HB FILM FESTIVAL

2026

THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER

Doors Open: 6pm
Event Closes: 11.00pm

Opening Panel Event: In A World Of Sound

6pm – 8pm

HOSTED BY

CREATIVE RENFREWSHIRE

Join us for a panel discussion exploring the ever-changing world of sound in film. Sound operators, engineers, designers and composers come together to share their experiences, discuss the craft and look to what the future might hold.

With AI rapidly changing the creative industries, is it another powerful tool to embrace or should we be concerned about the future of our jobs? Come along for a thought-provoking conversation about creativity, technology, and the future of sound.

Panel discussion commences 6.30pm, with opportunity for networking afterwards.

Opening Shorts

8pm – 8.45pm

We're delighted to welcome you to the 2026 festival with a selection of short films.

PEACE OF HEART

Dir. Ana Songel

After remembering a family-woven island tale, young Ailsa ventures into a dreamlike world, in search of her absent father and a way to heal their hearts

PERSONAL BEST

Dir. Nadia Valkanova

An ode to urban running, mental health and the changing face of the city.

BOUND

Dir. Vikram Dasgupta

A Bangladeshi-Canadian nurse's chance encounter with a stranger in a corner store and the chain of events that follow, forcing her to confront the weight of her past and the haunting question of whether our lives are determined by fate or free will.

CHIMERA

Dir. Paul Sng

A shocking revelation forces a widow to wrestle with her conscience over whether to release her late husband's final novel.

THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER

Doors Open: 6pm
Event Closes: 11pm

Late Night with HB

9pm – 10.15pm

The best stories never sleep – and these late night thrills might keep you up too!

SECOND SKIN

Dir. Jack-Murrary Birrell

After being sexually assaulted on a night out, a young woman's body becomes infected with black mold and is forced to confront the aftermath of the attack.

BROKEN DAWN

Dir. Hae-0h Park

An elderly woman drives through the dawn in a drive-my-car service to soothe her loneliness. But those she most wishes to connect with are the ones who make her feel the loneliest.

THE VISITOR

Dir. Savas Alpaltun

When Karim, a sharp-tongued but slightly shady shopkeeper, is visited by Azrael, the world-weary Angel of Death, their darkly comic argument over fate, faith, and crisps spirals into a surreal bureaucratic showdown that exposes the absurd machinery behind the afterlife itself.

FLYING WITH THE CROWS

Dir. Hawaii Fivo, Michael Cooke

When a night of celebration is interrupted by a vengeful drug dealer, a young man uncovers a betrayal that forces him to choose between revenge and the lifelong friendship he's never been able to leave behind.

BRAVE REBEL ARMY

Dir. Michelle D'Alessandro Hatt

After a terrifying incident on campus involving one of their own, four young women seek justice by taking matters into their own hands.

ALONE

Dir. Lyndon Cantwell, Nisha Selvaraj

After a chance meeting at a grief support group, Maya receives an unexpected invitation that promises comfort and connection – but slowly discovers that the empty guest list and eerie noises uncover a sinister trap.

NETWORKING & DRINKS TILL 11PM.

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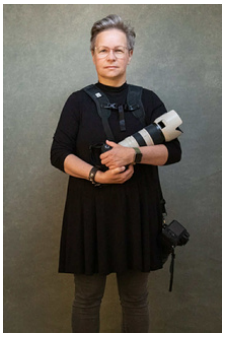
FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER

Doors Open (for films): 6pm
Event Closes: 11pm

Mini Headshot Sessions with Sonja Blietschau

10am – 5.30pm



Book a relaxed 30 minute headshot session with professional headshot photographer Sonja. Includes time for 1 outfit change, 2 fully edited headshots (option to purchase more) and a private online gallery.

Visit Sonja's website.

Advance booking required: Book your session via this link.

Thank Film It's Friday

7pm – 8.30pm

Kick off your weekend in style – grab a drink, some popcorn and enjoy a variety of genres of shorts.

BIRTHDAY SUIT

Dir. Lisanne Sweere

An insecure girl is taken to a nudist campsite

THE COFFIN ROAD

Dir. Alistair Kerr

A story about the ancient Coffin Road on the Isle of Harris Scotland where coffins were carried from the east coast to the west coast for burial as the ground was unsuitable for digging graves on the east coast.

BEAUTIFUL BIRDS

Dir. Tommy Clarke

When a widowed birdwatcher reluctantly teams up with her granddaughter for a local birdwatching competition on the Isle of Bute, their search for rare species becomes a heartfelt journey through grief, love, and letting go.

DIGITAL DETOX

Dir. iCLIC Collective

To free her from digital addiction, a shamanic psychotherapist subjects a young model to three extreme rituals that could either destroy her or lead to her rebirth.

MIRROR SISTER

Dir. Lucy Keegan

A Gaelic animated short film about the experience of comparison and sibling rivalry.

INVERLARACH

Dir. Alice Howlett

A senior politician navigates a scandal with the help of her closest aide.

FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER

Doors Open: 6pm
Event Closes: 11pm

Shorts After Dark

9pm – 10pm

Short, dark and worth staying up for!

RUBIK'S CUBE

Dir. Lars Hogendoorn, Yannick Van den Ende

A young overwhelmed child is confronted by a school shooting

HOAX

Dir. Emma Sinclair, Sean Langdon

A live stream seance turns into a real-life nightmare when Jenna accidentally invites a malicious entity into her home.

NEVER MY LOVE

Dir. Nicolò Grasso

In a Berlin nightclub, a lonely man is seduced by a mysterious person, who then invites him to spend an unforgettable night together with their partner.

POLY BAGGAGE

Dir. Emma Ramsay

Polly's been dumped and she's done something drastic, she's cut out her own heart – literally.

DATING. IT'S COMPLICATED

Dir. Daniely Martins, Jimena Rosas

What starts as a simple date quickly turns into a night of fear when a woman senses something isn't right.

SUNDOWNING

Dir. Aimie Willemse

Left alone with her estranged grandmother, a perceptive nine-year-old sees her become something monstrous, navigating a night of fear, confusion, and the thin line between love and survival.

NETWORKING & DRINKS TILL 11PM.

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER

Doors Open (for films): 12.30pm
Event Closes: 11pm

Screen Scotland Talent Builder: Programme Q&A

10am - 12.45pm

Hear about the programmes and support on offer from Screen Scotland's Talent Builder. Comissioners from Opening Shot, GMAC's Little Pictures, Take Three and First Draft will run through what their programmes offer participants, eligibility criteria, current application deadlines and tips on how to draft a strong application.

Session commences from 10.30am, includes an audience Q&A followed by a networking brunch.

No Scotland, No Party

1pm - 2pm

Short films with big Scottish energy!

AFTER THE LINE

Dir. Ben Fitzhugh

On the brink of defending his national title, Logan Maclean grapples with his career goals, others expectation of him, and pursuit of his physical limits.

PARTY POOPER

Dir. Sharon Mackay

When one sister faces the surprisingly daunting task of her first bowel movement after giving birth, the other must confront her own fears and learn to embrace the messy beautiful changes in their relationship or risk drifting apart.

HERE WE GO AGAIN

Dir. Karina Widomska, James Alexander Gilhooly

Farah and Milo take a trip to the place they met, to try jog Farahs memories.

THE WEAVERS

Dir. Callum McCulloch-Nowlan

Scotland's weaving tradition hangs by a thread.

PISS UP

Dir. Ruan Patrick Hughes

During a drunken altercation on a stag-do, Callum witnesses a dark side to the man who will soon marry his sister.

BLOODY HOUSEWARMING

Dir. Kevin Coronel

A couple's date is interupted by a neighbour's invitation.

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER

Doors Open: 12.30pm
Event Closes: 11pm

Weekend Dramas

2.30pm - 4pm

Because what's a weekend without a bit of drama?

JIGSAW

Dir. Isla Lynch

After the death of their Granny, two sisters find solace in her untouched bedroom.

HANDLE WITH CARE

Dir. Dylan Blore

A patient struggling with their mental health, and a an under resourced GP, find themselves caught in a broken healthcare system.

DON'T FEEL SORRY FOR ME!

Dir. Eir í Ólavsstovu

When heartbreak strikes, the mask slips and you can't help but scream in public.

DOG VIOLET

Dir. Alec Bowman_Clarke

After a humiliating self-tape appears to have been repurposed into a fake streaming trailer, a struggling actor confronts the industry people responsible, only to find the real horror may be closer to home.

EMPATHY REHEARSALS

Dir. Jacopo Cullin

A bully learns, through theater, to step into others' shoes.

ROBERT

Dir. Aidan Donnachie

One man. One day. One life changing phone call.

SLUMBER SEAS

Dir. Evelyn Laurie

A stop motion animation to support an original somg about sleeping and dreaming.

Feast For The Eyes

4.15pm - 6pm

Short films that look as good as they feel.

CERNUNNOS

Dir. Kyle Craig

A Pictish slave begins to question his loyalties to his Roman master after receiving a vision from a Pagan god.

BLEEDING

Dir. Dany Horiuchi

A young woman struggles with her mental health.

SLEEPING WITH GUS

Dir. Anthony Raymond

In a sleek, surreal restaurant teeming with flamboyant patrons, Gustavo, a soft-spoken young man, unwittingly becomes the center of a seductive and mysterious web of intrigue.

Feast For The Eyes (cont.)

4.15pm - 6pm

CÙIL LODAIR

Dir. Will Nutter

Set during the aftermath of the infamous battle of Culloden, Cùil Lodair follows Eòin, a defeated highland soldier navigating a shattered landscape. Hunted, alone, and haunted by what he has witnessed, his journey becomes not just one of survival, but of revenge. A Gàidhlig and English short film.

PACT

Dir. David C. Murphy

In an attempt to lose weight, a heartbroken woman is consensually blackmailed by a dominatrix.

SILENT MODE

Dir. Georgi Petkov

Two old friends navigate nightlife in their quiet Bulgarian town, carrying the vibrations of unspoken resentment, but by the morning, they are forced to reckon with what it means to "be a man."

ON THE TWELFTH DAY OF FINDOM

Dir. Caitlin Black, Joanne Thomson

From the confines of the supermarket staff room, a Christmas Temp dips her toe into the little known world of Financial Domination.

Fear in Focus

6.45pm - 8pm

This showcase of shorts will get right under your skin!

WINGS

Dir. Fiori Miari

Wings is a story of two estranged friends forced to confront their past, when one unexpectedly re-enters the other's life seeking a dangerous favour that could either mend their fractured bond or tear them apart forever.

MILO

Dir. Ryan Jeffrey Ross

A teenager tracks his older brother to an RV park, only to discover something sinister.

UNSILENCED

Dir. Maria Sapouna, Robert McLean

A true crime documentary that details the story of Ann Moulds, a survivor of stalking who campaigned successfully for stalking to be recognised as a crime and to carry tougher penalties in the UK.

GILDA

Dir. Matty Ride-Smith

Gilda agrees to cover her friend's shift as a kids club facilitator but will anyone turn up and will the night ever end?

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER

Doors Open: 12.30pm
Event Closes: 11pm

Fear in Focus (cont.)

6.45pm – 8pm

POPPER

Dir. Bonnie Sanderson

A young pregnant Audre and her conformist mother visit a clinic to pick up a new untested drug that guarantees beauty for unborn daughters.

LATCH

Dir. Chelsea Walker

A woman who is convinced she's been followed home locks her front door – but is that enough to keep her fears at bay?

WHAT REMAINS

Dir. Corey Bond

A couple in the late stages of pregnancy come face to face with a physical manifestation of their grief.

Premature: Feature Film + Writer/Director Q&A

8.30pm – 10.30pm

We are delighted to welcome Kevin Walls to discuss how he has moved from writing and directing short films to feature films. Hosted by festival director Gary Hewitt, please bring your questions – audience participation encouraged! Kevin will then introduce his own feature film, Premature.

PREMATURE

Dir. Kevin Walls

After an impulsive one-night stand leads to an unexpected pregnancy, flatmates Cameron and Eilidh must confront who they are, and who they want to be, before the baby arrives.

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SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER

Doors Open (for films): 12pm
Event Closes: 11pm

The Power of Presence: An Introduction to Speaking With Intention

10.00am – 12pm

WITH KIRSTY STRAIN

A practical workshop exploring how presence, body, breath and intention can help you speak with greater confidence, connection and impact.

Separate ticket required: available on Eventbrite, book here

Afternoon Delights

12.30pm – 1.30pm

Delight your Sunday afternoon with these shorts.

THE EXPERT

Dir. Struan Stewart

Emma and Philip are both interviewing for the role of "Happiness Expert" at a company – but who deserves that position more?

KONGFRONTATION

Dir. Ashley Newquist, Eddie Newquist

Epic struggles to build a billion dollar theme park.

THE CHOICE

Dir. Tatjana Anders

When a woman comes face-to-face with three future versions of herself on a surreal speed-date, she must choose what she wants from life – and confront the impossible standards placed on women in our modern society.

THE ROCKET

Dir. Pedro Chaves

A woman struggling with the loss of her father confronts her grief by restoring the model rocket they built during her childhood.

233 YEARS OF LUCK

Dir. David MacCormack

Fortune favours the few, misfortune favours the rest

CLOSE

Dir. Robert Ripley

Through his late father's negatives, a son confronts a difficult, distant love; what he develops carries him and his mother back to the beach where they were made.

THE CYCLING ADVENTURES OF LETTICE BLY

Dir. Nicole Sarah Fry

In the 1890s countryside, Lettice Bly learns to ride a bicycle with the help of her new scientific friend.

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER

Doors Open: 12pm
Event Closes: 11pm

I Need A Hero

1.45pm – 3.30pm

Every story needs a hero – see them all here!

GIRLS WILL BE GIRLS

Dir. Isabel Steuble-Johnson

When two young aristocrats stumble upon a maid being assaulted, they "save the day" by killing the perpetrator. As the trio transport him to the woods to dispose of the body it turns out it's an average day and each female plays their part.

WITHDRAW

Dir. Yifan Xiang

A financially strained medical student, Jesse, becomes entangled in a shady surrogacy program, where she faces the brutal realities of human exploitation and moral compromise.

DICK'S-A-THON

Dir. Dylan Young

Seattle's wackiest marathon involves eating 3 burgers, french fries, and a milkshake, but has an origin with a lot of heart.

THE LINGERING

Dir. Gabe Reiss

An amateur exorcist tries to help a man rid his house of a ghost, only to find that his client's relationship to the tormenting spirit is more familiar and complicated than he expected

COW FARM

Dir. Natasha Goulden

In a utopian biotech empire where women are farmed as cattle, Sofia discovers they can transform into beasts and start a revolution against the brutal corporation Cows Inc.

X & O

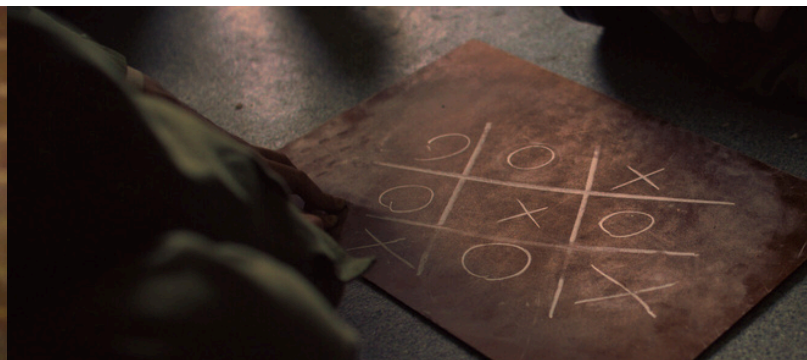
Dir. Ryan Cruise

Two prisoners of war break the language barrier and find humanity in the simple act of playing a game of noughts and crosses for bread, until a sinister soldier changes the stakes.

WHO WE ARE Nº1 - MOM

Dir. Leonardo Casarolli

A child asks the same question to people of different ages to understand how the meaning of life changes over time.



SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER

Doors Open: 12pm
Event Closes: 11pm

Strange Worlds

4pm - 5.30pm

Step into the unexpected!

UNDERTONE

Dir. Shaun Munro

A sound recordist captures strange sonic phenomena underneath their house and things... escalate from there.

TODD & THE TOAD

Dir. Julia Mücke

To cope with his social anxiety, Todd licks a mysterious toad... only to awaken in a bizarre therapy session with Juan Carlos, a charismatic psychologist claiming to be part of Todd's "corrective experience."

THE ECHO EXPERIENCE

Dir. Michael Guest

A mournful young man seeks comfort in a new, cutting-edge grief counseling service.

THE BENEATH

Dir. Lisette Vlassak

Haunted by pressure and self-doubt, young model Lone retreats to her garden, her only refuge from a world that consumes her. But when a mysterious underground creature begins destroying her sanctuary, Lone's battle to save it forces her to confront something far darker than what lurks beneath the soil: herself.

2389: COMING HOME

Dir. Kateryna Sazonova

Two humans, a scientist and a soldier from Martian colony, come to Earth destroyed by climate change and resource wars, to find out if it is livable once again; during the research they decide to alter their findings and prevent repopulation.

GOOD SERVICE

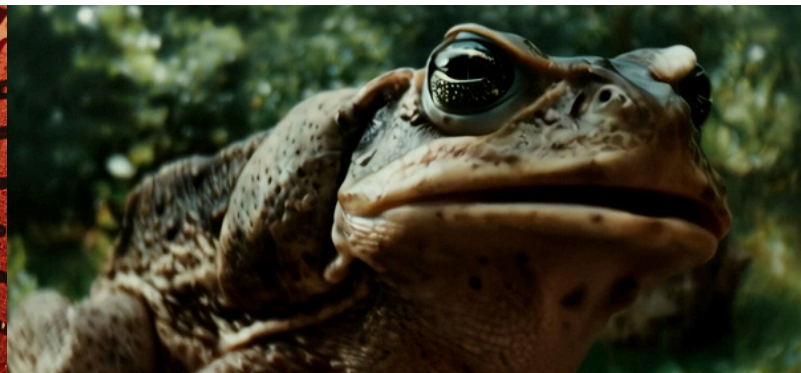
Dir. Junda Wu

Alex relies on his apartment's AI to navigate life and find love but must choose between it's guidance or the beauty of real connection.

THE FUTURE OF CINEMA

Dir. Benedict Terry

Get ready for the latest developments in cinematic technology, as told by a mid-20th century monarch.



SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER

Doors Open: 12pm
Event Closes: 11pm

A Wee Laugh

6pm – 7pm

Ending on a high before the awards with some comedy shorts!

BAXTER HAMMOND: P.I.

Dir. Scott McCartney

Baxter Hammond takes on hauntings, exorcisms, and monster therapy with quiet conviction, despite possessing neither the skills nor the clarity the job requires.

GAN CANNY

Dir. Lou Burns, Aaron Burns

A dead funny tale of grief, grudges, Geordie culture, and grand theft hearse.

THE MOUTH

Dir. Scott Christopher McIntosh

Sandy and Taylor turn to a couple's therapist to mend their strained relationship, particularly Taylor's sharp tongue – as the session unfolds, the therapist suspects the "voice" behind Taylor's outbursts may not be entirely in their head.

BLK FRIDAY

Dir. Adrian Jules

On Black Friday, a group of unsuspecting shoppers find themselves locked inside a retail store where a sinister voice announces a deadly game: survive the night, and walk away with a life-changing prize.

FOR THE LOVE OF LAURIE

Dir. Jospeh McCawley

In a bid to express his feelings to his long-time crush, an unpolished Glaswegian tradesman opts to try his hand at spoken word poetry.

SOULLESS

Dir. Graham Roberston

A struggling scriptwriter is confronted by temptation to make his life a little easier...

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER

Doors Open: 12pm
Event Closes: 11pm

Awards Night!

7.45pm – 10pm

A selection of music videos alongside the awards announcements, hosted by our wonderful festival hosts, Bev & Carol!

GLASGOW TOWN

Dir. Michael J Ferns

A young boy's murder takes its toll on a weathered detective grappling with the duality of a city hailed as both the friendliest city in the world and the murder capital of Europe.

STROLLING DOWN BRIGHTON PIER

Dir. Keny McCracken

A young Edwardian gentleman, working as a photographer, falls madly in love with a captivating woman as she takes her daily stroll down Brighton Pier.

THE HIGH KING'S DAUGHTER

Dir. Joël Gibbs

A lowly stable-boy working for the Irish royal household is instantly smitten when he first sees the captivating and spirited High King's Daughter.

DOBRINA

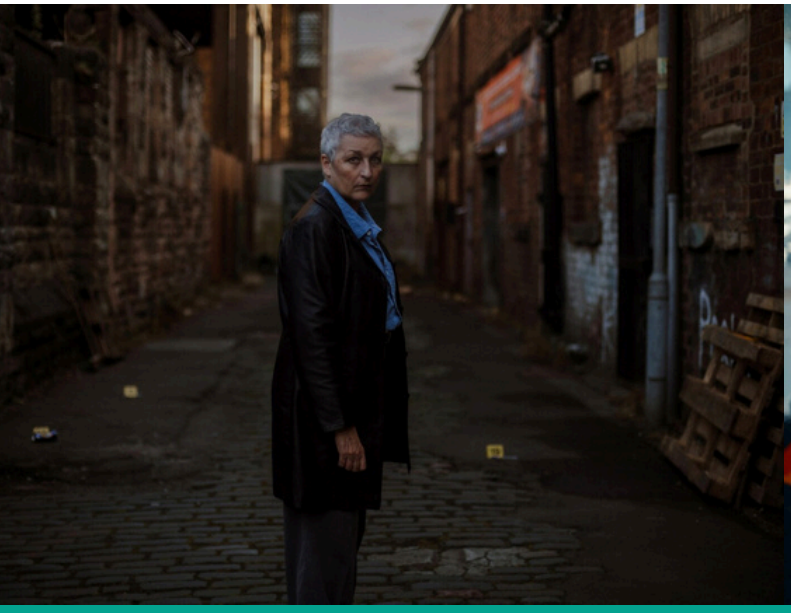
Dir. Hannes Rall

Lotte Reiniger meets Sergio Leone in this animated short, where desire burns as bright as the desert sun.

WALK ALL OVER ME

Dir. Brett Ryder

A man finally hits his breaking point in a relationship and is not going to take it any more.



CELEBRATE TILL 11PM!