



FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS

REEL LIVES

TUE 3 JUNE — SAT 28 JUNE 2025

REEL LIVES

FESTIVAL OFFICE

NERVE CENTRE

7-8 Magazine Street,
Derry~Londonderry,
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f FoyleFilmFest
X FoyleFilm
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TICKET PRICES

Regular evening screenings: £6
Cinematic Breakfast screenings: £6

ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

If wheelchairs need to be accommodated please make the festival aware how many when booking your screening or event

PROGRAMME CHANGES

Foyle Film Festival reserves the right to make changes to any aspect of the advertised programme. You will be informed if there is a problem or change with your booking.



FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL TEAM

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Led by:



Core Funders:



Welcome to the 2025 edition of Reel Lives offering a month-long selection of screenings showcasing alternative perspectives on film - both from established award-winning classics and groundbreaking new voices - bringing diverse perspectives to enlighten, challenge and entertain in the comfort of Nerve Centre Cinema.

From thought-provoking documentaries to groundbreaking international cinema, classic restorations in our Cinematic Breakfast screenings and with a plethora of hidden gems in between, every element has been meticulously curated by our programming team. We hope everyone attending this season of films will find the opportunity to embrace the power of cinema to spotlight original stories on screen.

Inequality, racism, LGBTQIA+, human rights and disability are among the key themes of this year's selection showcasing diversity, inclusion and equality for all communities. We're excited to present this programme to the people of Derry~Londonderry and beyond as we spotlight the best films from 2025 so far and a selection of beloved classics.

Christopher Morrison
Festival Programmer

TUE 3 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

FOUR MOTHERS

15

Darren Thornton | Ireland | 2024 | 89 mins

An Irish twist on Gianni Di Gregorio's acclaimed 2008 Italian hit *Mid-August Lunch* (*Pranzo di ferragosto*), and winner of the BFI London Film Festival Audience Award, Darren Thornton's uplifting and tender comedy-drama *Four Mothers* follows an unlikely found family on an emotionally charged journey of self-discovery and acceptance.

Edward (James McArdle), a talented novelist on the cusp of literary success, is juggling his work with the responsibility of caring for his elderly mother, Alma (Fionnula Flanagan). As the excitement of a US book tour builds, he is suddenly faced with an unexpected twist as his three friends decide to take an impromptu Pride getaway to Spain, leaving their mothers in his care.



WED 4 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

15

ON FALLING

Laura Carreira | United Kingdom, Portugal | 2024 | 104 mins | Subtitled



This film contains flickering or flashing lights that may affect those with photosensitive epilepsy.

Set against a landscape dominated by an algorithm-driven gig economy, in a world designed to keep us apart, *On Falling* explores the silent, vital struggle to find meaning and connection. It tells the story of Aurora (Joana Santos), a Portuguese migrant working as a warehouse picker in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Trapped between the confines of a vast distribution centre and the solitude of her own bedroom, Aurora seeks out every opportunity to resist the alienation and isolation that threaten her sense of self.

Winner of Best Director at San Sebastián and The Sutherland Award at BFI London Film Festival, *On Falling* (produced by Ken Loach's Sixteen Films) marks the emergence of a striking new voice in writer-director Laura Carreira.





REEL
LIVES



THU 5 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

MISERICORDIA

15

Alain Guiraudie | France, Spain, Portugal
2024 | 104 mins | Subtitled

The teasingly entwined ambiguities of love and death continue to fascinate French auteur Alain Guiraudie, who returns with a sharp, sinister, yet slyly funny thriller. Set in an autumnal, woodsy village in his native region of Occitanie, his latest follows the meandering exploits of Jérémie (Félix Kysyl), an out-of-work baker who has drifted back to his hometown after the death of his beloved former boss, a bakery owner.

Staying long after the funeral, the seemingly benign Jérémie begins to casually insinuate himself into his mentor's family, including his kind-hearted widow (Catherine Frot) and venomously angry son (Jean-Baptiste Durand), while making an increasingly surprising—and ultimately beneficial—friendship with an oddly cheerful local priest (Jacques Develay).



**FOYLE
FILM FESTIVAL**
AIMS TO ENGAGE AND
ENLIGHTEN AUDIENCES
FROM EVERY WALK OF LIFE
THROUGH OUR PROGRAMMES.
YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS SO
PLEASE SCAN HERE TO

**TELL US WHAT
YOU THINK!**



MON 9 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

IAR SMAÍ (REMNANTS)

THIS FILM IS
NOT YET RATED

Damian McCann | Ireland | 2024 | 75 mins | Subtitled

This screening will be free of charge

Producer of *Iarsmaí*, Deaglán Ó Mocháin (Dearcán Media) will introduce this screening.

Iarsmaí examines Ireland's colonial legacy through the story of stolen skulls in Trinity College Dublin; aboriginal items taken by Irish settlers in Australia; and how some of the Benin Bronzes, looted from Africa in the 1890s, ended up in the National Museum in Dublin.

Scrúdaíonn *Iarsmaí* an leagáid coilíneachta atá ag Éirinn trí scéal na mblaoscanna goidte atá in Coláiste na Tríonóide a inniúchadh; ábhar dúchasach a ghoid lonnaitheoirí Éireannacha ón Astráil; agus an bealach ar chrío chaigh cuid de na Benin Bronzes, a goideadh ón Aifric sna 1890í, in Iarsmalann Naisiúnta na hÉireann i mBaile Átha Cliath.

TUE 10 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

SISTER MIDNIGHT

15

Karan Kandhari | United Kingdom, India,
Sweden | 2024 | 107 mins | Subtitled

A newly arranged marriage. An oddball couple shoved together in a small Mumbai shack with paper-thin walls. They are awkward and alone-together. Unpredictable Uma (Radhika Apte) does her best to cope with the heat, her total lack of domestic skills, nosy neighbours and her bumbling spouse until the nocturnal world of Mumbai and its inhabitants lead her to face her own strange behaviours.

Karan Kandhari's BAFTA nominated feature directorial debut, is a wickedly funny genre-bending delight, combining physical comedy, surreal horror and furiously feminist energy with a livewire central performance from Radhika Apte. Featuring vibrant visuals, a stand-out soundtrack and joyously inventive writing, *Sister Midnight* is strikingly distinctive and wildly entertaining.





WED 11 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

A DIFFERENT MAN

15

Aaron Schimberg | United States | 2024 | 112 mins

Aspiring actor Edward (Oscar® nominee Sebastian Stan) undergoes a radical medical procedure to drastically transform his appearance. But his new dream face quickly turns into a nightmare, as he loses out on the role he was born to play and becomes obsessed with reclaiming what was lost in filmmaker Aaron Schimberg's darkly funny New York noir.

Led by Stan's radically transformative lead performance with impressive support from Renate Reinsve (breakout star of *The Worst Person in the World*) in her English language debut and Adam Pearson (who has neurofibromatosis in real life), *A Different Man* challenges and subverts perceptions of identity, self-worth, authenticity and the nature of beauty.

THU 12 | NERVE CENTRE | 6.30PM

JEANNE DIELMAN, 23 QUAI DU COMMERCE, 1080 BRUXELLES

15

Chantal Akerman | Belgium, France | 1975 | 201 mins | Subtitled

Chantal Akerman's landmark second feature follows the meticulous daily routine of its titular lead over the course of three days. Voted Sight and Sound's Greatest Film of All Time in 2022, marking the first time a female filmmaker has taken the number one spot, *Jeanne Dielman* is revolutionary in its bold experimental approach to narrative subject and structure.

Charting the breakdown of its protagonist, a bourgeois Belgian housewife (Delphine Seyrig), mother and part-time sex worker over the course of three days, the film rigorously records her everyday life in extended time and hypnotic detail. To watch *Jeanne Dielman* is to submit to Akerman's unrelenting gaze and to be trapped with Jeanne: 'to have the physical experience of time unfolding inside you, of time entering you'.



TUE 17 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

THE FLATS

THIS FILM IS
NOT YET RATED

Alessandra Celesia | France, Belgium, Ireland, United Kingdom | 2024 | 114 mins

In his tower-block apartment in New Lodge, Joe reenacts memories from his childhood amidst the Troubles. In this Catholic area of Belfast, the number of deaths was tragically significant. Joe is joined by neighbours Jolene, Sean, Angie, and others, all willingly participating in this process of revisiting the collective memories that shaped their lives and the district they live in.

Belfast's painful modern history is tightly interwoven with the lives of Joe and the other New Lodge residents in Alessandra Celesia's cinematic film, which deliberately unfolds in a timeless vacuum that resembles the 70s, yet is unmistakably contemporary. With reconstructions and a brilliant use of archival footage, Celesia conjures a subjective state where the past never really ended.



WED 18 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

15

LAST SWIM

Sasha Nathwani | United Kingdom | 2024 | 96 mins

Ziba (Deba Hekmat) is an ambitious and brainy young Londoner. Proud of her Iranian heritage, she is conscientious and sensible but also indulges in a certain romantic nihilism. Perhaps this is because of her passion for astronomy, or perhaps because she longs for happier times.

Although she is the only member of her close-knit friendship group to attain good results in the end-of-school exams, she is struggling to remain optimistic. She and her friends want to spend the day together in the hot summer London and witness a unique celestial event.

Secretly, Ziba is planning an irreversible step that – in her mind – will give her back control over her life. Caught between a deep passion for being alive and an overwhelming desire to end the pain and fear of her current reality, Ziba must learn to let go of her adolescent dreams and cope with uncertainty.



THU 19 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

APRIL

15

Dea Kulumbegashvili | France, Italy, Georgia
2024 | 134 mins | Subtitled

Winner of the Special Jury Prize at Venice Film Festival, *April* is Dea Kulumbegashvili's follow-up to her acclaimed debut *Beginning*. Nina (Ia Sukhitashvili) is a skilled obstetrician at a maternity hospital in Eastern Georgia. After a tragedy strikes in the delivery room, the grief-stricken father demands an inquiry into her methods.

The resulting scrutiny threatens to bring to light Nina's other, secret job – driving, through the stunningly beautiful countryside, to the village homes of pregnant girls and women to provide unsanctioned abortions – and to destroy the work that is the only source of meaning in her life.

Italian Film Club at Nerve Cinema, a series of ongoing screenings showcases Italian culture and Italian language through contemporary and classic titles from Italian cinema

TUE 24 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

ITALIAN FILM CLUB: THE GREAT BEAUTY

15

Paolo Sorrentino | Italy, France | 2013 | 141 mins | Subtitled

Jep Gambardella was once hailed as a literary genius for his debut novel, but in the years since has plied his trade as a columnist for a Rome newspaper. A giant amongst the city's high society, he nevertheless feels he has failed in life. And he sees the world he once embraced as a venal, self-interested place. But how to escape the present and recapture the spirit and romanticism of his youth?

Sorrentino regular Toni Servillo is outstanding as Gambardella, at once charming and needy, smart and insecure. And the ensemble cast perfectly captures the grotesquery of this world. But the true star is Rome itself, which Sorrentino captures in all of its grandeur.

Rhapsodic and visually dazzling, this satirical Oscar®-winner is the worthy successor to Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*.

WED 25 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

DAHOMEY



Mati Diop | France, Senegal, Benin, Singapore | 2024 | 68 mins | Subtitled

This screening will be introduced by Agrippa Njanina, Assistant Curator at National Museums NI.

From acclaimed auteur Mati Diop, *Dahomey* is a poetic and immersive work of art that delves into real perspectives on far-reaching issues surrounding appropriation, self-determination and restitution. Set in November 2021, the documentary charts 26 royal treasures from the Kingdom of Dahomey that are due to leave Paris and return to their country of origin: the present-day Republic of Benin.

Using multiple perspectives, Diop questions how these artifacts should be received in a country that has reinvented itself in their absence. Winner of the coveted Golden Bear prize at the 2024 Berlinale, Mati Diop's dynamic film is an affecting though altogether singular conversation piece that amplifies voices from beyond the walls of international museums, in turn redefining the spaces of culture and art.



THU 26 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

SHADOWS ON OUR SKIN

Jim O'Brien | United Kingdom | 1980 | 79 mins



Screening in commemoration of the passing of the author and playwright Jennifer Johnston, Foyle Film Festival presents the fully restored version of this powerful and evocative portrait of 1970s Derry, rarely screened since its initial airing as part of the *Play for Today* Series in 1980.

Based on Jennifer Johnston's novel of the same name, *Shadows on Our Skin* tells the story of 11 year old Joe, growing up in the Bogside area of Derry in the midst of The Troubles. Frustrated with his disaffected family and the pervasive military presence, he finds his life expanded in new and potentially exciting ways after a chance meeting with school-teacher Kathleen.

CINEMATIC BREAKFASTS

Doors Open: 10.30AM – Film: 11AM

Settle into a morning of nostalgia with a warm coffee and fresh croissant, as we showcase timeless classics on the big screen. Booking is required for catering.

Admission: £6 + booking fee (includes croissant and tea/coffee)



Image Courtesy of Park Circus/Paramount



SAT 7 | NERVE CENTRE | 11AM

ROMAN HOLIDAY



William Wyler | United States | 1953 | 118 mins

Lovingly restored in stunning 4K, *Roman Holiday* features a legendary, Oscar®-winning performance from Audrey Hepburn (in her first starring role). Nominated for a total of 10 Academy Awards®, it's the story of a modern-day princess who, rebelling against royal obligations, explores Rome on her own. She soon meets an American newspaperman (Gregory Peck) who pretends ignorance of her true identity, in the hopes of obtaining an exclusive story. Naturally, his plan falters as they inevitably fall in love.

Beautifully photographed on location in Italy's capital (the first Hollywood production to do so), and featuring Eddie Albert as a carefree cameraman pal, a classic Dalton Trumbo screenplay, expert direction from auteur William Wyler, and Edith Head's Oscar®-winning costumes, it's a timeless romantic comedy considered to be one of the greatest films from the Golden Age of Hollywood.

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SAT 14 | NERVE CENTRE | 11AM

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER



Stanley Kramer | United States | 1967 | 108 mins

Joanna (Katharine Houghton), the beautiful daughter of crusading publisher Matthew Drayton (Spencer Tracy) and his patrician wife Christina (Katharine Hepburn), returns home with her new fiancé John Prentice (Sidney Poitier), a distinguished black doctor. Christina accepts her daughter's decision to marry John, but Matthew is shocked by this interracial union; the doctor's parents are equally dismayed.

Among the few feature films of its time to positively portray an interracial marriage (at the time, still illegal in 17 states) and with scenes filmed directly prior to anti-miscegenation laws being struck down by the Supreme Court, *Guess Who's Coming To Dinner* (screening from a new 4K restoration) remains a powerful, necessary, and poignant classic.

Image Courtesy of Park Circus/Paramount



SAT 21 | NERVE CENTRE | 11AM

A NEW LEAF



Elaine May | United States | 1971 | 102 mins

One of America's finest comic talents, Elaine May, made her debut as writer-director with *A New Leaf*, a throwback to classic screwball comedies with its blend of satire, inventiveness and wit. Showcasing her genius for sardonic, wickedly observant humour and stuffed with deadpan hilarity and brilliant comic invention, this underseen gem signalled her emergence as a major new talent in American cinema.

Walter Matthau stars as Henry, a once-rich playboy who has obliviously spent his entire inheritance. Desperate to marry into further financial support, he meets Henrietta (Elaine May), a shy, awkward, though independently wealthy botany professor. What follows is a giddy tale of dubious legal advice, ruthless skullduggery and ferns.

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SAT 28 | NERVE CENTRE | 11AM

IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT



Norman Jewison | United States | 1967 | 110 mins

When a wealthy industrialist is found murdered in a small Mississippi town and an African-American man is picked up at the train station with a wallet full of cash, local Police Chief Bill Gillespie (Rod Steiger) immediately assumes he has caught his culprit.

He's soon embarrassed to learn that the man he has arrested is Detective Virgil Tibbs (Sidney Poitier), an experienced police officer from Philadelphia who is passing through town and is keen to leave the prejudiced community as soon as possible.

But when Tibbs' superior officer orders him to assist on the case and the victim's widow demands that he lead the investigation, the unlikely pair are forced to work together to unravel the mystery, leading them on a line of enquiry that will challenge both of their preconceptions.

AT A GLANCE GUIDE

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