

Experimenta Mixtape #LFF Special

Tuesday 8th October. 6.00pm.

What is the Experimenta Mixtape?

It's a new series in the monthly BFI Southbank Experimenta stand. No introductions, no guests, no information about what will show in advance – at all – but a much broader range of films. Expect early cinema pieces, music videos, short films, maybe even adverts, as well as artist and experimental films. In theory, no hierarchies. Some experimental classics will feature but they won't be highlighted and it'll be up to you as to whether you think they're good, relevant or important or not. Programme notes are given out at the very end and these include information about each film and their maker, meaning you can follow up and learn more about anything that you like or find interesting. We'll be doing six or seven through 2019 and the intention is that it will be an ongoing, regular thing. We invite people to hang out and chat at the bar afterwards.

<https://www.bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/news-bfi/features/what-experimenta-mixtape>

1.

A Different LFF Trailer 2019 4min

2.

Pleased to Meet You 2019 6mins

3.

Film in Which There Appear Sprocket Holes, Edge Lettering, Dirt Particles, Etc. 1965 Dir Owen Land 5min 16mm
This film takes the view that certain defining characteristics of the medium, such as those mentioned in the title, are visually "worthy". For this reason it is especially recommended. – G.L.

"The richest frame I have seen in any film when you take into consideration all movements lines the beautiful whites, and reds and blacks... The kinetic and visual experienced produced by Landow's film is even more difficult to describe... There is humour in it (the blink); there is clear Mozart - (Mondrian)- like sense of form..."
– Jonas Mekas, *The Village Voice*, July 1975.

lux.org.uk

4.

I'm British But.... 1989 Dir Gurinder Chadha 29min 16mm

Before she hit the big time with *Bend it Like Beckham*, Gurinder Chadha made this documentary on what it meant to be a young British Asian in the 1980s. The young people interviewed are from across the UK; the common thread is that they see it as home, but their differing views about what being Asian and British means for them are underscored by the beats of Bhangra and Bangla music.

<https://player.bfi.org.uk>

5.

Transmogrification 1980 Dir Anne Rees-Mogg 9min

A short film about the assumption of roles.

'*Transmogrification*' is a short film, a walking in film. I am beginning to think about actors. It starts with a reading from Roget, which starts simple change, and lists a lot of words about transformations. It is about assuming roles, two young girls transformed by putting on eighteenth century dresses, in the middle of the film a hundred foot shot of a performer, Alexei Sayle, getting ready for and then going into his routine, which is funny. It is a one idea film, but with some contrast.

lux.org.uk

6.

International Short Film Festival Oberhausen Ident 2011 Dir John Smith 1min

John Smith was born in Walthamstow, London in 1952 and studied film at the Royal College of Art in the mid 1970s. Inspired in his formative years by conceptual art and structural film, but also fascinated by the immersive power of narrative and the spoken word, he has developed an extensive body of work that subverts the perceived boundaries between documentary and fiction, representation and abstraction. Often rooted in everyday life, his meticulously crafted films playfully explore and expose the language of cinema.

7.

Self Fashion Show 1976 Dir Tibor Hajas 14min

Self-Fashion Show, a short film made by the Hungarian artist Tibor Hajas (1946–1980) at the Balázs Béla Studio in 1976, takes as its subject a busy Budapest street and especially the passersby on it. Hajas asks them to stand in front of the camera and pose in front of it silently. For part of the film, this happens right in the midst of pedestrian traffic, so that as viewers, we are aware of our own gaze as we see other people on the street observe the proceedings with emotions ranging from suspicion to indifference and bemusement.

nga.gov/features/experimental-cinema-in-eastern-europe/city-scene-country-scene/self-fashion-show.html

8.

Saturday Night People [ITV. LWT. 23.9.78] 7min extract

9.

Spirit of Navajo 1966 Dir Mary Jane and Maxine Tsosie 21min

Mary Jane and Maxine were sisters born in Pine Springs, but they spent little time there. They were the daughters of Juan Tsosie, the chapter chairman, and the granddaughters of Sam Yazzie, a celebrated medicine man. They wanted to make a film about traditional Navajo culture in the hopes of learning more about it themselves. Mary Jane was 21 at the time of the project, and Maxine was 17.

penn.museum/sites/navajofilmthemselves

10.

Jack's Dream 1938 Dir Joseph Cornell 4min

Cornell's editing has not been tampered with. It is sometimes minimal (the editing), sometimes extensive, always sensitive. I did not change it, as when I did the entire re-edit of Cornell's *Legend for Fountains*. *JACK'S DREAM*, for instance, is a puppet animation into which Cornell has inserted a few shots from other material - just enough to throw it into the sphere of artful fantasy. I have added soundtracks, using existing notes which Cornell left. - Lawrence Jordan

canyoncinema.com

11.

Adventures of the Avant-Garde 1981 Dir Jaime Davidovich 10min

Davidovich searches in vain for the meaning of "avant garde." The artist travels to Iowa City, where he conducts a series of "man on the street" interviews with artist Michael Smith, painter and critic Walter Robinson, University of Iowa professor of art history W.J. Tomasini, a security guard at the University of Iowa Museum of Art, an art school secretary, and strangers on the street.

eai.org

12.

The Last Show 1961 Dir David Cleveland 6min

The film begins with a brief survey of cinemas closing due to the competition from television. The final day of the Norvic, Norwich, was filmed by David Cleveland, later founder of the East Anglian Film Archive, who was working there at the time.

eafa.org.uk

Special thanks to the East Anglian Film Archive, Electronic Arts Intermix, Karl McCool, LUX, John Smith, Lawrence Jordan, BFI bookings and Canyon Cinema.

--Coming up in the monthly BFI Experimenta strand:

[American Independent: A Focus on Shirley Clarke](#) Wed 23rd October – Wed 13th November

[Experimenta Mixtape #7](#) Wed 18th December