



PRESS RELEASE: Norwich Film Festival reveals largest ever Official Selection and hybrid format for 2021 edition

Norwich Film Festival is proud to reveal its largest ever line-up of 133 short films screening in venues & online during its 11th edition running 12th-21st November 2021. The selection showcases some of the most exciting narrative, documentary, and animated filmmaking talent around.

This year's shorts programme includes an outstanding selection of regional, national, and international films, curated from 1291 submissions – the largest number of submissions received in the history of the festival.

Following the success of last year's online edition of the festival during the November lockdown, Norwich Film Festival 2021 will take place in a hybrid format, with short film screenings taking place both online and in venues. Exact details, the full programme of festival events and ticketing information will be available in the coming months.

Kellen Playford (Founder & Lead Consultant) said:

"Although the last 18 months have seen unprecedented difficulties for people working in the creative industries, we have been overwhelmed with the sheer amount of quality films that have been produced and submitted to our festival this year. We're extremely thankful and excited that we are able to put on a hybrid festival for 2021, mixing our traditional venue-based events with online screenings, showcasing some of the best short films to audiences all around the world. We're so proud of what we're putting together and can't wait to welcome audiences back this November – whether you're joining us in-person, online or both!"

The selection features a wide range of bold and innovative stories from around the world, with the wide-ranging subject matters catering for audiences of all ages and tastes. Famous names which can be seen throughout the selection include Stephen Fry, Himesh Patel (*Yesterday*), Michael Smiley (*Kill List*), Matthew Kelly (*Stars In Their Eyes*), Felicity Montagu (*This Time with Alan Partridge*), Hugh Skinner (*Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again*), Bella Ramsey (*The Last of Us*), David Bradley (*Harry Potter*), Simon Amstell (*Benjamin*), Joanna Scanlan (*After Love*) and Bukky Bakray (*Rocks*).

Competing in six award categories, the films span all genres and represent a total of 21 countries. There is also an out-of-competition 'One Minute Movie' category, in which filmmakers are challenged to create a film lasting exactly sixty seconds.

Nominees for the festival's prestigious awards will be announced in due course and will be judged by a world-class panel of Industry Judges, including actor Michael Sheen, television and radio presenter Edith Bowman and comedy actor Jessica Hynes.

Details about each film in the Official Selection, alongside a trailer for the event, will be available for the public to browse at <https://www.norwichfilmfestival.co.uk/films/official-selection-2021/> from 3pm on 27th August 2021.

27th August 2021. FOR RELEASE NO EARLIER THAN 3PM BST ON 27/08/2021.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

- A selection of related images for press use can be found at:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ffkfOlnrF0yL_v4CKM4e6MWE1y7kO9It?usp=sharing.
- In 2009 Kellen Playford founded Norwich Film Festival after hearing about the difficulties a friend was having trying to organise a local screening of a short film.
- The Festival was re-launched in 2012 as an annual event and has since screened hundreds of fantastic short films in Norwich, while helping to promote and support filmmakers and is supported by Norwich BID, Norwich City Council and the BFI.
- Norwich Film Festival became a charity in 2017 (Registered Charity Number: 1173950) and now has a Board of Trustees chaired by John Gordon-Saker (Owner, JGSNorwich), Alex Saunders (Leathes Prior Solicitors), Tilly Crumpton-Taylor (Management Accountant, Brown & Co), Keith M Johnston (Professor of Film and Television, UEA), Lucy Ward (Owner, Wavelength Films), Fiona Ryder (Owner, TCD Media) and Penny Bartram (Marketing Manager, Norwich/Cambridge Tech Corridor).
- As a BAFTA and BIFA accredited short film festival, any short film screened at Norwich Film Festival can be submitted to both organisations for consideration.
- Norwich Film Festival hosts six competitive categories including; British Short, International Short, Animated Short, Documentary Short, Student Short and East Anglian Short, with prizes being awarded for each. There is also an out-of-competition One Minute Film category.
- In 2020 the festival temporarily moved to an online format due to COVID-19, with over 150 short films available to watch online throughout the four-week festival.