



# CROSSING THE SCREEN

## International Film Festival

Press Release

Eastbourne, 25th September 2017

Crossing The Screen announces competition films for 2017

The 2nd Crossing The Screen International Film Festival has announced its International Competition line-up, with 110 works from 30 countries selected to be showcased in competition at the festival from 23rd-26th November in Eastbourne, East Sussex, United Kingdom.

The 1st edition of the festival was held at the Birley Centre, in Eastbourne, East Sussex in November 2016, attracting almost 400 visitors during 3 days.

The 2nd edition of the festival will take place in Eastbourne, at the prestigious Towner Art Gallery on 23-26 November 2017.

Other participating venues in Eastbourne include 'The Royal Hippodrome Theatre', the oldest theatre in town, in 108-112 Seaside Road; the delicious seafood restaurant 'The Belgian Cafe' in 11-23 Grand Parade, near the pier; 'DC1 - Devonshire Collective', the lively cultural hub in 67-69 Seaside Rd and the 'Hart Pub' in 89 Cavendish Pl, the iconic centre for the LGBT Community on the South Coast.

Crossing the Screen is a Sussex-based international film event, meant to showcase innovative and independent forms of visual art, and devoted to discovering and celebrating fresh cinema talents worldwide. The festival is quickly developing a major reputation for the quality of its curation among the international independent film community.

This year, the festival presents 10 competition programmes chosen from over 650 submissions, featuring between 5 and 12 short films in the genres of live action, animation, experimental and documentary. Plus a single programme of 11 feature narrative films.

During the four days of Crossing the Screen Film Festival 2017 a total of 110 films will be shown. The full lineup will include 3 World Premieres, 3 International Premieres and 40 UK Premieres.

### **Feature Film**

*Crossing the Screen 2017* is introducing for the first time a competitive feature competition, with a fantastic selection of films from acclaimed up-and-coming international filmmakers.

This year's titles include two enthralling British productions: 'THE LEVELLING', a tremendous debut from up-and-coming woman filmmaker Hope Dickson Leach, and 'THE WHITE KING', an intriguing dystopian account of totalitarianism, directed by wife-and-husband writer-director team Alex Helfrecht and Jorg Tittel.

South America is well represented by two compelling features: the Uruguayan 'THE CANDIDATE',

Daniel Hendler's satire on the hollowness of contemporary politics and 'BREADCRUMBS', Manane Rodriguez's production chosen as the Uruguayan entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the last 89th Academy Awards.

Other International titles include:

- The internationally acclaimed 'SCAFFOLDING' by Israeli director Matan Yair.
  - 'MIST', the second feature by Mexican rising star and former Berlinale Talent alumni Max Zunino.
  - 'WITHERED GREEN', poetic debut by Egyptian filmmaker Mohammed Hammad.
  - 'AFTERWARDS', touching psychological character's study by Canadian indie director Noël Mitrani.
  - 'THE BLOOD', Rajesh Touchriver's powerful Indian feature drama.
  - 'ONCE THERE WAS A GIRL', intimist drama by Israeli film director Natalie Kaplan
- And 'THUGOCRACY', the hard-hitting debut by French directing duo FGKO.

## **Short Film**

10 short film programmes present Live action, documentary, animation and experimental short films from all over the world, featuring established and emerging talents from the independent filmmaking universe. An additional section will be dedicated to student films from leading international film institutions.

The final programme titles and categories will be announced shortly.

### **Short film Highlights**

BAFTA-winning short 'Home' by Daniel Mulloy will screen in the *So Far, So Close* programme, that also includes 2017 Cannes' official selection 'A Drowning Man' by Mahdi Fleifel.

Arriving from Cannes, also the 2017 Palme d'Or winning short 'A Gentle Night' by director Qiu Yang, that will screen in the *Just Eve* programme, featuring as well the Locarno 2017 official selection 'Gaze' by Farnoosh Samadi and the upcoming BFI London Film Festival's selection 'Meryem' by lauded Kurdish filmmaker Reber Dosky.

The *Destination Unknown* programme features 'Child', evocative animation by directing trio Iring Freytag, Viktor Stickel and Linus Stetter that has just been nominated for a Student Academy Award. The programme will also feature former BAFTA New Talent nominee Catriona MacInnes's short 'Howls'.

Also for this year, Crossing The Screen offers a chance for horror fans to enjoy some of the best eerie productions of 2016 and 2017, including Maria Luz Olivares Capelle's graduation film 'Forest of Echoes' and Berlinale's official selection 'Call of Cuteness', directed by German video artist Brenda Lien.

Animation and Experimental short film aficionados can also rejoy, finding brilliant titles such as Nicolas Suarez' experimental music piece 'Centaurus', seen at the last Berlin International Film Festival and Toronto IFF selection 'Catastrophe' by Jamille van Wijngaarden.

Other films in competition include 'Samedi Cinema' by Senegalese filmmaker Mamadou Dia, that premiered at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Venice International Film Festival; the Indonesian 'Pria' by Yudho Aditya that

screened at the past BFI Flare; and Belgian one-to-watch actress/director Maaïke Neuville's new project, 'Perfect Darkness'.

### **Sussex Short Films**

The section dedicated to local Sussex Filmmakers returns this year with a competitive award to be assigned to celebrate the Best Sussex Short Film.

Highlights of the programme include the return of Steven Lancefield (in competition with the short documentary 'Ellen: a Portrait of my Mind') and Sebastian Cox ('Harry Bot 9000'), who both attended last year's inaugural edition.

### **Indian Shorts Showcase and Collateral Events**

In addition to the 10 Short Film and 1 Feature Film programmes, Crossing The Screen International Film Festival presents a special showcase of Indian short films, celebrating this year's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Independence.

Other collateral activities include a meeting to discuss the importance of Female Filmmaking in a male-dominated industry; a free Film-Pitch Workshop and a Course on the use of social media to self-advertise independent film productions.

More details to be announced soon.

### **Jury and Awards Ceremony**

The Awards Ceremony will take place on Sunday 26 November, followed by the festival's closing party held at the Belgian Cafe, where filmmakers and guests are invited to celebrate the ending of another edition of the Eastbourne-based annual film event.

### **CONTACTS**

'Crossing The Screen Film Festival' operates as a private partnership and is managed in the UK by Domeman Cinematic Enterprise. For more details visit: [www.crossingthescreen.org](http://www.crossingthescreen.org)

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