

**PRESS RELEASE EMBARGOED 17:00 WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY**

**Full programme announced for Glasgow Film Festival 2019**

**Across 12 days, the city-wide celebration of cinema will host 7 world premieres, 102 UK premieres and 49 Scottish premieres**

**Guests including Sir Michael Palin, Carol Morley, Matt Bomer, Carlos Acosta, Alice Lowe, Simon Amstell and legendary music video director Lance Bangs will attend the 15th annual festival**

**Six out of the ten nominees for the prestigious Glasgow Film Festival Audience Award are new features directed by women**

The full programme of Glasgow Film Festival 2019 has been announced. From 20 February to 3 March, the city's 15th annual celebration of cinema will host 337 individual screenings, talks and events - showcasing 7 world premieres, 102 UK premieres and 49 Scottish premieres from 54 countries.

Tickets for the full programme go on sale Thursday 24 January at 12 noon for GFF members, and on general sale on Monday 28 January at 10am.

#### **World Premieres**

Glasgow Film Festival is thrilled to be hosting the first big screen outings of seven new features. Many were made right here in Scotland and look set to follow in the success of last year's world premiere closing gala, the smash-hit BAFTA-winning Scottish documentary *Nae Pasaran*. World premieres from home-grown talents include: BAFTA-winning director **Matt Pinder's** new feature documentary *Harry Birrell: Films of Love and War*, which plunders the treasure trove archives of Scottish amateur filmmaker Harry Birrell to present one man's view of the 20th century; debut feature director **Marilyn Edmond's** *Connect*, an ambitious attempt to confront the issue of suicide amongst young men in Scotland, featuring a deeply affecting performance by **Kevin Guthrie**; *Do No Harm* is director **Stephen Bennett's** compelling exploration of the legacy of Scottish-born psychiatrist Dr Ewen Cameron and the experiments that contributed to systems of modern-day torture across the globe; *Mackintosh Redux* is the painstakingly remastered new version of **Murray Grigor's** 1969 film made to complement the Mackintosh Centenary Exhibition, with a brand new score by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra; and, **Alberta Whittle**, the recipient of the 2018/19 Margaret Tait Award will present the first ever screening of her newly-commissioned film *between a whisper and a cry*. Returning crowd favourite FrightFest will also offer up two spine-tingling world premieres, with *Automata*, a bold and original work from Scottish auteur **Lawrie Brewster** and 'Downton Abbey meets *The Evil Dead*' in **Jack McHenry's** pitch-perfect *Here Comes Hell!*

#### **International and European Premieres**

Festival favourite **Karen Gillan** delivers another star turn in the international premiere of wrenching US drama *All Creatures Here Below*; director **Andrew Peat** returns to Scotland for the European premiere of *Scotch - The Golden Dram*, a handsomely crafted documentary charting the story of the Scottish whisky industry through its most famous distillers and ardent enthusiasts; *The Science of Ghosts* (from director **Niall McCann** whose *Lost in France* documentary had its premiere at GFF17) is an imaginative and humorous riff on the musical biopic featuring Irish singer-songwriter **Adrian Crowley**, whilst theatre director **Simon Sharkey** will introduce *Run Free*, the story of his working in a ghetto in Kingston, Jamaica, teaching young boys parkour and physical theatre over a period of four years for the National Theatre of Scotland, Manifesto Jamaica and the British Council.

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## UK Premieres

GFF will host over 100 UK premieres, making Glasgow audiences the first in the country to see this wide selection of new films. UK Premiere highlights include: **Gerard Butler** and **Peter Mullan** in the eerie re-telling of the real-life Flannan Isle mystery, **The Vanishing**; **Stephen Merchant's** solo feature film directorial debut, **Fighting With My Family**, a warm-hearted true story about wrestling and family bonds starring **The Rock** and **Florence Pugh**; **Yuli**, the dazzling, rags-to-riches life of ballet superstar **Carlos Acosta**, beautifully captured by director **Icía Bollaín** and **I, Daniel Blake** writer **Paul Laverty**; **Annabel Jankel's Tell It To The Bees** starring **Anna Paquin** and **Holliday Grainger** as two young women falling in love and causing scandal in their 1950s Scottish small town; Glasgow director **Robbie Fraser's Final Ascent**, about the life of legendary Scottish mountaineer **Hamish MacInnes**, featuring testimonies from **Sir Michael Palin** and **Sir Chris Bonnington**; **Patrick Wang's** Altman-esque Midwest epic across two parts, **A Bread Factory**; **Emilio Estevez's The Public**, a moving, thought-provoking, state-of-the-nation drama starring **Alec Baldwin**; two new films starring **Dev Patel** - **Hotel Mumbai**, a gripping dramatisation of the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks, and **Michael Winterbottom's** eagerly-awaited thriller **The Wedding Guest**; **Sacha Polak's Dirty God**, screening fresh from Sundance and featuring astounding newcomer **Vicky Knight** as a young mother rebuilding her life following an acid attack; **She's Missing**, a haunting thriller set in the deserts of the American deep south starring **Josh Hartnett**; and **Tyrel**, a jet black comedy and razor-sharp analysis of racial divides in America starring **Jason Mitchell**, **Michael Cera**, and **Caleb Landry Jones**.

## Scottish Premieres

49 must-see films make their Scottish debut at this year's Festival. Scottish premieres include: US stand-up comedian **Bo Burnham's** eagerly awaited directorial debut, **Eighth Grade**; fellow comic **Simon Amstell's** feature directorial debut, the fresh and endearing rom-com **Benjamin**; **Only You**, charting a beautiful romance that begins on Hogmanay on the streets of Glasgow, featuring rising stars **Josh O'Connor** and **Laia Costa**; **Papi Chulo**, the new feature from **John Butler** (director of GFF17 opening film **Handsome Devil**) that sees a heartbroken weatherman (played by **Magic Mike** star **Matt Bomer**) strike up a friendship with an elderly Mexican labourer; **The Merger**, starring top Australian stand-up **Damian Callinan** as a former professional Aussie Rules footballer returning home to help his hapless local team; **Prophecy**, an unprecedented insight into the mind of acclaimed Scottish artist **Peter Howson** as he works on his latest masterpiece; and the astonishing immersive documentary about the raw power of water, **Aquarela** (supported by Creative Scotland), screened on Dolby Atmos at Cineworld for full, jaw-dropping effect.

## Stars attending the festival

We're delighted to welcome a host of famous faces and rising talent to GFF19. **Sir Michael Palin** will attend the UK premiere of **Final Ascent** and also discuss his varied and fascinating career in a special live Empire podcast, while Sonic Youth's **Steve Shelley** and The Pastel's **Stephen McRobbie** will join **Daydream Nation** director **Lance Bangs** for a post-screening Q&A and **Magic Mike**, **American Horror Story** and **White Collar** star **Matt Bomer** treads the red carpet at the Scottish premiere of **Papi Chulo**. Other guests include: one of the world's greatest dancers **Carlos Acosta** alongside his **Yuli** director **Icía Bollaín** and writer **Paul Laverty**; stand-up comics-turned directors **Bo Burnham** and **Simon Amstell**; actor and disability campaigner **Adam Pearson**; Irish musician **Adrian Crowley**; director **Carol Morley**; actors including Swedish horror icon **Christina Lindberg**, award-winning Belgian director and actor **Bouli Lanners** who stars in two Festival titles (**Real Love**, **The Third Marriage**), the star of Netflix's latest hit **Sex Education** **Connor Swindells**; actor **Josh O'Connor** who stars in **Only You**; and rising star of **Dirty God**, **Vicky Knight**. As previously announced, actor-director **Alice Lowe** will participate in a horror film panel as part of the festival's Industry Programme, with more Industry programme guests to be announced next week.

## Audience Award Nominees

The only award handed out at Glasgow Film Festival is one bestowed by our most important guests – the festival audience. The prestigious GFF Audience Award is awarded to a feature by a first or second-time director with previous winners including **Lipstick Under My Burkha** and **Custody**. For 2019 we are delighted that six out of the ten shortlisted films are directed by women. The films are: **Marta Bergman's** feature debut about a Romani woman who becomes a mail-order bride, **Alone At My Wedding**; **Louis Garrel's** droll French romance **A Faithful Man**; **The Feeling of Being Watched**, journalist **Assia Boundaoui's** investigation into FBI surveillance in her Arab-American neighbourhood; **Float Like a Butterfly**, **Carmel Winters's** powerful and timely drama

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about a young girl from the Irish roadside camps rising through the boxing ranks; **Fugue**, Agnieszka Smoczyńska's gripping thriller about a mother with memory loss; Glasgow-based director **Matt Pinder's Harry Birrell: Films of Love and War**; **Vasan Bala's** irresistible Indian Hindi comedy **The Man Who Feels No Pain** about a young man who uses his rare congenital disorder to fight muggers; **Soheil Beirraghi's** thought-provoking, high stakes drama **Permission**, about everyday injustices faced by women in Iran; **Claire Burgers' Real Love**, a tender family drama about a single father of two who becomes involved in community theatre; and, **Ash Mayfair's** directorial debut **The Third Wife**, set in 19th century Vietnam. The Glasgow Film Festival Audience Award 2019 is sponsored by Benihana.

**Allison Gardner, Glasgow Film Festival Co-director, said:** "Over the years at GFF we have excelled with our Special Events and this year is no exception. *The Blair Witch Project* at a Secret Location is sure to scare and thrill and don't forget "The first rule about fight club is: you do not talk about fight club" so you'll just have to get along and participate... As ever our Sound & Vision strand is filled with music of all types from Classic to Jazz and a brilliant live event hosted by Lost Map records featuring Monoganon and Free Love performing to footage of Eigg filmed by Slow Tree. This heady strand is topped off with films such as Alex Ross Perry's *Her Smell* starring Elisabeth Moss as a self-destructive rock star and Brady Corbett's electric *Vox Lux*. This year our Audience Award – GFF's only award - features six (out of 10) films that are directed by women with strong and vibrant films telling a variety of stories."

**Allan Hunter, Glasgow Film Festival Co-director, said:** "It is a real pleasure to be able to share the programme for Glasgow Film Festival 2019. The festival is peppered with exciting discoveries from around the world that range from action-packed Indian crowd-pleaser *The Man Who Feels No Pain* to elegant Vietnamese period piece *The Third Wife*, knockout coming of age tale *Float Like a Butterfly* from Ireland and the gorgeous Kyrgyzstan musical *The Song of the Tree*. I can't wait for audiences to delight in Louis Garrel's romantic *A Faithful Man*, embrace Patrick Wang's Altman-esque epic *A Bread Factory* and shudder at *The Vanishing* with Peter Mullan and Gerard Butler. The cherry on the cake is our tribute to the great Elaine May that is guaranteed to bring a smile to your face."

Tickets go on sale to GFF members and GFT CineCard holders from 12noon on 24 January, and then on general sale from 10am on 28 January. Book online at [glasgowfilm.org/festival](https://glasgowfilm.org/festival).

Hi-res images of the GFF19 programme can be downloaded at:  
[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1iykxd2iBHRLZPYoQo\\_uSULyf391ErF3Q](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1iykxd2iBHRLZPYoQo_uSULyf391ErF3Q)

Social media tags: #GFF19 / @glasgowfilmfest

Ends.

## Individual strands at Glasgow Film Festival 2019 are:

### Opening and Closing Galas

GFF19 will open with the UK premiere of Hollywood star **Jonah Hill**'s hotly-anticipated directorial debut **Mid90s**. The coming-of-age comedy-drama written and directed by Hill, stars Sunny Suljic (*The Killing of a Sacred Deer*), Lucas Hedges (*Lady Bird*) and Katherine Waterston (*Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them*), and follows a 13-year-old boy who begins to hang out with an older group of skateboarders while living in 1990s Los Angeles. The festival then closes with a bang as it plays host to the UK premiere of the big screen adaptation of Scottish playwright Kieran Hurley's hit stage show **Beats**. Set in 1994, just as the Criminal Justice Bill attempted to place restrictions on Scotland's rave culture and the free party movement, *Beats* is a universal story of friendship, rebellion and the irresistible power of gathered youth. Shot largely in Glasgow, *Beats* is directed by **Brian Welsh** (*Black Mirror*), executive produced by Steven Soderbergh, and stars young Royal Conservatoire of Scotland graduates Cristian Ortega and Lorn Macdonald in their feature film debuts. Tickets for both the Opening and Closing Galas have sold out.

### Special Events

Glasgow Film Festival's Special Events are the stuff of legend, taking 'pop-up cinema' to a whole new level as they celebrate the anniversary of your big screen favourites in truly unique style. Travel through time with **Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure**; unleash your rage at consumer culture during **Fight Club**; trap ghosts and make your own slime in our two special **Ghostbusters** screenings (one for all the family and one strictly for big kids only); encounter the Xenomorph itself at **Alien**; keep on the watch for Agents while you try to break **The Matrix**, and discover the deadly secrets of **The Blair Witch Project** at a spine-tingling secret location, with a special introduction from Total Film Editor-at-Large Jamie Graham.

### CineMasters

GFF's CineMasters strand boasts the latest films from the maverick directors who set the benchmark and push the envelope. This year's highlights include: **Pablo Trapero**, who ventures into steamy melodrama territory with **The Quietude**; **Carol Morley** who follows up *The Falling* with the existential, neo-noir murder mystery **Out of Blue** starring Patricia Clarkson; **Christian Petzold** exploring love, loss and identity in **Transit**; **Alice Rohrwacher**'s spellbinding **Happy as Lazzaro**, a giddy magic realist fable; and **Jacques Audiard**'s dark comedy set in the California Gold Rush, **The Sisters Brothers**, boasting an all-star cast led by John C. Reilly, Joaquin Phoenix and Jake Gyllenhaal.

### Local Heroes

Glasgow Film Festival is a renowned showcase for the very best films from our home-grown talent, both across the UK and right here in Glasgow. This year we ascend Everest with **Robbie Fraser**'s poignant account of the life of Hamish MacInnes in **Final Ascent** and plunge to the chilling depths of the North Sea for some nail-biting real-life jeopardy in **Last Breath**. **Andy Heathcote**'s (*The Moo Man*) **Of Fish and Foe** puts modern environmentalism under the microscope as we meet the Pullar family, the last to use the traditional method of fishing for wild Atlantic salmon and the hunt saboteurs who oppose them killing seals to do it, whilst **Rehana Rose**'s life-affirming **Dead Good** is an intimate and urgent look at the ritual of care after death. Acclaimed visual artist **Richard Billingham** makes his feature film directorial debut with a dramatic re-telling of the lives of his parents **Ray & Liz**; and documentary-maker **Iain Cunningham** pursues the mother he never knew in **Irene's Ghost**. Keira Knightley and Alexander Skarsgård star in **James Kent**'s powerful drama **The Aftermath** set in post-war Hamburg; **Bill Buckhurst**'s debut feature **Pond Life** is a 90s-set charmer rooted in a world of adventurous kids, cassette tapes and rumbling political fever, with a soundtrack by Richard Hawley; and national treasures **Greg Hemphill** and **Ford Kiernan** join us for a candid chat about **Life In Still Game**. This year's Local Heroes strand is sponsored by Caledonian MacBrayne.

### Sound & Vision

Sound & Vision celebrates the bold and strong link between cinema and music in one of the world's great music cities. GFF19 is honoured to welcome one of the biggest names in music videos **Lance Bangs** for an 'In Conversation' event looking back at his career working with the likes of R.E.M. and Björk, plus the UK premiere of **Daydream Nation** - the Sonic Youth concert film he shot in 2007 in Glasgow at the legendary ABC venue, which was sadly lost in the Glasgow School of Art fire last year. **Lost Map** will bring the music of Eigg to Glasgow with **VISITATIONS**, featuring live performances from Slow Tree, Monoganon and Free Love, and footage shot during the musicians' residencies on the island. **Jim Galloway: A Journey Into Jazz** chronicles the life



of the amazing Scotsman who emigrated to Canada as a young man and went on to carve out an international career as a saxophonist and impresario, followed by an exclusive gig from Ken Mathieson's Classic Jazz Orchestra in association with Glasgow Jazz Festival. **Satan & Adam** chronicles the unlikely pairing of legendary one-man-band Sterling "Mr. Satan" Magee and harmonica master Adam Gussow on the streets of 1980s Harlem, and two of Hollywood's favourite leading ladies also step behind the mic as Elisabeth Moss stars as a self-destructive punk rock singer in the UK premiere of **Alex Ross Perry's Her Smell**, and Natalie Portman plays a troubled pop diva in **Brady Corbet's** celebrity cult satire **Vox Lux**.

## Modern Families

Budding junior film fans always have lots to enjoy at Glasgow Film Festival - and all at pocket money prices. This year, beautiful Brazilian animation **Tito and the Birds** explores how to overcome fear and the importance of friendship, while **Minuscule – Mandibles from Far Away** (receiving its UK premiere at the festival) tells the charming story of a young ladybird who needs to be rescued after accidentally getting shipped off in a cardboard box. Hands-on screenings include create-your-own-robot at **The Iron Giant** and make-your-own-slime at a family-friendly 35th anniversary screening of **Ghostbusters**, deep underground at Argyle Street Arches.

## Stranger Than Fiction

Stranger Than Fiction highlights the best documentaries from around the world with films that take us right to the heart of real lives and authentic stories. This year's crop includes **Netizens**, in which a group of women dedicate themselves to fighting online harassment; life on a women's football team in post-revolution Libya in **Freedom Fields**; and Alex Holmes' crowd-pleasing **Maiden**, following sailor Tracy Edwards and her all-female crew as they face institutional sexism and a media circus in a heart-pounding race around the world. The sometimes tragic realities of our cinema heroes are revealed in **Making Montgomery Clift**, by the legendary Hollywood star's own nephew, and **The Ghost of Peter Sellers**, in which director **Peter Medak** looks back at his disastrous shoot of pirate epic **Ghost in the Noonday Sun**.

## Future Cult

Future Cult returns to embrace the weird and wonderful world of cult cinema and celebrate titles old and new. **Macoto Tezuka's** long-unseen musical comedy **The Legend of the Stardust Brothers** opens up the world of 80s J-Pop; nothing is what it seems in **Lee Cronin's** terrifying and mysterious Irish indie horror **The Hole in the Ground**, **The Final Girls** introduce their hand-picked selection of the best female-made horror shorts in **We Are The Weirdos**, and audiences can round off their day with a late night Sing-Along screening of Trey Parker and Matt Stone's still biting relevant puppet romp **Team America: World Police**.

## Pioneer

GFF's Pioneer strand is a showcase for global filmmakers at the start of what promise to be glittering careers. Every Pioneer film is a first or second-time feature from someone who possesses the power to make them stand out from the crowd. Among the highlights in this year's strand are: actor-turned-director **Hugh O'Connor's** delightful, irresistible charmer **Metal Heart**; **Joe Penna's** nerve-shredding **Arctic**, with Mads Mikkelsen as a man who must survive in the freezing wilds after his plane crashes; **Aleksey Chupov's** and **Natalya Merkulova's** thought-provoking contemporary update of a Siberian folk tale **The Man Who Surprised Everyone**; and, **Ali Abbasi's** stunning, 2019 Oscar-nominated, one-of-a-kind **Border**.

## FrightFest

The biggest and brightest UK shock event, FrightFest returns to the GFF for its 14th fearful outing. This year's FrightFest opens with a special screening of **Lords of Chaos**, which filters adolescent angst through horror movie aesthetics to tell the true story of Norwegian 80s death metal band Mayhem, who took it to extremes with a rampage of arson and murder. Other highlights across the nightmare-packed two days include: **Finale**, with bad goings-on in a remote Danish petrol station on the night of the European Championships; psychedelic flesh-eating insects terrorising an ageing rock band in **Dead Ant**.

## Window on the World

With films from 54 countries screening at this year's festival, Window on the World allows audiences to travel to the far corners of the globe from the comfort of their local cinema. Experience a dystopian future in the extraordinary Mexican genre-bender **Buy Me A Gun**, stop off in Romania to meet the world's stroppiest teenager in **Alice T** and feel the intensity of family life on a

remote Kazakhstan farm in **The River**. **Alejandra Marquez Abela's** sophomore feature **The Good Girls** follows the lives of upper-class women whose lives teeter on an economic abyss in 1980s Mexico, *It Follows* director **David Robert Mitchell** returns with the L.A-set neo noir **Under the Silver Lake** starring Andrew Garfield, and contemporary Taiwan is the setting for engrossing and inventive thriller **Cities of Last Things**.

## Crossing the Line

Crossing the Line showcases new territories in artists' moving image, celebrating new works at the forefront of artistic vision. Long-standing festival partner LUX Scotland bring a collection of Beatrice Gibson's newest works as well as Thom Andersen's **The Thoughts That Once We Had**, whilst Alchemy Film Festival join GFF in presenting the incredible **Erased** **Ascent of the Invisible** and **Dark Light**, a collection of work from Belgian artist **Anouk De Clercq**. **Annik Leroy's** meditative **Tremor - Es ist immer Kreig**, winner of Best Feature at Frontiera Documentary & Experimental Film Festival, will also premiere, and **Jodie Mack's** kinetic and kaleidoscopic **The Grand Bizarre** brings mundane household patterns to dazzling life in one of the most rhythmic travelogues you're ever likely to experience.

## May Days: The Films of Elaine May

Elaine May has been entertaining audiences for more than 60 years. As a writer, performer and director, her comedy is sharp-edged, effortlessly witty and biting satirical. Her improvised sketch work with Mike Nichols in the 1950s and 1960s is the stuff of legend. Her script-writing skills have earned her Oscar nominations. Her painstaking professionalism means that every one of her films is a unique, handcrafted gem. She may have faced tremendous challenges in bringing her vision to the screen but the results are unforgettable. GFF is honoured to pay tribute to Elaine May this year by screening all four of the films she has directed: from the sublime **A New Leaf** and **The Heartbreak Kid** to the dramatic intensity of **Mikey and Nicky** and notorious flop **Ishtar**, which will get a deserving second chance to win over audiences.

## Belgian Cinema: Both Sides Now

A country whose cinematic output has constantly been underrated, despite world class filmmakers from Chantal Akerman to the Dardenne Brothers, this year's Country Focus reflects the current healthy state of cinema in Belgium. Highlights include the Scottish premiere of **Lukas Dhont's** extraordinary, award-winning **Girl** which has taken the film festival circuit by storm, and stop-motion animated feature **This Magnificent Cake!**, telling colonial stories from across the Belgian Empire. The festival will be welcoming a host of Belgian directors and actors, and screening some much-loved Belgian classics thanks to the Generous support of the General Representation of the Government of Flanders in the UK and Wallonie-Bruxelles International.

## 1969: The End of Innocence

GFF'S annual free retrospective is devoted to American cinema from a pivotal year — a mixture of classics and rarities starring (among others) Jane Fonda, Jack Nicholson, Shirley MacLaine and Dustin Hoffman. These 10 films reflect a time when censorship laws were relaxed and American filmmakers and studios struggled to grapple with the social changes and political upheavals in a country that saw protests on the street, fierce opposition to the war in Vietnam, Nixon in the White House, the Manson killings, the Stonewall riots and the growing mobilisation of groups pursuing black power and feminism. 1969 saw the arrival of enduring counter-culture classics like **Easy Rider**, **Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid** and Best Picture Oscar winner **Midnight Cowboy**, but it was a year when the old guard was still out in force with John Wayne a Best Actor Oscar winner for **True Grit**. 1969 was a cinematic year that still resonates with Hollywood's biggest 21st century talents and one that Quentin Tarantino has chosen as the setting for his upcoming multi-star epic *Once Upon A Time in Hollywood*, with Brad Pitt, Leonardo DiCaprio, Margot Robbie, Al Pacino and Kurt Russell.

## Behind the Scenes

Behind the Scenes is your chance to peel back the curtain and discover the biggest secrets of the filmmaking world from some of the most talented practitioners in the field. All events are free and suitable for all, from budding professionals to curious film fans. The award-winning composer **Matt Dunkley** joins us for a round of **Anatomy of a Soundtrack**, and Creative Media Skills return with an illuminating talk presented by make-up alumni **Danny Marie Elias**. Stop motion is making huge waves in the industry, and to celebrate we're hosting **Stop Motion - Life Between Frames** with a collection of animators from GFF18 Opening Gala *Isle of Dogs*. Tony Doogan joins us for **Outlaw King - Settling the Score**, to discuss the creative process of writing and

performing the immersive score. We're delighted to partner with NFTS Scotland, bringing *Star Wars* costume director **Trisha Biggar** and award-winning film and TV editor **Colin Monie** to discuss their crafts.

Glasgow Film Festival (GFF) is one of the leading film festivals in the UK and run by **Glasgow Film**, a charity which also runs **Glasgow Film Theatre (GFT)**. GFF is made possible by support from **Glasgow Life**, **Screen Scotland**, **the British Film Institute** (using funds from The National Lottery) and **EventScotland**.

## Additional Comment

**Jennifer Armitage, Screen Scotland said:** "Glasgow Film Festival 2019 offers an outstanding programme of premieres and imaginative retrospectives. This year's programme promises audiences a wealth of talent from Scotland, the UK and around the world. We are proud to support the film festival and the important role it plays in engaging audiences and celebrating cinema-going and film culture in Scotland, and are looking forward to another successful year."

**Ben Luxford, Head of UK Audiences BFI said:** "The BFI is thrilled to be supporting Glasgow Film Festival for another year. Their incredibly strong, diverse and internationally focused programme provides lots of opportunities for audiences to engage with a huge variety of film and it's especially exciting to see so many female filmmakers represented"

**Councillor David McDonald, Depute Leader of Glasgow City Council and Chair of Glasgow Life said:** "Glasgow Film Festival has built itself an enviable reputation for bringing the finest films and the talent that makes them to Glasgow to be enjoyed by huge and appreciative audiences. The ability to continually surprise and delight those audiences and bring visitors to Glasgow to share an appreciation of great films makes this festival a huge part of the cultural life of the city. I'm delighted that once again the programme is a mix of extraordinary work which will be appreciated by everyone who loves cinema".

**Paul Bush OBE, VisitScotland's Director of Events, said:** "Glasgow Film Festival is part of a strong portfolio of annual events and festivals that play a key role in Scotland's visitor economy. This year's Festival once again offers its local and international audience an exciting and diverse programme of premieres, special events and industry insights that is sure to engage all films fans. I'm particularly delighted to see women leading the nominations for the Audience Award and the continued championing of our home-grown talent from across Scotland and the UK as part of the local heroes strand of the programme.

"EventScotland is delighted to be continuing its support of Glasgow Film Festival to showcase Scotland as the perfect stage for events."

**Andrew MacNair, Head of Marketing at CalMac Ferries Limited said:** "The importance of film in documenting the stories and adventures of communities cannot be understated. At Caledonian MacBrayne we also understand how cinema can draw communities together in a shared experience. We are proud to sponsor the Local Heroes strand of Glasgow Film Festival this year as it shows the strength of new talent in this medium and will hopefully uncover some gems which prove popular with audiences the length and breadth of the country".

**Richard Mackay, Managing Director, Benihana comments;** "Glasgow Film Festival is testament to the city's rich culture and blossoming presence as an attractive global destination. With this, we chose to launch a new, evolved and more mature designed Benihana in the heart of Glasgow's city centre and are proud to nurture cinematic excellence by supporting the festival's 'Audience Award.' This year we are celebrating 55 years since our founder 'Rocky' opened our doors and like our guests experience fast-paced performances by their own personal chef at our restaurant, we know the audience at this year's festival will enjoy the array of fantastic films on offer at GFF."

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### TICKETS

Tickets go on sale to GFF members and GFT CineCard holders from 12noon on 24 January, and then on general sale from 10am on 28 January. Book online at [glasgowfilm.org/festival](http://glasgowfilm.org/festival).

GFF Membership is available to buy for £15, offering four days of advance booking and discounts. See [www.glasgowfilm.org/gffmembership](http://www.glasgowfilm.org/gffmembership) for full information. Existing GFT CineCard members will automatically have GFF membership.

### Glasgow Film Festival

Glasgow Film Festival (GFF) is one of the leading film festivals in the UK and run by Glasgow Film, a charity which also runs Glasgow Film Theatre (GFT). GFF is made possible by support from Glasgow Life, Screen Scotland, the British Film Institute (using funds from The National Lottery) and Event Scotland.

Notable guests visiting the festival in recent years have included Richard Gere, Alan Rickman, Joss Whedon, Terry Gilliam, John C Reilly, Saoirse Ronan, Richard Dreyfuss, Karen Gillan, Jonathan Glazer, Richard Johnson, Gemma Arterton, Ben Wheatley, David Tennant, Cliff Curtis, David Robert Mitchell, Carol Morley, Gemma Jones, Jason Priestley, Neil Jordan, agnès b., Armando Iannucci, Jack O'Connell, Dexter Fletcher, Peter Mullan, George Sluizier, Peter Capaldi, Ty West, Richard Ayoade, Eli Roth and Jean-Pierre Jeunet. The 2018 festival opened with the red carpet UK premiere of Wes Anderson's *Isle of Dogs* and closed with the world premiere of Felipe Bustos Sierra's *Nae Pasaran*, which recently won the Scottish BAFTA for Best Picture.

[www.glasgowfilm.org/festival](http://www.glasgowfilm.org/festival)

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## Glasgow Film Festival would like to thank its major partners:

**Glasgow Life** is a charity which delivers services to both citizens and visitors to the city, providing opportunities through culture, sport and learning.

Last year, more than 18 million attendances were recorded at venues, events and festivals – up more than one third since 2007. Some 2,600 staff and 2,200 volunteers deliver services across 160 Glasgow Life venues.

Glasgow Life has responsibility for: managing nine award-winning civic museums, including Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, the Riverside Museum and the Burrell Collection as well as the Kelvin Hall; the Glasgow Club – Scotland's largest health and fitness network – including landmarks such as the Emirates Arena and Tollcross International Swimming Centre; the Mitchell Library and 32 Community Libraries, as well as community facilities across the city and a significant learning programme; programming world-class music in venues such as the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, incredible art and exhibitions at Tramway and a number of cultural events, such as Celtic Connections, the Mela, the World Pipe Band Championships and the Merchant City Festival, among others; leading partners in the delivery of Glasgow's Tourism and Visitor Plan to 2023; positioning the city as a vibrant, first-choice destination for leisure and business tourists; managing the city's destination marketing and implementing the award-winning PEOPLE MAKE GLASGOW brand; managing Glasgow's Convention Bureau, which attracts more than 500 conferences to the city each year.

Glasgow Life helped to deliver the 2014 Commonwealth Games, the 2015 World Gymnastics Championships, Davis Cup ties, the 2015 IPC Swimming World Championships and the Total BWF World Badminton Championships 2017 and the inaugural 2018 European Championships – a major multi-sport event in partnership with Berlin. Looking ahead, Glasgow Life is supporting delivery of the European Indoor Athletics Championships 2019 and the UEFA Euro 2020 Championship. For more information, visit [www.glasgowlife.org.uk](http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk).

**Screen Scotland** is the dedicated partnership for screen in Scotland. With £20 million from Scottish Government and the National Lottery, Screen Scotland is driving the cultural, social and economic development of all aspects of the sector in Scotland, through enhanced funding, services and support. Screen Scotland sits within Creative Scotland and is a partnership with Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Funding Council, working in close collaboration with the sector to ensure its success. [www.screen.scot](http://www.screen.scot) @screenscots

**The BFI** supports, nurtures and promotes the art of film, television and the moving image. A charity, funded by Government and earned income, and a distributor of National Lottery funds, we are at the heart of the UK's fast growing screen industries, protecting the past and shaping their future across the UK. We work in partnership with cultural organisations, government and industry to make this happen. We bring our world-class cultural programmes and unrivalled national collections to audiences everywhere, and promote learning about our art-form and its heritage. We support the future success of film in the UK by nurturing new voices and fresh ideas, enriching independent British film culture, challenging the UK's screen industries to innovate and defining Britain and its storytellers in the 21st century. Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

**Event Scotland** is the national events agency. EventScotland is working to make Scotland the perfect stage for events. By developing an exciting portfolio of sporting and cultural events EventScotland is helping to raise Scotland's international profile and boost the economy by attracting more visitors. For further information about EventScotland, its funding programmes and latest event news visit [www.EventScotland.org](http://www.EventScotland.org). Follow EventScotland on Twitter @EventScotNews.

EventScotland is a team within VisitScotland's Events Directorate, the national tourism organisation which markets Scotland as a tourism destination across the world, gives support to the tourism industry and brings sustainable tourism growth to Scotland. For more information about VisitScotland see [www.visitscotland.org](http://www.visitscotland.org) or for consumer information on Scotland as a visitor destination see [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com).

**CalMac Ferries Ltd** is the UK's largest ferry operator and one of the largest transport operators in Scotland. It operates 33 ferries serving 53 ports on 50 routes providing 158,000 sailings per year. In the 12 months to December 2017, the company carried more than 5.2 million passengers, 1.4 million cars and 79,000 commercial vehicles.

**Benihana** is a pioneer in introducing Japanese cuisine to global palates and has been entertaining guests from around the world for more than 50 years, showcasing fast-paced theatrics by their own personal chef who create an entertaining teppanyaki-style, delicious dining experience. The Glasgow opening is part of a new phase for Benihana as it celebrates its 55th anniversary and maps out new destinations for expansion.

**SCREEN SCOTLAND**  
**SGRÌN ALBA**



**EventScotland**

**PEOPLE  
MAKE  
GLASGOW**