

Box Office: 01324 506850

[www.hippfest.co.uk](http://www.hippfest.co.uk)



# HippFest

Silent Film - Live Music

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19-23  
MARCH  
2025



Box Office: 01324 506850

[www.hippfest.co.uk](http://www.hippfest.co.uk)

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With thanks to

Eldjon Abbasov, Jenny Alexander, Kevin Brownlow (Photoplay Productions), Imogen Cartwright (Rosebank), Steve Davis (DCM), Hanna Dede (Goethe Institut Glasgow), Bryony Dixon (BFI National Film Archive), Elaina Friedrichsen (Mary Pickford Foundation), Sandy Gillone (Forth Valley Sensory Centre), Polly Goodwin (pollysensoryaccess.com), Rory Griffiths (British Pathé Ltd) Liz Gunn (Ian Macleod Distillers), Oliver Hanley, Stuart Hendry (Ian Macleod Distillers), Lisa Therese Hoen (Tromsø International Film Festival), Llinos Wyn Jones (Confucius Institute for Scotland @ the University Of Edinburgh), Dr. Nigora Karimova (Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan), Ella Kemp (Letterboxd), Nicola Kettlewood (Into Film), Amanda Kilburn (SRPS), Dr Chris Letcher (Reid School of Music), Pat Mahon (Scottish Association of Moviemakers), Mike Mashon, Emma Mortimore (Queen's Hall), Rosie Murray (Rosebank Distillery), Caroline Nisbet (Forth Valley Sensory Centre), Magnus Rosborn, Tatjana Sandon (Fairer Falkirk), Igor Shaytanov (Tromsø International Film Festival), Sambrooke Scott (Screen Scotland), Dr Melanie Selfe (University of Glasgow), Katharine Simpson (Screen Scotland), Tony Tracy (University of Galway), Jay Weissberg (Giornate del Cinema Muto)

Thanks also to our colleagues in Falkirk Council particularly Place Services, Children's Services, Development, Communities and Corporate Services, and to all the Hippodrome venue staff and volunteers.

# A very warm welcome to our 15th HippFest!

Thank you for being part of the wonderful HippFest community for our milestone edition. The team and I look forward to sharing with you a superlative line-up of silent films presented with unrivalled live music accompaniment. And when you're not watching great films, do join us for the many immersive treats we have on offer – an excursion, a quiz, a guided tour, an exhibition, a party, a workshop, talks, an online programme... so much to choose from! Don't forget all that Bo'ness has to offer too – from independent shops to unique visitor attractions. What fun we will have!

**Alison Strauss** | Arts Development Officer (Film and Media) | Falkirk Council



## DONATE TO HIPPFEST


HippFest is Scotland's only festival of silent film with live music, centred in and inspired by Scotland's oldest cinema, featuring exceptional screenings, commissions, workshops, community events and touring. Our **Vision** is to be a world class Festival for silent film, cultivating an international community with an adventurous appetite for extraordinary cinema. Please consider making a donation to support our work.

You can donate online via our website [www.hippodromecinema.co.uk/get-involved/support-us/](http://www.hippodromecinema.co.uk/get-involved/support-us/) or in the Hippodrome (cash or card). We are very grateful for all the support we receive – thank you!

## LAST MINUTE TICKETS

All concession holders can buy £5 tickets on the day for events that are not sold out and have more than 10 tickets available (excluding Friday Night Gala). These £5 tickets go on sale on the morning of the screening/event and are available to purchase from the Hippodrome Box Office only.

## CAPTIONING INFO

Talks, and spoken introductions for all screenings at the Hippodrome will have live captioning: look out for 

Creative Captioning will be provided for the HippFest Opening Night performance of *With Reindeer and Sled in Inka Lânta's Winterland* for audiences tuning in online. This is an interpreted transcript of the performance's music and soundscape.

## AUDIO DESCRIPTION

Audio description (AD) for visually impaired audiences will be available at the Friday Night Gala screening only. To request pre-screening information and to book headphones please refer to the online listing for *The Pride of the Clan*.

# HippFest at Home

**HippFest begins at home!** Looking forward to HippFest, or keen to join in from afar? We've got some great online talks preceding our core programme, plus a selection of upcoming events available to stream directly from the comfort of your own home.

Why not tune into HippCast? Monthly episodes explore the world of silent cinema, plus some of the connected industries which weave into its presentation, restoration, and appreciation. We would love to stay in touch outside of the Festival – connect with us on social media via our handle: @hippfest. **Scan the QR code to get involved.**



## PRE-FESTIVAL PRESENTATIONS

Designed to complement the programme, these illustrated presentations offer online viewers a chance to hear from some of the most knowledgeable international silent film curators, critics and scholars. Join us for the live premiere to submit your questions or comments to the speaker, or tune in at a later date via our HippFest at Home YouTube Playlist.

**Tuesday 28 January, 19:00 (UTC+0)** – *Alma Reville: In the Shadow of Hitchcock?*

**Tuesday 18 February, 19:00 (UTC+0)** – *Ben Carré: Cinema's Premier Art Director*

**Tuesday 4 March, 19:00 (UTC+0)** – *In the Frame of the Father: Films made by Irish priests*

## Introducing the LHARAs (Letterboxd HippFest Audience Review Awards)

We want to hear from you! We've teamed up with [Letterboxd](#) (the free-to-join, global social network for grass-roots film discussion and discovery) to enhance the HippFest review competition for our 15th edition. To be in with a chance of winning a LHARA, submit a review on Letterboxd\* of any film screened at HippFest 2025 with the tag 'HippFest 2025' before the deadline of midnight, Sunday 30 March. We will select one winner who will be awarded £50 of Falkirk Leisure and Culture gift vouchers and with permission, we will publish the winning review via our online channels.

\*Letterboxd sign-up required.

# HippFest at Home

Look out for: 

Tune in from home for selected events! Online listings will be clearly marked “HippFest at Home” as part of the event title. Further to audience feedback and evaluation we are trialling some enhancements and changes. Instead of broadcasting live, four online HippFest at Home events will be available to view ‘on demand’ within a 48-hour window, after the live presentations in Bo’ness. This means that we’ll be better able to manage our online output, and whether you’re tuning in from Tottenham or Timbuktu, you can enjoy a little bit of HippFest... at home!

All of these ‘on-demand’ broadcasts will feature the option to view the film with or without the performing musician visible throughout the screening. All spoken introductions will feature English captioning, and our Opening Night presentation *With Reindeer and Sled in Inka Länta’s Winterland* will include a time-stamped transcript of **Creative Captions**: an interpretation of the music and soundscape for Deaf and hard-of-hearing audiences. *The Pride of the Clan* will feature optional **Audio Description**, plus relevant preparatory materials with braille compatibility, for visually-impaired audiences.

## Coming up online in 2025:

### **FEATURE | With Reindeer and Sled in Inka Länta’s Winterland**

In-person on Wednesday 19 March | £6 / £4.50 conc.

Booking to watch online closes at **midnight, Thursday 20 March**. This title will be available to view online for 48 hours **from 12 noon Friday 21 March – Sunday 23 March**.

### **SHORTS PROGRAMME | The Near Shore: A Scottish and Irish Cine-Concert**

In-person on Thursday 20 March | £6 / £4.50 conc.

Booking to watch online closes at **midnight, Friday 21 March**. This title will be available to view online for 48 hours **from 12 noon Saturday 22 March – Monday 24 March**.

### **PRESENTATION | Neil Brand: Key Notes**

In-person on Friday 21 March | £6 / £4.50 conc.

Booking to watch online closes at **midnight, Saturday 22 March**. This title will be available to view online for 48 hours **from 12 noon Sunday 23 March – Tuesday 25 March**.

### **FEATURE | The Pride of the Clan**

In-person on Friday 21 March | £6 / £4.50 conc.

Booking to watch online closes at **midnight, Saturday 22 March**. This title will be available to view online for 48 hours **from 12 noon Sunday 23 March – Tuesday 25 March**.

Spotlight on Alma Reville

## The Constant Nymph



**Saturday 15 March | 19:30 (doors 18:45) | £10 / £8 conc.  
Venue: Barony Theatre, Borrowstoun Rd. EH51 9RS**

Rare screening of the romantic drama voted “Best British feature of 1928”, and starring “Britain’s handsomest screen actor” Ivor Novello.

Matinee idol–playwright–composer Novello followed his success in Hitchcock’s *The Lodger* and *Downhill* the year before with this performance as a young composer whose hasty marriage flounders when the affection between him and the young daughter of his mentor blossoms into a desperately passionate affair.

Best known as the wife and collaborator of Alfred Hitchcock, Alma Reville was pregnant with their daughter when she co-wrote this fine film adaptation of the best-selling and controversial source novel. Considered lost for decades, this important jigsaw-piece from Reville’s distinguished career was found, thanks to the 1992 ‘Missing Believed Lost’ British Film Institute call to archives and collectors round the world to check their holdings in search of elusive British films.

**Dir. Adrian Brunel | UK | 1928 | N/C 12A | 1h 50m**  
**With: Ivor Novello, Mabel Poulton, Frances Doble, Mary Clare**  
**Performing live: Mike Nolan (piano)**  
**Introduced by Dr Josephine Botting**



Screening courtesy of Photoplay and BFI National Archive  
 Online programme notes by Dr Josephine Botting (Curator of Fiction, BFI National Archive)

**CONTENT ADVISORY: Contains adolescent sexuality, bear dancing, parental death, death**

Find out more about Alma Reville, the film’s co-writer and editor by tuning in to the [online presentation by Dr Josephine Botting](#) (see p.4).



# Before the Face of the Sea



**Wednesday 19 March | 14:30 | £11 / £8.50 conc.**

Eerie drama bearing all the hallmarks of a fully-fledged folk horror.

Three students set out on an aimless midsummer sailing trip and become entranced by the mysterious inhabitants of a remote island. One of them – Kristoffer – is drawn to Henrika – a wide-eyed and ethereal young woman who lives a simple, frugal life with no-one for company but her gruff father, an uncouth farmhand and an eccentric old fisherman. But what secrets are the islanders keeping? Unable to tear himself away, Kristoffer decides to stay for the summer to unravel the mysteries of this isolated, superstitious community. Folklore, the supernatural and ritual weave a sinister spell, intensified by the starkly beautiful archipelago locations.

**Dir. Teuvo Puro | Finland | 1926 | N/C 12A | b&w, tinted & toned | Finnish and English intertitles | 1h 40m**

**With: Urho Seppälä, Kaarlo Kytö, Ilmari Unho, Axel Slangus, Heidi Blåfield-Korhonen**

**Original title: Meren kasvojen edessä**

**Performing live: Jane Gardner (piano), Caroline Salmon (voice, bass, tenor viol)**

Screening material courtesy of Finnish Film Archive

Online programme notes by Antti Alanen

**CONTENT ADVISORY: Contains suicide, knife violence**

**Join us between Wednesday's screenings for our HippFest Quiz and Social Mixer 16:30 – 18:30 at Bo'ness's new pub: the Bo'ness Barrel, 46–48 South Street, Bo'ness EH51 9HD. Max. 6 per team. If you don't have teammates we will match you with someone on arrival. Free to enter. Prizes!**

Opening Night – New Music Commission World Premiere

## With Reindeer and Sled in Inka Lánta's Winterland



**Wednesday 19 March | 19:30 | £15 / £12 conc.**

Beautiful, naturalistic portrait of everyday life for the indigenous people of Sweden.

The film follows Inka Lánta and her family of reindeer herders in northern Sweden as they strive to subsist in the harsh winter months. Documentary-like sequences alongside staged scenes combine to give an intimate portrayal of the region's traditional way of life. The stunning landscape is an awe-inspiring backdrop to the domestic rituals, dramatic hunting trips and momentous life events which ultimately signal a proud message of survival. Though directed and photographed by outsiders, and overlooking the ethnicity politics of the time, the film achieves a touching authenticity and respect for its subject – the Sámi.

**HippFest is proud to present the world premiere of a new music commission by Sámi-Finnish joiker and electronic musician Hildá Länsman and sound designer Tuomas Norvio, collaborating with the Norwegian-Sámi musician Lávre Johan Eira and Swedish composer, cellist and bass guitarist Svante Henryson.**

**Dir. Erik Bergström | Sweden | 1926 | N/C 12A | b&w, tinted & toned | Swedish intertitles with English surtitles | 1h**

**With: Inka Lánta, Petter Lánta, Anta Pirak, Henrik Omma**  
**Original title: *Med ackja och ren i Inka Lántas vinterland***  
**HippFest at Home creative music captioning: Max McGrath**



Screening material courtesy of Swedish Film Institute  
 Commission funded by Tromsø International Film Festival  
 Additional thanks to Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland  
 Online programme notes by Magnus Rosborn (Film Archivist, Swedish Film Institute)

**CONTENT ADVISORY: Contains animal slaughter and hunting, death**





# The Shamrock Handicap



**Thursday 20 March | 14:30 | £11 / £8.50 conc.**

Legendary director John Ford digs deep into his Irish roots for this affectionate tale about Irish immigrants to America, set in the dramatic world of horse-racing.

A good-hearted Irish landowner finds he has no choice but to sell his beloved horses to a rich American. They strike a bargain that includes the stable boy Neil as part of the package, whose exceptional skills as a jockey will be a great asset in the New World. Neil agrees to up sticks, pledging to send for his sweetheart once he has made his fortune... but Fate deals a hard blow.

This racetrack drama, with its spectacular final race sequence, has a suitably brisk pace plus a host of loveable, Irish characters (the O'Sheas, the O'Haras etc.) and a fully-faceted, multicultural band of jockeys at the track. This memorable ensemble cast features an early performance for Janet Gaynor – who would go on to win the Academy Award for Best Actress a year later in *Sunrise*.

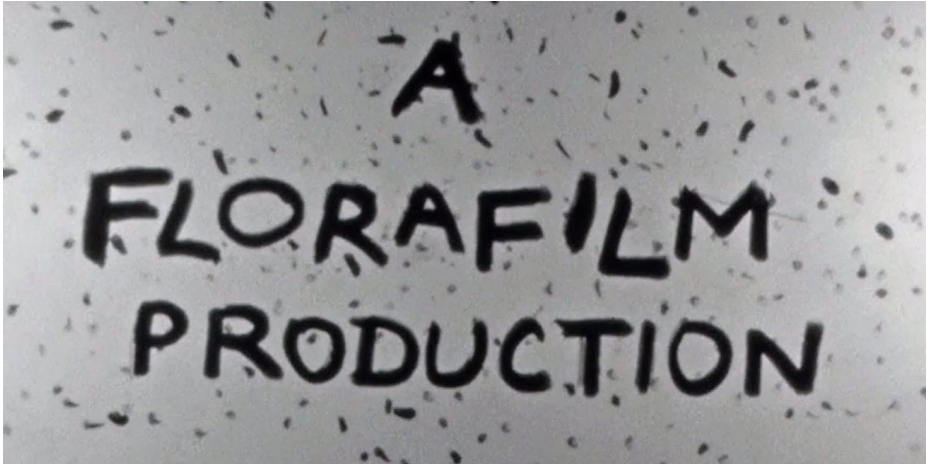
**Dir. John Ford | USA | 1926 | N/C 12A | b&w, tinted & toned | English intertitles  
1h 17m + short**

**With: Janet Gaynor, Leslie Fenton, J. Farrell MacDonald, Louis Payne  
Performing live: Mike Nolan (piano)**

From the collection of The Museum of Modern Art  
Online programme notes by Dr Tony Tracy (University of Galway)



# Flora Kerrigan - Rediscovering a Film Pioneer



**Thursday 20 March | 17:30 | £11 / £8.50 conc.**

Discover the darkly comedic and idiosyncratic world of Irish animator Flora Kerrigan – the rediscovered “amateur” filmmaker with a professional sensibility.

Cork-born filmmaker Flora Kerrigan crafted a remarkable collection of silent animation and live-action shorts on 8mm film in the 1960s. The surreal playfulness of her animation belied the painstaking meticulousness of their production and her work earned international accolades and an airing on Irish national television. The live-action films are an equally fascinating treasure trove – featuring friends and family – variously absurd, comedic, macabre and concerned with female sexuality.

Following Kerrigan’s move to the UK in the late 1960s, her work faded into obscurity until it was recently rediscovered through the Women in Focus Film Archives project and a collaboration between the IFI Irish Film Archive and Maynooth University.

Presented with a newly commissioned accompaniment by Irish avant-garde free-improvisational pianist, Paul G. Smyth in partnership with the Irish Film Institute.

**Running time: 1h approx. | N/C 12A**  
**Performing live: Paul G. Smyth (piano)**

Online programme notes by Kasandra O’Connell  
Restored with support from ACE – Association des Cinémathèques Européennes and the EU Creative Europe MEDIA programme



Irish Film Institute

# The Near Shore: A Scottish and Irish Cine-Concert



**Thursday 20 March | 20:00 | £11 / £8.50 conc.**

Delightful collection of short silent films from the IFI Irish Film Archive and National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive presenting alternating perspectives on Scotland and Ireland through the lens of Scottish and Irish filmmakers.

This special reciprocal programme includes *Royal Clyde Yacht Club* (1899) – the earliest known film made by an Irishman; *Ireland by Air* – featuring Scottish aviatrix Winnie Drinkwater (1933); two charming films by Butlins camp photographer John Tomkins – *Butlins Holiday Camp* and *Rush Hour* (1950s); and *The Farm below the Mountain* – a record by Scottish filmmaker Ernest Tiernan of his travels with his young bride Kathleen to meet her family in rural Ireland (1958). The films will be accompanied by renowned Irish avant-garde pianist, Paul G. Smyth.

**Running time: 1h 10m approx. | N/C U**  
**Performing live: Paul Smyth (piano)**



**Irish Film** Institute

**HippFest Late: Join us from 17:00 at The Collective, Bo'ness Barrell, The Wee Wine Bar and Food@34a as local venues stay open just that little bit later to celebrate an exciting Festival weekend ahead.**

# Neil Brand: Key Notes



Photo Credit: Valerio Greco Photography

**Friday 21 March | 12:30 | £11 / £8.50 conc.**

An audience with silent cinema music maestro Neil Brand!

A high speed voyage into the art of silent cinema accompaniment presented by the world's foremost proponent of this specialised artform. Neil will draw on his expertise presenting BBC TV's *Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies* series, and his years composing and improvising for silent film, to provide insightful commentary on how music contributes to an audience's appreciation of film, with real-time, live demonstration. From the earliest, earthiest comedies and thrillers, and a cine-verbatim classic shot by a young Billy Wilder (which the audience gets to score!), to the glories of Hollywood glamour, crowned by a live performance of a film he hasn't seen, Neil provides improvised accompaniment and pithy commentary on everything from deep focus to his own live cinema disasters.

A unique and memorable show that will leave you in awe of the great filmmakers of the silent era and the artistry of the accompanists who breathed life... and sound into their work.

**Running time: 1h 15m | N/C 12A**

Commissioned in its original form for the Edinburgh International Festival



Spotlight on Alma Reville

## The Pleasure Garden



**Friday 21 March | 15:00 (doors 14:45) | £11 / £8.50 conc.**

Twenty-six-year-old Hitchcock cut his directorial teeth on this seedy but stylistic melodrama about a pair of chorus girls with opposing moral compasses.

The film shifts from slightly frothy backstage shenanigans to full-throttled pulp fiction as we follow the evolving relationship between provincial social-climber Jill (Carmelita Geraghty) and kindly vaudeville-veteran Patsy (Virginia Valli). Hitch revealed that he was nervous to be directing these established Hollywood leading ladies as such a newcomer himself, finding much encouragement from his future wife – Alma Reville – to whom he became engaged on set, and from whom he sought constant guidance to ensure he was “doing the right thing”.

**Dir. Alfred Hitchcock | UK | 1925 | N/C 12A | b&w, tinted & toned | English intertitles  
1h 32m + short**

**With: Virginia Valli, Carmelita Geraghty, Miles Mander, John Stuart  
Performing live: Jane Gardner (piano), Hazel Morrison (percussion)**

Screening material courtesy of the BFI National Archive  
Online programme notes by Caroline Young

**CONTENT ADVISORY: Contains murder, domestic abuse**

Find out more about Alma Reville, the film’s assistant director and editor at the [online presentation by Dr Josephine Botting](#) (see p.4).

Tune in to the [HippCast Podcast](#) with Caroline Young on Hitchcock’s silent heroines.

Friday Night Gala

# The Pride of the Clan



Image credit: Mary Pickford Foundation and Marc Wanamaker/Bison

**Friday 21 March | 20:00 (doors from 19:00) | £22 / £19 conc.  
including 'champagne' reception and after party.**

**DRESS CODE: Tartan or HippFest glamour!**

The stunning Scottish location-shooting may actually be in Massachusetts, but this charming tale of West Coast fisher-folk will beguile you with its proud tartan heart.

Mary Pickford plays plucky Marget MacTavish – only daughter of the last Chieftain of a fishing community on the island of Killean. When her father dies at sea it is up to Marget to assume leadership of the Clan and whip the islanders into shape. The “Woman who made Hollywood” mustered the formidable talents of Tourneur and Carré to make this enchanting ‘Scottish’ gem – available at last in a new restoration revealing the film’s beautiful composition, lighting and art direction.

**Dir. Maurice Tourneur | USA | 1917 | N/C PG | b&w, tinted & toned | English intertitles  
1h 24m + short**

**With: Mary Pickford, Matt Moore, Warren Cooke, Kathryn Browne-Decker**

**Performing live: Stephen Horne (piano, flute, accordion), Elizabeth-Jane Baldry (harp)**

Audio description (AD) for visually impaired audiences (feature film only).

Limited availability AD headsets, prebooking essential for in-person audiences.

Screening material courtesy of the Mary Pickford Foundation

Online programme notes by Thomas Walsh

**Find out more about Ben Carré, the film’s art director at the [online presentation by Thomas Walsh](#) (see p.4)**

## POST-SCREENING ENTERTAINMENT

Be sure to stay for the Scottish-themed after-party. The Hippodrome bar serving soft and alcoholic drinks will be open until 23:00. [Shuttle bus to Linlithgow departs at 23:15.](#)



Jeely Jar Special

## Our Hospitality



**Saturday 22 March | 11:00 | £6**  
**2-for-1 with clean jam jar**

Buster Keaton proves his genius as a physical comedian, inventive performer and artistic visionary in this preposterous take on *Romeo and Juliet*, transplanted to 19th century Kentucky.

Returning to his birthplace to claim his inheritance, young dandy Willie McKay (Keaton) falls for his fellow-traveller, the beautiful Virginia Canfield (Talmadge). Equally smitten, Virginia invites Willie to her home for some good old-fashioned Southern "hospitality", neither one realising they are destined to be sundered by an ancient feud which demands that her family must kill every member of his. Packed with hugely entertaining gags and some of Keaton's most daring and inventive set pieces, this comedy masterpiece is rightly celebrated as a classic of silent cinema.

**Dir. Buster Keaton, John G. Blystone | USA | 1923 | U | b&w | English intertitles | 1h 13m**  
**With: Buster Keaton, Natalie Talmadge, Joe Keaton**  
**Performing live: John Sweeney (piano)**

Screening material courtesy of FPA Classics

**This popular Jeely Jar show starts with the legendary HippFest Heids and Bahookies competition for all the audience.**



# Skinner's Dress Suit



**Saturday 22 March | 14:00 | £11 / £8.50 conc.**

Delightful and extremely funny domestic comedy starring Reginald Denny, the silent era's answer to Cary Grant.

Skinner's adoring wife, Honey, wants him to move up the corporate ladder. When Skinner lies to Honey about his success securing a raise, she immediately buys her husband a white tie and tails so they can cut a dash together at all the best soirées. With his tailor after him for payment and Honey merrily spending the money they don't have, the couple's social triumph is in danger of being compromised... until they cause a sensation, showing off their fancy footwork for the latest dance craze!

A superb showcase for Denny's fine comedic talents and fine example of both his successful on-screen pairing with his favourite leading lady – Laura La Plante – and his ideal collaborator – William A. Seiter, director of classic comedy double-acts including Laurel and Hardy the Marx Brothers, and Abbott and Costello.

**Dir. William Seiter | USA | 1926 | N/C U | b&w | English intertitles | 1h 18m + short  
With: Reginald Denny, Laura La Plante, Hedda Hopper  
Performing live: Neil Brand (piano)**

Screening material courtesy of Park Circus/Universal  
Online programme notes by Pamela Hutchinson





# The Chase after Millions



**Saturday 22 March | 17:00 | £11 / £8.50 conc.**

Fast-paced, enjoyable romp mixing high drama and exciting stunt work, plus a generous pinch of humour.

Former circus-performer Luciano Albertini shines as a debonair stowaway who teams up with droll side-kick Carlos (Ernst Verebes) to track down a band of duplicitous villains. The duo's mysterious mission takes them from cruise-liner, to steam train, high-rise buildings and speeding car, along the gorgeous backdrop of the Dalmatian coast. Our hero: Italian-born actor, producer, director and ex-strongman Albertini, is given ample opportunity to show off his muscular agility and winning star persona. Little-known today, Albertini was considered a cast-iron box-office draw in the 'twenties, whose athletic prowess and Latin looks reputedly induced fervent admiration amongst his international fanbase.

**Dir. Max Obal | Germany | 1930 | N/C PG | b&w | German intertitles with English surtitles  
1h 28m**

**With: Luciano Albertini, Ernst Verebes, Gretel Berndt, Elza Temary**

**Original title: *Die Jagd nach der Million***

**Performing live: Günter Buchwald (piano, violin), Frank Bockius (percussion)**

Screening material courtesy of Deutsches Filminstitut & Filmmuseum.

English surtitles translation by Jutta Brendemühl (Goethe-Institut Toronto)

Online programme notes by Oliver Hanley



## Platform Reels

# I Want to be a Train Driver



**Saturday 22 March | Doors / Food served 18:45 | Screening 19:30 – 20:15  
£18 / £16 conc. incl. hot soup (gluten-free, vegan). Hot/Cold drinks and  
additional refreshments available for purchase.**

**Limited capacity. Book early to avoid disappointment  
Venue: Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway, Union Street, Bo'ness EH51 9AQ**

Charming tale about a mischievous boy who dreams of riding on a steam train.

Young Klych lives in a remote Uzbek village – he has heard about magnificent locomotives and yearned to travel in one, until one day his dream comes true when a friendly railway worker takes him to the big city of Tashkent on a magnificent steam train. Produced specifically for a junior audience, this Uzbek film advocates the wonders of urban living with its bounteous nursery schools and technological advancements, and has a clear ideological message for the new Soviet youth. Ideology aside, this is a thoroughly delightful film thanks to its endearing young stars and its playful use of animation.

**Dir. Iuldash Agzimov | USSR – Uzbek SSR | 1935 | N/C U | b&w | Uzbekistan, Russian  
intertitles with English surtitles | 38m**

**With: Dzhura Assadullaev, M. Umarova, Salimkhodzha Akhmedkhodzhaev**

**Original title: *Qlic/Klych***

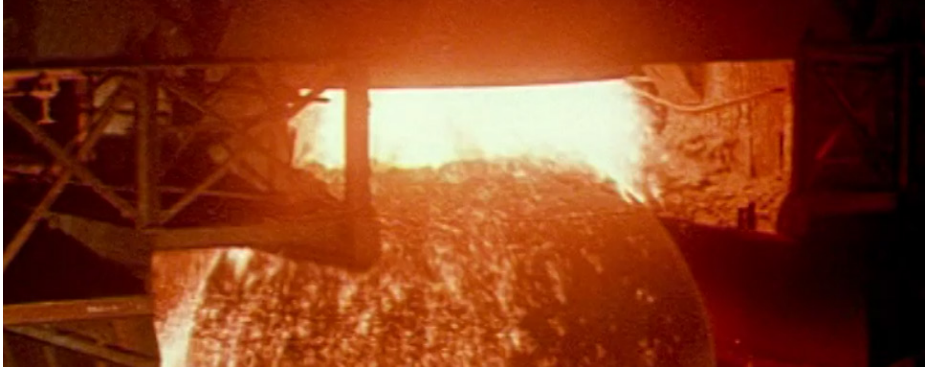
**Performing live: Neil Brand (piano)**

Screening material courtesy of the National Film Fund of Uzbekistan  
Screening sponsored and made possible by INDY Cinema Group.

**This screening is outdoors, under the platform awning  
Dress for the weather. Blankets provided**



# What the Water Remembers – The Dark Mirror



**Saturday 22 March | 20.00 | £11 / £8.50 conc.**

A new moving image and live music joint commission with Flatpack Festival, *The Dark Mirror* weaves a mythological tale inspired by the rich recorded history and cultural significance of canals.

Based on research into the Falkirk Archives and using footage from BFI National Archive, Media Archive Central England, Collection Eye Filmmuseum Netherland and the National Library of Scotland's Moving Image Archive, this creative non-fiction film brings some of the many untold stories of these waterways to life. Created by artist Moira Salt using holdings from these archives, the film premieres at HippFest, accompanied by a newly commissioned score by Tommy Perman and Andrew Wasylyk, who were invited by Flatpack Festival to create the film's soundscape. Known for their combination of meditative ambient soundscapes and folktronica, Perman and Wasylyk have developed the score collaboratively with Salt's filmmaking process.

*The Dark Mirror* is part of the wider project: *What the Water Remembers*, originating in Birmingham and Falkirk and gathering perspectives on these often-overlooked but surprisingly rich sites that carry stories of industry, migration, anti-capitalism and rewilding. Learn more at the accompanying exhibition, at Bo'ness Library, 14 Feb – 20 Apr (see HippFest website for opening hours).

**Dir. Moira Salt | UK | 2025-5 | N/C U | 45min approx.**  
**Performing live: Andrew Wasylyk and Tommy Perman**

Commissioned with Flatpack Festival. Funded by Creative Scotland National Lottery Open Fund for Organisations and PRS Foundation  
Community partner: Ian Macleod Distillers

**CONTENT ADVISORY: Themes relating to racism, flashing images that may trigger photosensitive epilepsy.**

**Tune in to [HippCast: Episode 22](#) to hear filmmaker Moira Salt and musicians Andrew Wasylyk and Tommy Perman discuss their artistic collaboration**



# The Swallow and the Titmouse



**Saturday 22 March | 21:45 (doors 21:30) | £11 / £8.50 conc.**

Poetic realist masterpiece beautifully shot on the canals and waterways of Flanders and northern France.

Barge-owner Pieter van Groot, his wife and sister-in-law, work and live peacefully on two barges: the Hirondeille (Swallow) and the Mésange (Titmouse), navigating the channels between Belgium and France. But when a new hand joins the crew, tensions build, and illicit secrets emerge that Groot would rather keep hidden.

Commanding a naturalistic acting style, palpable sense of place, and authentic depictions of working life anticipating the Italian Neorealist movement by two decades, director Antoine offsets the drama, and diverts our view to behold the canal and its banks, tracking the landscape which passes as a silent witness to the barge peoples' lives.

**Dir. André Antoine | France | 1920 | N/C PG | b&w | French intertitles with English surtitles | 1h 19m**

**With: Maguy Deliac, Jane Maylianes, Pierre Alcover, Louis Ravet, Georges Denola**

**Original title: L'hirondelle et la mésange**

**Performing live: Stephen Horne (piano, flute, accordion), Elizabeth-Jane Baldry (harp)**

Screening material courtesy of La Cinémathèque française



## New Found Sound



**Sunday 23 March | 10:00 | £10/£8 conc.**

A far from sleepy Sunday morning comedy screening! Our annual HippFest initiative – inviting young musicians from Falkirk district schools to compose, arrange and perform new scores for Scottish archive shorts – is back with a bang.

The Junior Trad band will accompany *Highland Pink Elephants*, a comical tale about one man's attempt to beat all the odds to get a sweet taste of whisky. The Senior Trad band will accompany *An Apple a Day* by prolific amateur filmmaker Frank Marshall. Marshall's children Muriel and Nairn star in this enchanting family film about the misadventures of two cheeky young apple scumpers.

The playful programme concludes with musicians from Grangemouth High School performing their own composition for a compilation of animated shorts. These films are a legacy of the brilliant Paisley educator and prolific artist: Falconer Houston, an early proponent of moving image education whose groundbreaking work with school children achieved wins at international competitions. This school project made with pupils skillfully tests out a range of animation styles and reflects the zeitgeist of the 1970s. Expect hijacks and high jinks!

**NC/U | 1hr 15m incl. Q&A chaired by film historian Richard Weeks**

***An Apple a Day*: Dir. Frank Marshall | UK | 1941**

***Highland Pink Elephants*: Filmed by members of Scottish Assoc. Of Amateur Cinematographers | UK | 1958**

**Animation Shorts: Dir. Falconer Houston | UK | 1973**

**Performing live: Laura Namyslo, Sunny Li, Charlie Franklin, Jack Cunningham, Timi Somefun, YMI Falkirk Junior and Senior Trad Bands**

Screening material courtesy of National Library of Scotland's Moving Image Archive and the Scottish Association of Moviemakers

Online programme notes by Kevin Cameron



# Laurel & Hardy Double Bill



**Sunday 23 March | 12:30 | £11 / £8.50 conc.**

The boys in bowlers are back! Join us for a glorious afternoon in the company of the world's best-loved comedy team.

We begin with *We Faw Down* in which Stan and Ollie sneak off for a poker game but tell their wives they are going to the theatre. En route, the pair are side-tracked by a couple of good time gals. What could possibly go wrong! This well constructed film has lots of laughs and a characteristic premise that was later reworked for the duo's feature-length sound classic *Sons of the Desert*.

We round off the double-bill with a showing of one of Laurel and Hardy's best loved silent films: *Big Business*, co-starring Falkirk's own Jimmy Finlayson! Stan and Ollie are door-to-door Christmas tree salesmen who go head-to-head with Finlayson's reluctant customer. Guess what! Mayhem and destruction ensue.

**Dir. Leo McCarey | US | 1928 | N/C U | b&w | English intertitles | 22m**

**Dir. James W. Horne, Leo McCarey | US | 1929 | N/C U | b&w | English intertitles | 22m**

**Performing live: John Sweeney (piano), Frank Bockius (percussion)**

Courtesy of: FPA Classics (Lobster Films Collection)



# The Cave of the Spider Woman



**Sunday 23 March | 14:30 | £11 / £8.50 conc.**

Adapted from one of China's most beloved novels, this "spirit magic" film follows the adventures of characters familiar to Gen X from the cult BBC dubbed broadcasts of the Chinese TV series *Monkey* in the late 70s and early 80s.

Pious Buddhist monk Tripitaka is tasked by the Goddess of Mercy – on instructions from the Buddha – with the mission of journeying to "the West" and bringing back sacred texts. Accompanying Tripitaka on his quest are three disciples, Monkey, Pigsy and Sandy, and the Dragon prince, who has taken the form of a white horse.

Considered lost until it turned up in the National Library of Norway film collection in 2011 (the first reel and some sequences of the central part of the story remain missing sadly) this lively film featuring shape-shifting, cannibalistic spider-women, elaborate costumes, special effects and a nifty double-axe battle is an exciting rediscovery.

**Dir. Darwin Dan | China | 1927 | N/C PG | tinted, b&w | Chinese and Norwegian intertitles with English surtitles | 1h (incomplete)**

**With: Yin Mingzhu, Xia Peizhen, Wu Wenchao, Jiang Meikang, Zhou Hongquan**

**Original title: *Pan Si Dong***

**Performing live: Günter Buchwald (piano, violin), Frank Bockius (percussion)**

Screening material courtesy of The National Library of Norway. English translation of intertitles courtesy of San Francisco Silent Film Festival

Online programme notes by Xuelei Huang



# Smouldering Fires



**Sunday 23 March | 17:00 | £11 / £8.50 conc.**

An intelligent and moving love-triangle drama starring Pauline Frederick, resplendent as the older and wiser woman who puts her heart on the line for Love.

Jane Vale (Frederick) has stepped confidently into managing the garment factory she has inherited from her father, and leads her team with business-like efficiency. Her formidable demeanour is softened by the admiration of a forthright junior assistant (McGregor), and it is not long before their relationship blossoms. But Jane's new-found happiness is marred by her anxieties about their age difference... insecurities amplified still further when her younger sister Dorothy (La Plante) returns home, fresh from college.

The premise that to love a younger man is asking for trouble (ironic given Frederick was 11 years older than her co-star McGregor, whilst he was 12 years older than the supposedly more suitable match – La Plante) does not diminish the female-centred narrative about a strong woman at odds with society's preconceptions. This is a beautifully shot, well-acted and neatly composed film, timeless and poignant.

**Dir. Clarence Brown | USA | 1925 | N/C PG | b&w, tinted | English intertitles | 1h 20m + short**  
**With: Pauline Frederick, Laura La Plante, Malcolm McGregor, Tully Marshall**  
**Performing live: John Sweeney (piano)**

Online programme notes by Pamela Hutchinson  
 Restored by The Packard Humanities Institute

**Keep young and beautiful! Discover the secrets of eternal youth at our hands-on [Bath Bombs and Hand Cream Workshop](#) inspired by *Smouldering Fires* (see p.26)**



Closing Night



# Forgotten Faces



**Sunday 23 March | 20:00 | £12 / £8.50 conc.**

Meet “Heliotrope” Harry – the most debonair of all gentlemen thieves to have ever graced a cinema screen.

Harry might be a master criminal, but his gallantry knows no bounds. What’s more, he’s a loyal husband and devoted father. These qualities are deftly painted for us in the opening minutes of this cleverly directed and tightly scripted feature, propelling us into the subsequent explosive events which see Harry finding out the truth about his treacherous wife and forced to act quickly to protect his baby daughter from her mother’s depravity.

It is scarcely believable that such a splendid film has languished unknown for decades despite the Library of Congress initiated restoration completed ten years ago, and that it is only now enjoying a moment in the sun. Culminating in a tour de force final act, worthy of our closing film for 2025, we are delighted to conclude HippFest for another year with this screening. Hold on to your seats!

**Dir. Victor Schertzinger | USA | 1928 | N/C PG | b&w | English intertitles | 1h 23m + short  
With: Clive Brook, Mary Brian, William Powell, Olga Baclanova  
Performing live: Stephen Horne (piano, accordion, flute), Frank Bockius (percussion)**

Online programme notes by Mike Mashon  
Restored by the Library of Congress

## Hipp Hipp Hooray!

22:00 – 23:30 | The Richmond Park Hotel

Join the team in the Richmond Park hotel’s warm and friendly bar after the Closing Night film to raise a glass in celebration of HippFest’s 15th year! We’d be pleased to welcome you over drinks and snacks... to relax, look back on another year (and some gems from our photo albums) and share some favourite memories.



## Rosebank Distillery Tour

**Thursday 20 March | 10:00 – 11:30 | £18 (18+ only) | pre-booking essential**  
**Venue: Rosebank Distillery, Camelon Road, Falkirk FK1 5SQ**

HippFest is thrilled to offer our audiences the opportunity for a guided tour of the newly restored Rosebank Distillery with tutored tasting of Glengoyne and Tamdhu single malt whiskies at an exclusive HippFest-only price.

Your experience begins with the stories of Rosebank brought to life in the original distillery building. From there, you will be taken on a guided tour through the beautiful new still house, where you will discover the whisky-making process that makes Rosebank unique. You will nose the character of the new spirit fresh from the still, before visiting the warehouse where precious casks of Rosebank lie. The experience concludes in the tasting rooms where you will toast Rosebank's return with two single malts from their sister distilleries. If you are driving, or do not wish to try the whisky while on the tour, ask for a takeaway pack to take home, savour and enjoy, after your visit.

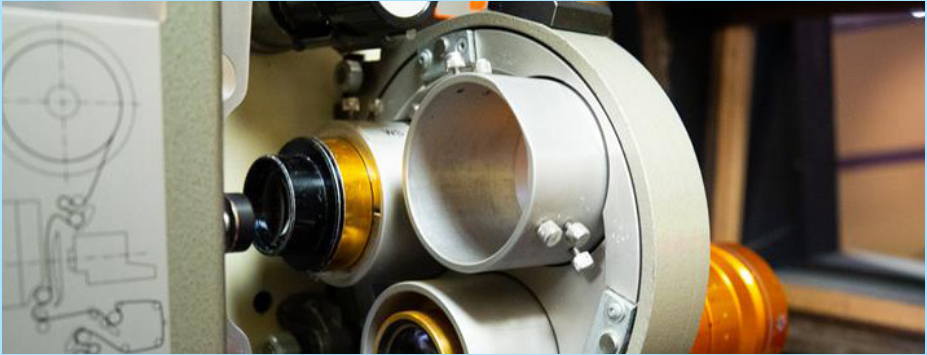
Travelling from Bo'ness to the distillery? Book a Festival Taxi Transfer for £15 return p/p. Limited availability (max 6 people). **Taxi bookings must be made no later than noon Wednesday 12 March.**

## Bath Bombs and Beauty Creams Workshop

**Sunday 23 March | 14:00 – 16:00 | £25 | 12+ yrs. (under 16s must be accompanied by an adult)**  
**Venue: Bo'ness Library (upstairs – wheelchair accessible), Scotland's Close, Bo'ness EH51 0AH**

Inspired by our screening of *Smouldering Fires* this fun hands-on session will reveal simple skin-care beauty secrets to awaken your inner radiance.

Discover how to make hand creams to moisturise your skin and techniques for making your very own bath bombs for a relaxing soak at home. You will learn about effective essential oil combinations and how to create your own effervescent beauty treats using flower petals and natural oils. All materials will be provided, and each participant may take home their own creations. The workshop will be led by Ian Nicolson from the D2 Creative Centre – a multi-purpose arts centre in Larbert with teaching studio, exhibition space and artists' studios [www.d2thecreativecentre.uk](http://www.d2thecreativecentre.uk).



## **Behind-The-Scenes Tours**

**Saturday 15 March | 17:00 – 18:00 (doors 17:00)**  
**Thursday 20 March | 10:30 – 11:30 (doors 10:30)**  
**£5**

The cafe will be open for the purchase of refreshments.

A friendly guide from the team at Falkirk Council will take you on a tour around the inside of the Hippodrome, Scotland's oldest purpose-built cinema (established 1912). You will learn about local entrepreneur Louis Dickson – the man with the vision to open Scotland's first picture palace – his architect Matthew Steele, and the unique building they created together. Hear the fascinating story of this remarkable venue, discover some of its quirky mysteries and get behind-the-scenes with an exclusive opportunity to visit the projection box.

The tour includes a 15 minute film about the magnificent restoration undertaken to restore the Hippodrome to its pre-Art Deco glory, and time for questions too.

Access: please note the balcony and projection box are accessible only by stairs, stairs to the latter are very steep and narrow.

## **Musician Masterclass**

**Thursday 20 March | 14:00 – 16:00 | free | 18+ yrs. | max capacity: 20**  
**Venue: Reid Concert Hall, Bristo Square, Edinburgh EH8 9AG**

The Reid School of Music at the Edinburgh School of Art invites HippFest audiences to take a ringside seat at a musicians' masterclass led by Günter Buchwald and Frank Bockius, joining post-graduate students of composition to hear from two of the world's foremost silent film musicians on the art of silent cinema accompaniment. For more information and sign up see our website.

Pre-booking essential via Google Form no later than Thu 13 March. Book [here](#).  
Supported by the Goethe-Institut Glasgow

# THE SKINNY

## Sign up to the ZAP!

Your free cultural  
events guide,  
every Thursday  
morning



[theskinny.co.uk](https://theskinny.co.uk)

Illustration:  
Monika Stachowiak

# How To Get Here

## TRAIN

Linlithgow station is the nearest to Bo'ness. Visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) for details.

## BUS

Regular services operate to Bo'ness from Edinburgh, Linlithgow and Falkirk. Call 0871 200 22 33 for timetables or visit [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)

## CAR

Bo'ness lies on the south bank of the Firth of Forth. From the west exit the M9 at J5 and then follow the brown tourist signs for Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway and the Hippodrome. From the east exit at J3 and follow the brown signs. There is plenty of free parking in Bo'ness town centre.

## BIKE

Follow National Cycle Network Route 76 from Edinburgh

## TAXI

From Linlithgow Rail Station the average taxi fare is £10/13 (£15 after 9pm) and will take approx. 10/15mins.

Express Taxis (01324 638000) Fourways (01506 823607)

## SHUTTLE BUS

£3.50 EACH WAY | **PRE-BOOKING STRONGLY ADVISED**

THANKS TO BRAES TRAVEL

Each journey takes approx 15 mins

DATE	TIME	PICK UP	DROP OFF
Wed 19 March	<u>13:15</u>	Linlithgow	Hippodrome
	<u>21:00</u>	Hippodrome	Linlithgow
Thurs 20 March	<u>13:15</u>	Linlithgow	Hippodrome
	<u>22:00</u>	Hippodrome	Linlithgow
Fri 21 March	<u>11:15</u>	Linlithgow	Hippodrome
	<u>23:15</u>	Hippodrome	Linlithgow
Sat 22 March	<u>10:00</u>	Linlithgow	Hippodrome
	<u>23:15</u>	Hippodrome	Linlithgow
Sun 23 March	<u>11:00</u>	Linlithgow	Hippodrome
	<u>22:00</u>	Hippodrome	Linlithgow

**LINLITHGOW PICK-UP/DROP-OFF:** Linlithgow Station carpark, Platform 1

**BO'NESS PICK-UP/DROP-OFF:** Hippodrome

If you are a wheelchair user and would like to book the shuttle's available wheelchair space, please email [bookings@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:bookings@falkirk.gov.uk) with the date and journey you wish to book in advance and we will do our best to accommodate you.



Funded by  
UK Government

# How To Book

**ONLINE** at [hippfest.co.uk](http://hippfest.co.uk) booking fees apply (no need to print at home, simply show your ticket on your smartphone).

**BY PHONE** 01324 506850

Mon – Sat 9am–5pm

**IN PERSON** at the Hippodrome Box Office, open Saturdays 10:15 – 14:45 and Mondays 10:15 – 11:15 and 30 mins before all screenings.

During the Festival the Box Office is open: Wed 19 Mar 13:45 – 20:00, Thu 20 Mar 13:15 – 20:15, Fri 21 Mar 11:45 – 20:30, Sat 22 Mar 10:15 – 22:00, Sun 23 Mar 09:15 – 20:15

**Concessions available to:** Under 18s, unemployed in receipt of benefits, full time students, 65 and over, Young Scot card holders and Falkirk Go Card holders. Eligibility must be shown.


**Last minute tickets for Concession Holders:** All concession holders can buy £5 tickets on the day for events that are not sold out and have more than 10 tickets available. These £5 tickets go on sale on the morning of the screening/event and are available (excluding Friday Night Gala) to purchase from the Hippodrome Box Office only.

**BOOKING ENQUIRIES:** [bookings@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:bookings@falkirk.gov.uk)

## ACCESS

If you have mobility issues and need to be seated downstairs please email [bookings@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:bookings@falkirk.gov.uk) and let us know in advance and we will do our best to accommodate you. You can also download the free Neatebox WelcoME App and it will automatically alert us that you are attending and have specific access needs.

3 wheelchair spaces, accessible toilet, Infra-red sound transmission Induction loop (in cinema and at box office), toilet with baby changing facilities on ground floor.

Talks, and spoken introductions for all screenings at the Hippodrome will have live captioning: look out for 

Full details of Access at the Hippodrome at [www.hippodromecinema.co.uk/about/accessibility/](http://www.hippodromecinema.co.uk/about/accessibility/)

BSL users can contact us via CONTACT SCOTLAND–BSL [www.contactscotland-bsl.org](http://www.contactscotland-bsl.org)

## **REFUNDS**

Tickets will not be exchanged or refunded after purchase except in the event of cancellation of screening/activity by Falkirk Council. Doors to the auditorium will open approx. 30 minutes before each event unless stated. Guests, films and performers listed are correct at the time of going to print. Whilst every effort is taken to ensure accuracy of information, event details may be subject to change.

# Cast & Crew

## MUSICIANS

Elizabeth-Jane Baldry  
Frank Bockius  
Neil Brand  
Günter Buchwald  
Lávre Johan Eira  
Jane Gardner  
Svante Henryson  
Stephen Horne  
Hildá Länsman  
Hazel Morrison  
Mike Nolan  
Tuomas Norvio  
Tommy Perman  
Caroline Salmon  
Paul Smyth  
John Sweeney  
Andrew Wasylyk

## SPEAKERS

Dr. Josephine Botting  
Sunniva O'Flynn  
Thomas A. Walsh

## TUTORS & MENTORS

Marc Duff  
Claire McCue  
Calum McIlroy  
John Somerville

Plus Falkirk Junior and Senior Trad Bands and musicians from Grangemouth High School (Jack Cunningham, Charlie Franklin, Sunny Li, Laura Namyslo, Timi Somefun)

With thanks  
from The HippFest Team

**FESTIVAL DIRECTOR** Alison Strauss  
**DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT** Nell Cardozo  
**PRODUCTION** Natalie Allison  
**MARKETING** Abbie Dobson (Premier Scotland)  
**DIGITAL CONTENT** Christina Webber  
**PRESS** Hannah Bradley Croall  
**PROJECTION** Steven Kelly  
**SENIOR TECHNICIAN** Ross McDonald  
**STREAMING TECHNICIANS** Event DD  
**PRODUCTION COORDINATOR** Becca Clark  
**FESTIVAL PHOTOGRAPHY** Kat Gollock  
**CINEMA ADVERT** Zoe Buyers  
**DESIGN** Stretch Bros Ltd  
**VIDEOGRAPHY** Strangeboat, Shot 67

# SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Page
Sat 15 Mar	17:00 – 18:00	Behind-The-Scenes Tour	Hippodrome	27
	19:30 – 21:30	The Constant Nymph (Community Screening)	Barony Theatre	6
Wed 19 Mar	14:30 – 16:15	Before the Face of the Sea	Hippodrome	7
	16:30 – 18:30	Hippfest Quiz and Social Mixer	Bo’ness Barrel	7
	19:30 – 20:45	Opening Night: With Reindeer and Sled in Inka Länta’s Winterland	Hippodrome	8
Thu 20 Mar	10:00 – 11:30	Rosebank Distillery Tour	Rosebank Distillery	26
	10:30 – 11:30	Behind-The-Scenes Tour	Hippodrome	27
	14:30 – 16:00	The Shamrock Handicap	Hippodrome	9
	17:30 – 18:30	Flora Kerrigan – Rediscovering a Film Pioneer	Hippodrome	10
	20:00 – 21:10	The Near Shore – A Scottish and Irish Cine-Concert	Hippodrome	11
Fri 21 Mar	12:30 – 13:45	Neil Brand – Key Notes	Hippodrome	12
	15:00 – 16:45	The Pleasure Garden	Hippodrome	13
	20:00 – 23:30	Friday Night Gala: The Pride of the Clan	Hippodrome	14
Sat 22 Mar	11:00 – 12:35	Our Hospitality	Hippodrome	15
	14:00 – 15:30	Skinner’s Dress Suit	Hippodrome	16
	17:00 – 18:40	The Chase after Millions	Hippodrome	17
	19:30 – 20:15	Platform Reels: I Want to be a Train Driver	Bo’ness & Kinneil Railway	18
	20:00 – 21:00	What the Water Remembers – The Dark Mirror	Hippodrome	19
	21:45 – 23:10	The Swallow and the Titmouse	Hippodrome	20
Sun 23 Mar	10:00 – 11:15	New Found Sound	Hippodrome	21
	12:30 – 13:30	Laurel & Hardy Double Bill	Hippodrome	22
	14:00 – 16:00	Bath Bombs & Beauty Creams Workshop	Bo’ness Library	26
	14:30 – 15:40	The Cave of the Spider Woman	Hippodrome	23
	17:00 – 18:30	Smouldering Fires	Hippodrome	24
	20:00 – 21:50	Closing Night: Forgotten Faces	Hippodrome	25

We are delighted to offer a shuttle bus between Hippodrome and Linlithgow train station, for only £3.50 per person each way. See p.29 for details. Supported with funding by UK Government.