**FOLK FILM GATHERING**

**2025 PROGRAMME**

**Saturday 26th April, North Edinburgh Arts, 2.30pm**

**SURPRISE FILM**

Event duration: 120 minutes.

The FFG opens with a SURPRISE FILM chosen by North Edinburgh Arts community film selection group. Join us at NEA for a special evening of cinema, music and discussion.

**Wednesday 30th April, North Edinburgh Arts, 6.30pm**

**SHOOTING MAGPIES**

(Amber Collective, England, 2005)

Event duration: 120 min

Closed captions available

Tyneside’s Amber Collective return to the Folk Film Gathering to present SHOOTING MAGPIES, a powerful exploration of the impact of heroin on the communities of East Durham after the closure of the mining pits. Young mum Emma wants a better life for her daughters but finds herself torn between the competing voices of her boyfriend, heroin addict Darren, and one-time youth worker Barry. Will Emma and her daughters find a way to escape?

The film will be followed by a live Q&A and discussion with the filmmakers.

**Friday 2nd May, Cameo Picturehouse, 5.45pm**

**FLIGHT**

(Emma Davie, Scotland, 1997, 60min)

Event duration: 120 min

Our Cameo programme opens with a rare chance to see Emma Davie’s FLIGHT, a road movie exploring Scottish traditions from Cape Breton to Nova Scotia. An important document of Scottish diaspora, FLIGHT explores how Scottish traditions continue to be expressed in Canada, long after families have left Scotland.

The screening will be introduced with a special mini-concert from piper **Finn Moore**, and followed by a discussion with the film’s director **Emma Davie** and piping expert **Hamish Moore**.

**Saturday 3rd May, Cameo Picturehouse, 5:30pm**

**GEUR GHEARR SHORTS**

(Various, Scotland, 1996-1999)

Event duration: 95 min

**A Bhean Eudach** (A Jealous Woman) (Domhnall Ruadh, 1998, 15 min)

**Roimh Ghaoth a' Gheamhraidh** (Before the Winter Wind) (Bill MacLeod, 1996, 30 min)

**Keino** (Iseabil Maciver, 1999, 15 min)

Taking us from the split rock at Clachtoll to a whaling station in South Georgia, this special event celebrates some of the rarely-seen films of BBC ALBA’s Geur Ghearr shorts programme. Based on one of the oldest songs in Gaelic tradition, a jealous sister enacts a devious plan in **A Bhean Eudach,** whilst the past haunts the present for a tense group of whalers in **Roimh Ghaoth a' Gheamhraidh**; and, finally, a dark tale of love and revenge ends with tragic consequences in **Keino**, written by the late Gaelic polymath **Norman Maclean.**

The films will be introduced by a bilingual storytelling session from Edinburgh-based Gaelic storyteller **Martin McIntyre**.

**Sunday 4th May, Cameo Picturehouse, 5:00pm**

**THE OUTCASTS**

Robert Wynne-Simmons, Ireland, 1982, 1h 45 min

Event duration: 150 min

The Scottish premiere of a new restoration of this cult classic of Irish independent cinema, THE OUTCASTS tells the story of Maura, a young woman whose powers are awakened by an encounter with the mysterious fiddler Scarf Michael, whose music causes fear and hallucinations wherever it is heard. Directed by seminal folk horror filmmaker **Robert Wynne-Simmons** (*Blood on Satan’s Claw*), THE OUTCASTS draws deep from Irish history and mythology to tell a timeless tale of stepping into your true power.

The screening will be introduced with Irish fiddle music from **Benedict Morris** and followed by a pre-recorded interview with the film’s director **Robert Wynne-Simmons**.

This screening is presented in association with the Irish Film Institute's IFI International Programme supported by Culture Ireland.

**Monday 5th May, Cameo Picturehouse, 6:00pm**

**O'R DDAEAR HEN (From the Old Earth)**

(Wil Aaron, Wales, 1981, 57 min)

Event duration: 105 min

Closed captions available

The first horror film to be made in the Welsh language, O'R DDAEAR HENfollows a mysterious stone head that is unearthed in a council house garden in Bangor. When this ancient artefact is brought inside, into the home of a local archaeologist, their family begins to experience terrifying visions of a half-man, half-animal creature, with terrifying ties to the ancient gods of the land. Will anyone survive the encounter unchanged?

The film will be introduced with a special mini-concert from Welsh harpist and singer **Gwen Màiri Yorke**.

**Tuesday 6th May, Cameo Picturehouse, 5:30pm**

**The Juniper Tree**

(Nietzchka Keene, Iceland, 1990, 1h 18min)

Event duration: 120 min

A powerful allegory of the dangers of misogyny, THE JUNIPER TREE is an Icelandic adaptation of a Brothers Grimm fairy tale, featuring a compelling early performance from **Björk**. When their mother is burned for witchcraft, sisters Margit and Katla take shelter with John and his young son Jonas. However, as a delicate new family unit starts to take shape, Katla’s own powers of sorcery begin to awaken.

The film will be introduced with a special mini-concert from celebrated Scottish musicians **Rachel Newton** and **Alasdair Roberts**.

**Wednesday 7th May, Cameo Picturehouse, 5:30pm**

**The NOUBA OF THE WOMEN OF MOUNT CHENOUA**

(Assia Djebar, Algeria, 1977, 1h, 55min)

Event duration: 130 min

Closed captions available

When Lila returns home after the end of the Algerian War, she reflects on the differences between her life and those of other women. Taking its title from the ‘Nouba’, a traditional Algerian song of five movements, this haunting film mixes drama and documentary to explore the intergenerational histories of women in Algeria. Celebrating the power of grandmothers passing down traditions of anti-colonial resistance to their granddaughters, NOUBA is a powerful exploration of speech and silence, where the past and present coexist.

**Thursday 8th May, Cameo Picturehouse, 5:15pm**

**ILA AYN (Where to?)**

(George Nasser, Lebanon, 1957, 1h 30 min)

Event duration: 110 min

Considered one of the foundation stones of Lebanese cinema, and the first Lebanese film to screen at Cannes, George Nasser’s ILA AYN tells the story of a poor family in the Lebanese mountains whose father leaves to travel the world, seeking Eldorado. Many years later, a ragged old man arrives in the village. Will those who remained learn from his experiences before it is too late?

The film will be introduced by traditional Middle Eastern music from **Bashir Saade.**

**Thursday 8th May, Scottish Storytelling Centre, 7:30pm**

**HEARTH FIRE SESSIONS**

Event duration 120 min

Join us for a special edition of the Scottish Storytelling Centre’s HEARTH FIRE SESSIONS, where storytellers and musicians gather around the hearth for a relaxed traditional session of stories from home and abroad, featuring filmmakers/storytellers **Nadir Bouhmouch** and **Soumeya Ait Ahmed**, and hosted by celebrated local storyteller **Dougie Mackay**.

**Friday 9th May, Cameo Picturehouse, 5:15pm**

**FERTILE MEMORY**

(Michel Khleifi, Palestine, 1981, 1h 39 min)

Event duration 150 min

A powerful mix of documentary and drama, the first full-length film to be shot within the occupied Palestinian West Bank ‘Green Line’, FERTILE MEMORY is a powerful portrait of two Palestinian women whose individual struggles both define and transcend the politics that have torn apart their lives.

The film will be introduced by Scottish-Palestinian poet **Nada Shawa**, and followed by a discussion led by **Falastin Film Festival**’s **Nehad Khader**.

**Friday 9th May, Scottish Storytelling Centre, 8:30pm**

**THE LEGEND OF THE ANONYMOUS POET (OR A 20th CENTURY BARBARIAN ACCOUNT)**

Event duration 60 min

Blending historic events, Moroccan popular myths and magical fiction, this special live performance from filmmaker/storytellers **Nadir Bouhmouch** and **Soumeya Ait Ahmed** combines film, lecture and storytelling, showcasing the Tizintizwa collective’s field recordings of ancestral oral poems, epic ballads and women's work songs to create a folktale-like account of the 20th century ‘Roman’ conquest of Morocco from a ‘barbarian’ perspective.

**Saturday 10th May, Cameo Picturehouse, 5:15pm**

**PAPER PORTRAITS**

(Gerda Stevenson, Scotland, 2025, 40 min)

Event duration 100 min

Closed captions available

A playful new documentary from Scottish filmmaker and writer **Gerda Stevenson**, PAPER PORTAITS celebrates the history and working people of Penicuik’s paper mills. Featuring a bustling cast of local community members, and filmed with a keen sense of cinematic poetry, PAPER PORTRAITS is a powerful celebration of community, past and present.

The film will be introduced with a special mini-concert from musicians with ties to the film, including Penicuik-based musicians **Mary** and **Ailsa McInroy**, and followed by a **Q&A with the filmmakers**.

**Sunday 11th May, Cameo Picturehouse, 5:00pm**

**THE ENCHANTED DESNA**

(Yuliya Solntseva, Ukraine, 1964, 1h 41 min)

Event duration 120 min

Praised by Jean-Luc Godard, THE ENCHANTED DESNA is a magical-realist exploration of the childhood of Ukraine’s greatest filmmaker, **Alexander Dovzhenko**, directed by the filmmaker’s widow, **Yuliya Solntseva**. Drawing on the unique qualities of Ukrainian poetic cinema, THE ENCHANTED DESNA is a rhapsodic invocation of the natural world, and of a childhood spent along the banks of the Desna river in Chernihiv.

The screening will be introduced with a special mini-concert by **Edinburgh’s Ukrainian Choir**.

**Sunday 11th May, Scottish Storytelling Centre**

**11.00am, 1.30pm, and 7pm (3 separate events)**

**REMEMBERING DOUGLAS**

Finally, join us for a celebration of independent film in Scotland through the lens of celebrated filmmaker **Douglas Eadie**.

Across the day a selection of Douglas's work will be shared and discussed including:

**11am PASSING PLACES +HASTON: A LIFE IN THE MOUNTAINS** with Douglas Campbell (Cameraman)

**1.30pm AN CEASNACHADH - AN INTERROGATION OF A HIGHLANDLASS** (with **Kathleen MacInnes**, **Dolina MacLennan** and **Kenny MacRae**) + **HYDRO DAYS**(with **Robbie Fraser**, **Fiona MacDonald** and **Christeen Winford**)

**7pm DOWN HOME** (with **Aly Bain**)

All events will be hosted by poet **Jim Mackintosh** and author **James Robertson**.

Full listings will be available shortly at www.scottishstorytellingcentre.com