Substance Film Festival in association with Aesthetica Magazine

Friday 1st to Sunday 5th December.

Vue Cinema Princes Quay. 7.30pm. £4 each or £10 for all.

Substance Film Festival is curated by BAFTA-recognised Aesthetica Short Film Festival with support from Hull Independent Cinema

The core theme is Industry, Innovation, Change - taking inspiration from the northern landscape. This is explored through four strands over four evenings: Award Winning Films, Place is a State of Mind, Human Stories and Complex Relationships - all to address one central question: what does it mean to be Northern in a globalised world?

Substance Film offers personal perspectives from both emerging and established film artists. It showcases talent from around the globe, including Italian master of music and image Tommaso Pitta, Oscar-winning Irish director Benjamin Cleary, born in Bosnia filmmaker and photographer Ismar Badzic, Hamburg-based Joschka Laukeninks who shot commercials for Samsung, Mercedes-Benz and Volkswagen and award-winning documentary filmmaker Ruth Grimberg, among others.

An overview of the four evenings of short films is below - and please scroll down further for the full list of films on show at Substance Film Festival.

Each evening includes a panel and an opportunity to ask questions of the film-makers. Details of the panels to be revealed soon.

Fri 1 Dec, 7.30pm. £4.

REEL 1 - Award-Winning Films

A programme of films that looks at some of the winners from the BAFTA-recognised Aesthetica Short Film Festival from Best Drama and Best Documentary to Best Comedy and Best Music Video. Some of these films have gone on to win Oscars and BAFTAs. A magnificent programme of shorts all with connections to the North of England, featuring films by Fabio Palmieri, Tommaso Pitta, Benjamin Cleary and Robert Hackett.

Evening suitable for 12+

Sat 2 Dec, 7.30pm. £4.

REEL 2 - Place Is A State Of Mind

A collection of shorts that challenges the notion of place. From a Dutch businessman on the verge of a breakdown and an elderly couple recalling their youth to understanding how sound accentuates a place and then back to the sea. This collection of films reminds viewers that place can be physical or abstract and is defined by a series of memories. Ultimately place is what you make of it. Filmmakers featured in this strand are Boris Kuijpers and Ruth Mellaerts, Stephen Johnson, Ismar Badzic, Tony Plant.

Evening suitable for 12+

Mon 4 Dec, 7.30pm. £4.

REEL 3 - Human Stories

These films are rooted in the shared human experience. From the oldest married couple in the world to a portrait of a life, the narratives look at communal rights-of-passage that transcend place and remind us of our humanity and how individual stories help us to relate to one another in a complex world. Showcasing the talent of Glen Milner, Hannah Pike, Joschka Laukeninks, Benjamin Cleary and TJ O'Grady Peyton.

Evening suitable for 15+

Tue 5 Dec, 7.30pm. £4.

REEL 4 - Complex Relationships

From stories about fathers and sons, the last colliery in Yorkshire and a young girl struggling with her upbringing, these films look at the breadth and dynamic nature of family relationships. They also offer a glimpse into the intricacy of the domestic whilst underpinning identity in the modern age from a northerner in London to a family in crisis. This strand includes films by Chris Shepherd, Harry Sherriff and Ruth Grimberg.

Evening suitable for 12+

The full list of the short films to see at Substance Film Festival is below:

REEL 1 – Award-Winning Films

Film Title: Irregulars

Filmmaker: Fabio Palmieri

Genre: Documentary

Runtime: 08:55

Year: 2015

Country: Italy

Synopsis: Each year 40000 people try to enter Europe. They flee from war, persecution and poverty. Since the ways by land have been interrupted, they board overloaded vessels and face a dangerous and often deadly voyage across the Mediterranean.

Suitable for 12+

Film Title: How I Didn’t Become A Piano Player

Filmmaker: Tommaso Pitta

Genre: Comedy

Runtime: 18:00

Year: 2015

Country: UK

Synopsis: Ted, 9 year old, is the clumsiest boy in the world. Desperately searching for his vocation, he cannot find anything he is good at. The breakthrough arrives the day his father comes home with an old monstrous piano. Ted has the revelation: he will become the next Mozart. Based on the short story 'Every Good Boy' by David Nicholls.

Suitable for 12+

Film title: Stutterer

Filmmaker: Benjamin Cleary

Genre: Drama

Runtime: 12:56

Year: 2015

Country: UK/Ireland

Synopsis: A man with a debilitating speech problem must face his worst fear.

Suitable for 12+

Film title: Night Mail - Public Service Broadcasting

Filmmaker: Robert Hackett

Genre: Music Video

Runtime: 03:22

Year: 2013

Country: UK

Synopsis: Shot at night, this promo is characterised by images from the original Night Mail GPO Film unit film featuring WH Auden's poem, projected onto a disused train station.

Suitable for 12+

REEL 2 – Place Is A State Of Mind

Film title: Allegory Of A Jam Jar

Filmmaker: Boris Kuijpers & Ruth Mellaerts

Genre: Drama

Runtime: 17:00

Year: 2015

Country: Belgium

Synopsis: Hans is a 50-year old businessman. He has a challenging job, a wonderful collection of ties and a pristine apartment. One day, when a crack appears on the perfect walls of his home, Hans slowly starts losing control of his seemingly perfect life.

Suitable for 12+

Film title: The Mapmaker

Filmmaker: Stephen Johnson

Genre: Drama

Runtime: 18:00

Year: 2011

Country: UK

Synopsis: When Rowan and Isabel return to the coastline where they spent a blissful summer, almost fifty years before, it is with a very different purpose. Isabel is dying; she wants it to be here, now. As darkness falls, their past collides with the present and Rowan is called upon to make a sacrifice that will preserve their unity forever. Passionate, searing and poetic 'The Mapmaker' examines a life and love that, just like all of ours, is all too fleeting.

Suitable for 12+

Film title: A Long Walk to Grimethorpe

Filmmaker: Ismar Badzic

Genre: Documentary

Runtime: 24:52

Year: 2016

Country: UK

Synopsis: Composer Joe Snape takes a sonic journey from Sheffield to Grimethorpe. Armed with a tuba and sound recorder, he searches for sounds and inspiration for a new piece of music; exploring the nature and history of brass along the way.

Suitable for 12+

Film title: Forever

Filmmaker: Tony Plant

Genre: Artists' Film

Runtime: 02:38

Year: 2017

Country: UK

Synopsis: Site Specific Drawing. 1 tide, 12,000+ steps, 3 years waiting. Walking on the last beach in the UK before setting foot on the first beach in America. A drawing in landscape, of landscape.

Suitable for 12+

REEL 3 – Human Stories

Film title: Elders

Filmmaker: Glen Milner

Genre: Documentary

Runtime: 07:08

Year: 2015

Country: UK

Synopsis: After leaving India for the industrial north of England in the 1960's, Karim and Katari Chand never imagined they would end up being married longer than any other couple in the world. Their personal story of family, immigration, love, and the working-class is both inspiring and honest as we gain a valuable insight into how different cultures respect their elders.

Suitable for 12+

Film title: Hit & Run

Filmmaker: Hannah Pike

Genre: Drama

Runtime: 19:52

Year: 2016

Country: UK

Synopsis: If Tennent's Super did Pretty Woman. In Stockport... An alcoholic desperate to end his life encounters a prostitute desperate to start hers. Despite an initial repulsion to each other they soon realise that each has something to offer the other.

Suitable for 12+

Film title: Backstory

Filmmaker: Joschka Laukeninks

Genre: Drama

Runtime: 08:00

Year: 2016

Country: Germany

Synopsis: As a young child our protagonist is left by his mother and has to live with his violent father. He fights his way through adolescence and falls in love with the woman of his dreams and just as everything seems to be finally working out for him, a sudden event changes the course of his life forever. A story about how everything we love, everything we learn, everything we build, everything we fear, will one day be gone.

Suitable for 15+

Film title: Wave

Filmmaker: Benjamin Cleary & TJ O'Grady Peyton

Genre: Drama

Runtime: 13:47

Year: 2017

Country: Ireland

Synopsis: A man wakes from a coma speaking a fully formed but unrecognizable language, baffling linguistic experts from around the globe.

Suitable for 12+

REEL 4 – Complex Relationships

Film title: The Ringer

Filmmaker: Chris Shepherd

Genre: Drama

Runtime: 17:00

Year: 2013

Country: UK/France

Synopsis: A son is reunited with his long lost father for the first time. You might imagine it's time to discover everything about where he's come from and where he's going. But he's about to get a surprise...

Suitable for 12+

Film title: Hits Like A Girl

Filmmaker: Harry Sherriff

Genre: Drama

Runtime: 11:10

Year: 2014

Country: UK

Synopsis: Hits Like A Girl, a raw coming of age story that follows Kay McKenna, a 19-year-old fighter from Toxteth who has a serious anger problem and a fractious relationship with her agoraphobic mother, Kathy.

Suitable for 12+

Film title: Some Will Forget

Filmmaker: Ruth Grimberg

Genre: Documentary

Runtime: 15:00

Year: 2016

Country: UK

Synopsis: One of the last coalmines in the UK faces closure and 30 years after the defeat of the Miners’ strike Les struggles with its toll on his family.

Suitable for 12+

Film title: Let It Go – Fossil Collective

Filmmaker: Ashley Dean

Genre: Music Video

Runtime: 04:30

Year: 2015

Country: UK

Synopsis: A tale of tragedy, heartbreak, hope and determination, inspired by Minecraft and Desert Island Discs.

Suitable for 12+