latino boyfriend Carlos, heartbroken TV weatherman Sean suffers a very public breakdown live on the air. Urged by colleagues to take some time away from work, he decides to make some home improvements, spontaneously hiring Ernesto, a straight migrant worker, to help him. As Ernesto quietly goes about his tasks, Sean begins to open up to him, despite an apparent language barrier. Soon it becomes clear that Sean needs far more than just a tradesman, slowly turning Ernesto into a platonic substitute for his lost love. This deeply affecting and effortlessly empathetic charmer is both a wry critique on class and ethnicity, and a tribute to the healing powers of companionship.

**RAFIKI**


Youth beles passion as two young Kenyan women attempt a relationship, despite the illegal of their love. Hotly anticipated at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival, Rafiki tells the story of two young women, Kena and Ziki, who find love despite mounting political and family pressures. Based on Monica Arac de Nyeko’s short story, which won the 2007 Caine Prize for African fiction, director Wanuri Kahiu (Pumzi) adds bold, cutting edge vision to produce one of the freshest Kenyan queer movies to date. Like its equally brilliant predecessor Stories of Our Lives, Rafiki faced a hostile response from the Kenyan government. Initially banned, international pressure and strong resistance from Kahiu herself won the day, and the film was eventually screened on home turf. Kena and Ziki face violence themselves, yet their story unfolds as an utterly contemporary affirmation for LGBTIQ+ people everywhere.

Supported by Mishcon de Reya

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**BEST OF YEAR**

**THE BEST OF YEAR**

**SAT 23 MAR** 15:45 STUDIO

**SAT 30 MAR** 19:30 NFT2

**THE BEST OF YEAR**

**SAT 23 MAR** 15:45 STUDIO

**SAT 30 MAR** 19:30 NFT2

**MEN OF HARD SKIN**

**HOMBRES DE PIEL DURA**


A history of abuse is uncovered in this provocative and challenging coming-of-age drama from Argentina. Teenager Ariel lives a seemingly quiet life with his father and sister on their picturesque farm in a rural part of Buenos Aires. However, unbeknownst to his family, Ariel has been abused for years by Omar, his neighbourhood priest. Having confused his mistreatment for romantic affection, Ariel takes it upon himself to free himself from their relationship and soon embarks on a secret affair with one of the male workers on his father’s property. Meanwhile, as Omar continues to succumb to his urges, he forms a friendship with a much older priest who finds himself wrangling with similar desires. Defiantly unsentimental in its approach, Jose Celestino Campuzano’s richly textured exploration of sex, power and ecclesiastical abuse in Argentine society is a complex and often confrontational piece of work, posing many tough questions without resorting to easy answers. MB

This film contains scenes of sexual abuse, viewer discretion is advised.

**RAFIKI**

**PAPA ADUMA**


A 17-year-old girl’s sexual and political awakening causes fissures in the close relationship she has with her deeply religious father. Benny lives with her widowed father Yehoshua in a small Jewish settlement, near the Old City in Jerusalem. As her father’s religious zeal becomes more extreme, Benny finds herself drifting away from the binds religion impose on her when he meets new girl Yael. A fierce yearning for the more mature, worldly Yael fuels Benny’s rebellion against her father’s teachings and soon the two young women are embarking on an affair that threatens the very foundation of Benny’s life. The agony and ecstasy of first love is vividly brought to life in Tsivia Barkai’s feature debut, offering a fresh perspective to the coming out film and heralding an exciting new cinematic voice.

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**RED COW**

**PAPA ADUMA**


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**PAPI CHULO**


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beguiling exercise in quiet discomfort. 

a deceptively simple premise, transforming it into 

Alves do Ó’s sexy and stylish chamber piece takes 

David? And what secrets does he hold? Evoking 

ever closer, those simmering tensions cannot be 

part, all remains harmonious. But then they receive 

sculpted bodies by the pool, hints of complex past 

luxury villa for a relaxing weekend away. As the 

country, four friends in their 40s gather at a 

Against the sun-kissed vistas of the Portuguese 

Pardal. Portugal 2018. 82min. UK Distributor TLA Releasing 

Dir-Scr Vicente Alves do Ó. Prod Pandora da Cunha Telles, 

Sales Vivo Siendo Cine 

When three straight men go on a soft-porn photo shoot 

Dir André Santos, Marco Leão. Portugal 2018. 27min 

+ SELF-DESTRUCTIVE BOYS 

Dir André Santos, Marco Léão. Portugal 2018. 27min 

When three straight men go on a soft-porn photo shoot 

at a beauty spot, things don’t turn out as expected. 

an unexpected turn. 

uncharted territory when an estate agent’s life takes 

50-year-old Román is comfortably married with a 

wife and daughter. He works for an estate agent and 

seems resigned to the course of his unremarkable 

life when a young male colleague of his daughter’s 

appears on the scene. Although their passion takes 

them both by surprise, they seem well placed to 

make a go of it. But Román soon discovers that a 

young gay man in Buenos Aires may require more 

than one distraction. Majo Staffolani’s mini-feature is 

a joy, offering an authentic portrait of desire without 

restraint and exuding a delicious naturalness in its 

storytelling. BR 

IDEOLOGY: 7/10 

ideology: 8/10 

15-year-old Socrates must learn how to fend for himself in 

São Paulo. Unable to collect her ashes without the 

consent of a legal guardian and with no income to 

cover the rent for his run-down apartment, Socrates 

sees no way out. Landing a small construction job, 

he meets a troubled young man with whom he forms 

an unlikely connection. But as financial pressures 

mount, so do Socrates’ burgeoning feelings, leading 

him to confront the harsh reality of his situation. Co- 

written, produced and acted by young people from 

low-income communities in Brazil, Alex Moratto’s 

directorial debut is a profoundly moving study of 

grief, determination and acceptance, anchored by 

an extraordinary breakthrough performance from 

Christian Malheiros in the title role. MB 

This film contains scenes of sexual assault, viewer discretion 

is advised 

SOCRATES 

Dir Alex Moratto. Prod Fernando Meirelles, Ramin Bahrani, 

Tammy Weiss. Scr Thayná Mantesso, Alex Moratto. 

With Christian Malheiros, Tales Ordakji. Brazil 2018. 71min. 

Sales O2 Play 

A teenage orphan is forced to grow up quickly in 

this captivating story of resilience in the face of 

hardship. 

After his mother’s sudden death, 15-year-old 

Socrates must learn how to fend for himself in 

São Paulo. Unable to collect her ashes without the 

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SPLINTERS 

Dir-Scr-Prod Thom Fitzgerald. Prod Doug Pettigrew. 

With Sofia Banzhaf, Shelley Thompson, Callum Dunphy. 

Canada 2018. 94min. Prod Co Emotion Pictures Inc. 

Thom Fitzgerald (Beetlejuice, Cloudywith) returns to 

BFI Flare with his Canadian drama about a young 
bisexual woman facing up to her rural past. 

Based on an original stage play by Lee-Anne Poole, 

this gentle drama follows Belle (Sofia Banzhaf) as she 

returns home to Nova Scotia, to attend her father’s 

funeral. As a confident lesbian who proudly came out 

in the years before she left home, Belle now faces 

unresolved feelings about her father, along with other 

family issues. She also struggles to reconnect with 

her broadingly disapproving mother and resentful 

brother. The once-thriving apple orchards of the 

family farm are suffering from neglect. And when an 

unexpected male guest arrives for the funeral, Belle’s 

family have to accept that her sexuality may not fit 

neatly into a box. The rural Canadian landscape 

and the intimacies of small-town life intertwine and 

are beautifully portrayed in this tale of grief, identity, 

sexuality and parental relations. BR 

TELLS THE STORY OF A young man who returns to 

his family’s farm to continue the family business. 

But when an unexpected male guest arrives for the 

funeral, Belle’s family have to accept that her 

sexuality may not fit neatly into a box. The rural 

Canadian landscape and the intimacies of small-town 

life intertwine and are beautifully portrayed in this 
tale of grief, identity, sexuality and parental 

relations. BR 

SUNBURN 

Dir-Scr Vicente Alves do Ó. Prod Pandora da Cunha Telles, 

Pablo Iacovo. With Ricardo Pereira, Oceania Basílio, Nuno 
Pardal. Portugal 2018. 82min. UK Distributor TLA Releasing 

Festival rears its ugly head for a group of old friends 

in this captivating psychological drama. 

Against the sun-kissed vistas of the Portuguese 
countryside, four friends in their 40s gather at a 

luxury villa for a relaxing weekend away. As the 

sexually fluid group drink, laugh and tan their 

sculpted bodies by the pool, hints of complex past 

relations threaten to surface. Still, for the most 

part, all remains harmonious. But then they receive 

word that that David is on his way to join them. 

As the arrival of their unwanted extra guest looms 
ever closer, those simmering tensions cannot be 

contained any longer. But who is this mysterious 

David? And what secrets does he keep? Evoking 

the playful spirit of early François Ozon, Vicente 

Alves do Ó’s sexy and stylish chamber piece takes 

decisively simple premise, transforming it into 

genius-like exercise in quiet discomfort. MB 

TELL IT TO THE BEES 

Dir Annabel Jankel. Prod Daisy Atkinson, Nick Hill, Annabel 

Jankel, Nik Bower, Laura Vayssse. Scr Henrietta Ashworth, 

Jessica Ashworth. With Anna Paquin, Holliday Grainger. 

UK 2018. 105min. UK Distributor Vertigo Releasing 

Anna Paquin and Holliday Grainger star as 
	two very different women who fall in love 
	in this 1950s-set romantic drama. 

In this captivating adaptation of Fiona Shaw’s beloved 

novel, Anna Paquin plays Dr Jean Markham, who 

has come home to the small Scottish town she left 

long ago to take over her late father’s practice. 

But not everyone is pleased to see her return. 

Striking up a friendship with Lydia, the mother of one 
of her young patients, Jean marvels at the woman’s 

vivaciousness, unaware it’s a mask Lydia wears 
to hide her rapidly deteriorating home life. When 
she discovers Lydia has been abandoned by her 

husband and is unable to pay the rent, Jean offers 

Lydia a job and a place to stay. Soon their tender 

friendship evolves into a passionate love affair, one 

that puts them in danger from the closed-minded 

community around them. Can they love survive? ES 

This film contains scenes of sexual assault, viewer discretion 
is advised 

TUCKED 

Dir Kyle Raume. Canada 2018. 14min 

Pearle Harbour, dubbed Toronto’s most cerebral drag 
queen, keeps the home fires burning at the oldest queer 
thatre in the world. 

+ BATTLE CRY
HEARTS

14

MON 25 MAR
TUE 26 MAR
TUE 26 MAR
FRI 29 MAR
SAT 30 MAR
SUN 24 MAR

20:30 NFT3 14:00 NFT3 14:10 NFT2 18:30 NFT3 18:20 NFT3 13:40 NFT1

TWO IN THE BUSH: A LOVE STORY
Bisexual Emily discovers the joys of polyamory in this charming romantic comedy from debut director Laura Madalinski.
Life is not turning out how Emily planned it. Her girlfriend is cheating on her, she gets fired and to top it all off she’s homeless because the now ex-girlfriend’s name is on the lease of their apartment. She ends up on her friend Rosa’s sofa, eating cereal in her pyjamas and getting too invested in daytime television. When Rosa insists Emily ‘get back in the game’, she somehow ends up working for a dominatrix and going on so many bad Tinder dates she wonders if she’ll ever find love again. That is, until her boss Nikki begins to show an interest, along with her boss’s partner Ben. Is the secret to a good relationship all in the sharing?

Tickets £3 for the relaxed screening Tue 26 Mar 14:00 NFT3. See p34 for more information on the relaxed screening and Festival access.

WE THE ANIMALS
Sensitive and increasingly different from his hyper-masculine brothers, a young boy faces the truth of his own desires.
Three raucous brothers tear through their childhood in rural New York. Raised by loving but tempestuous parents, they are bonded by a rich private world of in-jokes and rituals. After a serious fight with their father, their mother takes to bed with depression and the boys must learn to fend for themselves. When they are caught raiding an allotment, a seemingly innocent engagement with their neighbour’s grandson reveals the radically different paths the boys will take. Manny and Joel are confident, street smart and eager for manhood. But Jonah, the youngest, must find the courage to manifest the vibrant inner world he retreats to every night. Based on the novel by Justin Torres and with beautiful animated interludes, this is a heartrending account of early self-knowledge.

TWO IN THE BUSH: A LOVE STORY
WE THE ANIMALS

DON’T FORGET...
Delve deeper into this year’s programme at one of our events. You’ll find them marked throughout the programme, prices vary.

LETHAL LESBIANS
A talk about the screen’s most ruthless lesbians and bisexuals. See page 19

OPERATION SPANNER: THEN AND NOW + SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION
Unpacking the reality of the infamous Spanner trial. See page 20

BIG GAY FILM QUIZ
It’s time to get revising for our friendishes Flare film quiz. See page 25

TRANS CREATIVE AT THE MOVIES
This panel event will ‘trans up’ film history by repositioning mainstream movie moments. See page 27

CLUB NIGHTS
Put on your dancing shoes, BFI Flare knows how to throw a party. See page 31

TOTAL RUNNING TIME 84MIN
DANCING WITH A STRANGER
Life is full of possibilities in this amazing array of short films that entertain and enchant every step of the way.

FOXY TROT
Dir Lisa Donato. USA 2018. 15min
Surely ballroom dancing is a safe bet for a couple's date night?

CHILDREN ALIKE
Dir Julia Boström. Sweden 2017. 5min
It's that awkward moment when you meet your brother's new girlfriend and realise you've already met.

THE HALF WALL
Dir Ida Hansen Eldøen. Norway 2018. 7min
When you are saying one thing and your partner is hearing another.

NIGHT OUT
Dir Amelia Hashemi. UK 2018. 10min
A night on the town might be just what Meena needs in order to figure herself out.

MISDIRECTION
Dir Carly Usdin. USA 2018. 14min
A little bit of magic soothes a broken heart.

THE DATE
Dir Emmalie El Fadli. UK 2018. 15min
Can your online chemistry translate into real life when it's time for your first date?

WHEN ABBIE MET EMMY
Dir Kevin Walls. UK 2018. 10min
Young love played out at the movies.

Total running time 76min

THE TIME IS NOW
No matter at what point in your life, coming out can be an intimidating, often overwhelming prospect. This selection of short films sensitively explores the pains and pleasures of accepting the person you truly are.

ISHA
Dir Christopher Manning. UK 2018. 15min
Scared to tell his family the truth, Rahmi struggles to keep his real identity a secret.

BLACK HAT
Dir Sarah Smith. USA 2018. 15min
When a Hasidic man misplaces his hat one night, his two worlds look set to collide.

BREAK ME
Dir Iasis Asanti. Norway 2018. 15min
A young cage fighter must choose between his head and his heart after his father discovers the truth.

OCTOBER BOY
Dir Søren Green. Denmark 2018. 29min
For 14-year-old Thomas, the pressures of being the new kid at school escalate in ways he did not expect.

BLACK LIPS
Dir Adrian Chiarella. Australia 2018. 15min
A chance encounter with a client ignites some long-hidden desires for a lonely abalone tracker.

HIGH TIDE
Dir Claire Zhou. Netherlands 2018. 22min
A recently divorced man forms an unexpected connection with his new landlord.

Total running time 96min
WHAT MAKES A MAN, A MAN?

Life lessons and love lessons are hard to learn, as evinced in these powerful shorts.

MAIN MAN  BестER MANN
Dir Florian Forsch, Germany-Austria 2018. 44min
When Benny, a handsome stranger on a motorbike, helps young Kevin out of a bad situation, he seems like a guardian angel. But Benny is a photographer and might just have ulterior motives.

THRIVE
Dir Jamie Di Spirito, UK 2018. 17min
A sex date on an app leads to deep conversation the morning after.

RUBBER DOLPHIN  ДОЛФИН МEGУМИ
Dir Ori Aharon, Israel 2018. 28min
When a top meets a bottom, they are well-matched. But what if one wants to switch?

MANKIND
Dir Layke Anderson, UK 2018. 13min
An established couple discover their ideas for the future may not match.

Total running time 102min
BODIES
STORIES OF SEX, IDENTITY AND TRANSFORMATION

THE ADVENTURES OF PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT
This is unmissable: the 25th anniversary screening of the Oscar-winning classic, with its glorious soundtrack and outfits to die for.
A generation ago, audiences thrilled for the first time at Stephen Elliott’s glorious tale of two drag queens and their trans leader on an epic journey across the Australian outback. Hugo Weaving, Guy Pearce and Terence Stamp give landmark performances in this tale of rampant fabulousness, as the trio take on small-town audiences during their tour. The soundtrack is a camp queen’s wet dream of disco-era hits and the whole film has an irresistible energy. The jaw-dropping costume creations deservedly won an Academy Award for Best Costume Design, while the script delivers whip-sharp lines in a story that packs a powerful emotional punch. Showgirls, divas, disco queens, along with their fans, friends and followers, come along for a night of celebration with the volume turned up. Dressing-up is encouraged. BR

GIAN T LITTLE ONES
The classic high-school coming-out story gets a smart revision in this sharply perceptive teen drama. For popular student Franky, home life is a bit more complicated than it is for most teenagers. Dealing with the repercussions of his father leaving his mother for another man, the breakdown of his seemingly perfect family has left him with a few emotional issues. School, on the other hand, is great. Not only does Franky have a loving girlfriend, he also has the support of his long-time best friend, the ever reliable Ballas. But Franky’s world is about to get turned upside down once again when an unexpected encounter at his 16th birthday party has some fateful consequences. Teens grappling with their sexualities are familiar fodder for queer cinema, but Keith Behrman sidesteps the expected clichés, offering up something quite special indeed. MB

GIRL
This breathtaking debut feature encompasses the heartache, courage, and punishing training of a ballerina transitioning in her teenage years. Following critical acclaim and multiple awards at its premiere in Cannes last year, there was a backlash. Some members of the trans community felt that the film’s body-focused portrayal of a dancer’s dysmorphia was voyeuristic to the point of offence. Featuring a strenuous physical performance by teenage dancer Victor Polster as Lara, we see the daily toil of intensive rehearsals and the desperate desire to accelerate the sluggish process of transition. One trans voice largely left out of the vitriolic debate was Nora Monsecour’s, whose life story inspired the film. Heavily involved in the production and proud of the final result, she said, “My story is not a fantasy of the cis director. Lara’s story is my story… it has a message of courage, bravery and passion.” ZC

*Followed by a free talk on Trans Representation on Screen Sun 31 Mar 15:30 BFI Reuben Library. Limited capacity.
This film contains graphic scenes of a sexual nature.

**GRETA**
Greta, a trans woman.
Greta traces a turning point in the lives of Daniela, a trans cabaret singer, and her long-standing friend and occasional lover Pedro, a 70-year-old nurse. He watches over her when she is admitted to hospital for severe kidney failure after a boozey life on the nightclub circuit. The hospital tries to admit her into the men’s ward, but this gusyretvalwon’t stand for that. At the same time, Pedro swipes drugs and jacks off willing guys on the ward. But one night, a mysterious criminal captures Pedro’s heart. Helping him escape and embroiled in the subsequent cover up, will this dangerous fly-by-night character be able to satisfy Pedro’s deep-seated fantasy to become Greta Garbo? Gripping and gritty, the casting sees to satisfy Pedro’s deep-seated fantasy to become Greta Garbo?

This film contains graphic scenes of a sexual nature.

**THE GROUND BENEATH MY FEET**

Ghosts from the past threaten to engulf Lola’s tightly controlled present in this taut Austrian thriller.

Life is all about control for business consultant Lola. Jetting between Vienna and the corporations she structures, she manages her personal life with the same ruthless efficiency as her work. Her relationship with boss Elise is a secret, and no one – not even Lola’s lover – knows about Conny, her older sister with mental illness. However, when Conny attempts suicide, Lola is forced to split her focus between work and taking care of her sister. As she does, Lola finds her grip on reality slipping away and all that she’s worked so hard for is threatened. Elements of suspense are deftly woven into this sensitive portrayal of the effects of mental illness, with Valerie Pachner compelling as the torn Lola.

This film contains scenes of suicide. Viewer discretion is advised.

**JOSE**
Although he acquires sexual partners with relative ease, José really wants love and this time, just maybe, he might have found it.
Josi is 19, lives in Guatemala with his mother and is employed to hustle customers at a roadside cafe. The grim realities of inner city life – the struggle to keep body and soul together, along with the perils of petty crime – might drag a lesser man down. But not optimistic and sexually promiscuous José. Then he meets Luis, a construction worker from out of town. The bond they immediately feel suggests to José that, finally, he might have met the one. Winner of the Queer Lion at the Venice Film Festival, this passionate and emotionally engaging story is an affecting tale of desire, but also of rebelling against societal conventions, macho attitudes and the strictures of religion. It’s also a rare portrait of gay life in contemporary Guatemala.

**KNIFE + HEART**
Dir Yann Gonzalez, Cristina Mangione. With Vanessa Parades, Nicolas Maury, Kate Moran. France-Switzerland-Mexico 2018. 102min. UK Distribution MB
If you only see one unashamed slasher movie set in the gay porn industry this year, you had better make sure it’s this one.
From the wickedly twisted mind of visionary filmmaker Yann Gonzalez comes a kinky queer horror parody like no other. Vanessa Paradis plays Anne, a ruthless gay-porn producer working in Paris in 1979. Nursing a serious broken heart following her break-up with girlfriend Lois, Anne launches herself in 1979. Nursing a serious broken heart following her break-up with girlfriend Lois, Anne launches herself into her latest and most ambitious film production. But as shooting gets underway, one of her stars is brutally murdered. Soon it becomes terrifyingly clear that a homicidal maniac is intent on bumping off the cast, one by one. Dripping with style and visual invention, Gonzalez’s libidinous delight comes steeped in playful genre references, owing as much to the opulent cinema of Dario Argento as it does the brash fetishism of William Friedkin’s Cruising.

This film contains strong violence.

**LAST FERRY**
Dir Jaki Bradley. Prod Ramon Torres, Mike Karp, Nadia Zoe, Matthew Silverman. Scr Ramon Torres. With Ramon Torres, Sheldon Best, Myles Clohessy. USA 2018. 86min. Prod Co Emblematic Pictures

A dream vacation to Fire Island turns into a waking nightmare in this nail-biting thriller.
For Joseph, a young lawyer from Manhattan, his first excursion to Fire Island is far from what he had in mind. Looking for a good time, he finds the infamous excursion to Fire Island is far from what he had in mind. Looking for a good time, he finds the infamous island on its off-season, with nary a hot guy in sight. Things start to look up when he meets a handsome stranger, but Joseph’s luck goes from bad to worse when his furtive lover drugs and robs him. Drifting into unconsciousness, Joseph suddenly witnesses a murder. Waking to find himself in the care of a seemingly charitable local named Cameron, Joseph seems safe from harm. But as he should know by now, nothing is quite what it seems. Like Stranger by the Lake transposed to the luxurious locales of the failed gay resort, this deliciously playful mystery will keep you guessing until the very end.

This film contains scenes of strong violence.

**LEITIS IN WAITING**
Dir Prod Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson, Hinalalemoa Wong-Kalu. With Joey Mataele, Eva Baron. Tonga-USA 2018. 72min. Prod Co Qwaves
Tonga is one of the few sovereign nations in Polynesia that avoided colonisation, keeping its traditional culture. This meant a broad acceptance of queerness, including ‘leitis’ – third-gendered people whose role as servants and workers is nonetheless supported by traditional institutions, including the country’s monarchy. The leitis at the heart of this story are a generation that increasingly find themselves oppressed by binary notions of male and female, a shift intensified by western-style evangelical churches.Posing a lucid insight into a small but proud nation – and an even smaller but equally splendid island – Tonga.

The precarious role of queer people in traditional Tongan society is threatened by a rising tide of neo-colonial intolerance.

This film contains graphic scenes of strong violence.
LETHAL LESBIANS

The queer female of the species is far deadlier than the male in this talk about the screen's most ruthless lesbians and bisexuals.

Ever since the earliest days of silent cinema, when the wicked Lulu in Pandora’s Box danced cheek to cheek with a lesbian countless, the big and small screen has been fascinated – some might say obsessed – with queer women who kill, kidnap, maim, blackmail or torture. (In some cases, all of the above.) Moving from 1990s psycho dyke dramas like Basic Instinct, which caused outrage in the queer community, to more recent and celebrated portrayals in Lizzie and Killing Eve, this feature debut by writer and graphic novelist Alison Glock-Cooper takes a not-unintentionally serious look at the deadly onscreen stereotypes and asks that ever important question: Why do we love them so much? ES

c80min total

MAN MADE

Dir-Prod T Cooper. Scr T Cooper, Alison Glock-Cooper. USA 2018, 90min. Sales The Film Collaborative

An uplifting and revelatory debut documentary follows four bronzed and buffed contestants at the Trans FitCon.

Bagging numerous awards on the festival circuit, this feature debut by writer and graphic novelist T Cooper will have you rooting for the contestants from the word posel. Tracking four pumped and proud bodybuilders at different stages in their transformation, this documentary unvels the supportive network of men preparing for the annual FitCon. Originating in 2014, the world’s first trans fitness competition started in the southern state of Georgia, with the aim of unting the community. From pre-hormone novices to stealth heavyweight hunks who compete year-round against cisgendered men, this diverse celebration of trans-masculine bodies is respectfully shot through the eye of a trans director who noted that, ‘For some of these guys, I think bodybuilding literally saved their lives’. It’s affirming, heart-warming that, ‘For some of these guys, I think bodybuilding shot through the eye of a trans director who noted that the celebration of trans-masculine bodies is respectfully

LAUNCH EVE

THU 28 MAR
19:15 NFT3

BEST OF YEAR

LIZZIE


UK Distribution Bulldog Film Distribution

Chloé Sevigny and Kristen Stewart mesmerise as secret lovers in this bloody reteiling of the infamous murder case that shocked a nation. It’s 1862 and in the sleepy town of Fall River, Massachusetts, Lizzie Borden already has a reputation as a bit of a misfit. And that’s before she’s accused of brutally murdering her father and stepmother with an axe. Unmarried, she rallies against her overbearing father’s rule and forthrightly demands to be involved with matters relating to the family’s vast fortune. When new maid Bridget joins the household, Lizzie’s interests are piqued. A forbidden friendship soon becomes forbidden love, and the secrets that are uncovered in the dark gloomy Borden mansion will have dire consequences for everyone involved. A sharp and hypnotic thriller with a career-best performance from Sevigny in the lead, Lizzie will leave you breathless. ES

180min total

NEVRLAND


A teenager is on a journey to discover himself in a coming-of-age tale that blends in horror to produce a film that isn’t for the faint-hearted. This bold and challenging film centres on handsome 17-year-old Jakob (Simon Frühwirth), a shy boy who works at a pig processing plant by day and by night is a webcam obsessive. When he meets up with 26-year-old webcam pal Kristjan, events soon escalate out of control, like a bad trip, as a haunting techno soundtrack carries the action forward to its climax. Gregor Schmidinger’s drama has a striking visual style and a fearless sense of psychedelic surrealism, echoing films like Suspiria. Particularly arresting are sex scenes intercut with images of pig carcasses being butchered. Balanced somewhere between a psychological thriller and a portrait of deep anxiety, Nevralnd is an altogether unforgettable experience. ES

This film contains flashing images.

NIGHT COMES ON


After being released from prison, a young African American woman goes in search of her father.

After days wandering the streets with no post-carceral support besides the dubious company of older men, Angel visits her younger sister Abby, a bright, straight-taking pre-teen who struggles with being in foster care. The unspeakable circumstances that tore their family apart make being together incredibly difficult. Together, they gather enough money to get the bus to their father’s new place, but the tension between them is palpable. Angel’s miscrituality is matched by Abby’s sincerity and she must decide whether she will heal her wounds or succumb to the pain of her circumstances. Brooding, atmospheric and reticent, Night Comes On is a touching two-hander that portrays one young woman’s rage with quiet compassion. ES

+ THE ORPHAN

Dir Carolina Markowicz. Brazil 2018, 15min

Following his rejection by multiple foster parents, Jonathas hopes this new couple is “the one.”
NO BOX FOR ME. AN INTERSEX STORY. IN DEVE, IN’ADAM.
UNE HISTOIRE INTERSEXE.


A burgeoning movement aims to deconstruct intersex identities and stop the practice of forced surgical interventions.

Statistics vary, but up to 2% of the population may be born with a gender variance. Yet intersex people have been largely confined to the shadows until now. This documentary focuses on a growing network of activists, determined to shift the medical community away from advising parents that a child’s future happiness depends on conforming genitals to binary norms. These brave voices can help to break down constrictive barriers of gender understanding for all. 2C

+ PONYBOI

Dir River Gallo, Sadé Clacken Joseph. USA 2019. 19min

This remarkable short is a film first – a narrative featurette directed by and starring an out intersex person.

+ A NORMAL GIRL

Dir Aubree Bernier-Clarke. USA 2019. 14min

Pidgeon Pagonis, a lead activist and educator from the intersex community, crusades for body autonomy and the freedom to choose one’s own path.

OPERATION SPANNER: THEN AND NOW

False histories are reconsidered in this fascinating screening and discussion event.

In the late 1980s, a nationwide police investigation into gay sadomasochism swept scores of men into its net. The infamous Operation Spanner cost upwards of £2 million, and culminated in the prosecution of 16 men for their participation in consensual SM sex sessions. In a high-profile show trial, they were convicted of assault and other violent offences, while their consent to the acts in question was deemed ‘immaterial’. 30 years on, we explore how public understanding of the case and our attitudes to SM have evolved. A screening of two films about Spanner will be followed by an in-person discussion.

+ LASTING MARKS

Dir Charlie Lyne. UK 2018. 14min

+ BLUE BOYS

Dir Stuart Marshall. UK 1992. 25min

Total running time c90min

OPERATION SPANNER: SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION

Further unpacking the reality of the infamous Spanner trial.

Following our screening and discussion, please join us in the BFI Reuben Library for a free talk in which Lasting Marks director Charlie Lyne will present two years of research into the Spanner trial, and discuss the difficulties of unpicking a case beset with misinformation and misunderstanding. How can we go about freeing Operation Spanner from its own contorted legend?

‘Separating Fact From Fiction’ is a free event that will be accessible on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that space for this session is limited.

Total running time c90min

SHELTER: FAREWELL TO EDEN


Trans migrant Pepsi guards her anonymity, but shares the reality of life on the road as an asylum seeker and citizen of the world.

Beginning life in the Philippines, in the minority Muslim population known as the Moro, Pepsi recounts her early experiences with the Islamic Liberation Front, before running away to hide her emerging gay identity, before eventually transitioning. Ending up in Libya as a nurse during the final decade of Gaddafi’s rule, she subsequently sought asylum in Italy. Focusing on the in-between places, the film reveals a migratory life on foot, sleeping under bridges and in tented communities, finding sustenance in forests and crossing mountain passes at night. ‘You have to flow,’ says Pepsi. ‘You have to follow the wave because if you don’t, you die’. Her life on paper reads like a rollercoaster of adversity, yet her wisdom and resilience give her a philosophical perspective to cope against the injustices of inequality. 2C

THE SILK AND THE FLAME


Jordan Schiele follows a closeted gay man as he negotiates traditional Chinese family life with his two disabled parents.

Yao is 40, single and on his way home for Lunar New Year. His paralysed father has taken a vow of silence. His fiery mother is frustrated by her limited circumstances and his father’s helplessness is the source of much anxiety. Ever dutiful, Yao politely nods as his family implores him to marry a pretty woman. But behind the camera is a beautiful male foreigner whose presence speaks volumes about his true passion. Shot in crisp black and white, The Silk and the Flame is an intimate look at modern China, where Confucian values remain the bedrock of family life.

+ FINDING HOME: BRANDON

Dir Abraham N’Bo. Troon. USA 2017. 18min

Trump’s America poses innumerable problems for a gay Chinese migrant.
GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN
It doesn’t matter how old you are, life is for living, as these witty and joyous short documentaries attest to.

A GREAT RIDE
Dir Deborah Craig, Veronica Duport Deliz. USA 2018. 33min
Meet the older lesbians who aren’t aging disgracefully as much as they are independently.

INVISIBLE WOMEN
Dir Alice Smith. UK 2018. 25min
The story of the lesbian pioneers who formed the Northern branch of the GLF and put women’s rights on the agenda.

MONICA – LOOSE ON A CRUISE
Dir Angie West, Veronica McKenzie. UK 2018. 13min
Journey with the effervescent Monica as she goes on a lesbian cruise for the first time.

Total running time 71min

HOOK UPS AND DOWNS
Some connections take years to establish, others can be built in just a matter of hours. This stunning collection of shorts explore those brief encounters which change the way we think, for better or worse.

MARCO
Dir Saleem Haddad. UK 2018. 22min
A masseur forges an unforeseen bond with one of his clients.

PARKING
Dir Ahmad Seyfipour. Iran 2018. 9min
Two men find their clandestine meeting unexpectedly interrupted, with distressing results.

RENOVATION
Dir Fabio Leal. Brazil 2018. 15min
As he moves from one casual engagement to the next, Francisco struggles with his body image.

ESTIGMA
Dir David Velduque. Spain 2018. 15min
A Friday night hook-up turns into something far more disturbing for an apprehensive young man.

FUN ONLY
Dir Lukas Revzin. UK 2018. 9min
Growing tired with emotionless digital encounters, Matt yearns for something more substantial.

ROOMMATE
Dir Nguyen Le Hoang Viet. Vietnam 2018. 25min
Having booked a female companion for the night, a reserved businessman is surprised when a young man turns up instead.

INFINITE WHILE IT LASTS
Dir Akira Kamiki. Brazil 2019. 18min
Sparks fly between Danny and Seiji when they meet at a party, but will the truth be too much for the aspiring lovers?

Total running time 113min
LIFE IN TRANSIT

Travelling through a rich slice of life, the films explore avenues of gender diversity, from determined paths to unexpected twists and turns. ZC

PLEASE MIND THE GAP
Dir Mitali Trivedi, Gagandeep Singh. India 2018. 20min
A charismatic young trans guy finds community and navigates gendered space on the Delhi metro.

FIRST DAY
Dir Julie Kalceff. Australia 2017. 18min
This promising debut from 11-year-old trans actor Evie McDonald sees her character switching schools and standing up to bullies.

I ÉG
Dir Vala Omarsdottir, Hallfridur Thora Tryggvadottir. Iceland-Lithuania 2018. 15min
An evocative tale of coming out and clothing on the way to the gender clinic.

FINDING HOME
Dir Abraham ‘AB’ Troen. USA 2017. 24min
Stacy recounts her escape from transphobia in El Salvador to a new life in Los Angeles.

SILVIA IN THE WAVES
Dir Giovana Olmos. Canada 2017. 13min
A teenage son honours his trans parent’s wishes as they journey into the afterlife.

THE THIRD MOVEMENT
Dir Josephine Anderson. Canada 2017. 11min
Renowned classical pianist Sara Davis Buechner ponders on the wonders of Beethoven and her post-transition comeback.

Total running time 101min
THE WAY THINGS ARE
UK SHORTS PROGRAMME
The most exciting home-grown talent is showcased in this wide-ranging collection of short films, exploring the queer experience in its myriad forms. MB

THE FOREIGNER  Dir Ben Allen. UK 2019. 12min
Graham has fled to the UK in search of asylum, but will he be granted the chance to start a new life?

ANEMONE  Dir Amrou Al-Kadhi. UK 2018. 18min
A second-generation teen searches for a way to express their non-binary identity.

DIVA  Dir Adam Csoka Keller. UK 2018. 6min
A transcendent fusion of queer surrealism and baroque opera.

LAND’S END  Dir Ben Strebel. UK 2018. 20min
A young man develops a fixation on an ex-con and together they embark on a journey.

NONE OF THE ABOVE  Dir Siri Rodnes. UK 2018. 16min
Cassie runs into trouble when she decides to document her dating life on her personal vlog.

CRASHING WAVES  Dir Emma Gilbertson. UK 2017. 4min
Against the backdrop of a high-rise housing estate, two young men connect.

LADIES DAY  Dir Abena Taylor-Smith. UK 2018. 8min
Whilst at the hair salon, Amma wonders if it is time for her to finally speak up.

LISTEN  Dir Jake Graf. UK 2018. 5min
A group of trans children discuss what it means for them to live an authentic life.

JAS  Dir Alice Trueman. UK 2018. 10min
In a quiet seaside town, a British-Iranian teen looks for a means to escape.

BATTY BOY  Dir Blain Ho-shing, Dior Clarke. UK 2018. 10min
Struggling with the threat of homophobia, a young black gay man searches for a place of acceptance.

Total running time 109min
Contains scenes of suicide, viewer discretion is advised
People on effective HIV treatment CANNOT pass on the virus

www.tht.org.uk/cantpassiton

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It's time to get revising: the Big Gay Film Quiz is back!

For the fourth year running, BFI Flare is delighted to present the biggest and best queer film quiz there is. If you’ve tested your wits against our cunning quizmaster before, you’ll have some idea of what to expect. But don’t worry if this is your first time, there is no need to be nervous. You’ll find something for everyone, whether you are the walking IMDb of queer cinema or a cautious novice. Teams are comprised of a maximum of four members, so sign up as a ready formed quartet, or you can buy an individual ticket and team up with some fellow film buffs on the night – everyone is welcome. There are prizes to be won and fun to be had. But make sure you book early as space is limited. Good luck!

Total event time c180min

Tickets £5 per person. See bfi.org.uk/flare for further details

**BIG GAY FILM QUIZ**

**CALL HER GANDA**

Dir-Prod-Scr PJ Raval. With Naomi Fontanos, Julita Laude, Virginia Laccra Suarez. USA 2018. 93min.

Sales Cargo Film & Releasing

Years of imperial rule come to a head in this challenging and moving documentary. PJ Raval’s powerful film traces the life and fate of Jennifer Laude, a Filipino transwoman whose lifeless body was found in a hotel room. At the front of the movement crying out for justice are Jennifer’s mother Julita Laude, who works tirelessly on the case, the persistent American journalist Meredith Talusan and activist-attorney Virgie Suarez. Their aim: to ensure that the US marine responsible for Laude’s death is tried and convicted on Filipino soil. If he isn’t, American laws could potentially set him free, despite his crimes. Together, Laude, Talusan and Suarez expose double standards that will make your blood boil, all the while calling into question a colonial legacy that still values some lives more than others. JB

Featuring scenes of death – viewer discretion advised

**CASSANDRO, THE EXOTICO!**


Sales Urban Distribution International

Marie Losier captures a beautiful 16mm portrait of an ageing but passionate queer lucha libre wrestler. Cassandro is a lucha libre (professional) wrestler known for outrageous gender presentation and equally spectacular wrestling moves. Shot on 16mm over the course of five years, Losier’s film follows a champion coming to terms with his body. We see the injuries and ice plunges, which contrast with the flamboyant masks and aerial manoeuvres. Even in his 40s, Cassandro catapults himself at opponents from great heights. But we also see him plunge to troubling depths, as his past struggles with addiction and abuse continue to haunt him. Losier locates his subject in Mexico’s cultural traditions, locating him firmly within the rich desert landscape and indigenous practices that both haunt and motivate his art. JB

**+ CARLITO SE VA PARA SIEMPRE**

Dir Quentin Lazzarotto. France-Peru-Spain 2018. 8min

A young man makes the big decision to leave his village in order to be united with his lover.
MINDS

DEEP IN VOGUE
Dir Amy Watson, Dennis Keighron-Foster. Prod Amy Watson, Dennis Keighron-Foster, Darren Pritchard. UK 2018. 61min. Prod Co Spaniels In Heels

Explore the power of dance in an intoxicating portrait of a club scene in the heart of Manchester. Manchester’s Vogue ball scene is revealed in a compelling documentary that explores notions of love, community and creativity, as preparations are underway for an upcoming competition. This is a celebration of the queer heroes of this scene, which takes its inspiration from the US model of competing Houses that were developed in the black, gay ballrooms of 1980s New York. And as we hear the life stories of the key players, legendary MC Rikki Beadle-Blair works the runway like no one else.

THE GOSPEL OF EUREKA
Dir José Miguel Jiménez. Ireland-Sweden 2017. 42min

When a Swedish football team incorporate contemporary dance into their training regime, they find that its rigour and discipline transforms them as a single functioning unit. This moving documentary reveals how the challenge to traditional notions of masculinity and femininity can lift even the heaviest of burdens.

HALSTON
Dir-Prod Jerry Tartaglia. With Jack Smith, Mario Montez, Beverly Grant. USA 2018. 88min. Sales Light Cone

An experimental film essay springing out of a 20-year project to restore and preserve Jack Smith’s body of work. Taking headquarters as its home in this homage to the life and work of the radical artist and underground filmmaker Jack Smith, the only voice we hear is Smith’s – archive recordings of him waxing lyrical on various topics are juxtaposed against footage from his large body of experimental films from the 1960s and later theatre work. Encompassing 21 chapters, with titles like ‘Capitalism’, ‘Glitter’ and ‘Injustice’, this beautifully crafted film was put together by another pioneer of the time, Jerry Tartaglia. One of the first to write about queer cinema and the avant-garde, Tartaglia has directed non-narrative cinema for four decades. Collaborating with film historian J Hoberman and performance artist Penny Arcade, he helped rescue Smith’s archive from near destruction after his death in 1989 and has lovingly restored it.

The lingering anger and shame, which continues to affect queer people, is exposed in this haunting portrait of a club scene in the heart of Manchester. explores notions of love, community and creativity, as preparations are underway for an upcoming competition. This is a celebration of the queer heroes of this scene, which takes its inspiration from the US model of competing Houses that were developed in the black, gay ballrooms of 1980s New York. And as we hear the life stories of the key players, legendary MC Rikki Beadle-Blair works the runway like no one else.

THE FRUIT MACHINE

A rich and compelling historical account which exposes more than four decades of governmental criminalisation of LGBTQ+ members of the Canadian armed forces.

ESCAPE FROM RENTED ISLAND: THE LOST PARADISE OF JACK SMITH
Dir-Prod Jerry Tartaglia. With  Jack Smith, Mario Montez, Beverly Grant. USA 2018. 88min. Sales Light Cone

'The last word on 20th century underground cinema', said Village Voice about Jack Smith, the enigmatic 60s experimental filmmaker. With the release of 1969’s ‘Flaming Creatures’, Smith took punk’s basic ideas and took it to new levels. With his avant-garde cinema, Smith elevated drag, burlesque and cabaret to new heights. Smith’s legacy has been celebrated by many directors and artists but never explored in such depth. This is a journey through Smith’s complex and often contradictory life, accompanied by context from historians, writers and insiders. Tartaglia has directed non-narrative cinema for four decades. Collaborating with film historian J Hoberman and performance artist Penny Arcade, he helped rescue Smith’s archive from near destruction after his death in 1989 and has lovingly restored it.

THE GOSPEL OF EUREKA
Dir Michael Palmieri, Donal Mosher. Prod Charlotte Cook. USA 2018. 75min. Sales Cinetic Media

A sprawling cast of characters and a kaleidoscopic exploration of religious, social and political issues is at the heart of this powerful and inspiring film. The narrative also serves as a reminder of the power of community and the importance of standing up for what you believe in.

FRONTIER: CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE BIBLE BELT
Dir Lis Bartlett. Prod Lis Bartlett, Nathan Santall. SCR Lis Bartlett, James Cude. USA 2018. 75min. Prod Co Light in the Water LLC

The West Hollywood Swim team started in 1982, but it was only after the anti-gay hysteria ran wild in the 1980s that the team gained the attention it deserved. This is the story of how a small group of swimmers found the strength to push back against the forces of homophobia and stand up for their rights. The film is a testament to the power of community and the importance of never giving up.

LIGHT IN THE WATER
Dir Lis Bartlett. Prod Lis Bartlett, Nathan Santall. SCR Lis Bartlett, James Cude. USA 2018. 75min. Prod Co Light in the Water LLC

A powerful and moving documentary that explores the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ athletes in the armed forces. The film highlights how the military’s systematic attempts to purge its armed services of queers following the anti-gay hysteria that ran wild in the 1980s. It is a story of resilience and courage, and a reminder of the power of community.
FROM THE ARCHIVES

TONGUES UNTIED

Dir-Prod Marlon T Riggs. With Marlon T Riggs, Kerrigian Black, Blacklam, USA 1985. 56min. Sales Frameline Distribution

Affirmations

AFRIRAMATrone

AFFIRMATIONS

THE SHORT FILMS OF MARLON RIGGS

Marlon Riggs was a legendary black gay filmmaker whose poetic style pulled no punches in examining the relationship between race, gender, sexuality, capitalism and the media. This is a rare opportunity to see all three of his early short films.

ANTHEM

An experimental video music portraying a vibrant, exciting and defiant community of black gay men.

AFFIRMATIONS

As Marlon T Riggs. USA 1991. 9min

Featuring the poetry of Essex Hemphill, this is a beautiful short film exploring the dreams, desires and fantasies of black gay men.

NON, JE NE REGRETTE RIEN

Dir Marlon T Riggs. USA 1992. 38min

A timely and illuminating documentary examining the impact of HIV and AIDS. There's fierce and fascinating insight at every turn, and a classic example of Riggs's formally distinctive style.

This screening will be followed by a discussion

Total running time c90min

WED 27 MAR 19:10 NFT3

FRI 29 MAR 16:00 NFT3

SAT 30 MAR 11:40 STUDIO

Making Montgomery Clift

Dir-Prod Robert Clift, Hillary Demmon. With Montgomery Clift, Brooks Clift, Ethel 'Sunny' Clift. USA 2018. 88min. Sales The Film Collaborative

Travelling through an extensive family archive, a nephew of the Hollywood star seeks to find the real Monty.

An absolute treat for fans of classical Hollywood and its misunderstood poster boy, Clift's brother was a documentarian's dream - his hobby was to collect everything, from taped phone conversations and home video to news clippings. The resulting documentary is packed with a wealth of clips featuring Clift's greatest performances, alongside previously unseen footage and illuminating interviews. The film is also a much broader expose of the history of right control over Hollywood stars and the way journalists portray them. Dogged by the nauseatingly repetitive narrative of being a tragic closeted addict, the actor's lovers, friends and family tell a different story of acceptance, lusty exuberance and fierce independence. Debunking the damage caused by two controversial biographies, Making Montgomery Clift presents the bigger picture that old Hollywood didn't want you to see.

MODR 14:15 NFT3

WED 27 MAR 18:15 NFT3

MON 25 MAR 18:15 NFT3

MAPPLETHORPE

Dir- Prod Eliza Dushku, Onli Timonner, Nate Dushku, Richard J Bosner. Sor Onli Timonner. Mikko Alanne. With Matt Smith, Marianne Rendón, John Benjamin Hickey. USA 2018. 95min. Sales The Exchange

Matt Smith stars as legendary photographer Robert Mapplethorpe in this full-frontal homage to the devilish bad boy, whose sex life fueled his career. Smith is mesmerising as Mapplethorpe in this no-holds-barred exploration of the sensational career of a New Yorker who became one of the world's most feted photographers. The film follows him from his early days as the companion of Patti Smith, living at the Chelsea Hotel, to becoming the toast of the town and the bane of conservative America. Like his photographs, which brought gay, leather-fetish sex and bondage from out of the shadows, Mapplethorpe was brave, bold and brazen. But his art was steeped in his own reality and director Onli Timonner gives a real sense of the contradictions of a life lived on the edge, and how a fearless photographer used his passion to celebrate sex and sexuality as never before.

This film contains explicit images – viewer discretion advised

TOTAL running time c90min

SUN 31 MAR 15:50 NFT3

TRANS CREATIVE AT THE MOVIES

Historically starved of content at the cinema, this panel event will ‘trans up’ film history by repositioning mainstream movie moments.

Since the very first flickering of the moving image on screen, cinema’s seductive power has eraptured the globe. But with a history of marginalisation and misrepresentation, where are trans and non-binary voices in the glitzy world of movieland? Challenging the notion that you can’t be yourself unless you can see yourself, this guest panel featuring Kate O’Donnel and La John Joseph will perform a lively ‘transing up’ of the mainstream. Using a gender-queer eye to pluck out past examples of characters and plotlines, we will reveal trans readings regardless of the gender of the original cast and explore a series of clips to flip perspectives, we seek to close the gap between the ‘us and them’ narrative and reclaim some space in cis-led cinematic history. You’ll never see these movie classics the same way again!

MON 25 MAR 11:40 STUDIO

WED 27 MAR 15:10 NFT3

SAT 30 MAR 12:00 NFT3

TOTAL running time c90min

EVENT

TRANS MILITARY

Exploring the flabbergasting fact that the military is the largest employer of trans people in the US, this film examines the appeal of such a regimented, binary system. Forced to conform to strict hair lengths and uniforms matching gender assigned at birth, one particularly muscly trans male soldier signs up for multiple tours in Afghanistan as overseas he can wear male uniforms and sport a buzz cut. The ridiculousness of his official skirt uniform back home is one of the primary examples convincing the top brass to reconsider the rules. For every step forward there are two steps back, as evinced by the recent Supreme Court decision on the issue. Interviewees include trans activists, whose sincerity and patriotism are balanced with refreshingly critical perspectives on their country’s political shift to the right.

Dir Gabriel Silverman, Fiona Dawson. Prod Jamie Coughlin, Gabriel Silverman. USA 2018. 92min. Sales The Film Collaborative

A glimpse into the lives of four soldiers who risk dismissal or demotion to fight for transgender rights in the US armed forces.

WED 27 MAR 18:15 NFT3

SAT 30 MAR 12:00 NFT3

2019's international celebration of Marlon Riggs began in February with the film series ‘Race, Sex & Cinema: The World of Marlon Riggs’ at Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), organised by Ashley Clark in collaboration with longtime Riggs associate Vivian Malone.

Onli Timonner

onli@thenewonli.com

www.thenewonli.com

917.374.9565

MINDS

WED 27 MAR
20:40 NFT2

FRI 29 MAR
18:10 STUDIO

SAT 30 MAR
14:00 STUDIO

SAT 23 MAR
20:50 NFT3

SUN 24 MAR
14:10 STUDIO

SAT 23 MAR
14:05 NFT2

MON 25 MAR
18:40 STUDIO

These bold shorts show the courage, intelligence and heart of those who have found a way to rise above their circumstances.

DRESSED FOR PLEASURE
JE FAIS OÙ TU ME DIS
Dir Marie de Maricourt. Switzerland 2017. 17min
A story of ordinary people and the television shows that they love so much they mounted massive campaigns to save them.

You don’t have to be a television fanatic to enjoy Michael Sparaga’s absorbing documentary about the cutthroat world of network TV, the shows that have to fight to stay on the air and the fans that rally the support for their renewal. There’s the fabulously named Bjo Trimble who mounted the first letter writing campaign to save Star Trek back in the 1960s, right up to campaigning in the modern age with Kaily Russell, who’s using the internet to rally support for Person of Interest, a show that has helped her accept her sexuality and come out to friends and family. United We Fan is a heartfelt tribute to super fans, queer and straight, the whole world over. ES

VISION PORTRAITS
Dir-Scr Rodney Evans. Prod Rodney Evans, Rob Wunder.
With Rodney Evans, John Dugdale, Kayla Hamilton.
Canada-Germany-USA 2018. 78min. Sales The Film Collaborative
Gay filmmaker Rodney Evans explores his loss of sight and discovers artists who are blind or visually impaired, in a film of ravishing pleasures.

Hot from its World Premiere at this year’s SXSW Film Festival, Vision Portraits is the response of black, gay filmmaker Evans (Brother to Brother) to his deteriorating eyesight. In this deeply personal documentary, he explores what it means to be a blind or visually impaired creative artist. It’s a celebration of the possibilities of art created by a photographer (John Dugdale), dancer (Kayla Hamilton), writer (Ryan Knighton) and the filmmaker himself, who each experience varying degrees of visual impairment. Using archive footage alongside new interviews and recordings of the artists at work, Evans has created a tantalising meditation on blindness and creativity, a sensual work that opens our minds to new possibilities. BR

CONCERN FOR WELFARE
Dir Fadia Abboud. Australia 2018. 12min
An intense day at work has much to teach a policewoman dealing with controlling relatives.

POOL PISCINA
Dir Leandro Goddinho. Brazil 2016. 29min
A young lesbian finds her grandmother’s eccentric WWII lover living beneath a swimming pool.

MASKS
Dir Mahaliyah Ayla O. USA 2018. 22min
Two women overcome hatred and a hostile family to save their relationship.

Total running time 107min

This programme contains sexually explicit scenes, viewer discretion is advised

WILDFIRE
Dir Bretten Hanam. Canada 2018. 12min
A group of young people run away from their aggressive father to forge better lives for themselves.

CONCERN FOR WELFARE
Dir Fadia Abboud. Australia 2018. 12min
An intense day at work has much to teach a policewoman dealing with controlling relatives.

UNITED WE FAN
Dir Michael Sparaga. Prod Michael Sparaga, Joel Roff.
With Amy Acker, Zachary Levi, Nichelle Nichols, Canada 2018. 87min. Prod Co Pancakes and Eggs Productions
A story of ordinary people and the television shows that they love so much they mounted massive campaigns to save them.

You don’t have to be a television fanatic to enjoy Michael Sparaga’s absorbing documentary about the cutthroat world of network TV, the shows that have to fight to stay on the air and the fans that rally the support for their renewal. There’s the fabulously named Bjo Trimble who mounted the first letter writing campaign to save Star Trek back in the 1960s, right up to campaigning in the modern age with Kaily Russell, who’s using the internet to rally support for Person of Interest, a show that has helped her accept her sexuality and come out to friends and family. United We Fan is a heartfelt tribute to super fans, queer and straight, the whole world over. ES

WATER MAKES US WET
Ecosexual lovers Annie Sprinkle and Beth Stephens travel the US in an erotic quest to understand this precious natural resource.

After their adventures in Ecosexuals, in which they married natural phenomena such as lakes and trees, Annie Sprinkle and Beth Stephens return with the second documentary in a trilogy, this time examining their love affair with water. With their dog Butch, an array of colourful costumes and their mobile-home dubbed the ‘E.A.R.T.H Lab’, they travel across America to explore everything from sewage plants to corporate misconduct. Sandy Stone plays the voice of Earth, narrating the journey to iconic sites such as Big Sur, Yosemite Park and the toxic Salton Sea. Shifting the metaphor from ‘Earth as mother’ to ‘Earth as lover’, with much heart and humour Sprinkle and Stephens present a queer approach to environmentalism, never losing sight of the urgency of the problem. JB
IN PLACE OF THE REAL
Abstractions of queerness make up this collection of experimental short films, showcasing the best in contemporary artists’ film and video, 10

FLORA Dir Chaerin Im. USA 2018. 4min
Flowers, reconceived.

LIFT LITTLE TOKYO Dir Tina Takemoto. USA 2018. 7min
History and place. Maps and memories.

DONEBEING Dir Kengd Tëgùia. France 2018. 5min
Introspections of a deaf visual artist.

BETWEEN US TWO Dir Wei Keong Tan. Singapore 2017. 5min
A son talks to his mother.

ON THE LINE Dir Tina Takemoto. USA 2018. 7min
Queer intimacies on the assembly line.

CRYSTAL CLEAR Dir Max Disgrace. UK 2017. 3min
The body, desired.

POLYMORPH Dir Mike Hooves. Canada 2017. 5min
A contemplation on gender.

WAYWARD EMULSIONS Dir Tina Takemoto. USA 2018. 4min
Ephemeral glimpses of defiant women.

QUEER BABEL Dir Timothy Smith. UK 2018. 10min
A queering of technology.

APHRODITE Dir Hannah Beadman. USA 2018. 4min
The powers of water.

SWORDED LOVE Dir Tina Takemoto. USA 2018. 5min
Abstract impressions of Kung Fu cinema.

TURNING Dir Linnda Haviland. UK 2018. 2min
Finding solace amongst the violence.

THE BED AND THE STREET
Dir Heather Frise, Mike Hoolboom. Canada 2018. 5min
The personal and the political. A love story amid protest.

Total running time 66min
This programme contains sexually explicit scenes, viewer discretion is advised

MAKING HISTORY
These shorts chronicle the LGBTQ+ past to uncover community histories, evoke forgotten lives and honour legendary pioneers. 7C

FRAMING AGNES
Dir Chase Joynt, Kristen Schilt. Canada-USA 2018. 19min
Angelica Ross, Silas Howard and Zachary Drucker enact newly discovered trans testimonials from the 1950s.

MEET ME UNDER THE CLOCK
Dir Lauren Horte, Sonya Reynolds. Canada 2017. 14min
This shadow-puppet tale finds Toronto’s queens and clones forging queer spaces in the 1970s.

TOMORROW ISLAND
Dir Gwenn Joyaux. Estonia-UK-Portugal 2018. 16min
At the outbreak of the Cold War, a Russian Inuit couple try to outrun their harsh reality on the frozen Bering Strait.

THIS YEAR, HERE
Dir Alison Taylor, Sabine LeBel. Canada 2017. 6min
Memories of a rural holiday cottage are shared by generations of extended lesbian families.

WICKED WOMEN
Dir Anna Brownfield. Australia 2018. 6min
A radical BDSM magazine makes waves in the 1980s gay scene Down Under.

PIRATE BOYS
Dir Pol Merchan. Germany 2018. 13min
1990s polymorphous queerness finds Del LaGrace Volcano evoking trans-masculine sexuality with feminist writer Kathy Acker.

NIRVANA
Dir Jess Koh. UK 2018. 15min
Ancient Hindu traditions are celebrated at an annual festival for Hijra and trans women in Tamil Nadu.

Total running time 89min
This programme contains sexually explicit scenes, viewer discretion is advised
The BFI shop has a huge selection of artist film and video, from the BFI and many other labels, available to buy in our store located at BFI Southbank, London, UK and online.

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#FiveFilms4Freedom
Join us for the biggest global digital LGBTQ+ short film programme, brought to you by British Council and BFI.

#FiveFilms4Freedom invites everyone, everywhere to watch and share the films in solidarity with LGBTQ+ communities in countries where freedom and equal rights are limited.

From 21-31 March 2019, while audiences in London enjoy BFI Flare, people all over the world can watch five films selected from the festival for free online for ten days.

#FiveFilms4Freedom invites everyone, everywhere to watch and share the films in solidarity with LGBTQ+ communities in countries where freedom and equal rights are limited.

Over the last four years, almost 10 million people have watched the films in over 200 countries and principalities, sharing the tagline Love is a Human Right.

See and share this year’s #FiveFilms4Freedom at britishcouncil.org/film

#FiveFilms4Freedom

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CLUB NIGHTS

The Festival fun continues...

Stick around after your screenings to enjoy a drink and a dance with friends and catch our hot line-up of DJ favourites.

BFI BAR & KITCHEN, BFI SOUTHBANK
21:00-01:00 | FREE ENTRY

CLUB KALI FRI 22 MAR
DJ Ritu returns to BFI Flare with her incense-fuelled Hollywood to Bollywood soundtrack spinning you Around the World in 80 Tunes with Bollywood, Bhangra, Arabic and Dancefloor Delights. Come early and warm up with some fabulous Bolly-Pop moves in our fun dance class.

DEBBIE DOES BFI FLARE SAT 23 MAR
London’s finest female-fronted rock, pop, disco dance party DEBBIE returns to the BFI Southbank with DJ Sina Sparrow spinning all-girl rock, pop & disco from Blondie to Beyoncé to The Bangles to Britney.

THE BATTY MAMA FRI 29 MAR
A night of old skool 90s R&B and hip hop, garage, Afrobeats, bashment, and funky house hosted by The Batty Mama, a down and dirty, open and enticing dystopic space for queer and trans bodies for Black and Brown, Queer, QTPOC and LGBT identifying people.

KNIFE + HEART SAT 30 MAR
A night of underground disco/electronica inspired by the film Knife + Heart (p18) with DJ Tony Dunne. “If Dario Argento, Brian De Palma and Kenneth Anger conceived a three-way love child while watching Cruising and listening to a Giorgio Moroder mix tape, the result would be something like French director Yann Gonzalez’s Knife + Heart” – The Hollywood Reporter.

BFI FLARE CLOSING NIGHT PARTY: UNSKINNY BOP SUN 31 MAR 22:30 – 02:00 BFI FOYER
Join us for a fun-filled final night party. The dynamic Unskinny Bop duo will have you dancing ‘til you drop with their eclectic mix of Pop, Rock n’ Roll, Girl Groups, Disco, Punk, Country, Divas, R&B, Indie and camp classics.
BFI FLARE FAVOURITES: NOW AVAILABLE TO RENT

Postcards from London
A stylish, sexy film about a young man’s journey into an unusual form of escort work.

Anchor and Hope
Sweetly swaying houseboat comedy about a couple whose river-bound existence is upended by the arrival of an old friend.

A Deal with the Universe
(from 22 Feb)
The debut documentary from Jason Barker tells the inspiring tale of a very different kind of pregnancy.

SUBSCRIPTION CLASSICS: WATCH WITH A FREE TRIAL

Caravaggio
Derek Jarman’s unique biopic of the 17th century Italian artist Michelangelo da Caravaggio is a powerful meditation on sexuality, criminality and art.

Viva
Bored housewife Barbi goes in search of adventure in predatory 1970s Los Angeles.

Love is the Devil: Study for a Portrait of Francis Bacon
Derek Jacobi and Daniel Craig star as artist Francis Bacon and his muse George Dyer in John Maybury’s darkly exquisite biopic.

COMING SOON: BFI FLARE LIVE
Like and follow our @bfiflare Facebook page for the latest LGBTQ+ film news and exclusive videos
BFI Flare Live is co-funded with the Creative Europe programme of the European Union
We are enormously grateful for the generous, passionate and enthusiastic support BFI Flare receives from filmmakers, sponsors, sales and distribution companies and our partners. Special thanks also go to our colleagues at the BFI and the wider film industry, and all our Festival volunteers. BFI Flare is the result of so much effort from this big community.

With thanks to our Funding Contributors and Community Partners
ACCESS AT THE FESTIVAL

We are committed to ensuring that the Festival is as inclusive and accessible as possible. We offer a number of accessible screenings and events and will make reasonable efforts to meet any additional requirements within available resources. If you have any questions, suggestions or feedback, email festival@bfi.org.uk

ACCESSIBLE SCREENINGS

Accessible screenings are marked in the calendar and throughout the brochure according to the following key:

D/deaf or hard of hearing

English language films with English subtitles, including descriptions of non-dialogue audio.

BSL

Screenings where the introduction and Q&A will be BSL interpreted.

Autism spectrum and/or anyone with learning disabilities, and their carers and assistants

Relaxed screenings with adjustments aimed to reduce over-stimulation and create a welcoming environment.

ACCESS TICKETS

A limited number of Access tickets have been ring-fenced for guests with specific seating requirements including aisle seats for guests with restricted mobility and seating for BSL interpreted events in order to provide the best sight lines.

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Quote ‘ACCESS’ (lines open 11.30am-8.30pm)

Access tickets are available on a first come, first served basis and are subject to BFI priority membership booking periods.

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<tr>
<td><strong>THU 21</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18:15</td>
<td>Opening Night Gala: Vita &amp; Virginia</td>
<td>21:00</td>
<td>Opening Night Gala: Vita &amp; Virginia</td>
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<td><strong>THU 22</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>Vita &amp; Virginia</td>
<td>18:10</td>
<td>Challenge Accepted</td>
<td>p28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:15</td>
<td>Tell It to the Bees</td>
<td>18:20</td>
<td>The Fruit Machine</td>
<td>p26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:45</td>
<td>Jonathan Agassi Saved My Life</td>
<td>19:00</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>p17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SAT 23**

| 18:10 | Challenge Accepted | 20:30 | Leitis in Waiting | s | p18 |
|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|----------|
| 11:20 | Jonathan Agassi Saved My Life | 12:00 | The Fruit Machine | p26 |
| 13:50 | The Time is Now | 14:00 | Leitis in Waiting | s | p18 |
| 18:20 | Last Ferry | 16:00 | The Gospel of Eureka | p26 |
| 18:40 | Light in the Water | 18:40 | Little Miss Westie | p19 |
| 20:40 | The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert | 20:50 | Vision Portraits | p28 |

**SUN 24**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>14:00</th>
<th>Calm Inside the Storm</th>
<th>16:10</th>
<th>Light in the Water</th>
<th>p26</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15:50</td>
<td>Labyrinths of Desire</td>
<td>15:45</td>
<td>Deep in Vogue</td>
<td>p26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:20</td>
<td>Men of Hard Skin</td>
<td>18:15</td>
<td>No Box For Me</td>
<td>An Intersex Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:40</td>
<td>Consequences</td>
<td>20:30</td>
<td>Greta</td>
<td>p18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:50</td>
<td>From Zero to I Love You</td>
<td>20:30</td>
<td>Splinters</td>
<td>p13</td>
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</table>

**MON 25**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>16:00</th>
<th>Last Ferry</th>
<th>18:20</th>
<th>Greta</th>
<th>p18</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18:30</td>
<td>Socrates</td>
<td>20:40</td>
<td>Life in Transit</td>
<td>p22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:45</td>
<td>Newland</td>
<td>20:30</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>p17</td>
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**TUE 26**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>14:10</th>
<th>Two in the Bush: A Love Story</th>
<th>14:05</th>
<th>Two in the Bush: A Love Story</th>
<th>p14</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>Making History</td>
<td>18:10</td>
<td>Making Montgomery Clift</td>
<td>p29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:20</td>
<td>Giant Little Ones</td>
<td>20:40</td>
<td>United We Fan</td>
<td>s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:40</td>
<td>From Zero to I Love You</td>
<td>20:50</td>
<td>Girls Just Wanna Have Fun</td>
<td>p21</td>
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**THU 28**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>14:00</th>
<th>The Blond One</th>
<th>16:00</th>
<th>Making Montgomery Clift</th>
<th>p27</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15:40</td>
<td>Halston</td>
<td>18:10</td>
<td>We the Animals</td>
<td>p14</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:15</td>
<td>Lethal Lesbians</td>
<td>20:50</td>
<td>The Silk and the Flame</td>
<td>p20</td>
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<tr>
<td>20:45</td>
<td>Tucked</td>
<td>20:30</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>p17</td>
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**FRI 29**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>18:15</th>
<th>The Ground Beneath My Feet</th>
<th>18:20</th>
<th>Shelter: Farewell to Edin</th>
<th>p20</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20:45</td>
<td>Mapplethorpe</td>
<td>20:40</td>
<td>Red Cow</td>
<td>s</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15</td>
<td>What Makes a Man, a Man?</td>
<td>11:50</td>
<td>Red Cow</td>
<td>s</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:45</td>
<td>Dancing With a Stranger</td>
<td>14:06</td>
<td>Greta</td>
<td>p18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:40</td>
<td>Halston</td>
<td>16:30</td>
<td>Roman</td>
<td>s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:15</td>
<td>Sunburn</td>
<td>18:30</td>
<td>The Heiresses</td>
<td>s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:50</td>
<td>Knife + Heart</td>
<td>20:45</td>
<td>Making History</td>
<td>p29</td>
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**SAT 30**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12:30</th>
<th>Hook-Ups and Downs</th>
<th>13:50</th>
<th>Girls Just Wanna Have Fun</th>
<th>p21</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>The Way Things Are</td>
<td>15:45</td>
<td>Sunburn</td>
<td>s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>Closing Night Gala: JT LeRoy</td>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>p17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:45</td>
<td>Closing Night Gala: JT LeRoy</td>
<td>20:45</td>
<td>The Short Films of Marlon Riggs</td>
<td>p27</td>
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**SUN 31**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>18:00</th>
<th>Best of Fest (title tbc)</th>
<th>19:00</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>p17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20:45</td>
<td>Best of Fest (title tbc)</td>
<td>21:00</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>p17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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- **Foreign Language films with English subtitles**
- **HIS Hearing Impaired Subtitles**
- **BSL Intro/Q&A will be BSL interpreted**
- **Relaxed Screening**
BFI MEMBERS GET CLOSE UP

BOOKING OPENS
25 FEB Patrons and Champions
26 FEB Members
28 FEB Public booking

Love BFI Flare? To enjoy priority Festival booking, visit bfi.org.uk/join