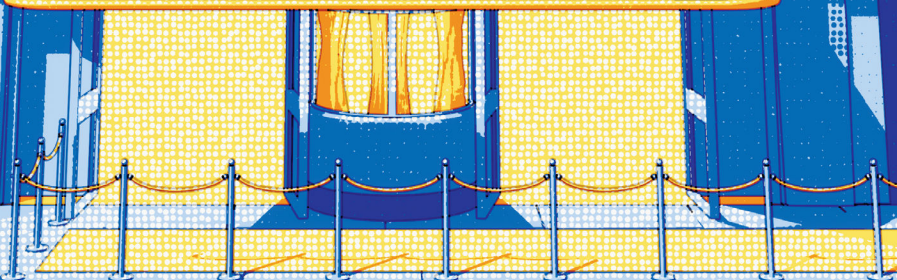




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2023 PROGRAMME



# WELCOME

## **Welcome to the second edition of Novella Film Festival**

We are a short film festival that aims to drive creativity and inclusivity, by empowering filmmakers whose stories and communities are underrepresented on screen. In our first year, we were blown away by the high quality of films and variety of stories we received in our submissions. We're pleased to say that this year is no different.

Over the past year we have received some fantastic submissions to our 10 categories from all around the world. Today we will be screening our selected shortlist, and announcing our winners.

We're over the moon to be hosting our second NFF event at Ealing Project. The first cinema in Ealing in over 14 years, Ealing project is a fantastic community-centred space that we feel completely aligns with our ethos as Novella.

Thank you for being a part of the second edition of our festival. We hope you have a great day watching films, meeting creatives and thinking about what the future of the film industry might look like.

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# SCHEDULE

## SCREEN ONE

female narrative  
&  
experimental  
**1.20 - 2.35**

environmental narrative  
&  
music video  
**2.45 - 3.55**

fiction  
&  
animation  
**4.10 - 5.20**

Panel  
**6.00 - 6.50**

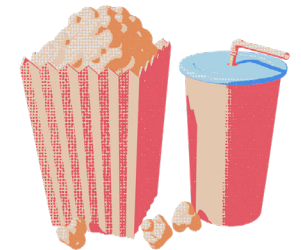
Award Ceremony  
**7.00 - 7.45**

Networking drinks  
**8.00 onwards**

## SCREEN TWO

documentary  
&  
LGBTQIA+ narrative  
**1.00 - 2.25**

disability narrative  
&  
POC narrative  
**2.40 - 4.00**



# THE JURY



## DEBORAH ESPECT

Deborah Espect (she/her) is an award-winning filmmaker and editor based in Brighton, UK. Her focus is on queer content and her mission is to bring positive queer stories into the mainstream.



## ADE FEMZO

Ade Femzo (he/him) is an award-winning filmmaker who runs ACP Network, a creative production company where a collective of young creatives produce and develop short films.



## LIBBY BURKE WILDE

Libby Burke Wilde (she/her) is a director and photographer from Lancashire. She works in drama, non fiction and music video, and makes work that is deeply rooted in striving for social change.

# THE JURY



## CAROLINA OLIVEIRA

Carolina Oliveira (she/her) is a Brazilian filmmaker with extensive experience in film distribution and exhibition, as well as the production and direction of award-winning documentary films. She is also a senior lecturer at Bournemouth University, where she is devoted to helping young filmmakers find their voice.



## ANA DUARTE

Ana Duarte (she/her) is a freelance casting assistant. She has worked across various high profile TV projects for the BBC, Paramount+ and Apple TV.



## KIT TAYLOR

Kit Taylor (they/them) is a neurodivergent filmmaker who has worked with the BBC, ITV and Channel 4. They focus on telling the stories that often go unheard, and actively campaign for better disability, LGBTQIA+ and working class representation in film and TV.

# INDUSTRY PANEL

**Join us for an in-depth discussion with four experienced industry professionals.**

Our driving focus as a festival is on the future of film and how we as filmmakers can shape it. As well as learning about our individual panelists' career journeys, we'll be taking a broader look at the industry as a whole in 2023 and beyond.

We'll be discussing topics such as sustainability in film, inclusivity on set, virtual production, mental health, the effects of global and economic crises on film and what it means to be a filmmaker in 2023.

Hosted by Jake Hatt



**Angela Moneke**

Film producer and founder of TAPE Collective



**Florence Hyde**

Film, TV & theatre agent at United Agents



**Jacob Sacks Jones**

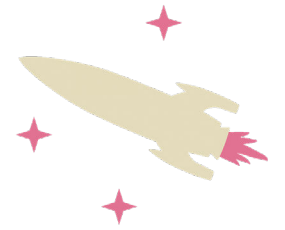
DoP working in documentary, drama, commercial and music promos



**Laura Torenbeek**

Filmmaker, wellbeing facilitator and founder of Green Film Productions

# SCREEN ONE



**1.20pm - 2.35pm**

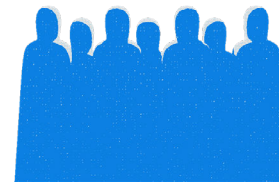
female narrative  
experimental

**2.45pm - 3.55pm**

environmental narrative  
music video

**4.10pm - 5.20pm**

fiction  
animation



# FEMALE NARRATIVE



## BRIDE STONE

dir. Guzel Duishenkulova, Kyrgyzstan  
2023, 15 mins

In a village in Kyrgyzstan, a stone that looks like a woman is shrouded in myth. Local women still believe the legend of a young woman who was turned to stone for running away from her husband and father-in-law, and local men take advantage of superstition to keep control.



## CONTI

dir. Julie Minichová, UK  
2023, 18 mins

After the tragic passing of her father, Isla is trying to reconcile with his legacy by attending three completely different job interviews in one day.



## MÅNGATA

dir. Maja Costa, Germany  
2023, 16 mins

As a child, little Alya is the only survivor of a tragic Mediterranean crossing from Africa to Europe in search of a safer life. Many years later, on an important lunar mission, Alya loses communication with her base. She is confronted with her past trauma, and how Mångata, "the road to the moon", which already saved her life once, can help her again.

# EXPERIMENTAL



## OFF-KEY

dir. Georgia Gregory-Morris, UK  
2023, 10 mins

Set within a magical world, Off-Key follows the journey of Nosebleed, a whimsical artist who finds a muse in the form of an ominous charity shop and a piano that turns people into products.



## ITERATIONS OF REPETITION

dir. Nina Veech, Austria  
2023, 5 mins

Iterations of Repetition explores the world of ballet through the lens of perfectionism. Through its minimal presentation and poetic application, the film delves deep into the illusion of perfection, a goal that always seems just out of reach.



## THE COMMUTE

dir. Katie Loughrin, Ireland  
2023, 3 mins

The Commute follows an internal dialogue that ruminates on the complexities of an ever quickening world and the reflective solitude that comes with routine daily tasks.

# ENVIRONMENTAL NARRATIVE



## PEOPLE WITH BIG GREEN BUSES

dir. David Jenkinson, UK  
2022, 30 mins

A look at eco-warrior Jeremy Middleton and his eccentric entourage of van and bus dwellers in the early stages of their community relief group 'Just People'.



## THE PRICE OF SALMON

dir. Lewis Alford, UK  
2023, 17 mins

Scottish Salmon is an important part of the UK's economy. This student short documentary is an introduction on the topic of balancing profit & protection in the food chain, through a whistle-stop tour around Scotland speaking to those who care most about this issue.



## (PLASTIK)

dir. Philip Rom, Malaysia  
2021, 3 mins

View the plastic pollution crisis through the eyes and imagination of a child in South-East Asia, a major hotspot for plastic pollution.

# MUSIC VIDEO



## WHAT WE LEAVE BEHIND

dir. Lars Walthen, Germany  
2023, 8 mins

As she prepares for the mission of her life, an astronaut has to come to terms with the price she has to pay for her dreams... and the love she needs to leave behind.



## LJUSNAN

dir. Patrik Berg Almkvisth and Oscar Barkenbom, Sweden  
2022, 3 mins

A new video for the piece Ljusnan, composed by Patrik Berg Almkvisth. The piece is a tribute to the river Ljusnan that runs outside his family cabin in northern Sweden, built by his grandfather.



## MOONJOCKEY

dir. Jamie Francis Windless and Ananda Jayne Howard, UK  
2023, 5 mins

An intriguing love affair of proselytizing, anxious, paranoid states of mind, set within a sugar coated dystopian realm. What could possibly go wrong?



# FICTION



## BLUE NOTE

dir. Pavel Andonov, Finland  
2022, 22 mins

Leena is faced with a heartbreaking commitment after spending a beautiful day with her terminally ill husband Boris in their summer cottage.



## MATAR

dir. Hassan Akkad, Netherlands  
2023, 23 mins

Experience the powerful story of Matar, as he confronts the harsh realities of the UK's broken asylum system, and fights to rebuild his life against all odds.



## YELLOW

dir. Elham Ehsas, UK  
2023, 13 mins

In Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, a woman walks into a chadani store in Kabul to buy her first full-body veil and face an uncertain future.

# ANIMATION



## GOOSE

dir. Jieun Park, Republic of Korea  
2023, 2 mins

Struggling to fit in, Suzie imagines how her life might be different if she hadn't emigrated.



## HOMIES

dir. Thao Ngan, Canada  
2022, 2 mins

The adventure of a lonely girl and a spirit to discover a moment from the past.



## RICE BALL

dir. Kristina Pringle, UK  
2023, 1.30 mins

A British-East Asian school kid faces her fears when her home-cooked packed lunch is scrutinised.

# SCREEN

# TWO



**1.00pm - 2.25pm**

documentary  
LGBTQIA+ narrative

**2.40pm - 4.00pm**

disability narrative  
POC narrative



# DOCUMENTARY



## PICTURING WONDERLAND

dir. Alfie Elms, UK  
2022, 8 mins

An experiential snapshot of Maud Rowell's experience of living with degenerative blindness. The film explores Maud's fascinating relationship with the colours of the world around her as well as the use of the medium of analogue photography.



## OF THE HEART

dir. Alicia Soller, USA  
2023, 20 mins

Distressed by news of her mother's breast cancer diagnosis, a Filipina American filmmaker reacquaints herself with her mother in a deeper dimension, unearthing her mom's core beyond her prescribed roles while revealing the spiritual and ancestral threads that connect mother and daughter.



## PULSE

dir. Kevin Holmes-Attivor, UK  
2023, 15 mins

As carnival approaches, three samba drummers reflect on the impacts of parental upbringing and the freeing effects of drumming on their lives.

# LGBTQIA+ NARRATIVE



## LIKE A TORCH IN THE WIND

dir. Ines Raberin, France  
2023, 12 mins

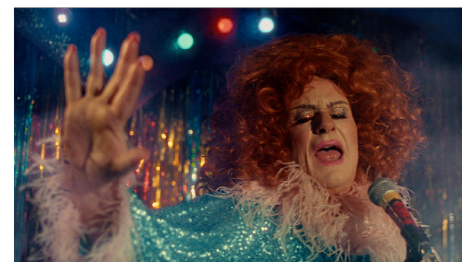
Ines is starting to discover love in all its forms.



## PUCK

dir. Rebecca Ozer, UK  
2022, 11 mins

Puck follows a summer's day of passion between the open-hearted American Mac and the mystical English Northerner David. They meet for a simple hook-up, but their chemical connection boils more romance to the surface than expected.



## MAKING UP

dir. Ryan Paige, UK  
2023, 15 mins

In London in the late 1980s, Ted is diagnosed with a hereditary illness, and so must reconcile with his estranged daughter, Cassandra. However, being a celebrated drag queen, paired with the bitter feelings Cassandra harbours over their past, presents a larger obstacle for Ted to overcome.

# DISABILITY NARRATIVE



## OF KISSES AND CAPES

dir. Eléna Weiss, Germany  
2023, 27 mins

Isi and Finn are planning their first time. A difficult endeavor, not only because of their physical disabilities but also because of their insecurities and lack of communication, which almost jeopardizes their relationship.



## PASSION, PURPOSE & PARKINSON'S

dir. Olz McCoy, UK  
2023, 5 mins

A painter, photographer and musician tell the story of how they overcame the physically debilitating Parkinson's Disease and managed to continue pursuing their creative profession despite the adverse challenges presented to them in life.



## AMAZING GRACE

dir. Aiden Keltner, USA  
2023, 15 mins

Based on the true stories of many families, Amazing Grace tells the story of a single mother caring for her adult son with schizophrenia.

# POC NARRATIVE



## THE PEOPLE BELOW

dir. Nebiu Samuel, UK  
2023, 7 mins

Traumatized by the death of his best friend, a young Ethiopian boy can't find a way to process his feelings of guilt and grief. He decides the best way is to forget them entirely. But in his subterranean village, dead souls are known to linger.



## THERE IS NOT A GOING BACK

dir. Sofia del Carmen, UK

2022, 11 mins

Alma, a Filipino nurse in London responds to a phone call from her mother in the Philippines and proceeds to seek out the missing ingredients to her mother's sinigang recipe.



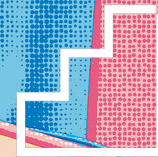
## UNCLE

dir. Michelle Jones, UK  
2021, 13 mins

A coming of age story set in 90's London, of a teenage girl whose uncle (with no criminal record) dies in prison awaiting trial. Based on the true story of writer/director Michelle Jones and her uncle Kenneth Serverin, whom she lost in 1995 at the age of 14.

# NOVELLA

FILM FESTIVAL 2023

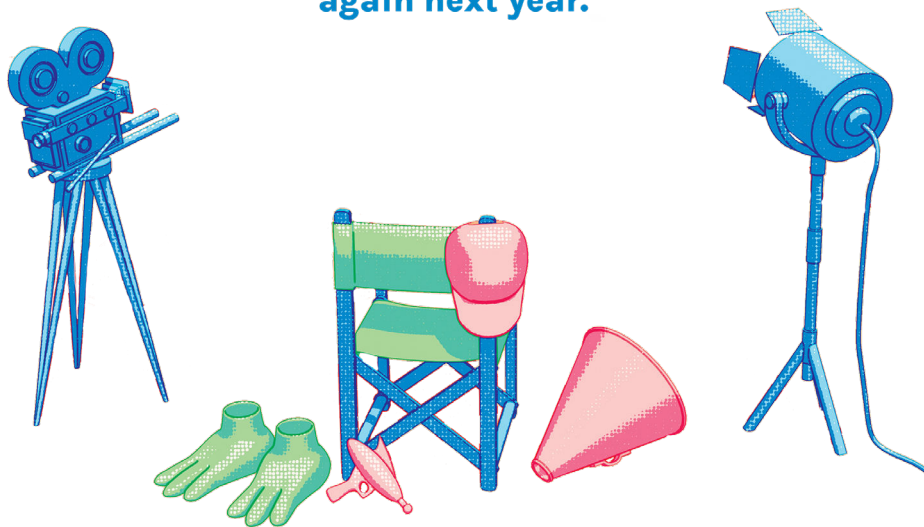


**CELEBRATING  
THE FUTURE OF  
SHORT FILM**

# THANK YOU

A huge thank you to everyone who submitted their short films this year, to our jury, our panelists, our brilliant shortlisted filmmakers, and last but not least to you for coming along and being a part of Year Two of Novella.

Make sure to follow us on social media to stay up to date with our festival, and we hope to see you again next year.



Artwork by Lew Pearce



lewpearce.com



lew.pearce.art



