FILM FESTIVAL LONDON

18 JULY 2025



WELCOME



When I first imagined this festival, it was like writing a letter to my younger filmmaker self—a reminder of what I once needed: a space to connect, to be seen, and to celebrate creativity. From the beginning, my mission was clear: to create a festival that not only showcases powerful storytelling, but also fosters genuine community.

Championing underrepresented voices has always been at the heart of this journey. Equally important was building an inclusive, welcoming environment where both emerging and established creatives could meet, collaborate, and thrive.

It brings me immense joy to welcome you today to what I hope will be the first of many Collective Film Festivals. Enjoy the films, celebrate yourself and each other—and if the mood strikes you, don't be shy at karaoke.

Anthony Vander, Festival Director



Having entered the industry through a non-traditional route, my journey has been shaped by the generosity of those who offered guidance, community, and belief. That's exactly what I hope CFL provides: a space where filmmakers at all levels can connect, collaborate, and access industry knowledge to develop their craft.

It's been a privilege to curate CFFL's inaugural programme and witness the incredible talent from around the world—each submission a testament to the importance of this platform. CFFL exists to champion underrepresented voices—not just because they deserve space, but because they are vital to the future of storytelling.

My hope is that today not only celebrates these stories, but acts as a catalyst—for connection, braver creativity, and lasting, inclusive change in the industry.

Bethany Taylor-Goh, Deputy Director



CFFL came out of a desire to build something real, generous, and ambitious. I've always been drawn to the work of bringing people into shared spaces—places where creativity can grow, where the norm is questioned, and where those often overlooked feel seen and supported.

This festival is about community, bold ideas, and backing work that moves things forward. I care deeply about the environment we've created here—one that invites connection, collaboration, and momentum. Thanks for being part of the first edition. I hope you leave with something new—a film, a conversation, or maybe even a little braver than when you arrived.

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Please note that today's screenings contain films with strong language and scenes of a violent or sexual nature.

Accessible toilets can be found next to the bar on the first floor. All venues are wheelchair accessible.

Please scan the QR Code for a Digital Version of the brochure.



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Collective Film Festival London (CFFL) was founded in response to the historic underrepresentation of minority groups across the film industry—whether in terms of race, gender, class, sexuality, or disability. Our mission is to become the premier platform for underrepresented filmmakers, championing voices at both emerging and established stages of their careers. We are committed to building a space and community where filmmakers feel seen, supported, and empowered—to connect, to grow, and to boldly disrupt the industry with their unique and necessary stories.

To achieve our mission, our outreach spans from established industry professionals to students, first-time creators, and community organisations. We are proud to present a programme dedicated entirely to emerging filmmakers, celebrating bold debuts and fresh perspectives. Our industry talk will provide valuable insights into high-level production and filmmaking, while our keynote Tanaka Fuego will blend performance and improvisation, shaped live by audience reflections on identity and representation. To support access and development, we're also offering interactive workshops on filmmaking and music for film and TV delivered by industry experts. Networking opportunities throughout the day are designed to foster connection, collaboration, and a vibrant, cross-disciplinary filmmaking community.



PARTNERS

A huge thank you to our partners without whom CFFL would not be possible. Please find more information about them on *Pages 15-16*.

BACKSTAGE

CELTX





DISTORTION ENTERTAINMENT

Promoting bone marrow & blood donation







PROPER

SCHEDULE

	MAIN THEATRE	BAR
10AM		
11AM	Programme One: In Competition 10:30AM - 12:30PM	
12PM	An Eighth of Him Cats Ophelia The Nudes Followed by Filmmaker Q&A	
1РМ		Networking & Refreshments 1PM - 2PM
2PM	Backstage Masterclass 2 - 3PM with Bryony Pullizi	
ЗРМ	, ,	Networking & Refreshments 3PM - 4PM
4РМ	Programme Two: In Competition 4PM - 6PM	
5РМ	My Jerome See You In The Dark Fractured Frame The First Time I Never Met You	
6РМ	Followed by Filmmaker Q&A & ACLT Talk	Networking &
7РМ	Keynote Performance: Tanaka Fuego 6:30PM - 7:30PM	Refreshments 6PM - 7:30PM
8РМ	Awards Ceremony 8PM - 9PM	
9PM		Afterparty & Karaoke 9PM - 10:30PM
10PM		57 M. 15.531 M

SCHEDULE

STUDIO

REHEARSAL ROOM 1

Programme Three: Out of Competition 11AM - 12:30PM

Can A Brother Get Some Peace? | Little Song | Turning Pages | Breaks | No Adams Allowed | Where Have All The Boys Gone? | Office Hours | Face to Face. Followed by Filmmaker Q&A

> iPhone Filmmaking Workshop 12:45PM - 1:45PM with Corry Raymond

Fiction Feature Film 2PM - 4PM

Dans La Peau (Under My Skin) Dir. Pascal Tessaud

Followed by Filmmaker Q&A

Bridging Sound and Story in Screenwriting | 3PM - 4PM with School Of Bop

UK Premiere: Documentary Feature 5PM - 7PM

50 Hours Underwater. A Dive For Hope Dir. Shahrzad Mazloumsaki

Followed by Filmmaker Q&A

Please note that several sessions run concurrently, so we encourage you to plan your visit in advance. Venue directions are clearly signposted throughout the building. If you need assistance at any point, our friendly CFFL volunteers—identifiable in CFFL T-shirts and lanyards—will be happy to help. All venues are fully wheelchair accessible.

KEY	
	Short Screenings
	Features
	Events & Workshops
	Networking

In Competition



An Eighth of Him (11m)

LEVI ALUEDE

Over the course of a year, a stoic drug dealer in South London forms an unexpected relationship with a buyer, inside the safe sanctuary of his car.

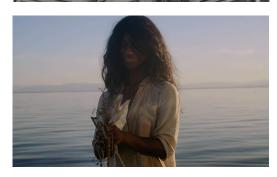


Cats (13m)

DANILO STANIMIROVIĆ

When eight-year-old Miša finds an abandoned kitten in the street, he tries to provoke the affection his parents are not providing.

A UK Premiere.



Ophelia (17m)

FRANCES LOY

An existential exploration of Ophelia's infamous descent into madness.

A UK Premiere.



The Nudes (9m)

BENJAMIN TURNER

A young woman is alone in her room when her boyfriend asks permission to send her nudes. As he sends them, each one appears, coming to life in front of her. But just when things are getting exciting, she starts being harassed when unwanted nudes from other men start to arrive. Sending non-consensual nudes was made a criminal offence in the UK in 2024.

In Competition



My Jerome (15m)

ADJANI SALMON

On the morning of, Bev and her family anticipate the verdict of her son's trial.



See You In The Dark (18m)

ASENA NOUR

On the opening night of a group exhibition, Nora, a young female artist is hacked by an ominous troll. What follows is a descent into sexual trauma, as she and her friend Kyra search for the perpetrator in a nightlong odyssey.



Fractured Frame (5m)

NATALIE LAUREN, SIMON LONDON

An actor's psyche is haunted and fractured by the relentless demands of the predatory industry she sought to break into.



The First Time I Never Met You (14m)

ERIC KOLE

John, a grieving scientist inadvertently rewinds time and finds himself at his very first date with his late wife, Esmé. But can he win over the woman who fell for the man that John no longer is?

Out of Competition

This programme features work exclusively by emerging and first-time filmmakers.



Can a Brother Get Some Peace? (5m)

AUDREY DAMIER, YVONNE SHELLING

A cinematic exploration that reimagines Black boys and men not as threats but as individuals running away from them whilst also navigating a world of their own vulnerabilities and complexities.



Little Song (5m)

JENNIFER JADE WILLIAMS

Young and naive teenager Jane is contemplating motherhood and the life of her unborn child. Home alone and scared, she builds the courage to call and seek help from her own mother. She does not pick up, leaving Jane on her own to face the weight of a potential new life.



Turning Pages (6m)

SPARKS FILM SCHOOL

Created by young filmmakers, Turning Pages is a heartfelt documentary advocating the power of reading in an increasingly digital age.



Breaks (9m)

CHRISTINA YIANNI

A deeply personal documentary that follows Team England Parasurfer and Paralympian, Hannah Dines, who lives with cerebral palsy and PSC, from the shores of Wales to California to compete in the World Championships.

Out of Competition



No Adams Allowed (12m)

GEMMA BURNAND

In this dark comedy, queer couple Gina and Fay are tested when they kidnap Adam, Gina's former client, to reclaim unpaid sex work fees – only to find him dead in the boot.



Where Have All The Boys Gone? (8m)

CHLOË HOUSAM

When the men in Billie's life start vanishing without explanation, she's drawn into a strange and growing mystery no one else can see.



Face to Face (13m)

DANNY JEFFS

Following a vicious hate crime, three siblings come face to face with the man who killed their mother, but when tensions are high, can they find the closure they seek?



Office Hours (7m)

OTILIA DE ROYER, ANICA HAMED

Luna drifts between two lives—one stifling, one electric. A chance encounter sparks something deep, unraveling the boundary between escape and truth.

UK Premiere Event

FEATURES

50 Hours Underwater (1hr 8m)

SHAHRZAD MAZLOUMSAKI | GERMANY, MALDIVES

This powerful documentary follows **Shafraz Naeem**, a Maldivian ex-navy diver, as he embarks on a record-setting 50-hour dive in Kuda Guri to raise awareness about the devastating impact of plastic pollution on marine life. *50 Hours Underwater* sheds light on the impact of tourism on the Maldivian marine ecosystems, and is a powerful testament to endurance, community, and the urgent fight to protect our seas.

Shafraz Naeem is the founder of Ocean Six Fifty - who's primary objective is preserving and safeguarding the Maldives' marine ecosystems through conservation programs and environmental campaigns, emphasising the harmful impacts of plastic pollution on local communities.

Today's screening of 50 Hours Underwater marks their **UK Premiere.** It will be followed by a **Q&A** led by Presh Williams (Big Picture Film Club).







FEATURES

Dans La Peau (1hr 39m)

PASCAL TESSAUD | FRANCE

Dans La Peau (Under My Skin) follows **Kaleem**, a Krump dancer returning to his hometown in North Marseille after his release from prison. There, he meets Marie, a mysterious Greek architect from a different world. Their connection unfolds against the backdrop of a city marked by deep cultural and social divides, and their struggle to find a place within it. In this genre-mixing film, Pascal confronts class, race, maculunity, and the pull between personal freedom and collective loyalty.

Dans La Peau was shot with over 80% first-time actors and dancers from the local Marseille community.

Today's screening will be preceded by a video introduction from Director Pascal Tessaud, and followed by a **Q&A** led by Anthony Vander.







WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

iPHONE FILMMAKING: Create a 90-Second Short | 12.45pm - 1.45pm

Join **award-winning filmmaker Corry Raymond** and learn how to craft a professional 90-second film using just your iPhone. Master the basics of screenwriting, shot selection, and directing, and discover how to make high-quality films on a mobile device. Perfect for beginners and those looking to enhance their skills in mobile filmmaking.

Corry Raymond is an award-winning filmmaker with credits spanning Amazon Prime and Channel 4 series, as well as **BAFTA and Oscar-qualifying short films**. A highly skilled cinematographer, Raymond is known for crafting visually striking and emotionally resonant stories that leave a lasting impact.

BACKSTAGE ™ MASTERCLASS | 2-3pm

Screening of **BAFTA-shortlisted short film Roy**, followed by discussion with producer **Bryony Pulizzi**. It will provide insights into developing original work, from casting and budgeting to festival strategy.

Bryony Pulizzi is a **producer and filmmaker** whose career in film started on **Oscar Winning short** *The Silent Child.* Her producing debut was *Roy* (2022), a heartfelt short from Academy Award–winning company Slick Films. The film not only resonated with audiences but also earned a BAFTA shortlist nod. Other work includes *Ryan Can't Read*, directed by Rhys Chapman. Centred on adult literacy struggles, the film Oscar–qualified for the 2025 Academy Awards, winning acclaim for its emotional resonance and social impact.

Bryony also served as producer on *Gladstone Girls*, further highlighting her commitment to compelling independent drama, and is currently associate producing the upcoming feature *Sticks and Shelter*, expanding her portfolio into new feature-length territory. In addition, she took on the role of associate producer on *Chork*, recently wrapped under the direction of acclaimed filmmaker Shane Meadows.

Bryony is the **Casting Specialist at Backstage in the UK** and works closely with upcoming talent, helping talent to find and create opportunities for themselves and working towards making the industry as accessible as possible.



WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

SCHOOL OF BOP: Bridging Sound & Story in Screenwriting | 3-4pm

Learn how filmmakers and composers collaborate to craft powerful cinematic moments through music in this interactive session. With insights from the **director duo Cristina and Kabelo** of Thunder City Films and **composer R-Kay**, we unpack the conversation from director to composer, demonstrating how tone, pace, and emotion can be effectively translated into musical direction. Participants will learn how to write about music with intention, reference sound without overstepping, and bridge the gap between script and score. Ideal for screenwriters, directors, and producers who want to level up their storytelling and communicate effectively with music departments.



Intalekt (Josh Oladipo) is South London producer, multigenre DJ, mentor and producer blending electronic psychedelia with soulful jazz who has worked with Kojey Radical, Jay Prince, Lex Amor and more. Founder of School of Bop, he mentors young creatives through interactive workshops. Find out more about School of Bop on *Page 15*.



Cristina and Kabelo of Thunder City Films are known for their award-winning documentaries, motion capture projects, and short films, including *The Light*. Their work is rooted in their communities and champions underrepresented voices - telling queer, neurodivergent, and immigrant stories in cinema!



R-Kay is a South London-born composer and IVORSnominated producer, who blends classical training with modern soul, hip-hop and jazz. Recent credits include *Noname's Sundial*, Ghetts' *On Purpose, With Purpose*, and Channel 4's *Damilola*: The Boy Next Door

ACLT talk | 5:45pm - 6pm

ACLT (African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust) is a UK charity committed to raising awareness and increasing stem cell, blood, and organ donations to help save the lives of patients from Black and ethnic minority communities. They will be providing a short talk in the Main Theatre after Programme 2, from 5:45-6pm. If you'd like to find out more about them or sign up as a donor, please visit their stand in the main foyer from 4pm -7:30pm.

WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

KEYNOTE PERFORMANCE WITH TANAKA FUEGO | 6:30-7:30pm

Slam-winning, international spoken word artist Tanaka Fuego brings a one-off live keynote performance exploring identity, visibility, and the stories we've yet to see onscreen. Blending poetry, presence and audience reflections, this is a space where storytelling moves beyond the frame — where the unsaid, unseen and collective experiences come alive in real time. It's a communal offering of the near, now and imagined future. Where thought isn't defined by intention, but by inflection. Rooted in



Tanaka's work around wellness, expression and transformative justice, this performance asks: What part of your story has never been seen on screen? And what should the film industry be listening for next? Whether you're a filmmaker, writer, artist or dreamer, this is an unmissable chance to witness a performer shape something new — with you, and for you.

Tanaka Fuego is a slam winning, multi-published, international spoken word artist, a qualified mental health first aider, facilitating workshops for all people in identity and expression as a wellness practice to speaking on diversity and inclusion. Tanaka is dedicated to transformative justice, and journey to one gaining autonomy.



Please share your thoughts live in session via the QR code below. Tanaka will incorporate your responses into their performance.

What part of your story has never been seen on screen?

What do you wish the film industry truly understood about you or your community?



AWARDS

We were honoured to receive an overwhelming number of submissions from over 15 countries in our inaugural year. The range of bold, original, and captivating storytelling made the selection process both inspiring and incredibly competitive. It's a testament to the power and urgency of underrepresented voices in film today.



Our awards will be presented during the Awards Ceremony, taking place in the Main Theatre from 8–9pm. This year's awards are as follows:

Best Actor

The recipient of the *Best Actor* Award will receive a CFFL trophy and a **free showreel package**, directed by award-winning filmmaker and full BAFTA member Anthony Vander.

Best Director

The recipient of the *Best Director* Award will receive a CFFL trophy and a **One Year** Celtx Writer Pro Subscription.

Rest First-Time Filmmaker

The recipient of the *Best First-Time Filmmaker* Award will receive a CFFL trophy and a **mentorship session** with **Bryony Pulizzi.**

Best Screenplay

The recipient of the *Best Screenplay* Award will receive a CFFL trophy and a **One Year Celtx Writer Pro Subscription.**

Best Film: LWL Filmmaker Award

The recipient of the *Best Film* Award will receive a CFFL trophy and a **mentorship** session with Bryony Pulizzi and Anthony Vander.

Celebration Award

The celebration award is presented to **Ambitious Academy**: a grassroots social enterprise based in Islington, co-founded by Shawdon Smith and Philip Stasopoullos. Through creative mentoring, film, and community engagement, they empower young people—particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds—to build confidence and pursue positive futures. Their impactful projects have inspired thousands and continue to transform lives across the Borough.

PARTNERS

Backstage

Backstage is a leading platform connecting talent with casting professionals across film, television, theatre, and digital media. For over 60 years, Backstage has empowered actors, performers, and creatives by providing access to casting calls, industry news, and expert resources—supporting careers from first auditions to major roles.

Little White Lies

Established in 2005, Little White Lies is Europe's largest independent film media brand. Committed to championing great movies and the talented people who make them, the magazine combines cutting-edge design, illustration, photography and journalism across print, digital, video, and the weekly Truth & Movies podcast. Their reviews feature a unique tripartite ranking system that captures the different aspects of the movie-going experience. Little White Lies have kindly provided complimentary copies of their Sinners Edition Magazine for CFFL attendees, which can be found at the front doors (limited copies available).

Celtx

Celtx is an all-in-one scriptwriting and pre-production software built for creators at every stage. Whether you're writing your first short or planning a feature film, Celtx helps bring your ideas to life with tools for screenwriting, story development, collaboration, and production planning. Write, plan, and organise your project—from script to shoot—all in one place. This year, Celtx are sponsoring our Best Director and Best Screenplay Awards by providing one-year Celtx Writer Pro memberships to the winners.

FilmCor

FilmCor is guided by the visionary leadership of founder Corry Raymond, an acclaimed and award-winning filmmaker, recently named Pro Moviemaker's Filmmaker of the Year 2025. Since its founding in 2014, FilmCor has delivered compelling content for major corporations and broadcasters, including Channel 4. Under Raymond's direction, the team consistently produces work defined by high-end visuals and human-centered storytelling—crafting resonant narratives that captivate and inspire audiences.

School of Bop

A London-based creative initiative empowering young people through music, mentorship, and industry access. Founded to support the next generation of artists, it delivers hands-on workshops, career guidance, and live performance opportunities. With collaborators such as UAL, Somerset House, Nike, Native Instruments, and Beats by Dre, the School of Bop has worked with over 150 young creatives, helping them develop skills and pathways into the industry. Blending innovation with community, School of Bop is shaping the future of music by equipping young people with the tools to thrive.

PARTNERS

Thespians Ruin

More than just a bar, Thespians Ruin is an independent, dedicated space for actors—a welcoming lounge designed for relaxation, connection, and community. With a team attuned to the unique rhythms of performance life, the venue fosters an environment where creative minds can thrive. From monologue slams to open mic nights and more, Thespians Ruin offers a vibrant hub for artistic expression and collaboration.

ACLT

ACLT is a UK charity dedicated to raising awareness around stem cell, blood, and organ donation, with a focus on supporting patients from Black and ethnic minority communities. Their mission is to provide hope and save lives by tackling health inequalities and increasing donor registrations.

Distortion Entertainment

Since 2009, Distortion Entertainment has established a presence on the global stage, with films screening at prestigious festivals such as Cannes, the American Black Film Festival, and Aesthetica. For over a decade, the company has collaborated with visionary talent from around the world—and the journey is just beginning.

Proper

Proper is proud to support Collective Film Festival London, celebrating bold stories and big flavour. Their seasonings are 100% natural, and they say no to palm oil—because doing things properly means caring about people and the planet. Great films deserve great snacks, done properly. Follow @proper and join the conversation with #PracticePROPERSnacking

Cano Water

Cano Water is proud to support Collective Film Festival London, championing creativity while promoting a more sustainable future. With a mission to reduce single-use plastic through their infinitely recyclable cans, Cano Water is helping communities like this one stay refreshed and eco-friendly. Supporting the arts and the environment go hand in hand. Follow @canowater and join the movement with #DontBottlelt!

FILM APPENDIX

FEATURES

50 Hours Underwater

Director Shahrzad Mazloumsaki. Maldives, Germany 2025 DoP Victor Oonk. Runtime 68 mins

Dans La Peau

Director-Writer Pascal Tessaud. France 2025
DOP David Picard Runtime 99 mins

SHORTS

An Eighth of Him

Director Levi Aluede. UK 2024 **Writer** Samson Ajewole **DoP** Samira Oberberg **Runtime** 11 mins

Breaks

Director Christina Yianni. UK, US 2024 DoP Noé Silue Runtime 9 mins

Can A Brother Get Some Peace?

Directors Audrey Damier, Yvonne Shelling. UK 2025 Writers Khevyn BE Ibrahim, Yvonne Shelling DoP Khevyn BE Ibrahim Runtime 5 mins

Cats

Director-Writer Danilo Stanimirović. Serbia, Switzerland 2025 DoP Aleksa Borković Runtime 10 mins

Face to Face

Director Danny Jeffs. UK 2025 Writers Alpha Kamara, Danny Jeffs. DoP Eduardo Jed Camara Runtime 13 mins

Fractured Frame

Directors Natalie Lauren, Simon London. UK 2025 Writer Natalie Lauren. DoP Helena Gonzalez. Runtime 5 mins

Little Song

Director-Writer Jennifer Jade Williams. UK 2024 DoP Cheryl Hoi Yan Lay Runtime 5 mins

My Jerome

Director-Writer Adjani Salmon. UK 2023 DoP Korsshan Schlauer Runtime 15 mins

No Adams Allowed

Director Gemma Burnand. UK 2025 Writer Emma O'Dwyer DoP Kit Mackenzie Runtime 12 mins

Office Hours

Directors Otilia De Royer, Anica Hamed. UK 2025 **Writers** Tyrone C Miller, Otilia De Royer **DoP** Corry Raymond **Runtime** 7 mins

Ophelia

Director-Writer Frances Loy. US 2024 DoP Tanisha Moreno Runtime 17 mins

See You In The Dark

Director-Writer Asena Nour. UK 2023 DoP Dylan Bruce Runtime 18 mins

The First Time I Never Met You

Director-Writer Eric Kole. UK, 2024 DoP Michael Fllocamo Runtime 14 mins

The Nudes

Director-Writer Benjamin Turner. UK 2024 DoP Tee Visuals Runtime 9 mins

Turning Pages

Director, DoP Sparks Film School. UK 2024 Runtime 6 mins

Where Have All The Boys Gone?

Director-Writer Chloë Housam. UK 2025. DoP Corry Raymond Runtime 8 mins

THANK YOU

On behalf of the CFFL team, a huge thank you for supporting CFFL's inaugural year. We hope to see you next year!

Liked what you saw? Stay part of our community on Instagram at @collectivefilmfestivallondon for all CFFL coverage, and join the conversation at #CFFL25

If you'd like to reach out about your film or getting involved with CFFL, please contact anthony.vander@collectiveactingstudio.co.uk





Dollective Film Festival London 👩 @collectivefilmfestivallondon



CFFI 2025 Team

Festival Director: Anthony Vander Festival Deputy Director: Bethany Taylor-Goh Festival Producer: Laura Battisti Technical Team: Rory Cargill, Alessandro De Simone Photographers: Catherine Mills, Alexander Miles-Grant **Festival Volunteers**

With thanks to

Collective Arts Community Trust Backstage, Celtx, Little White Lies Cano Water, Proper, FilmCor, School Of Bop, ACLT, Thespians Ruin, Distortion Entertainment



Collective Film Festival London

18th July 2025

https://collectiveactingstudio.co.uk/film-festival/

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