

CAMBRIDGE

FILM FESTIVAL 2025

23 October–2 November

www.camfilmfest.com



THE ICE TOWER. Courtesy of BFI Distribution

CAMBRIDGE
44TH
FESTIVAL

STUDIO
24



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WELCOME

TO THE 44th CAMBRIDGE FILM FESTIVAL

We are delighted to open our doors once again to audiences old and new, as we join together across eleven days of cinema, conversation and community. As the “youngest” of the arts, cinema has no choice but to be contemporary, and that’s what we love about it.

Festivals, including our own, exist not only as a meeting point between audiences and films but also as a map to trace our past and future paths on. It’s no coincidence that cinema was invented as a device to record and project the world back to us, allowing us to gain a better understanding of ourselves.

The programme for CFF44 embraces that mission. Across our Gala screenings, International Festival Highlights, family offerings and adventurous strands, you’ll find cinema that comforts, challenges and connects. Alongside this daring programme, special events include **Mark Kermode’s Surround Sound**, a unique evening devoted to film music; a centenary celebration of the pioneering **Film Society**; and the presentation of the **Isabelle McNeill Memorial Award**, in honour of a cherished colleague and passionate advocate for film culture.

Diversity in all its forms enriches what it means to be human, and the constellation of world cinema we have curated sheds light on underrepresented groups and peoples, as we all strive for better tomorrows. Looking back, we bring to life (on the screen) important 20th-century artists, some favoured by history and some, until recently, forgotten. The past is present, and the present is always passing, but we always have cinema.

With immense gratitude to our partners, funders, volunteers and above all, to you, our audience. We wish you an inspiring Festival.

Enjoy the films!

The Cambridge Film Festival Team

The Cambridge Film Festival is presented by the Cambridge Film Trust, a registered charity with a mission to foster and promote film culture and education for the benefit of people in Cambridge, the East of England and throughout the UK. This project is supported by the BFI Film Audience Network awarding funds from the National Lottery.



GUIDE TO THE FESTIVAL

We're committed to making the Cambridge Film Festival a welcoming, inclusive and accessible space for everyone. Here's a quick guide to help you navigate and enjoy the Festival.

For the most up-to-date information on filmmaker Q&As, accessibility and content warnings, visit camfilmfest.com/guide, as some details are confirmed after the brochure is printed.

Screening times

Films will start promptly at the advertised times, without adverts or trailers beforehand.

Filmmaker Q&As

We're excited to host guests for Q&As after select screenings. Check our website for details.

Accessibility

We offer accessible screenings, including descriptive subtitles, BSL-interpreted intros and Q&As, as well as relaxed screenings for neurodivergent audiences. All venues are wheelchair accessible.

Content guidance

We understand that films can affect people in different ways. Some films may contain themes or imagery that could be triggering. We provide CFF age ratings for all films, as well as content and trigger warnings where necessary, while avoiding spoilers.

F-Rating

We are proud to support gender diversity and are committed to a 50/50 ratio of male to female and non-binary filmmakers across the entire Festival programme.

We also work in partnership with F -Rating, so look out for these icons:



F-Rating: Assigned to films directed and/or written by women.



Triple F-Rating: Assigned to films which have significant women on screen, as well as being directed and/or written by women.



Enjoy the Festival
& stay updated



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2025

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Family Film Festival



THU
23
20:20

SUN
26
18:15

OPENING FILM

BUGONIA



UK, IRELAND, CANADA, SOUTH KOREA & USA 2025 120 MINS

DIRECTOR Yorgos Lanthimos

WITH Jesse Plemons, Emma Stone, Aidan Delbis, Stavros Halkias, Alicia Silverstone

PRINT SOURCE Universal Pictures

Believe it or not, we open this year's Festival with the million-dollar question: Is Emma Stone an alien or not?

Yes, that's exactly what Oscar-winner Yorgos Lanthimos asks us to consider in his latest film, *Bugonia* (2025). It's also the central suspicion of Teddy (Jesse Plemons), a solitary beekeeper and conspiracy theorist, who kidnaps a powerful pharmaceutical CEO (Emma Stone) in the hope of exposing her as an extraterrestrial.

True to Lanthimos' dark humour and flair for satirical hyperbole, the film is a rollicking ride from scepticism to conviction, posing some of the most urgent questions of our post-truth era. Expect a truly eye-opening experience, courtesy of Lanthimos' remake of the cult Korean film *Save the Green Planet!* (2003), complete with spine-chilling performances from Plemons and Stone. Oh—and plenty of giggles.





SUN
2
20:30

CLOSING FILM

RENTAL FAMILY

CFF
12A

USA 2025 **110 MINS**

English, Japanese with English subtitles

DIRECTOR HIKARI

WITH Brendan Fraser, Akira Emoto, Takehiro Hira,
Mari Yamamoto

PRINT SOURCE Searchlight Pictures

Since the 1990s, Japan has offered “rental family” services—actors hired to play relatives for social occasions. As it turns out, the job isn’t so different from the acting gigs Phillip (Brendan Fraser) is desperately chasing. At least, that’s what he thinks.

He agrees to work under Shinji (Takehiro Hira, *Shōgun* (2024)) as the “sad American” at a funeral. But a chance encounter with a young girl, for whom he’s standing in as an absent father, becomes the emotional core of *Rental Family* (2025), the warm and moving English-language debut from Japanese director HIKARI. As our beloved closing film, we hope it inspires you to form bonds that last.



“A CHARMING
SURPRISE BALANCING
POIGNANCY AND
HUMOR WITH RARE
DELICACY.

FRANK SCHECK,
THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER



Dazzling and highly-anticipated, our Galas bring the biggest and brightest names to the silver screen. *The Voice of Hind Rajab* (2025) headlines this year's selection – the uncompromising, urgent winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Venice Film Festival. Other must-sees include Richard Linklater's fond look at the making of Jean Luc Godard's *Breathless* (1960), Jodie Foster as a psychiatrist investigating a client's death, Rose Byrne's award-winning performance depicting anxious motherhood, and an enchanting adaptation of a Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale in *The Ice Tower* (2025).

HEADLINE GALA



FRI
24
20:30

MON
27
18:00

THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB

CFF
18

SAWT HIND RAJAB

TUNISIA & FRANCE 2025 90 MINS

Arabic with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Kaouther Ben Hania

WITH Saja Kilani, Motaz Malhees,
Amer Hlehel, Clara Khoury

PRINT SOURCE Altitude

On January 29, 2024, Red Crescent volunteers received an emergency call: a six-year-old girl was trapped in a car under fire in Gaza, pleading for rescue. As they tried to keep her on the line, they did everything possible to get an ambulance to her. Her name was Hind Rajab.

Oscar-nominee Kaouther Ben Hania (*Four Daughters*, 2023) stages the film in a call centre, using the real recordings of the little girl's voice calling for help that never came. If *The Voice of Hind Rajab* (2025) could be called "just a film," it is certainly the most necessary one today.



IS THIS THING ON?

CFF
15

SAT
1
20:30

SUN
2
18:05

USA 2025 124 MINS

DIRECTOR Bradley Cooper

WITH Will Arnett, Laura Dern, Bradley Cooper,
Andra Day, Sean Hayes, Ciarán Hinds, Amy Sedaris,
Christine Ebersole

PRINT SOURCE Searchlight Pictures

Bradley Cooper's third film as a director, inspired by the life of comedian John Bishop, arrives at CFF fresh from its world premiere at the New York Film Festival. Starring Bradley Cooper alongside Laura Dern and Will Arnett, *Is This Thing On?* (2025) follows a couple dissolving their marriage after many years together, navigating the awkward motions of separation and co-parenting.

Already hailed as a fond tribute to New York City's comedy scene, a sensitive study of midlife discontent, and a modern-day comedy of remarriage, the film has won praise for its pitch-perfect balance of humour and heart.



TUE
28
20:55

FRI
31
18:00

ALPHA

CFF
18

FRANCE & BELGIUM 2025 128 MINS
French, Berber Languages with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Julia Ducournau

WITH Tahar Rahim, Golshifteh Farahani, Mélissa Boros, Emma Mackey, Finnegan Oldfield

PRINT SOURCE Curzon Film

Remember *Titane* (2021), the wild ride that took everyone by surprise when it won the Palme d'Or in 2021? The queen of French body horror, Julia Ducournau, is back with *Alpha* (2025), a more melancholic but equally provocative film. It follows a 13-year-old girl who one day returns home with a freshly branded tattoo on her arm, much to her mother's dismay. But beyond parental worries lies a deeper threat: an unknown virus spreading through the population, transforming people's bodies into marble in a striking and unsettling way.



FRI
31
20:30

SAT
1
19:10

A PRIVATE LIFE

CFF
15

VIE PRIVÉE

FRANCE 2025 103 MINS
French & English with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Rebecca Zlotowski

WITH Jodie Foster, Daniel Auteuil, Virginie Efira

PRINT SOURCE Altitude

Lilian (Jodie Foster) is an American psychoanalyst living in Paris whose life is turned upside down by the sudden death of one of her patients. What begins as an exploration of grief quickly unravels into an intricate web of intrigue; files are stolen, foul play is suspected and spectres of the past resurface.

Determined to uncover the truth, Lilian takes matters into her own hands and, with help from her ex-husband (Daniel Auteuil), becomes an unlikely sleuth in an increasingly delirious whodunnit. French filmmaker Rebecca Zlotowski approaches the genre with genuine thrills and a joyful dose of dark humour.



THU
30
21:00

SAT
1
21:15

IF I HAD LEGS I'D KICK YOU

CFF
15

USA 2025 113 MINS

DIRECTOR Mary Bronstein

WITH Rose Byrne, Christian Slater, Conan O'Brien, A\$AP Rocky, Delaney Quinn

PRINT SOURCE Picturehouse Entertainment

Rose Byrne won the Silver Bear for Best Leading Performance at the Berlinale for her portrayal of a mother on the verge, but at its core, Mary Bronstein's new film is far more tender than any of its protagonists. *If I Had Legs I'd Kick You* (2025) follows a woman under pressure to be everything at once: a mum, a working professional and an individual grappling with anxiety. From this, Bronstein crafts a sharp psychological thriller, rich with tension and emotional depth. She conjures a powerful sense of claustrophobia and desperation as the walls begin to close in, whether those of a home or the mind itself.



NOUVELLE VAGUE

CFF
12A

SAT
25
20:55

SUN
26
18:50

FRANCE 2025 106 MINS

French & English with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Richard Linklater

WITH Guillaume Marbeck, Zoey Deutch, Aubry Dullin

PRINT SOURCE Altitude

Experience the chaos behind one of the most influential films of the 20th century. Richard Linklater's latest film is a black-and-white dramatisation of the making of Jean-Luc Godard's debut feature, *Breathless* (1960). Filmed and edited in the distinctive style of the French New Wave, *Nouvelle Vague* (2025) follows a sunglasses-clad Godard (Guillaume Marbeck) as he fights to realise his vision and upend cinematic convention, frustrating everyone around him in the process.

Faithful to history, the film captures the guerrilla-style production: improvised shooting, unsynced sound and spontaneous camera work, alongside the creative tensions with crew and producers that nearly drove Jean Seberg off set.



MON
27
19:45

WED
29
18:15

CFF
15

PETER HUJAR'S DAY

USA 2025 76 MINS

DIRECTOR Ira Sachs

WITH Ben Whishaw, Rebecca Hall

PRINT SOURCE

Picturehouse Entertainment

How do people spend their days? This question drove writer Linda Rosenkrantz to interview some of New York's most prominent artists of the 1970s. Director Ira Sachs adapts a transcript from a December 1974 conversation between celebrated photographer Peter Hujar (Ben Whishaw) and Rosenkrantz (Rebecca Hall). Although Rosenkrantz's project was never completed, Hujar's transcript resurfaced in 2021 when it was published for the first time.

Hujar recounts the previous 24 hours, mundane details like phone calls, naps, financial worries, a Chinese takeaway order, and a surreal photoshoot with Allen Ginsberg, interspersed with anecdotes about Susan Sontag and William S. Burroughs. The film unfolds as an intimate dialogue between two friends.



THE HISTORY OF SOUND

15

SUN
26
20:35

MON
27
20:35

UK, USA & ITALY 2025 127 MINS

DIRECTOR Oliver Hermanus

WITH Paul Mescal, Josh O'Connor

PRINT SOURCE Universal Pictures

Lionel (Paul Mescal) is a gifted singer from rural Kentucky, raised on the songs his father used to sing on the front porch. In 1917, he leaves the family farm to attend the Boston Music Conservatory, where he meets David (Josh O'Connor), a charming composition student who is soon drafted into the final stages of the war.

By 1920, the two reunite and spend a winter walking through the forests and islands of Maine, collecting folk songs to preserve them for future generations. With *The History of Sound* (2025), *Moffie* (2019) director Oliver Hermanus crafts his own *Brokeback Mountain* (2005), a tender, aching chronicle of a love whose echoes are felt for a lifetime.



RECIPIENT OF THE
ISABELLE MCNEILL
AWARD



WED
29
20:55

FRI
31
21:10

THE ICE TOWER



LA TOUR DE GLACE

FRANCE & GERMANY 2025

118 MINS

French with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Lucile Hadžihalilović

WITH Marion Cotillard, Clara Pacini, August Diehl, Lilas-Rose Gilberti, Gaspar Noé, Dounia Sichov, Valentina Vezzoso

PRINT SOURCE BFI Distribution

In a dazzling adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's fairytale *The Snow Queen*, French director Lucile Hadžihalilović pays homage to cinema and its power to build magical worlds. One night in the 1970s, runaway teenager Jeanne (Clara Pacini) takes refuge in a film studio, where she encounters a real star, played by the inimitable Marion Cotillard, who embodies the Snow Queen with icy perfection. *The Ice Tower* (2025) is visually magnificent: rich in texture and lavish in design. Cinematographer Jonathan Ricquebourg (*The Taste of Things*, 2023) brings a glacial stillness to the film's extended takes, evoking the wintry beauty of a frozen dreamscape.

SURPRISE FILM

From shocks to cheers, thrills to grumbles,
the Surprise Film has garnered a range of reactions over the years!

SAT
1
18:10

Kept as a secret in the shadows until the evening of the screening, there is no telling what the night will bring. Whether it's a dare from your mates or you want to experience a complete revelation, why not come and see for yourself?



2024 SURPRISE FILM: *Small Things Like These* (2024)



We've curated a delightful and daring selection from the Sundance, Berlinale and Cannes Film Festivals: a feast for the eyes of all cinephiles! We present films from CFF beloved directors like Catalans Carla Simón and Mar Coll, as well as Charlie Shackleton and Oliver Laxe, to new and emerging voices destined to leave a mark on the film industry. Comedy, thrills, techno music and an audience favourite animation await in our hand-picked discovery strand in which you'll also find an urgent documentary juxtaposed with the humour of a chaotic seaside family vacation.



SAT
25
18:25

SUN
26
21:00

SIRÂT

CFF
18

SPAIN & FRANCE 2025

115 MINS

Spanish & French with
English subtitles

DIRECTOR Oliver Laxe

WITH Sergi López,
Bruno Núñez Arjona,
Stefania Gadda

PRINT SOURCE Altitude

One of the most mesmerising films of the year, Oliver Laxe's Cannes Jury Prize winner *Sirât* (2025) transports us to the surreal world of desert raves, where the promise of salvation still lingers. Amid an endless party in the Moroccan desert, a middle-aged father searches for his missing daughter. The strangers he encounters are kind and open but they can't help mocking him. Yet, as the French-Galician director reveals, in the desert, as in a rave, there is no need to hide; people are free to be unapologetically themselves. With a sublime techno score by Kangding Ray, *Sirât* (2025) offers a rare gift: true connection and hope at the end of the world.



ROMERÍA

CFF
12A

WED
29
18:40

SUN
2
18:35

SPAIN & GERMANY 2025 112 MINS

Spanish, Catalan & French with
English subtitles

DIRECTOR Carla Simón

WITH Llúcia García, Mitch, Tristán Ulloa, Alberto Gracia,
Miryam Gallego, Janet Novás, José Ángel Egido,
Marina Troncoso

PRINT SOURCE Curzon Film

Named after the Spanish word for a religious pilgrimage, *Romería* (2025) revolves around 18-year-old Marina (Llúcia García), who, after being orphaned at a young age, is now trying to reconstruct a past she was never a part of. With *Romería*, Carla Simón completes her loose family trilogy, after her celebrated debut *Summer 1993* (2017) and the Berlinale Golden Bear winner *Alcarràs* (2022), which screened at CFF41. Like in every journey, doubt and hope go hand in hand, but this romería glows with so much warmth that it may well be the most heartfelt homecoming of the year.



UK
PREMIERE

F
RATED

MON
27
18:25

SUN
2
16:25

L'AVENTURA

CFF
12A

FRANCE 2025 **108 MINS**
French with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Sophie Letourneur

WITH Philippe Katerine,
Sophie Letourneur,
Bérénice Vernet,
Esteban Melero

PRINT SOURCE

Best Friend Forever

Claudine's (Bérénice Vernet) narrates her family's unfolding summer road trip through Sardinia, weaving together past and present moments, though frequently interrupted by her younger brother, Raoul (Esteban Melero). Their parents, Jean-Philippe (Philippe Katerine) and Sophie (Sophie Letourneur), argue constantly, especially when things don't go as planned. The picturesque Mediterranean backdrop quickly gives way to the reality of family life, shaped by cramped hotel rooms, rushed meals and frustrating car rides. No matter how chaotic or unflattering, *L'aventura* (2025) captures these memories with wit and warmth, presenting them in their most unfiltered, relentlessly funny and unexpectedly tender form.



F
RATED

LITTLE AMÉLIE

CFF
U

SUN
26
14:00

AMÉLIE ET LA MÉTAPHYSIQUE DES TUBES

FRANCE 2025 **78 MINS**
French with English subtitles

THU
30
14:35

DIRECTORS Maïlys Vallade & Liane-Cho Han

WITH Loïse Charpentier, Victoria Grobois, Yumi Fujimori,
Cathy Cerda, Marc Arnaud, Laetitia Coryn

PRINT SOURCE Vue Lumière

Amélie (Loïse Charpentier) is a little Belgian girl born in Japan, whose first word is neither "Mama" nor "Papa," but "aspirateur" ("vacuum cleaner" in French). As her third birthday approaches, her world of adventures and discoveries is about to change. To capture the perspective of a young girl with wide-eyed curiosity, *Little Amélie* (2025) is animated in an impressionistic style, using pastel colors and omitting the usual contours and outlines. Complementing this visual approach, the film echoes the narrative techniques of Japanese master animator Hayao Miyazaki. It won the Audience Award at the prestigious Annecy International Animation Film Festival.



FRI
24
15:00

THU
30
16:30



MAD BILLS TO PAY

DESTINY, DILE QUE NO SOY MALO

USA 2025 100 MINS
English, Spanish with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Joel Alfonso Vargas

WITH Juan Collado, Destiny Checo,
Yohanna Florentino, Nathaly Navarro

PRINT SOURCE Salaud Morriset

Rico's (Juan Collado) summer is a wild mix of chasing girls and hustling homemade cocktails from a cooler on Orchard Beach in the Bronx. But when his teenage girlfriend Destiny (Destiny Checo) brings news that threatens to upend his carefree lifestyle, everything begins to change. With superbly naturalistic performances and a distinctive visual style, Joel Alfonso Vargas' directorial debut introduces an exciting new voice in American indie cinema.



THU
30
18:30

FRI
31
13:55



Arts and
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SALVE MARIA



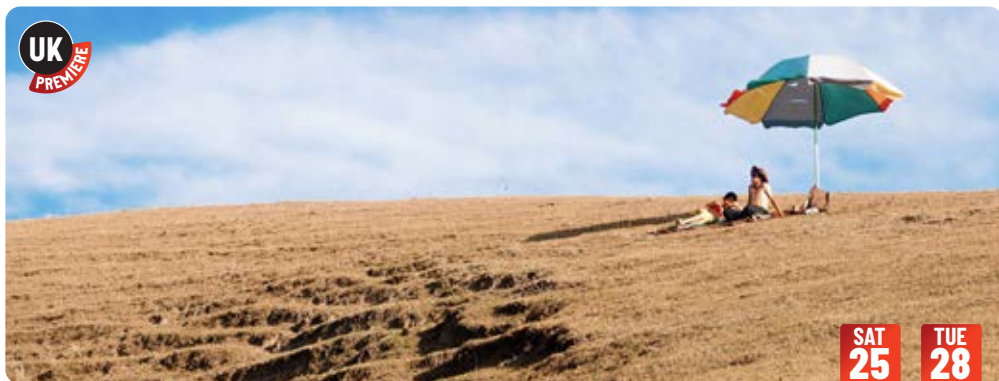
SPAIN 2024 111 MINS
Catalan, Spanish with
English subtitles

DIRECTOR Mar Coll

WITH Laura Weissmahr,
Oriol Pla

PRINT SOURCE Be For Films

Catalan filmmaker Mar Coll introduced Laura Weissmahr as a shining star in *Salve Maria* (2024), a genre-bending exploration of postpartum depression and the irrational facets of motherhood. The film is based on Basque writer Katixa Agirre's novel *Mothers Don't*, which Coll approached with a fittingly cinematic vision, ensuring the spotlight remained on the protagonist and her ambivalent experiences as a new mother. Presented in partnership with the AHRC-funded project Leading Women in Portuguese and Spanish Film and Television (1970–1980), the film sparks a conversation about the intergenerational legacy of women filmmakers.



UK
PREMIERE

SAT
25
18:40

TUE
28
19:00

THE BOTANIST

CFF
12A

ZHI WU XUE JIA

CHINA 2025 **96 MINS**

Mandarin with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Jing Yi

WITH Yesl Jahseleh, Ren Zihan,
Jalen Nurdaloet, Sarhet Ermazan,
Songhat Jomajan

PRINT SOURCE Magnify

In a remote Chinese village, a young boy named Arsin (Yesl Jahseleh) finds solace in the company of plants. He befriends a captivating and spirited girl whose unpredictable nature reminds him of a rare, otherworldly plant. With beautiful visuals, this meditative film carries a delicate, dreamlike quality where the boundaries between reality and the enchanting world of botany blur. Stunning performances from the young leads, sumptuous cinematography, and a gorgeous soundtrack combine to create a captivating and heartfelt depiction of childhood.



F
RATED

TIMESTAMP STRICHKA CHASU

CFF
15

SAT
25
12:05

SUN
2
11:20

UKRAINE, FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG
& NETHERLANDS 2025 **125 MINS**

Ukrainian with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Kateryna Gornostai

WITH Olha Bryhynets, Borys Khovriak,
Mykola Kolomiets, Valeriia Hukova, Mykola Shpak,
Svitlana Popova, Yelyzaveta Loza

PRINT SOURCE Best Friend Forever

Kateryna Gornostai turns her lens to Ukrainian schools in the aftermath of the Russian invasion, presenting *Timestamp* (2025) as a patchwork of real-life experiences, raw, complex, and unfiltered. What began as a project commissioned by an educational NGO to support teachers and rebuild destroyed schools, evolved into a poignant, cinematic record of everyday life over the course of a school year and a half.

The film guides viewers through different regions of Ukraine, each identified by name and its distance from the front lines, gradually constructing an imagined map where tragedy and hope exist side by side.



FRI
31
19:05

SUN
2
13:00

ZODIAC KILLER PROJECT 15

USA & UK 2025 95 MINS

DIRECTOR Charlie Shackleton

PRINT SOURCE Loop

When his original plan to make a true crime film about the infamous Zodiac Killer falls apart, filmmaker Charlie Shackleton invites the audience into the film that never was. Through his self-deprecating humour, stylised reenactments and B-roll of empty Bay Area landscapes, Shackleton reconstructs the unrealised project beat by beat, delivering a compelling, razor-sharp critique of a genre teetering on the edge of oversaturation. Equal parts offbeat parody and astute cultural commentary, this experimental documentary wryly explores our enduring fascination with sensationalised murder as a form of morbid entertainment.



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YOUTH LAB

Your Gateway to the Film Industry



Are you aged 16-24 and passionate about film or pursuing a career in the film industry? Join the Cambridge Film Festival Youth Lab!

The Youth Lab is a youth-led film education initiative designed to enhance your film knowledge and networking skills. As a member, you'll connect with like-minded individuals and build industry relationships in a friendly, supportive environment. We welcome individuals from all backgrounds and provide regular film discussion groups, workshops, networking events and talks from industry professionals, along with essential career support.



Interested in joining?





“

Joining the Youth Lab is a massive advance for local youth wanting to get into film. I've met industry professionals and experimented with various aspects of filmmaking in less than a year.

ROTEM PERRY

”

“

There wasn't one activity in any of the Youth Lab sessions that I didn't 100% enjoy and find incredibly useful for planning a future in the film industry.

TROY YOUNG

Being in the Youth Lab has been a lovely experience. I've met incredible people, built my confidence and had opportunities I never thought I'd have. It's a supportive group that I am exceptionally grateful to be a part of.

RHIANNA ROE

”

80% of Youth Lab members go on to employment or higher education within the industry

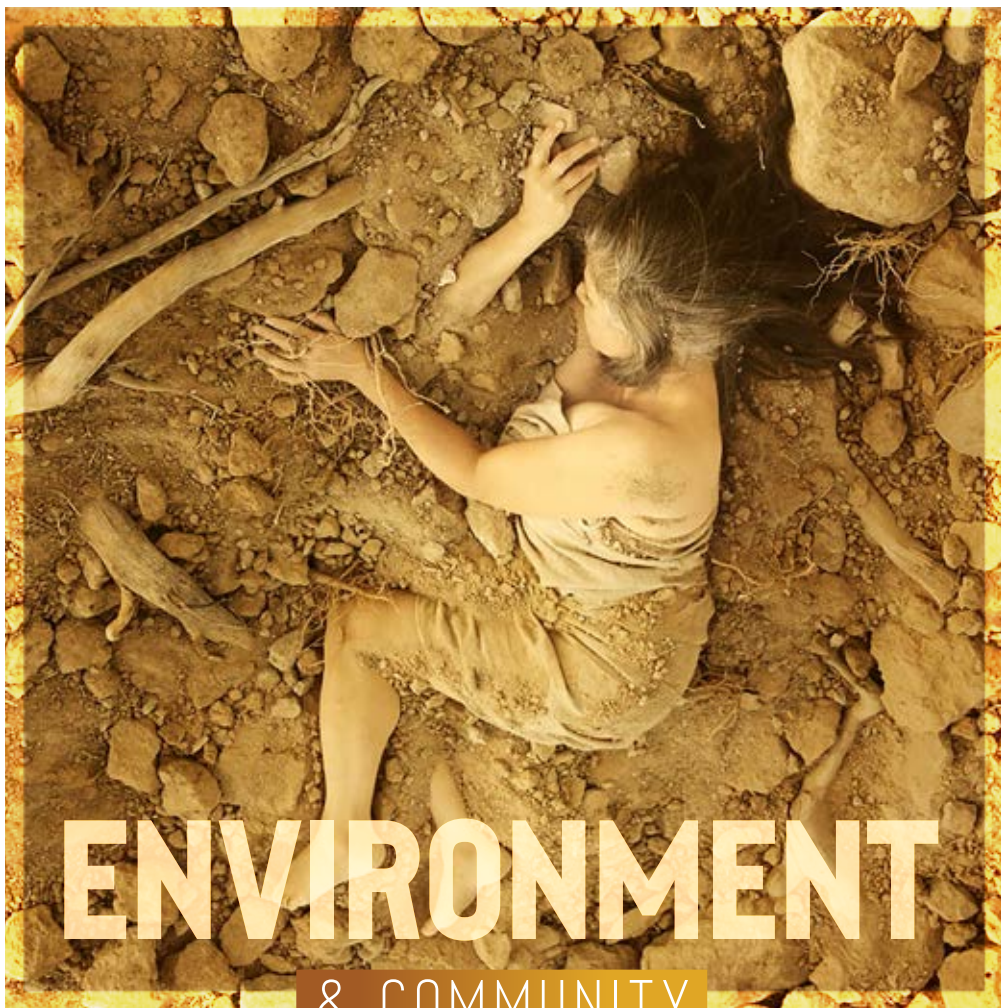
36% identify as LGBTQIA+

57% identify as having a disability, long-term health condition, or are neurodivergent

30% identify with an ethnic background other than White British

The Youth Lab is supported by:





Supported by Alchemie Technology, these films show a world at loss, but also highlight all that can still be saved. They focus on themes of climate change and pollution, the importance of preserving communities and species, and celebrating sustainable practices and traditions.

The stories in this strand call upon us to engage in the fight to protect our planet, to play an active role in environmental conservation, and empower us with the knowledge and awareness of these crucial issues.

Alchemie



UK
PREMIERE

F
RATED

FRI
24
20:00

TUE
28
13:30

HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE CFF P6

UK 2025 100 MINS

DIRECTOR Eleanor Mortimer

PRINT SOURCE Impronta Films

In the dark depths of the ocean, where few of us will ever venture, beautiful and strange creatures thrive in a hidden world. As the threat of deep-sea mining looms, a group of marine biologists races to discover what truly lies beneath the waves. In this gorgeous and haunting documentary, filmmaker Eleanor Mortimer invites us aboard the vessel as the scientists uncover astonishing new species and share in the collective excitement of their discoveries. Battling harsh, remote weather and facing backlash from environmental activists, the film questions the ethics of the project and asks: can humans and marine life ever truly coexist?



F
RATED

WED
29
14:15

FRI
31
16:05

LOWLAND KIDS CFF 15

UK, USA & DENMARK 2025
94 MINS

DIRECTOR Sandra Winther

WITH Howard, Juliette,
Uncle Chris

PRINT SOURCE Together Films

The waters are rising around Louisiana's rapidly disappearing Isle de Jean Charles, a narrow strip of land under threat from climate change. It's also home to teenagers Howard and Juliette, who have been living there with their Uncle Chris since the tragic loss of their parents. As part of a historic U.S. government-led relocation project, the first of its kind, the family must say goodbye to the only home they've ever known. With poetic cinematography and a quietly observational style, *Lowland Kids* (2025) is an intimate and powerful meditation on resilience, belonging and the heartbreaking reality of climate displacement.

#CFF44

CAMBRIDGEFILMFESTIVAL 2025 23



AMR-DYING TO CHANGE THE WORLD

UK 2025 68 MINS

DIRECTOR Alex Tweddle

WITH Brian Cox

PRINT SOURCE Angry Man Pictures Ltd.

CFF
12A

THU
30
16:15

SUN
2
14:55

AMR, or antimicrobial resistance, refers to the emergence and spread of drug-resistant superbugs. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), it is one of the greatest threats facing humanity, yet it remains largely unknown to most people.

AMR-Dying to Change the World (2025) is a feature-length documentary that sheds light on this growing crisis and the dangers it poses to global health, food security, environmental stability and the economy. Narrated through a first-person voiceover by Brian Cox, who embodies AMR itself, the film highlights the stories of those already affected, explores the root causes of drug-resistant “superbugs”, from antibiotic overuse to systemic failures, and examines their current and potential consequences.



IF
RATED

TUE
28
18:10

FRI
31
11:00

THE UNFIXING

SPAIN & USA 2024 87 MINS

DIRECTOR Nicole Betancourt

PRINT SOURCE

Women Make Movies

CFF
12A

This is the personal story of director Nicole Betancourt, who turns the camera on herself to capture her struggle with a debilitating illness and its ripple effects on her family, all while engaging with broader ecological questions.

More than a visual diary, the film is a poetic exploration of a mother’s journey from illness to healing, set against the backdrop of an intensifying global climate crisis. As Betancourt’s body begins to break down, so too does the planet, both demanding radical transformation and renewal.



WE LIVE HERE



ATAMEKEN

KAZAKHSTAN 2025 80 MINS

Kazakh & Russian with
English subtitles

DIRECTOR Zhanana Kurmasheva

PRINT SOURCE Syndicado Film Sales

We Live Here (2025) tells the untold story of the long-lasting impacts of the Soviet Union's nuclear tests in Kazakhstan, as experienced by those still living with the consequences. In the desolate Abai region, part of the Kazakh steppe, the Soviet Union carried out nearly 500 nuclear tests at the Semipalatinsk Test Site (STS) between the 1940s and Kazakhstan's independence in 1991. Spanning three generations, this documentary uncovers how the region's toxic legacy persists, through personal suffering and political silence. With haunting visuals, intimate testimonies and sweeping shots of a poisoned landscape, this film is a powerful meditation on inherited trauma and environmental devastation.

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PRIVATE LIVES, PUBLIC FATES

As part of the BFI's UK-wide season *Too Much: Melodrama on Film*, CFF presents a selection of melodrama films held together by the strong, assertive presence of women. Join us on journeys through Mexico City's red-light district, Japan, Tunisia and American suburbia, where women's struggles embody the larger political issues at stake. Revolutions, discrimination, abuse, underground structures of power and the flow of capital all affect these characters and in turn, enrich the way we perceive emotions – as acute reactions to the world around us.

TOO MUCH
MELODRAMA ON FILM





FRI
24
14:15

ALL THAT HEAVEN ALLOWS

USA 1955 89 MINS

DIRECTOR Douglas Sirk

WITH Jane Wyman,

Rock Hudson,

Agnes Moorehead

PRINT SOURCE Park Circus

Cary Scott (Jane Wyman) is a wealthy widow and a respected member of New England's tight-knit country club society. When she falls in love with Ron Kirby (Rock Hudson), a handsome and much younger gardener, their relationship scandalises her community. Their romance defies the rigid social codes of 1950s middle-class America, as scandal, family alienation and prejudice threaten to pull them apart.

Douglas Sirk's timeless melodrama is a Technicolor masterpiece, featuring career-best performances from Jane Wyman and Rock Hudson. It stands as a landmark of cinematic storytelling, capturing both the suffocating comfort of conformity and the radiant power of forbidden desire.



FOREVER A WOMAN CHIBUSA YO EIEN NARE

JAPAN 1955 106 MINS

Japanese with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Kinyuo Tanaka

WITH Yumeji Tsukioka, Ryôji Hayama, Junkichi Orimoto

PRINT SOURCE Janus Films

CFF
15

TUE
28
16:00

Inspired by the life of tanka poet Fumiko Nakajô, this emotionally resonant drama follows a woman confronting the dual challenges of artistic expression and terminal illness in post-war Japan. As she navigates the breakdown of her marriage and the trauma of a cancer diagnosis, her poetry becomes both a form of resistance and self-discovery. Directed by pioneering actress-filmmaker Kinuyo Tanaka, the film offers a striking portrait of female resilience and creative autonomy. With lyrical cinematography and a quietly radical perspective, it remains a bold testament to women's inner lives and artistic voice at a time when such narratives were rarely given space on screen.

THE SILENCES OF THE PALACE

SAMT EL KOUSSOUR

TUNISIA & FRANCE 1994 127 MINS

Arabic & French with English subtitles

**TUE
28
11:35**

**CFF
12A**

DIRECTOR Moufida Tlatli

WITH Amel Hedhili, Hind Sabri, Ghalya Lacroix, Nejia Ouerghi

PRINT SOURCE Cinetele Films

In 1994, Moufida Tlatli proved that melodrama is not a dying form, and that it doesn't need to conform to the standards of Hollywood, Bollywood, or Cairo.

The Silences of the Palace (1994) unfolds through flashbacks, transporting us to the era of the French Protectorate in Tunisia. Yet its style is sensual, especially in its portrayal of the women who worked in the palace, most notably in the kitchen, which serves as the film's beating heart. Tlatli wrote the film in response to her own mother's sudden and severe illness, a moment that made her realise how little she truly knew about her life.



VICTIMS OF SIN VICTIMAS DEL PECADO

MEXICO 1951 90 MINS

Spanish & French with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Emilio Fernández

WITH Ninón Sevilla, Tito Junco, Rodolfo Acosta

PRINT SOURCE Film Noir UK

**CFF
18**

**SAT
1
10:30**

Victims of Sin (1951) recounts the fiery struggle and heart-warming determination of Violeta (Ninón Sevilla), a rumbera (nightclub dancer) who sacrifices everything to raise an abandoned child. She protects him from the seedy underworld that haunts Mexico City's dance halls, and the violent men that inhabit it.

Upheld by the dream triad of iconic starlet Ninón Sevilla in one of her defining roles, legendary cinematographer Gabriel Figueroa at the height of his noir stylishness, and legendary Mexican Golden Age director Emilio Fernández's mastery for enthralling drama, *Victims of Sin* (1951) is a milestone moment for Latin American melodrama.

A new 4K restoration courtesy of Permanencia Voluntaria, presented in collaboration with Film Noir UK.

IN MEMORY OF DR ISABELLE MCNEILL



Back in February this year, our Chair and dear friend Dr Isabelle McNeill passed away from cancer. Her loss is deeply felt across the Cambridge Film Festival community, by trustees, staff, filmmakers, and audiences alike.

Isabelle played a central role in shaping the Cambridge Film Festival into what it is today. As co-founder and Chair of the Cambridge Film Trust, she brought calm leadership and a strong commitment to the power of cinema. Her influence is felt across every aspect of the Festival, from its values to its sense of community.

In a range of roles within our organisation, Isabelle always championed bold, brilliant, and often overlooked work, particularly by women filmmakers and believed deeply in film's ability to connect and inspire people.

In celebration of her legacy, we have established the **Isabelle McNeill Award**, which will be awarded each year to recognise special achievement by a female filmmaker. It will be presented to a female-directed film that, like those Isabelle cherished, resonates with the contemporary moment, shows cinema's transformative power, and reflects her feminist, anti-racist convictions and love of creative, challenging storytelling.

Her impact lives on in our ethos as an organisation and in the films we choose to share.



As humans, we're always in search of a home, and belonging is a never-ending journey. Trace the steps home with this rich selection of films – documentaries and fiction alike – where everything is possible. By exploring the limits of familiarity and the unknown, these characters negotiate arbitrary boundaries in the hope of shared connections. *All That's Left of You* (2025) headlines this strand – a chronicle of the hopes and heartaches of one uprooted family in Palestine, bearing witness to the scars of dispossession and the enduring legacy of survival.



THU
30
18:00

SUN
2
15:20

ALL THAT'S LEFT OF YOU

CFF
15

ALLY BAQI MINK

**GERMANY, CYPRUS, PALESTINE,
JORDAN, GREECE & QATAR**

2025 **145 MINS**

Arabic, English with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Cherien Dabis

WITH Cherien Dabis, Saleh Bakri,
Maria Zreik

PRINT SOURCE The Match Factory

This historical drama follows three generations of a Palestinian family, from 1948 in Jaffa to the near present. Inspired by the real-life experiences of Palestinian American filmmaker Cherien Dabis, drawing from her own family, relatives and friends, the film powerfully explores the shared humanity of those forced to confront cycles of violence and the enduring trauma passed down through generations. Told with vivid detail, compassion and authenticity, the story is anchored by Dabis herself, who takes on the central role of the mother recounting her family's journey.



THE LOVE THAT REMAINS

CFF
15

ÁSTIN SEM EFTIR ER

ICELAND, DENMARK, SWEDEN

& FRANCE 2025 **109 MINS**

Icelandic with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Hlynur Pálmason

WITH Saga Garðarsdóttir, Sverrir Guðnason

PRINT SOURCE Curzon Film

FRI
24
12:05

SAT
1
17:05

Set against the sweeping landscapes of southern Iceland, a family facing the end of a marriage must find new ways to connect and create fresh memories, with a little help from moments of surreal fantasy. This fourth feature from acclaimed director Hlynur Pálmason, whose own children (and animals!) take on lead roles, beautifully explores how art, nature and family give us the roots we need to grow, while also honouring the quiet power of solitude and contemplation. Come for the charming story, stay for the dreamlike soundtrack, and prepare to be won over by the 2025 'Palm Dog' winner Panda, the scene-stealing Icelandic sheepdog.



AL AWDA

OFF
PG

TUE
28

THU
30

SINGAPORE 2024 70 MINS

15:25

14:45

DIRECTOR Jason Soo

PRINT SOURCE Jason Soo

It is 2018, and we follow 22 activists aboard a fishing boat attempting to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza. As they cross the Mediterranean, the activists engage in rehearsals and discussions. The heart of the film lies not in the inevitable confrontation with the Israeli navy, but in the collective process: consensus decision-making, mutual care and a shared commitment to resisting injustice through non-violence. These ordinary people come together to put solidarity into practice. As their destination draws closer, the activists do their best to prepare for what past experience suggests will be a volatile, and possibly violent, encounter.



UK
PREMIERE

FF
RATED

SAT
25

20:40

THU
30

20:45

BEAUTIFUL EVENING, BEAUTIFUL DAY

OFF
18

**BOSNIA HERZEGOVENA, CANADA,
CROATIA, CYPRUS & POLAND**

2024 137 MINS

Croatian with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Ivona Juka

WITH Dado Cosic,

Emir Hadzihafizbegovic, Slaven Doslo,

Dorde Galic, Elmir Krivalic

PRINT SOURCE Coccinelle Films

In 1950s Yugoslavia, four close friends—renowned filmmakers—live under the shadow of suspicion due to their homosexuality. As disapproval grows, a loyal Communist Party operative is sent to infiltrate and sabotage their lives. Inspired by the director's extensive research into the persecution of homosexuals under communist rule, this powerful film explores how authoritarian regimes seek control by forcing citizens to suppress their true identities and by inciting hatred toward the "other."

CONTENT WARNING Contains sexually explicit scenes and scenes of sexual violence



EVERYTHING NEEDS TO LIVE

CFF
12A

UKRAINE & POLAND 2024

70 MINS

Ukrainian & Russian with
English subtitles

DIRECTORS Tetiana Dorodnitsyna
& Andrii Lytvynenko

WITH Anna Kurkurina

PRINT SOURCE KFF Sales & Promotion

Anna Kurkurina is a remarkable woman: a popular and charismatic athlete, triple world champion powerlifter, 'the strongest woman in the world,' animal activist, out lesbian and coach of young people with disabilities. Since the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine began, Anna has leveraged her fame as an athlete and social media influencer to help injured and abandoned animals. This beautifully crafted documentary offers an insightful portrait of someone striving to make a difference in a country at war.



LEGEND HAS IT

CFF
PG

UK 2025 111 MINS

DIRECTOR Niall Johnson

WITH Rupert Everett,
Tamsin Greig, Harry Gilby,
Emilia Fox, Robyn Cara,
Georgina Sadler, Isla Gie

PRINT SOURCE Straightwire
Entertainment Group

As a child, Daroush (Harry Gilby) was captivated by his mother's stories about the magical Hidden Kingdom. Her sudden disappearance left him heartbroken and feeling like he never truly belonged. Years later, Daroush discovers a portal to the mythical realm his mother once spoke of. With this discovery, he finds his true calling, as a warrior destined to break an ancient evil curse.

From director Niall Johnson (*Keeping Mum* (2005), *The Big Swap* (1998)), *Legend Has It* (2024) features a stellar cast of British talent, including Rupert Everett, Tamsin Greig and Emilia Fox, delivering a magical adventure that's fun for the whole family.



SUN
26
13:35

THU
30
11:00

PYRE



INDIA 2024 111 MINS
Hindi with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Vinod Kapri

WITH Padam Singh,
Heera Devi, Subhash Chandra,
Shubham Chaudhary, Sadab Khan,
Alok Verma, Gopa Nayal,
Deewan Kanwal

PRINT SOURCE Bhagirathi Films
Private Limited

Pyre (2024) has won four Audience Awards worldwide—including two in the UK—with its moving love story of an elderly couple, Padam (Padam Singh Kapri) and Tulsi (Heera Devi), who refuse to leave their home in a remote Himalayan village. As the threat of displacement looms, their quiet defiance becomes a meditation on dignity, belonging and devotion. The film blends an intimate portrayal of its singular, deeply human characters with the breathtaking landscapes of the Himalayas, where fragility and resilience coexist.

Pyre (2024) is a profoundly moving visual poem, offering a rich reflection on love, loss and the enduring power of connection. Its emotional impact lingers long after the screen fades.



STEVE SCHAPIRO: BEING EVERYWHERE



USA 2025 71 MINS

DIRECTOR Maura Smith

WITH Steve Schapiro

PRINT SOURCE Abramorama

FRI
24
17:10

SUN
2
13:45



Steve Schapiro: Being Everywhere (2025) tells the story of his career as a photographer, capturing everyone from Hollywood stars and key historical figures of the 20th century, to everyday people on the street. It is truly incredible how present Schapiro was during so many important cultural and political moments in the 20th century. A charming narrator of his own story, Schapiro provides numerous fascinating anecdotes behind his pictures. His wonderful photographs take centre stage in this fascinating documentary about an extraordinary life's work.

FILM QUIZ

HOSTED BY THE YOUTH LAB

Join us for an evening of trivia, hosted by the Cambridge Film Festival's Youth Lab!
Expect a fun mix of questions, film-themed and beyond, with amazing prizes to be won.

All proceeds go towards the Festival's Education Programme,
helping us support the next generation of filmmakers.

ARTS PICTUREHOUSE BAR | THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER
7:30PM START | £5 PER PERSON | MAX 5 PER TEAM

CAMBRIDGE
film
FESTIVAL



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FILM TIMES

CAMBRIDGEFILMFESTIVAL2025

THU 23 OCT

ARTS PICTUREHOUSE

TTP SCREEN 1

20:20 Bugonia

6

FRI 24 OCT

ARTS PICTUREHOUSE

TTP SCREEN 1

11:05	Illusions	42
12:55	The Fisherman	44
15:00	Mad Bills to Pay	17
17:10	Steve Schapiro: Being Everywhere	34
18:55	Mark Kermode's Surround Sound	52
20:30	The Voice of Hind Rajab	9

SCREEN 2

12:05	The Love That Remains	31
14:15	All That Heaven Allows	27
16:20	We Live Here	25
18:00	Sleepless City	41
20:00	How Deep Is Your Love	23

SAT 25 OCT

ARTS PICTUREHOUSE

TTP SCREEN 1

11:00	Grow	64
	Relaxed screening	
13:10	Measures For a Funeral	54
16:25	Lost for Words (& Short: Saturday Night Butch)	55
18:25	Sirât	15
20:55	Nouvelle Vague	11

SCREEN 2

12:05	Timestamp	18
14:30	Film Society 100th Anniversary	53
16:10	Legend Has It	33
18:40	The Botanist	18
20:40	Beautiful Evening, Beautiful Day	32

SUN 26 OCT

ARTS PICTUREHOUSE

TTP SCREEN 1

11:00	Whale Rider	64
	Relaxed screening	
13:35	Pyre	34
16:05	Shades of Survival	43
18:15	Bugonia	6
20:35	The History of Sound 12	

SCREEN 2

14:00	Little Amélie	16
15:40	We Live Here	25
17:15	News Without a Newsroom	43
18:50	Nouvelle Vague	11
21:00	Sirât	15



There are no adverts or trailers before the films at Cambridge Film Festival.

MON 27 OCT

ARTS PICTUREHOUSE

TTP SCREEN 1

11:00	Shorts: Transfigurations	61
12:45	CFF's Annual State of the Industry Panel	49
14:15	BFI NETWORK South East: Short Film Showcase	50
15:30	BFI NETWORK South East Behind the Shorts: Meet the Filmmakers	50
16:45	BFI NETWORK South East Feature Focus: In Conversation with Charlotte Regan (<i>Scraper</i>)	50
18:00	The Voice of Hind Rajab	9
19:45	Peter Hujar's Day	12
21:25	Pillion	41

SCREEN 2

11:00	Shorts: Violet Delights	62
12:35	Shorts: Dangerous Liaisons	58
13:50	Shorts: Roots	60
15:50	Shorts: Children's Tales	57
17:05	Shorts: Funny Games	59
18:25	L'aventura	16
20:35	The History of Sound 12	

GONVILLE HOTEL

11:45	FILM HUB SOUTH EAST: Film Festival Roundtable	51
11:45	BFI FILM ACADEMY OFF-SET: A Session on Film Careers Outside of Production. For ages 16-25	51



TUE 28 OCT

ARTS PICTUREHOUSE

TTP SCREEN 1

11:00	The Parent Trap	65
	Relaxed screening	
13:30	How Deep Is Your Love	23
15:25	Al Awda	32
17:05	Sleepless City	41
19:00	The Botanist	18
20:55	Alpha	10

SCREEN 2

11:35	The Silences Of The Palace	28
14:05	Shades of Survival	43
16:00	Forever A Woman	27
18:10	The Unfixing	24

WED 29 OCT

ARTS PICTUREHOUSE

TTP SCREEN 1

11:00	The Princess and The Frog	65
	Relaxed screening	
13:00	Illusions	42
14:50	Everything Needs to Live	33
16:30	Lost for Words (& Short: Saturday Night Butch)	55
18:40	Romería	15
20:55	The Ice Tower	13

SCREEN 2

11:10	News Without a Newsroom	43
12:45	Shorts: Funny Games	59
14:15	Lowland Kids	23
16:10	The Crossroads	44
18:15	Peter Hujar's Day	12

THU 30 OCT

ARTS PICTUREHOUSE

TTP SCREEN 1

11:00	Inside Out 2	66
	Relaxed screening	
13:00	Shorts: Violet Delights	62
14:35	Little Amélie	16
16:30	Mad Bills to Pay	17
18:30	Salve Maria	17
21:00	If I Had Legs I'd Kick You	11

SCREEN 2

11:00	Pyre	34
13:15	Everything Needs to Live	33
14:45	Al Awda	32
16:15	AMR-Dying to Change the World	24
18:00	All That's Left of You	31
20:45	Beautiful Evening, Beautiful Day	32

ARTS PICTUREHOUSE BAR

19:30	Film Quiz hosted by the CFF Youth Lab	35
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Silver Screen is aimed at over 60s and includes a free hot drink and biscuit at selected screenings that start before 17:00 on Tuesday and Thursday at the Arts Picturehouse.

Advance tickets can be purchased:

ONLINE WWW.CAMFILMFEST.COM
IN PERSON **AT THE ARTS PICTUREHOUSE**

Evenings (after 5pm)

Friend of the Festival	£9.00
Picturehouse Member	£12.00
Adult	£13.00

Daytime (before 5pm)

Friend of the Festival/Student/Child	£4.00
Picturehouse Member	£9.00
Adult Daytime	£10.00

Family Film Festival	FREE
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By becoming a Friend of the Cambridge Film Festival, you can support the UK's third longest-running film festival and a year-round programme of educational activity and events. To become a Friend of the Festival, visit

camfilmfest.com/become-friend

We look forward to welcoming guests to the Festival. Please visit the website for the most up-to-date information, as well as full details about accessibility, film content and trigger warnings.

camfilmfest.com/guide

FRI 31 OCT

ARTS PICTUREHOUSE

TTP SCREEN 1

11:00	The Nightmare Before Christmas	66
	Relaxed screening	
12:40	Shorts: Dangerous Liaisons	58
13:55	Salve Maria	17
16:05	Lowland Kids	23
18:00	Alpha	10
20:30	A Private Life	10

SCREEN 2

11:00	The Unfixing	24
12:55	Legend Has It	33
15:05	The Fisherman	44
17:05	Eel	42
19:05	Zodiac Killer Project	19
21:10	The Ice Tower	13

SAT 1 NOV

ARTS PICTUREHOUSE

TTP SCREEN 1

11:00	Now And Then	67
	Relaxed screening	
13:05	Eel	42
15:10	Measures For a Funeral	54
18:10	Surprise Film	13
20:30	Is This Thing On?	9

SCREEN 2

10:30	Victims of Sin	28
12:15	Shorts: Transfigurations	61
14:00	The Crossroads	44
15:50	Shorts: Children's Tales	57
17:05	The Love That Remains	31
19:10	A Private Life	10
21:15	If I Had Legs I'd Kick You	11

SUN 2 NOV

ARTS PICTUREHOUSE

TTP SCREEN 1

11:20	Timestamp	18
13:45	Steve Schapiro: Being Everywhere	34
15:20	All That's Left of You	31
18:05	Is This Thing On?	9
20:30	Rental Family	7

SCREEN 2

11:00	Shorts: Roots	60
13:00	Zodiac Killer Project	19
14:55	AMR-Dying to Change the World	24
16:25	L'avventura	16
18:35	Romería	15
20:50	Pillion	41



38-39 St Andrew's Street,
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www.picturehouses.co.uk

Picture house
ARTS

THE ARTS PICTUREHOUSE screens a year-round programme of the best in new and classic cinema over three screens. All screens are licensed, so you can take your drink from the café-bar in with you. You do not have to be a member to view films at the Arts Picturehouse, but if you are you'll receive discounts on tickets.





Gleaned from the fringes of mainstream representation, this selection of titles offers a fresh, insightful look at what it means to be human without conforming to societal expectations. We're all multifaceted creatures and cinema surely knows how to show it – with dignity and curiosity.

We introduce you to *Pillion* (2025), the most tender BDSM film ever.

You'll also discover intentional attempts to destigmatise mental health, overcome trauma through the cathartic medium of film, and celebrate the joys of being together but being different.



MON
27
21:25

SUN
2
20:50

PILLION

OFF
18

UK 2025 106 MINS

DIRECTOR Harry Lighton

WITH Harry Melling,
Alexander Skarsgård,
Lesley Sharp, Douglas Hodge,
Anthony Welsh

PRINT SOURCE Picturehouse
Entertainment

The British Christmas rom-com meets BDSM in Harry Lighton's feature debut. Colin (Harry Melling) lives with his parents in a quiet English suburb. Between his job as a parking enforcement officer and choir practice, he's struggling to find a date, until Christmas Eve, when he goes on a sizzling date with Ray (Alexander Skarsgård), a mysterious biker passing through town. The two embark on a sub-dom relationship that, while initially uncertain for Colin, gradually transforms his life.

Blending humor and eroticism, Lighton offers a fresh take on the rom-com genre, bringing BDSM into the mainstream spotlight.



UK
PREMIERE

SLEEPLESS CITY CIUDAD SIN SUEÑO

OFF
PG

FRI
24
18:00

SPAIN & FRANCE 2025 97 MINS

Spanish, Arabic with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Guillermo Galoe

WITH Antonio "Toni" Fernández Gabarre,
Bilal Sedraoui, Jesús "Chule" Fernández Silva,
Felisa Romero Molina, Pura Salazar, Francisca Jiménez

PRINT SOURCE Best Friend Forever

TUE
28
17:05

In La Cañada Real, Europe's largest shanty town, 13-year-old Toni (Antonio Fernández Gabarre) lives with his family as their home faces imminent demolition. His grandfather, Chule (Jesús Fernández Silva), refuses the municipality's housing offer and, without telling Toni, sells the family dog to pay off a debt. As demolition draws near, Toni sets out to reclaim his beloved pet.

With a documentary-style aesthetic and a cast of non-professional actors from La Cañada Real, Guillermo Galoe's feature debut delivers a raw, intimate and urgent portrait of marginalised life on the edge of modern Europe, capturing the tensions between tradition, survival and the fragile bonds of family. A tender coming-of-age story set within Madrid's Roma community.



EEL

CFF 18

HÉ MÁN

TAIWAN 2025 102 MINS

Taiwanese, Mandarin with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Chu Chun-Teng

WITH Devin Pan, Misi Ke

PRINT SOURCE Parallax

On the outskirts of Taipei lies Shezi Island, an isolated sandbar formed by two rivers. Inspired by this location, described by the director as “a liminal space, floating between opposites: city and countryside, land and sea, existence and oblivion”, the film weaves an elusive and compelling tale of a mysterious woman and a lost man. He has returned to his hometown, feeling caught between a past he cannot grasp and an intangible future. Their paths intertwine, unravelling mysteries of longing, belonging and transformation. A film of breathtaking beauty.



ILLUSIONS

CFF 15

FRI 24 11:05

WED 29 13:00

USA 2025 90 MINS

English, Russian with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Alisa Melikova

WITH Svetlana Kifa, Inna Yesilevskaya, Arnold Shvetsov, Andrei Kouznetsov, Olya Mikhaylova, Irina Abraham, Pavel Shatu, Alexander Notkin

PRINT SOURCE March Films Production LLC

This is a story about love, the kind we chase, the kind we settle for, and the kind that sneaks up on us when we're not paying attention. It's about permanence, or the lack of it, and the terrifying realisation that maybe nothing in life, no feeling, no relationship, ever truly stays the same.

Alisa Melikova's debut film *Illusions* (2025) is a rich tapestry of emotions, following two couples whose lives have been entwined for 50 years.

It poses the question: Is love real, or just a story we tell ourselves? And in the end, does it even matter?



UK
PREMIERE

NEWS WITHOUT A NEWSROOM

CFF
PG

SUN
26
17:15

WED
29
11:10

USA 2025 80 MINS

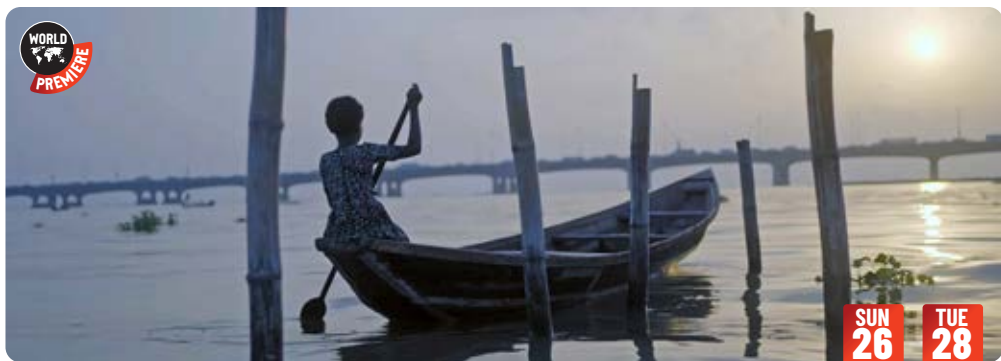
DIRECTOR Oana Martisca

PRINT SOURCE 8finite Productions LLC

In a world where truth feels increasingly elusive and trust is in short supply, *News Without A Newsroom* (2025) explores the vital role of high-quality journalism, and why we need it now more than ever. Through compelling personal stories, vivid archival footage and a thoughtful examination of how newsrooms have evolved, the film offers a layered portrait of a critical institution facing an uncertain future.



F
RATED



WORLD
PREMIERE

SUN
26
16:05

TUE
28
14:05

SHADES OF SURVIVAL

CFF
PG

NIGERIA & UK 2025
95 MINS

DIRECTOR David Ayeni

WITH Victoria Ekanoye

PRINT SOURCE Espresso Media

Set across three continents, *Shades of Survival* (2025) explores the lives of Black women in Africa, the UK and the USA, who have battled breast cancer. The film highlights the persistent inequities in outcomes for Black women, while celebrating the courage of those who advocate for change. Blending powerful personal stories, expert insights (including contributions from the University of Cambridge) and creative performance, *Shades of Survival* (2025) is a compelling narrative of resilience, community and the ongoing fight for healthcare equity. Contains scenes of non-sexual nudity and depictions of grief.



UK
PREMIERE

F
RATED

WED
29
16:10

SAT
1
14:00

THE CROSSROADS

CFF
15

POLAND 2024 **99 MINS**
Polish with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Dominika Montean-Pańków
WITH Jan Englert, Anna Romantowska
PRINT SOURCE Munk Studio - Polish
Filmmakers Association

In an instant, everything can change. A chance encounter at a crossroad between an 80-year-old retired doctor and a 24-year-old student leads to a tragedy that profoundly affects the old man. Forced to re-evaluate his past, he must confront a future very different from the one he had envisioned for himself and his family. With wonderfully nuanced performances, this film offers a multi-layered exploration of guilt and strained family dynamics.



F
RATED

THE FISHERMAN

15

GHANA 2024 **105 MINS**

FRI
24
12:55

DIRECTOR Zoey Martinson
WITH Ricky Adelayitar, Endurance Dedzo,
William Lamptey, Kiki Romi, Adwoa Akoto,
Dulo Harris

PRINT SOURCE Luu Vision Media

FRI
31
15:05

Atta Oko (Ricky Adelayitar) has spent his life as a proud traditional fisherman in rural Ghana. When he is suddenly forced into retirement, his life takes a whimsical turn as he's partnered with a most unusual scaly companion. As fishy chaos ensues, Atta and his three "Associates" navigate the vibrant streets of Accra, chasing their shared dream of owning a fishing boat. Overflowing with laughter, magic and the rich culture of Ghana, *The Fisherman* (2024) is a heartwarming tale of family, resilience and the enduring spirit of a true fisherman.

Damn good. All day.



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A GRAND REAWAKENING...**



THE
ARTS
THEATRE

THU 27 NOV - SUN 4 JAN
artstheatre.co.uk
01223 503333

REEL VOICES

A Mentoring Programme for Aspiring Film Journalists

CFF Reel Voices is dedicated to nurturing emerging talent and helping young people develop film journalism skills through:



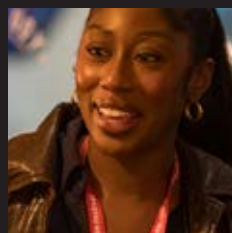
**ONE-TO-ONE
MENTORING
FROM INDUSTRY
PROFESSIONALS**



**WORKSHOPS ON
JOURNALISM
AND FILM
CRITICISM**



**FULL ACCESS TO
THE FESTIVAL
WITH PRESS
ACCREDITATION**



**PUBLISHING
REVIEWS ON
THE FESTIVAL'S
PLATFORMS**

If you are interested in the scheme for 2026, please email

info@cambridgefilmfestival.org.uk

CFF Reel voices is jointly delivered by:



Read the reviews on
the Festival website:



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CAMBRIDGE
44TH
Film
FESTIVAL

The Cambridge Film Festival is brought to you by a small charity with a dedicated and passionate team. We thrive thanks to the incredible effort of everyone involved – including you.



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joinus@cambridgefilmtrust.org.uk



CAMBRIDGE FILM FESTIVAL

INDUSTRY DAY

MONDAY 27 OCTOBER



Join us for a day packed with opportunities to network, gain insights from industry experts and create new relationships in the filmmaking world.

Whether you're just starting out or are already established in the industry, this is an event you don't want to miss!

Book your 'pay what you can' accreditation:

camfilmfest.com/industry-day



TIMETABLE

11:00 - 18:20

SHORTFUSION PREMIERES



We are thrilled to premiere all of the Cambridge Film Festival's renowned short film programmes on Industry Day.

Check out ShortFusion on
➤ pages 56 to 62.

12:45-14:00

CFF'S ANNUAL STATE OF THE INDUSTRY PANEL

14:15-15:15

BFI NETWORK SOUTH EAST SHORT FILM SHOWCASE

15:30-16:30

BFI NETWORK SOUTH EAST BEHIND THE SHORTS:
MEET THE FILMMAKERS

16:45-17:45

BFI NETWORK SOUTH EAST IN CONVERSATION WITH
CHARLOTTE REGAN (*SCRAPPER*, 2023)

From 17:45

NETWORKING DRINKS

In partnership with



12:45-14:00

CFF'S ANNUAL STATE OF THE INDUSTRY PANEL

CFF's Annual State of the Industry Panel brings together professionals from across the sector to explore the key developments in the film industry over the past year.



With BSL interpretation.

SARA PUTT is Chair of BAFTA, a Trustee of the Film and TV Charity and serves on the British Film Commission's Advisory Board. She established Sara Putt Associates in 1989, the leading UK agency representing behind the camera technical and production talent, and has worked there as MD and Agent ever since.



TOLU STEDFORD is Executive Producer and CEO of Story Compound, a production company and consultancy amplifying untold stories from the global majority. Named a Breakthrough Leader by The TV Collective (2025) and part of Film London's Breaking the Glass Ceiling (2023), she is also a BAFTA Connect member and serves on multiple boards and councils championing equity and inclusion.

TINA GHARAVI is a BAFTA-nominated filmmaker, born in Tehran and raised across the UK and US. Known for bold, emotionally charged stories that challenge convention, her debut *I Am Nasrine* (2012) was an acclaimed portrait of exile. She directed *Queen Cleopatra* (2023) for Netflix and the upcoming Virginia Woolf's *Night & Day* (2025), and is also founder of Bridge + Tunnel, as well as being a Professor at Newcastle University.



LUC ROEG is the CEO of London based production and sales company, INDEPENDENT ENTERTAINMENT. He has produced numerous films, many premiering at major festivals worldwide, including Carol Morley's *Out of Blue* (2018) and *The Falling* (2014), the critically acclaimed *We Need to Talk About Kevin* (2011), directed by Lynne Ramsay, and David Cronenberg's *Spider* (2002), among others.



14:15-15:15

BFI NETWORK South East

SHORT FILM SHOWCASE

Watch a selection of BFI NETWORK South East's newest supported short films. Discover new voices, innovative storytelling and the creative visions shaping the future of short filmmaking.

With descriptive subtitles.



15:30-16:30

BFI NETWORK South East

BEHIND THE SHORTS: MEET THE FILMMAKERS

Hear from the filmmakers whose short films were made possible with BFI NETWORK South East funding, as they share their journeys from getting funding to the big screen, and the stories behind bringing their films to life.



With BSL interpretation.

16:45-17:45

BFI NETWORK South East

FEATURE FOCUS: IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARLOTTE REGAN (*SCRAPPER*)

Join us for a Q&A with Charlotte Regan, director of the award-winning debut feature *Scrapper* (2023), who will discuss her creative process. This is a unique opportunity to gain insight from a filmmaker who has transitioned from making shorts to a feature. Come along to hear about her experiences navigating the film industry.



With BSL interpretation.

From 17:45 NETWORKING DRINKS

Come and toast the end to another great Industry Day at the Cambridge Film Festival!



ALSO ON INDUSTRY DAY AT GONVILLE HOTEL



11:45 - 14:45

FILM HUB South East

FILM FESTIVAL ROUNDTABLE

Hosted by Film Hub South East, this event brings together the region's festival organisers to hear from guest speakers, discuss challenges and share knowledge to develop more successful festivals.

11:45-12:45

BFI Film Academy

OFF-SET

A SESSION ON FILM CAREERS OUTSIDE OF PRODUCTION | For ages 16-25

Love film but curious about careers beyond filmmaking? Join this friendly event to hear early-career speakers discuss their roles in marketing, distribution and festivals. This will include a free lunch after the session.

These events are not included with your Industry Day accreditation.

If you are eligible for these events, you can book here: camfilmfest.com/industry-day



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THE

Awards 2023

University of the Year

ScreenSkills Select

SPECIAL EVENT



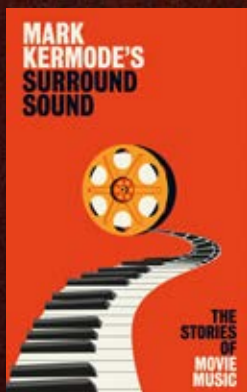
MARK KERMODE'S *Surround Sound*

Friday 24th, 18:55 | TTP Screen 1

Film critic Mark Kermode and radio producer Jenny Nelson explore cinema's most powerful soundtracks, with anecdotes, favourite tracks and a special guest.

Join Britain's best-known film critic Mark Kermode and award-winning radio producer Jenny Nelson for an unmissable evening of cinematic insight, sharp wit and passionate debate. Together, they explore the power of film music, inspired by their new book, *Mark Kermode's Surround Sound: The Stories of Movie Music*.

From cult classics to blockbuster scores, expect animated discussion, revealing stories, and plenty of chances to ask questions and join the debate. This is a night of honest, hilarious, and deeply informed film talk you simply won't hear anywhere else.



The talk is followed by
a book signing and copies
will be available to
purchase at the event.



SPECIAL EVENT

THE FILM SOCIETY AT

100

CFF
PG

SAT
25

14:30

90 MINS



Celebrate the Centenary of The Film Society!

Emerging from the 'Cambridge University Kinema Club' but founded in London by a group of artists and writers, the Film Society was attended by such luminaries as Virginia Woolf and Alfred Hitchcock and played a central role in establishing film as an art-form.

It introduced films from abroad that the censors banned and that no commercial distributor would handle, hosted the premieres of such films as *Nosferatu* (1922) and *Battleship Potemkin* (1925), and it inspired scores of similar societies across the country. Join experts Inga Fraser (University of Cambridge) and Henry K. Miller (Anglia Ruskin University) for an introduction to and celebration of the Film Society, including special screenings, one hundred years to the minute after its first programme in October 1925.



Discover The Gonville Hotel - a boutique city retreat overlooking Cambridge's iconic Parker's Piece. Guests enjoy complimentary Bentley tours and bicycle hire to explore the city. We offer luxurious treatments at Gresham House Wellness. Unwind with live jazz every Friday and Saturday night in The Long Bar.



Gonville Place, Cambridge CB1 1LY | events@gonvillehotel.co.uk | 01223 366611 | [@gonvillehotel](https://www.gonvillehotel.co.uk)



We are proud to present our Cambridge Connections strand, celebrating the best of local talent and showcasing films with a regional focus. This year's selection includes the short film *Saturday Night Butch* (2025), an exploration of lesbian identities; *Lost for Words* (2025), a feature filmed in Ely, including scenes shot in the legendary Toppings Bookshop; and *Measures for a Funeral* (2024), which was partially filmed in Cambridge and Meldreth. Come and discover what the Cambridgeshire film community has to offer.



MEASURES FOR A FUNERAL



CANADA 2024 142 MINS

DIRECTOR Sofia Bohdanowicz
WITH Deragh Campbell,
 María Dueñas
PRINT SOURCE Totem Films

Audrey Benac (Deragh Campbell) is an academic drawn into the life of forgotten Canadian violinist Kathleen Parlow. She embarks on a globe-spanning journey—from Toronto to Oslo, via Cambridge and Meldreth—to resurrect Parlow's legacy. Haunted by a mother who blames her for a failed career, Audrey delves into archives, explores Parlow's diaries, and strives to stage a live orchestral performance of the lost violin concerto Opus 28, composed for Parlow and long presumed destroyed. Sofia Bohdanowicz's recurring character Audrey returns in *Measures for a Funeral* (2025), an introspective, music-centered meditation on memory, legacy and unfulfilled ambition.



WORLD
PREMIERE

SAT
25
16:25

WED
29
16:30

LOST FOR WORDS

CFF
15

UK 2025 93 MINS

DIRECTOR Rick Bush

WITH Nina Fidderman,

David Boan, Rebecca Goodwin

PRINT SOURCE Inverted Media Ltd

CFF are thrilled to present *Lost For Words* (2025) for one of this year's Cambridge Connections picks. Lana (Nina Fidderman) wanders into a bookshop and unexpectedly bumps into an old friend, Tom (David Boan). After the two find themselves accidentally locked in overnight, Lana begins to reflect on the dissatisfaction in her life—but there's a glimmer of hope that things may start to change. Filmed in the beautiful city of Ely and directed by local filmmaker Rick Bush, this film wraps around you like a warm blanket on a cold evening.

SHOWING TOGETHER WITH



WORLD
PREMIERE

SATURDAY NIGHT BUTCH

CFF
12A

UK 2025 13 MINS

DIRECTOR Claudia Vogt

WITH Kate Butler, Louise Dalglish,

Millie-Mae Harris, Shan Haywood, Catherine Lee

PRINT SOURCE Lisa-Marie Soulier & Claudia Vogt

Originating in 1950s America, the term "Saturday Night Butch" described lesbians who dressed stereotypically feminine during the week—for work and daily life—and expressed their Butch identity only on weekends, in lesbian bars.

Claudia Vogt's film explores the modern relevance of this term through the stories of five queer women, highlighting the positive impact these spaces have had on their lives.

CONTENT WARNING Contains strong language

F
RATED



SHORT FUSION

Discover a dynamic selection of international films exploring the triumphs and complexities of human connection. Experience trailblazing stories which illustrate the inner lives, hidden rituals and radical transformations that shape who we are, through these six daring short film programmes.

SHORT FUSION

Experimental documentaries capturing children's invented worlds inspired by dreams, fears and imagination.

CFF PG 59 MINS

This strand contains themes of war.

MON
27

15:50

SAT
1

15:50

CHILDREN'S TALES



CAPTURED FOR LIFE

UK 2024 13 MINS

DIRECTOR Fiona Hughes

Told through young Denise's eyes, we discover how her parents saved more than just each other during World War II.



CRIATURA

UK 2025 9 MINS

DIRECTOR Nitya Ramlogan

Interweaving dreamlike animation with documentary-style interviews, an imaginary sea creature helps 13-year-old Lola reflect on leaving Mexico for London.



GRANDPA HAS A BROKEN EYE AND MOM IS AN ADVENTURE

NORWAY 2024 8 MINS

DIRECTOR Marita Mayer

Four children share their thoughts on aphasia, describing how they communicate with family members who have difficulty expressing themselves verbally.



MONSTERS

UK 2025 29 MINS

DIRECTORS Andy Field & Beckie Darlington

Created in collaboration with children across East Anglia, this post-apocalyptic fairytale examines their hopes and anxieties about the uncertain future.



SHORT FUSION

A provocative look at womanhood fuelled by sexuality, danger and the pursuit of power.

MON
27

12:35

CFF 15 59 MINS

This strand contains themes of sexual assault and war.

FRI
31

12:40

DANGEROUS LIASONS



HEAT HAZE

UK 2025 9 MINS

DIRECTOR Margarita Milne



Desperate for her religious group's approval, a teenage girl's worldview is corrupted by the kind gesture of a strange man.



PACK RAT

NEW ZEALAND 2024 18 MINS

DIRECTOR Lucy Suess



In rural New Zealand, 15-year-old Baby Teeth fights to be taken seriously by her alpha-driven gang of male friends.



PLEASE CARRY ON

UK 2025 12 MINS

DIRECTOR Elizabeth Connick



Catherine, a lonesome young woman starved for intimacy, indulges in a ritualistic, one-sided fantasy with the unseen neighbours next door.



PRELUDE

UKRAINE 2025 14 MINS

DIRECTOR Alina Panasenکو



While cruising through the nocturnal streets of war-torn Kyiv, a woman stops to film passing men, seeking a one-night stand.



SIGNS

UK 2025 6 MINS

DIRECTORS Esme Allen & Hannah Beach



Full-time influencer Jess believes the stars have aligned for her to finally find love. However, some signs can be deceptive.

SHORT FUSION

Playful and offbeat comedic stories about rules, rituals and the strange games people play.

CFF 15 62 MINS

This strand contains themes of discrimination and sex.

**MON
27
17:05**

**WED
29
12:45**

FUNNY GAMES



1:10

SWITZERLAND 2024 18 MINS

DIRECTOR Sinan Taner

During sports day at a primary school, a harmless spat between children escalates into death threats between their fathers.



GETAWAY

UK 2024 13 MINS

DIRECTOR Aaron Kilercioğlu

A witty and offbeat tale of self-discovery, following a heartbroken camper who unexpectedly finds himself at a liberating swingers' retreat.



THE GOLDEN SQUACCO HERON

UK 2025 6 MINS

DIRECTOR Edward Smyth

Two friends embark on a treasure hunt for the fabled Golden Squacco Heron, inventing their own games along the way.



HOW FAST CAN YOU EAT A PICKLED EGG?

UK 2025 13 MINS

DIRECTOR Daniel England

Attracting larger-than-life regulars, The Cock Tavern plays host to one of London's quirkiest underground traditions: the pickled egg eating competition.



THE LAST GAMMON

UK 2025 9 MINS

DIRECTOR Elmaz Ekrem Littlewood

The apocalypse may be nigh, but nothing will stop Dave from getting the last gammon for his beloved bird's brekkie.



LOVE BITES

CZECH REPUBLIC 2024 3 MINS

DIRECTORS Michal Vojtech & Ariel de la Garza Davidoff

Leading a mundane life as a railway ticket inspector, a nervous vampire unexpectedly finds love.

SHORT FUSION

CFF 12A 105 MINS

ROOTS

Intimate dramas unpacking the tight familial bonds, environments and memories which keep us rooted.

This strand contains themes of bereavement and war.

MON
27
13:50

SUN
2
11:00



ASTRONAUTA ITALY & GUATEMALA

2025 16 MINS

DIRECTOR Giorgio Giampà



In the Guatemalan jungle, a lumberjack grapples with his chauvinistic environment when his daughter dreams of following in his footsteps.



CASA CHICA

MEXICO 2025 25 MINS

DIRECTOR Lau Charles



Witnessed through their different perspectives, siblings Valentina and Quique face a difficult truth about their father's double life.



AN EXCESS BAGGAGE

FRANCE 2024 16 MINS

DIRECTOR Myriam Garcia Marienstras



Sophie masks her sadness in motherly love, but when her daughter Lila leaves for camp, her anxieties begin to unravel.



PEOPLE & THINGS

POLAND 2024 20 MINS

DIRECTOR Damian Kosowski

A woman must confront the past when asked to identify her missing husband's body at a recently discovered mass grave.



WONDERWALL

UK 2025 28 MINS

DIRECTOR Róisín Burns



Amidst Liverpool's dockers' strike of 1995, little Siobhan has one concern: will Oasis beat Blur in the Battle of Britpop?

SHORT FUSION

Modern fables of uncanny metamorphosis and altered states, questioning what it means to be human.

CFF 15 88 MINS

This strand contains themes of bereavement and bodily harm.

MON
27
11:00

SAT
1
12:15

TRANSFIGURATIONS



ASH VALLEY: JANYL CANADA & KYRGYZSTAN

2024 17 MINS

DIRECTOR Shu Zhu



When animals near a state-run oil field exhibit peculiar symptoms, a determined veterinarian seeks to uncover an unsettling secret.



INSATIABLE

USA 2023 15 MINS

DIRECTOR Rhea Li



A grieving woman consumes her late partner's ashes to see visions of their memories, leaving her with an all-consuming craving.



MOTI

INDIA 2025 16 MINS

DIRECTOR Yash Saraf



A family dog named Moti awakens as a boy. As he navigates humanity, Moti mourns the sensory world he's lost.



RADIKALS

PHILIPPINES 2024 20 MINS

DIRECTOR Arvin Belarmino



A rookie from a bizarre chicken-dance troupe makes a chilling discovery about what they do to the group's weakest link.



SHALLOW GROUND

CROATIA 2025 20 MINS

DIRECTOR Jozo Schmuck



Presumed dead in the Croatian War of Independence, Luka reunites with his elderly mother, untouched by the passage of time.

SHORT FUSION

Exploring the vibrant facets of LGBTQIA+ identity through portraits of love, desire and community.

CFF 15 79 MINS

This strand contains themes of sex.

MON
27

11:00

THU
30

13:00

VIOLET DELIGHTS



A BIRD HIT MY WINDOW AND NOW I'M A LESBIAN



USA 2025 8 MINS

DIRECTORS Carmela Murphy & AJ Dubler

A strange girl, a dead bird and a spontaneous rooftop funeral cause Gray to question her identity as a lesbian.



BEYOND EDEN



UK & USA 2025 25 MINS

DIRECTOR Al Johnstone

Founded 50 years ago in the United States, the Land Dykes built a community without men, fostering solidarity and kinship.



INVINCIBLE SUMMER



BELGIUM 2025 19 MINS

DIRECTOR Arnaud Dufey

Alone at home, restless 16-year-old Clément is eager to test the waters by swiping right on a handsome stranger.



SOVIET FANTASIA



HUNGARY & UK 2025 8 MINS

DIRECTOR Penn Bálint

Leaving their post-Soviet country for England, teenage Hajnal embarks on a surreal exploration of queer identity, immigration and belonging.



UNA NOTTE



UK 2025 19 MINS

DIRECTOR Rob Harris

Wandering through the summer-soaked English countryside, a young Italian man has a fleeting romantic encounter he'll never forget.

AUDIENCE AWARDS

Did you know that each year the Cambridge Film Festival presents a number of prestigious awards and YOU can vote for them?

Features premiering at the Festival, along with all our shorts, are eligible for our Audience Awards, decided by you, our audience.

If the film you're watching is eligible, a festival team member will hand you a voting card. Be sure to cast your vote and help us choose the winners!



To see past winners and explore other festival awards, visit our website.

camfilmfest.com/awards-history

AstraZeneca in Cambridge



| *Unlocking the power of what science can do*

Fostering Progress and Positive Impact in Cambridge Together



200

science-led partnerships

Working side-by-side with brilliant partners across Cambridge, we are advancing **pioneering science** with the aim to transform the future of healthcare.



70+

volunteer business mentors

As the region's largest life sciences employer, we support local economic growth and collaborate to **inspire the next generation** through STEM education, early careers programmes and mentoring entrepreneurs.



50+

charitable beneficiaries in 2024

We are dedicated to giving back by contributing to local causes and charities, and are proud to partner with **Maggie's Cambridge** as our Charity of Choice until 2027.



Learn more about AstraZeneca in Cambridge

FAMILY FILM FESTIVAL

Our free Family Film Festival screenings are back over seven fun-filled mornings this half term! This year's selection celebrates the joys and challenges of growing up and the universal experience of discovering who you are. From 1970s Indiana to northern New Zealand to Halloween Town, our protagonists embark on adventures that help them find their place in the world.

For more fun, join us in the cinema restaurant an hour before each family screening for arts and crafts.

Family
Film Festival
screenings are
FREE
for all

GROW
Relaxed screening

PG

UK 2025 107 MINS

SAT
25
11:00

DIRECTOR John McPhail

WITH Golda Rosheuvel, Priya-Rose Brookwell, Nick Frost, Jane Horrocks, Tim McInnerny, Alan Carr

PRINT SOURCE SC Films International

In the quirky rural town known as the "Pumpkin Capital of the World," young, plucky Charlie (Priya-Rose Brookwell) is sent to live with her no-nonsense aunt (Golda Rosheuvel). As they set aside their differences, Charlie discovers a supernatural gift and decides to enter the fiercely competitive local pumpkin-growing contest. Facing sabotage, eccentric rivals and a peculiar lab experiment, Charlie must dig deep to grow more than just a pumpkin.



WHALE RIDER
Relaxed screening

PG

NEW ZEALAND 2002 101 MINS

English & Maori

SUN
26
11:00

DIRECTOR Niki Caro **WITH** Keisha Castle-Hughes, Rawiri Paratene, Vicky Haughton, Cliff Curtis, Grant Roa, Mana Taumaunu
PRINT SOURCE Filmbankmedia

In this cult coming-of-age classic set on the east coast of New Zealand, 12-year-old Pai (Keisha Castle-Hughes) dreams of becoming chief of her Māori tribe, tracing her ancestry back to the legendary whale rider, Paikea. Tradition dictates that the leader must be male, and her grandfather, Koro (Rawiri Paratene), refuses to acknowledge her potential. As Pai strives to prove herself, she demonstrates that courage, love and determination can challenge even the most deeply held beliefs.



FRESH.
OBSERVANT.
TOUGH AND
GENUINELY
MOVING.
Roger Ebert





THE PARENT TRAP

Relaxed screening

USA 1998 128 MINS

PG

DIRECTOR Nancy Meyers

WITH Lindsay Lohan, Dennis Quaid,
Natasha Richardson, Elaine Hendrix,
Lisa Ann Walter

PRINT SOURCE Filmbankmedia

TUE
28
11:00

When Nick (Dennis Quaid) and Liz (Natasha Richardson) divorce, each takes custody of one of their infant twin daughters—Annie and Hallie (Lindsay Lohan)—who grow up unaware of each other's existence. Years later, the twins meet by chance at summer camp. When they discover they're sisters, they hatch a clever plan to reunite their long-separated parents.

But will their scheme work?

I CANNOT
STRESS HOW
LOVABLY BRILLIANT
LOHAN IS HERE.
THE GUARDIAN



A TIMELESS
CLASSIC, THE
PRINCESS AND THE
FROG IS MAGICAL.
SIMPLY MAGICAL.
Debbie Lynn Elias,
BEHIND THE
LENS

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG

Relaxed screening

USA 2009 97 MINS

English & French

DIRECTORS John Musker & Ron Clements

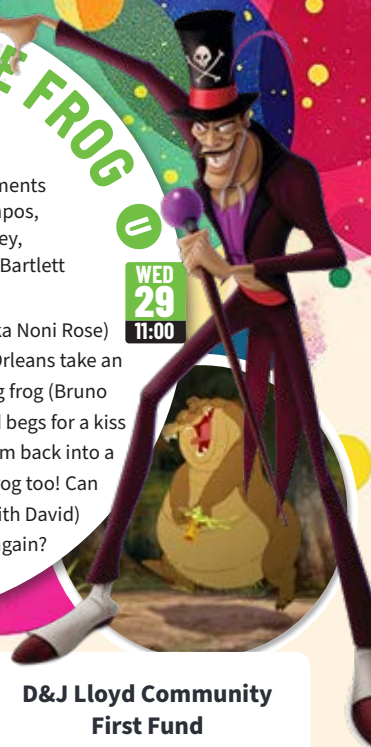
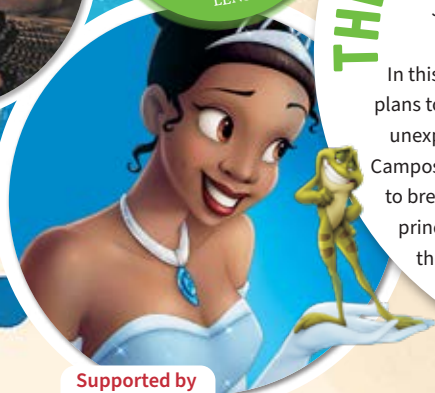
WITH Anika Noni Rose, Bruno Campos,
Keith David, Michael-Leon Wooley,
Jennifer Cody, Jim Cummings, Peter Bartlett

PRINT SOURCE Park Circus

U

WED
29
11:00

In this beloved Disney classic Tiana's (Anika Noni Rose) plans to open the finest restaurant in New Orleans take an unexpected turn when she meets a talking frog (Bruno Campos). He mistakes her for a princess and begs for a kiss to break his curse but instead of turning him back into a prince, the kiss transforms Tiana into a frog too! Can they escape the sinister Dr. Facilier (Keith David) and find a way to become human again?



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INSIDE OUT 2

Relaxed screening

USA 2024 96 MINS

DIRECTOR Kelsey Mann

WITH Amy Poehler, Maya Hawke,
Kensington Tallman, Liza Lapira,
Tony Hale, Lewis Black

PRINT SOURCE Filmbankmedia

THU
30
11:00

In the top-grossing film of 2024, Riley (Kensington Tallman) heads off to hockey camp with her best friends, Bree (Sumayyah Nuridden-Green) and Grace (Grace Lu). But what should have been a fun few days before high school quickly unravels when a new emotion—Anxiety (Maya Hawke)—takes control. As things spiral, Joy (Amy Poehler) must find a way to help Riley reconnect with who she is before it's too late.



A DECIDEDLY
CHARMING TALE THAT CAN
BE ENJOYED BY CHILDREN
AND ADULTS ALIKE."

Sergio Burstein,
LOS ANGELES TIMES

THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Relaxed screening

USA 1993 76 MINS

DIRECTOR Henry Selick

WITH Danny Elfman, Chris Sarandon,
Catherine O'Hara, William
Hickey, Glenn Shadix

PRINT SOURCE Filmbankmedia

FRI
31
11:00

PG

Tired of the same old annual fright, Jack Skellington (Danny Elfman), the lanky Pumpkin King of Halloween Town, stumbles upon the wondrous Christmas Town and decides to take over the holiday. But his well-meaning plans soon spiral into a delightfully twisted misadventure, where festive cheer clashes with eerie invention. This cult classic produced by Tim Burton is a gothic fantasy brimming with stop-motion artistry.





NOW AND THEN

Relaxed screening

USA 1995 102 MINS

PG

SAT
1
11:00

DIRECTOR Lesli Linka Glatter
WITH Christina Ricci, Thora Birch, Demi Moore,
Gaby Hoffmann, Melanie Griffith, Rita Wilson,
Ashleigh Aston Moore, Rosie O'Donnell

PRINT SOURCE Park Circus

CONTENT WARNING Contains discussion of sex and war,
mild language and mild violence.

In this timeless classic, four childhood friends, Teeny (Melanie Griffith), Chrissy (Rita Wilson), Samantha (Demi Moore), and Roberta (Rosie O'Donnell), reunite as adults to prepare for the arrival of Chrissy's baby and reflect on the unforgettable summer of 1970 that shaped their lives. Returning to their hometown, they relive the joys and challenges of adolescence and the unshakable strength of their friendship.

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MORE THAN JUST A FILM FESTIVAL...

Cambridge Film Trust is proud to present the Cambridge Film Festival each year, but our work doesn't stop there.

Throughout the year, we work with communities through our educational and outreach programmes, staying true to our mission: that everyone should have the opportunity to engage with great cinema. We are committed to broadening access to cinema and empowering communities through the transformative power of film.

Our Education Programme inspires young people from all backgrounds to raise their aspirations and explore careers in film. Through First Steps (volunteering, internships, mentoring), the CFF Youth Lab and Reel Voices, we support the next generation as they begin their journey into the industry.

We also host popular free community screenings across Cambridge with creative arts activities.

These events bring a mix of new and classic films to local community centres and neighbourhoods, making cinema more accessible, inclusive and fun for everyone. Stay tuned to our social media for updates on future screenings.

If you'd like to be part of our mission and support our work, please consider donating via the QR code. Your contribution helps us continue our educational and outreach programmes, and empower more people to engage with great cinema.

Thank you for the support!

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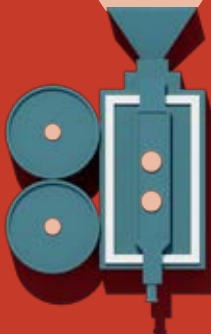
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mind to it, you
can accomplish
anything”***

George McFly, Back to the Future

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