

LEICESTER  
INTERNATIONAL  
SHORT FILM  
FESTIVAL



# THE SHORT CINEMA

23 - 26 AUGUST 2017  
PHOENIX CINEMA & ART CENTRE

Phoenix

SPONSORED BY



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city  
Festival

#TSC17

#LOVELOCALFILM

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Home organisation:

## Phoenix

Headline sponsor:



We are incredibly proud to have our 2017 edition sponsored by world-renowned and Oscar-winning lens manufacturer, Cooke Optics.

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2017

Programming partners:



BRITISH SILENT  
FILM FESTIVAL

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**Founding Patrons:**

Karen Foster and  
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**Festival Director:**

Alexandra Jackson

**Festival Co-ordinator:**

Michael Anderson

**Host:** Edward Spence

**Graphic Design:**

Paul Banks at Peril Design

**Copywriter:**

Kenton Hall

**Photography:**

Pamela Raith

**DCP Creation:**

Geoffrey Gilson

**Interval Performer:**

Doe Demure

**DJ:** Alan Morton

**Masks:**

Steve Wintercroft  
(wintercroft.com)

**Plus:** All members of the Phoenix team. And a special thank you to the makers and our wonderful audiences.

## Welcome to The Short Cinema 2017

For some of you, perhaps, it's welcome back; for others, it may be the first time you're joining us.

Either way, we're excited to share our most expansive programme yet, celebrating the best in Midlands-made film, both short and short-ish, and continuing our dialogue with filmmakers the world over and audiences here at home.

The Short Cinema believes that film is for everyone and, as the festival has steadily grown from pop-up, grassroots screenings to four days of (still grassroots) screenings, events and workshops at Phoenix, we hope that we can offer something to surprise,



challenge, engage, entertain, educate and inspire everyone.

**This year is our most diverse programme yet.**

Our Launch Party and Opening Gala will offer an outdoor screening from the **British Silent Film Festival**, followed by the premiere of our International Programme.

Our **Shortish Cinema** presents those films that need a little longer to tell their stories, while our regular **Main Competition** offers Midlands makers the chance to compete for a unique, artist-made 'Best in Show' prize.

There are screenings of shorts curated in partnership with **LUX**, **Queer Film Network**, **Flatpack** and **Random Acts**. Artist's films, family films, LGBTQ+ and silent films, there is something for everyone.

We hope everyone will find something to talk about and something to love. And, most of all, we hope that next year's filmmakers will be in the audience, and inspired to share their own stories.

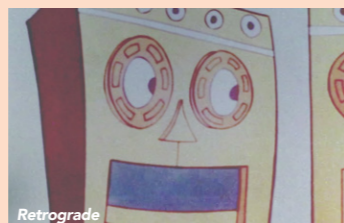
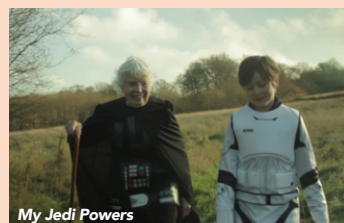
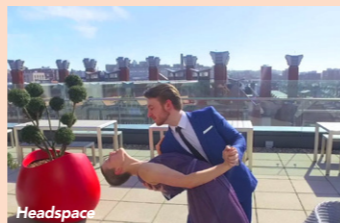
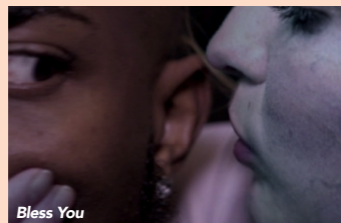
**#Lovelocalfilm**

- ALEXANDRA JACKSON, FESTIVAL DIRECTOR



"A film is never really good unless the camera is an eye in the head of a poet."

- ORSON WELLES



#TSC17 #LOVELOCALFILM

## Launch Party

Wednesday 23rd August  
Courtyard Suite  
18:30 - 20:30  
Free entry



Kicking off the proceedings is our 2017 launch party.

Alongside a chance to meet and mingle with some of this year's filmmakers, actors, writers and producers, we are proud to present an outdoor screening in association with the British Silent Film Festival.

There will also be all-vegan catering from the wonderful Mystery Booth, our very own festival brew from Langton's Brewery, live music from the uber-talented Les Hayden and a room full of film lovers just like you.

We'd love you to join us.



BRITISH SILENT  
FILM FESTIVAL



# Opening Gala Screening: International Programme (18)

Wednesday 23 August  
Screen 2  
20:45-22:30  
Tickets £6



Embers & Dust

Following the festival launch itself, our International Programme will be debuting in Screen Two.

The Short Cinema has, and always will have, a focus on Midlands makers, but over the last few years, we've been excited to screen the best of the films from around the world that are submitted to the festival.

All film has a home.

## International judging panel:

All of the Short Cinema's programmes are curated by a panel of judges from across the film industry.

Our International Screening is no different. We are pleased to introduce you to the judges who have chosen these films from around the world:

### AMANPREET DOSANJH Compliance Officer, BBFC

In her current role, Amanpreet makes age-rating recommendations for films, videos, and online video content. Previously, she worked as a Publicity Assistant at Soda Pictures, an Anglo-Canadian film distributor. Passionate about all things film, she began her career by working at Phoenix, Leicester, allowing her to stay close to great movies from around the world, before moving to London to work in the film industry.



### SEEMA SAUJANI FDA Administrator, Walt Disney Studios

As Film Distributor Association Administrator at Disney, Seema assists the team with film rental contracts for major, minor and independent exhibitors and is responsible for KDM delivery to sites. Before this, she worked at the Phoenix, Leicester as part of the Front of House & Admin teams. She is an advocate for Access Cinema and has contributed an essay on the sexual objectification of women in visual media to the University of Amsterdam's Art magazine, Simulacrum.



### REMI HINDS Film Distributor Assistant, Thunderbird Releasing

Remi's role involves both raising awareness of interesting, diverse independent movies and bringing them to your local cinema. When she was younger, she believed she had a talent for making short films; after a couple of years at university proved that wasn't true, she began helping disadvantaged, young people in Leicester reach their own potential in filmmaking, with the youth community project, Pink Lizard.



Film (country of origin)	Directors	Writers	Producers	Duration
Jackie (Australia)	Sally Dulson	Sally Dulson	Phoebe Lane	06:58
Lunch Time (Iran)	Alireza Ghasemi	Alireza Ghasemi	Alireza Ghasemi	15:00
Icky (Iran)	Parastoo Cardgar	Parastoo Cardgar	Parastoo Cardgar	05:55
Gionatan with a G (Italy)	Gianluca Santoni	Gianluca Santoni, Michela Straniero	Elisabetta Bruscolini, Veronica Tesei, Giulia D'Amato	15:00
A Little Grey (UK)	Simon Hewitt, Steve Smith	Stuart Royall	Steve Smith	05:17
A State of Emergency (Germany)	Tarek Roehlinger	Tarek Roehlinger & Andrej Sorin	Marisa Meier	12:00
I Also Play Squash (France)	Pierre-Alfred Eberhard, Sebastien de Monbrison	Pierre-Alfred Eberhard, Sebastien de Monbrison	Pierre-Alfred Eberhard, Sebastien de Monbrison	06:42
Panic Attack! (USA)	Eileen O'Meara	Eileen O'Meara	Eileen O'Meara	03:00
Embers & Dust (USA)	Patrick Biesemans	Patrick Biesemans	Stephanie Cohen	11:00
Leitvox-Pale Love (Mexico)	Christian Cooley	Jette Kelly	Christian Cooley	
Ethnophobia (Albania)	Joan Zhonga	Petros Koskinas	Irida Zhonga	14:20
Dumbboat (UK)	Laura Spini, Laurence Brook	Laura Spini, Laurence Brook	Laura Spini, Laurence Brook	07:30



## The Lacey Rituals: Films By Bruce Lacey & friends (18)

Thursday 24 August  
Screen 2  
18:45 - 20:05  
Tickets: £4



For over 50 years, artist, performer and filmmaker Bruce Lacey has been entertaining, confounding, inspiring and inflaming those who have had the pleasure to experience his work.

Known for his unpredictable humour and strong political views, as well as his idiosyncratic art practices, he exerted considerable influence on post-war culture. Lacey has worked with all manner of filmmakers, musicians and other artists, from **The Beatles** to the **Goons**, and yet somehow, much of his work has remained obscure and little seen in recent years.

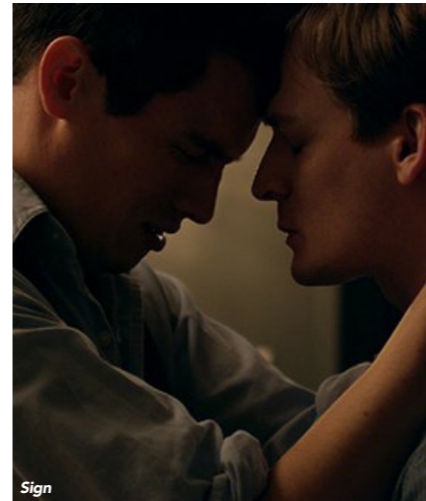
The Short Cinema is happy to present, in association with **LUX**, a wonderful programme of often little-seen works that capture the humour, irreverence and true originality of this great British artist.

This screening will be introduced by the artist's son, Kevin Lacey.



## The Best Of Iris: Queer Film Network Screening (15)

Thursday 24 August  
Screen Room  
19:00 - 21:30  
Tickets: £4



The Iris Prize is an international LGBTQ+ festival accolade, established in 2007, awarded to short films by, for, about or of interest to LGBTQ+ audiences.

The Short Cinema is proud to offer our audiences a chance to attend a special screening supported by the UK **Queer Film Network**, of winning and highly commended films from the 10th Iris Prize Festival.

There will be a post-screening discussion, hosted by **Connor Winterton**, PhD researcher in the representation of queer sex in contemporary American & European cinema at the Birmingham School of Media, Birmingham City University.

This screening has a limited capacity of 30, so early booking is recommended.



# Random Acts Development Day

Friday 25 August



Rural Media Company are the Midlands centre for **Random Acts**, a Channel 4 strand that showcases young artists between the ages of 16-24 as they take their first steps into moving image production.

Each short film is unique and produced to full broadcast quality, using a range of techniques to explore an array of disciplines, including but not limited to animation, dance and spoken word, across the 72 films made over three years.

This year, Random Acts alumni will be gathering during our festival to discuss new ideas, make connections and plan for future productions.

Find out more about Random Acts at [www.randomacts.channel4.com](http://www.randomacts.channel4.com)



# The Shortish Cinema (18)

Friday 25 August  
Screen 2  
20:00 - 21:30  
Tickets: £6



At The Short Cinema, we love short film. But we also know that there are some stories that need just a little longer to tell.

In keeping with our belief that 'All film has a home', **The Shortish Cinema**, for the third year, is proud to present three very different, short-ish films from Midlands filmmakers, on the big screen where they belong.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A session with members of the cast and/or crew of each film, moderated by local actor **Edward Spence**, giving you a chance to explore the stories behind the stories.

Film	Directors	Writers	Producers	Duration
<b>I Am God, And Severely Underqualified</b>	Theo Gee	Ian Boucher, Theo Gee	Theo Gee, Connie-May Harris	0:15:00
<b>ninetofive</b>	Lee Charlish	Lee Charlish	Lee Charlish	0:17:27
<b>The Pianist of Yarmouk</b>	Vikram Ahluwalia	Vikram Ahluwalia	Vikram Ahluwalia	0:13:54

## Family Shorts: Nature's Tails

Saturday 26 August  
Screen 1  
10:30 - 11:30  
Free entry



Short films are for everyone and here at the Short Cinema, we think it is particularly important for the next generation of film lovers (and makers) to discover that as soon as possible.

Presented in partnership with Birmingham's Flatpack: Assemble, Nature's Tails is a programme of colourful, short animated films, featuring creatures and adventures, great and small.

Full of fun, this selection will tickle the whole family.

These films will be screened in an autism-friendly environment with reduced sound levels, partially raised lighting, no trailers and freedom to move around and bring your own snacks.



## Film Festivals for Indie Filmmakers (course)

Saturday 26 August  
Screen Room  
10:30 - 16:00  
Tickets: £16



There wouldn't be a Short Cinema without the filmmakers who make and submit their films every year. But we know that, for many emerging talents, approaching the film festival circuit can seem like a daunting task.

Award-winning film-maker Keith Allott will be presenting a one-day course to help you navigate your film's journey to festival screens.

- Where do you look for festivals?
- How do you know which festivals are right for your film?
- How should you present your film?
- How do you compile an EPK (Electronic Press Kit)?
- How do you deal with the word "no"?

These are just some of the questions that will be explored over the course of an informative and enlightening day, leaving you better prepared to take your film to the audiences it deserves.

# Main Competition (18)

**Saturday 26 August**  
**Screen 1**  
**19:30 - late (screening starts 20:00)**  
**Tickets: £6**



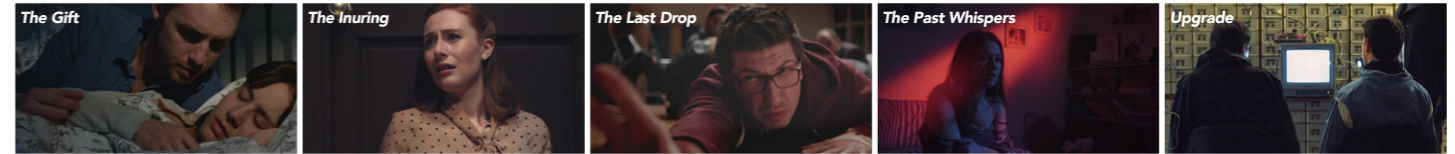
Vandella Day

Closing this year's festival will be the Main Competition, a red-carpet screening of short films from Midlands based filmmakers, all competing for the 'Best in Festival' prize and its unique artist-made trophy, designed and created by local artist Jack Squires.

Interval entertainment will once again be provided by Doe Demure Burlesque, featuring Doe herself and her famous feather dance.

An after-party will follow in the café bar, soundtracked by a DJ set from The Social Cinema.

Here are the films selected by this year's panel of judges:



Film	Directors	Writers	Producers	
Multi Story	Kieran Chauhan	Richard Burton	Kieran Chauhan, Bipin Anand	09:39
Headspace	Stuart Peters	Stuart Peters	Stuart Peters, Jonathon Guilford	05:27
The Last Barman on Earth	Brian McDowell	Brian McDowell	Brian McDowell	08:32
The Past Whispers	Jane Hearst	Jane Hearst	Maverick TV, Rural Media, Philip Stevens	03:26
Hands	Michael Lane	Devised by the group	Michael Lane	05:40
Recovery	Daniel Purse	Daniel Purse	Daniel Purse	07:30
Si	Steve George, Ryan Sibanda	Steve George	Steve George, Ryan Sibanda	03:51
FAG	Danni Spooner	Danni Spooner	Danni Spooner	02:46
The Gift	John Quarrell	Emily Lassalle	John Quarrell	10:00
My Jedi Powers	Rhys Davies	Rhys Davies	Rhys Davies	05:41
Barfly	Michael Yeoman	Mike Yeoman	Laura Wilkinson	00:45
<b>20 minute interval with performance by Doe Demure</b>				
Ultrasound - Kon-Tiki	Andrew Rutter	Andrew Rutter	Andrew Rutter, Christopher Hood	05:48
A Broken Appointment	Kaleb D'Aguiar	Kaleb D'Aguiar	Kaleb D'Aguiar	02:47
Girl A	Jess O'Brien	Jess O'Brien	Keith Allott	06:39
Vandella Day	John McCourt	John McCourt	John McCourt	00:57
Betty	Jordan Handford	Jordan Handford	Jordan Handford	05:20
The Last Drop	Sascha Zimmermann	Tommy Draper, Sascha Zimmermann	Jakob Deutsch	09:20
The Inuring	James Hughes	James Hughes	James Hughes, Emily Haigh	09:58
Retrograde	Eve Wills-Wilson	Eve Wills-Wilson	Eve Wills-Wilson	09:52
Bless You	Daryl Grizzle	Daryl Grizzle	Stephen Steele	02:04
Loyal to War	Parang Khezri	Parang Khezri	Parang Khezri	01:00
Upgrade	Mike Doxford	Taran Bains, Jaswant Jerry Birdi, Kamilah Halliday, Alice Johannessen, Duncan Poulton	Grant Black	03:46



## Our Judges

Every year, we are honoured to be joined by a panel of industry judges who make the difficult decision as to which films will be included in the programme.



### AMIT GUPTA

#### Writer and Director

Amit Gupta is a writer and director for theatre, film and television. His first feature, *Resistance*, starring Andrea Riseborough and Michael Sheen, was nominated for three BAFTAs, Best First Feature by Writers' Guild of Great Britain and the CineVision Award at Munich. His second film, *Jadoo*, a comedy-drama adapted from his own BBC Radio 4 play, premiered in Official Selection at the Berlin Film Festival 2013 and has played at over 50 international festivals.

His latest feature, *One Crazy Thing*, had its festival premiere in Los Angeles in April 2015 and was the Opening Gala at the East End Film Festival. It is being released theatrically in the UK and the US in 2017.



### CORINNE ORTON

#### Random Acts Tour Manager, ICA

Corinne began her career as a part of the Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF) in 2007, which led to roles at Sheffield Doc/Fest, Leeds, Toronto and Hot Docs Film Festivals. In 2011 she helped to establish the EIFF Talent Development Lab for emerging film directors & producers, then spent 4 years as Producer of Glasgow Film Festival, commissioning large-scale music & film events and programming shorts & features. In 2015, she moved to London. There, as Professional Development Manager, she trained film programmers and marketers at the Independent Cinema Office. She is now at the ICA, managing the touring exhibition *Playback* in association with *Random Acts*, showcasing the work of young artist filmmakers at venues around the country.



### SARAH CHORLEY

#### Director, London Short Film Festival

Sarah Chorley started her film career at a brilliant production company called Signal Films, in the unlikely setting of Cumbria. After moving to London in 2006, Sarah worked in a variety of roles for Slate Films, Creative Skillset, LOCO London and the London Disability Film Festival. After completing an MA in Documentary at London College of Communication, Sarah cut her teeth in management and business development whilst working at Shooting People for 4 years.

Sarah has now joined Philip Ilson as a director of London Short Film Festival, where she focuses on sponsorship proposals, funding applications and strategic partnerships.



### SAM GROVES

#### Programmer, Flatpack Film Festival

Staying up late one night, watching C4's Shooting Gallery series, Sam came across the short film 'Music for Six Drummers and One Apartment'.

Unknowingly, he then became an exhibitor, showing the film to everyone he knew. Fifteen years later, and with a greater understanding of curation and exhibition, Sam is still showing films to people, as well as putting on all manner of mixed arts events as programmer for Flatpack.

Over the last decade, he has also curated the moving image strand of what was the UK's largest free arts festival, Artsfest, and set up his own exhibition organisation, KINO 10.



### JAKE HARVEY

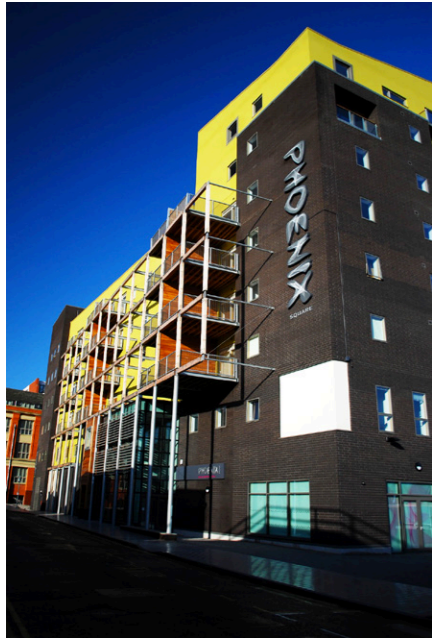
#### Film Programme Manager, Phoenix

A graduate in Film Studies from the University of Leicester, Jake has, since 2009, applied his love for film to the development of a suitably wide-ranging and intelligent film programme at Phoenix.

Over the last eight years, he has developed an authentic and distinct programming voice, which has seen Phoenix's cinema audiences increase year upon year.

Jake is also Co-Director of the popular all-night horror festival Frightarama and his favourite film is *The Scorpion King* although he'll tell you it's *The Warriors*.

## About Phoenix



Phoenix is Leicester's centre for independent cinema, art and digital culture. It fulfils many functions:

As a cinema, it offers a carefully programmed mix of films and stage-on-screen performances, ranging from independent and world cinema to mainstream movies, in two welcoming and comfortable screens.

As an Arts Council flagship digital art centre, it provides a platform and exhibition space for emerging artists and explorations of medium.

As an educational centre, it offers courses for learners of all ages, levels of experience and interests.

For working creatives, it provides a hub for both cultural and commercial

communication. And for all its patrons, it offers a wonderful variety of food and drink, in a relaxed and creative environment.

For the Short Cinema, it provides a home.

As a local charity, all of Phoenix's earnings go back into developing its creative programmes, enabling its mission of making cinema and digital art accessible to all to continue.

Without the Phoenix's support and its dedication to both the creation and exhibition of film, this festival would not be able to offer the one thing it prizes most: a chance for film-makers to see their work on a cinema screen, where it belongs.

## Artist-Made Award



Jack Squires

Film is the most collaborative of media. Artists of every kind support, enable and inspire the programme we present. To celebrate these continuing partnerships, every year, we invite a local artist to design the 'Best in Festival' prize, awarded to the film selected by our judges as the best of the best. It's a unique piece of art, to celebrate a unique piece of art.

This year, the prize has been designed and created by Jack Squires, a 2014 recipient of the Phoenix Interact Labs Bursary and whose collaborative work 'The Fading Afterglow of Creation' with fellow artist Daniel Kelly, was exhibited in Phoenix's own Cube Gallery in 2015.

Jack is an artist with an interest in, and aptitude for, multiple media and we can't wait to award his design to this year's winner.

## The Social Cinema

"Some cinema is just plain better social."

The Social Cinema is a film events organisation dedicated to alternative film presentations, expanding movies beyond the screen and allowing audiences to experience films together in new and innovative ways.

Their mission is to explore the outer reaches of film, alongside old favourites.

Events include the annual horror all-nighter **Frightarama**, the wonderfully weird **Cinema Bizarre**, immersive screenings, and family-friendly installations.

Find out more at [www.thesocialcinema.com](http://www.thesocialcinema.com)



"We live in a box of space and time.  
Movies are windows in its walls.  
They allow us to enter other minds,  
not simply in the sense of identifying  
with the characters, although that  
is an important part of it, but by  
seeing the world as another  
person sees it."

- ROGER EBERT



Here at the Short Cinema, we love film. In particular, we love local film. And we know we're not alone. Every year, we're happy to be joined by filmmakers and film lovers from the Midlands and further afield, to celebrate the stories we all have to tell.

And every year, we discover new stories, new styles and new ways of looking at the world. Your support helps us to put more of those stories on to the big screen where they belong.

Each of the films you'll see at the Short Cinema is the result of the hard work, vision and dedication of dozens of people.

If you've enjoyed that work, please let them know.

**All film has a home.  
Love local film.**



[theshortcinema.co.uk](http://theshortcinema.co.uk)