



100 YEARS

**Immediate Release**

## **IWM reveals fresh take on Short Film Festival 2017 for its Centenary year**

- New thematic format for IWM's annual Short Film Festival will divide the free screenings into themes, addressing issues including hope, displacement and fear
- IWM announces new Short Film Festival patron, Lord David Puttnam, producer of films including the Academy Award-winning *Chariots of Fire* and *The Killing Fields*
- Most successful call for entries to date, with nearly 700 submissions to the festival from 78 different countries in 2017

IWM today unveils details of this year's [IWM Short Film Festival](#), following a record year of entries. The free daytime screenings, taking place at IWM London from 17-26 November, will showcase nearly 40 shortlisted films that explore war, conflict and oppression through the lens of animation, documentaries and creative pieces.

This year, for the first time, screenings at IWM Short Film Festival will be presented in a new format, inspired by the complex ideas provoked by the entries. Films have been divided into themes such as hope, sacrifice and trauma, encouraging audiences to reflect on the films, their perspectives and their significance. In addition to these free daytime screenings, a series of ticketed evening events will also be on offer, with more detail on these events to be announced soon.

In 2017, IWM Short Film Festival has seen nearly 700 entries across 78 different countries, which is a record for the festival. Running since 2001, and now in its sixteenth year, the festival encourages entrants from students, amateurs and professionals alike to present imaginative and challenging films relating to IWM's remit to understand the causes, course and consequences of war.

IWM is proud to also announce a new patron of the Short Film Festival, Lord Puttnam, best known for producing *Chariots of Fire* and *The Killing Fields*. The festival will be judged by a respected panel of experts from the film industry, including Kevin Loader, producer of *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, and contemporary artist Shona Illingworth, who is exhibiting in IWM London's exhibition *Age of Terror: Art Since 9/11*.

**Matt Lee, IWM Short Film Festival Director says,** "The sheer amount of entries for this year's IWM Short Film Festival was incredible, and it is a testament to the quality of the submissions that we have a shortlist of nearly 40 powerful and provocative films – more than any we've ever showcased previously. We're very excited to be presenting the films thematically, as we feel it allows new and stimulating ways for audiences to engage with the topic matter. Films featuring this year are as varied and wide-ranging as an animation about a zoo in Gaza, to a reimagining of the experience of life in the trenches for soldiers during the First World War."

**Anna Balchin, who won the Short Film Festival's Best Student Film in 2016, says,** "Not only was the prize a fantastic paid internship at a great company called October Films, but for myself, that has now led on to a full time job with October Films, which I absolutely love."

Between Friday 17 and Sunday 26 November, audiences will have the opportunity to view these challenging, thought-provoking and inspirational films, which will be open to the public on a free, drop-in basis. Screenings will take place every day at 12pm, 2pm and 3pm in the Cinema at IWM London, with an additional screening at 1pm on Saturday 18, Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 November.

Winners will be announced at an exclusive award ceremony on Wednesday 15 November. Prizes on offer include a paid internship over three months with October Films; an archive restoration package worth up to £10,000 with R3Store Studios; a complimentary venue hire for a premiere event at King's College London; and a 5 day access to film studio facilities at London South Bank University. Previous winners have gone on to secure a permanent roles following winning placements as a result of their entry. Entrants also have the chance of their films being included in a special 'best of festival' package, which will be screened at Picturehouse Cinemas.

Films this year have been judged by a panel of industry experts. Entries have been split in two categories, *The Annie Dodds Award for Best Documentary* and *Best Creative Response*. In addition, awards will also be offered to the *Best Student Film*, *Best Use of IWM Archive Material* and *IWM Special Category: Age of Terror*, inspired by the upcoming [Age of Terror: Art Since 9/11](#) exhibition opening at IWM London on 26 October 2017, the UK's first major exhibition of artists' responses to war and conflict since the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001. The final category, the *Audience Vote Award*, will be decided by the public during the screening period, and announced through IWM channels following the end of the festival.

**-Ends-**

**For further press information, including a list of shortlisted films, film previews, images and interview requests please contact:**

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#### **Notes to editors**

The eleven themes for screenings incorporate Hope, Courage, Family, Loss, Sacrifice, Legacy, Fear, Displacement, Trauma, Relationships and Responses.

Film Festival Screenings: 17– 26 November 2017 every day at 12pm, 2pm and 3pm in the Cinema at IWM London, with an additional screening at 1pm on Saturday 18, Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 November.

The full programme details can be found here: <http://www.iwm.org.uk/film-festival>, with more details about ticketed evening events to be announced soon.

37 films have been shortlisted (further details on the accompanying IWM Short Film Festival 2017 Finalists document) for the following awards:

*The Annie Dodds Award for Best Documentary*

*Best Creative Response*

*Best Student Film*

*Best Use of IWM Archive Material*

*IWM Special Category: Age of Terror*

*The Audience Vote Award*

Please note that some entries this year are recommended only for adults due to the graphic nature of their content, and this will be clearly indicated prior to Cinema entry and on relevant literature.

#### **About IWM's Short Film Festival**

IWM's Film Festival began in 2001 as a student film festival with an emphasis on discovering, sharing and reinterpreting IWM's extensive film archive. Following continued development and the introduction of submissions from amateur filmmakers in 2007, the most recent IWM Film Festival was held in February and March 2016. In 2017, IWM Short Film Festival has seen 681 entries in total.

Judges for the IWM Short Film Festival 2017 are:

Lydia Beilby (Short Film Programmer, Edinburgh International Film Festival); Sheyma Buali (Director, BBC Arabic Festival); Jemma Desai (Film Programme Manager, Shorts and Global Exhibition, British Council); Chris Elliott (Head of Division of Film and Media, London South Bank University); Chris Harris (Programmer and Head of Virtual Services, Picturehouse Cinemas); Sandra Hebron (Head of Screen Arts, National Film and Television School); Shona Illingworth (Exhibiting Artist, IWM London: *Age of Terror*); Matimba Kabalika (NET.WORK Talent Co-ordinator and Content Editor, BFI Film Fund); Matt Lee (Director, IWM Short Film Festival), Kevin Loader

(Producer, Free Range Films); Jane Manning (Director, Production and Operations, October Films); Richard Melman (Executive Producer, Spring Films); Jack Penman (Freelance Archive Producer, Channel 4, PBS and National Geographic Channel); Helen Upcraft (Assistant Director, IWM Short Film Festival); Dr Toby Haggith (Founding Director, IWM Short Film Festival); Dr Lawrence Napper (Lecturer in Film Studies, King's College London); Bonnie-Chance Roberts (Development & Production Executive, Monumental Pictures).

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#IWMFilmFest

[www.iwm.org.uk/film-festival](http://www.iwm.org.uk/film-festival)

### **IWM Film Archive**

IWM has managed a Film Archive from its very beginnings as an institution in 1917, and the film collection now covers all aspects of conflicts in which British, Commonwealth or former Empire countries have been involved since the start of the twentieth century. Our constantly growing collection now extends to over 23,000 hours of moving images, representing a wide and diverse range of material from public and service information films, documentaries and unedited combat film, through to official newsreels and amateur films. Highlights of the collection include the original 1916 record of The Battle of the Somme (now granted UNESCO Memory of the World status), Academy Award-winning documentaries Target for Tonight (1941) and The True Glory (1945), the former library of NATO, UNTV Zagreb newsreels and library, and most recently, digital born material of operations in Afghanistan. There is also a significant collection of amateur film – much of it in colour – covering wide areas of the former British Empire, the Second World War, India and beyond.

### **IWM**

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique Collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches which attract over 2 million visitors each year are **IWM London**, IWM's flagship branch that recently transformed with new, permanent and free First World War Galleries alongside new displays across the iconic Atrium to mark the Centenary of the First World War; **IWM North**, housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; **IWM Duxford**, a world renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; **Churchill War Rooms**, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser **HMS Belfast**.

### **IWM Centenary**

2017 marks Imperial War Museums (IWM) centenary. IWM was established while the First World War was still being fought. Since its establishment people have entrusted IWM with their stories of war from 1917 to the present day, in the knowledge it will continue to share these stories with future generations. IWM will commemorate its 100 years through a centenary of stories from its rich collections across its five branches (IWM London, IWM North, IWM Duxford, Churchill War Rooms and HMS *Belfast*).



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### **First World War Centenary**

2014 - 2018 marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM is marking the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities across the world. For more information visit [www.1914.org](http://www.1914.org)

