



# THURROCK SCREEN CULTURE FESTIVAL

26-31 AUG 2023



With support of the BFI Film Audience Network, awarding funds from the National Lottery in order to bring this project to more audiences across the UK



Produced by



film\_thurrock



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# THURROCK SCREEN CULTURE FESTIVAL

## Introduction

Welcome to **Thurrock Screen Culture Festival 2023**, our rebranded Festival with a thrilling array of different aspects of screen culture.

We are marking Windrush 75 with the exhibition launch of **Windrush Tales**, the only game of its kind in the world. **The Forgotten Journey** in the Malay Archipelago celebrates the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Alfred Russel Wallace.

Discover the innovative films of our **Young Film Network** and enjoy the brilliant range of **international** films we have had the pleasure of selecting from our 2023 submissions.

The Festival is spread out over three venues in Grays. Come along to explore and enjoy!

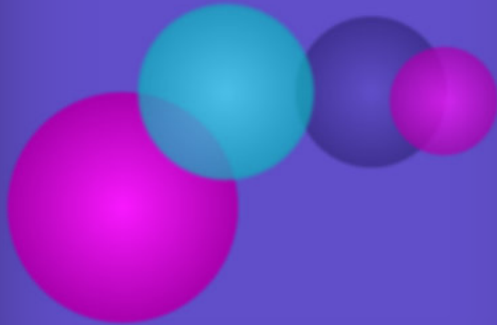
**Hi Ching | Creative Director**

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Aug

11.30am-9pm



# GAMES & Young Film Network FILMS



SOUTH ESSEX COLLEGE THURROCK

The game and technology industries have experienced explosive growth in the last few decades. It's fantastic to see the art of interactive media expand, providing artists and storytellers with new mediums to explore and express themselves. As the founder of Game Dev London, I'm thrilled to be working alongside the TSCF team to introduce new audiences to the wonderful world of gaming.

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of Windrush, we're excited to showcase the work and behind-the-scenes content of the game **Windrush Tales** and so much more! We hope to inspire you with how games can engage with history, how interactivity can curate narrative, and enlighten you about the industry. Most of all, we hope you have fun.

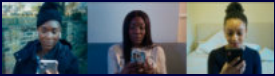
**Jade Leamcharaskul | Games Curator**

# 11.30am-1.05pm | UK & YFN Films



**Tiffin** 3:20mins  
Animation UK 2023  
Director Sabiha Tabassum

Exploring the relationship between food and culture within the South Asian community and the struggles of children owning their heritage.



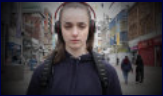
**How We Live** 16:44mins  
Comedy Drama UK 2023  
Director Chante Adjie

Uni has begun and it's time to make your mark, the girls plan a university gathering that goes from the best party of the year to the worst...



**Dreamer** 5:51mins  
Drama UK 2023  
Director Byron Lightfoot

An employee of a powerful criminal organisation falls out with his colleague and goes to his therapist. The plot thickens as threats and a recurring dream haunts him.



**Headspace** 3mins  
Music Drama UK 2023  
Director Lucia Wells

A music video about being alone.



**Pages** 1:35mins  
Drama UK 2023  
Director Elizabeth Matthews

A Girl tries to get out of the book she is trapped in whilst her reader turns the pages to her story.



**The Dream** 2:46mins  
Drama UK 2023  
Director Rocco David Kent

A man is seen living in a constant cycle until suddenly, one fatal dream changed everything for him...



**Knock Knock** 11mins  
Thriller UK 2023  
Director Jake Parris

A lover comes home one night suspicious she is being followed. A sudden knock at the door in the middle of the night unfolds into a real-live thriller movie.



**King Tree** 12mins  
Documentary UK 2023  
Director Samuel Espinoza

Villagers in Peru affected by global warming and deforestation make a desperate effort to save the Algarrobo trees, their only means of subsistence.



**Let Go** 8mins  
Drama UK 2023  
by Kai McKay, David Gubb, Jack Gotham

A parent struggles to readjust to life after losing their Child. Supernatural events happen on the anniversary.



**The Chapter** 20mins  
Fantasy UK 2023  
Director Lorenzo Irrera

A girl trapped inside a fictional book world by an evil Shakespearean author, is forced to marry a knight to complete one of the chapters - how can she escape?



**Bright Sparks and Darkness** 6:13mins  
Experimental UK 2023  
Director Tom Stock

This silent film spotlights the loneliness and complications experienced in a single evening by a drag artist.

## 1.30-6pm Panels, talks, discussions, Games and exhibition

### Why Games & Intro to Games Roles

An introduction to the games industry and why we should be excited about it. We also look at diverse roles in the industry, a closer look working in games and the cross disciplinary skills it involves.

### Games as a Medium - Windrush 75

Highlighting the 75th anniversary of Windrush, this panel session explores how we as designers and the audience engage with historical content through the medium of games and gameplay.

### Education in Games

In this panel we explore opportunities in games education and mentorship in the games industry. Great for those wanting to start a career in games.

### Transmedia Adaptation

In this session we explore adapting stories across different mediums such as comics to screenplay and screenplay to comics.

## 6-9pm | Networking (food included)

### FEATURED GAME



Experience the triumphs and tribulations of two Caribbean immigrants in post-war Britain, in the world's first Windrush video game, from the creators of the BAFTA nominated *Before I Forget*. How will you shape your story in this branching narrative interactive photo album?

**Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Aug**

**5.30pm-8.30pm**

# **HISTORICAL FILMS**



**CAFE CINEMA GRAYS TOWN PARK**

## **WINDRUSH 75**

**22 June 2023 marked the 75th anniversary of the arrival of HMT Empire Windrush at Tilbury, after the then Colonial Office invited citizens from across the Commonwealth to the UK to help rebuild the country after WW2.**

## **WALLACE 200**

**2023 sees the 200th anniversary of Alfred Russel Wallace's birth. He lived for several years in Thurrock.**

**The Malay Archipelago is a book by Wallace which chronicles his scientific exploration, during the eight-year period 1854 to 1862, of the southern portion of the Malay Archipelago.**



For servicemen and women 4000 miles from home, the BBC radio programme *Calling the West Indies* helped bridge the distance and is a testament to Britain's reliance on its colonies in WWII. West Indian war workers and troops were given the opportunity to broadcast messages to friends and family, in a show produced by Jamaican poet, activist and feminist Una Marson. This Ministry of Information short, which takes over the format of the radio show, is a government film and public record, preserved by the BFI National Archive on behalf of The National Archives.



Memories of Trinidad, narrated by Jacqueline Chan the actor, who is herself from Trinidad.



### **An Intro to Wallace**

6 mins UK

Director

George Beccaloni

A short introduction to Alfred Russel Wallace in the 200<sup>th</sup> year of his birth; by the renowned Wallace expert, George Beccaloni.



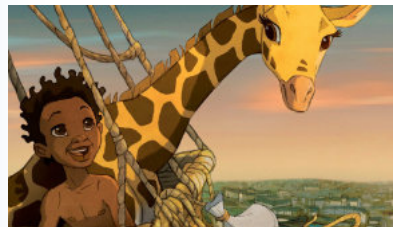
The excellent docudrama of Alfred Russel Wallace, the 19th century naturalist who published the theory of evolution by natural selection together with Charles Darwin in 1858 - more than a year before Darwin's book "On the Origin of Species" was released. Broadcast by the BBC.

**Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Aug** 11.30am-4.00pm

# FAMILY FILMS



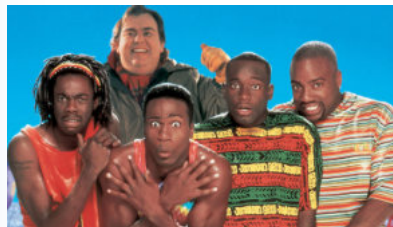
Come along and have a fun, family day at Grays Town Park. Watch a couple of great films on our large outdoor screen. Bring a picnic and spend the day chilling and relaxing!



**Zarafa**  
Animation  
78mins PG

France/Belgium 2012

A young boy, Maki, escapes from a slave trader and befriends an orphaned giraffe that's also on the run from a Bedouin prince, who wants to gift the animal to the King of France. Determined to resist their captors, the pair embark on an adventure-filled journey from Sudan to Paris.



**Cool Runnings**  
Comedy  
98mins PG

Disney 1993

When a Jamaican sprinter is disqualified from the Olympic Games, he enlists the help of a dishonoured coach to start the first Jamaican Bobsled Team. Based on a true story.



Tue 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> Aug

6.30pm-8.40pm

# INTERNATIONAL FILMS



*By Thames to All People of the World*

Thurrock's motto serves as a constant reminder that, throughout the ages, this place has been the international conduit for people everywhere. Our histories morph into new narrations, the old is reimagined as the new, the expected re-emerges as the extraordinary.

The international films we are screening have been selected from our Festival submissions. They resonate with a shared sense of human universality.

CAFE CINEMA GRAYS TOWN PARK



**Uruba**  
Documentary  
15mins Brazil 2021  
Director Rodrigo Sena

The spirit world around you takes place much more through the third eye than through the physical ones. To Luiz's eyes, that which is invisible is not invisible.



**Forgotten Song**  
Drama  
39mins Poland 2022  
Director Monika Grzybowska

A young man comes to the Friendship Settlement where he meets a girl singing in the choir. A story about love that cannot happen because of the war in Ukraine.



**The Will To Survive**  
Drama  
13mins Australia 2022  
Director Robert Cole

A soldier, after reawakening from unconsciousness, must find the will to survive, and carry on living in the conflict.



**And Outside Life Goes On**  
Documentary  
81mins Switzerland 2021  
Director Daniel Maurer

With the Covid crisis we realised that working in a hospital means to be confronted to life and death in a very direct way. A film about a hospital in Switzerland.



**The Death Ox**  
Experimental  
1min Turkey 2022  
Director Serkan Aktaş

Three unnerving shorts through the penetrating lens of Serkan Aktaş beginning with a bleak, disturbing, experimental film about the butchering of an ox.



**Resurrection Under The Ocean**  
Drama  
3mins Turkey 2021  
Director Serkan Aktaş

A symbolic narrative of the resurrection of a man helplessly sinking into the bottom of the ocean after falling in.



**Mirrorty**  
Drama  
11mins Turkey 2017  
Director Serkan Aktaş

The strange disappearance of a man who lives alone in a city where people vanish mysteriously, alienated from society and ignorant of social tragedies.



**CAGE : Between Two Battles**  
Drama  
83mins Turkey 2022  
Director Cenk İzgören

Cage is the story of the transformation of a nationalist and macho man, defeated by the system, trying to heal the traumas of the war in his soul.



### **Survivor**

Drama  
14mins Iran 2022  
Director Karim Azimi

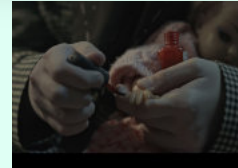
Some immigrants are waiting to cross the sea. With other immigrants, a young couple is hoping to reach the light of the world, but they encounter problems when their baby is born.



### **The End Of The Story**

Documentary  
25mins UK 2023  
Director Tara Douglas

The End of the Story is a personal journey to the Andaman Islands to record voices for dialogues in the indigenous Andamanese language for a short animated film. The film-maker learns about animism as she brings long lost ancestral characters to life through animation, but the voices of the last speakers of the language are no longer heard.



### **For Child Never Born**

Drama  
15mins Iran 2022  
Directors  
Afsaneh Aghanezhad,  
Vali Bagheri

A girl sees the loss of her father and her pregnant mother's effort to face societal problems.



### **Cercas**

Drama  
19min Brazil 2022  
Director Ismael Moura

After losing her mother, Maria needs to face her fears and break through the fences to the world.



### **Something Still Burns**

Documentary  
64mins Italy 2021  
Director Daniele Gangemi

*Something Still Burns*, one of Mario Venuti's most successful songs, is the cinematic opportunity to retrace the story of one of the most important contemporary Sicilian singer-songwriters of today.

# Calendar

## Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Aug 11.30am-6pm - South Essex College

11.30am	Tiffin
11.34am	How We Live
11.50am	Dreamer
11.57am	Headspace
12.00pm	Pages
12.02pm	The Dream
12.05pm	Knock Knock
12.16pm	King Tree
12.29pm	Let Go
12.38pm	The Chapter
12.59pm	Bright Sparks and Darkness
1.30pm	Games - Welcome
1.35pm	Why Games & Intro to Games Roles
2.45pm	Games as a Medium - Windrush 75
4-5pm	Education in Games
5.15pm	Transmedia Adaptation

## Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Aug 6-9pm - South Essex College

6.00-9pm	Networking + food
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## Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Aug - Cafe Cinema

5.30pm	Hello! West Indies
5.55pm	The Taste and Sound of Kairi
6.10pm	Intro to Wallace   The Forgotten Voyage

## Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Aug - Park Cinema

11.30am	Zarafa
1.30pm	Cool Runnings

## Tue 29<sup>th</sup> Aug - Cafe Cinema

6.30pm	Uruba
6.45pm	Forgotten Song
7.27pm	The Will To Survive
7.30pm	And Outside Life Goes On

## Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Aug - Cafe Cinema

6.30pm	The Death Ox Resurrection Under The Ocean Mirrorty
6.48pm	Cage: Between Two Battles

## Thu 31<sup>st</sup> Aug - Cafe Cinema

6.30pm	Survivor
6.44pm	For Child Never Born
7pm	The End Of The Story
7.25pm	Cercas
7.45pm	Something Still Burns



## Tickets @ <https://thurrockscreenculturefestival.uk>

**Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Aug 11.30am-6pm**      **£10 | £8** Early Bird  
before 13<sup>th</sup> Aug students, OAPs, BAFTA/GDL members

**Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Aug 11.30am-9pm**      **£15 | £14** Early Bird  
before 13<sup>th</sup> Aug students, OAPs, BAFTA/GDL members

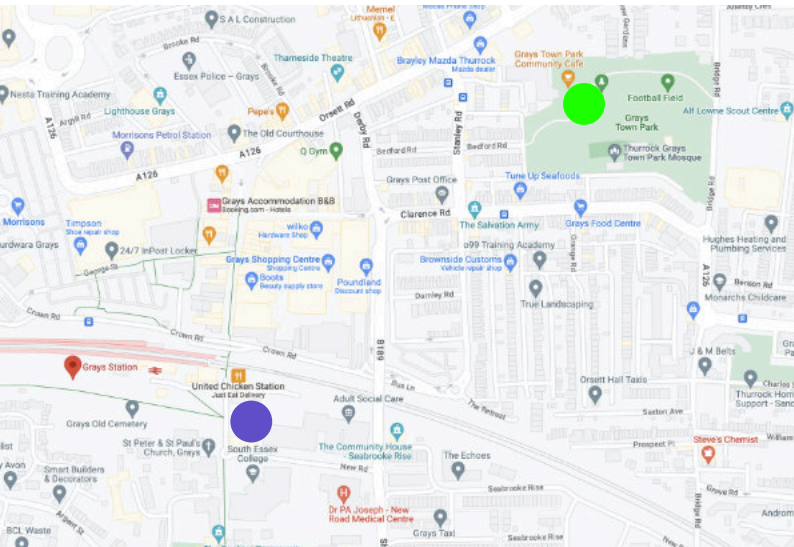
**Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 5.30-8.30pm**      **£3** or What You Can Pay

**Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Aug 11.30am-4pm**      **FREE** donations welcome

**Sat 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> Aug 6.30-8.40pm**      **£3** or What You Can Pay

In the event of unavoidable circumstances, we reserve the right to alter the programme.  
Please check our website for updates.

# VENUES



● South Essex College  
High St, Grays RM17 6TF

● Cafe Cinema  
Park Cinema  
Grays Town Park  
Grays RM17 6PZ

