19th Lichtspielklub Short Film Festival

"British Shorts"

22nd–28th January 2026

Programme ➡

We ❤ Cinema!

British Shorts feiert die 19. Ausgabe und präsentiert erneut diverse filmische Perspektiven aus Großbritannien und Irland! Über 150 neue Filme, 7 Tage, 7 Spielorte – Comedy, Drama, Animation, Doku, Thriller, Experimental, Horror, Live-Musik (Neoangin, Grateful Cat, Diane Electro), Live-Comedy mit Fay Walsh und ein kostenloser Filmworkshop. Die Retrospektive (über Londons Scala Cinema) und eine Fotoausstellung widmen sich dem Kino als Ort für Begegnung, Austausch, Kreativität und Abenteuer. Und wie immer gilt: Es wird viel passier'n!

British Shorts celebrates its 19th edition and once again presents diverse cinematic perspectives from Great Britain and Ireland! Over 150 new films, 7 days, 7 venues – comedy, drama, animation, documentary, thriller, experimental, horror, live music (Neoangin, Grateful Cat, Diane Electro), live comedy with Fay Walsh and a free film workshop. The retrospective (about London's Scala cinema) and an exhibition are dedicated to cinema as a place for encounters, exchange, creativity and adventure. There will be a lot going on!

Spielorte, Adressen & Ticket-Infos auf Seite 31
Festivalkalender auf der Rückseite
Venues, addresses and ticket details on page 31
Festival calendar on the back of this booklet
Tickets >>>

Thu 22.1. 20:00 / City Kino Wedding

Festival Opening & Festival Screening & Live: Neoangin (p. 24)

Drama / Animation / Coming of Age / Documentary / Comedy

Film still: Crusts

Nostalgie (Drama), Dir: Kathryn Ferguson, 19:00
Drew Lord Haig, a washed-up '80s one-hit-wonder turned IT entrepreneur, is stunned when a Belfast battalion invites him to perform at their centenary celebration. Flattered and intrigued, Drew accepts, hoping to relive his glory days and recapture his youth.

Fried! (Animation), Dir: Lizzie Watts, 9:54
On his drive home from an ageing nuclear facility, Dev becomes stranded at an isolated emu farm.

Crusts (Drama, Coming of Age), Dir: India Sleem, 16:02
Paris navigates her relationship with her best friend, and for the first time she acts against her true nature.

Big Cat (Documentary), Dir: Naomi Pallas, 15:04
For years, there have been reports of a large black panther stalking the Glastonbury countryside. Will it emerge in the lead up to the festival?

Ovary-Acting (Animation), Dir: Ida Melum, 12:26
Surrounded by babies at her sister's baby shower, Eva is forced to fend off questions left, right and centre about her plans for a family.

Sunday Lunch (Comedy), Dir: Lyndon Henley Hanrahan, 14:07
A young, closeted lesbian brings her girlfriend home to her Catholic family for Sunday lunch, hoping to finally come out to them. But every time she tries to speak her truth, her family finds a new (and increasingly ridiculous) way of stopping her.

Fri 23.1. 18:00 / Sputnik Kino 1

Festival Screening / Documentary Special

Documentary / Experimental / Animation

Film still: Beyond the Rush

A King Comes to Town (Documentary), Dir: Joseff Morgan, 9:18
In a world full of Elvis impersonators, a lone man searches for his one true voice.

Notes from Planet Three (Documentary, Experimental), Dir: Simon Ellis, 13:40
A boy shares the science of our solar system with his two-year-old sister.

Beyond the Rush (Documentary), Dir: NIYADRE, 16:18
A poignant and poetic exploration of the rise and decline of Luton's once vibrant Caribbean culture.

High Street Repeat (Documentary, Experimental, Animation), Dir: Osbert Parker, Laurie Hill, 4:25
Animated collage film that explores the changing face of Britain's high streets.

Headland (Documentary), Dir: Mariana Duarte, 13:00
On a pebble beach on the English Channel, the tradition of sea rescues interweaves with recent Channel crossings, as witnessed by the last of the Dungeness fishermen.

Eternity (Documentary), Dir: Dorothy Allen-Pickard, 6:08
Valrie and Alan can't live with each other, and can't live without each other. A hilarious look at a love that lasts a lifetime, whether they like it or not.

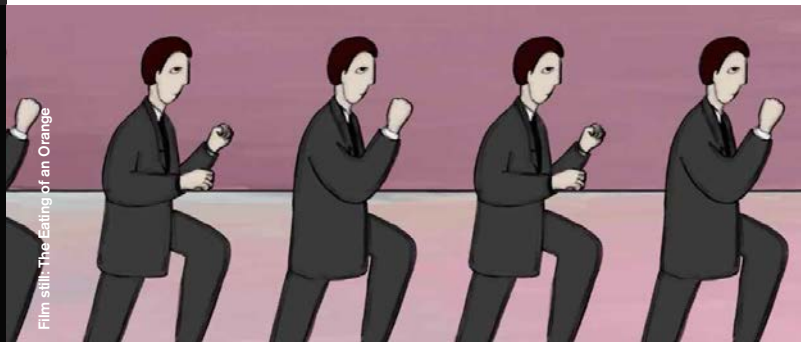
That Day, the Panic Attacked Me (Animation, Documentary, Experimental), Dir: Maureen Weng, 2:52
A surreal animation in mixed media and prose about the feelings of panic attacks. Inspired by interviewing the sufferers and own experiences.

Other Life (Documentary), Dir: Tom Tennant & Theo Tennant, 16:50
Two old friends drive around South Wales investigating UFO sightings and interviewing individuals who have witnessed the unexplainable.

Fri 23.1. 19:00 / Acudkino

Festival Screening

Drama / Comedy / Coming of Age / Animation



Film still: The Eating of an Orange

Worst. Experience. Ever. (Comedy), Dir: Alex Boutell, 14:59
Maya's days working at a small shop take a surreal turn when her boss makes a bombshell revelation.

Playground (Drama, Coming of Age), Dir: Tayla Halfacre, 10:16
On a playground the unspoken romantic tension between Grace and Jas burns.

Party Animal (Comedy, Drama), Dir: Ali Gill, 12:56
A dispirited barber is tormented by the discovery that a beloved local politician is turning into a donkey.

The Eating of an Orange (Animation), Dir: May Kindred-Boothby, 7:29
In a manor house, identical figures eat the same, move the same, look the same.

The Calm (Comedy, Sci-Fi), Dir: Matthew Sterling, 5:58
When alien ships start landing in the Middle East, two friends share a moment of normality amid the raging news storm.

Code of Conduct (Drama), Dir: Jagoda Ttok, 12:30
Mira, a Polish receptionist in an office building, works hard to climb the corporate ladder. One day, her loyalty to her employer is put to the test.

Tethered (Animation), Dir: Alessandro Cino Zolfanelli, 9:44
Gatlin, an outsider from the moon, falls on earth and meets Harper, a fierce huntress. He decides to follow her into her vibrant village.

Seatbelt (Drama), Dir: Muyiwa Awosika, 8:10
On a bleak London morning, the Social Affairs Minister sits in his car, anxiously rehearsing for a statement following allegations of his misconduct.

Fri 23.1. 20:00 / Sputnik Kino 1

Festival Screening

Drama / Comedy / Coming of Age / Animation

Film still: The Tobacconist

The Tobacconist (Drama), Dir: Keifer Nyron Taylor, 23:22
A south London odyssey following Tobias, who sells counterfeit tobacco to fund his mother's return to Jamaica.

Truckload (Comedy, Drama), Dir: Aella Jordan-Edge, 19:50
There are 12 steps to recovery following Lizzie's traffic accident (and that's not counting the 50 stairs up to her flat).

I Hate Helen (Comedy, Coming of Age), Dir: Katie Lambert, 6:24
Priya hates Helen and how she makes her feel. First love is hard.

Journey from the Forest of Eels (Animation), Dir: Karl Doran & Winston Tsang, 2:35
In a mysterious land a sacred ritual is taking place.

Saving Face (Drama), Dir: Dorothy Allen-Pickard, 12:21
A mother meets the man who killed her son and tries to find a way to forgive him.

We're All Black Down Here (Drama), Dir: James Mellors, 15:07
In racially divided 1950s Britain, an Afro Caribbean miner struggles to find acceptance above ground.

The Man That I Wave At (Drama, Comedy), Dir: Ben S. Hyland, 10:46
Dave's life is turned upside down after his wife teases him about the identity of the man that he waves at. But who is this man?

Last Lines (Animation), Dir: Greg McLeod, 5:07
On the edge of the galaxy, two friends meet for their morning coffee and musings about life, love, loneliness and conflict – with a little help from Shakespeare.

Fri 23.1. 21:00 / Acudkino

Festival Screening

Drama / Animation / Comedy / Thriller / Coming of Age

Film still: For Better

The Test (Drama), Dir: Hsieh Meng Han, 11:49
At the Life in The UK test, I-Ling feels the hostility from the staff members.

Happy Snaps (Drama, Coming of Age), Dir: Tyro Heath, 12:03
On the Isle of Sheppey, two boys try to enjoy a last day together. But as the day goes on, fears about the future cloud their friendship.

Eye Jam (Animation), Dir: Julia Jolliffe, 2:57
Trapped on a far away planet, a lonely creature offers up pieces of itself.

King of the Couch (Comedy), Dir: Henry Scholfield, 12:42
After their father's funeral, an argument ensues between his two sons.

Back of the Net (Drama, Coming of Age), Dir: Klara Kaliger, 16:50
Maya is a passionate aspiring young footballer, torn between her final shot at going professional and caring for the person who first inspired her.

Ritual (Drama, Thriller, Coming of Age), Dir: Cameron Cut, 5:50
Two teenage boys, Jack and Ralph, sit quietly in an empty cul-de-sac. Gum is shared. It's a moment that feels like a beginning, but it isn't.

For Better (Comedy, Drama), Dir: Kitty Percy, 14:45
Jeanine attempts to fix her loneliness and finds a solution in an unexpected place.

Vegetables Have Sugar (Dark Comedy), Dir: LIAKH, 7:24
A kidnapped pizza delivery driver has to answer questions about his diabetes as if his life depends on it. Because it does.

Foreign Bodies (Animation), Dir: Lysander Wong, 3:30
Certain things will always find their way to the surface.

Fri 23.1. 22:00 / Sputnik Kino 1

Festival Screening

Comedy / Drama / Coming of Age / Animation

Film still: The Wasp

Bald (Comedy), Dir: Luke Bather, 10:00
The world's baldest man accidentally starts a moon-worshipping cult in a working men's club in Wales. Based on a comic by John Tucker.

Child's Fare (Drama, Coming of Age), Dir: Kirsty McLean, 12:43
When Abby is left outside the pub by her dad, her feelings of rejection worsen.

A Glass House (Drama), Dir: Charles Strider, 17:17
Robin, heartbroken and tending her garden, is confronted by an unexpected visitor.

Fawn (Animation), Dir: Molly Mayhew, 7:17
Fawn is forced to return to a house she hasn't called home in a very long time.

Spare Part (Comedy), Dir: Ada Player & Bron Waugh, 5:33
A shy loner is desperate for attention from her football-crazy boyfriend.

London, Closed City (Drama), Dir: KRISH, 12:49
Amid the pressures of late capitalist London, a young woman struggles with increasing feelings of alienation and disconnect.

Duck Press (Drama), Dir: Cian Llewellyn, 14:51
Gregarious widower Frank is hell-bent on throwing a truly hedonistic birthday lunch.

Two Black Boys in Paradise (Animation), Dir: Baz Sells, 8:54
Edan (19) and Dula (18) navigate love, identity, and self-acceptance on a journey about coming into oneself and out to the world.

The Wasp or The Sheer Beauty of Accepting Yourself (Drama, Comedy), Dir: Cass Virdee, 13:00
A young man is stunned to learn from his doctor that he is 62% wasp.

Sat 24.1. 17:00 / Sputnik Kino 1

Festival Screening / Documentary Special

Documentary / Animation

Film still: Milk

After Eight (Documentary), Dir: Usayd Younis, Mos Hannan, 30:00
A chronicle of a decades-long global campaign for freedom: in 1986, Satpal Ram was the victim of a racially motivated attack in an Indian restaurant. He defended himself, which led to a murder conviction despite clear evidence of self-defence.

Creekmouth (Animation, Documentary), Dir: Yasmine Djedje-Fisher-Azoume, 4:43
An animation and oral histories project documenting the loss of Creekmouth Village in the 1953 flood.

Milk (Documentary), Dir: Miranda Stern, 26:51
A filmmaker sets out on a journey to discover the mother she never knew. Like the ancient Japanese art of kintsugi, the act of piecing back together all the scattered, jagged, and broken bits of her mother's life somehow helps her make sense of her own life, but like the act of filmmaking itself, it is a journey that will never feel complete.

Murewa (Documentary), Dir: Ché Scott-Heron Newton, 14:52
In a quiet seaside town, Marlon and Murry (Murewa) form a deep friendship, bonding over skateboarding, photography and the carefree adventures of youth. But as they grow older, their lives take different turns.

Neil Armstrong & the Langholmites (Documentary), Dir: Duncan Cowles, 17:44
Neil Armstrong came back from the Moon in 1969, but it wasn't until three years later when the people of a tiny Scottish town stepped in, that he finally got home.

Sat 24.1. 19:00 / Sputnik Kino 1

Festival Screening

Comedy / Drama / Animation / Documentary

Film still: Farmers!?

Egg Timer (Comedy), Dir: Rosie May Bird Smith, 12:50
As Megan faces her 30th birthday, the pressure to take the "next step" in life is overwhelming.

Farmers!? (Drama), Dir: Freddie Leyden, 15:00
After an Irish farmer's breakdown and death, his friends struggle to express grief. His ghost's appearance finally releases their repressed emotions.

Apple Gatherers (Animation), Dir: Danielle Rhoda, 8:32
Two cider factory workers struggle to keep hold of their humanity.

F.O.G (Drama), Dir: Malinda Kaur, 11:02
F.O.G (Fear, Obligation, Guilt) in Bradford: During a car journey with her mother, Ranjit tries to open up but the ancestral baggage, carried by most South Asian women, holds her back.

Static (Animation), Dir: Chris Duffy, 7:30
A disgraced detective finds himself fixated on an old television.

Mango (Drama), Dir: Joan Iyiola, 11:00
When a dream job arrives, independent florist Zadie searches for help in order to control her changing body.

If I Can Dream (Documentary), Dir: Luis Cross, 12:00
A Korean-Swedish Elvis impersonator competes in South Wales.

Toad in the Hole (Comedy), Dir: Ben Norris, 10:09
Stuck in a stagnant moment of her marriage, Kay (Juliet Cowan) orchestrates an evening to pursue a surprising liaison.

Sat 24.1. 20:00 / Xenon Kino

Festival Screening

Documentary / Drama / Mystery / Animation / Thriller / Experimental / Comedy

Film still: Original Sin

Too Disgusting to Be Confused (Documentary), Dir: Maya Avidov, 12:02
The Alternative Miss World is a celebration of transformation and unorthodox beauty. Early judges and competitors: David Hockney, Derek Jarman, Leigh Bowery.

A Bear Remembers (Drama, Mystery), Dir: Zhang + Knight, 20:00
Peter is trying to find the source of the metallic sound in his village. When he shares his footage with an old woman it sparks memories of a bear from her childhood.

Wavelength (Animation), Dir: Kate Auster & Holly Warburton, 3:42
Two young women tune into each other across the noise of the world.

The Long Spring (Drama, Thriller), Dir: Olly Ginelli, 15:05
Arron has taken his sister Kika on a dark journey to a better life.

Original Sin (Drama, Experimental), Dir: Amrou Al-Kadhi, 14:52
After decades of lies, resentments and stolen identities, a Muslim mother confronts her drag queen son for her long overdue moment in the spotlight.

February Ends Tomorrow (Drama), Dir: Rodrigo Mella, 11:16
A young woman tells her flatmate a story about a perverted sleepwalker. Their reality begins to fracture when the flatmate claims that story to be her own.

Purebred (Drama), Dir: Caleb J. Roberts, 14:34
During a heatwave, transgender man Owen returns to the flat of his on-off-again lover Seán after taking a pregnancy test.

End of Play (Comedy), Dir: Edem Wornoo, 15:22
Seven, a Junior Creative at a cosmic agency that creates worlds, is unexpectedly gifted the opportunity to create his dream world.

Sat 24.1. 21:00 / Sputnik Kino 1

Festival Screening

Drama / Comedy / Mystery / Animation

Film still: Larval

Mother Goose (Drama, Comedy, Mystery), Dir: Joanna Vymeris, 12:10
After the death of her husband, Janet decides to distract herself by rearing a goose, which is to be the centrepiece of her Christmas dinner. A modern-day Grimm's fairy tale about grief, isolation ... and a goose.

Pigs (Comedy, Drama), Dir: Julia Jackman, 13:42
Laura turns up for a particularly dreaded family dinner, only to find out there isn't any wine left – at least, none for her ...

Goodnight Ladies (Drama), Dir: Alex Matraxia, 20:20
One night in a drag bar, a seasoned queen is confronted by a young new rival, a young couple try to salvage their relationship despite their secrets, and a washed-up actor meets with his agent in the hopes of a comeback.

Mersea (Drama), Dir: Jamie McCormack, 16:55
Sonny never planned to come back home. But when his mother dies, he slips back into town under the cover of night, hoping to say goodbye without stirring up trouble.

Larval (Animation), Dir: Alice Bloomfield, 12:10
Living a lonely life of isolation, a girl dreams of luxury and beauty.

Getaway (Comedy), Dir: Aaron Kilercioğlu, 12:36
After a breakup, Daniel retreats to a quiet seaside campsite, only to discover it's a swingers' haven. Initially uneasy, he resists an invitation, but a surreal nightmare forces him to confront his fears.

Sat 24.1. 23:30 / Sputnik Kino 1

Festival Screening / Midnight Movies (18+)

Fantasy / Horror / Animation / Mystery / Dark Comedy / Thriller

Film still: Long Pork

Watch Me Burn (Fantasy, Coming of Age), Dir: Sofia Spotti, 21:09
Rue befriends a group of girls who convince her to go ahead with an act of cruelty.

Stomach Bug (Horror), Dir: Matty Crawford, 15:03
Manny struggles with empty nest syndrome and grotesque physical symptoms.

You Are not Part of the Cake (Animation), Dir: Ting-Jui Chen, 4:33
A girl, Ping, faces conflict with her girlfriend Lala's homophobic father.

The Birdwatcher (Mystery), Dir: Ryan Mackfall, 13:40
Investigators visit the site of a strange disappearance deep in the forest.

Mauled by a Dog (Thriller, Horror), Dir: Sion Thomas, 18:30
Across one long night, a young man goes on a surreal journey to take revenge.

Rat King (Dark Comedy), Dir: Andrea Mae Perez, 13:32
Rat King, an eccentric and unusual pest controller, and his trustful and eager apprentice River drive a van across a surreal East London.

Long Pork (Horror, Drama), Dir: Iris Dukatt, 13:20
The revolution starts in the kitchen: Lily Williams (Lena Headey), master chef at the renowned Foal's Steakhouse, seeks carnal justice.

Body Worn Video (Horror, Thriller), Dir: Toni Hipwell, 11:00
Officers Cane and Adel respond to a baby in distress – a bad end of their shift.

The Parish (Mystery), Dir: Matt R. Smith, 12:59
Joe is consumed by a recurring dream that won't let him go.

A Round of Applause for Death (Animation), Dir: Stephen Irwin, 4:42
Death takes centre stage in a series of murderous dreams.

Sun 25.1. 15:00 / Klick Kino

Festival Screening / Documentary Special

Documentary / Animation

Film still: Have You Seen the Beast

Howls to the Harbour (Documentary), Dir: Christian Cargill, 16:40
Patrick Wolf, an internationally renowned avant-garde artist and queer pop star in the 2000s, is trying to make a fresh start after a personal breakdown.

Plongeurs (Documentary), Dir: Hector Aponysus, 11:54
A documentary exploring masculinity, fearlessness, and freedom. Young men in Marseille are diving from extreme heights into the Mediterranean Sea.

It All Comes Down (Animation, Documentary), Dir: Meg Earls, 6:17
Three generations of women sit around a table as the granddaughter begins asking questions about the past.

You Can Call Me Lou (Documentary), Dir: Georgia Zeta Gkoka, 13:00
The personal and transformative story of Louise, an ex-dancer who transitioned in the legendary London club scene during its iconic era of the 1980s and 1990s.

Have You Seen the Beast (Documentary), Dir: Will Hewitt, Austen McCowan, 6:57
A cold case rumour-mentary about a big wild cat in the rural Welsh countryside.

Set Pace (Documentary), Dir: Daisy Ifama, 13:20
The story of Carol Glenn, Britain's first black, female motorsports official.

New Ground (Documentary), Dir: Louisa Rechenbach, 14:07
UK's first purpose-built co-housing community for women over 50 focuses on communal living and strong community values.

Criatura (Animation, Documentary), Dir: Nitya Ramlogan, 9:20
Recordings from interviews with 13-year-old Lola and her school peers tell a coming-of-age story about migrating from Mexico to London.

Sun 25.1. 17:00 / Sputnik Kino 1

Festival Screening

Comedy / Drama / Coming of Age / Animation

Film still: Rest Your Head

Meat Raffle (Comedy), Dir: Stuart Armstrong, 14:55
Terrified that he's turned his son queer, closeted dad Rich plots to rig his local pub's Christmas turkey draw to prove what it means to be a real man.

Dog (Drama, Coming of Age), Dir: Caitlin French McLeod, 12:50
Yorkshire, 1997: A cold, windswept rural countryside. Middle child Mathilde and her two siblings are playing house. A single moment between the two sisters almost changes everything.

Traces (Animation), Dir: Tilly Wallace, 5:32
There is a photograph of a child left on the moon, a golf ball, flags, a lost glove. When the glamour of space exploration fades, what remains?

Arctic Diva (Drama), Dir: Federico Barni, 19:38
A musician is invited to perform at a remote arctic research outpost for the resident scientists, an unwelcoming world which tests her resolve.

Rest Your Head (Drama), Dir: Prasanna Sellathurai, 8:55
A nervous queer couple tries to navigate their anxieties ahead of attending a South Asian family event.

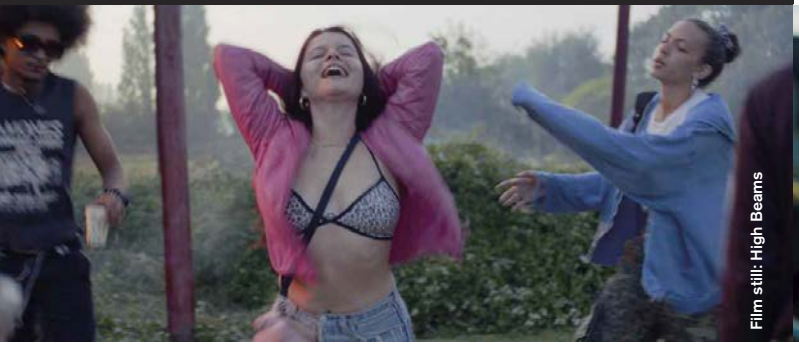
Learners (Drama), Dir: Paul Testar, 20:20
When cantankerous widower David agrees to teach his son's unemployed girlfriend Ellen to drive, things get off to a terrible start.

Retirement Plan (Animation), Dir: John Kelly, 7:17
In the throes of his overstimulated, energy-poor midlife, Ray (Domhnall Gleeson) fantasises about everything he'd love to do in retirement.

Sun 25.1. 19:00 / Sputnik Kino 1

Festival Screening

Drama / Coming of Age / Animation / Action / Comedy



Film still: High Beams

Cameraman (Drama), Dir: Arsalan Motavali, 15:29
In the late '90s, a newly immigrated cameraman desperate to restart his career must decide whether to risk his family's savings on a stranger's offer.

High Beams (Drama, Coming of Age), Dir: Flora Scott, 14:10
With the remnants of the night before settling in, two best friends must make their way home from a party in a field located aside London's M25.

Aksil (Drama), Dir: Werner Vivier, 16:00
In pursuit of his passion, an aspiring British-Moroccan actor risks ostracism from his family and community after starring in a film with a graphic sex scene.

Statue in the Garden (Animation), Dir: Qianhui Yu, 7:38
Didi moves into an unkempt house and comes across a curious statue.

The Last Dumpling (Action, Comedy), Dir: Jadey Duffield, 3:35
There is only one dumpling left on the plate, and two hungry men on their first date must decide: share or fight?

Win (Drama), Dir: Steph Tari Odu, 19:34
Sascha, a young athlete, returns to her family home and community following an injury, and confronts her father's long-term illness.

Fairview Park (Drama), Dir: Ellie Hodgetts, Aymeric Nicolet, 13:58
Declan Flynn, a man struggling for self-acceptance, is preyed upon by a gang of self-described 'Queer-bashers' in Dublin, 1982.

Thanks to Meet You! (Comedy, Drama), Dir: Richard Hunter, 13:00
Five businessmen do a business.

Sun 25.1. 20:00 / City Kino Wedding

Festival Screening & Jury Award Ceremony

Comedy / Drama / Animation

Film still: Three Keenings

Three Keenings (Dark Comedy), Dir: Oliver McGoldrick, 10:00
Ian is an unsuccessful actor and professional mourner. But his practised mask of apathy begins to crumble in the face of the local funeral industry.

Jester (Drama), Dir: Harry Sherriff, 16:47
A depressed jester sets out across plague-ridden England to rescue the Queen's nephew and prove he is more than a fool.

The Last Gammon (Animation), Dir: Elmaz Ekrem, 9:28
Dave is on a mission to find the very last gammon in London for his bird's breakfast, when the impending apocalypse suddenly interrupts his plans.

Dark Skin Bruises Differently (Drama), Dir: Susan Wokoma, 10:50
Children lie. But when one lie threatens Ms Lawson's integrity as a teacher, can she keep on defending a student as peculiar as Maria Obasi?

Masterpiece Mommy (Drama), Dir: Dorothea Sing Zhang, 15:00
A modern musical between Tess, a mother, and her daughter Justine. After the mother falls and undergoes CT scans, the doctor recommends a mammogram. Justine accompanies her and discovers the real reason for the fall.

Yellow Bucket (Comedy, Drama), Dir: Simon Brooke, 15:29
After his family sees a news report about the cause of homosexuality, Connor, a gay teenage boy, fears his apparently supportive parents will try to assure that his younger brother doesn't grow up gay.

... and the winner of the British Shorts Jury Award 2026!

Mon 26.1. 19:30 / Sputnik Kino 1

Retrospective (#1) / Plus Q&A with the directors Ali Catterall & Jane Giles

Feature Documentary

Photo: John Waters at the Scala Cinema

Scala!!! Or, The Incredibly Strange Rise and Fall of the World's Wildest Cinema and How It Influenced a Mixed-up Generation of Weirdos and Misfits

(Documentary), Dir: Ali Catterall, Jane Giles, 96:00

"The Scala had magic, it was like joining a club, a very secret club, like a biker gang or something. It's like they were a country club for criminals and lunatics and people that were high. Which is a good way to see movies." John Waters

"Scala!!!" ist eine anarchische, ausgelassene und letztendlich herzzerreißende Langdoku, die die turbulente Inside-Story des legendären Londoner Kinos Scala von 1978 bis 1993 erzählt.

"Scala!!!" is an anarchic, uproarious, and ultimately heart-breaking big screen feature-length documentary telling the riotous inside story of London's legendary Scala cinema, 1978–1993.

Mit/*With*: Peter Strickland, Thurston Moore, Barry Adamson, Mark Moore, Matt Johnson, Princess Julia, Douglas Heart, Ben Wheatley, Isaac Julian, Caroline Catz, Stewart Lee, Adam Buxton, Cathi Unsworth, James O'Brien, Mary Harron, John Akomfrah, Jah Wobble a.o.

Mon 26.1. 20:00 / Kino Intimes

Festival Screening

Drama / Animation / Comedy / Experimental / Coming of Age

Film still: True Love

Here (Drama), Dir: Lilly Zhuang, 24:16
An unlikely romance between Kaden and Lucas, two teenagers resigned to work the East Riding strawberry fields over the Summer, is threatened by the shame and violence of being discovered.

All Hail the Duck King (Animation), Dir: Tommy Howlett, 6:02
When Bill struggles with artist's block, a figure from his past emerges.

Dating Mark Silcox (Comedy), Dir: Joe Lycett, 11:33
Unable to get a second date, Mark Silcox attempts to find love by learning to be funny. But could his joking go too far?

Seed (Drama), Dir: Sara L. Roberts & Suzy Shepherd, 16:13
Obsessed with wanting a baby, Fiona now suffers from insomnia and her grip on reality begins to elude her. After exploring her plant-filled garden one moonlit night, she receives a supernatural visitation in a dream.

True Love (Experimental, Drama, Coming of Age), Dir: Jess Dadds & Sam Giles, 4:19
A group of teenagers falls desperately in love with the same person.

Dogbone (Drama), Dir: Austen Taylor Pease, 19:52
Northern England, 2004. 16-year-old Mark plays football to stay connected to his late father. But after a teammate's suicide, the silence around him grows louder.

Grandma's Grillz (Comedy), Dir: Luis Cross, 3:40
Billy battles through London to right the mistake of a delivery company.

Mon 26.1. 22:00 / Kino Intimes

Festival Screening

Comedy / Drama / Animation / Thriller

Film still: Tulips

Undeletable (Comedy), Dir: Benjamin Blaine, Christopher Blaine, 6:29
Voice messages are tricky: Emma has to inform her Dad's lover that he has died. But a painful mistake confronts her with a brutal truth. A comedy.

A Sisyphean Task (Drama), Dir: George Malcher, Gus Flind Henry, 16:59
Lucy, a 23-year-old newly qualified teacher, struggles through her first year in the British school system. With Hugh Bonneville ("Paddington").

The Viewing (Drama), Dir: Nick Blake, 18:30
A house viewing spirals into a surreal journey for a young woman (Patsy Ferran, "God's Own Country").

Easy Sell (Comedy), Dir: Ken Abalos & Ash Meshkati, 7:10
Baz gets more than he bargained for at a charity shop when he is cornered by the odd charity shop worker, who insists he buy a dusty old wedding dress.

Tulips (Drama), Dir: Rhys Prichard, 16:00
Student filmmaker Sophie accompanies her parents to document her grandfather's last day in his home.

A Time Before (Animation), Dir: Leo Metcalf, 12:43
Between waking life and dreams, Olly delves into his childhood memories, navigating the fantastical dream worlds, his sister created.

Coyotes (Drama, Thriller), Dir: Said Zagha, 20:00
A Palestinian surgeon drives home after a long night shift, but little does she know that a commute through a desolate West Bank road will change her forever.

Tue 27.1. 19:00 / Sputnik Kino 1

Festival Screening / Documentary Special

Documentary / Animation

Film still: How Fast Can You Eat A Pickled Egg

Ultra Violet Neon Planet (Documentary), Dir: Jashan Walton, 19:02
Documentary about the cultural origins of bleep, a subgenre of house and techno that emerged in Sheffield, Leeds and Bradford in the late 1980s.

The Moment of Truth (Documentary), Dir: David Baksh, 13:20
The race to save our collective visual archive from a deepfake future is on, and will be won or lost in the next few months. Archivists, artists and technologists try to protect our past from pollution by the present.

I Am a Rebel (Animation, Documentary), Dir: Martin Pickles, 4:57
A hand-drawn comic documentary in which British veteran animator and Oscar-winner Bob Godfrey describes how he got started in Animation.

Roll Down the Window (Documentary), Dir: Lipa Hussain, 10:00
Filmmaker Lipa Hussain interrogates a neurological condition, the Alice In Wonderland syndrome, which she has experienced since childhood, and its parallels with her own religious and racial struggles.

We'll Go Down in History (Documentary), Dir: Cameron Richards & Charlie Tidmas, 25:00
The story of a grassroots trans football club, capturing the team's highs and lows on and off the pitch and the club's work for a safe space in the face of rising transphobia.

How Fast Can You Eat A Pickled Egg (Documentary), Dir: Daniel England, 13:12
The Cock Tavern in East London hosts one of the capital's quirkiest underground traditions: the pickled egg eating competition.

Tue 27.1. 19:00 / Filmrauschpalast

Retrospective (#2) / Plus Q&A with co-curator Jane Giles

Documentary / Experimental / Comedy / Drama / Horror

Film still: Coping with Cupid (1991)

Scala Rising: Anarchic Shorts from London's Legendary Underground Cinema

Das Londoner Scala Cinema (1978–1993) zog während der repressiven Thatcher-Jahre mit einem wilden Mix aus Kult- und Arthouse-Filmen, queeren Themen und endlosen Filmnächten ein breites Publikum von selbsternannten Außenseiter*innen und Sonderlingen an. Diese Retrospektive zollt der Vielseitigkeit unabhängiger Kinos Tribut und zeigt wegweisende Kurzfilme, die damals im Scala liefen.

During the repressive Thatcher years, London's Scala Cinema (1978–1993) attracted a wide audience of self-proclaimed misfits and weirdos with its wild mix of cult and arthouse films, queer themes and endless film nights. This retrospective pays tribute to the diversity of independent cinemas and shows groundbreaking short films that were screened at the Scala at the time.

Scala Cinema (1992) (Documentary), Dir: Ali Peck, Victor De Jesus, 3:46
Relax (1991) (Drama), Dir: Christopher Newby, 23:17
Coping with Cupid (1991) (Comedy), Dir: Viv Albertine, 18:56
Ballad of Reading Gaol (1988) (Experimental), Dir: Richard Kwietniowski, 11:23
Smart Alek (1993) (Drama, Horror), Dir: Andrew Kötting, 18:39
The Mark of Lilith (1986) (Horror, Experimental), Dir: Bruna Fionda, Polly Gladwin, Zach Mack-Nataf, 33:16

Wed 28.1. 20:00 / City Kino Wedding

Festival Screening / Animation Special & Audience Award Ceremony

Animation / Plus: Live-Comedy with Fay Walsh

Film still: Bus!

Special-Screening mit einer Auswahl von 14 eindrucksvollen neuen Animationen! Filmbeschreibungen auf www.britishshorts.de

Special screening featuring a selection of 14 outstanding new animations! Film descriptions at www.britishshorts.de

In Pursuit of Magic (Animation), Dir: Art&Graft, 4:31
Dragfox (Animation, Coming of Age), Dir: Lisa 'Lee' Ott, 8:10
Liminal Roots (Animation, Experimental), Dir: Aliyah Harfoot, 4:20
Green Lung (Animation), Dir: Simon Hamlyn, 3:13
Death's Peak (Animation, Dark Comedy), Dir: Willy Fair, 9:07
Dédé (Animation), Dir: Yasmine Djedje-Fisher-Azoume, 3:08
The Dog in the Long Grass (Animation), Dir: Seb Cox, 5:00
Circle of Life (Animation), Dir: Peter Millard, 3:33
Bus! (Animation), Dir: Asta Azopardi, 2:12
Portrait of My Rose (Animation), Dir: Zixin Yin, 5:59
Pops (Animation, Documentary), Dir: Ned Knight, 3:00
Knot (Animation), Dir: Zihan Chen, 4:44
Keith (Animation), Dir: Steven Fraser, 8:01
Point (Animation), Dir: Ari Sohn, 6:24

... and the winner of the British Shorts Audience Award 2026!

Thu 22.1., 20:00 / City Kino Wedding */ Part of the festival opening*

Concert: Neoangin (LoFi/Electro/Pop)

"I'm a Friendly Dog in an Unfriendly World" singt **Jim Avignon** aka Neoangin, und Friendly Dogs werden dringend gebraucht. Das One-Man-Bandprojekt brachte bereits unzählige Alben heraus und Live-Auftritte sind so bunt wie Avignons Pop-Art. Der Sound: Elektropop mit Sixties-, Chanson-, New Wave-, LoFi- und Rap-Einflüssen ... Es gibt keine Grenzen!

*"I'm a Friendly Dog in an Unfriendly World" sings **Jim Avignon**, aka Neoangin, and friendly dogs are urgently needed. The one-man band project has already released countless albums, and live performances are as colorful as Avignon's pop art. The sound: electropop with influences from the sixties, chanson, new wave, lo-fi, and rap ... There are no limits.*

Fri 23.1., 22:00 / Sputnik Kinobar

Concert: Grateful Cat (Indie/Pop/Folk)

Gwendolin und Franky sind Grateful Cat, ein Songwriter-Duo aus Berlin, das vom Geist der 60er Jahre beeinflusst ist. Vom Laurel Canyons und dem New York der Folk- und Beatszene - von den Byrds und Velvet Underground. Das original Berliner Duo ist verliebt in klassisches Songwriting, in Retro-Powerpop und Indiefolk mit schönen Harmonien. Mit wechselndem Lead-Gesang singen sie ihre Boy-Girl-Harmonies über alltäglichen Absurditäten und politischen Endzeitfragen. Von rasenden Food-Delivery Fahrern bis zur digitalen Dämmerung. Als hätten Jonathan Richman und Kim Deal eine Band gegründet.

The singer-songwriter Indie-Pop-Folk duo from Berlin consisting of Gwendolin Tägert and Franky Fuzz dwell in sweet melodies and lots of major chords inspired by the 60s scene of Laurel Canyon and New York's village. Also a healthy dose of indie 90s and twee-tastic boy-girl harmonies set the scene when Grateful Cat start singing to us, coming straight from their HQ – a cosy kitchen in Berlin-Kreuzberg.

Photo: Anna Butwell

Sat 24.1., 22:00 / Sputnik Kinobar

Concert: Diane Electro (Kitchen Leg Records, Electro/Punk)

"Im Neonlabyrinth des Berliner Undergrounds, wo Synthies surren und Punk pulsiert, taucht Diane Electro als One-Woman-Sturm auf. (...) Ihr Debütalbum "Definitiv Jein" ist eine Achterbahnfahrt voller Electro-Punk-Leidenschaft zwischen roher Aggression und zarter Verletzlichkeit." Vito Camarretta – chaindlk

"In the neon-lit labyrinth of Berlin's underground, where synths buzz and punk pulses, Diane Electro emerges as a one-woman tempest. (...) Her debut tape, "Definitiv Jein", is a 30-minute rollercoaster of electro-punk fervor, oscillating between raw aggression and tender vulnerability." Vito Camarretta – chaindlk

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Photo: Darren Holden

23.1.–28.1. / Exhibition at Sputnik Kinobar / Free entry

The Final Curtain – Photography by Darren Holden
London Cinemas – Photography by Peter Marshall

Für "The Final Curtain" hat **Darren Holden** verfallene und leerstehende Kinogebäude in ganz Großbritannien besucht. Die Reihe zeigt diese ehemaligen "Paläste des Volkes", die heute oft nur noch wenig von ihrem früheren Glanz vermitteln) (Foto oben. **Peter Marshall** fotografiert seit den 1970ern in den Straßen von London – mit einem besonderen Fokus auf Architektur. In dieser Zeit hat er viele ehemalige und noch existierende Kinos abgelichtet (Foto Seite 28). Von beiden Projekten gibt es eine Auswahl von Fotografien im Sputnik Kino zu sehen.

*For "The Final Curtain", **Darren Holden** visited dilapidated and abandoned cinema buildings throughout the United Kingdom. The series shows these former 'palaces of the people', which today often convey little of their former glory (photo above). **Peter Marshall** has been photographing in the streets of London since the 1970s – with a special focus on architecture. During this time, he photographed many former and still existing cinemas (photo page 28). A selection of photographs from both projects can be seen at Sputnik Kino.*

Photo: Peter Marshall

British Shorts Film Festival – Awards 2026!

Die Verleihung des Jury-Awards findet im Rahmen des Screenings am Sonntag, 25.1., 20 Uhr im City Kino Wedding statt (siehe S. 17), wo der Gewinnerfilm im Anschluss noch einmal zu sehen sein wird. Der Gewinnerfilm des Publikumspreises wird im Rahmen des Screenings am Mittwoch, 28.1., 20 Uhr bekanntgegeben (siehe S. 23) und – im Anschluss an ein Comedy-Live-Set mit Fay Walsh – ebenfalls noch einmal gezeigt! Die Award-Skulpturen wurden von Ilona und Torsten Elger handgefertigt.

The Jury Award ceremony will take place on 25.1., during the 8pm screening (see p. 17) and the winning film will be shown once more. The winner of the Audience Award will be announced on 28.1. after the 8pm screening (see p. 23) and will also be shown again ... following live-comedy with Fay Walsh! This year's award sculptures are handmade by Ilona and Torsten Elger.

20th British Shorts Film Festival, Berlin 2027
Call for Entries! / *Submission via www.britishshorts.de/form*

Die nächste "British Shorts"-Ausgabe ist bereits in Planung und findet im Januar 2027 statt. Ab Anfang Juni 2026 können dafür Filme eingereicht werden.

The next British Shorts edition is in the works and set to take place in January 2027. Films can be submitted from early June 2026.

24.–26.1.: Sputnik Kinobar
"Portrait" – Free Festival Workshop and 48-Hours Film Project

Der diesjährige Workshop beschäftigt sich mit dem Thema "Portrait". Es kann sich um eine Person, einen Ort, eine Idee oder eine Emotion handeln; um ein physisches, mentales, realistisches oder fantasievolles Porträt. Der Workshop wird geleitet vom britischen Filmdozenten **John Digance**, der bereits in Großbritannien, Schweden, Spanien, Russland, Pakistan und China Filmkurse durchgeführt hat.

*This year's festival workshop (including a 48-hours film project) deals with the theme "Portrait". It might be of a person, a place, an idea or an emotion; a physical, mental, realist or fantasy portrait. The workshop will be led by British film lecturer **John Digance**, who has already run film courses in the UK, Sweden, Spain, Russia, Pakistan and China.*

Anmeldung/Registration: www.britishshorts.de/workshop

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Venues & Tickets

Sputnik Kino am Südstern
Hasenheide 54, Berlin-Kreuzberg (U7 Südstern) / Tickets: Screenings 10€ (reduced* 7€), Concert 5€ / www.sputnik-kino.com

City Kino Wedding
Müllerstraße 74, Berlin-Wedding (U6 Rehberge) / Tickets: 11€ (reduced* 7€) / www.citykinowedding.de

Acudkino
Veteranenstr. 21, Berlin-Mitte (U8 Rosenthaler Platz) / Tickets: Screenings 10€ (reduced* 7€) / www.acudkino.de

Filmrauschpalast
Lehrter Str. 35, Berlin-Moabit (U+S Hauptbahnhof / Tickets: Screenings 10€ (reduced* 7€) / www.filmrausch.de

Kino Intimes
Boxhagener Str. 107, Berlin-Friedrichshain (U5 Frankfurter Tor) / Tickets: 10€ (reduced* 7€) / www.kino-intimes.de

Klick Kino
Windscheidstr. 19, Berlin-Charlottenburg (S3+5+7+9 Charlottenburg, U7 Wilmersdorfer Str.) / Tickets: 10€ (reduced* 7€) / www.klickkino.de

Xenon Kino
Kolonnenstr. 5–6, Berlin-Schöneberg (S1 Julius-Leber-Brücke)
Tickets: 10€ (reduced* 7€) / www.xenon-kino.de

* Ermäßigung nur für Empfänger*innen von Bürgergeld / *Reduced tickets only for recipients of Bürgergeld*

Details & Tickets: www.britishshorts.de

British Shorts sagt DANKE!

Thu 22.1.

20:00 **City Kino Wedding:** Opening & Short Film Screenings *(p. 3)*
& Live Music: Neoangin (aka Jim Avignon) *(p. 24)*

Fri 23.1.

18:00 **Sputnik Kino 1:** Short Film Screenings (Documentary) *(p. 4)*
19:00 **Acudkino 1:** Short Film Screenings *(p. 5)*
20:00 **Sputnik Kino 1:** Short Film Screenings *(p. 6)*
21:00 **Acudkino 1:** Festival Screenings *(p. 7)*
22:00 **Sputnik Kino 1:** Short Film Screenings *(p. 8)*
22:00 **Sputnik Kinobar:** Grateful Cat (Concert, Indie/Folk) *(p. 25)*

Sat 24.1.

12:00 **Sputnik Kinobar:** Free Festival Workshop *(Registration necessary, p. 28)*
17:00 **Sputnik Kino 1:** Short Film Screenings (Documentary) *(p. 9)*
19:00 **Sputnik Kino 1:** Short Film Screenings *(p. 10)*
20:00 **Xenon Kino:** Short Film Screenings *(p. 11)*
21:00 **Sputnik Kino 1:** Short Film Screenings *(p. 12)*
22:00 **Sputnik Kinobar:** Diane Electro (Concert, Electro/Punk) *(p. 26)*
23:30 **Sputnik Kino 1:** Midnight Movies: Horror & Weird Stuff *(p. 13)*

Sun 25.1.

15:00 **Klick Kino:** Short Film Screenings (Documentary) *(p. 14)*
17:00 **Sputnik Kino 1:** Short Film Screenings *(p. 15)*
19:00 **Sputnik Kino 1:** Short Film Screenings *(p. 16)*
20:00 **City Kino Wedding:** Short Film Screenings *(p. 17)* & Jury Award *(p. 29)*

Mon 26.1.

19:00 **Sputnik Kinobar:** Free Workshop Screening *(p. 28)*
19:30 **Sputnik Kino 1:** Retrospective (Part 1): "Scala!!!" *(p. 18)*
20:00 **Kino Intimes:** Short Film Screenings *(p. 19)*
22:00 **Kino Intimes:** Short Film Screenings *(p. 20)*

Tue 27.1.

19:00 **Sputnik Kino 1:** Short Film Screenings (Documentary) *(p. 21)*
19:00 **Filmrauschpalast:** Retrospective (Part 2): "Scala Rising" *(p. 22)*

Wed 28.1.

20:00 **City Kino Wedding:** Short Film Screenings (Animation) *(p. 23)*
& Audience Award & Live-Comedy with Fay Walsh *(p. 29)*

Cover: Film still from Jester by Harry Sherriff