



LEEDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

**3—19
November
2023**

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#LIFF2023

Free Guide

LEEDS ARTS
EVENTS & VENUES

 Leeds
CITY COUNCIL





Poor Things – LIFF 2023 Opening Film
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Welcome

Welcome to the LIFF 2023 programme!

This year's Leeds International Film Festival is even more epic, with our longest edition yet – an extensive, diverse, and exciting programme presented across seven sections over 17 days and including three full weekends for the first time. We have transformed the schedule in this new and larger guide, with a far more accessible format to help you to plan your screenings better at LIFF 2023. If you want to see multiple films, the best value booking option is to buy one of our passes, with great discounts on tickets, and most of our passes can be shared with others too.

We are thrilled to welcome back Hyde Park Picture House as a leading venue for LIFF. Recently reopened and beautifully restored, HPPH hosts many of our highlight films and events this year.

See you at LIFF 2023!

Team LIFF

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Visit leedsfilm.com

- ▼ Full LIFF programme online
- ▼ Sign up for LIFF newsletter
- ▼ See the latest updates

🐦📷📺 @leedsfilmfest
#LIFF2023

Opportunities with LIFF 2024

We are expanding the opportunities for working with Leeds International Film Festival in 2024, including offering a wider range of freelance programming roles which will be advertised in January – help us to research and select the programme for LIFF 2024! You can find out about opportunities and how to sign up to our newsletter for the latest news and updates on: leedsfilm.com

Venues

Hyde Park Picture House
73 Brudenell Road,
Leeds LS6 1JD

VUE in The Light
22 The Light,
The Headrow,
Leeds LS1 8TL

Howard Assembly Room
46 New Briggate,
Leeds LS1 6NU

Stockroom Cinema
Keighley Creative,
3-7 Cooke Street,
Airedale Centre,
Keighley BD21 3PF

St. Lukes Cares
246-252, 246 Dewsbury
Road, Leeds LS11 6JQ

Everyman Leeds
Level 4, Trinity,
Albion Street,
Leeds LS1 5AT

Cottage Road Cinema
Cottage Road,
Leeds LS6 4DD

The Old Fire Station
Gipton Approach,
Leeds LS9 6NL

Chapel FM Arts Centre
Old Seacroft Chapel,
York Road, Seacroft,
Leeds LS14 6JB



Accessibility at Venues

For detailed accessibility information for all our venues, please see the individual venue pages on leedsfilm.com. We offer free entry for essential companions and accept the CEA card at all our venues: seats can be booked with Leeds Ticket Hub (please see details on page 5).

If you have any specific access requirements and you would like to discuss them, please email leeds.film@leeds.gov.uk or call or visit Leeds Ticket Hub (please see details on page 5).

Accessible Screenings

LIFF 2023 will include screenings with SDH - subtitles for customers who are D/deaf or experiencing hearing loss - and AD - audio description for customers who are blind or partially sighted. Details about films with SDH and AD will be on the Accessible Screenings page on leedsfilm.com.

We have two relaxed screenings during LIFF 2023, both in Screen Two at Hyde Park Picture House: Robot Dreams at 10.30am on 5 November and This is Going to Be Big at 10.30am on 12 November.

Tickets & Passes

Tickets

Feature films £9.50/£7.50*
Unless otherwise stated. No booking fee is applied.

LIFF SHORTS programmes £8/£6*
Unless otherwise stated. No booking fee is applied.

* Concession price: students, ages 60 and over, ages 16 and under, disabled, unwaged.

Passes

LIFF LITE PASS £47.50/£37.50*
For sharing or individual use. The LIFF LITE PASS gives you 6 tickets for the price of 5 and they can be used in any combination: for example, one person for 6 screenings or two people for 3 screenings. You can buy a second LIFF LITE PASS once you have used up the first one. No booking fee is applied. For ages 25 and under, the best value pass for 6 tickets is the LIFF BUZZ PASS.

LIFF BUZZ PASS £30
For sharing or individual use. The LIFF BUZZ PASS is for ages 25 and under and gives you 6 tickets for only £5 each and they can be used in any combination: for example, one person for 6 screenings or two people for 3 screenings. All ticket holders must be ages 25 and under. Proof of age is required when using the pass. You can buy a second LIFF BUZZ PASS once you have used up the first one, a third one after using the second one, etc. No booking fee is applied.

LIFF EXPLORER 10 PASS £78/£62*
(10 tickets included)
LIFF EXPLORER 20 PASS £150/£123*
(20 tickets included)
For sharing or individual use. The LIFF EXPLORER PASS gives you either 10 or 20 discounted tickets and they can be used in any combination: for example, the LIFF EXPLORER 10 PASS can be used for one person for 10 screenings or two people for 5 screenings. You can buy a second pass once you have used up the first one. These are better value than the LIFF LITE PASS if you want to see 10 films or more. If you are 25 or under, the better value pass is LIFF BUZZ. No booking fee is applied.

LIFF EXPLORER GOLD PASS £210/£180*
For individual use. The LIFF EXPLORER GOLD PASS is best value if you want to see 30 films or more, with unlimited access to every screening and event including the Fanomenon marathons. You will also have free access to any LIFF 2023 films on Leeds Film Player. You will still need to book individual tickets for screenings as normal - the tickets will appear as free with your pass. Tickets can only be bought and used by the pass-holder. No booking fee is applied.

* Concession price: students, ages 60 and over, ages 16 and under, disabled, unwaged.

How to book with Leeds Ticket Hub

Online
Visit leedsfilm.com

Over the phone on 0113 376 0318
Lines open from Monday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm.

In person at Carriageworks Theatre on Millennium Square, Leeds city centre
Open every Tuesday until 24 October, 1pm to 6pm, and then daily from 30 October to 18 November, 1pm to 6pm. We also sell tickets at our venues during LIFF 2023, but advanced booking is highly recommended.

Screening start times

There are no programmes of trailers or adverts before films at LIFF. Films start on or just after the advertised start times where possible. There are often introductions by LIFF Team members and guests or promotional videos from LIFF partners at the start, but these are short. If there is a longer talk before the start of a film, this is mentioned with the film information in the guide or online.

Film certification

Most films screening at LIFF are only available to customers aged 18 or over due to local licensing requirements, unless otherwise stated with the film information in the guide or online. If a film has a BBFC certificate, this is stated with the film information.

LIFF 2023 on Leeds Film Player

Many programmes from LIFF SHORTS and some feature films will be available to view online from 3 to 19 November on our streaming platform Leeds Film Player - player.leedsfilm.com. The films available online will be listed on the Player page on leedsfilm.com from 16 October. Feature films on the Player are £7 to rent and short film programmes £4, unless otherwise stated. Leeds Film Player also has a library of other film titles you can rent, specially selected by the LIFF team.

Passholder Discounts Network Scheme

Leeds is a vibrant city full of food, drink and fun to explore during the festival. Whether grabbing a coffee before a morning film, grabbing dinner with friends that you bumped into at a screening or topping off the evening with a few drinks; this year we wanted to highlight some of our favorite spots as well as provide an exclusive discount for our festival passholders to explore. Find out more about our passholder discounts and see an updated list at leedfilm.com.

Discount Venues

Belgrave Music Hall

Pizza and Burgers, Rooftop Bar, DJs

10% off food and drink

Belgrave Music Hall,
1a Cross Belgrave Street,
Leeds LS2 8JP
belgravemusicall.com
@belgravemusicall

Flamingos Coffee House

Hot Drinks & Cakes

Any hot drink and cake for £4.99

Unit 10, Central Arcade,
Leeds LS1 6DX
facebook.com/flamingoscoffeehouseleeds
@flamingosleeds

Friends of Ham

Craft Beer, Wine, Charcuterie & Cheese

10% off order

4-8 New Station Street,
Leeds LS1 5DL
www.friendsofham.com
@friendsofham

Grindhouse

Plenty of Drinks & Movie Food!

20% off order

22 New Briggate, Leeds LS1 6NU
@grindhouseleeds

Hyde Park Book Club

Community Music Venue, Cafe/Bar, Coffee

25% off food & coffee

27-29 Headingley Lane, Leeds LS61BL
hydeparkbookclub.co.uk
@hydeparkbookclub @HPBCLeeds

Laynes

Coffee, Breakfast & Brunch

10% off all 'dine-in' food during LIFF

12-16 New Station Street
(next to Leeds Train Station)
laynespresso.co.uk
@laynespresso

North Bar Leeds

Craft Beers, Cocktails, Coffee & Charcuterie

15% off order

24 New Briggate, Leeds LS16NU
facebook.com/northbarleeds
@northbardrinks

To use

The discounts will be available for the duration of the festival, November 3-19.

To validate any discount or special offer, please show your physical festival pass or an email confirmation of the pass on your phone. If there are any issues redeeming your discount please get in touch with us on social media or email – leeds.film@leeds.gov.uk

Social

Craft, Cask & Cocktails

15% off order

21 Merrion Street, Leeds LS2 8JE
@thesocialleeds

Stage Espresso & Brewbar

Speciality Coffee, Brunch, Hot & Cold Drinks

10% discount on all drinks and pastries

41 Great George Street,
Leeds LS1 3BB
Stagecoffee.com
@stagecoffeeleeds

Sela Bar

Late Night Bar & Pizzeria

£10 pizza & house drink

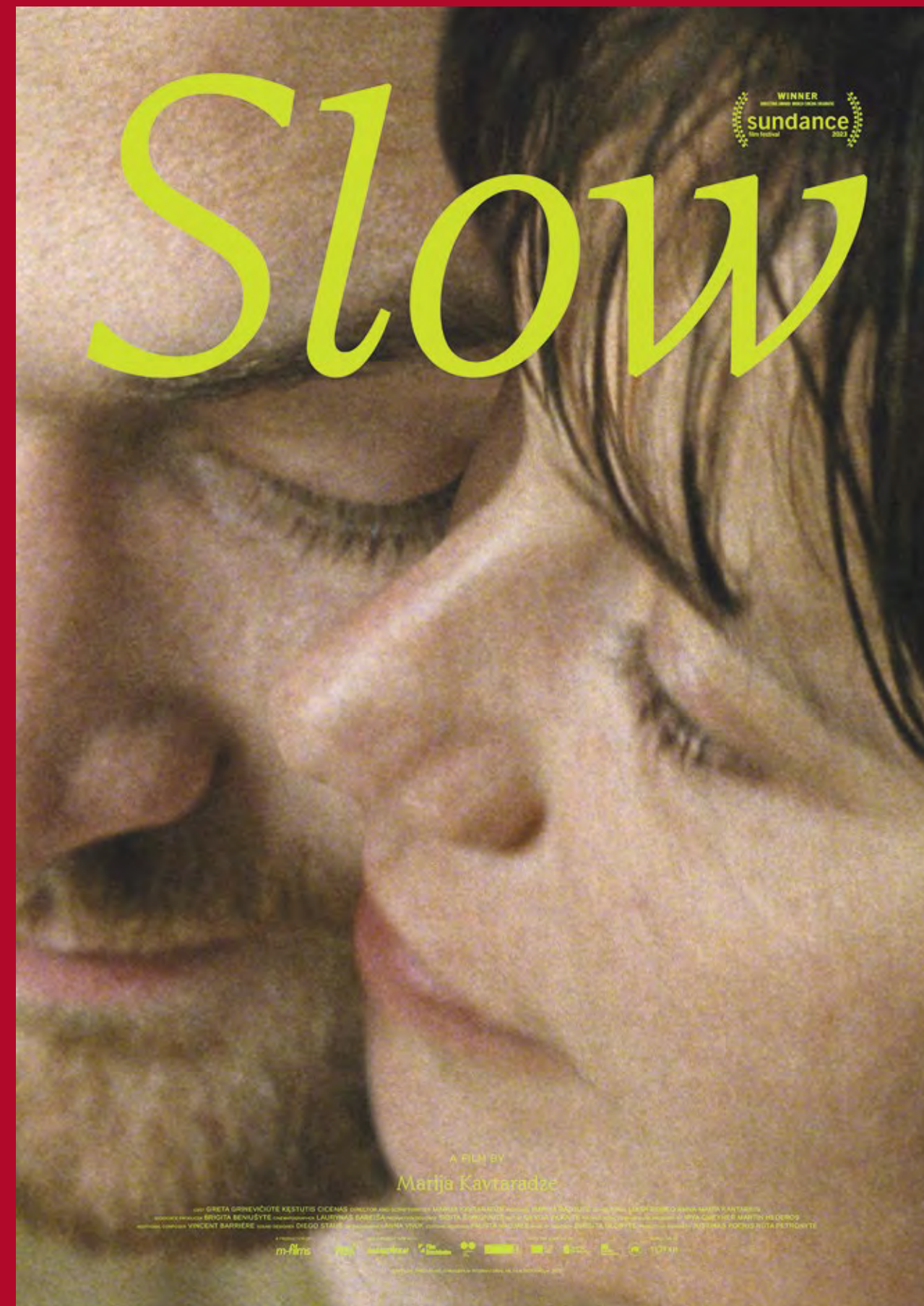
20 New Briggate, Leeds LS1 6NU
selabar.com
@selabarleeds

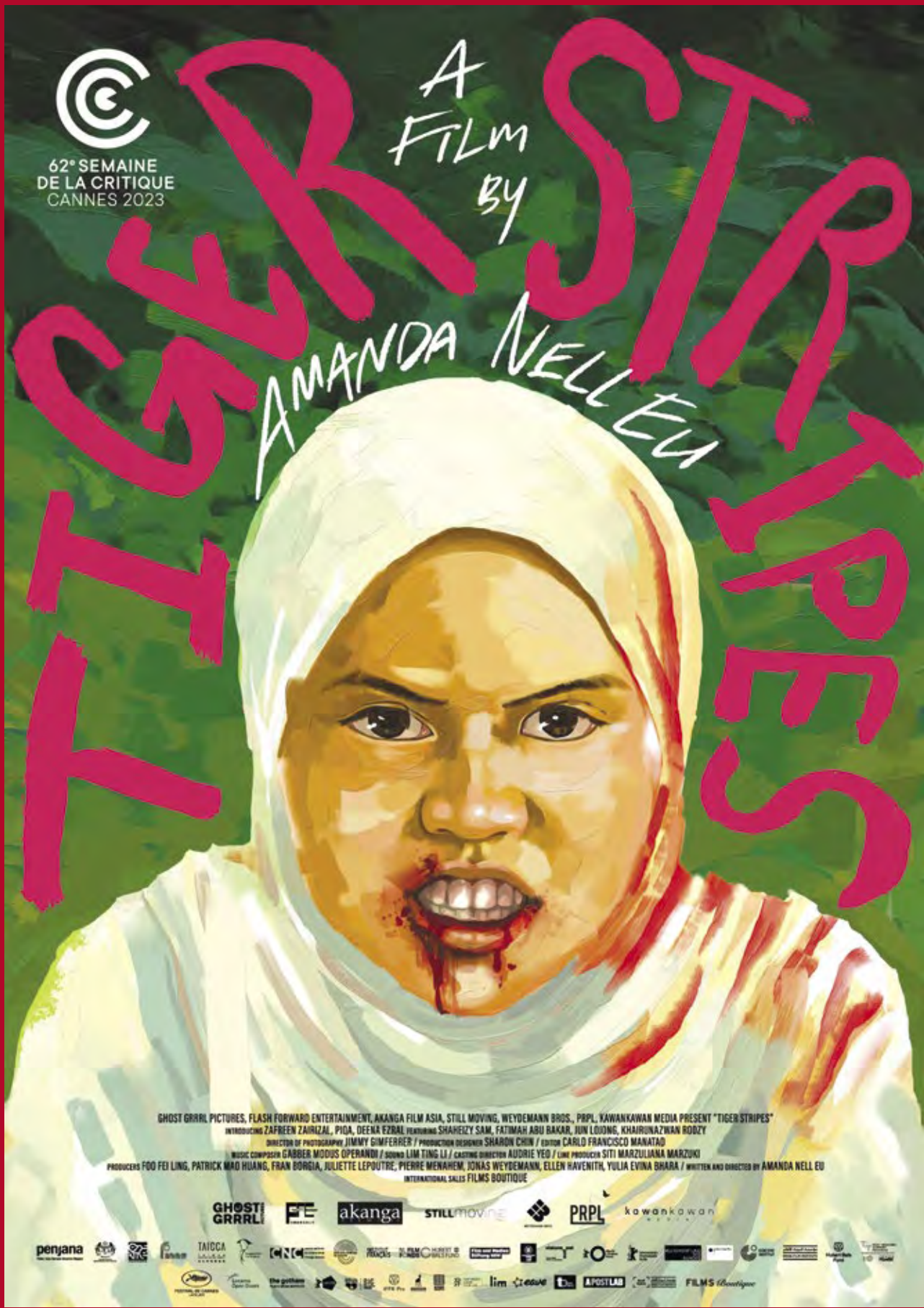
Wax

Late Night Bar, Beers, Cocktails, DJs

Cocktail discounts all night!

20 New Briggate, Leeds LS1 6NU
@wax_bar_leeds
#waxbarleeds





Tiger Stripes
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SUPPORTING FILMMAKERS AT LIFF 2023



**HYDE PARK PICTURE HOUSE
WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER**

A day of masterclasses, screenings & socials. Featuring BAFTA, Doc Society, Nathan Bryon & Tom Melia (Rye Lane) + more.

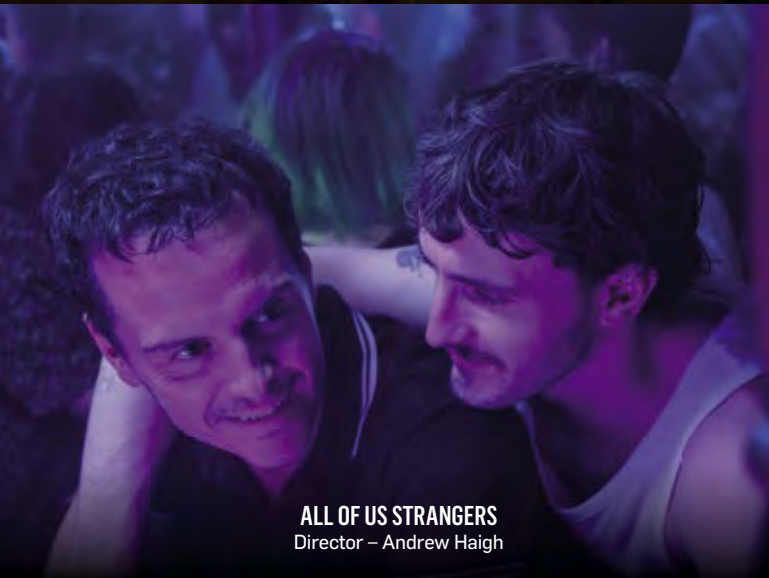
FILMHUBNORTH.ORG.UK/LIFF



POOR THINGS
Director – Yorgos Lanthimos



HOW TO HAVE SEX
Director – Molly Manning Walker



ALL OF US STRANGERS
Director – Andrew Haigh



SKY PEALS
Director – Moin Hussain

FILM4 PROUDLY SUPPORTS LEEDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2023

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR FILMMAKERS AND PARTNERS



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THEATRE**

FRI 24 NOVEMBER 2023 – SUN 7 JANUARY 2024

PHA
paul holman associates

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LYONS**

LEEDS' FAVOURITE
**JEZ
EDWARDS**

**NICOLE
FARADAY**
FROM ITV'S BAD GIRLS
& EMMERDALE

**ANDRE
COULSON**

**LUKE
BYEFORD**

Leeds ticket hub 0113 376 0318
carriageworkstheatre.co.uk

LEEDS ARTS EVENTS & VENUES | Leeds CITY COUNCIL

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October 2023 – May 2024

Leeds ticket hub 0113 376 0318
leedsconcertseason.co.uk

LEEDS INTERNATIONAL CONCERT SEASON



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LEEDS ARTS EVENTS & VENUES

Leeds CITY COUNCIL

FLIP THE SCRIPT.

We create digital marketing experiences that will forever challenge your expectations.

As producers of the Leeds International Film Festival website, we're proud to connect film fans with the movies they love for the seventh year running.



www.enjoy-digital.co.uk
0113 389 9770 hello@enjoy-digital.co.uk

Partners

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Partner opportunities with Leeds Film

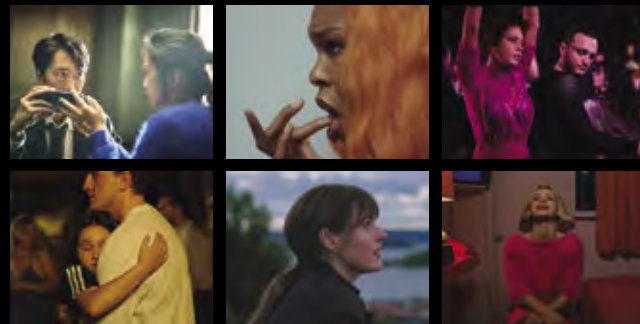
LIFF is organised by the Leeds Film team at Leeds City Council. Based at Leeds Town Hall, Leeds Film also organises Leeds Young Film Festival, Independent Directions Film Festival, and year-round film and education programmes, and operates leedsfilm.com.

All our activities are made possible by our partnerships and if you would like further information about opportunities with Leeds Film, please email leeds.film@leeds.gov.uk or call +44(0)113 378 5999



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BIG SCREEN



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GET 2 MONTHS FOR £20.
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PLUS FILMS TO STREAM ANYTIME.
[MUBI.COM/LIFF](https://mubi.com/liff)



In Official Selection we present previews of many of the most talked about new films of the year and UK Premieres of films from exciting new filmmakers in our feature film competition. We are thrilled to open LIFF 2023 with Poor Things, the Venice Golden Lion winner starring Emma Stone and from director Yorgos Lanthimos (The Lobster, The Favourite). Closing LIFF 2023 is exquisite modern-day romance Slow from Lithuanian filmmaker Marija Kavtaradze who won Best Director at Sundance.

More new film highlights in Official Selection this year include Andrew Haigh's All of Us Strangers starring Andrew Scott and Paul Mescal, Justine Trier's Cannes Palme d'Or winner Anatomy of a Fall, Evil Does Not Exist from Ryūsuke Hamaguchi (Drive My Car), and food film heaven with The Taste of Things. We also have a brilliant line-up of acclaimed British debut features, including Hoard, How To Have Sex, and In Camera.

Official Selection



Toll - LIFF Competition

FALL IN LOVE WITH CINEMA,
ALL OVER AGAIN.

HYDE
PARK
PICTURE
HOUSE

Est 1914

HPPH.CO.UK



Poor Things

LIFF 2023 Opening Film

Hyde Park Screen One, Fri 3 Nov 19:00 &
Sat 4 Nov 20:30 | Cottage Road, Wed 8 Nov 19:30

Yorgos Lanthimos | Ireland, UK, USA | 2023
141 minutes | English

Visionary director Yorgos Lanthimos (*The Favourite*, *Dogtooth*) invites audiences on an absurdist global odyssey celebrating female pleasure and liberation. This is the extraordinary tale of Bella Baxter (Emma Stone), a woman brought back to life by eccentric scientist Dr. Godwin Baxter (Willem Dafoe). With no knowledge of the world or societal norms, Bella's insatiable curiosity and voracious sexual appetite drives her to run away on a madcap adventure with playboy Duncan Wedderburn (Mark Ruffalo). Lanthimos masterfully crafts an outlandish and opulent world that took home the prestigious Golden Lion at Venice Film Festival.

"Poor Things itself is an equally – and brilliantly – surprising hybrid: a feminist coming-of-age story, monster movie and bawdy, foul-mouthed sex romp that the Greek alchemist has somehow forged into a masterpiece." – Philip De Semlyen, *Time Out*

Slow

LIFF 2023 Closing Film

Hyde Park Screen One, Sun 19 Nov 17:30 |
Vue Screen 11, Sun 19 Nov 18:45 | Vue Screen 12,
Sun 19 Nov 19:00

Marija Kavtaradze | Lithuania, Sweden, Spain | 2023
108 minutes | Lithuanian with English subtitles & English

Winner of Best Director at Sundance Film Festival 2023, Marija Kavtaradze's second feature is a beautifully tender exploration of sexuality, intimacy and communication, and one of this year's standout romantic dramas. When sign language interpreter Dovydas (Kęstutis Cicėnas) arrives to interpret a dance class that Elena (Greta Grinevičiute) is teaching, there is an immediate and undeniable chemistry between the two of them. As their relationship begins to blossom, Dovydas tells Elena that he is asexual, and together they must find ways to navigate their love. Kavtaradze has crafted an exquisite modern-day romance that leaves a lasting emotional impact.

"Awash in Laurynas Bareiša's gorgeous, warm cinematography, Marija Kavtaradze's deeply felt romance *Slow* unfolds like the memory of a faded romance, where even the worst fights are perpetually wrapped in hopeful rays of sunlight."
– Marya E. Gates, *RogerEbert.com*





All of Us Strangers

Hyde Park Screen One, Mon 13 Nov 20:30 |
Vue Screen 12, Wed 15 Nov 18:30 & Thu 16 Nov 20:30

Andrew Haigh | UK, USA | 2023 | 105 minutes | English

The latest film from Andrew Haigh (Weekend, 45 Years) is a sensual melodrama about love and loss with inventive touches of magical realism and a killer 80s synth pop soundtrack. Grounded by two great performances from its leads, Andrew Scott plays Adam, a depressed screenwriter who encounters a mysterious neighbour (Paul Mescal), which breaks him out of a rut. As a relationship develops, Adam is preoccupied with memories of the past and returns to his childhood home where his parents appear to be living as they were on the day they died, 30 years before.



The Bikeriders

Vue Screen 12, Sun 5 Nov 20:00,
Tue 7 Nov 17:45 & Thu 9 Nov 18:15

Jeff Nichols | USA | 2023 | 116 minutes | English

Inspired by the work of renowned photographer Danny Lyon, Jeff Nichols' engrossing drama follows the rise and fall of a 1960s rebel motorcycle gang. Beginning as a refuge for outsiders, the gang, led by the levelheaded Johnny (Tom Hardy), takes a violent turn as Johnny loses control and his brooding, unpredictable right-hand man Benny (Austin Butler) becomes distracted. Featuring a star performance by Jodie Comer as straight-talking outsider Kathy, who finds herself both horrified and enamoured with the gang, The Bikeriders is an effortless blend of comedy, violence and romanticism set against a backdrop of sprawling Midwest America.



Anatomy of a Fall

Vue Screen 12, Sat 4 Nov 20:00 | Cottage Road, Sun 5
Nov 13:15 | Hyde Park Screen One, Mon 6 Nov 20:00

Justine Triet | France | 2023 | 150 minutes
French, German with English subtitles & English

In the snowy French Alps a man falls to his death from an upper-storey window. There are no apparent witnesses but some evidence that suggests foul play. Novelist Sandra (Sandra Hüller), the man's wife, is the only suspect. Sandra defends herself and her life, personality, sexuality, even her art are put under increasing scrutiny. What emerges in Anatomy of a Fall is a gripping, brainy and dynamic courtroom drama that explores performance, gender, and the ways we use language in relationships. Winner of the Palme d'Or at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival.



The Breaking Ice

Vue Screen 12, Fri 10 Nov 18:30,
Fri 17 Nov 16:00 & Sat 18 Nov 20:45

Anthony Chen | China, Singapore | 2023 | 97 minutes
Chinese with English subtitles

In cold wintry Yanji, a city on China's northern border, young urbanite Haofeng, visiting from Shanghai, feels lost and adrift. By chance, he goes on a tour led by Nana, a charming tour guide who instantly fascinates him. She introduces him to Xiao, a personable but frustrated restaurant worker. The three bond quickly over a drunken weekend. Confronting their individual traumas, their frozen desires slowly thaw as they seek to liberate themselves from an icy world. Singaporean filmmaker Anthony Chen's The Breaking Ice is a free-spirited and compelling portrait of modern Chinese youth.



Chronicles of a Wandering Saint

LIFF 2023 Competition

Vue Screen 11, Wed 8 Nov 20:15 & Sat 11 Nov 18:15

Tomás Gómez Bustillo | Argentina, USA | 2023 | 84 minutes
Spanish with English subtitles

Elderly chapel keeper Rita is in constant competition with the other women at the church over who is the most saintly, but never seems to win. However, after discovering the town's missing Santa Rita statue, stolen years ago, she sees the opportunity to stage a miracle to prove her devotion, leading to absurd and disastrous results. Featuring a heavenly performance by cult actress Mónica Villa, and ingenious use of DJ Sammy's Heaven, this surreal debut by Tomás Gómez Bustillo is a magical exploration of life, death and religion.



The Delinquents

Vue Screen 12, Sat 4 Nov 13:30 & Mon 6 Nov 13:45

Rodrigo Moreno | Argentina, Brazil, Luxembourg, Chile | 2023
180 minutes | Spanish with English subtitles

An inventive and captivating take on the heist genre from Argentine director Rodrigo Moreno. Bank clerk Morán (Daniel Elias) plots the perfect crime - to embezzle enough money to never work again, enlist his colleague Román (Esteban Bigliardi) to hide the loot, serve a prison sentence, and then retrieve his hidden stash. Drawing inspiration from a classic Argentinian noir, Hugo Fregonese's *Hardly a Criminal* (1949), The Delinquents takes the original source material and expands it into something wholly original and enthralling. This stylish, slow-burn crime drama is a standout from this year's Cannes film festival.



Daaaaaali!

Howard Assembly Room, Fri 10 Nov 16:00
& Sat 11 Nov 17:45

Quentin Dupieux | France | 2023 | 77 minutes | French with
English subtitles |

French absurdist master Quentin Dupieux (Deerskin, Smoking Causes Coughing) is the perfect director for this spirited tribute to notorious surrealist Salvador Dali. Daaaaaali! is a playful and often hilarious mockumentary with a labyrinthine plot involving overlapping dream sequences, unpredictable leaps in time and no less than five different actors portraying the artist. A nervous pharmacist turned journalist (played by Dupieux regular Anaïs Demoustier) has to keep coming up with ever more elaborate ruses to get a promised interview with Dali, who in turn makes ever more outrageous demands. Everything is a performance and nothing is quite what it seems.



Evil Does Not Exist

Vue Screen 12, Sat 11 Nov 17:45, Thu 16 Nov 15:15
& Sun 19 Nov 14:15

Ryūsuke Hamaguchi | Japan | 2023 | 106 minutes
Japanese with English subtitles

Ryusuke Hamaguchi follows up his global arthouse hit Drive My Car with an enigmatic eco-parable, just as thought provoking and elegantly made as its predecessor. In a quiet village close to Tokyo, Takumi and his daughter Hana live a modest life according to the cycles and order of nature. One day, the village inhabitants become aware of a plan to build a glamping site near Takumi's house, offering city residents a comfortable 'escape' to nature. But it soon becomes clear that the plan threatens to disturb this natural equilibrium with problematic consequences for the villagers' lives.

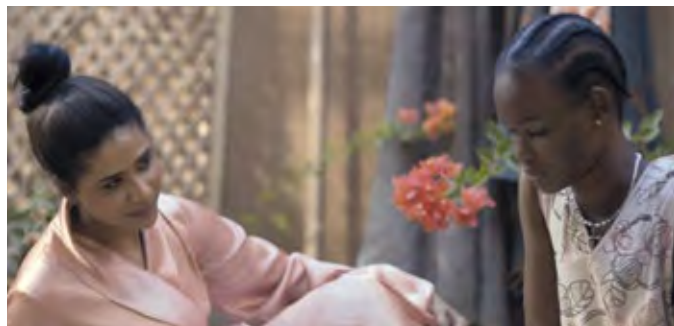


Fallen Leaves

Hyde Park Screen One, Thu 16 Nov 20:30 | Cottage Road, Sat 18 Nov 13:30

Aki Kaurismäki | Finland, Germany | 2023 | 81 minutes
Finnish with English subtitles

The great Finnish filmmaker Aki Kaurismäki returns with *Fallen Leaves*, a sublime love story told with his customary deadpan wit and flawless visual style. Fate brings two lonely souls together one night in a melancholy karaoke bar in Helsinki. Ansa is an exploited supermarket worker who can't stand the food waste created by her employers. Holappa is a construction worker who is struggling with a drinking problem. Despite being drawn to each other, various obstacles stand in their way. A profound and heartwarming drama that doubles as a love letter to cinema.



Goodbye Julia

Vue Screen 12, Sat 4 Nov 17:30, Wed 8 Nov 18:00 & Thu 9 Nov 15:30

Mohamed Kordofani | Sudan, Sweden, Germany, Saudi Arabia, France, Egypt | 2023 | 120 minutes | Arabic with English subtitles

Mona's life - wealthy, Muslim, cosseted - is very different to Julia's - poor, Christian, tough. A few years prior to the south of Sudan's separation, the capital Khartoum was segregated by mutual distrust. Mona accidentally knocks down Julia's young son and, instead of owning up, she drives off and is pursued by Julia's husband Akram, who is now in danger. A story that begins as high-stakes drama morphs into something surprising, gentle and revelatory. Friendship holds these women together, but a secret pushes them apart. This hot debut feature was the first ever film from Sudan to screen in Official Selection at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival.



The Feeling That the Time for Doing Something Has Passed

LIFF 2023 Competition
Vue Screen 11, Fri 10 Nov 21:00,
Mon 13 Nov 15:45 & Fri 17 Nov 18:00

Joanna Arnow | USA | 2023 | 87 minutes | English

Anne is a 30-something New Yorker who balances her unfulfilling corporate job with moonlighting as a sexual 'sub' for men. In a series of awkwardly amusing vignettes, Anne explores the world of BDSM whilst floating through the more mundane aspects of her stagnant life, like arguments with her Jewish family (played by Arnow's real parents) or the decision of which meal to microwave tonight. The talented Joanna Arnow impresses as star, director, screenwriter and editor in this audacious comedy which provides a refreshing take on millennial detachment through a succession of X-rated sketches.



Here

Vue Screen 12, Sat 11 Nov 15:30 & Tue 14 Nov 15:45

Bas Devos | Belgium | 2023 | 82 minutes | French, Mandarin, Romanian, Dutch, Chinese with English subtitles

Here is a beautifully understated and meditative drama, which gradually draws together two solitary characters in an unconventional love story. Stefan, a Romanian construction worker living in Brussels, is on the verge of moving back home. He cooks up a big pot of soup with leftovers in his fridge as a goodbye gift for friends and family. As he is about to leave, he meets a young Belgian-Chinese woman who is working in a little restaurant while researching her doctorate on mosses. Her attention to the near-invisible stops him in his tracks.



Hoard

Vue Screen 11, Sat 18 Nov 20:00 & Sun 19 Nov 16:00

Luna Carmoon | UK | 2023 | 126 minutes | English

It's 1984, and 7-year-old Maria lives with her loving and eccentric mother in a house rapidly filling with piles of rubbish. Through creative production design, we share young Maria's vision of their home as both a magical safe haven and a nightmarish world of visceral decay. After their unstable environment falls apart, we find teenage Maria living in a more conventional home. When events destabilise her sense of safety, trauma resurfaces in unpredictable ways through a wild and combustible affair with a young man at her foster home. Fearless and uncompromising, *Hoard* confirms Luna Carmoon as an exciting new talent and a singular voice in British cinema.



How to Have Sex

Hyde Park Screen One, Sat 4 Nov 17:45

Molly Manning Walker | UK, Greece | 2023 | 98 minutes
English

Tara, Sky and Em head to Malia on a rite-of-passage holiday of sun, sex and no suspicious parents. Set against a backdrop of neon lights and pounding house music, Tara's quest to lose her virginity heats up as things progress with Paddy, an oily Mancunian from the flat next door. But what should be the best summer of their lives takes a dark turn when Tara's first time leaves her confused and detached. Molly Manning Walker's gritty debut is a vital exploration of the nuances of consent and the societal pressures imposed on teenagers.



The Holdovers

Vue Screen 12, Sun 12 Nov 19:45 & Tue 14 Nov 20:15 | Hyde Park Screen One, Wed 15 Nov 20:30

Alexander Payne | USA | 2023 | 133 minutes | English

The latest comedy drama from acclaimed director Alexander Payne (*Election*, *Sideways*), *The Holdovers* is one of the year's new film highlights. Set in the early 1970s, *The Holdovers* follows a grumpy instructor (Paul Giamatti) at a New England prep school who is forced to remain on campus during Christmas break to babysit the handful of students with nowhere to go. Eventually he forms an unlikely bond with one of them - a damaged, brainy troublemaker (newcomer Dominic Sessa) - and with the school's head cook, who has just lost a son in Vietnam (Da'Vine Joy Randolph).



The Hypnosis

Vue Screen 12, Sun 12 Nov 17:30,
Fri 17 Nov 18:30 & Sun 19 Nov 16:30

Ernst De Geer | Sweden, Norway | 2023 | 98 minutes
Swedish, Norwegian with English subtitles & English

André and Vera are a young Swedish entrepreneurial couple who get the chance to pitch their women's health app at a prestigious weekend gathering for start-ups and potential investors. Before going, Vera tries hypnotherapy to help her quit smoking, but it has an unexpected side effect: she loses all her social inhibitions, and the weekend doesn't go to plan for her, André and the entire gathering. Ernst De Geer's first feature film is a thought-provoking modern satire about trying to be ourselves amid society's expectations and observations of our behaviour.



I Used to Be Funny

LIFF 2023 Competition

**Vue Screen 11, Thu 9 Nov 15:15,
Mon 13 Nov 13:30 & Fri 17 Nov 15:15**

Ally Pankiw | Canada | 2023 | 105 minutes | English

An exceptional filmmaking debut from writer/director Ally Pankiw (Feel Good, The Great), featuring a knockout leading performance from rising star Rachel Sennott (Shiva Baby, Bottoms). Sennott stars as Sam Cowell, a stand-up comedian and nanny struggling with PTSD in the aftermath of a trauma. When she learns that Brooke (Olga Petsa), the teenage girl she used to care for has gone missing, Sam's past memories begin to flood her present. Pankiw effectively uses a non-linear narrative to unfold the friendship between Sam and Brooke, and gradually brings Sam's trauma to the surface.

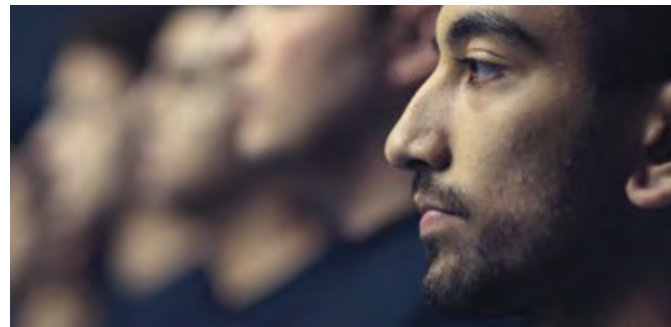


Inshallah a Boy

**Vue Screen 12, Fri 3 Nov 18:15,
Mon 6 Nov 17:45 & Tue 7 Nov 15:15**

Amjad Al Rasheed | Jordan, France, Saudi Arabia, Qatar
2023 | 113 minutes | Arabic with English subtitles

Nawal has just lost her husband but has no time to grieve. Under the laws of Jordan, she must give her dead husband's brother part of the inheritance, something that she cannot afford to do. And if Nawal had a son and not a daughter, she would have to do no such thing. Determined to find some other way around, Nawal fakes a pregnancy and becomes embroiled in a steely legal fight. A feisty slice of social cinema, this charts the everyday pressures on ordinary Jordanians with a gritty tension.



In Camera

Vue Screen 11, Sat 18 Nov 15:00 & Sun 19 Nov 11:45

Naqqash Khalid | UK | 2023 | 95 minutes | English

Nabhaan Rizwaan (Mogul Mowgli, 1917) stars as a struggling British-Asian actor in Naqqash Khalid's debut feature, an inventive satire of the UK film industry. We first meet Aden filming for a role in a generic police drama, though not as the star detective, but as the bloodied corpse on the floor. His self-identity is chipped away at as the film industry offers him nothing but stereotypes and rejections. A talented actor who excels at playing other people, but struggles when playing himself, Aden's perspective is changed when confident Conrad moves in and boundaries between performance and reality blur.



Inside the Yellow Cocoon Shell

Vue Screen 12, Sun 12 Nov 13:45 & Wed 15 Nov 13:00

Thien An Pham | Vietnam, France, Singapore, Spain | 2023
182 minutes | Vietnamese with English subtitles & English

Inside the Yellow Cocoon Shell is a mesmerising spiritual road movie haunted by the beautiful landscapes of rural Vietnam. The film begins in lively, chaotic Saigon as the brooding Thien witnesses a fatal motorcycle accident. His sister in law is one of the victims and Thien is tasked with childcare duties for his 5-year-old nephew Dao. The pair gradually form an awkward alliance as they head deep into the countryside in search of the boy's father. Director Pham Thien crafts a richly cinematic, multi-layered sensory experience and a moving meditation on loss and grief.



KIDDO

Dutch Discoveries

**Vue Screen 11, Sat 11 Nov 11:15, Wed 15 Nov 11:00
& Fri 17 Nov 13:15**

Zara Dwinger | Netherlands | 2023 | 91 minutes
Dutch, Polish with English subtitles & English | BBFC Cert PG

A joyous and heartfelt coming-of-age road movie, this beautifully crafted debut by Zara Dwinger establishes her as a remarkable filmmaking talent to watch. 11-year-old Lu is living in foster care when her estranged mum Karina turns up and whisks her away on a madcap road trip to Poland. Lu would do anything to stay by her mum's side, and soon they are swept up in a Bonnie & Clyde-like fantasy. Rosa van Leeuwen and Frieda Barnhard give exceptional lead performances as the mother-daughter partners in crime, sharing on-screen chemistry that evokes LIFF 2022 Closing Film Aftersun.



La Palisiada

LIFF 2023 Competition

Vue Screen 11, Fri 10 Nov 15:30 & Sun 12 Nov 14:30

Philip Sotnychenko | Ukraine | 2023 | 100 minutes
Ukrainian, Azerbaijani, Russian with English subtitles

Winner of the FIPRESCI award at Rotterdam Film Festival, this thrilling debut by Philip Sotnychenko is an audacious take on the crime thriller, and announces an exciting new voice in Ukrainian cinema. After an enigmatic present-day prologue, the core of the film takes in 1996 in a newly independent Ukraine, and follows two old friends, a police detective and a forensic psychiatrist, as they investigate the murder of a colleague. Sotnychenko masterfully utilises VHS aesthetics to create an evocative snapshot of 1990s post-Soviet Ukraine, while boldly confronting legacies of trauma and violence.



Kidnapped

**Vue Screen 12, Fri 3 Nov 15:15,
Mon 6 Nov 20:15 & Wed 8 Nov 15:00**

Marco Bellocchio | Italy, France, Germany | 2023 | 134 minutes
Italian, Hebrew, Latin with English subtitles

In Bologna, 1858, ordinary citizens were ruled directly by Pope Pius IX. In the middle of the night, a small Jewish child is suddenly taken from his family to Rome by an agent of the Catholic Church. The reason? Some years before he was baptised in secret by the family's Catholic maid, and he is therefore irretrievably Catholic. This extraordinary true story is brought to the screen with brio, emotional force and just a dash of mordant humour by writer-director Marco Bellocchio, Italian cinema's great surveyor of power.



Mambar Pierrette

**Everyman Screen 4, Sat 4 Nov 16:45
& Wed 8 Nov 18:45**

Rosine Mfetgo Mbakam | Cameroon, Belgium | 2023
93 minutes | French, Pashtu with English subtitles

A seamstress in Douala, Pierrette raises her children alone and looks after her mother. She is used to living hand to mouth, but she still has to navigate the odd pickpocket and the flooding of her house and workshop. Pierrette stitches together cloth, holding together the film and the fabric of her life, while her clients offload to her about their problems. A fiction film built largely from documentary material, Mambar Pierrette is a moving portrait of fortitude and care, and a reflection of its leading actress (Pierrette Aboheu Njeuthat): valiant, discreet and above all resilient.



Milk

LIFF 2023 Competition / Dutch Discoveries

Vue Screen 11, Thu 9 Nov 20:30 & Sun 12 Nov 12:00

Stefanie Kolk | Netherlands | 2023 | 96 minutes
Dutch with English subtitles

After delivering a stillborn baby, Robin's (rising Dutch star Frida Barnhard) breasts continue to produce milk. With no option but to pump, and conflicted about throwing away the last connection to her lost child, she decides to donate her breast milk to other mothers. Discovering this isn't as simple as she'd hoped, the bottles begin to take over her freezer, her relationship and her life. Premiering at this year's Venice Film Festival, this stunning debut from Stephanie Kolk is an enlightening look at the facets of motherhood and the search for peace after devastating loss.



Monster

Vue Screen 12, Sun 5 Nov 16:45 & Tue 7 Nov 20:15 | Cottage Road, Thu 9 Nov 19:30

Hirokazu Kore-eda | Japan | 2023 | 126 minutes
Japanese with English subtitles

In mountainous Nagano, we see a building mysteriously ablaze. Concerned single mother Saori (Sakura Andō) has confronted her son's primary school headteacher. Saori's complaint is that son Minato (Sōya Kurokawa) appears to have been bullied by his errant teacher. The school stonewalls the issue, but as events begin again from the teacher's point of view, a nuanced and surprising story emerges. Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda (Shoplifters and Broker) returns with another delicate, empathetic film about children. Monster also features the beautiful final works by the late composer Ryūichi Sakamoto.



The Monk and the Gun

Vue Screen 11, Sat 11 Nov 20:30 | Vue Screen 12, Sat 18 Nov 13:45 & Sun 19 Nov 12:00

Pawo Choyning Dorji | Bhutan | 2023 | 107 minutes
English & Dzongkha with English subtitles

Pawo Choyning Dorji's sharply comic satire, The Monk and the Gun tells the story of democracy arriving in the Kingdom of Bhutan in 2006. Bhutan is already undergoing seismic changes as the last country in the world to connect to the internet and television. The authorities organise a mock election to teach the locals how to vote, but there is some confusion and resistance. In a place where religion is more popular than politics, the election supervisor discovers that a monk is planning a mysterious ceremony for the election day.

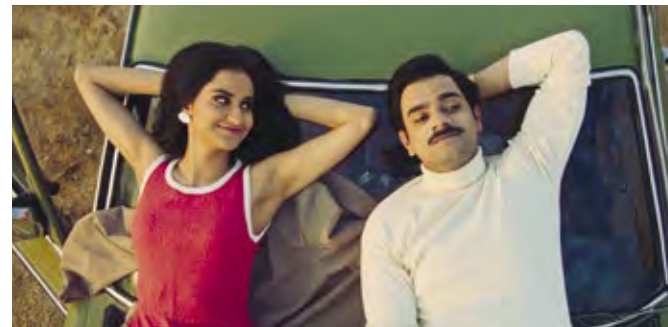


Mutt

Everyman Screen 4, Sun 5 Nov 12:30, Tue 7 Nov 20:30 & Thu 9 Nov 18:15

Vuk Lungulov-Klotz | USA | 2023 | 87 minutes
Spanish with English subtitles & English

This accomplished feature debut by Vuk Lungulov-Klotz is an intimate and honest exploration of post-transition life. Feña (Lio Mehiel) is a young trans man living in New York, navigating his way through a fraught and emotional 24 hours, as an ex-boyfriend, a little sister, and an estranged dad all reappear in his life. Mehiel gives a sublime performance, bringing warmth, courage and vulnerability to the role. Drawing on aspects of his own life and experiences, director/writer Lungulov-Klotz has crafted a tender, frank and urgent work of trans cinema, and one of this year's must-see films.



The Queen of My Dreams

Vue Screen 12, Fri 10 Nov 16:00, Sat 11 Nov 11:00 & Tue 14 Nov 18:00

Fawzia Mirza | Canada, Pakistan | 2023 | 97 minutes
Urdu with English subtitles & English

Azra, a Pakistani woman living in Toronto, is worlds apart from her conservative Muslim mother. When her father suddenly dies on a trip home to Pakistan, Azra finds herself on a Bollywood-inspired journey through memories, both real and imagined, from her mother's youth in Karachi to her own coming-of-age in rural Canada. Fawzia Mirza's vibrant, energetic first feature film explores the chasm between individual desires and cultural expectations, fluidly slipping between the textures of Indian cinema and the concerns of a coming-of-age film.



The Settlers

Vue Screen 12, Fri 10 Nov 13:45, Sat 11 Nov 13:15 & Mon 13 Nov 20:45

Felipe Gálvez Haberle | Argentina, Chile, UK, Taiwan, Germany, Sweden, France, Denmark | 2023 | 97 minutes | Spanish with English subtitles & English

1901, on the very southernmost tip of Chile: a pair of brutal soldiers – one a mercenary Texan, the other 'legitimate' Scott, are tasked with opening up a trade route to move cattle from the interior to the ocean. Mixed-race Indigenous marksman Segundo is sent along too, but it emerges that the real reason for their trip is to wipe out the Indigenous people there. Writer-director Felipe Gálvez Haberle has constructed this first feature with great insight into the horrors of colonial conquest. A remarkable and potent vision.



Samsara

Vue Screen 11, Sun 12 Nov 19:30, Tue 14 Nov 15:15 & Fri 17 Nov 20:00

Lois Patiño | Spain | 2023 | 153 minutes
Swahili, Lao with English subtitles

Winner of a Special Jury Prize at Berlinale 2023, this luminous third feature by filmmaker Lois Patiño is rumination on death and reincarnation, and a spellbinding work of cinema that demands to be seen on the big screen. Beginning in present-day Laos, a young Buddhist visits an elderly woman close to death and reads to her from the Bardo Thödol, the Tibetan Book of the Dead, as she prepares for her next journey. Patiño invites us to experience the power of collective viewing, and creates a sensorial, otherworldly and meditative cinematic journey.



Sira

LIFF 2023 Competition

Vue Screen 11, Fri 10 Nov 13:00, Sun 12 Nov 17:00 & Wed 15 Nov 13:15

Apolline Traoré | Burkina Faso, Senegal, France, Germany 2023 | 122 minutes | French, Fulah with English subtitles

Sira is a feminist survival thriller and a visually stunning adventure film set in the sun-baked sands of the Sahel region of North Africa. Seventeen year old Fulani nomad Sira is on the way to meet her intended husband when she is kidnapped in a brutal attack by an Islamist militant group. She is transformed by her fight for survival and Nafissatou Cissé's committed performance commands the screen. Director Apolline Traoré has crafted an exciting thriller that critiques male brutality and religious intolerance, a confident bid for international crossover success.



Sky Peals

Vue Screen 11, Sat 18 Nov 17:30 & Sun 19 Nov 14:00

Moin Hussain | UK | 2023 | 91 minutes | English

Filmed in Yorkshire, Moin Hussain's first feature is a bold and atmospheric tale of existential dread and alienation. Faraz Ayub plays Adam, a shy and anxious young man who leads a solitary life and works night shifts at the Sky Peals Green motorway service station. When he learns that his estranged father has died, Adam begins piecing together a picture of a troubled man who believed he wasn't human and starts to wonder if he might be an alien too. Hussain skillfully draws on elements of science fiction to create an eerie and arresting debut, and an imaginative meditation on identity, isolation, and belonging.



Sweet Dreams Dutch Discoveries

**Vue Screen 11, Mon 13 Nov 18:15,
Wed 15 Nov 16:00 & Thu 16 Nov 18:15**

Ena Sendjarevic | Netherlands, Reunion, Indonesia, Sweden, France | 2023 | 102 minutes | Dutch, Indonesian with English subtitles

Ena Sendjarević's second feature is a sharp-eyed satire of European imperialism set in Indonesia during the last years of Dutch colonisation. Jan, the dictatorial leader of the family-run sugar plantation, drops dead after one of his nightly visits to his Indonesian housekeeper. With workers on strike, his widow summons their insufferable son and his pregnant wife to the island to claim his succession, only to find Jan has left his entire state to an illegitimate child. Winner of the 2023 Locarno Leopard for Best Performance, Sweet Dreams is a provocative, surreal take on the banality of evil.



Sultana's Dream LIFF 2023 Competition

Vue Screen 11, Thu 9 Nov 18:00 & Sat 11 Nov 15:45

Isabel Herguera | Germany, Spain | 2023 | 80 minutes
Spanish, Hindi, Basque, Bengali with English subtitles & English

Isabel Herguera's enchanting debut animation follows Ines, a young Spanish director on a voyage of self-discovery in India. After ending things with her casual lover, she discovers the famed 1905 feminist text Sultana's Dream, a sci-fi tale about the alternative world of 'Ladyland' where women live without violence. Setting out to find this fictional utopia, Ines encounters suppression and stigma, leading her to question how much has really changed in the last century. Watercolour backgrounds, cut-out animation and an animated ode to Mehndi tattoos blend together to create a visual odyssey on the transformative power of dreams.



The Sweet East

**Vue Screen 12, Fri 3 Nov 20:45, Sun 5 Nov 12:15
& Thu 9 Nov 20:45**

Sean Price Williams | USA | 2023 | 104 minutes | English

Talia Ryder, Jacob Elordi, Ayo Edebiri and an ensemble of up-and-coming talent star in this electric directorial debut from renowned cinematographer Sean Price Williams (Good Time, Funny Pages). Teenager Lillian gets separated from her classmates during a field trip to Washington DC after a local anarchist saves her from an active-shooter situation. From here, she embarks on a bizarre road trip across America, encountering smug pseudo-intellectuals, insufferable wannabe auteurs and a gang of Neo-Nazis. A scuzzy exploration of the dark side of American culture and contemporary radicalism, executed with a sharply witty script and dreamlike lens.



The Taste of Things

**Vue Screen 12, Sat 11 Nov 20:00 & Mon 13 Nov 17:45 |
Cottage Road, Sat 18 Nov 15:30**

Anh Hung Tran | France | 2023 | 145 minutes
French with English subtitles

As every good chef knows, the best kitchens are full of serene and loving concentration. The Taste of Things (previously known as The Pot-au-Feu) immerses us within just such a world of masterly preparation: sauces are patiently reduced, joints of meat are carefully seared, everywhere there is simmering, straining, garnishing, tasting. Renowned gourmet Dodin (Benoît Magimel) masterminds the meals, cook of twenty years Eugénie (Juliette Binoche) carries out his plans. Their closeness in the kitchen sometimes continues to the bedroom. A calming, yearning and sensual delight, this is gorgeous cinema.



Toll LIFF 2023 Competition

Vue Screen 11, Fri 10 Nov 18:15 & Sat 11 Nov 13:30

Carolina Markowicz | Brazil, Portugal | 2023 | 102 minutes
Portuguese with English subtitles

Carolina Markowicz's vibrant and beguiling comedy drama, Toll takes on the disturbing trends of homophobia in contemporary Brazil with great wit and flair. Single mother Suellen works as a toll booth attendant in an industrial area outside Sao Paulo. She is increasingly exasperated by her teenaged son Antonio, who likes to make campy online videos dressed in sequins. She hatches a plan to use her job to raise some extra money illegally. But this is only for what she believes is a noble cause: to send her son to an expensive gay conversion workshop led by a renowned foreign priest.



Tiger Stripes

**Vue Screen 12, Fri 10 Nov 20:45,
Sun 12 Nov 11:30 & Wed 15 Nov 16:30**

Amanda Nell Eu | Malaysia, Taiwan, France, Germany, Netherlands, Singapore, Qatar, Indonesia | 2023 | 95 minutes
Malay with English subtitles

Winner of the Critics' Week Grand Prize at Cannes, this coming-of-age body horror from debut director Amanda Nell Eu is a hallucinatory dive into puberty and the female body. Set in a Muslim girls' school in Malaysia, rebellious Zaffan is the first to get her period and is ostracised for her changing body. But something stranger is happening, an unbelievable rage consumes her and supernatural beings surround her in the jungle. A brutal depiction of the horrors of being a teenage girl, which is sure to shock as Zaffan transforms into the monster her bullies say she is.



Tótem

**Vue Screen 12, Wed 15 Nov 20:45, Fri 17 Nov 13:45
& Sat 18 Nov 18:30**

Lila Avilés | Mexico, Denmark, France | 2023 | 95 minutes
Spanish with English subtitles

Lila Avilés' follow up to The Chambermaid is a richly drawn family ensemble set on a day of bittersweet celebration and farewell. Seven-year-old Sol is dropped off at her grandfather's house as her aunts prepare a birthday party for her dad Tona, but she doesn't understand why she can't see him yet. Out of sight for most of the film, Tona is in another room being cared for by his nurse Cruz, struggling to make himself presentable for a party that is likely his last. Naíma Senties gives a magical performance as the young lead, in this beautifully crafted and profoundly moving family drama.



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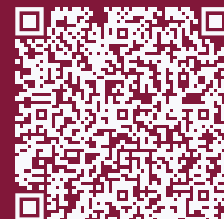
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RAMONA

Directed by VICTORIA LINARES VILLEGAS

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& SKY FILMS & LANTICA MEDIA Presenta... JORDI GASSÓ, PEDRO GARCÍA & RAFAEL BLANCA IUDIT RAFAEL ELIAS MONIZ... KUNAL VÁSQUEZ
YOSHIMASA SAKEN... COCARI CHAVEZ... HENRIK MORA... JAVIE GORDON... VICTORIA LINARES VILLEGAS & JEDI CIFEDA... MELISA NARANJA
... CAMILA SANTANA... VICTORIA LINARES VILLEGAS
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Ramona
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Cinema Versa

Cinema Versa brings together an irresistible selection of some of the best new documentaries. Apolonia, Apolonia is an extraordinary and intimate portrait of an emerging young artist. The Hostage Takers is a gut-wrenching documentary thriller about the interrogation of Islamic State terrorists. Mutiny in Heaven tells the definitive story of incendiary cult rock band The Birthday Party.

Documentary filmmakers excel at highlighting diversity and revealing different perspectives. Ramona enlightens the experiences of 15 young women who have experienced teenage pregnancy. This is Going to Be Big follows a group of neurodivergent schoolkids in Australia, rehearsing for a musical dedicated to musician John Farnham. Your Fat Friend profiles author and activist Aubrey Gordon, campaigning for fat acceptance and battling anti-fat bias.

Cinema Versa also explores the ethics of new technology in innovative gaming docs Knits Island and Break the Game, and the alarming new implications of deepfake pornography in Another Body.



Your Fat Friend

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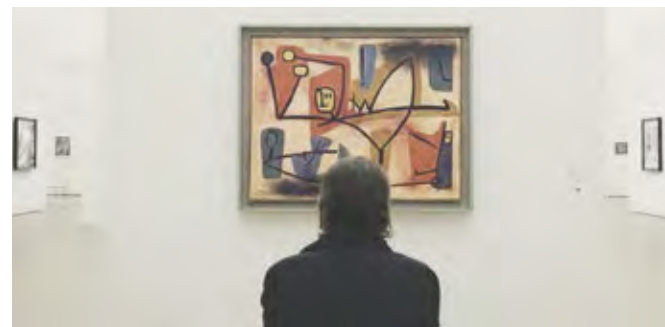


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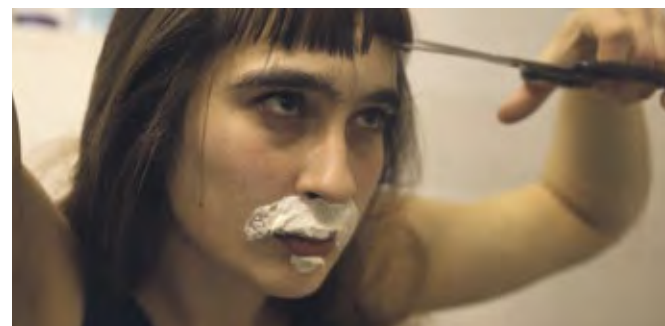


Angel Applicant

Everyman Screen 4, Mon 6 Nov 17:15
& Fri 10 Nov 12:00

Ken August Meyer | USA | 2023 | 74 minutes | English

Winner of the SXSW 2023 Documentary Feature Award, Ken August Meyer directs this autobiographical portrait of living with an incurable disease which is slowly turning him into a 'living doll'. Finding solace in the last works of expressionist painter Paul Klee, whose art drastically shifted as the same illness consumed him, Ken examines how systemic scleroderma is transforming his own life. With ironic wit, colourful visuals and sharp sketches, Angel Applicant is not only an intimate exploration of illness and mortality, but an engaging study of art history, and how creativity can console and inspire us during personal suffering.

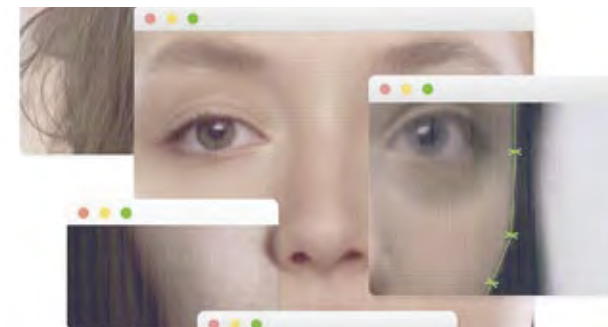


Apolonia, Apolonia

Vue Screen 11, Mon 6 Nov 20:30 & Tue 7 Nov 15:30

Lea Glob | Denmark, Poland, France | 2022 | 116 minutes
Danish, French, Polish, Russian with English subtitles & English

In this mesmerising portrait of a young woman pursuing her art, Lea Glob follows painter Apolonia Sokol over the span of thirteen years, from her studies at the prestigious Beaux-Arts de Paris, through her struggles for recognition and financial stability. Growing up in a run-down Parisian theatre founded by her parents, the romanticism of Apolonia's early years brings her into contact with a variety of artists and activists, including Oksana Shachko, one of the founders of feminist activist group Femen. As the years pass, and the bond between the director and subject deepens, the film evolves into a complex and intimate view on creativity, loss and life.

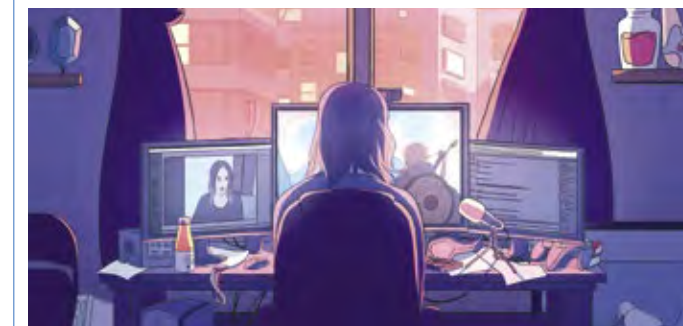


Another Body

Everyman Screen 4, Fri 3 Nov 18:45
& Sun 5 Nov 16:15

Sophie Compton, Reuben Hamlyn | USA | 2023 | 80 minutes
English

Sophie Compton and Reuben Hamlyn's superbly inventive documentary explores a new ethical problem arising from rapidly escalating technologies. The film follows an American college student's search for answers and justice after she discovers someone has taken her image and used it to circulate deepfake pornography online. The effects on her personal life are devastating, the perpetrator is hard to identify and legal protection for her is minimal because the concept is so new. The filmmakers use the same technology to protect the identity of their subject, making Another Body a shocking and important film.



Break the Game

Hyde Park Screen Two, Tue 7 Nov 18:00
& Thu 9 Nov 16:15

Jane M. Wagner | USA | 2023 | 72 minutes | English

Narcissa Wright is one of the world's leading 'speedrunners', live streaming her attempts to break the world record for the fastest completion of the classic Nintendo game, The Legend of Zelda. When she came out as trans, she received love and support from some of her followers but also suffered a great deal of online hostility. Director Jane M. Wagner cleverly uses imagery from the game to reveal Narcissa's frustrations and her eventual bid to break out of her digital isolation and embrace love and adventure in the outside world.



From Where We Stand

Howard Assembly Room, Fri 10 Nov 18:00 | The Old Fire Station, Sat 11 Nov 13:30 | Stockroom Cinema, Wed 15 Nov 19:00 | Free at The Old Fire Station & Stockroom Cinema

Lucy Kaye | UK | 2023 | 60 minutes | English

Filmmaker Lucy Kaye creates intimate portraits of diverse individuals in three Northern English towns, in this insightful and compassionate documentary. Filmed across Wakefield, Halifax and Middlesbrough, the film brings together stories of loss, migration, friendship, and mutual aid, to convey a strong sense of place and lived experience. Exploring our relationship to the places we live and our sense of belonging, the film challenges stereotypes and gives a vital voice to those not often heard. From Where We Stand is a thoughtfully observed film that feels truly collaborative, and an authentic portrait of Northern England post-Brexit.



The Hostage Takers

Everyman Screen 4, Sat 4 Nov 18:45 & Thu 9 Nov 12:00

Puk Damsgaard, Søren Klovborg | Denmark | 2023 | 87 minutes
Danish with English subtitles

The Hostage Takers is a searing documentary, deeply moving and troubling in equal measure and as tense and gripping as any thriller. Sean Langan, a war journalist and close friend of the murdered American war correspondent James Foley, managed to track down two members of 'The Beatles' group of Islamic State terrorists who held him and others captive in Syria in 2013/14. A detailed picture of the events emerges from an astonishingly revealing series of interviews and brutally honest accounts from other witnesses leading to the pair's conviction to life sentences for their actions.



Holding Up the Sky

Vue Screen 12, Sun 5 Nov 14:30

Pieter Van Eecke | Belgium, Netherlands, Brazil | 2023
82 minutes | Portuguese, French with English subtitles & English

The Yanomami of Brazil know that if shamans stop dancing and life in the rainforest loses its balance, the sky will fall and crush everything beneath it. But gold diggers pollute rivers, shamans die, the rainforest perishes and the earth warms up. Davi Kopenawa – shaman, chief and well-known spokesperson for the Yanomami – has been fighting these threats for more than 40 years. Travelling the world defending his people against colonization, he warns the West that the falling sky will not only crush the Yanomami. But will anyone listen?



Knit's Island

Hyde Park Screen Two, Mon 6 Nov 18:00
& Thu 9 Nov 14:00

Quentin L'helgoualc'h, Ekiem Barbier, Guilhem Causse | France
2023 | 95 minutes | French with English subtitles & English

Winner of the Burning Lights Prize at Visions du Réel film festival, this visually audacious documentary is an immersive and unique experience. Shot entirely within the open-world survival computer game DayZ, where the goal is to stay alive by scavenging, hunting, and avoiding the infected. Using avatars, three intrepid filmmakers enter the virtual landscape and begin interviewing players, uncovering the many communities and factions that exist within. The results are fascinating and surprisingly poignant, while some players revel in chaos they can create, others seek refuge, escapism, or moments contemplation, and the game becomes a space where deep friendships are forged.



Mutiny In Heaven: The Birthday Party

Howard Assembly Room, Sun 12 Nov 18:00 |
Hyde Park Screen One, Tue 14 Nov 20:30

Ian White | Australia | 2023 | 99 minutes | English

Mutiny in Heaven profiles one of the greatest cult rock bands of all time, Melbourne's The Birthday Party. Interviews with all the surviving members including famous frontman, Nick Cave, are spliced with unseen archive footage as the film traces the young band's roots in Australia, their initially ill fated defection to London and eventual chaotic success. Hair raising anecdotes testify to their reputation as one of the most incendiary live bands on the planet. They hit their creative peak in Berlin only to self-destruct soon afterwards, nonetheless influencing generations of other artists.



Orlando, My Political Biography

Howard Assembly Room, Fri 10 Nov 20:15

Paul B. Preciado | France | 2023 | 98 minutes
French with English subtitles

Hailed as "the first trans masterpiece" by the legendary queer scholar B. Ruby Rich, the debut feature by theorist, writer and curator Paul B. Preciado is a singular and joyous exploration of trans identity, past and present. Drawing on Virginia Woolf's classic 1928 novel Orlando, Preciado uses the text as a lens through which to explore his own biography, as well as the collective trans experience. In a series of playfully staged vignettes, a cast of 26 Orlandos, played by trans and non-binary performers, recite passages from the novel interwoven with their own personal stories. The result is an exuberant, erudite and uncategorisable gem of a film.



Nature Matters

St Luke's Cares, Thu 16 Nov 19:00 | FREE

Presented by Yorkshire Film Archive | UK | 2023
90 minutes approx

Yorkshire Film Archive presents a specially curated selection of films and excerpts made in the region addressing one of the most important issues of our time: the impact of climate and environmental change on our natural landscapes. Screening at St Luke's Cares in Beeston, an old cinema now converted into a charity shop and host to a new Green Film Festival, Nature Matters includes some rediscovered film treasures from South and East Leeds including pieces on local flower contests, Eye on the River Aire and Leeds based hiker John Hawkrigde on the right to roam.

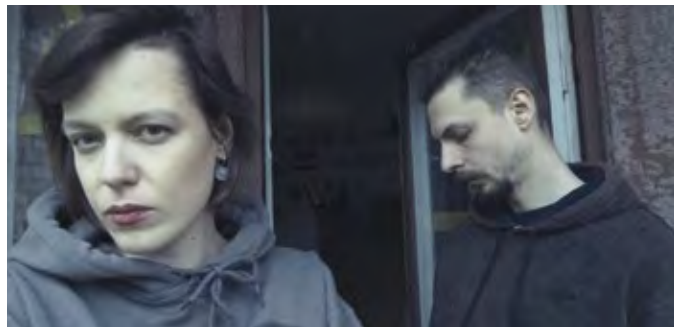


Ramona

Vue Screen 11, Mon 6 Nov 18:30 & Wed 8 Nov 15:45

Victoria Linares Villegas | Dominican Republic | 2023
81 minutes | Spanish with English subtitles

Premiering at Berlinale 2023, Ramona is a genre-bending exploration of class, motherhood and the power of community which blurs the lines between fiction and documentary. Camila has been cast as Ramona, a pregnant teenager from the outskirts of Santo Domingo. From a more affluent background, Camila feels uncomfortable with the role, so journeys to interview real young mothers from the area to understand their experiences. What begins as a behind-the-scenes making of a film, soon transforms into an exploration of the complexities of teenage pregnancy, as each girl candidly shares her story and takes on the role of Ramona.



Rule of Two Walls

**Everyman Screen 4, Sat 4 Nov 20:45
& Wed 8 Nov 15:15**

David Gutnik | Ukraine | 2023 | 76 minutes
Ukrainian, Russian with English subtitles & English

Rule of Two Walls shows art as an essential survival tool for creative resistance in war torn Ukraine. In a brutal war in which their cultural identity is under threat of erasure, art brings people together. One of our guides is Lyana, director of the Lviv Municipal Arts Center, which has also been used as a shelter for exiles and evacuees. Artists gather there for an exhibition documenting resistance to the Russian invasion, culminating in a performance by Lyana's partner Stepan, a fiercely political rapper.



Tish

**Chapel FM, Sat 4 Nov 19:00 | Howard Assembly
Room, Sun 12 Nov 15:45 | Free at Chapel FM**

Paul Sng | UK | 2023 | 90 minutes | English

A vital new documentary about the great photographer, Tish Murtha, who is only now starting to get the recognition she deserves as one of the most important British artists of her generation. Tish grew up in the vibrant working class communities of the Northeast and captured this in images like no-one else, particularly committed to documenting the impact of Thatcherism and deindustrialisation in the 70s and 80s. Tragically she died in poverty aged only 56 and Paul Sng's essential film follows a journey of discovery about her led by her daughter Ella.



This is Going to be Big

**Everyman Screen 4, Fri 3 Nov 16:30 & Sat 4 Nov
12:30 | Hyde Park Screen Two, Sun 12 Nov 10:30**

Thomas Charles Hyland | Australia | 2023
100 minutes | English | Cert PG

A funny and heartwarming documentary following a cast of neurodivergent teens as they prepare to hit the stage in their school's time-travelling musical, dedicated to the doyen of the 80s Aussie power ballad, John Farnham. For expressive overachiever Halle, it will be an opportunity to honour her late aunt, who loved to sing. For methodical Josh, it will be a challenge to take seriously, while wide-eyed Elyse is just happy to be involved. And for charismatic Chelsea, it will be a chance to wow an audience with her undeniable comedic skill. (Please note the 10.30am screening is relaxed.)



Your Fat Friend

**Hyde Park Screen One, Tue 7 Nov 20:30 |
Vue Screen 11, Wed 8 Nov 13:30**

Jeanie Finley | UK, USA | 2023 | 96 minutes | English

In 2016, Aubrey Gordon wrote a candid letter about living as a fat person. Posted online under the pseudonym Your Fat Friend, it resonated around the world, and so began the journey from anonymous blogger to inspirational queer fat activist. Shot over six years, Jeanie Finlay presents a warm portrait of her life and incredible rise through much success, and criticism. Winner of audience awards at film festivals around the world, Your Fat Friend is a funny, insightful and frank look at a unique voice challenging the perceptions of fat people in modern society and the capitalism of body positivity.



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25.10 **THE UMLAUTS**
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27.10 **ACID KLAUS**
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28.10 **BIG WETT**
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29.10 **MAN ON MAN**
HEADROW HOUSE

31.10 **MARIA BC**
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01.11 **MANSUR BROWN**
BELGRAVE MUSIC HALL

01.11 **THE TUBS**
HEADROW HOUSE

02.11 **COOPS**
BELGRAVE MUSIC HALL

03.11 **PIRI**
PROJECT HOUSE

03.11 **NOORIYAH**
HEADROW HOUSE

04.11 **PALE BLUE EYES**
BELGRAVE MUSIC HALL

05.11 **HILARY WOODS**
HEADROW HOUSE

06.11 **AZYMUTH**
BELGRAVE MUSIC HALL

07.11 **DEEPER**
HEADROW HOUSE

08.11 **HUDSON MOHAWKE**^{B2B}
NIKKI NAIR
HEADROW HOUSE

08.11 **GODCASTER**
HEADROW HOUSE

09.11 **YABBA**
HEADROW HOUSE

10.11 **NIX NORTHWEST**
BELGRAVE MUSIC HALL

10.11 **FAZERDAZE**
HEADROW HOUSE

12.11 **THE KOUNT**
HEADROW HOUSE

14.11 **MICA MILLAR**
BELGRAVE MUSIC HALL

14.11 **DOUGIE POOLE**
HEADROW HOUSE

15.11 **TRICOT**
BELGRAVE MUSIC HALL

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SCAN HERE
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Fanomenon

Fanomenon is the home at LIFF for fantasy, horror, sci-fi, dark comedy, animation, the indefinable, and more – back this year with a bigger line-up and the return of the legendary Night of the Dead at Hyde Park Picture House. Day of the Dead returns too and we have a new Sci-Fi Day.

Fanomenon is packed with new films that have wowed, shocked, thrilled, and entertained audiences at film festivals around the world. Highlights include psychological thriller Red Rooms and musical comedy Killing Romance from Fantasia film festival; wildly inventive sci-fi The Animal Kingdom, blood-soaked epic Conann, and gorgeous animated ode to friendship Robot Dreams from Cannes; and mesmerising sci-fi debut Animalia from Sundance.

We revisit films in the vaults in Fanomenon too and we are delighted to welcome E. Elias Merhige for Shadow of the Vampire and The Begotten Cycle, and to collaborate again with Queer Fear on The Hunger.





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#Manhole Planet Japan

Vue Screen 11, Tue 14 Nov 18:30 & Thu 16 Nov 13:30

Kazuyoshi Kumakiri | Japan | 2023 | 99 minutes
Japanese with English subtitles

Kawamura (Japanese acting and singing idol Yuto Nakajima) is a promising young man with a great job and a fiancée whose father owns the company. But after a few celebratory drinks on the night before his wedding, he falls into a deep manhole. Trapped and horrified by incidents piling up one on top of the other, he becomes desperate to escape, and his phone calls and messages asking for help don't work out as he hopes. Director Kazuyoshi Kumakiri manages to pack his clever, confined thriller with twists and turns throughout.



Animalia Fanorama / Sci-Fi Day

**Vue Screen 11, Fri 3 Nov 21:00,
Sat 4 Nov 15:45 & Sun 5 Nov 15:15**

Sofia Alaoui | France, Morocco, Qatar | 2023 | 90 minutes
French, Arabic, Berber languages with English subtitles

Heavily pregnant Itto, a young woman from a modest rural background, is slowly adapting to the Moroccan privileged codes of her husband's family. But when a mysterious state of emergency is declared nationwide, Itto finds herself alone. Meanwhile, increasingly ominous events and strange weather phenomena suggest a supernatural presence is nearing. Sofia Alaoui's first feature film is an original and visually hypnotic sci-fi that explores the tension between faith and purpose, eroding myths and challenging class prejudice to expose how we are more connected than we know.



All You Need is Blood Night of the Dead

Part of Night of the Dead (see separate event listing)

Bucky Le Boeuf, Cooper Roberts | USA | 2023
100 minutes | English

Bucky Le Boeuf is a budding filmmaker who loves arthouse cinema and hates blood. So when a horror film competition comes to town he is understandably cynical, until the combination of a huge cash prize, a chance to work with his favourite director and an alien meteorite turning his Dad into a flesh-hungry zombie soon change his mind. Seeing his chance to make it big, he decides to create the most realistic zombie movie ever made in this outrageously entertaining, blood soaked zom-com from debut filmmaker Cooper Roberts.



The Animal Kingdom Fanorama / Sci-fi Day

**Vue Screen 11, Sat 4 Nov 20:15,
Sun 5 Nov 19:45 & Wed 8 Nov 10:45**

Thomas Cailley | France | 2023 | 130 minutes | French with English subtitles

Humans are mutating into beasts, and there is no explanation or cure. We're hurled headlong into the action as François and teenage son Emile chasing Emile's mother Lara, who is transforming into a 'critter' and is now interned for tests. A man-eagle suddenly bursts from an ambulance, a mass break-out of critters sets off panic. François and Emile hide in a forest and search for Mum while widespread prejudice sets in, and Emile has a secret... A wildly inventive mix of body horror, emotional drama and smart speculation.



The Becomers

Fanorama / Sci-Fi Day

**Vue Screen 11, Sat 4 Nov 18:15 & Sun 5 Nov 17:15 |
Everyman Screen 4, Sun 12 Nov 15:00**

Zach Clark | USA | 2023 | 86 minutes | English

A genre-bending highlight of this year's Fanomenon, *The Becomers* blends sci-fi, horror, road movie, comedy, melodrama and romance in a tale of two body-swapping aliens who come to Earth and try to find their way in a divided modern America. Kitsch-soaked and Star-Trek-inspired, featuring apt lo-fi special effects and a narration by Sparks legend Russell Mael, *The Becomers* is about love, longing, alienation, and the state of our planet. The latest film from long-admired American indie filmmaker Zach Clark, *The Becomers* has its UK Premiere at LIFF 2023.



The Coffee Table

Night of the Dead

Part of Night of the Dead (see separate event listing)

Caye Casas | Spain | 2022 | 91 minutes
Spanish with English subtitles

Sometimes even the most mundane of objects can be far more horrific than any monster under the bed. Married couple Jesús and Maria find that out the hard way after buying an ugly, tasteless coffee table for their new home, never anticipating the unthinkable horror it will bring to their lives. Spanish directors Caye Casas and Alberto Pintó pull no punches in this farcical, pitch-black horror comedy that will keep you switching between shock, dread, anxiety and uncontrollable laughter.



The Begotten Cycle

Filmmaker focus: E. Elias Merhige

Hyde Park Screen Two, Sat 4 Nov 13:00

E. Elias Merhige | USA | 2023 | 122 minutes | English
BBFC Cert 18

Begotten is a legendary cult film by director E. Elias Merhige that really is unlike any other film in history. The *Begotten Cycle* collects the 1989 feature with the later short films *Din of Celestial Birds* and *Polia and Blastema*, all shot on reversal 16mm black and white film and elaborately processed using homemade optical printers. The films are inspired by creation myths and cosmology, an abstract celestial history from supernova to forest floor, it plunges spectators into a surrealistic and sometimes horrific world of profane and sacred rituals. *Begotten* is the dead sea scrolls of Midnight Movies.



Conann

Fanorama

Vue Screen 11, Tue 14 Nov 20:45 & Thu 16 Nov 20:45

Bertrand Mandico | Belgium, France, Luxembourg | 2023
105 minutes | German, French with English subtitles & English

Travelling through the abyss, underworld dog Rainer (Elina Löwensohn) recounts the six lives of Conann, a fierce shape shifter who is perpetually put to death by her own future, across eras, myths and ages. We see her childhood, her time as slave to a barbarian horde and her accession to the summits of cruelty at the doors of our world. A transgressive masterpiece in the making, *Conann* is a blood-soaked and queer-edged chaos epic of reinvention and resurrection. A feast for the eyes, but not for the faint of heart (or stomach), *Conann* will devour you whole.



Day of the Dead

Fanathons

**Hyde Park Screen One, Sat 11 Nov, 13:00 to 22:20 Day
of the Dead Pass £30/£25 (tickets for individual films
also available)**

Day of the Dead 2023 has a fantastic line-up of four acclaimed and very different new horror films, all screening together at Hyde Park Picture House, a great venue for a marathon film event. DOTD 2023 opens with Gothic horror drama *Raging Grace*, follows up with deeply creepy horror *The Funeral* (UK Premiere) – takes a break for dinner – then continues with horror comedy *Humanist Vampire Seeking Consenting Suicidal Person* (UK Premiere), and closes with brilliant psychological horror *Red Rooms*. Passes are available for the whole day, or you can buy tickets for individual films.



Double Blind

Night of the Dead

Part of Night of the Dead (see separate event listing)

Ian Hunt-Duffy | Ireland | 2023 | 90 minutes | English

You sleep, you die. That's the premise of Irish director Ian Hunt-Duffy's confident debut feature, *Double Blind*. Cash-strapped and desperate, Claire (Millie Brady) has volunteered to take part in a five-day experiment for the mysterious Blackwood Pharmaceuticals. She is one of seven healthy participants undergoing clinical trials in a mysteriously underpopulated facility, where no contact with the outside world is permitted. But when the drug trial goes horribly wrong, the surviving test subjects must fight off sleep, and each other, to stay alive, in this twisted single location horror.



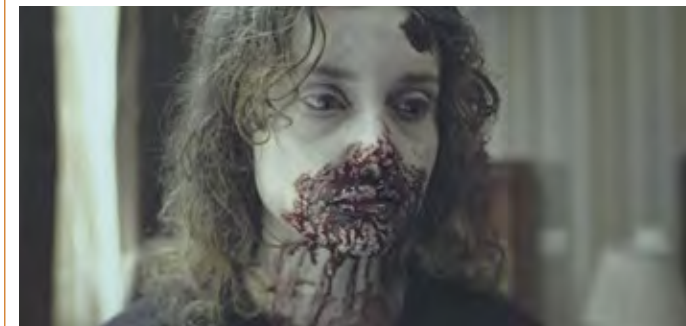
Demons

Night of the Dead

Part of Night of the Dead (see separate event listing)

Lamberto Bava | Italy | 1985 | 88 minutes | English

Lamberto Bava, son of Italian horror-maestro Mario Bava, directs this tale of a bunch of cinemagoers with invitations to a special film show. The film in question is a gruesome slasher flick, and as the screening progresses members of the audience begin inexplicably transforming into hideous blood-thirsty demons. The rest of the audience tries to escape, only to discover that all the exits have been walled shut... This cult classic gore-fest is a big dose of wild 80's Italian horror fun, produced by horror legend Dario Argento.



The Funeral

Fanorama / Day of the Dead

Hyde Park Screen One, Sat 11 Nov 15:15

Orçun Behram | Türkiye | 2023 | 107 minutes | Turkish with English subtitles |

A love story with a body count. When Cemal, a lonely hearse driver, transports the body of a murdered young woman back to her family he soon discovers that his passenger is not actually dead and instantly begins to fall in love with her. The problem is that she's not exactly alive either. But one thing is for sure, she's hungry, and Cemal will do anything to please her. Turkish director Orçun Behram's second feature film is fantastically twisted, deeply creepy horror that will have you squirming in your seat.



Horror Shorts

LIFF Shorts X Fanomenon

Everyman Screen 4, Sun 12 Nov 17:00

8 short films | Chile, France, Netherlands, UK | 2022, 2023
100 minutes | English & Dutch, French, Spanish, Welsh with English subtitles

Our popular horror shorts selection returns and includes the last recorded footage of a murdered couple on Dartmoor, a formidable female gang in France named the 'Wolves' and a woman who has started to date a poltergeist. Meanwhile, we'll also discover the terrifying rituals of a rural Welsh community, as well as the murderous gnome creatures that can be encountered on your daily run. To close the programme, we'll meet a woman hiding a mysterious growth and attend a feast catered by a magical fridge.



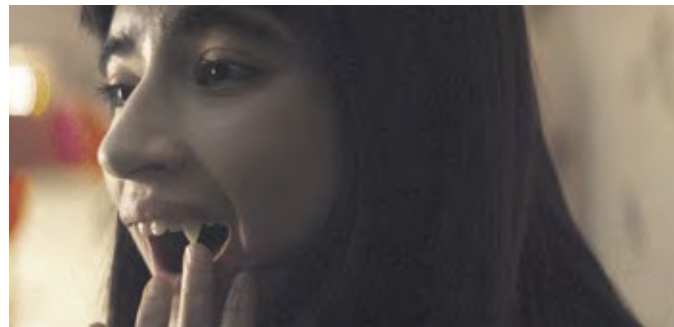
Hundreds of Beavers

Fanorama

Vue Screen 11, Mon 13 Nov 20:30, Wed 15 Nov 18:15 & Sat 18 Nov 12:45

Mike Cheslik | USA | 2023 | 108 minutes | English |

An inexperienced 19th century hunter, Jean Kayak has to work his way up from nothing to become the greatest fur trapper in the world. The only thing standing in his way? Hundreds of Beavers. Director Mike Cheslik's (Lake Michigan Monster) second feature is a wonderfully absurd, epic slapstick comedy that pays homage to silent era cinema, Saturday morning cartoons and retro video games, while still feeling completely new. A unique, laugh-out-loud cinema experience that is already shaping up to be a future cult classic.



Humanist Vampire Seeking Consenting Suicidal Person

Fanorama / Day of the Dead

Hyde Park Screen One, Sat 11 Nov 18:00 | Cottage Road, Sun 12 Nov 13:30 | Vue Screen 12, Fri 17 Nov 20:45

Ariane Louis-Seize | Canada | 2023 | 90 minutes
French with English subtitles

Teenage vampire Sasha has a problem: she's too empathetic to kill. After her parents cut off her blood supply, forcing her to murder for herself, Sasha's life is in danger. After encountering suicidal boy Paul, seeing an opportunity to kill two birds with one stone, Paul offers himself as Sasha's first meal which would be great, if she wasn't developing feelings for him. Winner of the 2023 Giornate degli Autori Director's Award at Venice, Ariane Louis-Seize's debut feature is a stylish deadpan comedy about teen love that is sure to delight fans of What We Do In The Shadows.



The Hunger + Panel Discussion

LIFF X Queer Fear

Everyman Screen 4, Sun 12 Nov 19:30

Tony Scott | UK | 1983 | 97 minutes | English | BBFC Cert 18

Returning to LIFF is Queer Fear, which aims to chart queer communities' lasting association with the horror genre. The Hunger remains a rare Hollywood outing for queer representation on screen. Featuring bona fide stars Catherine Deneuve, Susan Sarandon and David Bowie, Tony Scott's directorial debut is a vampire noir that oozes music video cool and 80s neo-Gothic style. Released four decades ago, in an era dominated by slasher flicks, The Hunger was an anomaly. Misunderstood at the time, and perhaps still so today, join us after this 40th anniversary screening for special panel event to discuss this unique film.



Killing Romance

Fanorama

Cottage Road, Sat 11 Nov 16:00 |
Vue Screen 12, Thu 16 Nov 18:00

Wonsuk Lee | South Korea | 2023 | 106 minutes | Korean with English subtitles

The first film of its kind from South Korea where it became a cult hit, Killing Romance is a musical comic fantasia that has surprised and delighted audiences at film festival previews in the USA and Canada. Former superstar actress Hwang Yeo-Rae is trapped in a toxic marriage with egomaniacal, obscenely wealthy tycoon Jonathan Na. Teaming up with her young fanboy neighbour Kim Beom-Woo, they scheme together to break her free. Farce, thrills, and quick bursts of K-pop-inspired tunes ensue as their scheming keeps failing, and everything escalates to a grand finale of bizarreness.



Night of the Dead

Hyde Park Screen One, Fri 17 Nov, 23:00 to 08:00 (approx. end), NOTD Pass £30/£25 or free with an Explorer Gold Pass (tickets for individual films not available)

Join us for the long-awaited return of cult horror marathon Night of the Dead to Hyde Park Picture House – and after a long LIFF 2023, nine hours of all-night film darkness, terror and gory fun may be just the ticket! First up is Double Blind, a film that will make sure you won't be going to sleep any time soon. Pitch-black horror comedy The Coffee Table is next, followed by a zom-com with lots of heart (and a hunger for brains) in All You Need Is Blood. And for our final film we have Demons, the supernatural '80s gore-fest Demons set in a cinema! Plus, fantastic horror shorts, fun, games and more!



Mad Cats

Planet Japan

Vue Screen 11, Wed 15 Nov 20:45 & Thu 16 Nov 15:45

Reiki Tsuno | Japan | 2023 | 86 minutes
Japanese with English subtitles & English

Taka is an aimless slacker on the hunt for clues surrounding his brothers' disappearance. A mysterious message soon leads him to the headquarters of the Mad Cats, a murderous cult of cats in human form, hell-bent on taking revenge against unsavoury pet shop owners. After stealing a priceless artifact, he finds himself being pursued by a succession of vicious cat-like women who will stop at nothing to get back what was taken from them in this purr-fectly absurd action-comedy from Japanese director Reiki Tsuno.



Night of the Dead Shorts

LIFF Shorts X Fanomenon

Part of Night of the Dead (see separate event listing)

6 short films | Australia, China, Netherlands, South Korea, USA 2022, 2023 | 93 minutes | English & Chinese, Dutch, Korean with English subtitles

No matter your flavour of fear, there's something for everyone in our Night of the Dead short film selection which will be presented throughout the night among the features. A social worker discovers a mysterious manhole in the home of two children, toilet humour turns terrifying when somebody refuses to flush and a stroll through the woods quickly turns bloody. Meanwhile, a couple of new parents' worst nightmares comes true, the future of social media has never been darker, and we see just how far a mother would go to save her son.



Raging Grace

Fanorama / Day of the Dead

Hyde Park Screen One, Sat 11 Nov 13:00

Paris Zarcilla | UK | 2023 | 99 minutes
Tagalog with English subtitles & English

Paris Zarcilla's "coming of rage" debut feature blends horror, drama and childlike fantasy to create a Gothic tale of motherly love, class conflict and palpable fury at systemic prejudice. Joy (Max Eigenmann), an undocumented Filipina immigrant working as a housekeeper, moves herself and her mischievous young daughter Grace (adorable newcomer Jaeden Paige Boadilla) between homes, trying to survive condescension and racism, and all the while saving for a back alley visa. Featuring powerhouse performances from Eigenmann, Boadilla and David Hayman, Raging Grace is a raging, rapturous debut feature film.



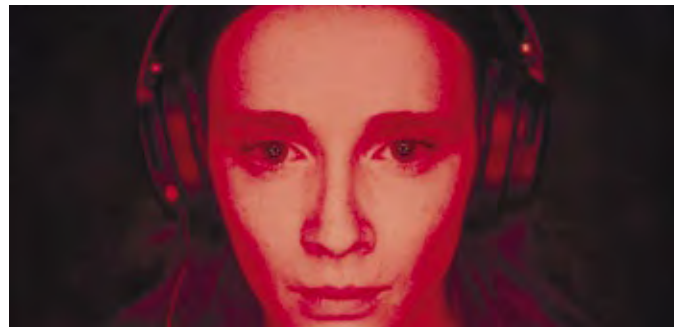
Restore Point

Fanorama / Sci-Fi Day

Vue Screen 11, Fri 3 Nov 18:30 & Sat 4 Nov 13:15

Robert Hloz | Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Serbia | 2023 | 111 minutes | Czech with English subtitles

Prague, 2041. Humanity has reached the stage where it can cheat death. Anyone who dies an unnatural death has the right to be brought back to life, as long as you create a backup of your personality – a restore point – at least every 48 hours. But there is an underground movement that wants to sabotage this right. Agent Em finds herself drawn into a case that is not as simple as it first seemed and its consequences are far reaching. Robert Hloz's first feature film is a captivating futuristic crime thriller and an exciting new addition to ambitious European sci-fi filmmaking.



Red Rooms

Fanorama / Day of the Dead

Hyde Park Screen One, Sat 11 Nov 20:15 | Cottage Road, Sun 12 Nov 15:45 | Vue Screen 12, Sat 18 Nov 16:00

Pascal Plante | Canada | 2023 | 118 minutes
French with English subtitles

Pascal Plante's Red Rooms – winner of best film at this year's Fantasia film festival – is an unsettling and unflinching look into the often exploitative world of true crime content and the sinister mysteries of the dark web. Kelly-Anne (Juliette Gariépy) and Clementine (Laurie Babin) are two women obsessed with suspected serial killer Ludovic Chevalier (Maxwell McCabe-Lokos) who is on trial for filming and distributing his torture and murder of three teenage girls in live-streamed 'red rooms'. Sharp, sleek cinematography and chilling sound design make Red Rooms a must-see for those who like their drama dark and disturbing.



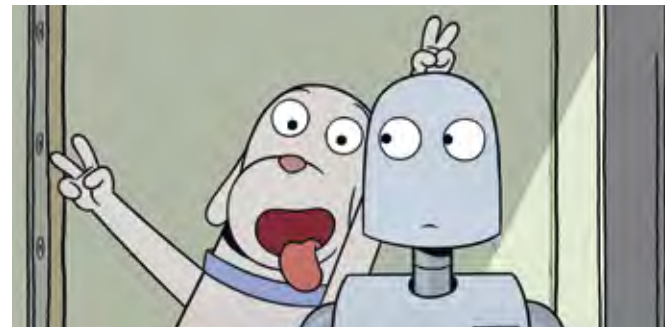
River

Planet Japan / Sci-Fi Day

Vue Screen 11, Sat 4 Nov 11:00 | Everyman Screen 4, Mon 6 Nov 20:45 & Sun 12 Nov 10:30

Junta Yamaguchi | Japan | 2023 | 86 minutes
Japanese with English subtitles

From the makers of cult festival hit Beyond the Infinite Two Minutes, River is another exhilarating and endlessly inventive time-looping sci-fi delight. The setting this time is the century-old Fujiya inn in Kyoto. Mikoto, a waitress at Fujiya, is taking a break in front of the Kibune river next to the inn when she is called back to work. But two minutes later, she finds herself back at the river again. Not only Mikoto, but also the other staff and the guests all begin to feel something strange is going on. They seem to be "looping". Every two minutes.



Robot Dreams

Fanorama

Hyde Park Screen Two, Sun 5 Nov 10:30 | Hyde Park Screen One, Sun 5 Nov 13:00

Pablo Berger | Spain, France | 2023 | 102 minutes
Spanish with English subtitles | BBFC Cert PG

A new friendship will put a song in our hearts. In a New York City populated, wonderfully, by animals, Dog spends evenings alone until a new robot friend arrives. From day one, Dog and Robot are besties and enjoy the best of an NYC late summer: skating at the park, boating on the lake, swimming at the beach. But swimming and electronics don't mix, and sadly, Dog's buddy is stranded, perhaps until the spring! Based on Sara Varon's graphic novel, this gorgeously relatable ode to friendship's knotty feelings is perfect for pals of any species. (Please note the 10.30am screening is relaxed.)



Sci-Fi Shorts

LIFF Shorts X Fanomenon

Everyman Screen 4, Sun 12 Nov 12:45

7 short films | India, Netherlands, UK, USA | 2022, 2023
98 minutes | English & Dutch with English subtitles

In this year's sci-fi selection, we follow a lone probe as it collects music amongst the infinite fields of sounds, a woman is thwarted by captcha technology and a snow creature tries to protect the last natural ice left in the world. Elsewhere, a man ducks out of ending a relationship by recruiting a clone replacement, meanwhile, a couple instead grapple with rapidly multiplying clones of themselves. And finally, we look to the skies, as a NASA scientist bonds with his son over an accidental discovery and two prisoners share a cell in space.



Sci-Fi Day

Fanathons

Vue Screen 11, Sat 4 Nov, 11:00 to 22:30 Sci-Fi Day Pass £30/£25 (tickets for individual films also available)

The first Fanomenon Sci-Fi Day is a bumper selection of new feature films from Japan, the Czech Republic, Morocco, the USA and France. The day starts in the morning with delightful time-looping sci-fi River, followed in the afternoon by futuristic crime thriller Restore Point and supernatural mystery drama Animalia. The day continues in the evening with The Becomers, the genre-bending tale of two aliens body-swapping their way through America, and closes with sci-fi adventure The Animal Kingdom about humans mutating into "creatures". Passes are available for the whole day, or you can buy tickets for individual films.



Shadow of the Vampire (35mm)

Filmmaker focus: E. Elias Merhige

Hyde Park Screen One, Sun 5 Nov 17:45

E. Elias Merhige | UK, USA, Luxembourg | 2000 | 92 minutes
German, Luxembourgish with English subtitles & English | BBFC Cert 15

Cult horror comedy Shadow of the Vampire by E. Elias Merhige (who is presenting the film in person in Leeds) reimagines the making of the silent expressionist classic Nosferatu with an ingenious twist. John Malkovitch portrays F.W. Murnau as an impassioned director making a bid for real authenticity by employing the ultimate method actor, Max Schreck (an extraordinary Willem Dafoe), a real vampire who can only work at night. Genuinely creepy but full of irreverent black humour and buckets of blood, Shadow of the Vampire is a macabre delight.



White Plastic Sky
Fanorama

**Vue Screen 11, Fri 3 Nov 15:45 & Thu 9 Nov 12:30 |
Hyde Park Screen One, Sun 5 Nov 15:30**

Tibor Bánóczki, Sarolta Szabó | Hungary, Slovakia | 2023
110 minutes | Hungarian with English subtitles

White Plastic Sky is a deeply moving dystopian epic that deals head-on with the climate emergency threatening life on Earth while also marvelling at the beauty of the world we might lose. It's 2123. Faced with diminishing resources, humanity can only survive through a trade-off: at the age of 50, every citizen is gradually turned into a tree which will provide oxygen and food for those remaining. When Stefan discovers that his beloved wife Nora has voluntarily signed up for donating her own body before her time, he decides to break the rules to save her at all costs.



Yudo: The Way of the Bath
+ **Sen Toe**
Planet Japan

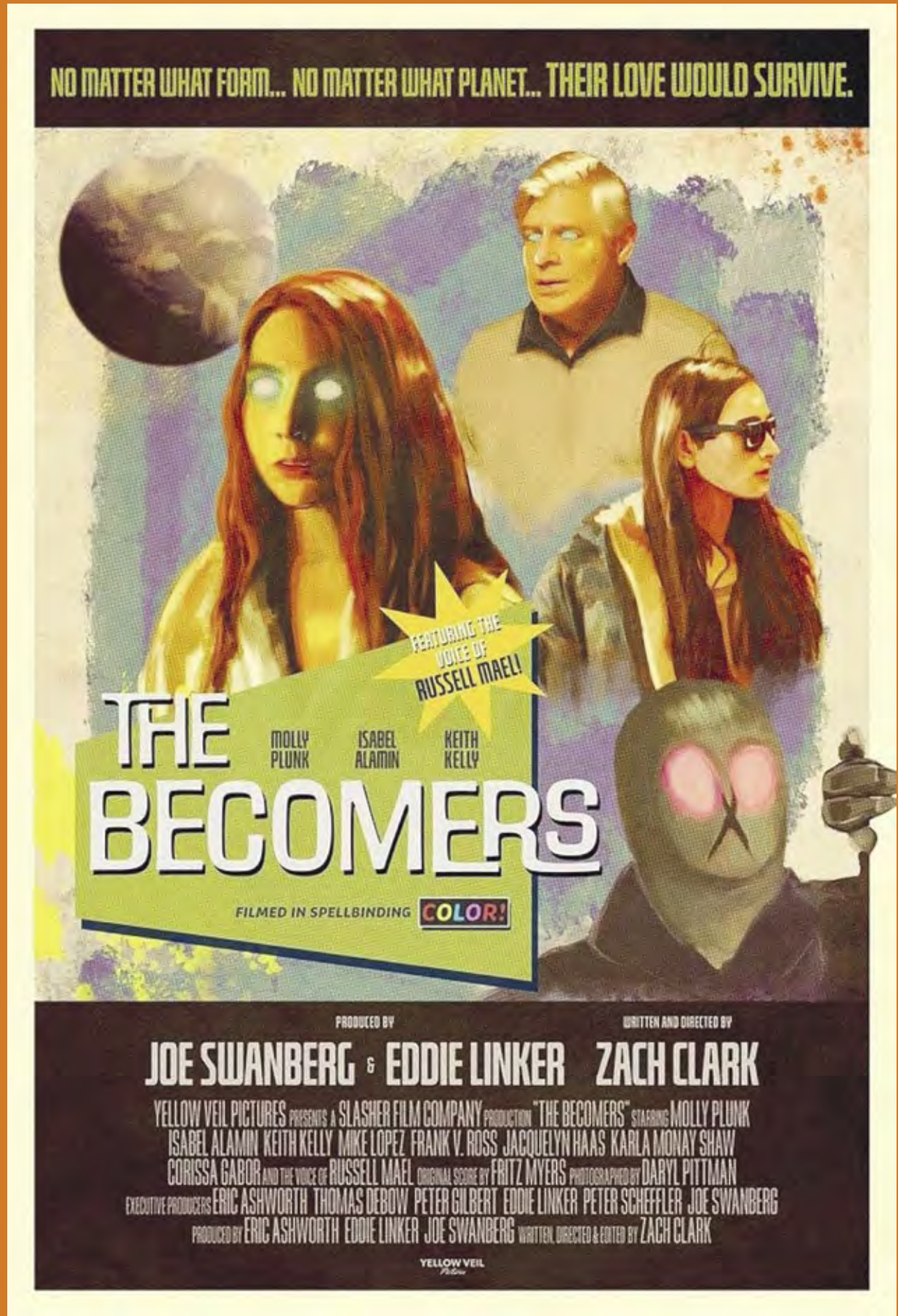
**Vue Screen 11, Sun 5 Nov 12:30 |
Cottage Road, Sat 11 Nov 13:00**

Masayuki Suzuki | Japan | 2023 | 126 (+ short film 7) minutes
Japanese with English subtitles

Winner of the audience award at the Far East Film Festival in Italy, Yudo: The Way of the Bath is a charming, humorous, and gently meandering tale of a community trying to save its local bathhouse. Shiro Miura returns to his hometown after his father's death and decides to close the family business, Marukin Hot Springs. But when one day the boiler breaks and Shiro has to step in to help, he starts to discover how much the bathhouse means to its loyal customers. Screening with delightful musical short Sen Toe set in a Japanese bathhouse, first screened at LIFF 2017.



#Manhole

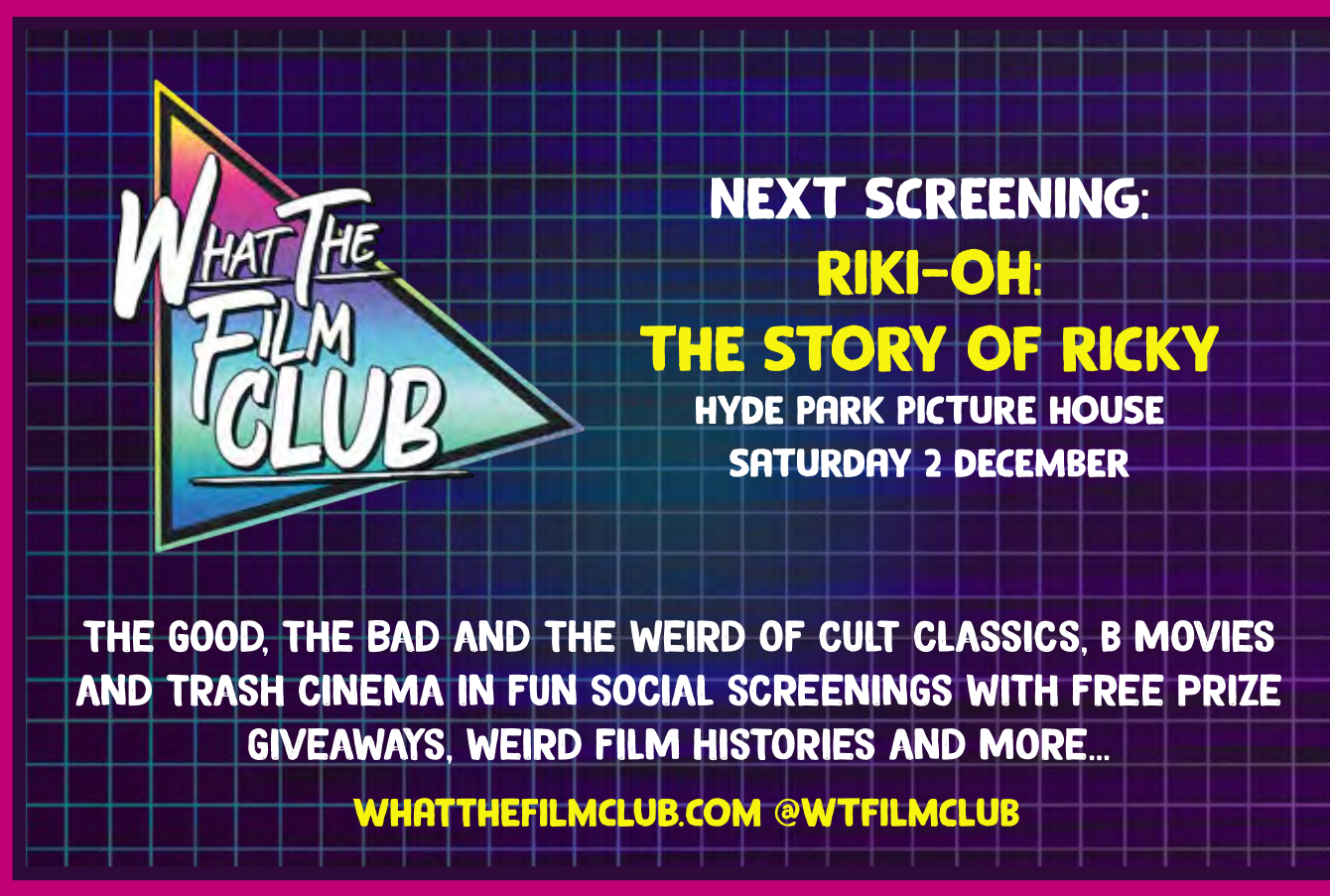




Chronicles of a Wandering Saint
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LIFF SHORTS

LIFF SHORTS is the new name for our programme section dedicated to short films. LIFF SHORTS 2023 opens on 8 November with the Yorkshire Short Film Competition, returning to the recently reopened Hyde Park Picture House. From 9 to 11 November, we present six more short film competitions including the Academy Award®-qualifying Louis le Prince International Short Film Competition – named after the Leeds pioneer who made the world's first moving images in 1888 – and the World Animation Competition. LIFF SHORTS 2023 also includes the British Short Film Competition, and competitions for screendance, queer shorts, and music videos.

LIFF SHORTS 2023 closes on 11 November with the awards event at Howard Assembly Room when we will announce and screen the winning films for all seven competitions as judged by the juries. We will also present most of the short film selection on our streaming platform Leeds Film Player until 19 November.

LIFF Shorts is sponsored by Stewarts.

STEWARTS



British Competition 1

Everyman Screen 4, Sat 11 Nov 11:00

6 shorts films | UK | 2023 | 91 minutes
English & British Sign Language with English subtitles

Our first British Short Film Competition is a thrilling exploration of the complexities of relationships, through a superb collection of stories, visuals, and characters. The nature of the relationship varies hugely, from the intense to the mundane, but the impact of our shorts reaches beyond the screen. Through the humorous but heartbreaking Jellyfish and Lobster, we are given insight into a burgeoning new union with transcendental implications. Yet the muted and inconsequential initial meeting of new coworkers gloriously builds into a splendid rebellion, in the subtle yet endearing Care.



In Our Mind's Eye Documentary Shorts Panorama

Everyman Screen 4, Sat 11 Nov 15:45

7 short films | Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Sudan, Switzerland, UK | 2022, 2023 | 85 minutes | English & Arabic, Persian with English subtitles |

Explore the unique worldviews of these seven short documentaries. Witness an imaginary TV station filming anti-government sit-ins in Sudan, alongside a sensual snapshot of life with degenerative blindness. Listen to the melting glaciers of the Swiss Alps with sound artist Ludwig Berger, and hear the powerful story of a woman's exclusion amid the mountains of Afghanistan. Ponder the ironies of global tourism and the curiosities of crop circles, and finally, as a magical moon creeps in, let intertwined tales and timelines wash over you in mysterious Manzanillo, Costa Rica.



British Competition 2

Everyman Screen 4, Sat 11 Nov 13:30

6 short films | UK, Ireland | 2022, 2023 | 95 minutes
English & Welsh with English subtitles

Our second British Short Film Competition is an exciting celebration of characters defying convention and finding their own stories, style, and purpose, through passionate filmmaking and the exploration of new and exciting ideas. From the anthropomorphised depiction of salmon fighting for their own existence and survival in the mesmerising yet haunting Wild Summon, to the ultimate fight for life from the grave and beyond, for a lovable rogue in the fantastical black comedy, Meeting Mr Samuel, these characters defy expectations and hopefully inspire the audience along the way.



Leeds Music Video Competition

Howard Assembly Room, Sat 11 Nov 13:30 |
Chapel FM, Wed 15 Nov 19:00 | FREE

18 music videos | Australia, Canada, France, Netherlands, UK, USA, | 2022, 2023 | 72 minutes | English & Dutch, French, Latin with English subtitles

This year's Leeds Music Video Competition might be the most eclectic yet. Fantastic songs from a range of genres are set to an incredible variety of music videos, each of which invites you into its own unique visual world. Featuring tracks from OSEES, Madison McFerrin, Mawaan Rizwan, Cécile McLorin Salvant, foxwedding, Water From Your Eyes, Zombie Zombie, Sahara Beck, Santino Browne and more. A perfect balance between pop and experimental approaches, you'll find impressively intricate animation alongside live action with elements of social satire, contemporary dance and powerful narrative storytelling.



Leeds Queer Short Film Competition 1

Hyde Park Screen Two, Thu 9 Nov 18:15

6 short films | Australia, Ireland, UK, USA | 2022, 2023
87 minutes | English & Spanish with English subtitles

Leeds Queer Film Festival is honoured once again to be curating the Queer Short Film Competition for LIFF. Since 2005, LQFF has been amplifying queer voices at their own independent festival, and they are always thrilled to see increased LGBTQ+ representation at LIFF. This programme spotlights characters the audience is unlikely to see anywhere else: an Australian First Nations BrotherBoy, a mother who embraces their child's gender identity but struggles to care for them, and a Reggaeton fairy godmother who just wants to help you have a perfect date.



Leeds Screendance Competition + Panel Discussion

Everyman Screen 4, Thu 9 Nov 20:30

12 short films | Estonia, France, Ireland, Norway, UK, USA | 2022, 2023 | 80 minutes | English & Norwegian with English subtitles

Hailing from where cinematography and choreography meet, this compelling collection of international dance films navigates the myriad ways the moving body can propel a story. From the grimy dance floor of a club the day after the night before, to the not-so-subtle touch of strangers on a bus, we survey the landscape of this burgeoning form. Whether explicitly narrative or more abstract in approach these innovative shorts all share a specific engagement with choreography, offering a fascinating take on this experimental film genre.



Leeds Queer Short Film Competition 2

Hyde Park Screen Two, Thu 9 Nov 20:30

7 short films | France, Mexico, Portugal, Sri Lanka, UK, USA
2022, 2023 | 90 minutes | English & French, Portuguese, Sinhala, Spanish with English subtitles

Since 2018, Leeds Queer Film Festival has proudly curated the Queer Short Film Competition for LIFF. This second programme brings to the screen a range of unique LGBTQ+ experiences: the connection between a trans artist and a trans life drawing model, a disabled young woman looking for her first sexual experience, and the drama that can ensue when you come out to your wife in your local corner shop. Plus a little motivation to clean your room, from an unexpected but very effective source.

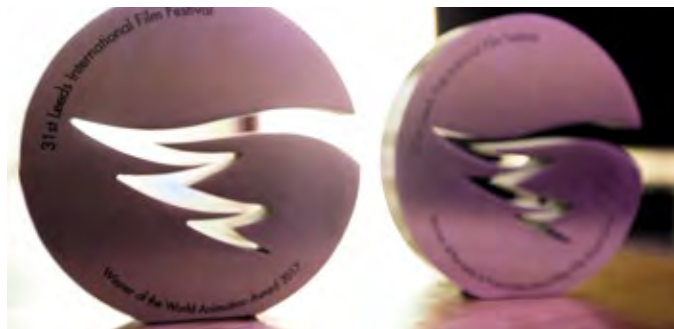


LIFF SHORTS 2023 Country Spotlight: Netherlands Dutch Discoveries

Everyman Screen 4, Sat 11 Nov 18:00

6 short films | Netherlands | 2021, 2022, 2023 | 85 minutes
Dutch with English subtitles

Our Dutch Discoveries season at LIFF 2023 includes new films in Official Selection, classics in Rear View, and this short film programme. Featuring brilliant new animations, competition highlights and a previous LIFF favourite, the programme illuminates the breadth of film talent bursting from the Netherlands. Travel around the country as we encounter eccentric characters, discover the power of community, and consider the importance of taking pride in identity. An eclectic mix of styles and stories, our spotlight is a celebratory melting pot of creativity, much like the country it's focused on.

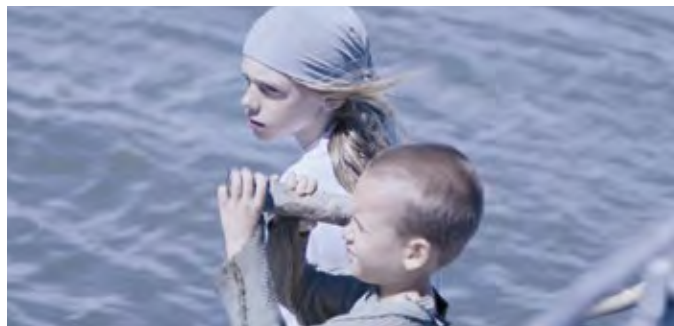


LIFF SHORTS 2023: The Winners

LIFF SHORTS: Closing Event

Howard Assembly Room, Sat 11 Nov 20:00

Always a popular event at LIFF, the winners programme is the culmination of a year of shortlisting and selecting short films from 120 countries to include in our seven competitions. Taking place in the historic setting of Howard Assembly Room, the event will start with the announcement of the winners by the competition juries, and then you can see all the winning films together. The duration of the event depends on the length of the winning films, but it is normally around 90 minutes. You can also see the winning films on our streaming platform Leeds Film Player from 13 to 19 November.



Louis Le Prince International Short Film Competition 2

Everyman Screen 4, Thu 9 Nov 16:00

5 short films | Belgium, Canada, France, USA | 2022, 2023
104 minutes | English & Dutch, Chinese, Polish, Vietnamese with English subtitles

Growing up is hard to do, as the protagonists in this selection of films discover. Across these stories – which include a winner at SXSW and a short screened at Cannes Directors Fortnight – the mysteries of the world are slowly revealed in a variety of intelligent and intriguing ways. Capturing the essence of childhood – the fears, the anxiety but also the playfulness and the sense of joy – these shorts give us a chance to look at the world from a child's perspective and to experience the energy of youthful exuberance.



Louis le Prince International Short Film Competition 1

Everyman Screen 4, Thu 9 Nov 14:00

5 short films | Belgium, Colombia, France, Indonesia, Lebanon 2022, 2023 | 94 minutes | Arabic, Dutch, French, Indonesian, Spanish with English subtitles

Love and magic collide in this selection of films which zips across the surreal and the sublime to build a wondrous world where life is explored through a dazzling array of events. Rituals and economies, vision and enlightenment, construction and destruction, the Earth's axis and even the passionate poetry of the bolero combine to explore the very deepest mysteries of the heart. From speculative visions of Jakarta to Colombian building sites and extremist convents, this selection of films is truly transnational in every sense.



Louis Le Prince International Short Film Competition 3

Everyman Screen 4, Fri 10 Nov 13:45

7 short films | Denmark, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Norway, Philippines, Spain | 2022, 2023 | 97 minutes | Catalan, Danish, Icelandic, Kazakh, Norwegian, Spanish, Tagalog with English subtitles

Blink and you might miss the unsettling and beguiling moments that shatter the malaise of modern life. Playful and satirical, these short films offer a searing commentary on a society and culture frequently devoid of morality. From underground raves to modern art exhibitions, we journey through the many facets of human nature. Through daily rituals, our hidden desires are exposed. We witness how empathy and compassion tussles against disparate and abusive power structures. Resistance can be challenging but these films never give up hope.



Louis le Prince International Short Film Competition 4

Everyman Screen 4, Fri 10 Nov 15:45

7 short films | France, Jamaica, Portugal, Rwanda, UK, Vietnam 2022, 2023 | 107 minutes | English & French, Hindi, Swahili, Tagalog, Vietnamese with English subtitles

A tapestry of narratives that sensitively capture the elusive sense of place and (be)longing. In this programme, homeland is redefined through the lens of diasporic identities, the search of roots and familial connections, healing journeys into futuristic realms, and quests for meaning in dystopian landscapes. Bold characters confronting threats in their domestic and communal habitats and eventually coming to terms with inevitable change. An invitation to reflect on our own connections to the past, present, and the places we call home.



World Animation Competition 2

Everyman Screen 4, Fri 10 Nov 20:30

10 short films | China, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Poland, Romania, UK | 2022, 2023 | 94 minutes | English & Chinese, Croatian, Hungarian, Romanian with English subtitles

We present ten more exciting new films from around the world in our second World Animation programme, packed with absorbing dreamscapes, poetic fables, oddball docu-fictions and intimate miniature worlds. We welcome back to the competition Sonja Rohleder, a German animator whose colourful new film Somni describes a magical journey into sleep, and Ivana Bošnjak and Thomas Johnson, who spin another fascinating Croatian yarn using sugar sachets and plush galloping horses in Remember How I Used to Ride a White Horse.



World Animation Competition 1

Everyman Screen 4, Fri 10 Nov 18:15

10 short films | Austria, France, India, Iran, Poland, Spain, UK | 2022, 2023 | 94 minutes | English & French, Persian, Polish with English subtitles

Animation is a beautiful endeavour, where diverse artistry, craft, passion and unique visions combine, to create a film format that – to our minds – remains unsurpassed. This year's Academy Award-qualifying World Animation Competition once again offers fantastic examples of brand new animated shorts for LIFF audiences to enjoy. From the painterly forms of Jenny Jokela's Sweet like Lemons or the delicate drawings of dangerous children in La Saison pourpre, to the odd, watery moving statues of Such Miracles Do Happen and the galactic majesty of Neeraj Bhattacharjee's Record. Play. Stop.



Yorkshire Short Film Competition

LIFF SHORTS: Opening Event

Hyde Park Screen One, Wed 8 Nov 20:30 |

The Old Fire Station, Sat 11 Nov 15:30 | Stockroom Cinema, Sat 18 Nov 16:00 | Free at The Old Fire Station and Stockroom Cinema

8 short films | UK | 2022, 2023 | 87 minutes | English | Cert 15

Our Yorkshire Short Film Competition is always an absolute treat for the eyes and this year is no exception, as we travel around arguably the best (and most definitely the biggest county), for the opportunity to sample some up and coming, and all-round great home-grown filmmakers. This programme is as varied as they come, providing a glorious tour of genres and styles, but as always, we are thoroughly chuffed with the level of filmmaking coming from our own back yard and we are beyond excited to share it with you.



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Film: Meet Me in St Louis + Festive Trio

Thu 21
From Within: Winter Solstice

Image: Nick Singleton

Thrill Rides at LIFF 2023 is a selection of famous and not-so-famous thrillers set on trains and at stations, or featuring classic train sequences, or where a train is an ominous background presence. We have three films by Hitchcock in the selection, with *The Lady Vanishes*, *Strangers on a Train*, and *North By Northwest*, and Bond vs. Red Grant on the Orient Express in *From Russia with Love*.

The New York Subway is the setting for two gritty thrillers in the selection, *The Taking of Pelham One Two Three* and the little-known *The Incident*. Trains are unleashed in Andrei Konchalovsky's *Runaway Train* and Bong Joon-ho's *Snowpiercer*, which was never released in UK cinemas. Thrill Rides also includes rarely screened classics *Night Train*, set entirely in a single compartment, and *The Train Robbers*, with the UK Premiere of its 4K restoration presented at LIFF 2023.

Thrill Rides



The Lady Vanishes



From Russia with Love

Vue Screen 12, Sat 18 Nov 11:00

Terence Young | UK, USA | 1963 | 115 minutes
English & Russian, Turkish, French, Romany, Italian with English subtitles | BBFC Cert PG

Sean Connery's second James Bond thriller - and his favourite - From Russia with Love sees 007 once more battling secret crime organization SPECTRE. Russians Rosa Klebb (Lotte Lenya) and Kronsteen (Vladek Sheybal) are out to snatch a Soviet decoding device known as the Lektor, using the ravishing Tatiana (Daniela Bianchi) to lure Bond into helping them. Bond willingly travels to meet Tatiana in Istanbul, but he comes up against a series of deadly encounters including the famous brawl with Red Grant (Robert Shaw) on board the Orient Express.



La Bête Humaine

Hyde Park Screen One, Fri 3 Nov 16:15

Jean Renoir | France | 1938 | 100 minutes | French with English subtitles | BBFC Cert PG

Based on the classic Émile Zola novel, Jean Renoir's La Bête Humaine was one of the legendary director's greatest popular successes, released in France in 1938 and tapping into the fatalism of a nation in despair. Jean Gabin's emblematic portrayal of doomed train engineer Jacques Lantier - who falls in love with a married woman who has helped her husband commit a murder - granted him a permanent place in his nation's hearts. La Bête Humaine features terrific train action scene cinematography from Curt Courant and editing by Suzanne de Troeye and Marguerite Renoir.



High Noon

Everyman Screen 4, Sun 5 Nov 10:30

Fred Zinnemann | USA | 1952 | 85 minutes | English
BBFC Cert U

We're presenting Fred Zinnemann's iconic Western and Hollywood classic High Noon on a Sunday from 10.30am, about when the film begins to unfold in real time as tension builds towards the arrival of the noon train (with frequent shots of clocks). In his Oscar-winning performance, Gary Cooper stars as small-town Marshal Will Kane, preparing to retire and leave town with his young bride Amy (Grace Kelly). However, his plans are derailed with the impending arrival by train of outlaw Frank and his brutal gang. High Noon is riveting entertainment even on a Sunday morning.



The Incident

**Vue Screen 11, Mon 6 Nov 15:45 |
Vue Screen 12, Mon 13 Nov 13:00**

Larry Peerce | USA | 1967 | 107 minutes | English

Two young hoodlums (Tony Musante and Martin Sheen, in his first big screen role) roam the late-night Bronx streets in search of trouble, heading eventually to the Third Avenue El train. Meanwhile a series of other soon-to-be passengers coalesce to make the journey homeward towards 42nd Street. Each travelling party seems to embody a social tension, with gender, sex and race pushed to the fore. Out of control, the thugs terrorise their fellow passengers, daring each one to snap while the others look on. A film that dares us strangers to look each other in the eyes.



The Lady Vanishes

**Hyde Park Screen One, Fri 3 Nov 14:00 |
Vue Screen 12, Wed 8 Nov 10:30**

Alfred Hitchcock | UK | 1938 | 96 minutes | English
BBFC Cert U

Alfred Hitchcock's second-to-last British film before setting sail for Hollywood, The Lady Vanishes is one of Hitchcock's most delightfully crafty thrillers. Travelling across Europe by train, Iris (Margaret Lockwood) meets a charming older passenger (Dame May Whitty), who then seems to disappear into thin air. Iris turns investigator and finds herself drawn into a complex web of intrigue and adventure on the rails. Also starring Michael Redgrave, The Lady Vanishes is one of the earliest Hitchcock films to relish in the dramatic constraints of train travel.



North By Northwest

Vue Screen 12, Tue 14 Nov 13:00

Alfred Hitchcock | USA | 1959 | 136 minutes | English
BBFC Cert PG

Perhaps the archetypal example of Alfred Hitchcock's favoured 'wrong man' narrative, North by Northwest combines irresistible 50s Hollywood glamour with unforgettable espionage movie set pieces. A never better Cary Grant is a mistakenly identified fugitive on the run, being chased across the United States on the roads, rails and even by a wayward crop duster, all in pursuit of the truth behind his inexplicable predicament. A chance encounter with a mysterious woman (Eva Marie Saint) in New York's Grand Central Station is the platform for one of the most charming and alluring train 'meet cutes' in cinema history.



Night Train

Everyman Screen 4, Sun 5 Nov 20:30

Jerzy Kawalerowicz | Poland | 1959 | 99 minutes
Polish with English subtitles

An underrated classic and one of the greatest Polish films of all time, Night Train takes place entirely in a single compartment on a crowded overnight train. Beginning like a Hitchcock thriller hinting at the possibility that someone in the carriage is a killer on the run, the film develops into a nuanced character study of the different passengers on board, building towards a complex and symbolic conclusion. A terrific cast includes Zbigniew Cybulski (the 'Polish James Dean') and Leon Niemczyk (Knife in the Water), and composer Andrzej Trzaskowski contributes an atmospheric jazz score.



Runaway Train

**Vue Screen 11, Wed 8 Nov 17:45 |
Vue Screen 12, Thu 16 Nov 12:45**

Andrey Konchalovskiy | USA | 1985 | 111 minutes | English

Busting out of a maximum-security prison in Alaska, two hardened convicts - older, wiler Manny and young boxing champ Buck (John Voight and Eric Roberts, both nominated for Oscars) - head into the frozen tundra. They hop onto an Alaska Railroad EMD locomotive and are soon out of control, the brakes burned out and the train hurtling at increasing speed towards disaster. Produced by the 'none-more-'80s' Cannon Films but developed from a thoughtful Akira Kurosawa script that he wrote in the '60s, Runaway Train is a wild, teetering action cinema ride.



Strangers on a Train

**Vue Screen 12, Sat 4 Nov 11:15 & Wed 8 Nov 12:45 |
Stockroom Cinema, Sat 18 Nov 13:45 |
Free at Stockroom Cinema**

Alfred Hitchcock | USA | 1951 | 101 minutes | English & French with English subtitles | BBFC Cert 15

Adapted from Patricia Highsmith's novel released the year before, Strangers on a Train features some of Alfred Hitchcock's most iconic train sequences. The hook is ingenious: two strangers, Bruno and Guy (Farley Granger, Robert Walker), meet on a train and inadvertently agree to 'swap' murders to insure neither of them are implicated. As the plan quickly unravels, revealing startling and exhilarating consequences, Strangers on a Train turns into a breakneck ride of tense thrills that has remained unsurpassed. In fact, you might want to reconsider talking to fellow passengers the next time you journey on public transport!



Snowpiercer

Vue Screen 12, Wed 8 Nov 20:30 & Thu 9 Nov 12:45

Bong Joon Ho | South Korea, Czech Republic | 2013
126 minutes | English & Korean, French, Japanese, Czech,
German with English subtitles

Following an ecological disaster that users in a new Ice Age, the remains of humanity occupies an enormous train that traverses the globe, even its oceans. At the front of the train the elite enjoy luxury while at the back the poor suffer in a slum-like prison. This audacious, intelligent adaptation of the 1982 graphic novel Le Transperceneige combines an all-star UK-US-Korean cast (Song Kang-ho, Tilda Swinton, Ewen Bremner, John Hurt, Ed Harris) with biting satire and comic book visual aplomb. A huge cult hit, still travelling on as a Netflix show.



The Taking of Pelham One Two Three

**Vue Screen 11, Tue 7 Nov 18:15 |
Vue Screen 12, Mon 13 Nov 15:15**

Joseph Sargent | USA | 1974 | 104 minutes | English & Spanish with English subtitles | BBFC Cert 15

An evocative crime film set on the grimy, pre-gentrified New York subway. Four men dressed identically and with colour-coded codenames board the IRT Dyre Avenue Line from The Bronx's Pelham Parkway at different stops. Revealing machine guns, they announce the hijacking and stop the train between stations, demanding \$1,000,000 cash or else they start killing hostages. In a race against time, Transit Police Lieutenant Garber (Walter Matthau) attempts to outsmart the criminals. A tense, sly and bracingly no-nonsense film, and a snapshot of midcentury NYC at its most fecund.



The Train

Vue Screen 11, Mon 6 Nov 13:00

John Frankenheimer, Arthur Penn | France, Italy, USA | 1964
133 minutes | English & German with English subtitles | BBFC Cert U

France, 1944. Art lover and fanatical Nazi Colonel Von Waldheim has plundered a Paris museum for its masterpieces. His intention is to have them transported by rail to Berlin, but one man stands in his way. Aware that the Allied forces are fast approaching the French capital, Resistance fighter Labiche need only stall the train for a few more days, but he'll have to use all his wits and skills to do so. The Train combines star power - Burt Lancaster (Labiche), Paul Scofield (Von Waldheim), Jeanne Moreau and Michel Simon - with spectacular action sequences to produce a classic war movie.



The Train Robbers

New 4K Restoration

**Everyman Screen 4, Sun 5 Nov 18:15
& Wed 8 Nov 13:00**

Roberto Farias | Brazil | 1962 | 102 minutes
Portuguese with English subtitles

Masterfully blending elements of noir and neorealism, Robert Farias' The Train Robbers is a powerful thriller and a searing critique of Brazil's class and racial hierarchy, with the UK Premiere of its 4K restoration presented at LIFF 2023. Based on the true story of a famous train heist in Brazil when a gang led by infamous outlaw Tião Medonho made off with a small fortune, the film focuses on the aftermath as the gang members split up and try to lay low for a while - but gradually the police close in. Featuring a towering performance from Eliezer Gomes as Medonho in his debut role.



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Cinema Amour

In Cinema Amour we bring together a very special programme of new documentaries, archive films and talks exploring 'cinophilia', or the love for film and cinemas. New documentaries take us to the lost cinemas of Recife in Brazil, a legendary New York Video Shop, a film club in Southwestern Nigeria, an underground film collection hidden in the basements of Tehran, a lovingly handcrafted cinema in a small Finnish village, and London's most infamous repertory cinema. We delve into the history of the legendary Academy Cinema in Leeds with screenings of archive films originally presented to their audience.

With the beautifully restored Hyde Park Picture House returning as a leading venue for LIFF 2023, we are reminded that the spaces of cinema are just as important as the films themselves, and nothing rivals the magic of watching a film with others in your favourite neighbourhood cinema.





Celluloid Underground

Everyman Screen 4, Sat 11 Nov 20:15 |
Hyde Park Screen Two, Tue 14 Nov 18:00

Ehsan Khoshbakht | UK | 2023 | 80 minutes
English & Persian with English subtitles

A powerful documentary celebrating the liberating power of celluloid dreams. Director Ehsan Khoshbakht grew up in Iran after the 1979 revolution when most films were banned. As a film obsessed student, he met an underground film collector who had hidden thousands of 35mm prints from destruction by the fundamentalist fanatics, refusing to give up his hoard despite arrest and torture. They became partners in crime until Ehsan escaped to a new life in the west and became one of the world's leading film curators. Years later on hearing of his friend's death, he has crafted this elegiac, cinematic tribute.



Coconut Head Generation + Panel Discussion

Hyde Park Screen Two, Mon 13 Nov 18:00

Alain Kassanda | France | 2023 | 89 minutes | English

'Coconut Head Generation' is a scornful expression for a stubborn and empty-headed youth, transformed by Alain Kassanda's patiently observed documentary. Every Thursday, a group of students from the University of Ibadan, the oldest in Nigeria, organises a movie club, transforming a small lecture hall into a political agora where the viewer's gaze is sharpened and a critical mind is developed. The film elegantly questions assumptions and encourages debate and freedom of thought. Screening with a panel on film and education presented in partnership with the University of Leeds.



Cinema Laika

Hyde Park Screen One, Fri 10 Nov 16:00

Veljko Vidak | France, Finland | 2023 | 81 minutes
English & Finnish, French with English subtitles

Cinema Laika is a beautiful documentary about a cinematic passion project. In a small village 45 miles north of Helsinki, the Finnish film director Aki Kaurismäki and his friend, the poet and writer, Mika Lähti construct their own cinema within an old foundry. Kino Laika is a collaborative project involving residents of Karkkila and using recycled wood, metal, and pre-owned furniture. The venue has bars with cool retro rock music and Cadillacs and motorcycles parked outside. It also has a dream setting amid the awe-inspiring beauty of nature, encapsulating the very essence of cinema's enchantment.



Goodbye, Dragon Inn 20th Anniversary Screening

Hyde Park Screen One, Fri 10 Nov 14:00

Tsai Ming-Liang | Taiwan | 2003 | 82 minutes | Mandarin,
Min Nan, Japanese with English subtitles | BBFC Cert PG

Tsai Ming Liang's modern classic is shot entirely in a crumbling old Taipei cinema that's about to close its doors for the last time. Every perfectly controlled shot follows the odd wandering audience member and sullen staff members going about their daily chores for the last time around the endless corridors and backrooms of the majestic old building. All the while King Hu's wuxia classic Dragon Inn plays in the auditorium. The film uses its odd slow pace, innovative sound design and deadpan humour to create an unforgettable, haunted elegy for cinema.



Kim's Video

Hyde Park Screen Two, Wed 15 Nov 18:00 | Stockroom
Cinema, Sat 18 Nov 18:00 | Free at Stockroom Cinema

David Redmon, Ashley Sabin | USA | 2023 | 85 minutes
English & Italian, Korean with English subtitles |

David Redmon and Ashley Sabin's playful documentary tells the strange story of the legendary New York Video Shop, Kim's Video. Playing with cinematic genres from cinema verite to heist movie, the filmmakers set out to track down its lost archive of 55,000 tapes ending up in the unlikely location of Salemi, a small village in Sicily. Despite an initial bid to use it to boost tourism, the collection's whereabouts are shrouded in mystery. A source of film education for scores of enthusiastic ex-members, the filmmakers use their quixotic quest to fashion an ode to the love of cinema.



Le Million

Hyde Park Screen One, Sun 12 Nov 15:30

René Clair | France | 1931 | 91 minutes
French with English subtitles

An impoverished artist loses a winning lottery ticket, and the wheels are set in motion for a dazzling chase across the streets of Paris. This delightful musical comedy from 1931 is a showcase for director René Clair's inventive and whimsical storytelling, and his creative use of music and clever stylistic devices influenced the Marx Brothers, Charlie Chaplin, and the genre of the film musical for years to come. This screening is part of two events celebrating legendary film programmer of the Academy cinema, Elsie Cohen, and will be introduced by researcher and festival programmer Alice Miller.





Mädchen in Uniform + Talk

Hyde Park Screen One, Sun 12 Nov 13:00

Leontine Sagan, Carl Froelich | Germany | 1931 | 88 minutes
German, French with English subtitles & English | BBFC Cert PG

A landmark of queer cinema, Leontine Sagan's 1931 classic Mädchen in Uniform is a nuanced and tender depiction of a girl who develops romantic feelings for her boarding schoolteacher. Made at the height of the Weimar era, and featuring an all-female cast, the film deftly portrays a world in which lesbian crushes are tolerated, even normalised, but only up to a point. This screening is part of two events celebrating the legendary film programmer of the Academy cinema, Elsie Cohen, and will be preceded by a short talk from researcher and festival programmer Alice Miller.



Pictures of Ghosts + Panel Discussion

Hyde Park Screen One, Fri 10 Nov 18:00

Kleber Mendonça Filho | Brazil | 2023 | 93 minutes
Portuguese with English subtitles

Kleber Mendonça Filho pays homage to the lost cinemas of his hometown, Recife, in this poetic and personal documentary. As narrator, Filho first guides us through his family home, a place that holds significant memories, and a cinematic space that functioned as the setting for several of his films. We then travel to downtown Recife, as Filho reflects on the city's grand picture palaces. Poignant and playful, Filho's film is a heartfelt love letter to the cinemas and city that shaped him. This screening will be followed by a panel on cinema futures, discussing the effects of streaming platforms in national and international contexts.



Scala!!!

Hyde Park Screen One, Sun 5 Nov 20:30

Ali Catterall, Jane Giles | UK | 2023 | 96 minutes | English
BBFC Cert 18

London's legendary Scala cinema becomes immortalised in this riotous documentary that lovingly captures its youthful punk spirit. Running from 1978 till 1993, the Scala was infamous for its dynamic programming of cult, trash, classic and experimental cinema. Giving voice to the Scala audience, the film features a stellar array of talking heads, including John Waters, Stewart Lee, Peter Strickland, Mary Harron and Isaac Julien to name a few. With a perfectly sleazy score from Barry Adamson, and a feast of archival film clips, Scala!!! is an evocative tribute to the cinema that continues to inspire new generations of DIY film programmers.

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UK AND IRELAND



Dutch Discoveries

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the UK is overjoyed with the decision of Leeds International Film Festival to programme a range of films from the Netherlands this year. The year that Leeds is celebrating a Year of Culture. The festival has hand-picked some tremendous 'Dutch Discoveries' for film lovers in Leeds, including brand new feature films and shorts, as well as some true classics.

In the Year of Culture 2023, the people of Leeds can enjoy films, visual arts, theatre, dance, music and more from the Netherlands. Artists from the Netherlands have worked closely with communities and organisations in Leeds. They've created amazing things together and valuable experiences have been shared among them. Moreover, thousands of people have enjoyed the creativity that came out of these exchanges.

The Dutch Embassy in the UK is proud to support 'Dutch Discoveries' at the Leeds International Film Fund, as well as other Anglo-Dutch cultural collaborations in Leeds in 2023. We believe that cultural exchange strengthens the bond between people. It forges closer connections between the Netherlands and the UK, two neighbouring countries on both sides of the North Sea.

Our support for such exchanges will continue after this fantastic Year of Culture.

Find out more about the work of the cultural department of the Dutch Embassy on www.netherlandsandyou.nl/united-kingdom



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Rear View

In Rear View we present a big-screen collection of 4K restorations of rarely-screened archive films, classics from the Netherlands as part of Dutch Discoveries, and film favourites screening for free. This year's restorations include Bushman (USA), The Dupes (Syria), and Nomad - Director's Cut (Hong Kong), and the UK Premieres of the restored versions of two films made in 1966 by Japanese master stylist Yasuzo Masumura – The Spider Tattoo and The Red Angel.

Our Dutch Discoveries selection at LIFF 2023 includes three features from new filmmakers in Official Selection, a LIFF Shorts programme, and three classics in Rear View – Fanfare, A Question of Silence, and Metal and Melancholy. Our free breakfast screenings return to Hyde Park Picture House with Before Sunrise and Zazie dans le Métro, and we're delighted to take LIFF to the wonderful The Old Fire Station in Gipton with a fitting, free screening of The Fireman's Ball.



The Fireman's Ball



Before Sunrise

Free Breakfast Screenings

Hyde Park Screen One, Sat 4 Nov 08:45 | FREE

Richard Linklater | USA, Austria | 1995 | 101 minutes | English & German, French with English subtitles | BBFC Cert 15

The first of two free breakfast screenings at LIFF 2023 (Zazie dans le Métro screens on 11 November). An American student (Ethan Hawkes) strikes up a conversation on a train with a young Parisian woman (Julie Delpy) while travelling by Eurail in Austria. On the spur of the moment, he invites her to spend the day with him in Vienna, and a casual acquaintance becomes something more profound. Richard Linklater's beautiful first film in his 'Before' trilogy pays homage to French auteur Eric Rohmer as he lets his characters talk their way into, around and out of each other's affections.



The Dupes

New 4K Restoration

Vue Screen 11, Tue 7 Nov 20:30

Tewfik Saleh | Syria | 1972 | 107 minutes
Arabic with English subtitles

In 1950s Iraq, three Palestinian refugees attempt to cross the border into Kuwait in hope of a better future. Adapted from the 1962 novella 'Men in the Sun' by Palestinian writer and resistance leader Ghassan Kanafani, the tense human drama of their high-risk journey across the desert serves as an allegory to the Palestinian struggle as a whole. Powerful and uncompromising, this masterpiece of Arab cinema shot in stark black and white leaves an indelible mark on the viewer. This special screening is presented in collaboration with Leeds Palestinian Film Festival.



Bushman

New 4K Restoration

Everyman Screen 4, Mon 6 Nov 19:00
& Wed 8 Nov 17:00

David Schickele | USA | 1971 | 73 minutes | English

In the turbulence of 1968, Gabriel travels from Nigeria to California to begin a teaching job at San Francisco State. Beginning as a fiction film based on lead actor Paul Eyam Nzie Opokam's experiences, we follow Gabriel as he navigates academic West coast life and the racism and exoticism he finds threaded through his daily interactions. However, real-life events overtake the film when Okpokam is falsely accused of terrorism during the university strike of that year. Newly restored, this unique docudrama draws on cinéma vérité, experimental and new wave influences to leave a lasting impression of a moment in time at once distant and wholly familiar.



Fanfare

Dutch Discoveries

Everyman Screen 4, Sat 4 Nov 10:30
& Sun 5 Nov 14:15

Bert Haanstra | Netherlands | 1958 | 86 minutes
Dutch with English subtitles | BBFC Cert U

With slapstick hijinks and sabotage aplenty, this timeless classic comedy from 1958 is a gleeful delight. In an idyllic rural village, the local brass band is preparing to play the regional concert finals. When a feud between two musicians reaches breaking point, they split into rival factions and fiercely compete to gain the most members in their respective bands, with hilarious results. Documentarian Bert Haanstra's first foray into fiction is one of the most iconic and beloved Dutch films of all time, and deserves to be better known outside of its home country.



The Fireman's Ball

LIFF at The Old Fire Station

The Old Fire Station, Sat 11 Nov 18:00 | FREE

Milos Forman | Czechoslovakia, Italy | 1967 | 73 minutes
Czech with English subtitles | BBFC Cert PG

Milos Forman's pitch perfect comedy is a satirical sideswipe at his country's pompous, incompetent bureaucracy and one of the classics of the Czech New Wave. Using an entirely non-professional cast, the film is set during a fundraiser for a small, provincial fire station which turns into a catalogue of disasters. The raffle prize money is stolen, the models are too shy to come out for a beauty contest and the ageing president is constantly thwarted in his attempts to use the bathroom. A unique screening at Gipton's beautifully converted The Old Fire Station.



Nomad (Director's Cut)

New 4K Restoration

Everyman Screen 4, Fri 3 Nov 20:45 & Tue 7 Nov 16:00

Patrick Tam | Hong Kong | 1982 | 99 minutes
Cantonese, Japanese with English subtitles | BBFC Cert 15

A beautiful new restoration brings this vibrant youth picture fully to life. Two pairs of friends - rich Louis and Kathy, poorer Tomato and Pong - meet and hang out with little on their minds except what's right there: a slightly vapid city life full of high-jinks. And no politics, or that is until Kathy's old boyfriend Shinsuke appears, fresh from deserting Japan's militant communist Red Army... We're taken through wild, beguiling shifts of tone in Nomad; comedy-to-sex-to-introspection-to-violence. An indelible as a 'New Wave' movie, and a thrilling ode to a disappeared Hong Kong.



Metal and Melancholy

Dutch Discoveries

Everyman Screen 4, Mon 6 Nov 15:00 & Wed 8 Nov 20:45

Heddy Honigmann | Netherlands | 1994 | 80 minutes
Spanish with English subtitles

A compelling and intimate look at the daily lives of taxi drivers in Peru from Dutch documentary maker Heddy Honigmann. Filmed almost entirely from inside the taxis, Honigmann lets conversations unfold naturally, as drivers reveal candid thoughts and share personal stories. Highlighting the harsh economic realities of Peru in the early 1990s, many middle-class professionals like doctors and civil servants took taxi driving as a second job. A deeply loving and unique portrait of the people of Honigmann's former hometown of Lima, this documentary road movie shines a light on their dreams, challenges and creative resilience.



A Question of Silence

Dutch Discoveries

Everyman Screen 4, Sat 4 Nov 14:45
& Mon 6 Nov 13:00

Marleen Gorris | Netherlands | 1982 | 92 minutes
Dutch with English subtitles & English | BBFC Cert 15

In this powerful and provocative film from 1982, three women with no prior acquaintance brutally murder a male shop owner in broad daylight, as bystanders watch in silence. When the women are put on trial, the court-appointed psychiatrist tries to understand why, and her findings implicate the systemic misogyny present in every aspect of the women's lives, and men's refusal to see it. Balancing a realistic style with a sense of symbolism, Dutch director Marleen Gorris' debut film is a nuanced and thought-provoking feminist work that still has the power to shock.



The Red Angel
New 4K Restoration

Howard Assembly Room, Sun 12 Nov 13:30

Yasuzo Masumura | Japan | 1966 | 95 minutes
Japanese with English subtitles | BBFC Cert 15

A depiction of wartime madness so vivid that it trips into a kind of waking nightmare. At a field hospital in Manchuria, China, casualties are piling high. The Japanese army is immersed in its gruelling WWII invasion and humanity is in short supply. Nurse Nishi (Ayako Wakao) is doing her level best to help her maimed patients, yet the men around her have either regressed to savagery or seek escape through morphine. A thoroughly acerbic anti-war film, a howl of protest made by master stylist Yasuzo Masumura in the same year as The Spider Tattoo (also screening at LIFF 2022).



The Spider Tattoo
New 4K Restoration

Howard Assembly Room, Sat 11 Nov 15:30

Yasuzo Masumura | Japan | 1966 | 86 minutes
Japanese with English subtitles | BBFC Cert 15

Otsuya, the daughter of a merchant, is kidnapped into prostitution and tattooed with the image of a huge black spider on her back. The spider tattoo changes Otsuya, or perhaps releases something within her. Soon she is contriving steely, sexually dominant revenge on her oppressors. Director Yasuzo Masumura's feverish mix of moral decay and primal feminism is captured brilliantly by star Ayako Wakao, Masumura's muse who would return to the screen in The Red Angel later the same year. Both films are diamond hard, crazed yet serious, and here Wakao embodies a kick-ass anti-heroine.



Zazie dans le métro
Free Breakfast Screenings

Hyde Park Screen One, Sat 11 Nov 09:00 | FREE

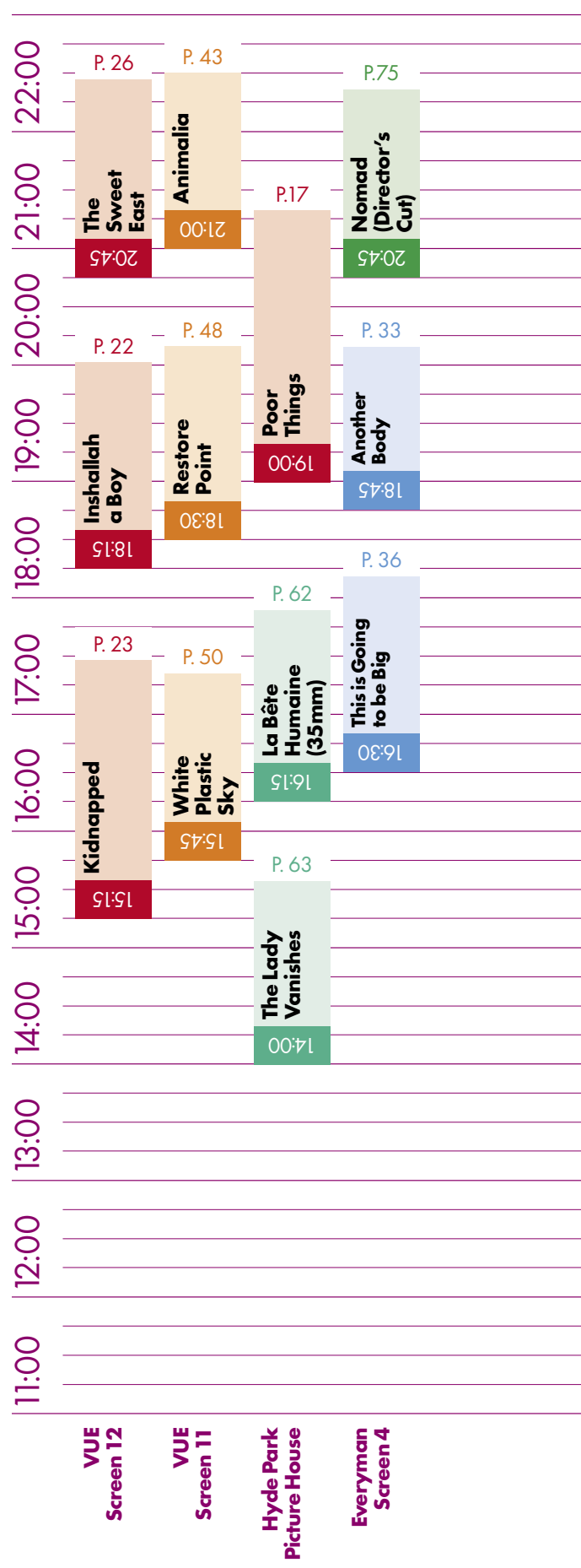
Louis Malle | France | 1960 | 93 minutes
French, Russian with English subtitles

The second of two free breakfast screenings at LIFF 2023 (Before Sunrise screens on 4 November), this zany and anarchic comedy from Louis Malle is sure to help you wake up! In this most freewheeling of French New Wave films and Malle's first in dazzling colour, precocious ten-year-old Zazie (Catherine Demongeot) comes to Paris for a whirlwind weekend with her rakish uncle (Philippe Noiret) and discovers that the Métro is closed due to a strike. But that's no obstacle to having fun for Zazie as she sets out on a madcap adventure around the streets and sights of the City of Light.

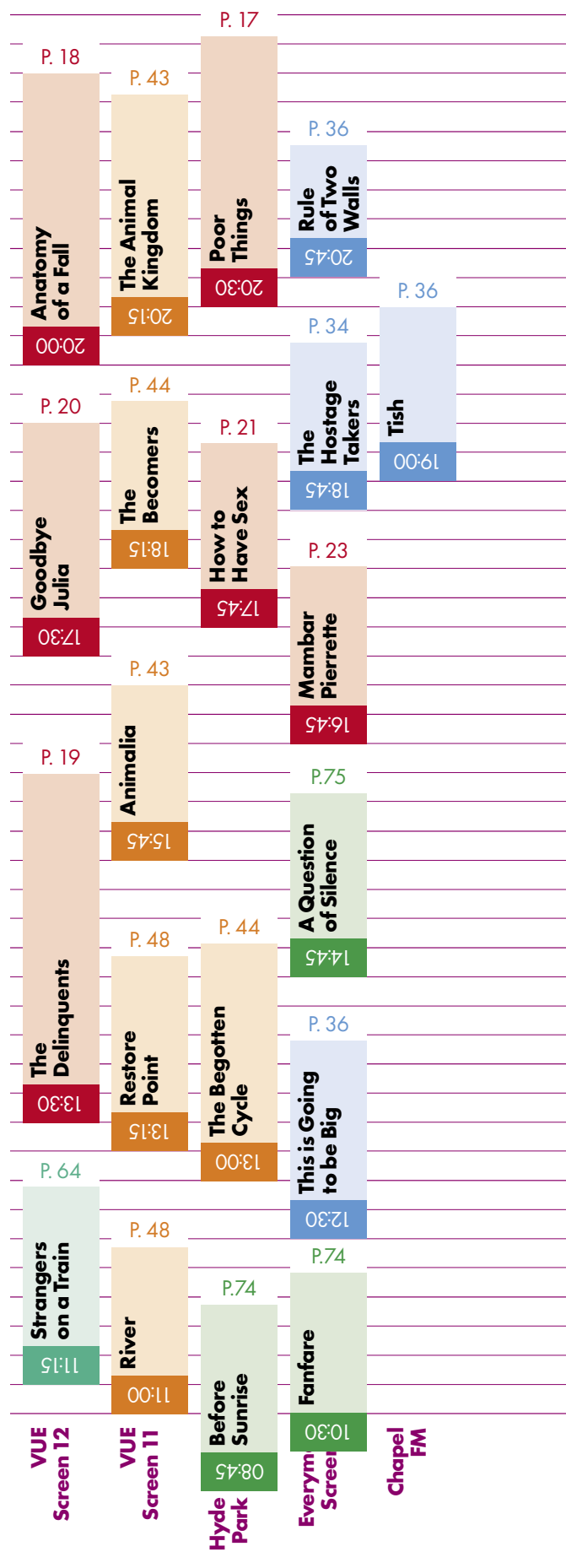


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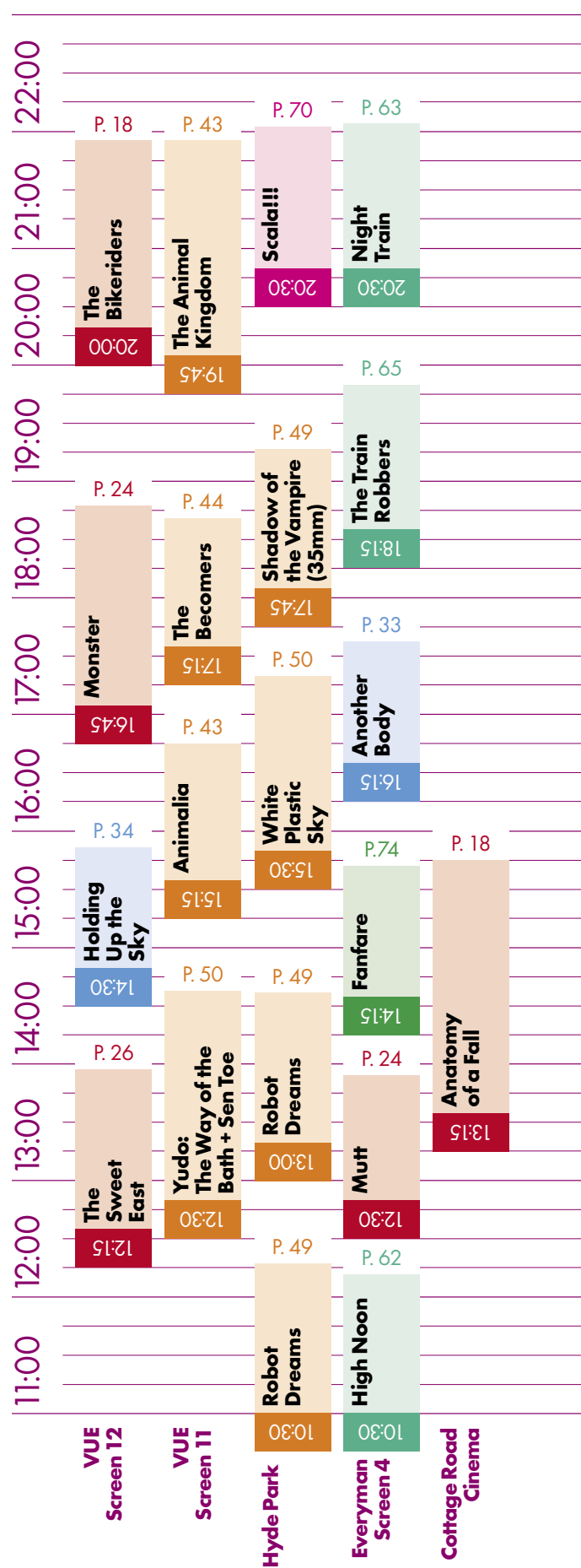
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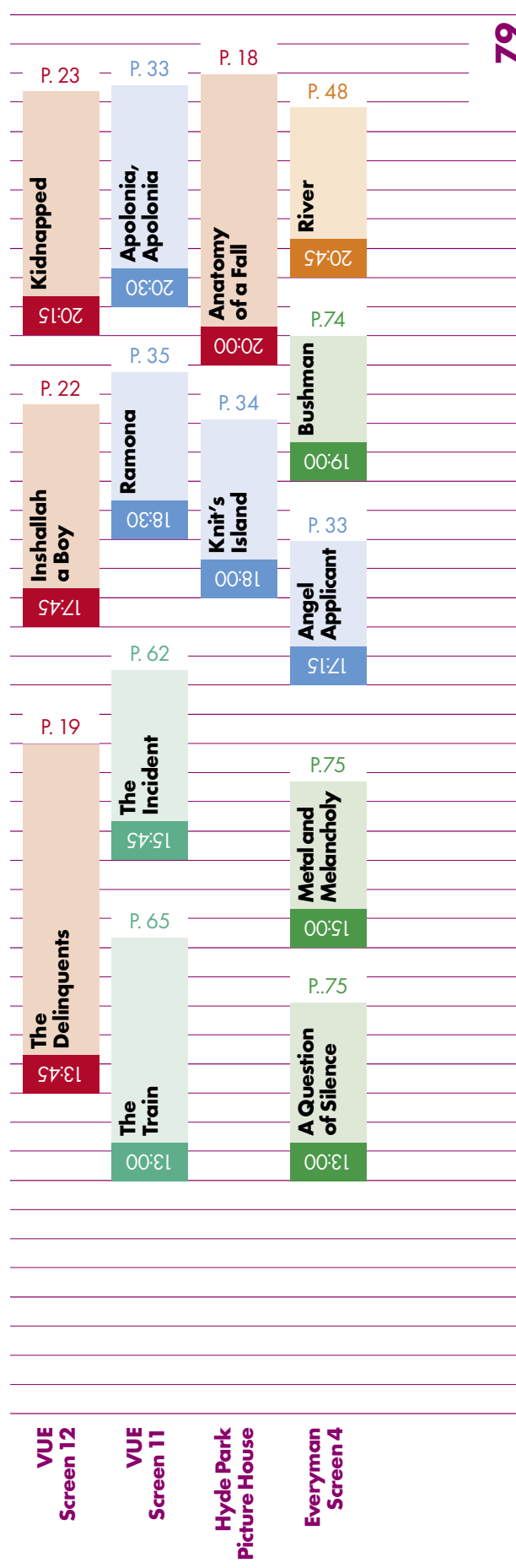
Saturday 4 November



Sunday 5 November



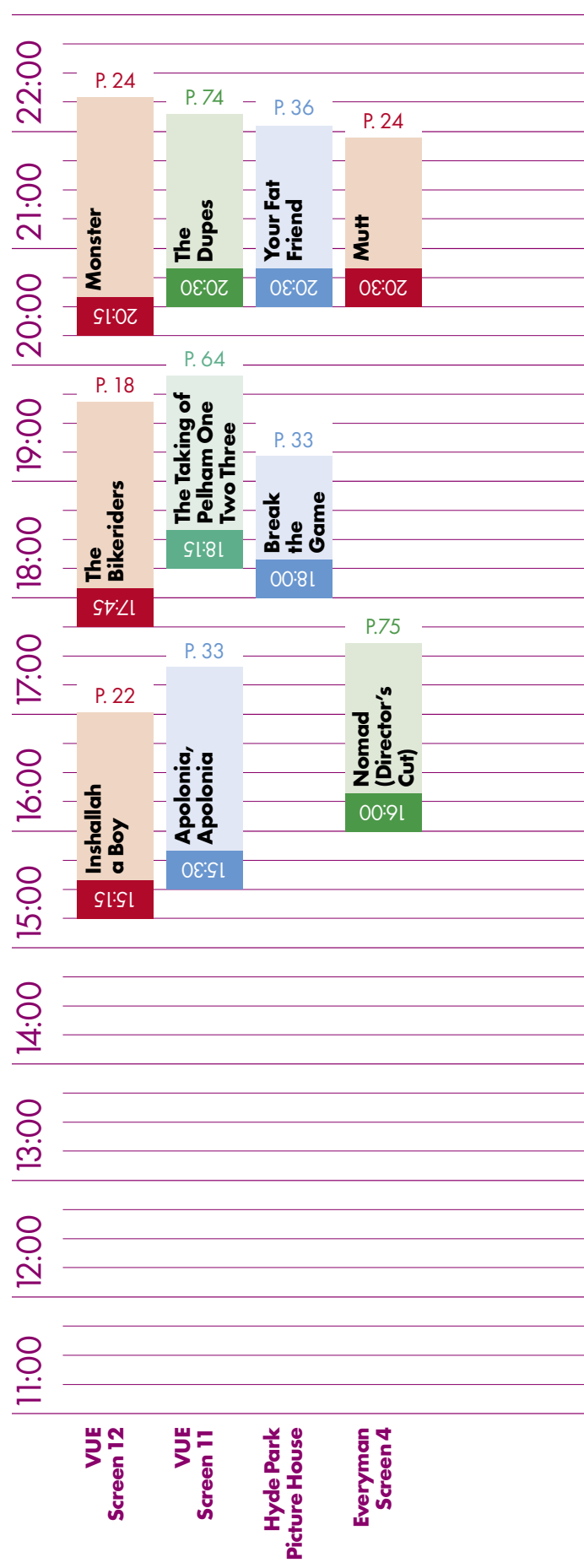
Monday 6 November



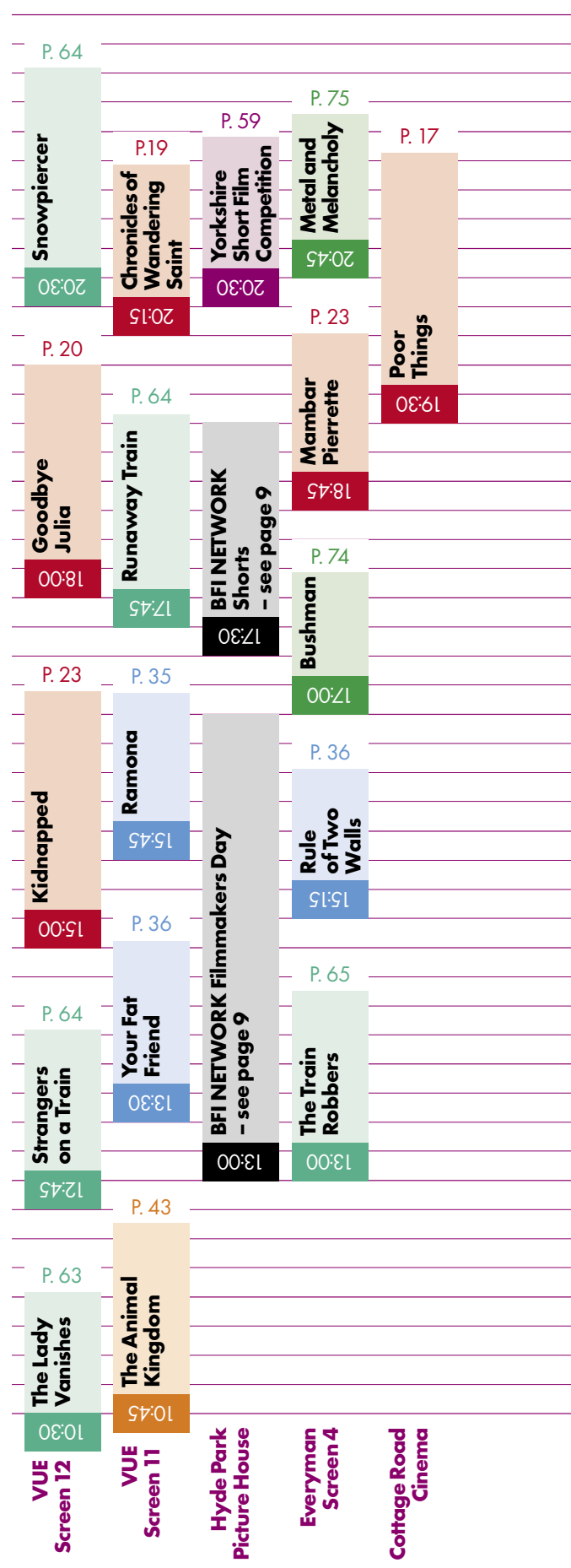
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Tuesday 7 November

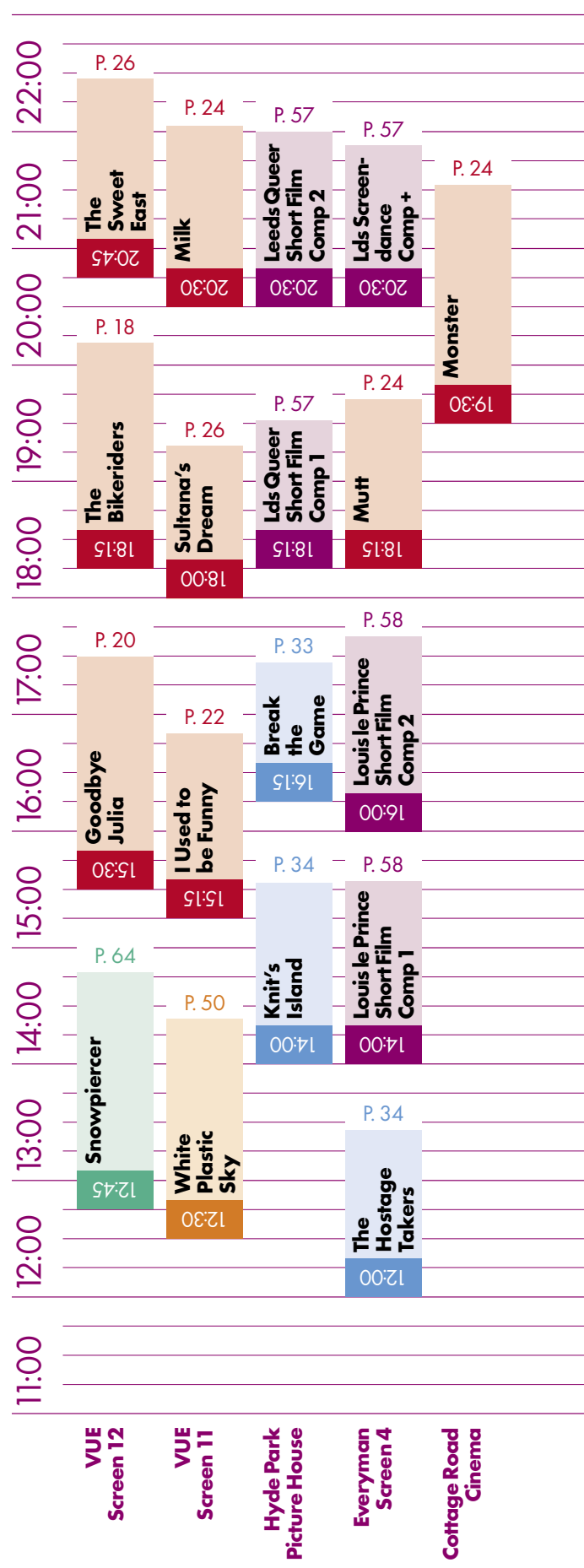
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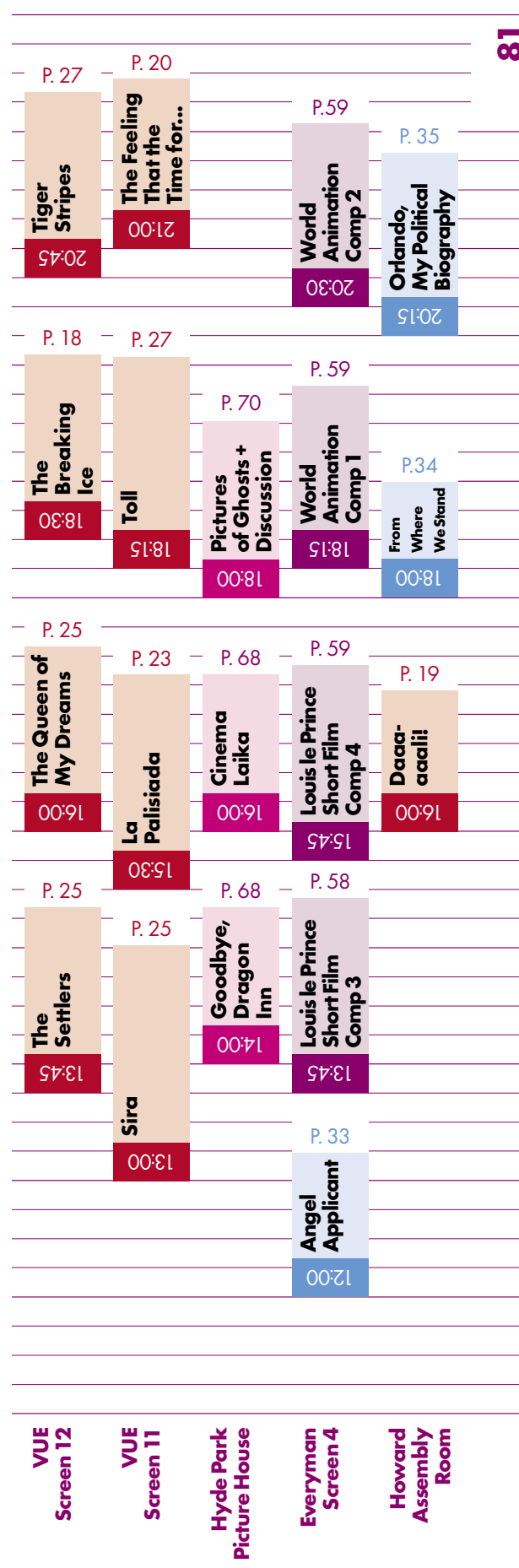
Wednesday 8 November



Thursday 9 November



Friday 10 November

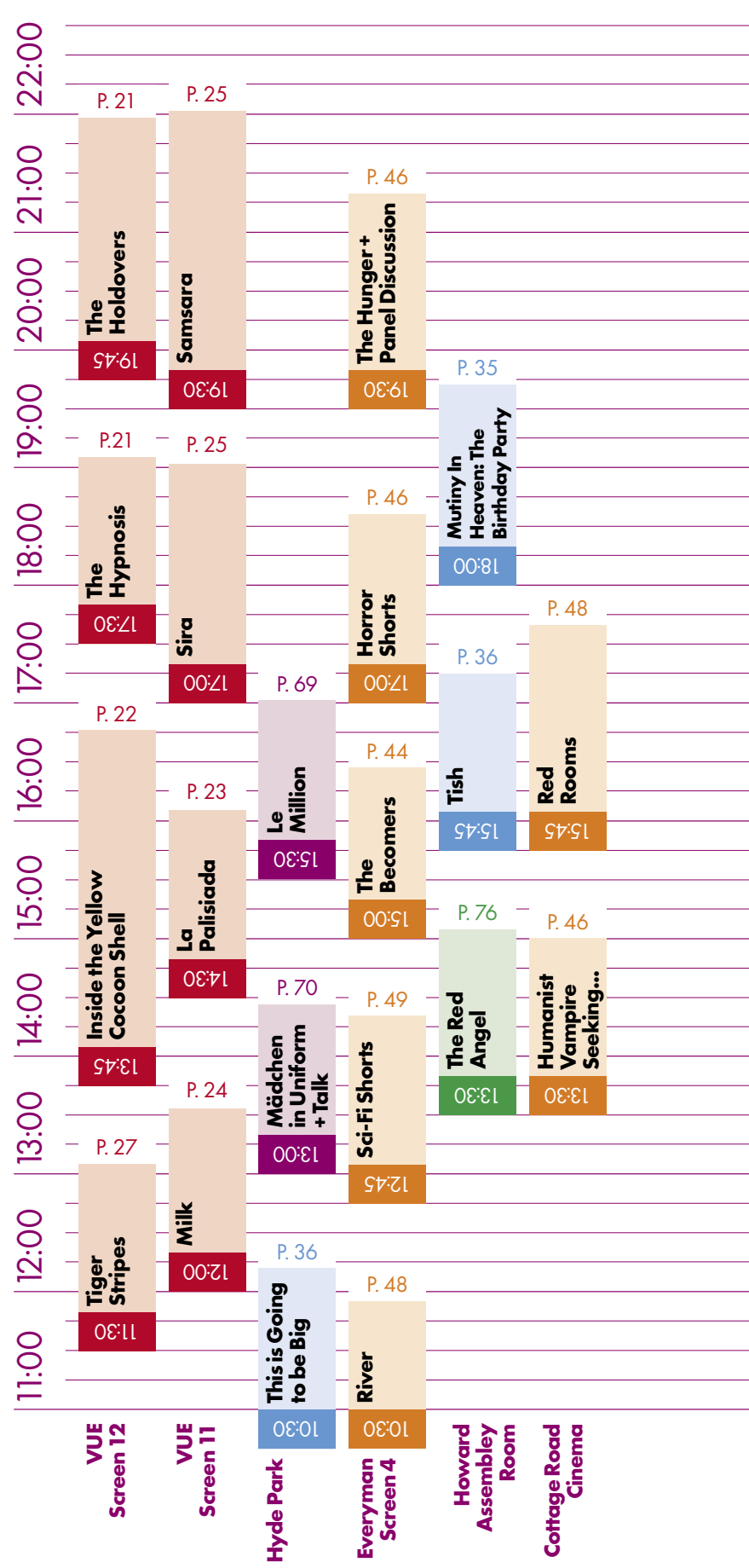


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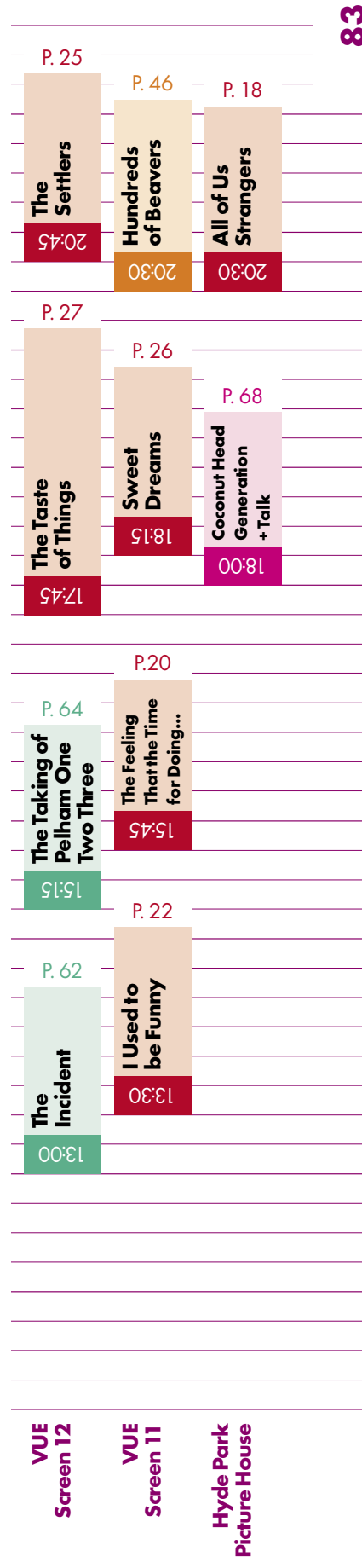
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Sunday 12 November

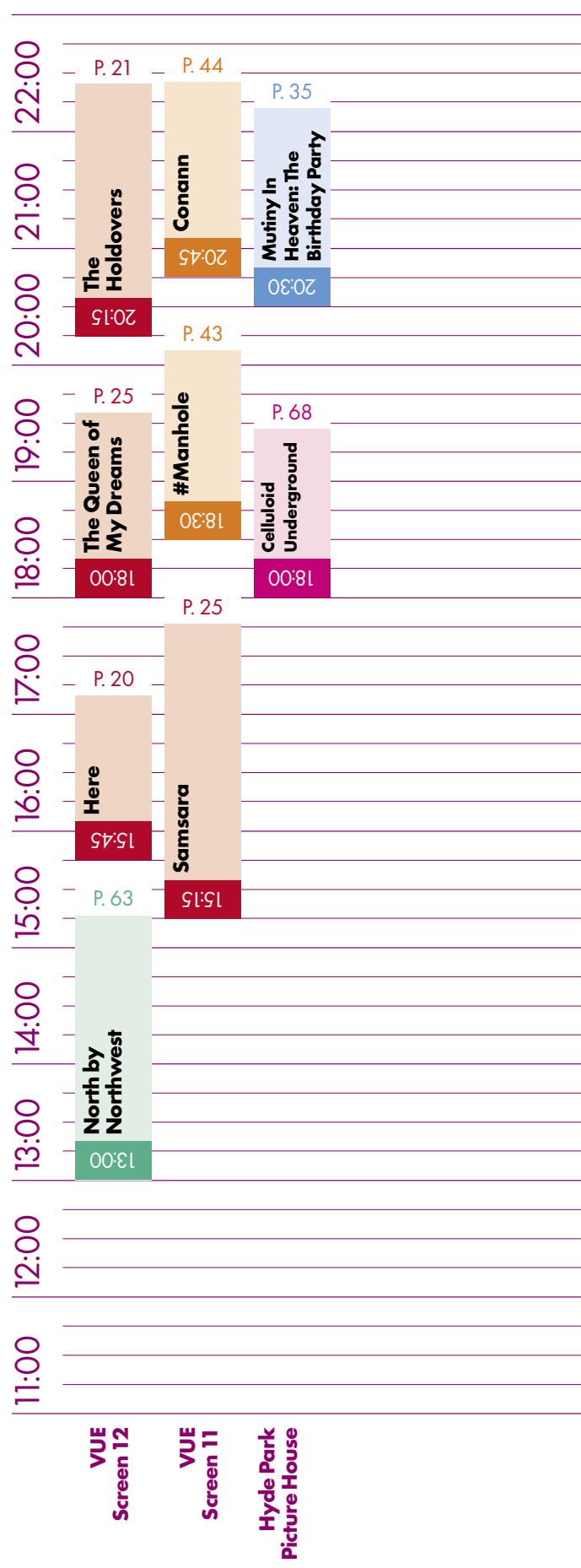


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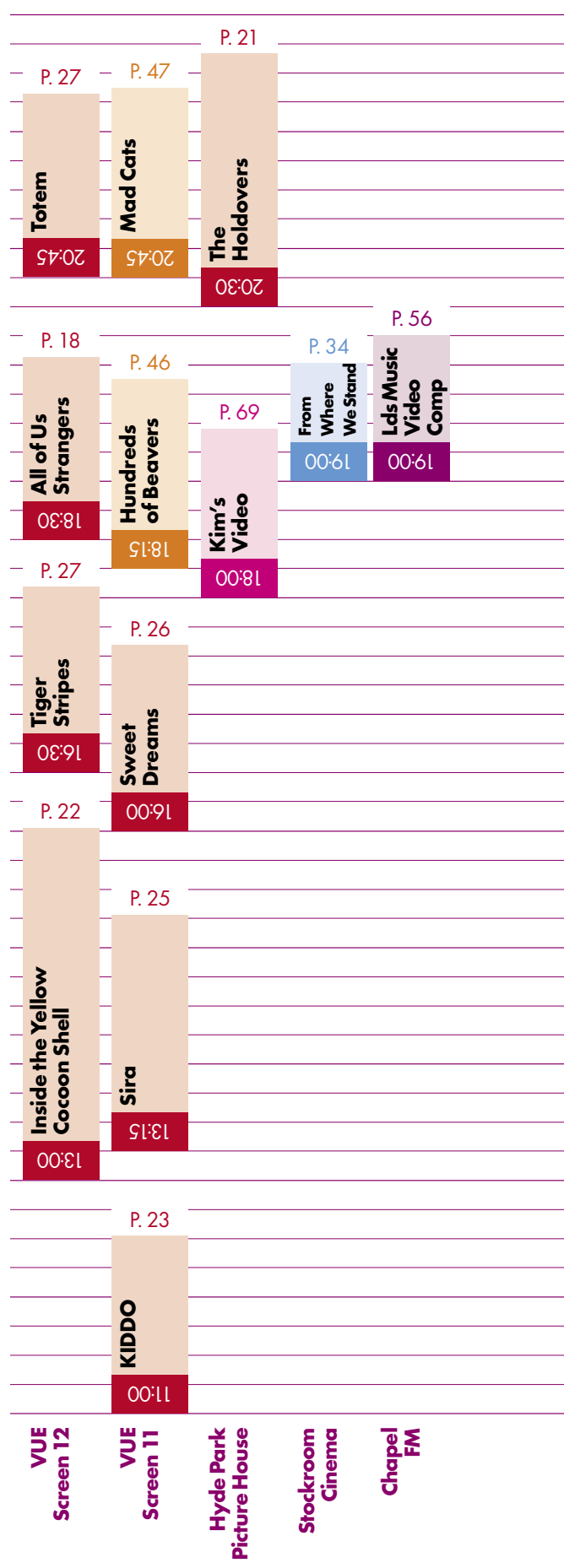


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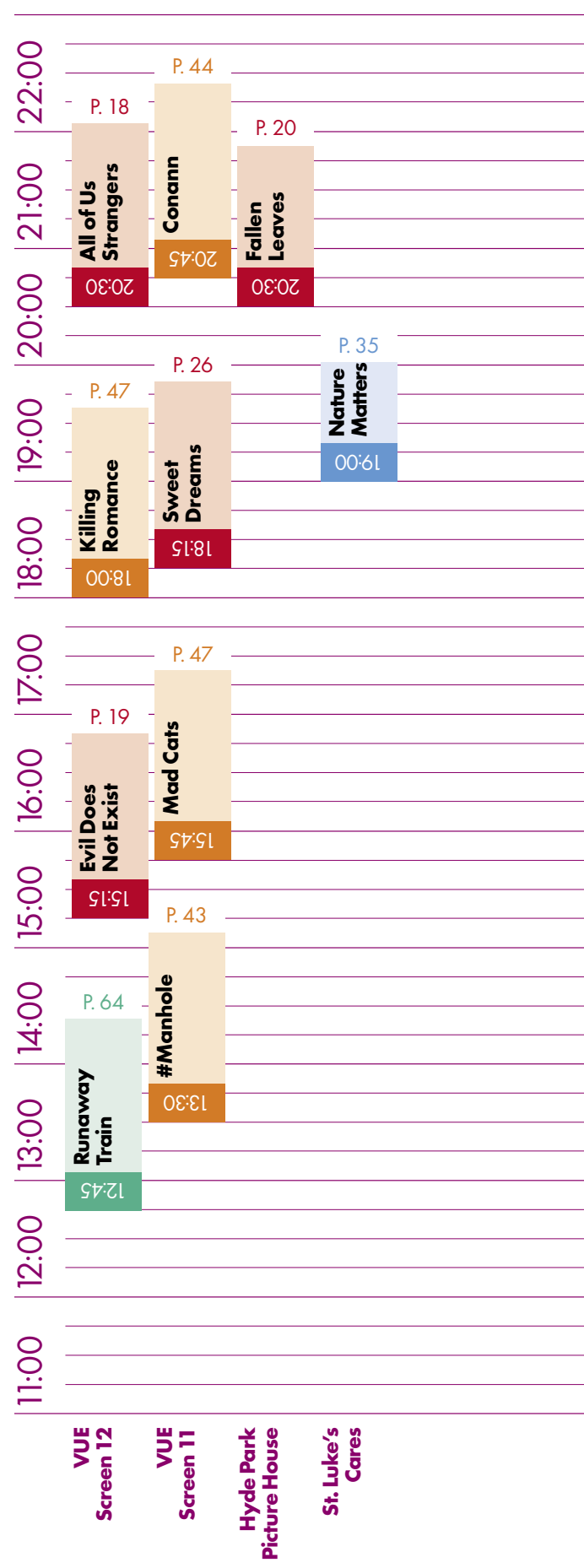
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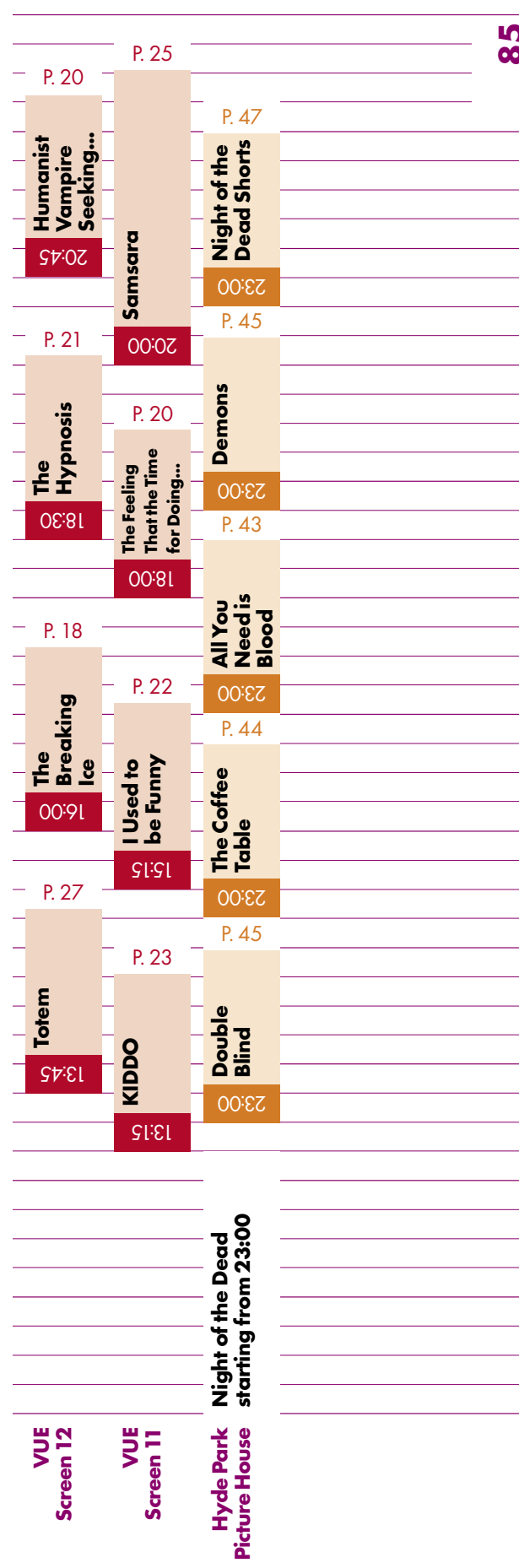
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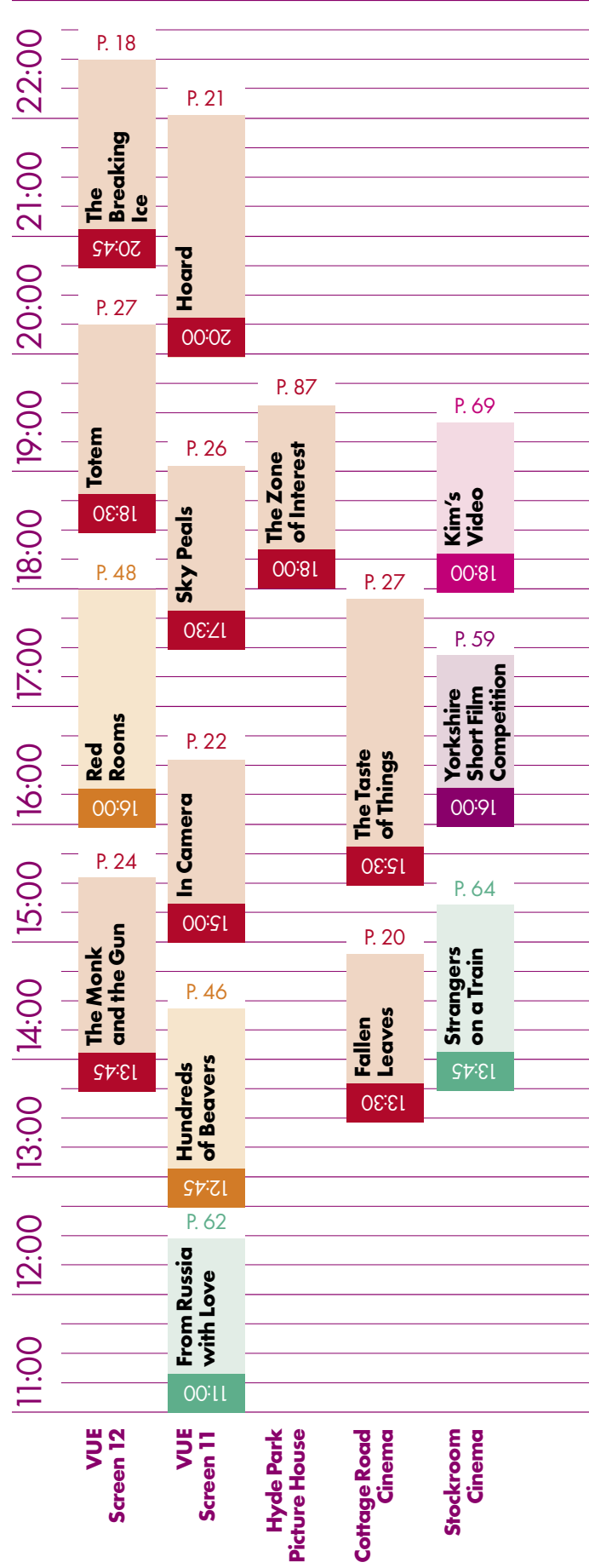
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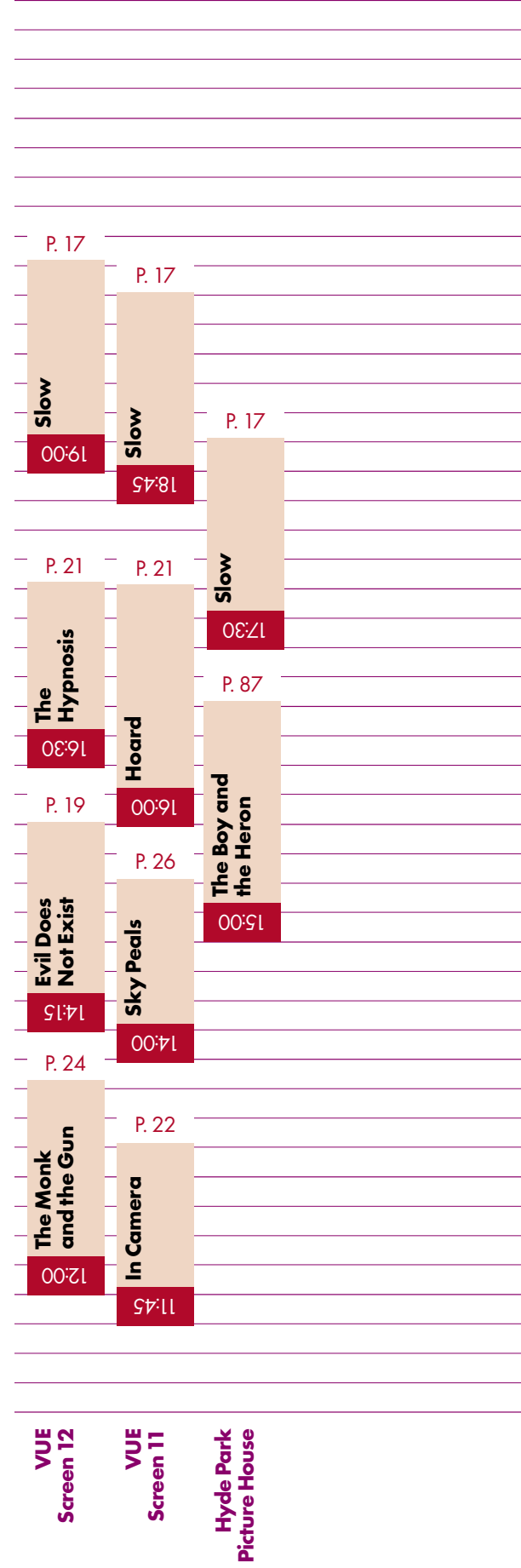
Friday 17 November



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Sunday 19 November



The Boy and the Heron

Hyde Park Picture House, Sun 19 Nov 15:00

Hayao Miyazaki | Japan | 2023 | 125 minutes
Japanese with English subtitles

"Miyazaki's latest film stands as a testament to his enduring legacy. It's a mature, complex masterpiece, weaving together the director's past, present, and future..." – Emma Steen, Time Out

A young boy named Mahito yearning for his mother ventures into a world shared by the living and the dead. There, death comes to an end, and life finds a new beginning. A semi-autobiographical fantasy about life, death and creation, in tribute to friendship, from the mind of Hayao Miyazaki.



The Zone of Interest

Hyde Park Picture House, Sat 18 Nov 18:00

Jonathan Glazer | USA, UK, Poland | 2023 | 106 minutes
German, Polish, Yiddish with English subtitles | BBFC Certificate 12A

The new film from Jonathan Glazer, director of Sexy Beast and Under the Skin, The Zone of Interest won the Grand Prix at Cannes Film Festival where it was hailed as 'a masterpiece' (BBC) and 'a landmark movie' (The Times). Based on the novel by Martin Amis, and starring Christian Friedel and Sandra Hüller, The Zone of Interest is about the commandant of Auschwitz, Rudolf Höss, and his wife Hedwig, who strive to build a dream life for their family in a house and garden next to the camp.



The Zone of Interest

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