



PRESS RELEASE – British & Irish Film Festival Luxembourg 2024 SPRING EDITION launched

EMBARGOED UNTIL MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2024 @ 09:30

Luxembourg, 26 February 2024 – Festival Events Asbl today announced the launch of the 15th **British & Irish Film Festival Luxembourg 2023 Spring Edition**: all screenings will be at the Ciné Utopia; while the core festival dates are from 18 – 23 March, we are having three other screenings, on 26 & 27 February, and 13 March.

The film festival provides a unique opportunity for viewers to experience a wide selection of new films from Britain and Ireland. The 2024 SPRING EDITION includes 13 feature-length films from a cross-section of genres and representing mainly independent cinema. In addition, we will be screening five short films and concluding the Young Filmmaker Competition.

The **British & Irish Film Festival Luxembourg (BIFFL) 2024 SPRING EDITION** will have “*Verdigris*” as its official Opening Screening, a drama set mainly in Dublin about two polar-opposite women meeting in the context of a census being carried out, and will close with “*That They May Face the Rising Sun*”, based on internationally acclaimed Irish author John McGahern's award winning final novel of the same name. All films will be receiving their Luxembourg premiers during the festival, apart from two feature films “*The Runway*” (2010) which is being screened to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the inaugural direct Luxair flight between Luxembourg and Dublin, “*Monty Python and the Holy Grail*” (1975) in a special “scream-along” screening, and “*Mr Hublot*” (2013), the Luxembourg co-production Oscar-winning animated short film.

SHORTS EVENING

The Awards of the festival's Young Filmmaker Competition will be held, with excerpts from all 11 entries (from 7 different secondary schools) being screened, before the top 3 (2-5 mins) are shown in full. The entries were:

- *Luxembourg VS Transport*, by Carlotta Thomas (Lenster Lycée)
- *Heartbeat*, by Marianna Berkun & Igor Sydorhuk (Lycée Michel Lucius)
- *Red Disease*, by Marianna Berkun & Igor Sydorhuk (Lycée Michel Lucius)
- *Summer Sky*, by Marie-Alexandra Maracic Weber and Paula Zic (Lycée Athénée de Luxembourg)
- *Oh yes...Amy Smith?*, by Arianna Russo, Mia Serra Vassallo & Cliona Hickey (European School II)
- *Travelling Through the Troubles*, by Laura Fagan (St George's International School)
- *Letter to Him*, by Cathy Diagne (International School at Differdange, EIDE)
- *A World in which Men are Inferior*, by Julia Dec (European School II)
- *The Vinyl*, by Alexandro Castro & Nina Verrinder (ISL)
- *Close*, by Noah Piff (International School at Differdange, EIDE)
- *Homo Sapiens*, by Hanna Rajka (European School II)

The evening will also include the screening of 3 short films, with Laurent Witz & Anna Konieczna in a Q&A.

- *Wild Reconnection*, (15 mins) by Deqa Ibrahim, Anna Konieczna
- *Shakes vs Shaw*, (10 mins) by Damian Farrell, Gerry Hoban
- *Mr Hublot*, (11 mins) by Laurent Witz, Alexandre Espigares



SPECIAL GUESTS

In addition to those mentioned above for their short films, the feature film **Special Guests** coming over for the 2024 Spring Edition include:

- **Geraldine McAlinden** (actor) & **Maya O'Shea** (actor), *Verdigris*, screening on Monday 18 March
- **Sean Doupe** (director), *Ballymanus*, screening on Friday 22 March
- **Chris Walley** (actor), *Lies We Tell*, screening on Tuesday 19 March
- **Bernard Michaux** (producer), *The Runway*, screening on Wednesday 13 March

BIFFL PRESENTS...

We are teaming up with Ciné Utopia for no less than three special screenings: *The Great Escaper* on Mon 26 Feb; *Wicked Little Letters* on Tue 27 Feb; and *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (“scream-along” event) on Wed 13 Mar.

AWARDS & PRIZES

This edition also features both an **Audience Award** as well as an **Audience Prize**, with two entries winning a Magnum of Crémant from Bernard-Massard / a Hamper from Home from Home, and also a **Critics' Award**, with the involvement of members of the Association Luxembourgeoise de la Presse Cinématographique (ALPC).

The Top 3 winners of the **Young Filmmaker Competition** will be presented with awards at the Shorts Evening, and the audience will have the chance to win Luxair flight vouchers at the **Special Screening** to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of their direct route to Dublin.

TICKETS

Tickets cost €10 per person per film, with ticketing again with **Luxembourg-Ticket.lu**, apart from the three BIFFL Presents... screenings in collaboration with Ciné Utopia (tickets for these screenings are on sale at **Kinopolis.lu**) at commercial rates.

The popular **Season Special Ticket** are available for €35 by calling Luxembourg-Ticket.lu. Tickets may also be available at the venues prior to screenings, depending on availability.

PARTNERS & SPONSORS

The **British & Irish Film Festival Luxembourg** acknowledges its support again this year from a number of organisations including the Galway Film Fleadh, the Irish Film Institute, Screen Ireland, Culture Ireland, the Ville de Luxembourg, the Luxembourg Film Fund and Luxembourg's Ministry of Culture, as well as the financial contribution of the Embassy of Ireland in Luxembourg through its Emigrant Support Programme.

The festival also enjoys support from its sponsors, especially Silver Sponsor Enovos / LEO, and also partners including Bernard Massard, Home from Home, DHL, ChefPassport and the New Delhi restaurant, all our community partners and our media partners: AraCityRadio, Chronicle.lu, Luxembourg Times and RTL Today. The festival sincerely thanks these organisations for their support through their commitment to supporting community and cultural events through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).



PROGRAMME / SCHEDULE

- Monday 26 February
 - 20:00 - Screening of *The Great Escaper* (EN, SE) BIFFL Presents..., 96 mins
- Tuesday 27 February
 - 20:00 - Screening of *Wicked Little Letters* (LU), 102 mins
- Wednesday 13 March
 - 20:00 - Screening of *The Runway** (2010, IE/LU), 101 mins
- Monday 18 March
 - 20:00 – Official Opening: Screening of *Verdigris** (IE), 95 mins
- Tuesday 19 March
 - 19:00 - Screening of *Northern Comfort* (EN, IS, DE), 97 mins
 - 21:15 - Screening of *Lies We Tell** (IE), 89 mins
- Wednesday 20 March
 - 19:00 - Screening of *Chuck Chuck Baby* (WA), 101 mins
 - 19:30 - Screening of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (EN), 91 mins
 - 21:30 - Screening of *Lie of the Land* (NI), 80 mins
- Thursday 21 March
 - 19:00 – **Shorts Evening***, including Young Filmmaker Competition Awards
 - 21:30 - Screening of *Loch Ness: They Created a Monster* (SC), 91 mins
- Friday 22 March
 - 19:00 - Screening of *Ballymanus** (IE), 53 mins
 - 21:00 - Screening of *Double Blind* (IE), 90 mins
- Saturday 23 March
 - 20:00 – Official Closing with Awards: Screening of *That They May Face the Rising Sun* (IE, NI), 107 mins

* Q&A scheduled

Geoff THOMPSON, Festival Organiser and President of Festival Events Asbl, stated: “*We are absolutely delighted to see such a positive reaction to last year’s trial of splitting the festival into two editions which resulted in a 30% increase on pre-pandemic audience numbers. Again we have great guests attending, something our audiences love. We are also delighted with the response to our Young Filmmaker Competition, with so many high-calibre entries received. And the Special Screening with Luxair to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the inauguration of their direct route to Dublin is something to which we are really looking forward*”.

For more detailed information on the programme, etc., please visit www.festivalevents.lu (new website), or contact Geoff Thompson, email: Geoff@festivalevents.lu, tel: 661-250007 (m).

All social media assets for all the films, as well as all logos, are available here: <https://swiy.co/LDjX>

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