

# **THURROCK** FILM **FESTIVAL** 2022

**26-29 AUGUST** 

In Venue

**26 AUGUST-4 SEPTEMBER** 

Selectively Streaming Online

Scan the QR Code to access the full programme and book tickets



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## **FUNDING PARTNERS**

The 2022 Thurrock Film Festival is supported by the BFI Film Audience Network with National Lottery funding as part of Curious.











## **PROGRAMME PARTNERS**









## **VENUE PARTNERS**





## **INTRODUCTION**



Hi Ching **TFF** Founder and Creative Director

I am thrilled to bring you Thurrock Film Festival 2022! We have a super exciting array of in-person and online screenings, live music and Q&As, curated around compelling themes inspired by the 75th anniversary of the Independence of India and Pakistan, the 50 years since Uganda expelled the South Asians including Sikhs, and 25 years after the Handover of Hong Kong. We have packed a wide range of activities into four days and if you can't make these, you have a week to catch up with some of it online. We are part of an immense vision to develop the Thames Estuary Production Corridor and we aim to rise to the challenge with imaginative programmes and creative activities.

This year, with the generosity of our sponsor, Feast Restaurant, we are delighted to launch Thurrock Film Club at the Festival and, subsequently, the last Saturday of each month. This informal space will be one in which film buffs and filmmakers can not only come together to watch, share and discuss all things films, they can also connect, collaborate and learn with like-minded talents, the art and craft of filmmaking. Essex is buzzing with talent. Let us all tap into some of that creative energy and make the most of this opportunity in the post-lockdown world.

It would be wonderful if you could join us!

As the programme advisor and curator for TFF 2022, I am pleased to welcome you to our in-person festival in August! This year, our focus is on showcasing a rich and diverse mix of shorts from young and emerging Iranian filmmakers, two compelling projects from the award-winning British-Chinese moving image artist Eelyn Lee, a host of screenings and talks involving local filmmakers, and a special presentation of rarely-seen heritage docs from the British National Archives, that aims to revisit the post-colonial legacy of the Empire.

Of course, one of the most exciting aspect of this year's festival is that it is being held at two outdoor spaces: the newly built Feast Rooftop Screening Room (main venue), and the Park Cinema (open-air space), which are both situated in the town centre and a stone's throw away from the train station. So, bring your friends and family along, grab a drink (or two!), connect with like-minded film buffs, and be part of a community experience that promises to be both entertaining and insightful!



Anupma Shanker Curator and Programme Advisor



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Efua Sey Cultural Academy, Harlow, Essex 21
Der-Shin Hwang and the SOAS Chinese Music Ensemble 21

## **TICKET AND ACCESS**

Park Cinema, 29 August: FREE for all but please book online

Rooftop Film Club Cinema, 26-28 August (Via Thurrock Film Club Membership Only)

Film Club Festival Pass includes free drink on all 3 days

26 Aug | £8 incl. free drink

27th & 28th Aug | £12 each day, incl. one free drink per day

Under 18s | Free

Adults | £1 or £5 (includes free drink)

Selective Films Available to Stream Online | £1.30 for 24 hrs

Thurrock Film Festival reserves the right to change or alter the programme due to unforeseen circumstances.

# THURROCK FILM CLUB PRESENTS



Calling all film lovers, cinephiles and fellow artists! Join us as we celebrate local and international talents at this year's Thurrock Film Festival in two exciting, open-air spaces in the heart of Grays, Thurrock. Made possible with the support of our partners, the 2022 programme showcases a rich and diverse line-up of shorts, features, heritage docs, discussions and live performances, both in-person and online. As a TFC Member, you can access additional perks such as Festival Pass and free drinks at the Rooftop Film Club Cinema! Excited? Scan the QR Code below to access the full programme, book tickets and sign up for TFC Membership!



Subscribe to the newsletter on our website and stay informed about all the exciting future events at Thurrock Film Club.

#### 26 AUGUST 2022, 5PM

#### **Emerging Voices from Iran: Shorts Presentation-Part I**

A three-part collection of compelling shorts that centre around the themes of hardship, survival, isolation, self-reflection and the loss of innocence.

Running Time: 53 Minutes

Language: Persian with English Subtitles

#### [Streaming Online 26th August-4th September]



Title: Respecting the Court Director: Ali Bayat

Duration: 7:44

Synopsis: A group of teenage boys with nothing more than an empty bag in hand and lacking self-vision, embark upon an undetermined future, not knowing what awaits them.

Title: 12 O'clock Director: Sajad Soleymani Duration: 15:00

Synopsis: In this visually-gripping drama, a woman gets ready to appear in the court on the day of her divorce hearing, but as she gets closer to the appointed time, she decides to stay at home and play a game with her son instead





Title: Shadow of the Fox Director: Noushin Meraji

Duration: 11:00

Synopsis: A teenage girl decides to skip school and spy on her father to unravel the mystery of her mother's disappearance. However, what she's about to find out isn't easy to grasp or comprehend.

Title: The Fence Director: Ali Mehralizadeh Duration: 18:48

Synopsis: Yaghoub, a teenager who thinks and acts like a child, is used by his father to sacrifice his sister's goat. This causes him to suffer and awakens his conscience. Along the way, mysterious forces align with Yaghoub as he tries to stop the villagers, especially his father, from encroaching upon nature.



#### 26 AUGUST 2022, 7PM

## Opening Night Feature Presentation with Intro + Music Performance

Kung Fu Hustle (2004) 15

Director: Stephen Chow

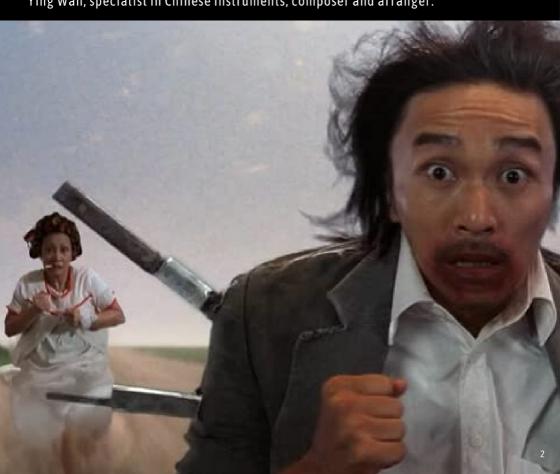
Cast: Stephen Chow, Wah Yuen, Qiu Yuen

Country: China

Genre: Action Comedy Running Time: 01:39:00

Language: Chinese with English Subtitles

This screening will include an Introduction and Musical Performance led by Dr. Hwee-San Tan, Associate Lecturer in Ethnomusicology at Goldsmiths, University of London, and Research Associate at SOAS University of London. Dr. Tan leads the SOAS Chinese Music Ensemble and Chinese Percussion Society, together with Mr. Ying Wan, specialist in Chinese instruments, composer and arranger.













When the hapless Sing (Stephen Chow) and his dim-witted pal, Bone (Feng Xiaogang), try to scam the residents of Pig Sty Alley into thinking they're members of the dreaded Axe Gang, the real gangsters descend on this Shanghai slum to restore their fearsome reputation. What gang leader Brother Sum (Danny Chan) doesn't know is that three legendary retired kung fu masters (Yu Xing, Dong Zhihua, Chiu Chi-ling) live anonymously in this decrepit neighbourhood and don't take kindly to interlopers. From wildly imaginative Kung Fu showdowns to dance sequences featuring tuxedoed mobsters, we've never seen action this outrageous and characters this zany! With jaw-dropping fight sequences by Yuen Wo Ping (famed action choreographer of Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon and The Matrix) Stephen Chow (director and star of Shaolin Soccer) is a real force to reckon with, in this action-packed, comedic martial-arts adventure.

#### 27 AUGUST 2022, 11AM

**Student Shorts:** A collection of creatively and intellectually stimulating shorts made by the Film and Television students at the Anglia Ruskin University, England

Running Time: 15 Minutes (approx.)

Languages: Various with English Subtitles

Title: A Film About My Dad Director: Lidia Bieniarz

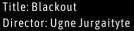
Title: Forgotten in Space Director: Chloe Kelly, Mehdi Iromlou













Title: Colour Blind Director: Agata Kazmierczak

#### 27 AUGUST 2022, 11,20AM

**Emerging Voices from Iran: Shorts Presentation-Part II** 

Running Time: 47 Minutes

Language: Persian with English Subtitles

[Streaming Online 26th August-4th September]



Title: Aba

Director: Mahdi Barzoki
Duration: 15 Minutes

**Synopsis**: Aba is a 50-year-old woman who cares for elderly women. She decides to end her life voluntarily to escape

loneliness and old age.

Title: Mountain Carrier Director: Taha Khanjani Duration: 12:10

Synopsis: When a Kolbar (a cross-border labourer) learns that his son has gone missing for two days, he tries searching for him in the mountains but their group comes under fire and they're forced to stay overnight in the mountains. The reappearance of the boy's jacket unravels the tragic mystery of his disappearance.





Title: The Book

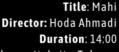
Director: Farzad Foroughi

Duration: 06:06

Synopsis: While chasing a writer on the streets of Tehran, a

security officer encounters various crimes and

delinguencies that are taking place.



**Synopsis**: A girl named Mahi comes to the capital city, Tehran, to find work



#### 27 AUGUST 2022, 12.40PM

#### **Emerging Voices from Iran: Shorts Presentation-Part III**

Running Time: 50 Minutes

Language: Persian with English Subtitles

#### [Streaming Online 26th August-4th September]



Title: Pick
Director: Shahoo Ahmadi

**Duration**: 4:05 Minutes

**Synopsis:** Set in a scenic orchard, this playful short captures the unspoken bond that develops between a group of young boys and an old fruitpicker, when he spots them stealing apricots from his farm.

Title: Soha
Director: Mohammad Borzoueipour
Duration: 15 Minutes
Synopsis: An Afghan woman makes a radical decision to
change her life because of her ex-husband's harassment
but her chosen path poses even greater challenges.





Title: Children of Wild Orchid Director: Farshad Mohammadi Duration: 15 Minutes

Synopsis: A very young girl, who is joyous despite being a victim of child labour, faces the darker realities of life, as she tries her best to touch its beauties when encountering them

Title: Dark Room Director: Vahid Aalami Duration: 15:16 Minutes

Synopsis: In this experimental psychological drama based on a book by the Iranian author Sadegh Hedayat, boundaries between the observer and the observed appear increasingly blurred as the narrator looks straight into the eyes of the audience and speaks about his chance encounter with an intriguing man he met on the way to Khansar.



#### **Special Presentation**

Our Screen Heritage: Archive Film Screenings & Discussion



Showcasing a series of rarely-seen archive films that span over a century, and focus on themes of Colonial and Post-colonial India, birth of Pakistan and the 50th Anniversary of the arrival of Ugandan Asian refugees in Britain, this programme aims to reflect upon the collective screen heritage of the South Asian and Ugandan Asian communities in the British National and Regional Archives.

Supported by Film Hub North, this event is an attempt to engage the audiences in a contructive and insightful dialogue about the legacy of the Empire following 75 years of Indian independence from the Colonial rule on August 15, 1947. Sadly, freedom from 200 years of British tyranny came at a heavy cost and led to the greatest humanitarian crisis of the 21st century in the Indian subcontinent, causing the partition of India, the subsequent birth of Pakistan (August 14, 1947), and the creation of Bangladesh (March 26, 1971).

2022 also marks the 50th anniversary of the arrival of nearly 27,000 Ugandan Asians in Britain as refugees after being expelled by president Idi Amin. 50 years on, the Ugandan Asian community has gone on to thrive and emerge as one of the most inspiring success stories from the Indian diaspora in Britain.

All heritage film screenings at the 2022 Thurrock Film Festival have been made possible, thanks to the BFI National TV Archive.

#### 27 AUGUST 2022. 3PM

## 75 Years On: India Through the Lens of the Empire [1899-1947]









Title: Around India With a Movie Camera (2018)

Director: Sandhya Suri Country: United Kingdom Duration: 1:12:53 Minutes

Language: Silent with Background Music

Synopsis: Drawn exclusively from the BFI National Archive, Around India features some of the earliest surviving film from India as well as gorgeous travelogues, intimate home movies and newsreels from British, French and Indian filmmakers. Taking in Maharajas and Viceroys, fakirs and farmhands and personalities such as Sabu and Gandhi, Sandhya Suri's film explores not only the people and places of over 70 years ago, but asks us to engage with broader themes of a shared history, shifting perspectives in the lead up to Indian independence and the ghosts of the past.

Around India boasts a superb new score that fuses western and Indian music from composer and sarod player Soumik Datta.

#### 27 AUGUST 2022, 4,30PM

## The Bloody Road to Freedom: Partition of British India and the Birth of Pakistan [August 14, 1947]









Title: Promise of Pakistan. 1950. [Original Title: March of Time 15th Year No. 5]

Director: Peter Hopkinson

Country: USA

**Duration: 18 Minutes** 

Language: English

Synopsis: From the sight of the Pak Mail Express steaming out of Karachi station en route for Lahore and Peshawar, to the border patrols in the mountain passes of Kashmir, this positive appraisal of Pakistan presents a picture of a modern nation with deep-rooted ancient traditions. Doctors, scientists and teachers live in a country where white oxen plough fields and chapatis are cooked on stones in villages where headmen still settle local disputes.

This March of Time film accurately portrays the Pakistan of 1950 as a pluralistic new country: culturally diverse and outward looking but deriving unity and purpose from its Muslim heritage. The emphasis on a free press, education, industrialisation and footage of the new airport at Karachi contrasts with the rural lifestyle of most of the country's inhabitants. The political uncertainty that characterised Pakistan in the 1950s is hinted at by the film's sections about the dispute with India over Kashmir. Footage of a meeting between the Prime Ministers of both countries - Jawaharlal Nehru and Liaquat Ali Khan - shows how relations had improved following the Indo-Pakistan war of 1947-48.

#### 27 AUGUST 2022, 4.48PM

## 50 Years On: Remembering the arrival of the First Ugandan Asian Refugees in Britain [September 18, 1972]





Title: Uganda Exodus, 1972 Director: Ian Stuttard Country: United Kingdom Duration: 26:25 Minutes Language: English

Synopsis: Uganda, 1972: 80,000 people of South Asian origin face an ultimatum - leave or face jail. This issue of ITV's This Week was made bang in the middle of the crisis, with President Amin's order a month old with two months remaining. Reporter Jonathan Dimblebly explains the background to UK viewers and gets views on the street from both Asians and Africans. This is scintillating current affairs TV, and an important historical record.





Title: First Of The Asians From Uganda Arrive At Stansted 1972 , Stradishall RAF Camp, Suffolk

Commentator: Tim Child Country: United Kingdom

Production company: Anglia Television

Duration: 09:29 Minutes Language: English

Synopsis: Anglia Television news report from Stradishall RAF Camp with the recently arrived Ugandan Asians, following their expulsion by the President of Uganda, Idi Amin.

These screenings will be followed by a Panel Discussion.









"A film that is, really, about life, a film without a real story that is all about the rhythm of existence, the cycles of birth and death and regeneration, and the transitory beauty of the world." -Martin Scorsese

#### 28 AUGUST 2022, 2PM

**Made in Essex:** This programme showcases two deeply human and heartwarming shorts from two very talented filmmakers from Essex.

Running Time: 24:10 Minutes

Language: English



Title: Wings (2020) Director: Jamie Weston Duration: 18:00 Minutes Country: United Kingdom

Cast: Miriam Margolyes, Virginia Mckenna, Lu Corfield, Rosie Day &

Carla Fraser

Synopsis: A heartwarming LGBTQ+ love story that spans over six decades, between two Land Army girls during World War II. A partly silent film, accompanied by a beautiful score, starring BAFTA winning actresses Miriam Margolyes, and fifties film legend, Virginia Mckenna.

Title: My Invisible Friend (2022)

Director: David Gardener

Duration: 06:10 Minutes

Country: United Kingdom

Cast: Jamie Evans

Synopsis: A lightly comedic

mockumentary about Tom, who
lives with his invisible friend, Dan,
on the South-East Coast of England.

A film about how people deal with
loneliness in lockdown.



#### 28 AUGUST 2022, 3PM

#### The World in Short

An exciting collection of international shorts covering a range of themes and genres.

Running Time: 42 Minutes

#### [Streaming Online 26th August-4th September]



Title: Eureka (Animated Micro-short)

Director: David Creighton

Country: Canada

Duration: 00:00:15 Minutes
Language: English with Subtitles

Synopsis: In this micro-short, a conspiracy nut finally grasps the truth.

Title: Part Forever (Horror, Thriller)
Director: Alan Chung-An, Ou
Country: Taiwan
Duration: 12:33

Language: Mandarin Chinese with English Subtitles Synopsis: Huei and her husband Wen Hsiung had come to say goodbye to Huei's dearest sister, but the seemingly calm and sad farewell ceremony seems to hide an astonishing and dark secret.





Title: Painting by Numbers (Animation)

Director: Radheya Jegatheya

Country: Australia Duration: 4:23

Language: Silent with Music

Synopsis: In a gallery imbued with strange life, shadows of the past & unresolved futures collide when a child's vision peels away the layers of 'reality.'

Title: Cinema Now (Documentary)
Director: Louis Holder
Country: United Kingdom
Duration: 15 Min
Language: English

Synopsis:Shot entirely on Super 8mm film, Cinema Now depicts closed cinemas from the point of view of passers-by, taking a moment's pause and looking patiently at building facades.





Title: The Quiet (Animation)
Director: Radheya Jegatheva

Country: Australia Duration: 10:00 Language: English

Synopsis: An astronaut ponders on the quietude of space and comes upon a startling self-realisation.

## Artists in the Spotlight: Eelyn Lee and Anamaria Marinca Film Screenings + Q&A



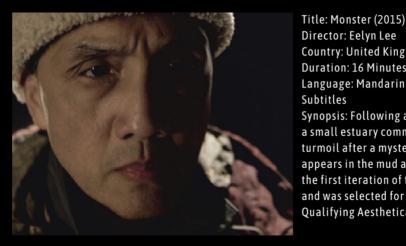


Eelyn Lee's socially engaged practice combines collective research, devised theatre, screen writing and filmmaking to create frameworks for ensembles of collaborators to work together. Her Chinese/English heritage motivates her interest in race, identity and 'othering'. She has exhibited across UK including Barbican, Tate Modern, National Portrait Gallery and Whitechapel Gallery as well as internationally in Paris, Berlin, Bogotá and Toronto.

Anamaria Marinca is a Romanian actress who made her screen debut with the Channel 4 film Sex Traffic for which she won the BAFTA for Best Actress. Marinca is also known for her critically-acclaimed performance in the 2007 Cannes winner, 4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days, for which she earned several awards. She recently starred in the international horror film, You Won't Be Alone, which premiered at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival.



#### Short Film Screenings + O&A, 4PM-5,30PM



Director: Eelyn Lee Country: United Kingdom **Duration: 16 Minutes** Language: Mandarin with English Subtitles Synopsis: Following a ferocious storm. a small estuary community is thrown into turmoil after a mysterious creature

the first iteration of the Monster Trilogy and was selected for the BAFTA Oualifying Aesthetica Short Film Festival.

appears in the mud at low tide. Monster is

Title: Creature of the Estuary (2016) Director: Eelyn Lee Country: United Kingdom **Duration: 23 Minutes** Language: Mandarin with English Subtitles Synopsis: Set in the netherworld of the Thames Estuary, this work by Eelyn Lee evokes a creature made of fragments of memory and fear. Using verbatim extracts from conversations recorded with residents along the Thames Estuary, Eelyn has created a poetic script narrated by a fictional coastguard, exploring themes of displacement, migration and change.



These screenings will be followed by a Q&A with Eelyn Lee and Anamaria Marinca, who features in both films. It will be moderated by Hi Ching, Founder of Thurrock Film Festival.

## Feature Presentation, 7PM

### Tales From The Golden Age (2009) 😥











Directors: Hanno Höfer, Cristian Mungiu, Constantin Popescu,

Ioana Uricaru

Răzvan Mărculescu

Country: Romania

**Duration: 138 Minutes** 

Language: Romanian with English Subtitles

Synopsis: Tales From The Golden Age is a funny, poignant and surreal portrait of 1980's Romania. Shot with tremendous style and spirit, it brilliantly re-captures the mood of an era where undertones of fear, corruption and imprisonment were never far away and where the humour of ordinary citizens played a vital role in facing up to the idiotic logic of the dictatorship.

#### **Park Cinema**



Taking place at Grays Town Park in Grays, Thurrock, the Park Cinema will conclude this year's Thurrock Film Festival hosted in partnership with Essex Film Collective. The programme will include a rich mix of family-friendly feature films, heritage docs and Made in Essex shorts, plus a live music concert of African and Chinese music. The performances will be followed by a Q&A.

Venue: Grays Town Park RM17 6PZ



(1) 11AM

Title: African Music at Stewards Comprehensive. Harlow

Year: 1974

**Duration: 7 Minutes** 

Language: English

Synopsis: Ghanaian-born Felix Cobson teaches traditional African drumming, dancing, and singing to the school children of Stewards Comprehensive, Harlow, The Founder of Aklowa African village in Takeley, Essex, his aim is to promote awareness of the true African way of life through workshops and performances.



(\) 11:07AM Title: Raya and the Last Dragon (2021) Director: Don Hall, Carlos López Estrada Country: USA

Duration: 107 Minutes Language: English

Synopsis: In a realm known as Kumandra, a re-imagined Earth inhabited by an ancient civilization, a warrior named Raya is determined to find the last dragon.





C) 1:30PM

Title: Aklowa African Village, Bishop's Stortford, Essex

Year: 1977

Duration: 5:25 Minutes

Language: English

Synopsis: Schoolchildren from Stewards Comprehensive, Harlow spend a day drumming, dancing, and hair braiding, enjoying the richness of African culture in a typical Ghanaian village, that is not on the African continent, but in fact, in the

East of England.



Title: Abominable (2019) Director: Jill Culton Country: USA, China Duration: 97 Minutes

Language: English

Synopsis: Three teenagers must help a Yeti return to his family while avoiding a wealthy man and a zoologist who want him for their own needs



#### 29 AUGUST 2022, 4PM

Made in Essex: Shorts Screening with Intro + Q&A

Running Time: 9:45 Minutes

Language: English



Title: The Mazed World (2020)
Director: Daniel Keeble
Duration: 03:07 Minutes
Country: United Kingdom
Cast: Wendy Morgan

Synopsis: A monologue from William Shakespeare's play, A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Although written around 1595, these particular words by the character of Titania foretell global warming and the resulting climate change.

Title: Terminus (2022)
Director: Jamie Weston
Duration: 06:38 Minutes
Country: United Kingdom
Cast: Tippy Elgar, Adrienne Ming, Archie Elgar Clark,
Ray Elgar Clark
Synopsis: The four elements: earth, air, fire and
water, get together in an ancient forest to celebrate
midsummer. Their lives change forever as they are
polluted by the new world around them.



These screenings will be followed by a Q&A with Daniel Keeble and Jamie Weston, directors of *The Mazed World* and *Terminus*. It will be moderated by Lily Streames, Actor, Producer and Founder of Essex Film Collective.

#### 29 AUGUST 2022, 4,45PM

Heritage Screenings with Intro, Followed by Live Music and Discussion

The Musical Performances and Discussion will also be Streamed Online.



Title: Aklowa African Village in Essex

Year: 1986

Duration: 6 Minutes Language: English

Synopsis: In the Essex village of Takeley, schoolchildren from Dunmow St Mary's Primary share an unforgettable afternoon, living the life of a Ghanaian villager, where the old vicarage and grounds have been transformed into an authentic African village.

Title: Little Sister, What Colour Flower are You Wearing In Your Hair? Director: Hi Ching Year: 1993 Duration: 20 Minutes Language: Chinese with English Subtitles Synopsis: An experimental version of the story of The Butterfly Lovers combining dance, drama and Chinese folksongs.



These screenings commemorate the legacy of Felix Cobson (founder of Aklowa African Village) who died 15 years ago, and the 25th anniversary of the British Handover of Hong Kong to China. They wil be followed by Live Performances by the Efua Sey Cultural Academy (Harlow, Essex) and Der-Shin Hwang, accompanied by the SOAS Chinese Music Ensemble. It will conclude with a discussion involving the panelists listed below.



Efua Sey Founder, Efua Sey Cultural Academy



Hi Ching Founder, Thurrock Film Festival



Der-Shin Hwang Musician and Performing Artist



Lily Streames Actor, Producer and Founder, Essex Film Collective (moderator)



Dr. Hwee-San Tan Senior Teaching Fellow, Dept of Music, SOAS China Institute, University of London

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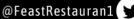
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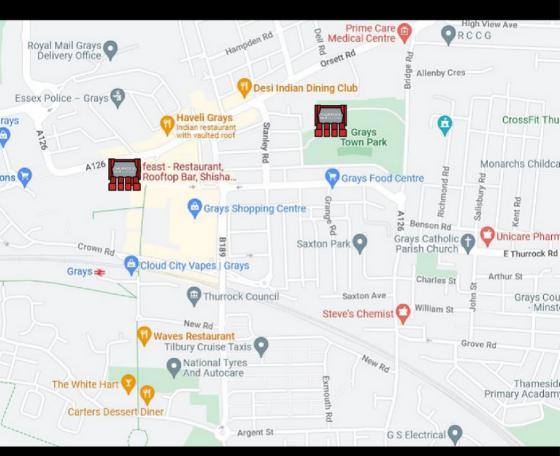




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## **HOW TO FIND US**





thurrockfilmfestival.uk