

14-23 August



**FEMME
FILMMAKERS
FESTIVAL**

11th edition

CONTENTS

Page 2 - [Welcome](#)

Page 3 - [Schedule](#)

[Friday 14th](#)

[Saturday 15th](#)

[Sunday 16th](#)

[Monday 17th](#)

[Tuesday 18th](#)

[Wednesday 19th](#)

[Thursday 20th](#)

[Friday 21st](#)

[Saturday 22nd](#)

[Sunday 23rd](#)

Page 15 - [Competition Films](#)

Page 17 - [Showcase Films](#)

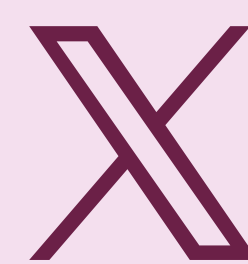
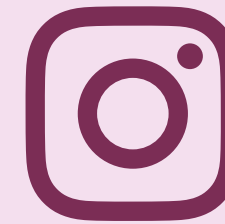
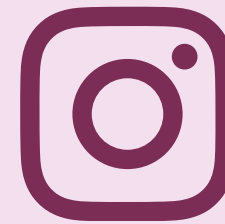
Page 18 - [Entrée Films](#)

Page - 19 [Feature Films](#)

Page - 20 [Our Team](#)

Page - [Thank You](#)

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SHORT OF THE WEEK

SHORT STUFF



WELCOME

It is such a joy to return to the Femme Filmmakers Festival after the wonderful experience I had last year with my film *Sister Wives*.

What makes this festival so special is its genuine commitment to championing female filmmakers and bringing greater visibility to films that might not otherwise receive the attention they deserve. By creating an accessible online home for work from around the world, from emerging and established filmmakers alike, the festival helps audiences discover stories, voices and perspectives they may never have encountered before.

Last year, I felt such warmth, care and enthusiasm from the entire team. The thoughtful coverage, celebration of the filmmakers and encouragement of audiences to truly engage with the work made the experience incredibly meaningful. It was clear that every film in the programme had been chosen and supported with real passion.

At a time when women's work still too often has to fight to be seen, spaces like Femme Filmmakers Festival are not only important, but essential. I am so thrilled to be part of this brilliant community again and enormously grateful to the team for continuing to shine a light into those overlooked corners of cinema.

I hope audiences enjoy discovering this year's extraordinary programme as much as I know I will.

Louisa Connolly-Burnham
Writer, Director, Producer and Actor

SCHEDULE

DAY ONE

FRI
14TH

19:00
17MIN

The Call Centre
(Louise Connolly-Burnham)
Paige, an introverted, unassuming young woman spends her days setting up people's life insurance in a drab North London call centre. She is bored of her life, longing for intimacy and connection that she unexpectedly finds on the phone to a charming customer called David. An adventure first fuelled by loneliness and lust turns into something much darker.

FRI
14TH

19:45
AND
00:00
6MIN

I Felt Like Magic
(Emma Josephson)
Two childhood best friends fail at getting into a bar and spend the rest of the night grappling with what it really means to grow up.

FRI
14TH

20:15
AND
1:00
12MIN

Long Term Care
(Arin Hincer)
Now aphasic after a traumatic stroke, 60 year-old Meredith must find a way to confront the popular nurse who seems to be behind the mysterious deaths of her fellow elderly patients.

FRI
14TH

20:45
8MIN

Invisible Difference
(Emma Louise Shadbolt)
Chas and Sue Cameron look back on their family life, in sharing their story of how they raised and helped their deaf son Charles. From the challenges of raising and understanding Charles, to the story of Charles finding love and his marriage, this story has it all.

FRI
14TH

21:15
11MIN

Songs of Salt
(Isabella Bazoni)
Songs of Salt explores the untold stories of the coastal communities of the Riviera Romagnola. Songs of Salt asks what it means to safeguard memory, belonging, and heritage in a moment of profound uncertainty.

FRI
14TH

23:00
4MIN

Ha nacido un niño / A child was Born
(Kati Egely)
The opposite of love is not hate, but indifference. Let's not forget the importance of compassion and equality as we grow up.

FRI
14TH

23:30
8MIN

Stick Bug
(Wylie Anderson)
This coming of age film is about a moment in time between longtime friends and tumultuous flames Rose and Alex, who meet each other for a camping trip in the woods. This film explores the bittersweet experience of being moments away from togetherness, every second teetering on the edge of what could be, if only the right words were said.

FRI
14TH

00:30
6MIN

Non Ad Locum
(Amanda Lago)
A woman, lost at night, takes shelter in an abandoned space — not as refuge, but as passage. Between silence and sound, gesture and word, she remains suspended in that fragile threshold where language begins, but does not yet fully form.

Key



Showcase



Entrée



Competition

SCHEDULE

DAY TWO

**SAT
15TH**

**14:00
AND
20:30
24MIN**

Modern Masturbation Allegory
(Xinyi LI)
22-year-old Xinyi believed she developed a masturbation addiction, and claimed she was starting to feel some indescribable feelings. Here, people tear away shame and taboos, revealing the most secret masturbation experience

**SAT
15TH**

**19:00
14MIN**

Julie Takes a Walk
(Frankie Pedersen, Shea Vassar)
Julie's life choices have been dictated by her family but this all changes when she is told just moments before her own wedding that she is adopted. Confused and shocked, she runs away and follows the only clue she has to a small town on the other side of Oklahoma. That's where Julie meets the stoic yet secretly sweet Cass.

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AND
01:15
8MIN**

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**SAT
15TH**

**16:30
AND
00:45
10MIN**

En mille pétales / In Thousand Petals
(Louise Bongartz)
A young married woman collects the sweet memories of her romance. On closer inspection, she leaves bits of herself behind...

**SAT
15TH**

**23:45
3MIN**

Bristol One City - Working Together For Bristol's Future
(Aditi Ganesh, Peri Hammond)
Co-created a short film with a fellow University of the West of England student exploring equity, opportunity, and social responsibility in Bristol, contributing creative ideas and storytelling to amplify young people's perspectives on the city's future.

SCHEDULE

DAY THREE

SUN
16TH

14:00
AND
00:15
14MIN

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SUN
16TH

14:30
AND
23:00
9MIN

Fish

(Ian Yarwood, Cara Mahoney)

After coming out as bisexual a little late in the game, a usually confident woman is plunged into new experiences. It feels like she's losing her virginity all over again, but she slowly discovers her sense of self and how to wear it with ease.

SUN
16TH

15:00
AND
21:00
8MIN

Stick Bug

(Wylie Anderson)

This coming of age film is about a moment in time between longtime friends and tumultuous flames Rose and Alex, who meet each other for a camping trip in the woods. This film explores the bittersweet experience of being moments away from togetherness, every second teetering on the edge of what could be, if only the right words were said.

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SUN
16TH

16:30
15MIN

R3D@CTED

(Georgia Olivia Wood)

A young girl's life turns upside down when faced with the zombie apocalypse.

SUN
16TH

19:00
6MIN

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(Amanda Lago)

A woman, lost at night, takes shelter in an abandoned space — not as refuge, but as passage. Between silence and sound, gesture and word, she remains suspended in that fragile threshold where language begins, but does not yet fully form.

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SUN
16TH

20:30
20MIN

O Arhontas tou Ethnikou Kipou / The Lord of the National Garden

(Dimitra Tsialou)

A lonely girl forms a close relationship with the ghost of a young man who wants to rest his soul.

SCHEDULE

DAY THREE

SUN 16TH	23:30 20MIN	Cautivas / Captive Women (Itxaso Díaz) <i>Cautivas includes the case of Cristina Quintanilla, sentenced to thirty years in prison accused of having an abortion. She was released from prison after four and a half years when her case was reviewed, with an already broken life and a criminal record that will haunt her for the rest of her life.</i>	MON 17TH	19:45 AND 00:45 20MIN	O Arhontas tou Ethnikou Kipou / The Lord of the National Garden (Dimitra Tsialou) <i>A lonely girl forms a close relationship with the ghost of a young man who wants to rest his soul.</i>
SUN 16TH	00:45 24MIN	Modern Masturbation Allegory (Xinyi LI) <i>22-year-old Xinyi believed she developed a masturbation addiction, and claimed she was starting to feel some indescribable feelings. Here, people tear away shame and taboos, revealing the most secret masturbation experience</i>	MON 17TH	20:15 9MIN	Fish (Ian Yarwood, Cara Mahoney) <i>After coming out as bisexual a little late in the game, a usually confident woman is plunged into new experiences. It feels like she's losing her virginity all over again, but she slowly discovers her sense of self and how to wear it with ease.</i>

DAY FOUR

MON 17TH	18:00 AND 20:45 13MIN	Wormholes (Vanessa Bailey) <i>When an introverted cosmology student is reluctantly drawn into conversation by a vivacious late-night cleaner he discovers a universe far bigger than quantum mechanics.</i>	MON 17TH	20:45 12MIN	Loneliness Doesn't Come Alone (Amanda Valle) <i>In the eyes of a little girl, the days repeat like a silent echo, building a universe of routines and waiting. Through these memories, the short film reconstructs a childhood shaped by waiting, imagination, and the eternal search for a presence that never comes.</i>
MON 17TH	18:30 AND 23:30 20MIN	Modern Masturbation Allegory (Xinyi LI) <i>22-year-old Xinyi believed she developed a masturbation addiction, and claimed she was starting to feel some indescribable feelings. Here, people tear away shame and taboos, revealing the most secret masturbation experience</i>	MON 17TH	00:15 3MIN	Bristol One City - Working Together For Bristol's Future (Aditi Ganesh, Peri Hammond) <i>Co-created a short film with a fellow University of the West of England student exploring equity, opportunity, and social responsibility in Bristol, contributing creative ideas and storytelling to amplify young people's perspectives on the city's future.</i>
MON 17TH	19:15 16MIN	Cicada (Roxana Stroe) <i>Set in the heart of a declining '90s rave culture, Cicada follows Gallup, Jack and Tony as they embark on a tumultuous journey of self-discovery through the pulsating lights and rhythmic beats of a fading utopia.</i>			

SCHEDULE

DAY FIVE

**TUE
18TH**

**18:00
AND
23:00
12MIN**

Loneliness Doesn't Come Alone
(Amanda Valle)
In the eyes of a little girl, the days repeat like a silent echo, building a universe of routines and waiting. Through these memories, the short film reconstructs a childhood shaped by waiting, imagination, and the eternal search for a presence that never comes.

**TUE
18TH**

**18:30
AND
00:15
16MIN**

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**TUE
18TH**

**19:15
AND
01:00
15MIN**

R3D@CTED
(Georgia Olivia Wood)
A young girl's life turns upside down when faced with the zombie apocalypse.

**TUE
18TH**

**19:45
15MIN**

The High Road
(Cheyenne Christie)
An estranged mother and daughter reunite as they embark on a road trip whilst navigating their past trauma and strained relationship. A symbol for all women failed by their mothers.

**TUE
18TH**

**20:15
13MIN**

Fairground
(Jess Berry)
In the summer of 1999, Maggie returns to her county fair, determined to win her third Grand Champion title in pig breeding, upholding her family's longstanding legacy. But as the pressure of competition mounts, she feels the suffocating weight of familial expectations stifling her identity. As she navigates the fine line between duty and desire, Maggie must confront what it truly means to find herself—and decide if winning is worth losing who she really is.

**TUE
18TH**

**20:45
13MIN**

Wormholes
(Vanessa Bailey)
When an introverted cosmology student is reluctantly drawn into conversation by a vivacious late-night cleaner he discovers a universe far bigger than quantum mechanics.

**TUE
18TH**

**23:30
13MIN**

Despite Everything
(Anita Amarachi)
In a world where death grants a final choice, one person to share your last moments, Denzel, facing his imminent end, seeks out Denise, a figure absent from his life for a decade but forever etched in his heart. With time running out, Denzel and Denise must navigate a landscape of emotions, peeling back layers of hurt and misunderstanding to reveal the truth behind their fractured relationship.

SCHEDULE

DAY SIX

WED
19TH

18:00
AND
23:00
20MIN

Maybrick
(Charlotte Rose Ainsworth, Lorna Lennon-Dalziel)
Based on the life of Florence Maybrick. A young American socialite in Victorian Liverpool is condemned for murdering her husband, who may himself have been a monster history never unmasked.

WED
19TH

18:45
AND
23:45
13MIN

Fairground
(Jess Berry)
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WED
19TH

19:45
AND
00:15
15MIN

The High Road
(Cheyenne Christie)
An estranged mother and daughter reunite as they embark on a road trip whilst navigating their past trauma and strained relationship. A symbol for all women failed by their mothers.

WED
19TH

20:15PM
9MIN

The Shadow
(Kyran Townley, Arrianna Leigh)
While walking home alone one night, The Woman comes face to face with a mysterious presence intent on following her. Desperate to escape, she taps into a hidden ability — but no matter how far she runs, The Shadow remains close behind. With nowhere left to turn, she must finally confront the darkness pursuing her and uncover the truth it holds.

WED
19TH

1:15
13MIN

Nun's Beach
(Kate diRienzi)
When introduced to her fellow nun's family, Sister Flora questions her romantic relationship with Sister Muriel and her devotion to God.

SCHEDULE

DAY SEVEN

THUR
20TH

18:00
AND
23:00
13MIN

Nun's Beach

(Kate diRienzi)

When introduced to her fellow nun's family, Sister Flora questions her romantic relationship with Sister Muriel and her devotion to God.

THUR
20TH

23:00
10MIN

Filter

(Sarah Imtiyaz Murtaza)

When perfection is just a lens away, a young woman must decide if a digitally enhanced life is worth the cost of her true identity, and who she is actually choosing to be.

THUR
20TH

18:30
AND
00:00
9MIN

The Shadow

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While walking home alone one night, The Woman comes face to face with a mysterious presence intent on following her. Desperate to escape, she taps into a hidden ability — but no matter how far she runs, The Shadow remains close behind. With nowhere left to turn, she must finally confront the darkness pursuing her and uncover the truth it holds.

THUR
20TH

00:30
7MIN

Ubiquitous

(Masha Maroutitch)

A young man is forced to confront feelings of self-rejection and isolation as he struggles to express his love for his best friend. 'UBIQUITOUS' is a short film that blends music, visual poetry and an emotionally grounded performance to tell the story of a young man battling with internalised homophobia and unrequited love.

THUR
20TH

19:00
AND
01:00
25MIN

Overlooked: A Silent Extinction

(Cathy Ellington)

Overlooked and under-appreciated, the tallest animal on the planet is suffering. Giraffe populations have fallen dramatically over the last few decades, yet we never hear about them. However, these problems could have some unexpected solutions...

THUR
20TH

19:45
18MIN

Dirt

(Isabella Speaight)

Five months after being abandoned, a mother and her young son live in suffocating grief. When her emotional withdrawal puts him in danger, she is forced to confront the pain beneath her numbness, leading to a raw and transformative rediscovery of connection, sensuality, and joy.

THUR
20TH

20:30
14MIN

Beam Me Up

(Roxana Stroe)

In a London Underground station in the late 1980s, a charismatic lift operator has a crisis of identity when he learns that he is being made redundant in three days' time.

SCHEDULE

DAY EIGHT

FRI 21ST	18:00 AND 23:00 10MIN	Filter (Sarah Imtiyaz Murtaza) <i>When perfection is just a lens away, a young woman must decide if a digitally enhanced life is worth the cost of her true identity, and who she is actually choosing to be.</i>	FRI 21ST	23:30 5MIN	L'Audition (Lilinaz Hakimi) <i>It is 2046, and Lili attends the last human audition ever to be conducted to discuss one of the rawest human emotions, fear. What she experienced next, she was unprepared for.</i>
FRI 21ST	18:30 AND 00:30 19MIN	Sukoun /Amplified (Dina Naser) <i>Dirt (Isabella Speaight) Five months after being abandoned, a mother and her young son live in suffocating grief. When her emotional withdrawal puts him in danger, she is forced to confront the pain beneath her numbness, leading to a raw and transformative rediscovery of connection, sensuality, and joy.</i>	FRI 21ST	00:00 12MIN	Tend and Keep (Dayna Reggero) <i>Tend and Keep is part of a new series titled "Caring for the Earth: Stories from Faith Communities. This series follows Dayna Reggero across the United States to 13 states listening to 30 powerful voices of Christian, Muslim, Indigenous, Baha'i, and Jewish faiths sharing deep healing wisdom, hopeful climate solutions, and creation care inspiration for our time.</i>
FRI 21ST	19:15 25MIN	Overlooked: A Silent Extinction (Cathy Ellington) <i>Overlooked and under-appreciated, the tallest animal on the planet is suffering. Giraffe populations have fallen dramatically over the last few decades, yet we never hear about them. However, these problems could have some unexpected solutions...</i>	FRI 21ST	00:15 18MIN	Dirt (Isabella Speaight) <i>Five months after being abandoned, a mother and her young son live in suffocating grief. When her emotional withdrawal puts him in danger, she is forced to confront the pain beneath her numbness, leading to a raw and transformative rediscovery of connection, sensuality, and joy.</i>
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FRI 21ST	20:45 7MIN	Ubiquitous (Masha Maroutitch) <i>A young man is forced to confront feelings of self-rejection and isolation as he struggles to express his love for his best friend. 'UBIQUITOUS' is a short film that blends music, visual poetry and an emotionally grounded performance to tell the story of a young man battling with internalised homophobia and unrequited love.</i>			

SCHEDULE

DAY NINE

SAT
22ND

14:00
AND
23:00
17MIN

Winter in March
(Natalia Mirzoyan)
Helpless in the face of a repressive state, a young couple leaves their home — an escape that turns into a surreal nightmare.

SAT
22ND

19:00
5MIN

L'Audition
(Lilinaz Hakimi)
It is 2046, and Lili attends the last human audition ever to be conducted to discuss one of the rawest human emotions, fear. What she experienced next, she was unprepared for.

SAT
22ND

14:45
AND
23:45
11MIN

Swim Sistas
(Catherine Joy White)
Swim Sistas is a poetic, visually stunning love letter to water, sisterhood, and the enduring strength of Black women across generations. It is a celebration of connection, resilience and hope, told through the lens of the rising tide of Black women reclaiming their place in the water, and in history.

SAT
22ND

19:30
AND
01:15
11MIN

Wuthered
(Sophie Brownlow)
Aspiring actress Alison is offered the role of the lifetime - on the basis she gets her face surgically swapped with another woman, who the casting panel deem more attractive.

SAT
22ND

15:15
AND
21:00
15MIN

Immaterial
(Alexandra Healy)
Isolated on a council estate in South London, a queer woman seeks relief from her spiralling drug addiction and PTSD in the only way she knows how.

SAT
22ND

20:00
7MIN

Ubiquitous
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SAT
22ND

20:30
14MIN

Beam Me Up
(Roxana Stroe)
In a London Underground station in the late 1980s, a charismatic lift operator has a crisis of identity when he learns that he is being made redundant in three days' time.

SAT
22ND

16:30
AND
00:45
7MIN

Scroll or Stroll
(Lita Segal, Ceri Gavins)
The film follows a girl who takes a study break and begins to doomscroll, but decides to go outside for a walk and make a human connection rather than wasting her time on social media.

SCHEDULE

DAY TEN

SUN
23RD

14:00
7MIN

Scroll or Stroll

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SUN
23RD

19:00
75MIN

Competition Roll of Honour

PODCASTS, LIVE VIEWINGS & SPECIALS

**Keep an eye out on our Instagram
@femmefilmmakersfestival for
more updates and special events.
We will be holding a screening of
The Voice of Hind Rajab on the final
day of the festival - more info TBA.**

COMPETITION SELECTION



**Overlooked:
A Silent Extinction**



Maybrick



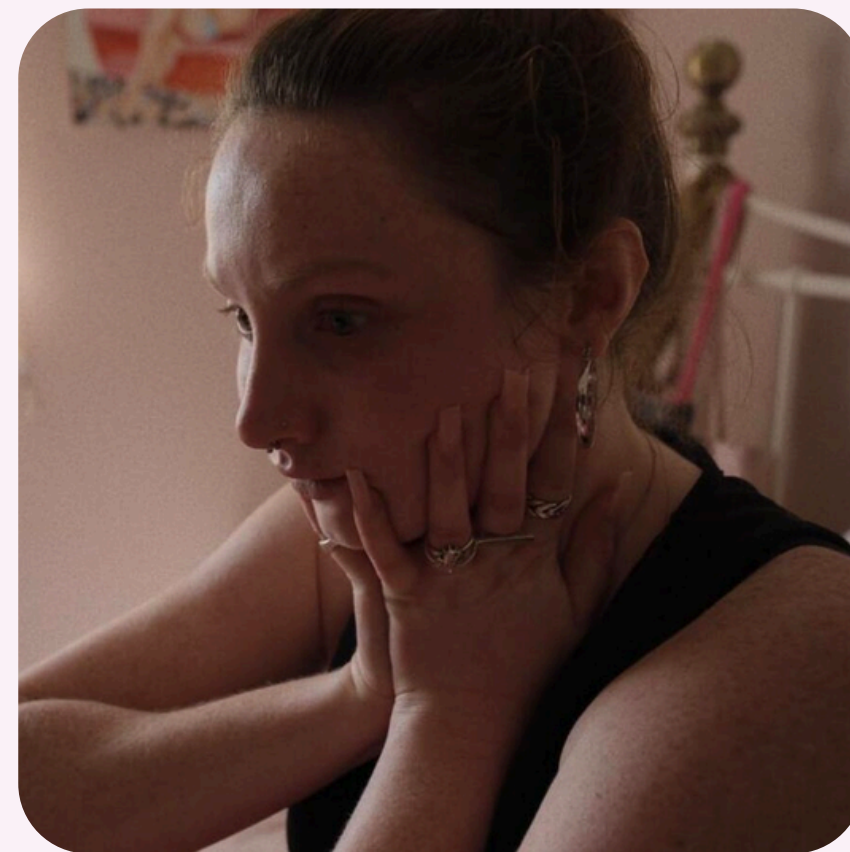
Sukoun/ Amplified



Dirt



Winter in March



Immaterial



Beam me up



Fairground



Wormholes



Lonliness Doesn't Come Alone



Songs of Salt



Swim Sistas



**En mille pétales /
In Thousand Petals**



Fish



Stick Bug



I Felt Like Magic



Ha nacido un niño / A child was Born

SHOWCASE SELECTION



Cautivas / Captive Women



The Call Centre



Cicada



Come Lucciole/ As Fireflies



The Lover



Despite Everything



Julie Takes a Walk



Tend and Keep



The Shadow



Ubiquitous



Non Ad Locum



Arash The Archer

ENTRÉE SELECTION



**Modern Masturbation
Allegory**



**O Arhontas tou Ethnikou Kipou /
The Lord of the National Garden**



R3D@CTED



The High Road



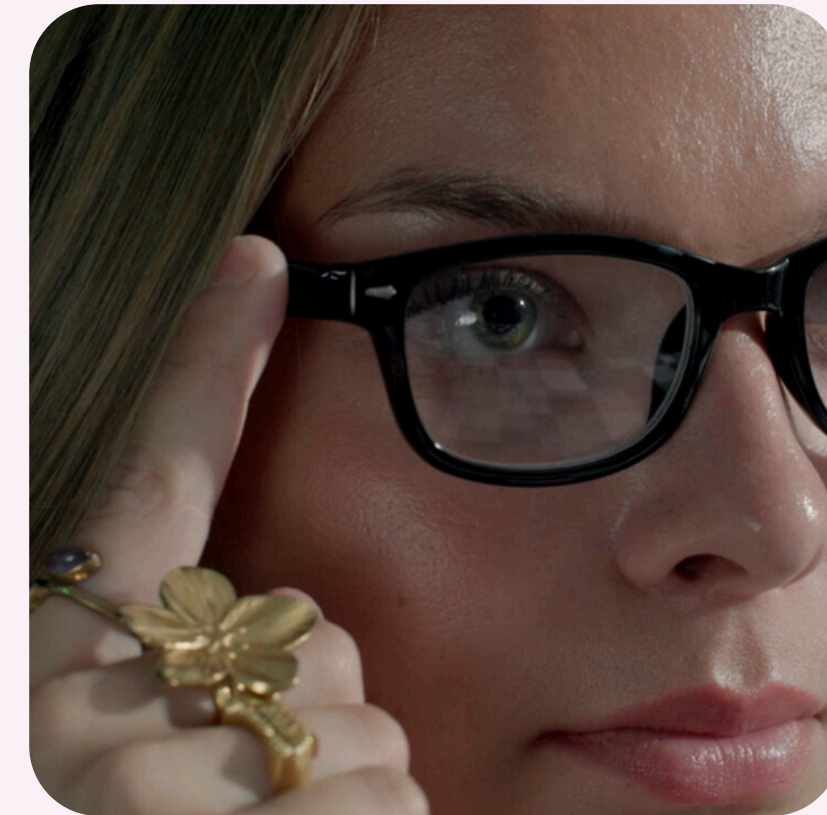
Nun's Beach



Long Term Care



Wuthered



Filter



Invisible Difference



Scroll or Stroll



L'Audition

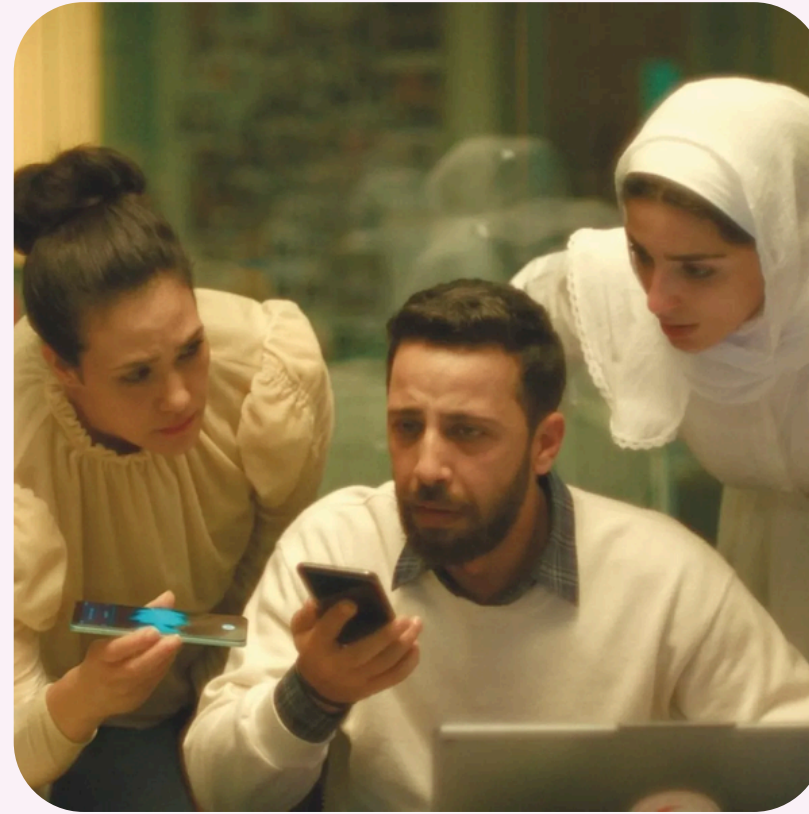


Bristol One City

FEATURE SELECTION



Shiva Baby



The Voice of Hind Rajab



Persepolis



Mustang



Wadjda



**A Girl Walks Home
Alone At Night**



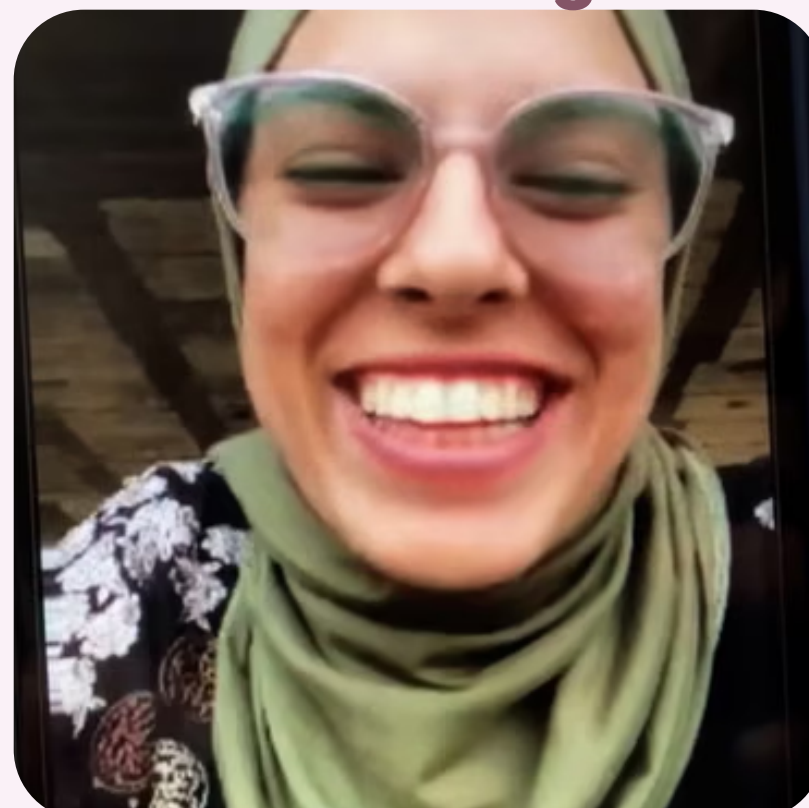
Den stygge stesøsteren



Apocalipse nos Trópicos



Les Plages d'Agnès



**Put Your Soul on Your Hand
and Walk**



All We Imagine as Light



Die My Love

FEATURE SELECTION



Palestine 36



Wuthering Heights



Alpha



The Chronology of Water



The Testament of Ann Lee



In die Sonne schauen



**Jeanne Dielman, 23,
quai du Commerce,
1080 Bruxelles)**

***films in the feature selection will not be screened but are recommended screenings**

WITH THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS...

Robin Write - Festival Director / Delegate / Correspondent

Hannah Taylor - Programming Manager / Contest Jury

Sílvia Cabré - Liaison Manager

Anita Amarachi - Marketing Manager

Shayma Bouzid - Events Manager

Indigo - Production Coordinator

Holly Emma Wilson - Entree Selection Coordinator /
Contest Jury

Luthien Evans - Showcase Selection Coordinator

Rejwan Gareb - Competition Selection Coordinator

Norah - Marketing Coordinator

Robyn McKinson - Contributing Writer

Padaí Ó Maolchalann - Contributing Writer

Daniel Fisher - Contributing Writer

Molly Ward - Contributing Writer

Mya Richardson - Contributing Writer

Olivia Furness - Marketing Contributor

Oscar Trinick - Contributing Writer

Caleb Ching - Contributing Writer

Benjamin Miller - Contributing Writer

Ruby Skippings - Festival Correspondent / Contest Jury

Simran Sanghera - Festival Reporter / Correspondent

Nadia Kuligowski - Jury Member / Contributing Writer

Ben Hill - Jury Member / Festival Correspondent

Joan Amenn - Jury Member

Emelia Bason - Jury Member / Programme
Designer

Ellen Chesire - Jury Member

Bella Madge - Jury Member /
Production Coordinator

Doug Jamieson - Jury Member

Cansu Boğuşlu - Jury Member

Ragini Bhasin - Jury Member

THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who have been involved in this years Femme Filmmakers Festival - whether you've been behind the screen viewing the films, or volunteering to make the festival come to life - your contribution has shaped the success of this years festival. Thank you to our sponsors - this festival would not be possible without you. We hope you enjoyed watching and discussing this years films. See you next year!

Emelia Bason
(Festival Jury Member & Programme Designer)

