

18th Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival

Friday 3 — Sunday 5 March 2023



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Welcome to 18th Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival

Friday 3 — Sunday 5 March 2023

bfmaf.org

@berwickfilmfest

#BFMAF2023

Join us for the 18th Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival and a celebration of new cinema and artists' film.

The festival is a place for audiences and filmmakers to come together, and a moment to explore both cinema and Berwick-upon-Tweed from a fresh and fun perspective. There are screenings, talks, free exhibitions and club nights taking place all across our historic home town. We hope you enjoy delving into the programme and look forward to welcoming you at our 18th Festival!

New Cinema Awards:

Celebrating some of the most distinctive works of new cinema being made around the world today. The 23 New Cinema Award winners were selected by our team of 6

programmers from 918 films researched and entered via an open call. What all New Cinema Award Winners hold in common is that their films push against boundaries of genre, form, and convention, disarming expectations and enlivening our relationship with cinema.

Essential Cinema:

A pluralist retrospective series, proposing revisions and additions to what might be considered canonical cinema. This year's selection includes new restorations from a pioneer of feminist political cinema in Brazil, a journey into the 'green hell' of an open-air penal colony in the Peruvian Amazon, and a maximally irreverent slice of early 90s punk culture.

Propositions:

A discursive setting - a screening, a discussion, or performance. Filmmakers and critics offer first-hand perspectives and interesting complications, expanding their work and contextualising aspects of their research and practice.

Exhibitions:

Creating productive frictions inspired by buildings' current and historic use, artists present new moving image works in Berwick's Gymnasium Gallery, Town Hall, Visitor Centre, an 18th century ammunition store and a former Thorntons shop on Marygate.

Festival Club:

Join us on Friday and Saturday night at the Magdalene Fields Golf Club to decompress from the day's cinematic adventures, meet up with pals, and cut loose on the dancefloor with Miss Mobile Disco and Noodle.

Filmmakers in Focus:

Presenting the first UK retrospective of acclaimed filmmaking duo Markku Lehmuskallio (born 1938, Rauma, Finland) & Anastasia Lapsui (Nenets, born 1944, Yamal Peninsula, USSR). Their narrative and documentary features made across four decades centre people, stories and perspectives indigenous to the Arctic Circle, particularly the Nenets, a nomadic tribe living for centuries in regions of the Extreme North.

Screentime:

Filmmaking and cinema programming with and for young people. The festival presents *In10ded Ten: The Fate of The Middle Place* and *Everyday Apocalypse* produced by Berwick Young Filmmakers with Kimberley O'Neill, plus the world premiere of *Bridge to the Future* a collaboration between Berwick Youth Project, Union Chain Bridge: Crossing Borders, Inspiring Communities and Kathryn Elkin. If you are interested in participating in future Berwick. SCREENTIME projects, get in touch at info@bfmaf.org.

Opening Film:

Friday 3 March, 19:30, Maltings Main House

Filmmakers in Focus

Anerca, Breath of Life by Markku Lehmuskallio & Johannes Lehmuskallio

Finland | 2020 | 90 mins | 12+

Finnish, Swedish, Sámi, Tlingit, Yupik, Inuit, Nenets, Selkup, Chukchi with English subtitles UK Premiere

In Inuit, the word meaning to bring forth a poem is the same as the word to breathe - an act that inspires Finnish filmmaker Markku Lehmuskallio's poetic ethnography, co-directed with his son Johannes Lehmuskallio. A beautifully expansive film centred on performance and the importance of song, *Anerca, Breath of Life* was shot over several decades with the indigenous peoples of the Arctic Circle. People and cultures spanning the borders of Finland, Sweden, Norway, Greenland, Canada, Alaska and Russia, the filmmakers are clear to point out, "It wasn't these cultures that drew up these borders, rights have been violated." Speaking against these continued infractions, the film magnificently expresses the joy, pain and energy of these individuals and communities through fleeting,

magical moments of performance, conversation and cinema.

Closing Film:

Sunday 5 March, 19:30, Maltings Main House
New Cinema Awards

Arnold is a Model Student by Sorayos Prapapan

Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, The Netherlands,
France | 2022 | 100 mins

Thai with English subtitles

UK Premiere

Inspired by the Bad Student movement calling for educational reform in Thailand, *Arnold Is a Model Student* follows the titular protagonist as he joins forces with the rebellious Bee and an underground syndicate of misfits helping students cheat on their exams. This accessible yet subversive debut feature from Sorayos Prapapan pivots deftly between moments of absurdist humour and heartfelt, urgent gestures of cinematic protest. Combining dramatic details from his own childhood with footage from contemporary news and social media, Prapapan acknowledges a continuum of generational experience and the interplay between reality and fiction.

A perfect balance between outrage and irreverence. Its satire on the elite and the privileged is subtle but hits the

bullseye - Jury Statement, Hong Kong Asian Film Festival

Friday 3 March

12:30 Maltings Main House - Feature film
Filmmakers in Focus

Nedarma by Markku Lehmuskallio & Anastasia Lapsui

Finland | 2007 | 85 mins

Nenets with English subtitles New Film Restoration

Nedarma (Travelling) is a documentary focusing on the Nenets, a nomadic tribe in the northern tundra of Siberia which Anastasia Lapsui was born into. Sumptuous 35mm black and white cinematography captures the atmosphere and landscapes of the Yamal Peninsula and the daily activities of its inhabitants with patience, visionary perspective, and a captivating soundtrack. The film begins by illustrating the Nenets cosmology as a way of leading into a filmic structure that portrays the arc of life from birth to death.

14:30 Maltings Henry Travers - Feature film
New Cinema Awards

Life on the CAPS by Meriem Bennani

United States, Morocco | 2022 | 75 mins

English subtitles

UK Festival Premiere

Meriem Bennani's playful sci-fi trilogy mixes live action, day-glo animation, and a kaleidoscopic score by Fatima Al Qadiri to explore the entangled politics of immigration, state control, and the border zone. Episodes focus on inhabitants of the fictional island of CAPS (short for 'capsule'), a magnetically sealed megalopolis created to intercept refugees attempting to teleport illegally into the US. Citizens work together to develop new modes of defiance and resistance, harnessing not only emergent biotechnologies but also the liberatory potential of joy and humour.

15:00 Maltings Main House - Feature film

New Cinema Awards

Let us flow by Sophio Medoidze

United Kingdom | 2022 | 65 mins

English and Georgian with English subtitles

World Festival Premiere

The isolated mountainous region of Tusheti, in Northeast Georgia, is the site for a reflection on the importance of ritual, the maintenance of community ties, and how modernisation and migration are transforming rural landscapes. Shot over several years, *Let Us Flow* uses innovative audio-visual techniques to make visible

the symbolic and physical division of sacred spaces within the community and offers a nuanced perspective on a culture where ancestral shrines are only accessible to men.

17:00 Maltings Main House - Short film programme
New Cinema Awards

Maid by Lucrecia Martel

Argentina, Mexico | 2022 | 12 mins

Spanish with English subtitles

UK Premiere

Celebrated Argentinian filmmaker Lucrecia Martel explores themes of class, labour and gender violence through the story of a woman who applies for a job as a maid, haunted by an unspecified family trauma. Inspired by forms of contemporary dance, the film probes a kind of audio-visual choreography, focusing on the continuous movement of the body in space and the disruptions that occur offscreen and in the interplay between linear and nonlinear time.

FEARDEATHLOVEDEATH by Basim Magdy

Switzerland | 2022 | 17 mins

English subtitles

World Festival Premiere

Egyptian artist Basim Magdy crafts an immersive, hallucinatory audio-visual dreamscape reminiscing on

the absurdity of death without trying to understand it. His associative universe of sounds and signifiers imagines a present moment suspended between traces of the mythic past and spectres of uncertain futures.

Harnessing the live, organic qualities of super 16mm, the film builds a singular, dissonant energy that stalks the outer boundaries of science fiction, horror, and nature documentary.

Who Is Afraid of Ideology? Part 4: Reverse Shot by Marwa Arsanios

Germany, Lebanon | 2022 | 34 mins

Lebanese Arabic with English subtitles

UK Festival Premiere

This fourth chapter of Arsanios' Who is Afraid of Ideology? series continues a collaborative investigation of anti-capitalist ideas around property and land ownership in Lebanon. The film's figurative reverse shot reflects land as an autonomous, living object that inherently resists notions of UK Festival Premiere property. Instead, matter and land become witness to the interconnectedness of the geological, the historical, the legal and the agricultural - generating an ecology of thought centred around land as a site of communalisation and rehabilitation.

Fighting Looks Different 2 Me Now by Fox Maxy

United States | 2022 | 17 mins

English subtitles

European Premiere

Fox Maxy's vertiginous montage documents the artist's homecoming to Mesa Grande, California, ancestral lands of the Mesa Grande Band of Iipay/Kumeyaay/Diegueño Mission Indians in what is now called San Diego County. An exuberant mixtape of songs; portraits of friends, family, animals, and landscapes; and documents of confrontations with tribal cops, *Fighting Looks Different 2 Me Now* is an exhilarating, joyful, and relentless disruption. No more drama.

17:30 Maltings Henry Travers. Short film programme
SCREENTIME

Bridge to the Future by Berwick Youth Project and Kathryn Elkin

United Kingdom | 2023 | 9 mins

World Premiere

Bridge to the Future was made as part of a wider community project around the conservation of the Union Chain Bridge, celebrating its rich history and relationship to contemporary life. Built in 1819, the suspension bridge spans the border between England and Scotland. Artist Kathryn Elkin worked collaboratively with participants from the Berwick Youth Project, responding to the group's ideas to fashion a joyful, playful work that

reflects on movement between time and place and dreams for the future.

In10ded Ten: The Fate of The Middle Place by Christopher, Ebba, Lara, Violet with Kimberly O’Neil

United Kingdom | 2021 | 8 mins

English subtitles

A collaborative film made by young filmmakers in Berwick (a group of local 12–14 year olds). The film was produced over five days of workshops led by artist Kimberley O’Neill, which introduced the group to digital filmmaking and documentary techniques. The film that the Berwick Young Filmmakers have produced together, explores the theme ‘Reworld’—speculating on what life in the year 2031 could be like and imagining how people, technology and nature may change in the near future.

Everyday Apocalypse by Kyra, Sam, Jaimee, Ben with Kimberly O’Neil

United Kingdom | 2021 | 8 mins

English subtitles

Everyday Apocalypse is a new short film made by four local young people, developed in collaboration with artist Kimberley O’Neill, exploring our shared experiences of lockdown. Over a three week period in August, the

group met via Zoom to share stories and develop the film. Through a series of online workshops, the young people were introduced to lo-fi mobile-phone filmmaking techniques and used writing exercises to generate ideas—expanding their personal quarantine anecdotes into subjects and locations for the film.

In10ded Ten: The Fate of The Middle Place and Everyday Apocalypse also screen as part of the Screentime exhibition at Berwick Visitors Centre. See pages 35-36 for details.

19:30 Maltings Main House
Filmmakers in Focus
Opening Film (see page 6 for details)

Anerca, Breath of Life by Markku Lehmuskallio & Johannes Lehmuskallio

Finland | 2022 | 90 mins
Finnish, Swedish, Sámi, Tlingit, Yupik, Inuit, Nenets, Selkup, Chukchi with English subtitles

22:00 Magdalene Fields Golf Club

Festival Club: Miss Mobile Disco

After a day at the movies, it's time to get up, get down, and get on out to party with Miss Mobile Disco - Edinburgh's finest Mobile DJ, serving up killer cocktails

of disco, funk, soul, 80's and feel good party gems!
Festival Club: Miss Mobile Disco

Saturday 4 March

10:30 Maltings Henry Travers. Propositions event

The Pleasures of Unbelonging by Christopher Ulutupu

New Zealand, United Kingdom | 2023 | 60 mins

Samoan and English with English subtitles

World Premiere

Christopher Ulutupu is an artist of Samoan/Niuean/German descent currently residing in Wellington. Through a richly pop, queer and celebratory Pacific lens he creates new narrative forms opening up conversations around collaboration, connection, and disconnection. The Pleasures of Unbelonging is a new commission presented by CIRCUIT with support from TAUTAI, Creative New Zealand and BFMAF. Following its world premiere screening Christopher will be in conversation with May Adadol Ingawanij, Professor of Cinematic Arts at University of Westminster.

11:00 Maltings Main House. Feature film
Filmmakers in Focus

The Blue Mammy by Markku Lehmuskallio

Finland, Sweden | 1985 | 100 mins

English subtitles

New Film Restoration

With understated precision, Markku Lehmuskallio's *The Blue Mammy* focuses on the sensitive interplay between sound and image while unfurling a story surrounding Joel, a deaf painter who lives in a small village in Lapland. While he has trouble fitting in with the community of people around him, Joel communes with nature and speaks nonverbally with a spirit. The film distils a wealth of provocative ideas—around artistic creation, alternative forms of communication and the importance of the natural world to human animals—into a stunning filmic tone poem.

12:00 Maltings Henry Travers. Feature film.

New Cinema Awards

Hello Dankness by Soda Jerk

Australia | 2022 | 70 mins

English subtitles

UK Premiere

Renegade remixologists Soda Jerk return with *Hello Dankness*, a bent suburban musical comprised entirely of pirated film samples that bears witness to the psychotropic cultural spectacle of the period 2016 to 2021. Set in the American suburbs, the film follows a

neighbourhood through these years as consensus reality disintegrates into conspiracies and other political contagions. Part political satire, zombie stoner film, and Greek tragedy, the work is also informed by the encrypted memetics of contemporary internet culture.

13:15 Maltings Main House. Short film programme
New Cinema Awards

False Wife by Jamie Crewe

United Kingdom | 2022 | 16 mins

English subtitles

UK Festival Premiere

Contains Strobing

False Wife is a work that leads its visitors through an ordeal of transformation. A poppers training video is typically a user-made compilation of pornographic clips paired with text, hypnotic music, voice-overs, and instructions for action. False Wife is a poppers training video, but its material is ambiguous and obscure. Its narrative, drawn from a variety of folk tales in which transformation occurs, reflects on themes of desire, shame, transgression, and the longing for change.

Signal to Noise by Anya Tsyrlina & Sid landovka

USSR, Switzerland | 2023 | 35 mins

English subtitles

World Festival Premiere

Contains strobing

Signal to Noise concludes a number of projects related to the surviving videotapes of schwimmen - an early 1990s teenage experimental industrial/noise band from the (then-Soviet) city of Novosibirsk. The film creates a dialogue between the established archival record and the slippery poetics of an esoteric culture that inherently resists attempts to be (re)represented or deconstructed – celebrating the grand utopian impulses of marginal artistic practices and forms of life lived otherwise.

Terror Has no Shape by Luis Arnías

United States, Venezuela | 2021 | 10 mins

English subtitles

International Premiere

At night in Boston, a bodega cat is the only witness to an alien rock crash-landing in an empty parking lot. A viscous white humanoid, rendered in crude special effects, is stalked by a figure on a motorcycle, and the encounter ends in ritual fire. A burning effigy and a Senegalese call to prayer usher modes of Afro-Venezuelan spiritual resistance into an ambiguous present - condensing the experience of colonialism into a series of fragments from first encounter to long haunted aftermath.

13:45 Maltings Henry Travers. Feature film
Essential Cinema

Sepa: Our Lord of the Miracles by Walter Saxer

Peru, Germany, Switzerland | 1987 | 77 mins

Spanish and English with English subtitles UK Premiere

A rare UK screening of Walter Saxer's little-seen documentary about an experimental open-air penal colony in the Peruvian Amazon described by inmates as the 'green hell'. With echoes of the work of frequent-collaborator, Werner Herzog, Saxer's film stands as the only in-depth public record of a controversial facility that existed between 1951-1993 as a dumping ground for both hardened criminals and political prisoners. The film's restrained, observational approach gives rise to a surprising and complex meditation on forms of justice, liberty and rehabilitation.

After The Dust by Colectivo Silencio

Peru | 2022 | 25 mins

English subtitles

International Premiere

A set of memories, a series of readings. After two hundred years as an independent nation, Peru has many forgotten struggles in different territories and from different times. Marking the country's bicentennial anniversary, this super 8mm film brings together activists and families in a compilation of speeches from history's B-side. A beautiful, stirring expression of liveness, agency, resistance, and the intergenerational

obligation to renew and refresh our communal commitment to rights and democracy.

15:15 Maltings Main House. Feature film
New Cinema Awards

Last Things by Deborah Stratman

France, Portugal, United States | 2023 | 50 mins

French and English with English subtitles UK Premiere

Science meets speculative fiction in artist Deborah Stratman's poetic, associative reflection on evolution and extinction from the point of view of rocks and various future others. Loosely based on two short stories by J.-H. Rosny, considered one of the founding figures of modern science fiction, and thinking with figures from Roger Caillois to Donna Haraway, Stratman troubles the limits of human perception, mining the farthest reaches of the biosphere for (im)material traces that bind past, present, and future.

16:15 Maltings Henry Travers
Essential Cinema

Helena Solberg: Breaking Mirrors

Presented with Cinelimite

Brazil, Nicaragua | 1966, 1969, 1982 | 95m

English subtitles

A presentation of Helena Solberg's debut short films *The Interview* (1966) and *Noon* (1969) alongside her 1982 feature *From the Ashes: Nicaragua Today* which brings a multi-layered feminist perspective to a political and societal portrait of the country following the 1979 insurrection that overthrew the Somoza dictatorship. Her shorts, made during one of the most repressive moments of the Brazilian military dictatorship, examine the unliveable conditions experienced by communities under oppression and emphasise women's agency as active protagonists in the living and telling of their own stories.

17:00 Maltings Main House. Short film programme
New Cinema Awards

Love & Revenge by Anhar Salem

France, Saudi Arabia | 2021 | 30 mins

Arabic and English with English subtitles UK Premiere

A teenage girl tries to escape her reality using an Instagram filter. But her desire to exist freely as an image collapses when she loses control over her avatar. Casting family and friends as fictionalised versions of themselves, Anhar, who studied computer science at the Arab Open University, stages a participatory and

reflective exploration of technologies and social media in Saudi Arabia – probing the dynamics between real and virtual, public and private, space.

Bigger on the Inside by Angelo Madsen Minax

United States | 2022 | 12 mins

English subtitles

European Premiere

Outer and inner space collapse in Angelo Madsen Minax's cosmic essay film, which diffracts feelings, memories, and longings during a blurry sojourn in a remote cabin in the woods. Looking at the stars, flirting with guys on dating apps, taking ketamine (or not), and watching YouTube lecture videos, Minax draws a warped cartography of desire and distance. A humorous, psychedelic and deeply moving work, *Bigger on the Inside* is the latest in Minax' transcendent cinema of trans embodiment.

Cabbage by Holly Marie Parnell

United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada | 2022 | 28 mins

English subtitles

UK Premiere

An intimate film made in collaboration with Parnell's family, *Cabbage* looks at the complexities of bodily autonomy within an ableist paradigm. Focusing on her brother's writings using eye tracking technology, and her mother's memories, she explores how we shape a sense of self under the pervasive weight of unspoken

assumptions, categories and fixed definitions that get placed onto bodies. Dissecting layers of language, agency and power, the film is a subtle examination of how a human life is UK Premiere measured and valued.

19:30 Maltings Main House. Feature film
New Cinema Awards

Wolf and Dog by Cláudia Varejão

Portugal, France | 2022 | 115 mins

Portuguese with English subtitles

UK Premiere

European Premiere Cláudia Varejão's debut fiction film is a luminous ode to queer communities on the Azores island of Sao Miguel. Culturally specific and delicately nuanced, Wolf and Dog follows protagonist, Ana, as she navigates the stifling forces of religion and tradition in pursuit of the passions and butterflies of new desire. Mirroring Ana's journey of self-discovery, Varejão's initially observational style slowly gives way to something more lush and experimental, capturing the gentle unfolding of young love finding its first voice.

19:45 Maltings Henry Travers. Feature Film
New Cinema Awards

Home Invasion by Graeme Arnfield

United Kingdom | 2022 | 95 mins

English subtitles

UK Premiere

What is to be done when our homes and our dreams have been invaded? Graeme Arnfield's nightmarish plunderphonics trace the curious history of the doorbell, from its invention and reinventions through 19th century labour struggles, to the nascent years of narrative cinema and contemporary smart technologies. Home Invasion paints a sensory portrait of technological ideologies and imaginaries shaping our everyday lives, staging a confrontation with the reality of machines and systems that work against us, hindering the emergence of radical futures.

22:00 Maltings Main House. Feature film

Essential Cinema

Terminal USA by Jon Moritsugu

United States | 1993 | 60 mins

English subtitles

New Film Restoration

Funny, gross and outrageously over-the-top, Jon Moritsugu's cult classic is a maximally irreverent slice of early 90s punk culture satirising representations of the Japanese-American family unit. Newly restored from eyeball-scorching Panavision, this is Moritsugu's Asian freak-out magnum opus that shocked America when it

was broadcast on television in the mid-90's. The director himself plays twins (a drug-dealing bad-ass and a closeted math nerd) in a radically dysfunctional family that completely obliterates the noble myth of the "model minority".

22:00 Magdalene Fields Golf Club. Social event

Festival Club: Noodle

Subterranean Sound and GRDN's off-kilter DJ, event organiser and partypusher, Noodle, invites you to show your bones on the dance floor and work your way through a loose, playful, potent hit of minimal, bouncy, bass-driven breaksy sounds.

Sunday 5 March

10:30 Maltings Henry Travers. Propositions event

In Focus: Markku Lehmuskallio & Anastasia Lapsui
60m

An open discussion with Markku Lehmuskallio & Anastasia Lapsui who will speak about their collaborative, award-winning filmmaking practice and their personal histories. Prior to filmmaking, Lehmuskallio was a forester, while Lapsui was the first Indigenous radio broadcaster in her region. Since their first work together in 1992, they have forged a collaborative “Fourth Cinema” approach to filmmaking through documentary and fiction forms. This conversation will explore beyond the four titles in our retrospective, towards a richer picture of their filmmaking oeuvre.

12:00 Maltings Main House. Feature film
Filmmakers in Focus

Seven Songs from the Tundra by Markku Lehmuskallio & Anastasia Lapsui

Finland | 2020 | 90 mins

Nenets and Russian with English subtitles

New Film Restoration

Perhaps Lehmuskallio & Lapsui's most celebrated film, *Seven Songs from the Tundra* is an anthology of seven vignettes set in a historical present, demonstrating the clash of cultures between the Nenets and Soviet-Russians. Through humour, poetry and snow-driven beauty, *Seven Songs from the Tundra*, Markku Lehmuskallio & Anastasia Lapsui the film recalls of the best moments Aki Kaurismäki or Jim Jarmusch, infused with an Indigenous perspective. As the first narrative film made in the Nenets language, it is both a landmark of Indigenous cinema and a timely intervention into continuing calls for decolonization in Russia.

12:30 Maltings Henry Travers. Propositions event

Code Names, a screening-performance

Iran, United Kingdom | 2022

Persian (Farsi) and English with English subtitles

UK Premiere

An in-person screening-performance by award-winning Iranian artist, Maryam Tafakory, whose textual and filmic collages interweave poetry, documentary, archival, and found material.

“To the outsiders, the bystanders, the virtual onlookers, to the disaster capitalist, the hopeless, the failed revolutionist — from wherever you are standing,

come a step closer and listen as we try to rewind, to fast forward, to pause, to look away...”

14:00 Maltings Henry Travers. Feature film
New Cinema Awards

Wisdom Gone Wild by Rea Tajiri

United States | 2022 | 90 mins | English subtitles
UK Premiere

Rea Tajiri’s vibrant, tender cine-poem is fashioned in collaboration with her mother, Rose, as together they confront the painful, curious reality of wisdom “gone wild” in the shadows of dementia. Made over sixteen years, the film blends fact and fiction, humour and sadness, to stage a fragmented, dream-like encounter between mother and daughter that blooms into an affectionate portrait of love, care, and a relationship transformed.

14:15 Maltings Main House. Short film programme
New Cinema Awards

A mother’s love for her baby by Éiméar McClay & Cat McClay

United Kingdom | 2022 | 17 mins
English subtitles

World Premiere

Using a combination of 3D animation and experimental prose, *A mother's love for her baby* explores the corruption and conditions endemic in the Magdalene Laundries and mother and baby homes run by the Catholic church in Ireland throughout the 20th century. Influenced by Saidiya World Premiere Hartman's concept of "critical fabulation" - the use of storytelling to fill the gaps left in historical records - the film advocates for a bottom-up form of historiography: centring historically marginalised voices of Irish women and critiquing the structures of power that (re)produce their dispossession.

Brady Is it a knife because... by Sirah Brutmann & Eitan Efrat

Belgium | 2022 | 25 mins

Hebrew and French with English subtitles

International Premiere

A film made at home; an uncompromising look at ways in which parenthood and the process of filmmaking crush into each other. Through a collection of family videos, the film challenges the dynamics of agency that children and grown-ups have over their images. Different forms of entangled love and violence are rendered visible and audible within the household setting in an honest attempt to understand where light

comes from — and all the while, the police are outside the window.

Music for Solo Performer by Jenny Brady

Ireland | 2022 | 20 mins

Spanish with English subtitles

World Premiere

Part-homage, part-sequel, *Music for Solo Performer* is a filmic reimagining of composer Alvin Lucier's work for amplified brainwaves, drawing connections between the 1969 composition, speech synthesis and the passing of the filmmaker's mother. Brady's disparate assemblage of found sound and image - including EEG analysis, a Jerry Lewis Telethon and the first pizza ordered via synthesized voice - combines to form a densely concentrated transmission of cinematic pleasure, meditating on the relationship between illness and technology with pathos and care.

16:00 Maltings Main House. Feature Film

New Cinema Awards

Being in a Place - A Portrait of Margaret Tait by Luke Fowler

Peru, Germany, Switzerland | 2022 | 60 mins

English subtitles

World Festival Premiere

Drawing on a wealth of unseen archival material and unpublished notebooks, the film weaves a complex and personal portrait of Margaret Tait's life from the perspective of a fellow artist sensitive to the potential she envisaged for film as a poetic medium. At the centre of the work is an imagining of an unrealised script for a feature film discovered amongst Margaret's documents in Orkney titled, Heartlandscape: Being in a place - a document of a landscape, and of a journey through it.

16:30 Maltings Henry Travers. Feature film
New Cinema Awards

Maputo Nakuzandza by Ariadine Zampaulo

Brazil, Mozambique | 2021 | 60 mins

Portuguese with English subtitles

UK Premiere

Translating as “Maputo, I Love You”, Brazilian filmmaker Ariadine Zampaulo's hybrid cine-poem stitches together elements of documentary, fabulation, performance, and soundscape to produce a polyphonic portrait of Mozambique's capital city. Her camera beautifully captures the flow and rhythms of urban life unfolding over the course of a single day: Revellers spill from nightclubs as workers board commuter trains; tourists and joggers vie for position in the city's ancient streets; and a local radio station announces the disappearance of a bride.

17:30 Maltings Main House. Short film programme
New Cinema Awards

Ungentle by Huw Lemmey & Onyeka Igwe

United Kingdom | 2022 | 37 mins

English subtitles

UK Festival Premiere

John le Carré meets Derek Jarman in this subtle reflection on the complex relationships between the development of British espionage and male homosexuality. Based on extensive research and voiced by actor Ben Whishaw, Ungentle draws on the life stories of famous historic operatives from the mid–20th century, from Anthony Blunt and Guy Burgess to Noël Coward and Hardy Amies, exploring the tensions between loyalty and lust that ran parallel in the lives of spies and gay men.

AQUERONTE Manuel Muñoz Rivas

Spain | 2023 | 25 mins

Spanish with English subtitles

UK Premiere

Onboard a ferry, a group of passengers cross a river from one side to the other. Manuel Muñoz Rivas' reflexive, oneiric cine-voyage unfolds as a series of elliptical vignettes in a gently shifting landscape of light and shadows. Through a vaporous fog and half-heard

voices we encounter a cast of characters suspended in a floating space. On the water time is expanding and the destination is deferred - motion itself, and the transporting power of images becoming, perhaps, the only certainty.

19:30 Maltings Main House. Closing film (see page 7 for details)

Arnold is a Model Student by Sorayos Prapapan

Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, The Netherlands,
France | 2022 | 100 mins
Thai with English subtitles

22:00 The Barrels Ale House. Social event

Join us after the final screening for the Festival Closing Social - a relaxed get-together around the corner at The Barrels Ale House.

Exhibitions programme

Free entry, 10:00-17:00 daily at venues across Berwick-Upon-Tweed

Town Hall Council Chamber

culture (cultuur) by Fairuz Ghammam

Belgium | 2022 | 15 mins

Belgian filmmaker and cinematographer Fairuz Ghammam's warm, generous work explores aspects of (auto)biography, shared authorship, and collaborative practices.

Staged as a walk through her hometown, Kortrijk, Culture riffs on these themes, sewing kernels of family history through a narrative, and a gaze, that oscillates between private and public space. How many memories and storylines can coexist?

The Magazine

Paradiso, XXXI, 108 by Kamal Aljafari

Palestine, Germany | 2022 | 18 mins

As chilling as it is absurd, Kamal Aljafari's Paradiso repurposes found footage from Israeli military propaganda and turns it into a fictional drama of men playing at war. Aljafari takes the title from a short story

by Borges and describes the work as a “cinematic self-portrait” - questioning our interpretation of screen violence, its relationship to real-world horrors, and troubling our positionality as spectators.

The Gymnasium

Hidden Amongst Clouds by Christopher Ulutupu

New Zealand | 2021 | 13 mins

Drawing on the filmmaker’s experiences growing up in a large Samoan family in the largely Pākehā populated region of Nelson, Hidden Amongst Clouds newly imagines stories of Samoan mythology and questions the moral virtues they uphold. The work embraces a 1990’s aesthetic, harking back to supernatural fantasy television series and their embedded symbolisms, reflecting Ulutupu’s ongoing interest in themes of belonging and the importance of recontextualising and reimagining narratives of colonial stereotypes.

Berwick Visitors Centre

SCREENTIME by Kimberley O’Neill & Young

Filmmakers from Berwick

United Kingdom | 16 mins

SCREENTIME brings together two commissioned short works made with artist Kimberley O’Neill and young

filmmakers in Berwick. Through a series of online and in-person workshops, the filmmakers experimented with digital filmmaking and documentary techniques to produce films exploring the relationship between people, technology, and the local environment.

22 Marygate

tempo by Yu Araki

Japan | 2022 | 20 mins

A quiet, atmospheric portrait of an elderly store owner in the small town of Yagi, Kyoto Prefecture. Yu Araki's camera carefully observes the curiously named Mr. Yagi's daily routine and interactions with local customers during the last autumn season for this shop, which is no longer in business. Documenting the passage of time in parallel with processes of depopulation, the title *Tempo* conjures a double meaning; playing on the Japanese word "tenpo (店舗)" which means "store".

Thank you to English Heritage, Berwick Visitors Centre, Edwin Thompson and The Freemen of Berwick-Upon-Tweed for allowing us the use of their spaces for exhibition venues.

Festival Venues:

- **The Maltings** (main cinema programmes)
- **The Gymnasium** (exhibition) - Hidden Amongst Clouds by Christopher Ulutupu | 13 mins
- **The Magazine** (exhibition) - Paradiso, XXXI, 108 by Kamal Aljafari | 18 mins
- **22 Marygate** (exhibition) - tempo by Yu Araki | 20 mins
- **Town Hall Council Chambers** (exhibition) - culture (cultuur) by Fairuz Ghammam | 15 mins
- **Magdalene Fields Golf Club** (Festival club) - Friday and Saturday until late
- **Berwick Visitors Centre** (exhibition): SCREENTIME by Berwick Young Filmmakers, Kimberley O'Neill | 16mins
- **The Barrels Ale House** (closing social) - following the closing screening, 10pm Sunday 5 March

Recommendations:

- **The Maltings Kitchen:** A range of food and drinks are available at the Festival Hub
- **The Curfew Micropub:** Cosy Micro Brewery with a great range of local real ales, ciders and bar snacks
- **Atelier Bar:** with nice atmosphere, charcuterie and local pies
- **The Mule on Rouge:** Tasty bagels, sandwiches and coffee, eat in or takeaway
- **Crumbs:** Friendly, great value sandwich shop
- **MAVI:** Turkish Restaurant Nice evening spot, vegetarian options available
- **Northern Soul Kitchen:** Volunteer led neighbourhood cafe serving upcycled food, pay what you can
- **Northern Edge Coffee Bar:** Local coffee suppliers, sit in or takeaway
- **Interesting Books + Zines:** Independent book shop specialising in small press and indie publishers
- **A Corvi Fish:** Traditional Fish & Chip shop right next to the Cinema
- **Berwick Visitors Centre:** Free entry with Exhibition and short film about the town, café
- **Repas7:** Bistro/bar and beer garden
- **The Magna Tandoori:** Classic Indian Menu, sit in or takeaway
- **Royal Garden** Chinese restaurant in heart of Berwick

Tickets & Accreditation:

The Weekender: £55 Access to all films. That works out at less than £2 per film!

£25 for under 25's: Open to anyone under the age of 25 interested in film. Get full access to all films. less than £1 a cinema screening!

Day Tripper £20: Access to the full cinema programme on the day of your choice.

Friends of the Festival: £70 Support the Festival

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Professional accreditation | £50

Get insider access to the full programme of events across the Festival weekend and exclusive access to our digital online programme.

Accreditation is suitable for anyone actively engaging in the field of film, media art and the moving image in order to develop networks, promote discussion and encourage deeper participation with the Festival's programme.

For professionals access includes:

- Festival catalogue.

- Exclusive access to the online screening room for a month after the Festival.
- Delegation list.
- Invite to industry events.

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Individual Film Tickets: £8/5 (Concessions include Student/ Pensioner/ Under 18s)

Berwick Bundle: Buy two tickets and get a third for free

All full price tickets and passes can be purchased online from bfmaf.org or in person at The Maltings Box Office.

Please note that The Maltings charges a £1 booking fee on all transactions.

Visiting the Festival

Berwick-upon-Tweed

Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival is based in England's most northerly town, Berwickupon-Tweed, in rural north Northumberland and on the borders of Scotland.

There's plenty more to do in Berwick-upon-Tweed whilst visiting the Festival. Soak up the surroundings with river and coastal walks....

Getting here:

Berwick-upon-Tweed is situated in the North East of England, just south of the Scottish Border. The town has great transport links to the rest of the UK by train, bus and airline services. The Maltings Theatre and Festival Hub is a short 10 minute walk from the Train station.

By Train:

Train prices from cities in the UK such as London, Glasgow, Manchester and Newcastle vary between £20-100 (return trip) and take around 45m to 3h 30m.

By Bus:

There are a number of buses from Newcastle, Durham and other towns in Northern England that go to Berwick.

By Car:

Free short and long stay parking is available at various locations across the town.

We encourage visitors to use public transport or to car share where possible to minimise the environmental impact.

Accessibility

Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival strives to be as accessible as possible.

Our main venue is **The Maltings** and we use a variety of additional venues around Berwick-upon-Tweed which have various levels of accessibility. Please do contact us directly at info@bfmaf.org if you have any individual access requirements and we will do our best to assist.

Large print and **text only** versions of our Programme Guide and Catalogue are available from our website, with physical copies at our welcome desk in The Maltings.

English subtitles will be in place for all titles in the festival programme.

All films contain **content notes/trigger warnings** viewable on our website.

We welcome **Guide dogs, hearing and registered assistance dogs** in all our venues.

The Maltings

The venue has **disabled parking, ramped access and power assisted doors.**

Disabled seating is available in both the Main House and Henry Travers Studio. Please let us know when booking your tickets so we can reserve these spaces.

All floors are accessible by the **lift.**

Adapted toilet facilities and baby changing facilities are located on floor -3.

We accept the **CEA Card.**

The festival aims to be a **safe and inclusive** space, if you experience behaviour which makes you feel uncomfortable when using our facilities, please let a member of staff know.

Please see our website bfmaf.org for more information on exhibition venues.

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Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival is an independent charity, and a member of Arts Council England's National Portfolio. The Festival fundraises for the entirety of its cinema and visual arts programme, as well as its outreach and education activity. To find out how you can make a donation to support BFMAF, please contact us at info@bfmaf.org, or by phone +44 (0) 1289 303 355.

Please note that all information is correct at time of going to print and may be subject to alteration. Tickets are subject to availability. The certifications used in the

programme are a mix of BBFC classifications and recommended age ratings suggested by the Festival, and are certified 12A unless otherwise noted.

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