

For immediate release: Wed 2 April

barbican

Barbican Cinema programme: May 2025

Festivals, Seasons and Special Events:

- **Queer East Festival:**
 - *Some Nights I Feel Like Walking* – Tue 29 Apr
 - *Where Is My Love? + Incidental Journey* – Wed 30 Apr
 - **Experimental Shorts Programme: Floating Between Frontiers** – Sun 11 May
 - *Batch '81* – Mon 12 May
 - *Pierce* – Wed 14 May
 - *Looking for an Angel + ScreenTalk* – Thu 15 May
 - **Theatre: *When the Cloud Catches Colours*** – Thu 24 Apr-Sat 26 Apr
- **Open City Documentary Film Festival:**
 - *Opening Night: Siticulosa* – Tue 6 May
 - *Sanrizuka – Heta Village* – Thu 8 May
 - *Available Light* – Fri 9 May
 - **Listen with your eyes 3: Experimental Films for Families** – Sat 10 May
 - *Henry Fonda for President* – Sat 10 May
 - *The Clock, or: 89 Minutes of 'Free Time'* – Sat 10 May
 - *Oyoyo* – Sun 11 May
- **Unsettled Reality, Tomorrow's Imagination: Contemporary Shorts by Iranian Women Filmmakers + ScreenTalk** – Tue 13 May
- **Fashion in Film Festival: GROUNDED: Fashion's Entanglements with Nature** – Tue 22 May-Fri 30 May
- **Animation at War: *When the Wind Blows* + ScreenTalk** – Wed 28 May

Regular Programme strands:

- **Family Film Club** – every Saturday morning
- **Experiments in Film: *God Bless the Child. A Performance Lecture by Christopher Harris*** – Tue 27 May
- **Experiments in Film: Graeme Arnfield: Zero-Gravity Resistance - Lecture Performances & Screening** – Thu 29 May
- **New East Cinema: *Toxic* + ScreenTalk** – Thu 29 May
- **Senior Community Screenings:**
 - *Soundtrack to a Coup d'Etat* – Mon 12 May
 - *Anora* – Mon 26 May
- **Relaxed Screenings:**
 - *The Brutalist* – Fri 2 May
- **Pay What You Can Screenings** – Every Fri

Event Cinema:

- **MET Opera Live: *Le Nozze di Figaro*** – Sat 3 May
- **björk: cornucopia** – Wed 7 May
- **MET Opera Live: *Salome*** – Sat 17 May
- **Royal Ballet & Opera Live: *Die Walküre*** – Sun 18 May
- **MET Opera Live: *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*** – Sat 31 May

May brings a bold and diverse cinema programme to the Barbican, with three returning partner Festivals including [Open City Documentary Film Festival](#), [Queer East Festival](#) and the [Fashion in Film Festival](#).

The 15th edition of **Open City Documentary Festival** takes place at venues across London 6-11 May and presents a programme of international contemporary and retrospective non-fiction moving image, audio and cross media, as well as filmmaker Q&As, panels, talks and workshops.

Queer East, now in its sixth year, is a cross-disciplinary festival that showcases boundary-pushing LGBTQ+ cinema, live arts and moving image work from East and Southeast Asia and explores the notions of what it means to be queer and Asian today. As well as the film programme, this year also marks an exciting new chapter as the Barbican collaborates with Queer East on the UK premiere of the theatre show [When the Cloud Catches Colours](#), taking place in **The Pit** (Thu 24-Sat 26 April).

Fashion in Film Festival's eighth edition, **GROUNDING: Fashion's Entanglements with Nature**, takes cinema as a lens through which to consider the complex relationship between fashion and nature.

Experiments in Film in May presents [God Bless the Child](#), a multi-media screening that delves into the filmmaker **Christopher Harris'** first autobiographical project; comparing the US care system to life in Senegal, blending personal history, archive, and 16mm footage.

[Zero-Gravity Resistance - Lecture Performances & Screening](#) is the second **Experiments in Film** programme in May and is part of **Graeme Arnfield's** research into a labour dispute for **The Case Against Space**, a new cinematic project examining the first labour strike to occur in outer space and reflecting on contemporary labour conditions in the era of privatized space exploration.

Unsettled Reality, Tomorrow's Imagination: Contemporary Shorts by Iranian Women Filmmakers – and ScreenTalk with curator **Mania Akbari** and director **Shadi Karamroudi** – is a selection of five films by young Iranian women filmmakers that delve into the fragile and shifting nature of contemporary existence, as seen through their perspectives.

Further highlights this month includes the second instalment of [Animation at War](#), with the haunting British film **When the Wind Blows**, which dramatizes the worst fears of the Cold War era's nuclear anxiety, as told through the misfortunes of an ill-prepared elderly English couple.

[New East Cinema](#) in May presents the Lithuanian film **Toxic** (plus ScreenTalk) in which two teenage girls enrol in a modelling school hoping to make a better life for themselves and escape the grip of poverty.

[Senior Community Screenings](#) in May include **Sean Baker's** multiple Academy Award winning **Anora** and the compelling documentary **Soundtrack to a Coup d'Etat**. [Relaxed screenings](#) include **Brady Corbet's** architecture drama **The Brutalist**.

Festivals, Seasons and Special Events

Queer East Festival 2025

***Some Nights I Feel Like Walking* (18*)**

Philippines 2024, Dir Petersen Vargas, 103min

Tue 29 Apr, 6.20pm

Cinema 1

Following the death of his boyfriend, the teenage Zion runs away from home and meets a group of street hustlers at a Manila bus terminal one night. Award-winning director Petersen Vargas conjures up an edgy and erotic nightscape in this lyrical exploration of desire, home, and belonging.

***Where Is My Love? + Incidental Journey* (18*)**

Taiwan 1996 dir. Jo-Fei Chen 56 min

Taiwan 2002 dir. Jo-Fei Chen 1hr 1min

Wed 30 Apr, 6.15pm

Cinema 3

A screening of two ground-breaking works from female filmmaking pioneer **Jo-Fei Chen** that take a close look at the lives of contemporary gay and lesbian communities.

***Floating Between Frontiers + ScreenTalk* (18*)**

Sun 11 May, 5.45pm

Cinema 3

An experimental non-fiction and fiction film programme that explores the suffocation engendered by frontiers and borders across historical, social and personal terrains.

***Batch '81* (18*)**

Philippines 1981, Dir Mike de Leon, 120min

Mon 12 May, 6.20pm

Cinema 1

Hailed as one of the greatest Filipino films of all time, ***Batch '81*** is groundbreaking psychological drama: both an unflinching study of sadomasochistic college fraternity traditions, and a camp metaphor for life in the Philippines under the Marcos regime.

***Pierce* (18*)**

Singapore/ Taiwan/ Poland 2024, Dir Nelicia Low, 109min

Wed 14 May, 6.20pm

Cinema 2

In this tense thriller, a young Taiwanese fencer reconnects with his estranged older brother, a convicted killer.

***Looking for an Angel + ScreenTalk* (18*)**

Japan 1999, Dir Akihiro Suzuki, 61min

Thu 15 May, 6.30pm

Cinema 2

Takachi, a young gay porn star, is found dead in Tokyo. At his wake, two of his friends, Reiko and Shinpei, recollect their time together, attempting to piece together fragments of Takachi's life. A quintessential example of Japan's dynamic queer cinema scene.

Theatre: *When the Cloud Catches Colours*

Thu 24 – Sat 26 Apr, 2.30pm (Sat) +7.45pm (Thu, Fri + Sat)

[The Pit, Barbican Centre](#)

Thought-provoking theatre exploring the experience of two queer Singaporeans as they grow older. Based on true accounts, the show delves into relationships, family, insecurity, kindness and safety.

[Open City Documentary Festival](#)

Opening Night: UK Premiere of *Siticulosa* + ScreenTalk with Maeve Brennan

Denmark 2025, Dir Maeve Brennan, 45min

Tue 6 May, 6.30pm

Cinema 1

Maeve Brennan turns her meticulous gaze to the landscape the looted objects in *An Excavation* were extracted from in Southern Italy. *Siticulosa*'s multidisciplinary research considers the relationship between archaeology, geology and agriculture in the Puglian landscape.

***Sanrizuka – Heta Village* (三里塚 辺田部落)**

Japan 1973, Dir Sanrizuka Heta Buraku, 146min

Thu 8 May, 6.30pm

Cinema 2

One of the great films of Ogawa Productions, the culmination of a long cycle of films on the conflicts at Sanrizuka, and a meditation on peasant life and the time of the village.

Open City Documentary Festival Combined Programme: Available Light

Fri 9 May, 6.30pm

Cinema 3

This programme brings together four new works by UK-based artists **Chiemi Shimada**, **Luke Fowler**, **Morgan Quaintance** and **Corin Sworn** who will all be present for a post-screening discussion.

Listen with your eyes 3: Experimental Films for Families

Sat 10 May, 11am

Cinema 3

Listen with your eyes is an ongoing series of screenings that aims to create a space for children of all ages to engage with and enjoy experimental forms of cinema. Presented in collaboration with the **Barbican Family Film Club**.

***Henry Fonda for President* + ScreenTalk with Alexander Horwath and Erika Balsom**

Austria/ Germany 2024, Dir Alexander Horwath, 184min

Sat 10 May, 1pm

Cinema 3

Henry Fonda who famously played **Abraham Lincoln** and is perhaps best remembered as the juror with a conscience in ***Twelve Angry Men*** (1957) provides the narrative backbone for this personal essay film on the past and future of America.

The Clock, or: 89 Minutes of “Free Time”

Sat 10 May, 6.30pm

Cinema 1

Curated by **Alexander Horwath**, this programme of short films is a surreal – or childlike – attempt at telling a story of the 20th century.

Oyoyo

GDR 1980, Dir Chetna Vora, 68min

Sunday 11 May, 3pm

Cinema 2

Filmed entirely within a student hall of residence in East Berlin, Indian-born filmmaker **Chetna Vora** captures the conviviality of a community of international students through conversation, studying, and dancing.

Unsettled Reality, Tomorrow's Imagination: Contemporary Shorts by Iranian Women Filmmakers (15*) + ScreenTalk with curator Mania Akbari and director

Shadi Karamroudi

Thu 13 May, 6.30pm

Cinema 2

Through intimate narratives and striking visuals, these films illuminate the dreams, fears, and resilience of a generation navigating uncertainty while daring to envision alternative futures.

Full programme information: www.barbican.org.uk/unsettledreality

GROUNDED: Fashion's Entanglements with Nature

Tue 22 May-Fri 30 May

Fashion in Film Festival 2025 presents **GROUNDED**, a major UK-wide season exploring the relationship between fashion and nature through the lens of cinema.

Spanning the late 19th century to present day, the programme examines fashion's role as simultaneously a barrier and a connecting tissue between humans and the natural world offering a decentred perspective on themes such as production, disposal, hybridity, migration, social justice, and environmental harm. **GROUNDED** presents diverse narratives addressing ecological and geopolitical concerns while exploring imaginative spaces of poetry, comedy, beauty, joy, horror, and transgression.

The programme is co-curated by **Marketa Uhlirova** and **Dal Chodha**, with guest curators. It has been made possible with the support of the BFI, awarding funds from the National Lottery.

Artist Films – Colonial Threads (18*)

63min approx.

Thu 22 May, 7pm

Cinema 2

Three contemporary artist films explore how textiles and dress are directly implicated in histories of land, colonialism, migration and trade.

Family Film Club: Fashion in Film Festival Shorts – Nature's Resources (U*)

48min approx.

Sat 24 May 11am

Cinema 2

Barbican's **Family Film Club** partners with **Fashion in Film Festival** for the first time to present an exciting programme of archive short films and contemporary animation that showcases the harmonious collaboration between humans, non-humans and the natural

world, and the power of cinema to bring the impossible to life.

***The Magino Village Story: Raising Silkworms* (U*) + Intro**

Japan 1977, Dir Ogawa Productions, 112 min

Wed 28 May 8.45pm

Cinema 2

An unusual insight into sericulture that celebrates the animal, botanical, earthy and craft-based origins of silk. From the birth of silkworms in the spring, to their cocoon building in time for autumn, this film immerses viewers in nature, deep in the mountains of northern Japan.

Silent Film & Live Music: Into the Garden of Chimerical Delights (PG*) + panel discussion with Musarc and Curators Marketa Uhlirova and Elif Rongen.

90mins approx.

Fri 30 May 7pm

Cinema 1

A programme of archival gems exploring the delicate and gloriously perverse associations between women, flowers and insects as envisioned by early 20th century filmmakers.

Spanning various pre-World War I genres, these shorts reflect 19th-century notions of femininity as synonymous with beauty and sensuality while also revealing potent undercurrents of 'dangerous' female exoticism, eroticism and power.

Animation at War: When The Wind Blows + ScreenTalk

UK 1986, Dir Jimmy T. Murakami, 94min

Wed 28 May 2025, 6.20pm

Cinema 3

Director **Jimmy T Murakami**'s 1986 adaptation of **Raymond Briggs**' harrowing graphic novel stands as a (sometimes overlooked) classic of British animation, bringing to life Briggs' empathetic portrayal of the innocence and ignorance of everyday folk in the face of the sabre-rattling of the powers that-be and the devastation of nuclear war.

Raymond Briggs based the protagonists, Jim (**John Mills**) and Hilda (**Peggy Ashcroft**) Bloggs, on his own parents: a generation who implicitly trusted their higher-ups and put their faith in public information pamphlets and films. Both the film and book explore how a Blitz spirit doesn't count for much against megaton-sized bombs and deadly radiation.

Full the full season press release:

www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room/animation-at-war

Regular Programme Strands

Family Film Club

Every Sat, 11am

Family Film Club in May is delighted to partner with both the **Open City Documentary Festival** and **Fashion in Film Festival** to present exciting programmes of short films suitable for family audiences, offering new and different content.

Further highlights include the beautiful Japanese animation ***Mary and the Witch's Flower*** (Japan 2017), and the Oscar winning hit film ***Flow*** (Latvia/ Belgium/France 2024). Check out the website for the full programme and further activity announcements.

Experiments in Film: *God Bless the Child*

Tue 27 May, 6.30pm

Cinema 2

Drawing on his experience in foster care, Harris weaves together photographs and official records with film material from Senegal. He examines the structures of social welfare and child services along with Black childhood in the US.

Harris will be joined by **Kodwo Eshun** to explore the themes of his work and discuss the archival materials that are the foundation of his upcoming experimental essay film: records from the Archdiocese of St. Louis, family photographs, his childhood adoption listing. An open conversation and audience ScreenTalk offer a chance to engage directly with Harris.

This event has been developed in collaboration with **Valentine Umansky** and the **Tate Modern**. Special thanks to **Christopher Harris** and **Kodwo Eshun**.

Experiments in Film: Graeme Arnfield: Zero-Gravity Resistance - Lecture Performances & Screening (12A)

Thu 29 May, 6.30pm

Cinema 2

Arnfield will present two distinct lecture performances: the first, a retelling of a 1973 labour dispute between three astronauts and NASA, set to his re-edit of *Dark Star* (1974); the second, a dramatic reading performed by one of his actors, accompanied by a re-edit of *Marooned* (1969), John Sturges' space disaster film starring **Gregory Peck** and **Gene Hackman**.

Between screenings, Arnfield will lead a discussion on his research, cinematic influences, and the development of *The Case Against Space* through writings, sonic work, and group discussions.

Organised in collaboration with **Film London** and **FLAMIN**.

New East Cinema: *Toxic* (18*) + ScreenTalk

Lithuania 2024, Dir Saulė Bliuvaitė, 99min

Thu 29 May, 6.10pm

Cinema 2

The newest gem in the canon of contemporary Lithuanian cinema, *Toxic* holds nothing back: with her brazenly defiant first film, director **Saulė Bliuvaitė** shows us a teenage girl's world like we've never seen it before.

Marija (**Vesta Matulytė**) and Kristina (**Ieva Rupeikaitė**) are best friends, both 13 years-old, and ready to take on the world. At the cusp of adulthood, they still play ball games, yet they dream of leaving their decaying hometown for a life of catwalks and beauty.

This audacious debut won Bliuvaitė three awards at the 2024 Locarno Film Festival, including the main prize – the Golden Leopard.

Senior Community Screenings:

Welcoming 60+ cinema goers to watch the latest new releases every other Monday morning:

Soundtrack to a Coup d'Etat (12A)

Belgium/ France/ Netherlands 2024, Dir Johan Grimmonprez, 150min

Mon 12 May, 11am
Cinema 2

An Academy Award nominated feature from **Johan Grimmonprez** superbly capturing the moment when African politics and American jazz collided during the CIA-backed coup to depose Congolese leader **Patrice Lumumba**.

Anora (AD) (18)
USA 2024, Dir Sean Baker, 139min
Mon 26 May, 11am
Cinema 2

From the Oscar winning **Sean Baker**, **Anora** tells the story of a high-priced Brooklyn stripper, who becomes involved in a troubled romance with the son of a Russian oligarch.

Relaxed Screenings

Relaxed screenings take place in an environment that is specially tailored for a neurodiverse audience, as well as those who find a more informal setting beneficial:

Relaxed Screening: *The Brutalist* (AD) (18)
US 2024, Dir Brady Corbet, 215min
Fri 2 May, 11am
Cinema 3

This powerful award-winning drama stars **Adrien Brody** as László Tóth, a Hungarian-Jewish architect and Holocaust survivor. He emigrates to America and struggles to recreate his pre-war career while suffering the trauma of the memories of what he experienced in Europe.

Event Cinema

MET Opera Live: *Le Nozze di Figaro* (12A)
Sat 3 May, 6pm
Cinema 1

björk: cornucopia (tbc)
Wed 7 May, 8.40pm
Cinema 3

MET Opera Live: *Salome* (12A)
Sat 17 May, 6pm
Cinema 1

Royal Ballet & Opera Live: *Die Walkure* (PG)
Sun 18 May, 2pm
Cinema 2

MET Opera Live in HD: *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (12A)
Sat 31 May, 6pm
Cinema 1

ENDS

Notes to Editors

For further information contact:

Ian Cuthbert, Communications Manager, Cinema
ian.cuthbert@barbican.org.uk

020 3834 1121

Andrea Laing, Communications Assistant: Theatre & Dance, Cinema and Creative Collaboration

andrea.laing@barbican.org.uk

Box office: www.barbican.org.uk

Events/Seasons/Festivals:

Standard:	£13
Barbican members:	£10.40
Corporate Members:	Varied Discount
Young Barbican	£6
Concessions:	£11
Under 18s:	£6

ScreenTalks

Standard:	£14.50
Barbican members:	£11.60
Young Barbican:	£6.00

New Releases:

Standard:	£13
Barbican members:	£10.40
Young Barbican	£6
Concessions:	£11
Under 18s:	£6

Met Opera Live:

Standard:	£37
Barbican Members:	£29.50

Royal Ballet & Opera Live:

Standard:	£21
Barbican members	£16.80

Pay What You Can Screenings: tickets available from £3-£15 on a new release title every Friday, for customers where ticket price may be a barrier, or for those who want to help others enjoy a visit to the cinema.

- **Family Film Club** Under 18s: £2.50 / Over 18s: £5.
- **Parent & Baby screenings:** Standard: £6.
- **Senior Community Screenings:** £6
- **Relaxed Screenings** welcome cinema goers to an environment that is specially tailored for a neurodiverse audience, tickets are £6.
- **Magic Mondays** £6 all new release screenings.
- **Young Barbican** £5 all new release screenings and curated programmes for 14 - 25-year-olds - when they sign up. (£6 from 26 April)

There is £1.50 booking fee for purchases made online / # Certificate to be confirmed

* This film has been locally classified by the City of London Corporation.

Barbican press room

All Barbican Centre press releases, news announcements and the Communications team's contact details are listed on our website at www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room

About the Barbican

The Barbican is a catalyst for creativity, sparking possibilities for artists, audiences, and communities. We showcase the most exciting art from around the world, pushing traditional artistic boundaries to entertain and inspire millions of people, create connections, provoke debate, and reflect the world we live in.

We are an international arts and events centre rooted firmly in our own neighbourhood, collaborating with local communities and putting the City of London on the map as a destination for everybody. Central to our purpose is supporting emerging talent and shaping opportunities that will accelerate the next generation of creatives.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, including our principal funder the City of London Corporation. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and pound earned supports our arts and learning programme and enables the widest possible range of people to experience the joy of the arts.

Opened in 1982, the Barbican is a unique and audacious building, recognised globally as an architectural icon. As well as our theatres, galleries, concert halls and cinemas, we have a large conservatory with over 1,500 species of plants and trees, a library, conference facilities, public and community spaces, restaurants, bars, and a picturesque lakeside oasis.

We're proud to be the home of the [London Symphony Orchestra](#), and a London base of the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#). We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our other associates and partners including the [Academy of Ancient Music](#), [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#), [Boy Blue](#), [Darbar](#), [Doc'n Roll Film Festival](#), [Drum Works](#), [EFG London Jazz Festival](#), [London Palestine Film Festival](#), [Serious](#), and [Trafalgar Theatre Productions](#).

For more information, visit our [website](#) or connect with us on [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Spotify](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

About Barbican Cinema

We connect audiences with a curated programme of international cinema; from celebrated filmmakers to ground-breaking and under-heard voices from past and present.

Our programmes are presented in Cinemas 1 in the main centre and Cinemas 2&3 on Beech Street. Our programme ranges from thematic seasons that respond to today's world, to new releases, ScreenTalks, cross-artform collaborations, family events, access screenings and event cinema that presents the performing arts on screen.

We showcase the work of emerging filmmakers, as well as less familiar work of exceptional filmmakers from the UK and around the world. We champion the work of Barbican Young Programmers and give stage to emerging musicians in our ongoing film & live music series which includes our flagship collaboration with the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

As part of a cross-arts centre, our cinemas are a cultural space for people to share the viewing experience. We strive to be inclusive in everything we do; providing platforms for the widest possible range of filmmakers and ensuring we are an open, welcoming and accessible venue for all our audiences.

